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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Hand-over Ceremony of Maternity Ward  
in Kampong Chhnang Provincial Hospital**

**Within the Bilateral Project Framework with the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Phnom Penh, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019

Today, a Maternity Ward in Kampong Chhnang Province, renovated with the financial support provided by the Czech Development Agency (CzDA), was handed-over to the Kampong Chhnang Hospital, Kampong Chhnang province. The festive ceremony was presided by H.E. Mr. Chandoeun Chhour, Governor of Kampong Chhnang province, and H.E. Mr. Vlastimil Tesař, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh. The renovation was facilitated within the official Bilateral Development Program of the Czech Republic with the Kingdom of Cambodia 2018-2023.



The reconstruction of the Maternity Ward (size 38m x 23m with 17 rooms) represents part of the running project “Improving Quality of Maternal and Child Health Care Services in three Hospitals in Kampong Chhnang” funded by the Czech Republic and implemented by non-governmental organisations Caritas Czech Republic and Caritas Cambodia. The project aims at contributing to reduction of preventable neonatal, children under five years and maternal mortality by improving quality of maternal and new-born health care services in Kampong Chhnang province, with specific focus on neonatal care. The project targets one provincial hospital (CPA3) and two referral hospitals (CPA1) located in Kampong Chhnang province. This will be achieved through improved management systems at each hospital, increased standards of health care facilities (medical equipment and materials for prenatal and post-partum department of the Kampong Chhnang Provincial Hospital), and enhanced competencies of staff as well as improvement of hospitals’ infrastructure and sanitation facilities.

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> project in health sector targeting on the improvement of medical care for mothers and children the Czech Republic has funded since 2010. So far, the Czech Republic has spent 2 mil. USD to assist Cambodia in providing better health care for mothers and children.

This Maternity Ward in Kampong Chhnang Hospital will directly serve to more than 10 000 women in reproductive age living in area covered by the hospital. However, more than 48 000 women will benefit from improved health care in all 3 hospitals in the province.

Since 2010 Cambodia has been one of the priority countries of the Czech Development Cooperation. As a result of the bilateral Czech – Cambodian consultations in 2018, both governments agreed to fund projects in health sector with focus on Kampong Chhnang province. A Memorandum of Understanding on Development Cooperation, signed in Phnom Penh between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Council for the Development of Cambodia on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, sets up the framework and main priorities of the Development Cooperation between the two countries till 2023.

So far, the total value of the official development assistance provided by the Czech Republic in health sector of Cambodia is reaching 3.2 mil. USD.

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