

***In light of the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak, AIP Foundation would like to reaffirm its commitment to prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and the communities we serve. AIP Foundation will continue to monitor the situation and government advice and modify program activities as needed. Furthermore, AIP Foundation is committed to being responsive to the situation and is joining the effort to promote measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, including by disseminating public health messages to commuting workers and drivers.***

***Commuting Safety for Cambodian Workers (CSCW) to reach 30 factories over three-year period, following successful pilot program***

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia - 1 June 2020

Over a three-year period from 2019 to 2022, 30 factories in high-risk provinces, including Phnom Penh, Kandal, and Kampong Speu, in Cambodia, will be targeted with road safety policy advocacy campaigns and the formation of road safety working groups to increase awareness of the importance of commuting safety through the *Commuting Safety for Cambodian Workers (CSCW)* program. The CSCW program is implemented by AIP Foundation and the Solidarity Center and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In 2019, road crashes involving garment and footwear factory workers accounted for over 53% of the total commuting workers involved in road crashes. A survey of workers and collective transport drivers at 5 factories conducted by AIP Foundation found that over 90% of people were fearful of other drivers causing road crashes, and 28% of workers were concerned about vehicle overloading. To address these troubling statistics, the CSCW program will educate collective transport drivers about safe driving behaviors and safer modes of transport, encourage workers to avoid overloaded and unseated vehicles, and create safer road users through awareness-raising and trainings.

“Brands who are members of the Transportation Working Group play an important role in this program by collaborating with stakeholders on an industry-wide challenge. They also work with factories in their supply chain and support their participation in this program and implement measures to improve commuting safety for their workers,” said Sara Park, Program Manager of Better Factories Cambodia.

The program will target factories located in higher crash-risk areas, near national roads, or with a history of recent crash cases among workers. By establishing and training road safety working groups, developing and implementing transport safety policies and guidelines, and creating “speak up” awareness and advocacy campaigns that utilize social media to encourage workers to raise their concerns to leadership about commuting safety, the program seeks to contribute to a safer commuting culture within factories.

Through advocating for evidence-based policy change and the adoption of safer transport options, as well as infrastructure improvements, more workers will be ultimately able to safely access economic opportunities without the risk of injury, disability, or death.

Furthermore, road crashes also do not only impact the lives of workers, but also the lives of the 2 million family members they support, and the productivity of factories which rely on their labor. A survey of 233



factories in Cambodia found that a total of 7,619 days were lost due to crashes over a 12-month period in 2016.

At the national level, the program will focus on engaging and collaborating with government leaders, as well as industry stakeholders, international brands, manufacturers and the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia, worker organizations like trade unions and driver associations, and civil society members.

In order to effectively address and reduce the risk of road crashes specifically related to factory workers' commutes, the program will also support research that explores the impact of unsafe worker commutes and possible interventions and disseminate research and facilitate dialogue with stakeholders, trade unions, and associations. Through regular engagement with the BFC Transportation Working group members, as well as through an Annual Forum with the Cambodian Road Safety Network (RSN), a network of more than 100 businesses, the program will regularly promote collaboration and best-practice sharing around potential improvements for commuter transport. In collaboration with trade unions and driver associations, Commuting Safety Trainings and annual leadership workshops will also be held to foster dialogue and commitment to preventing worker commuting injuries.

H.E Min Meanvy, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Public Work and Transport and Secretary General of the National Road Safety Committee said that "I support the program that saves many lives of workers who are part of the backbone of the country's economy. Even though we have tried a lot of efforts to deal with this situation, more contribution is still needed to promote workers' safe access to economic opportunities and improve workers' commuting safety."

The CSCW program builds upon the framework of the *Garment and Footwear Factory Pilot Program* and the ongoing efforts of the government. It aims to strengthen linkages and collaboration between stakeholders to increase joint actions and advocacy to improve commuting safety.

"To ensure workers can get to work and home again safely relies on the commitment and support, of all stakeholders. Collaboration is crucial to the program's success and sustainability of safety interventions," said William Conklin, Country Program Director of the Solidarity Center.

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### **About The Solidarity Center**

The Solidarity Center is the largest U.S.-based international worker rights organization helping workers attain safe and healthy workplaces, family-supporting wages, dignity on the job and greater equity at work and in their community.

### **About AIP Foundation**

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low and middle-income countries. For more than 20 years, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit [www.aip-foundation.org](http://www.aip-foundation.org) or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.



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