

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****AIP Foundation expands their commitment to the global fight against Covid-19 by safeguarding vulnerable workers in Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia – August 19, 2021

As COVID-19 has ravaged communities around the world, the most vulnerable among us do not have the option to adapt to a 'new normal' and work from home. Factory workers in Cambodia are already risking their lives daily on their dangerous commute to and from work.

However, when they arrive to work in the factories, they are faced with further hazard of being exposed to COVID-19 as they work in proximity with one another and often surrounded by hygiene standards that need improvement. Their reality is that they must continue working through the pandemic to provide for their families.

AIP Foundation, with support from the Australian Volunteers Program is expanding its protection for factory workers in our existing *Commuting Safety for Cambodian Workers (CSCW)* program which has an intervention across 30 factories. Through this current program, we are in a unique position to deliver first-hand, life-saving personal protective equipment to vulnerable workers.

With the support of the Australian Volunteers Program, AIP Foundation's social enterprise Protec will produce a total of 70,000 3-ply surgical masks to be distributed to 14,797 workers across six factories. Many of our employees at Protec are living with disabilities and at the Protec factory, they have found a home where they are empowered to keep people on the streets safe.

AIP Foundation will launch a health and safety campaign providing WHO recommended hygiene communications via 65 posters and two banners for each of our six CSCW factories. We draw on our successful experience from 2020, where we collaborated with Better Factories Cambodia, Solidarity Center, World Health Organization (WHO), and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) to develop awareness materials to promote the prevention of COVID-19 among workers traveling on collective transport in Cambodia.

In response to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Cambodia's developing economy, these face masks will be distributed to factory workers together with informative materials to raise awareness of the precautions needed to prevent infection.

Further aligning with AIP Foundation's transport safety expertise, the campaign will also include hygiene tips specific to the workers' commutes to and from work as they are often crowded close together in transportation collective transport vehicles, with vans, mini-buses and buses normally operating at double the capacity. This comprehensive campaign will create lasting and life-saving knowledge of health and safety for the factory workers, their families, friends, and the general public.

Mr. Kim Pagna, AIP Foundation Country Director in Cambodia, expressed, "During this pandemic, it is of the utmost importance that appropriate measures are taken to ensure the safety of garment and footwear factory workers who are the foundation of Cambodia's economy. This program contributes to preventing the spread of COVID-19 while protecting the factory workers."

Nationwide in Cambodia, factories are needing to adjust to the post-pandemic reality creating new spacing arrangements as well as occupational health and safety guidelines. AIP Foundation is at the

forefront of those changes by providing life-saving PPE equipment, allowing factory managers to create a safer 'new normal' for their workers.

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#### **About the Australian Volunteers Program**

In partnership with the Australian Volunteers Program, Protec will produce a total of five 3-ply surgical masks per worker to be distributed to workers across six factories. AIP Foundation will launch a health and safety campaign providing WHO recommended hygiene communications via 65 posters and two banners for six CSCW factories, plus banner advertisements on the outside of collective transport vehicles. This project is supported by a grant from the Australian Volunteers Program, an initiative of the Australian Government.

#### **About AIP Foundation**

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low and middle-income countries. For over 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](https://twitter.com/AIPFoundation).

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