



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commuting safety improvements making an impact across factories in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia – March 4, 2024

Commuting workers from several garment and footwear factories across Cambodia are benefitting from transportation initiatives that make their journeys safer.

The *Commuting Safety for Cambodian Workers (CSCW)* program, in partnership with the *Prevention and Participation (P&P)* program, concluded field visits in May and August 2023 to highlight the safety measures, policies, and practices that selected factories have made that are improving worker safety. The visits, which took place across Kandal, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, and Svay Rieng provinces, brought together workers, unions, employers and government officials (Ministry of Women's Affairs, National Social Security Fund, General Secretariat of the National Road Safety Committee, General Department of Land Transport, Phnom Penh Department of Public Works and Transport and Cambodian National Police) to showcase the safety measures and demonstrate how other enterprises could replicate that success. Successful road safety policy implementation at factories has led to increased knowledge among workers and drivers, an increased helmet-wearing rate, and the transition from commuters standing in flat-bed trucks to safer vehicles, such as buses and vans.

Participating stakeholders discussed opportunities to expand commuting safety initiatives nationwide, and ways to motivate drivers and workers to adopt safer transport, including:

- Incentives, such as free parking for drivers of safer vehicles;
- Options to reduce the costs or increase affordability for drivers who want to purchase a safer vehicle;
- Reduced fares or increased travel allowances for workers who use safer vehicles;
- Safer options to transport workers to villages with poor road conditions.

USAID funds the *Commuting Safety for Cambodian Workers* program through the Labor Rights in Cambodia project implemented by the Solidarity Center. The *Prevention & Participation* program is supported by VF Corporation, an apparel, footwear, and accessories company. AIP Foundation, which hosted the field visits and implements the program, is forming a working group of government and non-government actors to address barriers, increase dialogue, promote the transition to commuting safety, and ensure sustainability of the effort.

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About USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, and is the lead agency of the U.S. government for foreign assistance. Since 1992, USAID has invested over \$1 billion in Cambodia's development to improve the lives of all its citizens.

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 over 24 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 or connect with us on Twitter [@AIPFoundation](https://twitter.com/AIPFoundation).

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