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THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO),
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) AND
GERMAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

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World Health Day 2018
Health for All – Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere

To celebrate World Health Day, the Ministry of Health of Cambodia along with partners WHO, JICA and Germany are convening a Cambodia Universal Health Coverage Forum today and tomorrow, 5-6 April, reflecting this year's World Health Day theme: Health for All – Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere. This event brings together policy-makers from different Ministries and operational managers from the provinces along with development partners to reflect on Cambodia's achievements to date towards universal health coverage, and consider how to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target 3.8 of universal health coverage by 2030. International experts from Thailand, Indonesia and Japan are also attending to provide insights on countries' experiences in this journey. The Forum provides an opportunity to highlight current efforts in Cambodia and concrete priority steps for the way forward towards universal health coverage.

Every year, the Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrate World Health Day on 7 April, commemorating the establishment of WHO in 1948. As in other countries, the Ministry of Health of Cambodia celebrates World Health Day to increase public awareness among Cambodians on important public health issues.

Universal health coverage is about making sure all people have access to quality health services where and when they need them, without financial hardship. This entails the provision of various health services throughout the life course —from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. The Ministry of Health of Cambodia reiterates its commitment towards universal health coverage and to achieve the vision of "All people in Cambodia to have better health and wellbeing, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development" (Third Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 – HSP3).

"The Ministry of Health is committed to UHC as a means to achieve the highest level of health for all Cambodians. In this respect, the MOH will continue to develop quality health services to meet the changing health needs of Cambodians and ensure access to all." said HE Prof. TE Kuyseang, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health.

In Cambodia, there are three social health protection schemes covering more than four million people: the Health Equity Funds for the poor, informal workers and other target groups, social security scheme for medical care for formal private sector employees, and for former and current civil servants, and veterans. The Royal Government of Cambodia continues to explore options to cover additional groups,

especially those who are vulnerable, including the informal sector population, children under five, the elderly, and those with disabilities among others.

"Cambodia is one of many countries pushing ahead towards universal health coverage to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, to sustain and build on the excellent health progress Cambodia has made in recent decades. We're committed to supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's efforts to ensure all Cambodians can get the healthcare they need at a cost they can afford." said Dr Kumanan Rasanathan, Coordinator for Health Systems for WHO in Cambodia.

In addition to financial protection, another important dimension of universal health coverage emphasizes the delivery of quality health services that are accessible to all. Equitable access to all means that regardless of whether an individual is living in rural or urban areas, or rich or poor, irrespective of gender, ethnicity and age, everyone is able to access quality public health services. To achieve universal health coverage, there is also the need to provide services for non-communicable as well as communicable diseases. The Ministry of Health of Cambodia continues to work on providing quality services and is carrying out many initiatives to address this.

"Universal health coverage makes society more equitable, where even the poor and rural residents can receive quality health care without financial concern. It provides everyone opportunities to study and work, which leads to an enjoyable life and social development." said Dr. Makoto Tobe, Senior Advisor (Health Financing / Health Systems), JICA.

The Ministry of Health along with WHO, the Japanese and German Governments, and other partners are committed to working together to achieve universal health coverage in Cambodia to ensure Health for All, building on a strong history of collaboration and achievement in improving health in Cambodia.