

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) Program	
RFP Number	RFP24-033
Project Name	An Economic Impact Assessment of the Ban on Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in Cambodia
Domain Name	Policy Hub
Application Closing Date	5pm (Phnom Penh Time) 31 October 2024
Assignment Duration	6 Months, about December 2024 to May 2025

1. Background

1.1 CAPRED

The Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) is Australia’s flagship development program in Cambodia which is primarily aimed at encouraging more inclusive public and private investment, and promotes sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth. CAPRED focuses on three pillars: Agriculture and Agro-processing, Trade, Investment and Enterprise Development, and Infrastructure Services. Policy, gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) and climate resilience are integrated into all of our activities.

CAPRED is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and implemented by Cowater International.

1.2 Asbestos Use and Exposures in Cambodia

Asbestos use in Cambodia has been prevalent primarily in the construction industry, where asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are commonly used for roofing, insulation, and other building materials. All asbestos in Cambodia is imported. The annual consumption of asbestos fibre is estimated to be between 150-250 tonnes. In 2021, Cambodia imported 288 tonnes of chrysotile, but declined significantly afterward. The imports of ACMs far outweigh raw asbestos and peaked in 2021, reaching 8,355 tonnes for asbestos-cement (mainly roof sheeting), followed by friction materials and fabricated asbestos fibres (e.g. thread, woven fabric, clothing or footwear). However, the import of asbestos-cement was down to 3,253 tonnes in 2023¹.

The use of asbestos was popular due to its affordability, fire resistance, and durability. However, the widespread use of asbestos has posed significant health risks to the population and the environment. In 2019, there were an estimated 170 deaths of asbestos-related diseases (ARD) in Cambodia, (144 deaths from lung cancer, 20 deaths from mesothelioma, 6 deaths from asbestosis, ovarian and larynx cancer). The death toll will continue to rise due to the long latency of ARDs and by 2040 Cambodia is predicted to have between 280 and 460 deaths from asbestos exposure².

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT) announced a collaboration with Union Aid Abroad APHEDA and the ILO to raise public awareness about the hazards of asbestos.³ In October 2022, the Cambodian National Asbestos Profile Working Group released the 2nd National Asbestos Profile for Cambodia.⁴ This Working Group is composed of 12 Ministries, employers and trade unions in accordance with WHO and ILO recommendations. In June 2023 the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training announced that the Royal Government of Cambodia would implement an action plan to ban asbestos from

¹ ITC Trade Map, accessed July 20, 2024.

² Asbestos in Cambodia – Key Facts, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Australian Government

³ [Ministry launches review of asbestos status in Kingdom](#)

⁴ NAP Cambodia



2025 under the third Master Plan on Occupational Safety and Health (2023-2027).

2. Purpose

To support the implementation of a ban in Cambodia, CAPRED seeks to engage a consulting firm or consortium to conduct the economic impact study with the following objectives:

- To have a comprehensive understanding of the use of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), including types of ACMs commonly used, their substitutes, and the sectors affected.
- Assess and estimate the impacts of banning ACMs in Cambodia, focusing on both short-term and long-term effects.
- Identify economic sectors and stakeholders most affected by the ban.
- Evaluate potential economic benefits from reduced healthcare and other costs and improved public health outcomes.
- Provide policy recommendations for the implementation, regulatory reforms, investment and capacity-building.

3. Requirements

3.1 Key Tasks and Activities

The Economic Impact Assessment will consist of the following tasks:

- Conduct a literature review of existing studies and reports on asbestos use, health impacts, and economic assessments in Cambodia, taking into account the regional and international experiences with asbestos bans and their economic implications as relevant benchmarks.
- Gather primary data through interviews with relevant stakeholders, including government officials, industry representatives, health professionals, and environmental experts.
- Utilize quantitative methods to estimate economic costs associated with transitioning away from asbestos, such as costs of alternative materials and retraining workers.
 - Potential job losses in industries that previously used asbestos.
- Assess potential economic benefits arising from the ban, such as promoting safer alternative materials and fostering innovation in construction techniques.
 - Reduced healthcare costs associated with asbestos-related diseases.
 - Increased worker productivity due to improved safety standards.
- Potential for new markets and new jobs associated with a transition to safer building materials.
- Employ qualitative methods to capture perceptions, attitudes, and behavioral changes among stakeholders affected by the ban.
- Recommendations for policymakers on managing transition costs, supporting affected sectors, and maximizing economic benefits from the ban.
- Presentation of findings and recommendations to relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, industry associations, and civil society organizations.

3.2 Deliverables

Deliverables include:

- Workplan
- Inception Report
- Validation workshop(s) with relevant stakeholders outlining the findings and recommendations.
- Draft Impact Assessment
- Final Impact Assessment
- Policy Brief summarising key messages



3.3 Quality Assurance

Ensure adherence to international standards for economic assessments and research methodologies. Review and validation of findings by external experts and stakeholders.

4. Qualifications or Specialised knowledge/experience required

This task requires multidisciplinary skill, expertise, and experience. The consulting firm or consortium team require the following qualifications.

Education

- Team members with a Bachelor's degree or higher in economics or a related field.

Technical competencies and experience:

- Experience in cost and benefits analyses, especially in the health and environment sectors.
- Demonstrated capacity to produce high-quality research
- Data analysis and visualisation skills.
- Demonstrated understanding of Cambodia's context, including the legal and regulatory environment, and relevant institutions and stakeholders.

Other competencies:

- Demonstrate integrity and high ethical standards.
- Display cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Treat all people fairly without favoritism.
- Fulfil obligations to GEDSI sensitivity and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.
- Strictly comply with DFAT Child Protection Code of Conduct and policy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/child-protection-policy.pdf>)

5. Evaluation

CAPRED will use an objective and reliable process to evaluate each proposal. The proposals and responses will be evaluated based on (in no particular order):

- a. Compliance with this Request for Proposal (RFP)
- b. Understanding of and ability to meet the requirements and deadlines as specified
- c. Supplier expertise and experience with delivery of similar projects
- d. Expertise of individuals and overall team nominated to deliver the services and equipment. CAPRED reserves the right to reject any individual being proposed and to ask the supplier to provide an alternative.
- e. Past performance relevant to this RFP (as determined by referee checks)
- f. Relevant examples of previous work
- g. Proposed fee charged for the services.

Note: While price is a factor, it is more important that the applicant can demonstrate value for money. CAPRED reserves the right to contract more than one supplier for these services and may actively seek to contract more than one supplier to ensure supply of technical services. CAPRED reserves the right to vary the contract terms, and to exercise the option period at its sole discretion.

Due diligence checks will be conducted on the consulting firm/organisation/individual nominated in the RFP prior to awarding contract/s.



6. How to Apply

The proposals including the Technical and Financial Response Form must be submitted no later than **5 pm (Phnom Penh time), Thursday 31 October 2024** by email to procurement@capred.org with “An Economic Impact Assessment of the Ban on Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in Cambodia – RFP” in the subject line. Any proposals submitted after this time and date will not be considered.

CAPRED is available to answer questions or provide more detail on the scope of work. Please email procurement@capred.org with “An Economy Impact Assessment enquiry” in the subject line.

Attachment:

- Technical Response Form
- Financial Response Form

Cowater International (managing contractor of CAPRED) is an equal opportunity employer, basing employment on merit and qualifications as they relate to the professional experience and position expectations. Cowater does not discriminate against any employee or applicants on the basis of race, religion, sex, gender identity, disability, age, or any other basis protected by law. CAPRED aims to have a diverse workforce at all levels, and a workplace that is supportive of gender equality, disability and social inclusion. Women, people with disabilities and other minorities are highly encouraged to apply.

