



MEDIA RELEASE

Austcare Gives Landmine Survivors a Shot at Sporting Gold

The power of professional sport is being used to help improve the lives of Cambodia's landmine victims.

More than 40 disabled athletes from across the globe have arrived in the capital, Phnom Penh, for the history-making start of the Volleyball Standing World Cup on Saturday.

Home-town favourite and current world number four, Cambodia, will battle nine international teams including Canada, Germany and Slovakia for the world title, during what's expected to be a week of intense competition at Olympic Stadium.

Named the 'standing' World Cup, each of the athletes are able to stand with or without prosthesis, sending a commanding message about the resilience of the human spirit.

Chris Minko, Secretary General of the Cambodian National Volleyball League for the Disabled (CNVLD), the joint host and organiser of the World Cup explains, "We can use sport as a means of contributing to the individual and collective rehabilitation of disabled individuals into Cambodian society."

The decision by Austcare and ActionAid to jointly sponsor the inaugural World Cup is part of Austcare's long-standing commitment to Cambodia, landmine survivors and people living in mine affected communities.

That commitment already includes the support of local league new comers, the Anlong Veang Lions, as part of a program to raise awareness of people with disabilities in Cambodia and encourage their re-integration into society.

Lions Coach, Chan Soa, who was disabled in 1986 when he stood on a landmine, says "The volleyball is very important for me because I get healthy, have a lot of friends, I can show my ability, and especially I can get into the society. Sport can also help my family life get better. I want my team to play well like other teams".

Austcare works throughout Cambodia to deliver mine victim assistance programs that provide opportunities for survivors and people with disabilities to improve their lives and livelihoods.

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