



# CAMBODIA COUNTRY PROGRAM



A young girl in Kampot Province ©Nathan Horton

**The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Switzerland. In collaboration with other federal offices, SDC is responsible for the overall coordination of cooperation activities in developing countries, cooperation with Eastern Europe, and humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.**

**The Cambodia country program is part of the Swiss Mekong Region Cooperation Strategy 2013-2017. SDC aspires to support government and non-government actors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam to become equal and empowered partners within the ASEAN community.**

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## SDC Country Program in Cambodia

The Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia was developed in close consultation with the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly with concerned line ministries. The strategy responds to the country's key development challenges and priorities and is fully in line with the new Rectangular Strategy III and the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018.

SDC Cambodia focuses on three domains: Local Governance and Citizen Participation; Agriculture and Food Security; and Employment and Vocational Training.

In the **Local Governance and Citizen Participation** domain, SDC Cambodia enhances local governance mechanisms and contributes to improved public service delivery, and inclusive and equitable development. In so doing, SDC strengthens local governance while restoring the social fabric destroyed by years of civil unrest. SDC contributes through a two-pronged approach: 1) strengthening equitable, efficient and responsive public services; and 2) promoting citizens' voice, rights and participation in local decision making.

In the **Agriculture and Food Security** domain, SDC improves rural livelihoods and food security, especially of female-headed households. The program closely interlinks: 1) improving the livelihood resilience of smallholder farmers, including female-headed households and ethnic minorities through enhanced production capacities and improved market access; and 2) supporting women and men, particularly communities making a living from forests and fisheries, through secured and equitable access to community resources, as well as market access for non-timber forest products.

The **Employment and Vocational Training** domain concentrates on young rural women and men acquiring vocational and life skills, allowing them to increase their incomes.

An essential part of the strong engagement of Switzerland for the long term inclusive development of Cambodia remains the continued support to the **Kantha Bopha Hospitals** of Dr. Beat Richner. Since 1994 SDC has supported the KB hospitals with a total amount of CHF 55 million, and is committed to continuing its support. The operational model of these hospitals is key to its success; as they take care of about 80% of all the sick children in Cambodia free of charge, with an optimal cost-benefit ratio. Moreover SDC is committed to contribute to the elaboration of solutions for the long term securing of the Kantha Bopha hospitals.

Responding to the needs and aligning with major efforts undertaken by civil society and government actors to ensure long-term sustainable and inclusive growth, the following cross-cutting themes

are mainstreamed in all programs and projects: gender equity, good governance, conflict-sensitive program management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and culture.

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## Local Governance and Citizen Participation

**Support for the Parliament in Cambodia:** SDC supports the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC) with the overall goal of PIC working with the Parliament to adopt effective mechanisms to fulfill its legislative, representative and oversight functions, and to be recognized by Cambodian citizens as a legitimate institution that promotes and protects their interests.

**Support for Sub-National Democratic Development in Cambodia:** SDC supports the Royal Government of Cambodia, represented by the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development, with the strategic goal of supporting Cambodia's poor and marginalized women and men, especially in rural areas, to equitably benefit from economic growth and to meaningfully participate in decision-making. Support to decentralization reform contributes to improved public service delivery based on enhanced citizen engagement and constructive management of local affairs.

Re-building trust and confidence, and therefore support to reconciliation, is a key element of stability, peace and sustainable human development in Cambodia.

**Support for regional economic development in Cambodia:** SDC supports the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in implementing the Regional Economic Development (RED III) program. The overall goal of RED III is that the rural population, especially vulnerable groups, improve their economic and social living conditions. The specific outcome of the program is for the poor rural population, especially women, to use new sustainable business and employment opportunities to increase income and reduce poverty.

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## Agriculture and Food Security

**The Partnership for Forestry and Fishery (PaFF) project:** SDC supports the PaFF project implemented by the Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Program (NTFP-EP). The project aims to improve, increase and scale up support to forestry and fishery communities in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces to allow communities (particularly women and indigenous communities) to secure access to natural resources.

**Cambodian Horticulture Project Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN):** SDC supports CHAIN, implemented through a consortium of SNV (lead) and Swisscontact, in collaboration with AVRDC (the World Vegetable Center). The goal of CHAIN is to increase the income and food security of smallholder farmers in targeted rural areas of Cambodia. It is expected to provide sustainable income growth to 15,000 homestead farmers, 3,000 commercial farmers and 1,200 processors, and improved household food security and nutrition for 72,000 households, by 2022.

**Support for mine and unexploded ordnance clearance in Cambodia:** SDC supports the United Nations Development Programme, which supports the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority to implement the Clearing for Results (CfR II) project. Support is delivered through institutional and capacity building of project staff. The goal of CfR II is to develop a more diversified, sustainable and equitable economy by reducing the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by unexploded ordnance and by strengthening national and sub-national capacities for mine clearance.

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## Employment and Vocational Training

Through the Skills Development Program, SDC supports rural poor and disadvantaged youth in northern provinces to have better access to gainful and decent employment, and contributes to strengthening the national technical and vocational education and training regulatory framework for better inclusion, more effective delivery and higher relevance of vocational skills to labor-market needs.

Support for empowering women migrant workers in Asia: SDC supports UN Women's Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia program. The program aims to strengthen regulatory frameworks at country level, and supports advocacy, building networks and capacity, and disseminating knowledge.

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