



CAMBODIA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

The Cambodia country programme is part of the Swiss Mekong Region Cooperation Strategy 2018-2021. SDC aspires to support government and non-government actors in Cambodia and Lao PDR to become equal and empowered partners within the ASEAN community.



Photo by SDC Phnom Penh

SDC COUNTRY PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

Switzerland supports Cambodia to strengthen a peaceful society with reduced poverty and sustainable and inclusive growth. The Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia was developed in consultation with stakeholders from the Cambodian government and civil society. The strategy responds to the country's key development challenges and priorities.

SDC Cambodia focuses on three domains: Local Governance, Citizen Participation and Health; Agriculture and Food Security; and Skills Development and Employment.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND HEALTH

The main objective of the Local Governance, Citizen Participation and Health domain is that accountable state institutions provide accessible and affordable quality public services, in particular health, and promote space for dialogue. Therefore SDC aims to strengthen equitable, efficient and responsive public services and to increase

the influence and participation of citizen, in particular women and vulnerable groups to foster inclusive and accountable development undertaken by sub-national governments.

Support for Sub-National Democratic Development in Cambodia (SNDD)

SDC Cambodia supports the National Programme for Sub-National Democratic Development. The goal is to support 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 and accountable management of local affairs.

Support for regional economic development (RED)

SDC together with the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) co-finances the Regional Economic Development (RED) programme, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The overall goal of RED is that the rural population, especially vulnerable groups, improve their economic and social living conditions. The programme therefore strengthens the capacities of provincial authorities to promote local economic development.

Support for the Parliament in Cambodia

SDC supports the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC). The overall goal of PIC is to contribute to the improved, non-partisan and independent performance and capacity of the Cambodian Parliamentary services and to enhance trust by Cambodian citizens in the work of parliamentarians. It also aims to strengthen the capacity and level of exchange among ASEAN parliaments.

Another essential part of the strong engagement of Switzerland is continued support to the **Kantha Bopha Hospitals**. The operational model of these hospitals is key to their success, as they take care of about 80% of all sick children in Cambodia free of charge, with

an optimal cost-benefit ratio. SDC is committed to contributing to the long term financial sustainability of the Kantha Bopha hospitals.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

In the Agriculture and Food Security domain, SDC improves sustainable livelihoods, food security and income of rural women and men, especially indigenous people and ethnic minorities. The programme closely interlinks the improvement of market-oriented production practices, nutrition awareness and income from horticulture and safe and secured access to as well as sustainable control over natural resources (fisheries, forestry) and production means.

Partnership for Forestry and Fishery (PaFF)

The project is implemented by a consortium of four NGOs, led by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Cambodia). The three other consortium partners are the Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC) and the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA). PaFF aims to increase the income of rural women and men and to improve their resilience to economic and natural shocks by engaging in sustainable community-based livelihood approaches that protect their eco-systems and reduce pressure on communal natural resources. The targeted provinces are Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom.

Cambodian Horticulture Project Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN)

CHAIN is implemented through the Development Organization SNV and Swisscontact. The goal of the project is to increase the income and food security of smallholder farmers, women and men 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 the end of 2022.

Support for the clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance in Cambodia

The Clearing for Results project (CfR) is implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. The goal of CfR 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.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
50, Street 334, Boeung Keng Kang 1, Chamkar Morn,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/cambodia
Email: phnompenh@eda.admin.ch

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SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The Skills Development and Employment domain focuses on enhancing the skills of women and men, in particular from disadvantaged groups, allowing them to benefit from gainful and decent employment and self-employment. The objective is to enhance technical vocational education and training (TVET)/skills development systems, to support government implementation with active private sector engagement, and to facilitate access for the target group to employment.

Skills Development Programme

The aim of the programme is to increase the income and employment opportunities of disadvantaged young women and men in the northern provinces of Cambodia and to contribute to the creation of an inclusive, relevant, qualitative and well-coordinated TVET system nationwide. In addition, SDP provides policy-relevant research and contributes to evidence-based reforms in relevant government ministries.

UN Joint Programme on Youth Employment

The goal is that young women and men increasingly obtain decent and productive employment opportunities. The focus is on improved access to quality education as well as providing adequate entrepreneurial and business skills to create and develop sustainable enterprises.

SDC's approach is to respond to people's needs and align the programmes with 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 programmes and projects: gender equality, good governance, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and support to culture.



Photo by Giuseppe Salerno