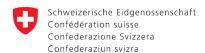
CAMBODIA PROJECTS



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Market stall in Kratie province, photo@ CHAIN Project

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

The Swiss international cooperation in the Mekong region comprises of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand (the CLMVT countries), with a country focus on Cambodia and Laos. It includes projects with broader outreach in the Mekong region.

In 2012, the SDC opened a cooperation office in Phnom Penh to oversee Switzerland's development cooperation activities in the country.

The SDC in Cambodia

The SDC aims at reducing poverty, supporting equitable and sustainable development, and fostering participative and democratic governance while improving people's resilience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing impacts from climate change and disasters. The SDC's overall goal for the **Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25** and development and cooperation activities in Cambodia, is to enable people, in particular young people, women and disadvantaged groups, to be more prosperous, resilient and better included in development processes.

The overall country budget amounts to CHF 59 million in Cambodia, plus CHF 28.2 million for Mekong regional projects. Country programmes and activities in Cambodia are managed through the three following thematic portfolios:

In the Governance and Citizen Participation (GCP) portfolio,

people will benefit from responsive public service delivery and actively engage in local and national governance processes. Inclusive, evidence based and gender-responsive policies and plans will be elaborated and effectively applied into practice.

In the **Inclusive Economic Development (IED)** portfolio, people will have access to quality vocational skills development, employment support and business development services to improve their employment and income opportunities, thus becoming more resilient to economic shocks and crises. Inclusive policies will be developed by policymakers, consulted with the private sector and civil society originations and implemented together.

In the Climate Change and Natural Resource Management (CCNRM) portfolio, people will have more secure and equitable access to natural resources (land, forest and water) and will be able to manage them sustainably. Implementation of responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation policies will make people more resilient to climate change and disasters.

In addition to the above thematic portfolios, the transversal crosscutting themes of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Good Governance, and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction** will consistently be applied throughout the programmes and portfolios, including the support for COVID-19 recovery. The recovery phase will remain a key context feature throughout this Cooperation Programme period.

All projects in Cambodia are aligned with the Government of Cambodia's development priorities, defined within the Rectangular Strategy IV and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, while also oriented towards the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and hence the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals.

Governance and Citizen Participation

Sub-National Democratic Development-Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (SNDD-ISAF) phase 2:

(06/2019-12/2022, CHF 4,200,000). SDC supports the third phase of the National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development (NP-SNDD) with specific focus on the Implementation of Social Accountability framework (ISAF) through the World Bank Trust Fund. The objective is to improve the performance of public service providers (primary schools, health centres and communes) with improved transparency, strengthened citizen engagement and government's responsive actions.

Improved Service Delivery for Citizens in Cambodia (ISD): (03/2022-12/2025, CHF 4,350,000). Switzerland and Germany jointly support a project on "Improved Service Delivery for Citizens" in three provinces of Cambodia, implemented by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project aims to improve access to equitable and inclusive public services for all citizens, including vulnerable people, in the target provinces, while contributing to Cambodia's socio-economic development. Besides funding, Switzerland makes use of its longstanding experience in decentralized governance and service delivery.

Stimulating Participation and Civic Engagement (SPACE): (05/2021-12/2024, CHF 2,475,000). The project empowers Cambodian youth to engage in public life, while shifting negative norms and attitudes around youth participation. BBC Media Action creates inclusive on- and offline spaces for civic engagement, encourages a dialogue of youth and decision-makers and strengthens the provision of media for youth. Switzerland's expertise in civic engagement is coupled with BBC Media Action's know-how in media production and complemented with outreach work by three local organisations.

Support to Kantha Bopha hospitals (Phase 9): (01/2019-09/2022, CHF 15,400,000). Founded by Dr. Beat Richner in 1992, the five Kantha Bopha Hospitals (KBH) provide health services free of charge for children and expecting mothers, and cover around 65 % of severely sick children and expecting mothers in Cambodia. Given their broad coverage and their status as Governmental University hospitals, KBH are a crucial actor in the Cambodian health sector. SDC supports KBF in the long term financial sustainability and the gradual funding coverage from Cambodian public and private sources.

Inclusive Economic Development

Skills Development Programme (SDP) phase 2: (07/2020-06/2024, CHF 9,000,000). Skills Development Development remains high on Cambodia's national agenda. Through Swisscontact, Switzerland scales up its support to youth in rural poor areas to access skill development, equipping them with relevant skills to access employment and improve their incomes. Swiss expertise also contributes to improve the Technical and Vocational Education and Training system, including TVET law, to be more inclusive and strengthen its implementation in collaboration with the private sector to respond to labour market needs.

Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia (DEY) phase 2: (05/2020-12/2023, CHF 4,050,000). Switzerland together with the UN strengthens Cambodia's Technical and Vocational Education System to address key challenges for its large young population entering the labour market every year. The project supports young women and men to acquire relevant skills and information to respond to current and future labour market needs and to obtain decent and productive employment.

It also contributes to more inclusive policies and improved coordination with the private sector.

Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN) phase 3: (01/2020- 12/2022, CHF 1,950,000). The last phase of the mandated Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition Project focuses on sustainability and scalability of horticulture business models for farmers and businesses, supports quality extension services under the leadership of National and Provincial Agriculture Offices. Strengthened local market systems and improved water access for year-round safe vegetable production will increased income for 7,200 farmers and young migrants in four north-eastern provinces.

Nurturing climate resilience in Cambodia (Nurture) – Inception phase: (02/2022-12/2022, CHF 200,000). Switzerland contributes to a project of the Swiss NGOs HEKS and Caritas, supporting smallholder farmers in four provinces for enhanced resilience to climate change and disasters with Swiss expertise on sustainable water resources and irrigation management. Some 150,000 people will benefit and get context specific knowledge to apply agro-ecological approaches and better access to technologies and services supplied by the public and private sector.

Partners for Forestry and Fisheries (PaFF) phase 3: (07/2021-06/2023, CHF 2,000,000). The final phase of the Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries is implemented by four Non-Governmental Organisations led by the Center for Forests and People - RECOFTC. It supports rural communities in managing their natural resources in four provinces. With SDC's contribution and inclusive development, the communities' economic, social and cultural rights are enhanced through funding opportunities that improve their livelihoods and increase resilience to natural shocks.

Mine Clearance: (01/2020-12/2022, CHF 3,530,000). In the past 30 years, Cambodia has cleared over 1,900 km2 of minefields, benefiting approx. 5.6 million people. However, an area of approx.860 km2 is still heavily contaminated. Cambodia aims to be a mine-free country by 2025. The main goal of the Swiss contribution to the project implemented by HALO Trust Cambodia is the clearance of 12.2 km2 of mined areas spread in a long strip of land in north-western Cambodia that will provide safe access to land and livelihood development directly to 25,000 rural households.



Provinces with more than one project