

SDC's Cultural Fund in Cambodia: Call for proposals

The overall objective of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25 is to enable people, in particular young people, women and disadvantaged groups in Laos, Cambodia and the Mekong region to be more prosperous, resilient and better included in development processes. Within the programme's framework, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) also aims to promote Cambodian art and culture.

Globally, the SDC has been fostering the relationship between culture and development since the 1980s. SDC's culture and development policy (see link on website) highlights the importance of artistic expression as a driver of change, culture as a resource and a right that contributes to fostering identity and dignity, while generating social capital, self-confidence (individual and collective), cohesiveness and resilience in groups. Furthermore, culture and its diversity are an essential part of several Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 amongst other related to education, environment, economic growth, peaceful and inclusive societies, etc.

The Swiss Cooperation Office in Cambodia therefore announces a call for proposals for projects in the field of arts. The call intends to issue funding for creative and innovative projects, which contribute to the development and preservation of arts in Cambodia.

Key points of SDC's Cultural Fund in Cambodia

1) Priorities for Cultural projects

- Building the professional capacity of artists or cultural organisations and institutions, especially young or emerging practitioners;
- Strengthening cultural organisations or institutions;
- Enhancing access to culture for all;
- Triggering employment;
- Encouraging international cooperation;
- Fostering debate within society;
- Supporting innovative cultural creation;
- Advancing equal opportunities and human rights by supporting cultural diversity.

2) Financial and other conditions

- The fund is limited to a maximum grant of **USD 200,000** per project/initiative.
- Co-funding of at least **20%** by the applicant and/or other donors is a compulsory requirement. Projects with a higher percentage of co-funding are preferred.
- Maximum duration of a proposed project is **18 months**.
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

3) Eligibility criteria

Applicants can be organisations or consortia (with one lead applicant) representing all types of art. The applicants shall fulfil the following criteria:

- Work in the cultural sector and based in Cambodia.
- Have an official recognition, and be entitled to sign contracts.
- Have a track record of the projects carried out successfully (credible, reliable and accountable).
- Currently, planning or implementing an existing project that requires additional funding support.

4) Requirements for the application

Applicants shall submit the full application in English consisting of **four** documents:

- Questionnaire template: basic information about your organisation (see form on website)
- Proposal template – max. 5 pages (see form on website)
- Budget template (see form on website)
- Registration papers: a company or NGO/association license.

5) Award criteria

- Relevance of the action: relevance and practicality of the project.
- Quality of the concept note: clarity and comprehensibility of the project proposal, as well as the completeness and understandability of the budget.
- Sustainability: support efforts that encourage long-term change while avoiding long-term financial dependency. Co-funding from the applicant and/or other donor will be weighed under this criterion.
- Financial allocation: efficiency and effectiveness of the financial proposal.
- Inclusiveness of disadvantaged people/groups: Strengthen local and/or national cultural identity with particular focus on young people, women and disadvantaged groups also from rural areas
- Capacity and experience of the applicant: Capacities of applicant's staff. Relevance of resources and stakeholders' participation. Expertise and experiences needed for the project.

6) Submission

Applicants are invited to send electronic copies of the duly completed application forms (see templates in annex) to the following email address phnompenh@eda.admin.ch until **31 August 2023** COB (Cambodia). The size of the attachments should not exceed 10MB. Receipt of the submissions will be acknowledged through an e-mail. Only awarded applicants will be contacted by **30 September 2023**.