



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

# CZECH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN CAMBODIA



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IN CAMBODIA**

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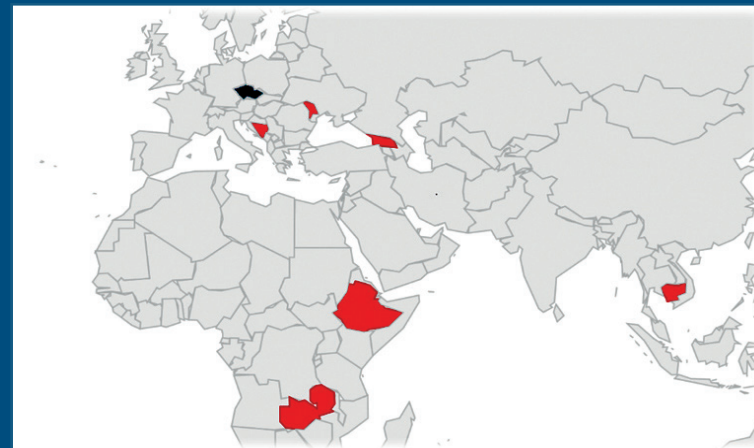
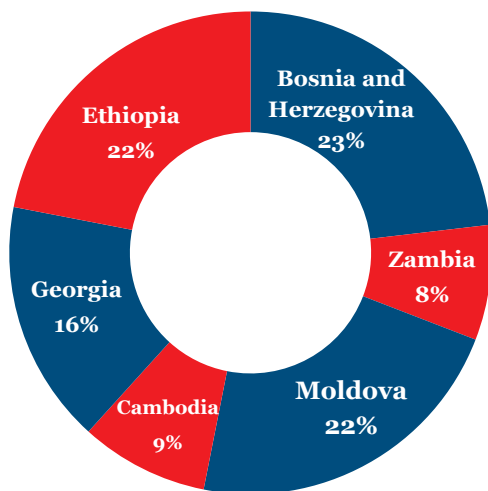
# 1 Czech Development Cooperation in the World



Development cooperation represents an important part of the Czech Republic's foreign operations and expresses its co-responsibility for taking part in solving global challenges.

Except from the main objective of contributing to poverty reduction in the world, the cooperation promotes building of good relations with partner countries and helps to ensure economic, environmental and social development.

The beginning of the Czech Republic's tradition of providing development cooperation is dated back to the 1950s. Development cooperation is in fact provided in two main forms – material or technical assistance - in the form of sending Czech experts to partner countries, or providing scholarships to study at Czechoslovak and later Czech Universities.



Nowadays, the Czech development cooperation is closely linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **Agenda 2030** and contributes to addressing the problems shared in the most needed countries. For the sake of cooperation efficiency, in 2017 the Government of the Czech Republic identified **six priority partner countries** to be strongly supported in their development by a combination of appropriate instruments. These six countries include Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Cambodia**, Moldova, Georgia, Ethiopia and Zambia. Moreover, due to other specific instruments, the Czech Republic provides support also to Afghanistan, Mongolia, Serbia, Syria, Ukraine and Kosovo.

## 2 Relations of the Czech Republic and Cambodia

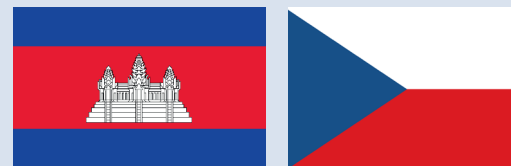


The history of diplomatic relations between the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia) and Cambodia began in 1956, when the first diplomatic contacts were established. Subsequently, Czechoslovakia supported the development of Cambodia by building a number of industrial plants (power plants, tire and tractor factories, sugar factories, locomotives, etc.).

An important part of the mutual relations of both countries is the fact that His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the current king of Cambodia, studied in the Czech Republic, where he completed his studies in 1975 by graduating from the Academy of Performing Arts (AMU) in Prague.



*His Majesty the King Norodom Sihamoni and H.E. Mr. Marek Libřický,  
Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Cambodia*



After a brief attenuation of relationships in the 1990s, the discussion on the possibilities of cooperation was revived. Related to development projects supported by former Czechoslovakia, it was also necessary to settle Cambodia's debt to the Czech Republic. By mutual agreement, a part of the debt was forgiven and the remaining funds were devoted to the implementation of new development projects. In connection with debt resettlement, the Czech Republic resumed its Embassy in Phnom Penh.

Regarding to the inclusion of Cambodia among partner countries for development cooperation in 2010, the Czech Republic has begun to support Cambodia by funds beyond the debt (which was fully amortized in 2017). Modern Czech projects have been focused on traditional areas such as **health care, social services, energy** and also **water and sanitation**. Related to the successful implementation of these projects, in 2017 Cambodia was selected to become one of the only six priority partner countries of the Czech Republic for development cooperation.

# 3 Czech Development Cooperation in Cambodia



Since 2010, when the Czech Republic resumed its development cooperation activities in Cambodia, **more than 70 different projects** have been supported particularly in the health, social development, energy, education and water and sanitation sectors.

Based on this experience and mutual agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, the **Bilateral Development Cooperation Program of the Czech Republic with Cambodia**, valid for 2018 – 2023, was created in 2017. The document focuses on priorities in the areas of **sustainable management of natural resources and inclusive social development**. The program is a suitable combination of the defined development needs of Cambodia and areas where the Czech Republic can offer its added value, technical expertise and specific experience, in particular in **water and sanitation, health and education sectors**.

**By 2023, both countries agreed to work together to achieve the following objectives:**



Equal access of women and men to good quality, affordable and inclusive technical, vocational and higher education including university education



Universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all in selected locations in the target province



Reduce preventable neonatal mortality and mortality in children under five years of age, reduce maternal mortality in selected locations in the target province

**Map of the projects implemented by the Czech Republic in Cambodia by sectors (2010 – 2019)**



### 3.1. Bilateral Projects

Bilateral projects aim at the direct fulfillment of the outputs set out in the **Bilateral Development Cooperation Program for 2018 – 2023** in the areas of health, education and water and sanitation. The projects are funded by the Czech Development Agency – **CzechAid**, based in Prague, and coordinated in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh. Based on tenders announced by the Czech Development Agency, the projects are implemented by Czech entities (a specialized private company, a non-governmental organization registered in the Czech Republic or Czech state institution) that showed appropriate expertise in the specific field.

#### How to apply for bilateral project

Proposals for bilateral projects can be submitted by **Cambodian public institutions** at national and local level, research institutions, public universities, etc. as well as **Czech entities** in cooperation with local public institutions.

Proposals on appropriate forms are submitted to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.

If you are considering submitting a project proposal, we recommend you to visit the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh and contact the staff of the Embassy via email address: [Development\\_Phnompenh@mzv.cz](mailto:Development_Phnompenh@mzv.cz).

#### Bilateral projects fulfill these outputs:



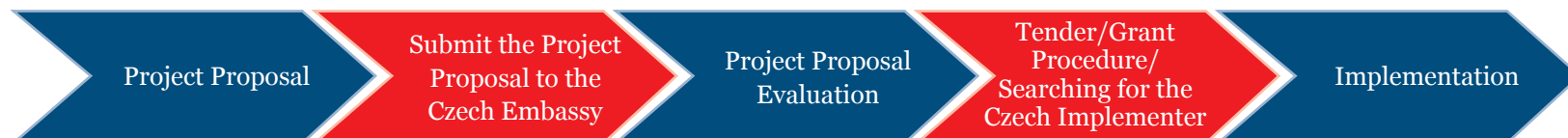
- Ensure access to affordable drinking water
- Ensure access to adequate sanitation and hygiene



- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in selected areas increased
- Improved access to antenatal and postnatal care services in selected areas
- Improved access to medical care for children (under 5)
- Rates of undernourishment (stunting and wasting) of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women decreased



- Increase capacity of vocational training
- Inclusive education methods introduced
- Youth employability increase





### **Development of Neonatology Department within the National Pediatric Hospital of Cambodia**

*Thanks to cooperation with Czech experts, the staff of the neonatology department improved their newborn care skills. The staff can use the newly supplied medical devices for professional health care and further increase the capacities of Cambodian neonatologists on new training equipment.*



### **Improving quality of maternal and child healthcare services in three hospitals in Kampong Chhnang province**

*The Czech Republic supported the reconstruction of the Maternity Ward in the Kampong Chhnang Provincial Referral Hospital, trained medical staff and supplied medical equipment and devices that will improve the quality of health care provided. At the same time, ensured access to drinking water and sanitation for the patients.*



### **ACTIVE for Youth (Agro-processing career development, technical training and improved vocational education for youth)**

*Based on a previous successful cooperation with the General and Technical High School of Samdech Preah Borom Neath Norodom Sihamoni and thanks to the cooperation of Czech and Cambodian experts, the Czech Republic supported establishment of a new study field in food processing, whose graduates have great potential to succeed and further develop food-processing industry.*



## 3.2. Development Cooperation Program for the Private Sector (B2B)

As the private sector plays an irreplaceable role in the international development, the aim of this program is to motivate small and medium-size businesses in the Czech Republic to bring innovative ideas with the potential to address development challenges in partner countries. B2B program thus encourages the Czech enterprises to establish business partnership with local partners in order to provide new job opportunities for local people, transfer of know-how and technology and to bring European standard and quality into the beneficiary country.

The program is designed especially to support following activities: feasibility study, expertise training (transfer of know-how), capacity building, drafting of business plans, setting up of joint ventures, longer term B2B projects (business partnership).



### How to apply for B2B project

Eligible applicants are business entities based in the Czech Republic.

The call for proposals is published twice a year on the website of the Czech Development Agency at [www.czechaid.cz](http://www.czechaid.cz).



Co-founder of the .pepper..field project with local farmer

Until now, only large farmers have been able to process and export Kampot pepper out of the country. Therefore, the Czech company Cambodian s.r.o. decided to establish a new brand named **.pepper..field** and support small local farmers through fair trade project called

“ *Support of small farmers with Kampot pepper by opening EU market* ”

supported by the Czech Development Agency. The company not only buys fair-value Kampot pepper from local growers, but also helps them to process the pepper properly for export through new technologies of sorting, drying and vacuuming.

In cooperation with the Cambodian partner, the project opens the EU market for farmers and helps them find the final customer in Europe. Moreover, local small farmers gain new experience in processing pepper for the foreign market and thanks to a partnership with the Czech company will ensure a stable source of income.

### 3.3. Sending Czech Teachers to Cambodia – Cooperation of Universities

The aim of this program is to support the improvement of the quality of education and academic activities at universities in priority partner countries through sending Czech teachers and support mutual cooperation and partnership between universities. The program supports the improvement of standards and expertise of university education in Cambodia by involving teachers from Czech universities. **1 year projects** may be focused on introducing a new study program, improving the qualifications of academic staff, teaching a subject on specific topic, summer school, acquiring international accreditation or research cooperation.



#### How to apply for a project

Project proposals are submitted by **Czech Universities** based on prior agreement with the partner university in Cambodia.

Call for proposals is regularly published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

*Students of the summer school organized in cooperation with the Royal University of Agriculture*

Since 2012 the Czech Republic has supported several projects of cooperation between Czech and Cambodian Universities which especially fostered cooperation with the Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh. Various projects implemented so far by the **Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and Mendel University in Brno** have helped to build expertise in agricultural and forestry through specialized seminars for teachers and students, practical fieldwork, field data collection and analysis as a part of academic research and other activities supporting development of research capacities of Cambodian experts.

### 3.4. Temporary Expert Assignments

Temporary Expert Assignment is another form of cooperation funded by the Czech Development Agency that aims at sharing Czech transitional experience and knowledge with economic-societal transformation from a state-planning economy to a market-economy with partner countries, which are going through similar socio-political development, including Cambodia.

Through a temporary assignment of the Czech expert, the program brings experiences in the fields of agriculture, ecology, industry, water management, education, health or social sphere, good governance, etc., and thus contributes to increase the positive impacts of the ongoing projects in Cambodia.

This is a flexible program allowing the experts to be posted in Cambodia up to 25 days a year during which they may share know-how with their Cambodian colleagues, elaborate feasibility studies or provide recommendations to specific topics.

#### How to apply for an expert

Eligible entities to apply for a Czech expert are **Cambodian public institutions** at national and sub-national level, research and other institutions, other donors active in the country applying in cooperation with partner Cambodian institution.

Proposals for Expert Assignment can be submitted all year round to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.

*Czech experts transfer their know-how in the field of waste water management...*



*...ecology, agriculture and forestry...*



*...health care, biomedical engineering etc.*



### 3.5. Small Scale Projects (SSP)

Small scale projects are financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and coordinated directly by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh. These are flexible one-year projects with a smaller financial scope (up to a maximum of 500 000 CZK/20 000 USD), which may suitably complement other projects financed by the Czech Development Agency and contribute to fulfilling the set priorities. Small projects have been an integral part of development cooperation since 2006 and, through direct on-site funding, contribute to supporting civil society and non-governmental organizations at local level. The projects are one-year projects and their implementation lasts for a maximum of 8 months (March – October).



*The project supported families in need of livelihoods, e.g. by breeding fish in small water reservoir.*

#### How to apply for a project

Eligible entities to apply for a Small scale project are local non-governmental organizations registered in Cambodia, academic institutions, public institutions (especially at local level), educational and health institutions, civic associations etc.

The call for proposals is published every year (August, September) on the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.

Projects can be targeted at different development areas and sectors in line with the Cambodian national development priorities, while encouraging gender equality and respect for the environment.

A Small scale project **Scaling up WASH and livelihood** focusing on hygiene and sanitation as well as developing small livelihoods for the people of Tra Bek village in Oddar Meanchey province has helped local people ensure the access to water and sanitation and improve the hygiene in the village. Moreover, the local water reservoir was rehabilitated and 30 households were supported to secure small livelihoods by breeding chickens or fish. Thanks to a better environment, the village has become a model for other villages in the area.



### Transition Promotion Program – promotion of human rights

This program, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic supports civil society in the process of democratization while using the Czech Republic's specific experience of the process of social transformation and democracy building. Transition projects are one-year projects with a financial range of up to 500 000 CZK/ 20 000 USD.

## TRANSITION

Transition Promotion Program

#### How to apply for a project

Project proposals can be submitted by **non-governmental organizations and other eligible entities** seeking the development and stabilization of political systems based on democratic principles and respect for human rights.

Calls for proposals are regularly published (August-October) by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Aid for Trade

The Aid for Trade program, under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, supports the development of trade in Cambodia by transferring Czech experience in the areas of trade facilitation and liberalization, building trade capacity and activities, involvement in the international trading system, assisting the administration in developing trade policies and regulatory trade framework and development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The projects are implemented as one-year projects lasting 6-8 months (March – November) in the maximum amount of 1 000 000 CZK/ 40 000 USD. Projects can take the form of trainings, workshops, round tables, feasibility studies, analyses to transfer know-how, expertise and experience. The project may include the supply of minor technical equipment.

#### How to apply for a project

Project proposals can be submitted by **Cambodian public institutions active in the field of trade** (e.g. ministries, chambers of commerce, etc.).

Proposals on appropriate forms are accepted all year around by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh and subsequently assessed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic for implementation in the following year.



The Czech Republic traditionally provides not only development cooperation, but also humanitarian aid. The humanitarian program is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and responds flexibly to humanitarian needs in the world, including both – natural or man-made disasters (like conflicts) in the form of financial, material or expert assistance. If necessary, the program shall also provide follow-up assistance for the restoration of basic living conditions, the prevention and reduction of disaster risks and to support the resilience of the population to disasters and climate change. This form of support is currently targeted by the humanitarian program in Cambodia, where it supports the Cambodian people's and authorities' preparedness for crisis situations as a prevention for disasters that repeatedly affect the country.



### Project “Adaptation of agriculture to climate change”

supported by the Czech Republic, implemented in cooperation with Diakonia ECCB and local NGO Live With Dignity, responds to the increasingly manifested climate change impact on small Cambodian farmers, who are often completely dependent only on income and livelihood from domestic rice and vegetable production. In the event of weather fluctuation and changes in climatic conditions in the area, these farmers can lose all their income and livelihoods. The project therefore supported **1 700 local farmers in Pursat province** to help make their farming technologies more efficient (e.g. through irrigation systems) and thereby gain greater resistance to weather fluctuations. At the same time, the project has helped raise awareness of the risk of climate change and set up disaster risk management plans.



*Thanks to the project and the new economical drip irrigation system, Mrs. Chea Mom was able to produce so much vegetable that, after selling it at the market, she secured her family and still saved money on buying new land where she wants to expand her vegetable field next year.*



*During project's training Mrs. Chhem Him has learned how to breed chickens, how to prepare nutritional feeding for animals, how to protect them from disease and how to prepare a simple business plan. By selling eggs and meat, she earned income to secure her family.*

# 6 Governmental Scholarships



Granting scholarships to citizens from partner countries to pursue higher education in the Czech Republic has a long tradition, and it is one of the most important parts of the development cooperation of the Czech Republic. The scholarships allow students to acquire university education and the knowledge and skills to contribute to the development of their own country.

Every year, 5-8 Cambodian students are granted the scholarship. The newly offered master's and doctoral degree programs in English focus primarily on the study of **medicine, agriculture, engineering and economics.**



## How to apply for a scholarship

Information on submitting an online application for governmental scholarship and all other information is published annually in August and September on the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.

## Other possibilities of studying at a university in the Czech Republic

For study programs in English language, some universities provide foreign students with their own scholarships for master and doctoral programs, which partly cover other costs associated with their stay in the Czech Republic.

More information about study opportunities in the Czech Republic is available at [www.studyin.cz](http://www.studyin.cz) or on the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.



"Cambodian Students' Association in Czech Republic (CSAC)"

“In 2017, I finished my studies at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. This academic experience has helped me greatly in my professional development. Now, I can apply the expertise and practical experience gained in the Czech Republic in my current work in the Department of Animal Health and Production. If you are a student looking for a place that offers both professionals and beautiful nature, the Czech Republic will be a great choice,”

says Many Eath, a graduate of Animal and Food Science in Tropics.

Dina Sok works as a business analyst at one of the major Cambodian banks. He completed his master degree in Services, Management and Engineering in 2018 at Masaryk University in Brno.

“This opportunity to study advanced and practically oriented subjects, as well as various student activities within my study program helped me in my professional and personal growth. During my studies, I met many friends. The program has helped me open a new door and gain new practical experience in team management, business analysis, data and project management and meet my goal of working at a Central Cambodian Bank,” says Dina about his study experience.

Lay Valin is a third-year student of Medical Laboratory at the University of Pardubice.

“This study program is taught only in Czech language. Therefore, I studied very hard to learn the language and to enter the University of Pardubice. Thanks to my studies and new classmates, I gained great experience and now I can work independently in the lab and do my own research. Even though it is sometimes difficult, I would encourage everyone not to be afraid to leave your comfort zone and follow your dream,” says Valin.

Many Eath in front of the Czech University of Life Sciences



Valin Lay in the town of Pardubice, where she studies Medical Laboratory



# CONTACTS

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