



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

CZECH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN CAMBODIA



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Czech Development Cooperation in the World



CONTENT

1. Relations of the Czech Republic and Cambodia	3
2. Czech Bilateral Cooperation in Cambodia	4
3. Business Cooperation.....	9
4. Other Programmes	10
5. Humanitarian Aid	12
6. Governmental Scholarships	13



1 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. Martin Vávra,
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.

2 Czech Bilateral Cooperation in Cambodia



- **More than 80 different projects** since 2010
- **Bilateral Development Cooperation Program of the Czech Republic with Cambodia 2018– 2023**
- Priorities in the areas of **sustainable management of natural resources and inclusive social development** (Health, Education), areas where the Czech Republic can offer its added value, technical expertise and specific experience
- The projects are funded by the Czech Development Agency (CZDA) in Prague (calls for tenders, grants) and coordinated in cooperation with the Embassy in Phnom Penh tenders announced by the CZDA
- Projects are implemented by Czech entities (private company, NGO's registered in the Czech Republic or Czech state institution) that showed appropriate expertise in the specific field.
- Active in EU initiatives to co-ordinate the activities of EU member states and help achieve our common goals.

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

Interactive map of the projects implemented by the Czech Republic accessible here



Results Matrix – Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme 2018 - 2023

Priority Areas of Sustainable Development	Results	Indicators Baseline and Target
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	<p>Outcome 1: Universal and equitable access to safe affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all in selected areas (SDG 6.1. + 6.2.)</p> <p>Output 1.1: Access to affordable drinking water Output 1.2: Access to adequate sanitation and hygiene</p>	<p>Percentage of population using safely managed water and sanitation services in selected areas</p>
Inclusive social development	<p>Outcome 2: End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years age and reduce maternal mortality in selected areas (SDG 3.1. +3.2.)</p> <p>Output 2.1: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in selected areas increased Output 2.2: Improved access to antenatal and postnatal care services in selected areas Output 2.3: Improved access to medical care for children (under 5) Output 2.4.: Rates of undernourishment (stunting and wasting) of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women decreased</p> <p>Outcome 3: Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship in selected provinces. (SDG 4.4.)</p> <p>Output 3.1: Increased capacity of vocational training Output 3.2: Inclusive education methods introduced Output 3.3: Youth employability increased</p>	<p>Percentage of neonatal, infant and under 5 mortality rates in selected areas</p> <p>2.1. Maternal mortality ratio and rate 2.2. Percentage of mothers accessing the antenatal and postnatal care services 2.3. Percentage of children using medical care 2.4. Prevalence of undernourishment in under 5 children, pregnant and lactating women</p> <p>Percentage of youth and adults graduated from technical and vocational schools and vocational trainings</p> <p>Secondary and tertiary enrolment rates for women and men</p> <p>3.1. Number of people trained by sustainable new programs of vocational training 3.2 Increased number of vulnerable persons trained 3.3 Number of newly established MSEs (MicroSmall Enterprises) and number of youth employed</p>

Health

Establishment of a Quality Education Program on Biomedical Engineering in Cambodia (2018 – 2022; 2023 -2025)

Czech experts from the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague in cooperation with the **University of Health Sciences and the Institute of Technology Cambodian**, a project for the development of a new study field of biomedical engineering in Cambodia. This brand new university study field should provide experts for Cambodian health sector to ensure appropriate operation and maintenance of medical devices in health care facilities thereby significantly improving the quality of provided health care.



Improving quality of maternal and child healthcare services in three hospitals in Kampong Chhnang (ended 2020)

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.



Improving the capacity of maternal and child care in a newly built perinatal care centre (202 -2023)

Obstetric care in the Czech Republic is among the best in the world according to objective assessment criteria, the most important of which are perinatal, maternal and neonatal mortality. Having visited the Perinatology Centre in Prague as part of a previous project focused on building a neonatal unit, the National Paediatric Hospital (NPH) team expressed interest in building a similar concept as the first hospital in Cambodia. A Czech expatriate doctor is permanently based at NPH, and missions of top Czech specialists in each field come to Cambodia to provide training and assess the needs of beneficiaries.

Project is also focusing on strengthening the referral system in Cambodia by examining the situation in Kampong Chhnang Province (Provincial and two referral hospitals - Boribor, Kampong Tralach) and data collection mechanisms.

Education



Fostering Transition to Employment for Youth (2019 – 2021)

The project aim is to enable youth to transit to decent employment opportunities through relevant skillsets they earned through their technical and vocation education in the provincial training center.



Technical education in the field of agro and food processing as a priority subsector of Czech Development Cooperation

Streamlining Aquaculture in Cambodia's Vocational Education (2023 -2025)

Implemented in cooperation with Vocational Orientation Department at MoEYS, at General and Technical High Schools in Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Thom, adding fishery components to agro/food processing curricula.

Towards Inclusive Employment for Persons with Disabilities (2021 – 2023)

To to support mainstreaming actors and PWDs, and to ensure provision of an accessibility to service and opportunities for PWDs for TVET and job market.

Partnership for Employment and Practical Skills Building in Battambang Province, Cambodia (2020 -2021)

Trilateral Cooperation with GIZ



ACTIVE for Youth - Agro-processing career development, technical training and improved vocational education for youth (2018 – 2020)

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, we supported establishment of a new study field in food processing, whose graduates have great potential to succeed and further develop food-processing industry.



WASH

“
Best practice in delivering complex sectoral and geographical interventions across different programmes
”



Improvement in WASH sector in Kampong Chhnang Province (2020 - 2023)

A complex project approach combining construction of physical infrastructure for water supply and sanitation with capacity building. During the following four years, 9 662 families in 45 target villages located in Samakki Meanchey and Teuk Phos districts of Kampong Chhnang province will gain access to drinking water. Specific focus will be given to primary schools, where students will be educated in good hygiene practices.



Microbusiness and Innovation for Women Menstrual Health and Empowerment in Kampong Chhnang (2021) UNDP Challenge Fund

The menstruation period can be challenging for girls and women in the developing countries, especially in rural areas as is the case in Cambodia. It puts obstacles into their daily lives which lie both in the lack of affordable menstrual products in the market and the lack of awareness at institutional and private level where period shaming is being preserved and the topic remains a taboo in the society. Czech supports this project as it would be complementing a larger WASH intervention to develop affordable, comfortable, and locally made reusable sanitary pads.

Faecal Sludge Management and Humanure Production (2021)

Aims to engage in the sector by providing the Provincial Department of Rural Development in Kampong Chhnang (PDRD) with a septic tank truck and offering a training in optimization of humanure production, making the authorities the direct beneficiaries while identifying ID Poor I and II HHs and local farmer communities as the indirect beneficiaries of this intervention.





3

Business 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: expertise training (transfer of know-how), capacity building, drafting of business plans, setting up of joint ventures, longer term 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.



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

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 and subsequently assessed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic for implementation in the following year.

4 Other Programmes

Strengthening the capacity of public universities in developing countries

The program supports partnership between the universities in Cambodia and the Czech Republic. 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.

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.

UNDP Challenge Fund

- Initiation of Production of Czech Innovative Solar Dryers in Cambodia to support Export of Cambodian Agricultural Products to the EU (2021)
- Proof of concept of processing Mango stones to generate added value (2023)



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

Trilateral cooperation

- iAGRO - Improving the agricultural value chain in Kampong Speu Province (2021 – 2023)
- SWITCH to Solar (2020 – 2023) - in cooperation with EU and implemented by People in Need, Cambodia



4 Other Programmes

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 in Phnom Penh. These are one-year projects with a smaller financial scope (up to a maximum of 500 000 CZK/23 000 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.

5

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. **Priority DRR and preparedness for crisis situations as a prevention for disasters that repeatedly affect the country.**

Disaster Reduction and Early Warning (2020 - 2023)

Implemented in cooperation with People in Need, assists the government with establishment of the system of early warning in case of any natural disaster (floods, fire, etc.). Cooperation with telecommunication sector and NCDM.

Increasing community resilience to natural disasters in Pursat Province, Cambodia (2020 - 2022)

To support the livelihood and diversify the income of small farmers and young people in order to increase preparedness for the negative effects of floods and droughts.

Strengthening the preparedness and response capacity of Cambodian public health institutions to fight Covid-19 2020

To increase response and preparedness capacities of selected Cambodian public healthcare providers to respond to Covid-19 and any other future epidemics. To ensure availability and readiness of essential health services particularly during epidemic peak periods in collaboration with the national pediatric hospital (NPH) and provincial hospitals of Kampong Chhnang.



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.

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, 12-14 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 or on the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh.



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