

Terms of Reference for the Contract between the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Kingdom of Cambodia and a Consultant

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Kingdom of Cambodia is searching for a consultant to provide technical assistance in identifying new priority activities for an upcoming revision of the bilateral development cooperation programme. The current framework was established for the period 2018-2023, based on the relevant SDGs. Czech development cooperation is implemented through the Czech Development Agency, a government agency that issues public calls for proposals under various programmes and instruments. The implementers on the ground are Czech institutions in cooperation with their Cambodian partners. Activities in the health sector fall under the Inclusive Social Development programme pillar and are currently defined as focusing on healthy life, reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality¹.

1. THE BACKGROUND

History of development cooperation of the Czech Republic to Cambodia

The Czech Republic has been active in the health sector in Cambodia since 1993. The early years were marked by the Medical Humanitarian Programme (MEDEVAC), which in its first phase aimed to evacuate patients to the Czech Republic for medical treatment, and later developed into a programme of sending Czech medical teams abroad. During this period, 8 patients were arranged and transported by Calmette hospital to a medical facility in the Czech Republic and 13 children were operated on by a Czech team in Calmette hospital, Cambodia. Since 2015, MEDEVAC has provided training for foreign medical staff in the Czech Republic, as well as rebuilding health infrastructure.

So it was only natural that the first Czech Development Cooperation Strategy 2010-2017 included the health sector among its priorities, with Takeo province as a priority. The first project, Capacity Building Development for three Hospital Management Teams (2015 - 2017), was implemented by Caritas Czech Republic in cooperation with Caritas Cambodia and aimed to increase the effectiveness/efficiency of management systems in three target hospitals to ensure cost-effective and quality health services by strengthening key management competencies of senior management. This project received the Order of Chivalry.

The first *Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic to Cambodia (2018–2023)* based its pillar priorities on the SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: Reduce preventable neonatal mortality and mortality in children under five years of age, reduce maternal mortality in selected locations in the target province. This involves developing the capacities of healthcare professionals, delivering equipment to selected healthcare facilities, and organising public awareness

¹ [Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic to Cambodia](#)

campaigns in target areas. Improved health care (equipment and qualified staff) and health awareness will help reduce malnutrition rates.

<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>Percentage of neonatal, infant and under 5 mortality rates in selected areas</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in selected areas increased</p>	<p>2.1 Maternal mortality ratio and rate</p>
<p>Output 2.2: Improved access to antenatal and postnatal care services in selected areas</p>	<p>2.2 Percentage of mothers accessing the antenatal and postnatal care services</p>
<p>Output 2.3: Improved access to medical care for children (under 5)</p>	<p>2.3 Percentage of children using medical care</p>
<p>Output 2.4: Rates of undernourishment (stunting and wasting) of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women decreased</p>	<p>2.4 Prevalence of undernourishment in under 5 children, pregnant and lactating women</p>

Picture no. 1: *Priorities from the Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic to Cambodia (2018–2023)*

The first intervention under the new bilateral programme was Improving the quality of maternal and child health services in three hospitals in Kampong Chhnang province, also implemented by Caritas Czech Republic in cooperation with Caritas Cambodia in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, in particular the National Maternal and Child Health Centre in Phnom Penh (NMCHC) in Kampong Chhnang Provincial Hospital (CPA3) and two referral hospitals (CPA1). The objectives of the project were to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of management systems in the three target hospitals, to ensure cost-effective and quality health services by strengthening key management skills, and to assess financial procedures and establish a software data management system. The project was also part of a study report: Costing of Health Centre and Hospital Services in Kampong Chhnang Province in collaboration with GIZ and National Institute of Public Health (NIPH). The quality of maternal and child care was improved by providing capacity building for medical staff, renovating the premises of the antenatal and postnatal department at the provincial hospital, and training midwives in neonatal and maternal care. Other outputs included establishing basic hygiene and sanitation standards, ensuring access to safe drinking water and improving medical and non-medical waste management in 3 target hospitals.

Current activities

In terms of recent projects, the new phase of cooperation began with the establishment of a long-term partnership with the National Paediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh (NPH). Following an expert identification mission, a needs assessment was carried out and the preliminary findings led to the formulation of a project called "Development of the Neonatology Department, National Paediatric Hospital". This intervention

consisted of soft training activities and the supply of medical and training equipment. Working with Czech experts, the neonatal unit staff improved their neonatal care skills and the newly delivered medical equipment increased the capacity of Cambodian neonatologists on new training equipment. Activities included the development of methodological guidelines, the establishment of a neonatal training centre with spill-over potential to the provinces, training of medical staff in the maintenance of the equipment supplied, work placements for selected medical staff and hospital management at the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department of the General University Hospital in Prague.

After visiting the perinatology centre in Prague, the NPH team expressed interest in building a similar concept in Cambodia. Obstetric care in the Czech Republic is among the best in the world, based on objective assessment criteria, the most important of which are perinatal, maternal and neonatal mortality. The foundation for the current state of care in the Czech Republic was laid in 1983 with a nationwide project to collect selected aggregate data on perinatal care in the then Czechoslovakia through so-called regional perinatologists. The overall objective of the current project, in line with the SDGs and Cambodia's national strategy in this area, is to contribute to the reduction of neonatal, under-five and maternal mortality by improving access to antenatal and postnatal care services and qualified medical staff. As part of this project, a Czech expatriate physician is permanently based at NPH, and missions of top Czech specialists in a given field come to Cambodia to provide training and assess the needs of the beneficiaries. In 2022, a team of experts worked on educational materials and data collection mechanisms to be further evaluated and implemented in the next intervention. At the same time, the situation of transport and referral system was further assessed and a set of recommendations for these areas was prepared.

Timeline of most recent activities

2017 - Expert Research Study On The Current State Situation and Needs in the Health Sector in Cambodia With the Focus On Mother and Child Care²

2018 - Assessment expert mission to Cambodia

2019 - Mission of NPH medical and management staff to Prague (General University Hospital), Delivery of medical equipment to NPH

2020 - Delivery of training centre equipment to NPH

2021 - Launch of the project *Improving capacity of maternal and child care in a newly built perinatal care center* (2021 – 2023)

2. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM THE CONSULTANT

A consultant is asked to work on points a) to e) specified below.

- a) Revise sectoral priorities within the current Bilateral Programme and draft relevant baselines and indicators for the new phase 2024 – 2028.
- b) Update information from a study carried out in 2017 by Czech Development Agency called *Expert Research Study On The Current State Situation and Needs in the Health Sector in Cambodia With the Focus On Mother and Child Care*². This study is to serve as the implementation tool of the Bilateral Programme mentioned above.
- c) Evaluate results of currently ongoing project in the context of other donors interventions and governmental priorities and draft possible complementary follow-up activities. Draft outcomes for upcoming calls for proposals.
- d) Mapping of other donors' training and data management activities in the maternal and child sub-sector, as well as relevant government policies in this field.
- e) Stakeholder mapping and drafting of institutional sustainability

3. REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 3 years experience working in the Health sector in Cambodia and demonstrated ability to carry out assessment study of similar scope
- Good understanding of governmental strategies and health policies in the Mother and Child Care subsector
- Good understanding Cambodia's health administrative structures how are connected each other.
- Knowledge of data collection practices in Mother and Child sector
- Both candidates international and Khmer are encouraged to apply
- Good overview of current developments in the Mother and Child sector

Relevant documentation and contact details will be provided to the selected candidate.

² http://www.czechaid.cz/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CzDA_Study-on-Situation-of-MCH-in-Cambodia.pdf

4. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Final documentation elaborated by the expert (minimum of 15 pages) should be handed over both hard copy to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh (the iCON Building (5th floor), 216 Norodom Boulevard) and soft copy via email to the Development Section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Phnom Penh (development_phnompenh@mzv.cz).

The deadline for submission of CV and short motivational letter (max. one page) is due April 24, 2023.

Expected remuneration is USD 200 per day (max. 40 working days starting 1st of May).

Should you have any further queries, please contact:

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