

# 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 cross-cutting 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.

