Cambodia and the EU

The EU has long enjoyed a close relationship with Cambodia and its people. Through substantial development assistance, support to the democratic process and a commitment to open markets, the EU has helped Cambodia in its efforts to build a brighter future for its population and to play an active role on the regional and international stages.

Close collaboration

At the heart of the relationship is the EU-Cambodia Cooperation Agreement. A Joint Committee (JC) held every two years in Brussels and Phnom Penh allows the EU and the Royal Government of Cambodia to formulate recommendations and set priorities. The most recent, tenth JC took place in March 2018 in Brussels. Cooperation also takes place on the regional and international level through fora such as ASEAN and ASEM.

Partners in development

In 2016, the EU and EU countries contributed €151.87 million (US$ 185.60 million) in support of Cambodia's development. The EU is also committed to ensuring more effective aid and strengthening Cambodia's leadership of its own development process.

A commitment to democracy and human rights

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are core values of the EU. Embedded in its founding treaty, they were reinforced when the EU adopted the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2000, and strengthened still further when the Charter became legally binding with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. The Agenda for Change prioritises human rights, democracy and other areas of good governance in the EU's development cooperation. In Cambodia, the EU supports a wide range of human rights initiatives, mainly via Civil Society Organisations. These activities include advocacy, protection, democratic development, civil society strengthening and support for vulnerable groups.

Trading together

The EU promotes trade to drive development by keeping its markets open to exports from least-developed countries. As a Least Developed Country, Cambodia benefits from the most favourable regime available under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences, i.e., Everything But Arms (EBA). EBA gives Cambodia duty-free access to the EU for exports of all products, except arms, weapons and ammunition, and has been one of the main drivers for economic and job growth in the country. In 2016, the EU continued to be the first export market for Cambodian products. Exports amounted to
over €4 billion, of which almost 80% were apparel and footwear. Exports of light manufacturing goods are also rapidly expanding. Cambodia is the biggest exporter of fragrant rice to the EU. The EU supports Cambodia in maximising the opportunities offered by international trade, through diversification of products and markets. Further economic integration within ASEAN is encouraged, drawing on the EU single market experience.

**Cultural and educational exchange**

The EU-Cambodia relationship is much broader than trade and development. EU countries' Embassies and cultural institutions actively promote cultural exchange. The EU Delegation works alongside them to organise various events. Educational links are also important with both the EU countries and the EU, through the Erasmus+ programme, offering scholarships to study in Europe and other opportunities for scholars and higher education institutions. The Erasmus+ programme supports the establishment of partnerships between European and Cambodian higher education institutions for networking, research, scholarships, and curriculum development.

**EU diplomatic presence**

Six EU Member States have embassies or offices in Cambodia. The Delegation of the European Commission opened in 2002. In December 2009, it became the Delegation of the EU, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

**Political and economic relations**

**Bilateral and multilateral contacts**

Meetings between Ministers, Commissioners and Heads of Government supplement regular bilateral contacts between Cambodian officials and those of EU countries, the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Political discussions between the EU and Cambodia also happen in multilateral fora such as ASEAN and ASEM. The first ever EU-ASEAN summit took place in Singapore in 2007, bringing together Heads of Government from both regions. Meanwhile the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) attended by Foreign Affairs Ministers, is the highest level of institutional dialogue and takes place on a regular basis.

The EU also participates in the ASEAN Post-Ministerial meeting and the ASEAN Regional Forum. Both are held immediately after the annual ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. At the first, the general and the economic situation of ASEAN and of EU-ASEAN relations are reviewed. The second is a forum to discuss security issues in the region.

*[For more information on EU-ASEAN relations, please follow this link](http://eueuropaeas.fpfis.slb.ec.europa.eu:8084/delegations/association-southeast-asian-nations-asean_en)*

**European Parliament**

The European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Southeast Asia and ASEAN visits Cambodia regularly. Members of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia visited Cambodia in October 2017. The European Parliament has sent members to act
as observers at national elections and also passes resolutions on political issues relating to the Cambodian political situation. EU and Cambodian parliamentarians also interact through regular meetings between the European Parliament and the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Organization as well as the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP).

**EC-Cambodia Framework Co-operation Agreement**

A framework agreement on cooperation between the predecessor of the EU, the European Communities, and Cambodia was signed on 29 April 1997 and came into force on 1 November 1999, marking a new chapter in relations between the two parties.

The agreement focuses on economic and development cooperation. Respect for, and recognition by both parties of, democratic principles and human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also form an essential element.

**EC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement**

Cambodia acceded to the 1980 EC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement on 28 July 2000. Both sides are working on a number of projects designed to enhance trade and investment between the two regions and to promote mutual understanding.

**Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process, an interregional forum for dialogue and cooperation, bringing together 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 international organizations (28 EU countries, the EU, Norway and Switzerland, 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat). The initial ASEM partnership commenced in 1996 with 22 EU-ASEAN partner states plus China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. Cambodia joined in the enlargement round at the 5th Summit in 2004. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions. The next ASEM Summit will take place on 18-19 October in Brussels.

**Trade**

**Everything But Arms Initiative (EBA)**

Cambodia, as a Least Developed Country, benefits from duty-free and quota-free access to the EU under the "Everything But Arms" scheme as part of the "Generalised Scheme of Preferences" (GSP). Respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including labour rights, is a crucial part of the EU’s trade policy and underpins the granting of EU trade preferences.

**Facilitating trade**

Besides the 'Everything but Arms' initiative, Cambodia benefits from the granting of "regional cumulation". Unfinished textile products imported from some ASEAN countries and finished in Cambodia are considered of Cambodian origin, allowing Cambodia to more easily export garments produced with these materials to the EU.

Cambodia has successfully taken advantage of these preferences. In 2016, the EU was Cambodia's main export destination with a value of around 4.6 billion EUR, an increase of more than 11%
compared to the previous year. Cambodia's exports to the EU are concentrated in clothing (75% export-share to the EU), footwear (11.5%), bicycles (6%) and rice (4%).

**Trade-related technical assistance**

The EU is the largest donor of trade-related assistance in Cambodia. It has contributed to simplifying export and import procedures as well as the implementation of an ambitious programme of customs automation. We support the Royal Government of Cambodia's ‘Trade SWAp’, an integrated framework for channelling Aid for Trade resources, to enable pro-poor growth. Further, we have approved new programmes supporting ASEAN economic integration and named ARISE Plus. The Cambodia component is expected to be implemented from mid-2018, in close coordination with the regional component which started in late 2017.

**Support for exporters**

The Commission’s [Trade Help Desk](#) is a free and user-friendly online service providing information on how to access the EU market: EU import requirements, tariffs (and preferences), customs documentation, rules of origin, and much more.

The [ASEAN IPR SME Helpdesk](#) is a European Commission co-funded project that provides European SMEs with free, practical, business advice relating to ASEAN IPR.

**Chambers of commerce**

EuroCham Cambodia was founded in 2011. It promotes the interests of European businesses operating in Cambodia and facilitates market access of European companies. EuroCham Cambodia is a member of the European Business Organisations network and founding member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council. EuroCham activities are currently 80% funded by the EU.

**Humanitarian aid**

The EU is the world's largest provider of financing for humanitarian aid. Many of the EU countries directly provide humanitarian assistance. The EU humanitarian aid operations are managed by European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (ECHO). Aid packages include assessments of humanitarian needs in disaster areas as well as providing funds for goods and services such as food, shelter, medical provisions, water supplies, sanitation or emergency rehabilitation. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction projects in regions prone to natural catastrophes are also among the life-saving activities financed by ECHO.

The ECHO's Regional Support Office based in Bangkok follows the development of humanitarian needs in Cambodia, carries out emergency assessments if the need arises, and monitors aid projects.

More detailed information on the European Commission humanitarian aid and civil protection in Cambodia can be found at: [...]

**Development cooperation**
In the early years, our efforts focused on helping the country tackle the challenges of emerging from years of war: rebuilding infrastructure and communications, increasing agricultural production, relocating displaced persons, and clearing land of millions of land mines.

Over time, EU-Cambodia cooperation has evolved. EU cooperation in Cambodia is designed to support the Royal Government of Cambodia's policies, as reflected in the Royal Government's Rectangular Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). Poverty alleviation and meeting basic needs remains an overarching priority, which is furthered through initiatives on good governance, democratic participation and decentralization, human rights, rule of law, gender equality, land rights, education, vocational training, health, sanitation, rural development, agriculture, food security, environment and climate change as well as public finance management support and trade-related technical assistance.

EU funding is provided entirely in the form of grants. The European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia 2014-2019. Currently the EU, working under "Joint Programming" together with nine EU Member States and Switzerland, is the country’s largest grant development assistance provider, with total funding estimated at €1.4 billion for 2014-2019. The greatest share of this assistance is channelled through bilateral cooperation between the EU and the Royal Government of Cambodia, as set out in the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2020.

The MIP identifies 3 sectors that EU development cooperation focuses on: 1) Agriculture and natural resource management, with a focus on fisheries and aquaculture; 2) Basic education and skills development; and 3) Governance and administration, which focuses on support for Government reforms particularly on Public Finance Management, Sub-National Democratic Development, and Elections as well as including support for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC).

The MIP 2014-2020 allocates up to €410 million to Cambodia, more than double the financial support provided in the previous 7-year period. While the implementation of the MIP 2014-2020 started in 2015, support under the 2007-2013 MIP is continuing.

In addition to bilateral cooperation, Cambodia benefits from regional cooperation programmes in support of ASEAN. A new EU blending facility for the Asian region opened in 2011 (Asian Investment Facility – AIF), offering a possibility to top up development projects led by European financing institutions, in partnership with other financing institutions, governments, private sector or other development actors, with an additional EU AIF grant. Projects falling under AIF priorities for Cambodia are eligible for AIF funding. Moreover Cambodia is benefiting from the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). In 2014-2020, Cambodian civil society organisations are able to bid for funds under the civil society organisations (CSO) and local authorities (LA) budgets as well as those under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

**A key development partner**

The EU is Cambodia's biggest development partner in terms of grant aid. EU donors currently active in Cambodia include Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, the United Kingdom and the European Commission. In 2016, EU Member States and the EU paid out €151.87 million in support of Cambodia's development agenda (source: database of the Council for the Development of Cambodia).

**Towards more effective development cooperation**

European partners have a joint Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society 2014-2019 which sets out...
commitments to structuring dialogue with civil society, supporting civil society efforts to enhance accountability and transparency and further strengthening the enabling environment for civil society. Additionally, the EU has developed a joint Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, which focuses on European action on preventing violence against women; supporting nutrition for girls and women; equal access to education and TVET; equal access to decent work and productive resources; and equal participation in policy and governance processes. The EU also recognizes that the Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly complex and will require meaningful cross-sector engagement and coordination, which is the approach towards development of the new European Consensus on Development agreed by EU Member States in 2017.

Joint Programming and the role of all the EU members in Cambodia

Sectors of Cooperation

Focal sectors

(1) Agriculture/Natural resource management

While agriculture still remains the first sector of employment, poverty is most widespread in rural areas and among ethnic minority groups. For the period 2014-2020, the EU has programmed €112 million to this sector.

EU support aims at promoting the sustainable development of the agriculture sector, with a focus on promoting sustainable livestock and aquaculture production, and managing sustainably the country's inland and marine fisheries. In 2017, the EU delegated to the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the management of a €25 million funding to the aquaculture sector. Addressing nutrition and food security is also an integrated component in EU support to the agricultural sector. At the same time, through thematic programmes, the EU seeks to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, including forests, biodiversity and coastal areas.

The EU promotes a human rights-based holistic approach to land distribution and supports communal land titling for indigenous people through OHCHR.

For more information on the agriculture sector in Cambodia, click here

(2) Education/skills

The EU is strongly committed to supporting education in developing countries as it plays an essential role in forging citizenship and democracy as well as reducing poverty. Three decades of conflict left Cambodia without a formal education system, with few teachers and a limited number of functioning schools. As early as 2000, the European Commission and a number of EU countries began to focus on the education sector by building schools, training teachers and helping the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to re-structure. In the early 2000's, the MoEYS launched a major overhaul of the education sector, the Education Strategic Plan (ESP). Since 2003, the EU has supported this sector-wide approach through the use of budget support. An important share of EU support to the education sector is provided to the Royal Government of Cambodia through annual transfers to the national treasury in recognition of progress made in education and the management of public funds.

Our fourth budget support programme - EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership (ESRP) - covered the period 2014-2017 with an amount of €77.3 million (€68.5 million for budget support and €7.8 million for the phase 2 of the Education Capacity Development Partnership Fund (CDPF), a multi-donor fund managed by UNICEF, that ended in 31 December 2017).
The fifth budget support programme EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership (ESRP) covers 2018-2021 and aims to support the Royal Government of Cambodia financially and technically in the implementation of its Education Strategic Plans (ESP) with particular attention to ensure inclusive and equitable high-quality education, with a focus on Early Childhood Education and Basic Education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; and for an effective leadership and management of education staff at all levels of the education system.

The fifth ESRP indicative amount of €100 million (€89 million for budget support and €11 million for complementary measures, mainly contributing to the CDPF programme to be managed by UNICEF) is the largest programme ever funded by the EU in Cambodia.

Within this programme, the EU provides support to the MoEYS to achieve the objectives of the Education Strategic Plans and support the implementation Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Education Roadmap 2030). This programme is expected to generate significant, sustainable, and nation-wide improvements in education, benefiting in particular the 3 million children in basic education.

For more information on the education sector in Cambodia, click here

(3) Governance and Administration

Public Finance Management

The Public Finance Management Reform Programme is one of the priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia’s “Rectangular Strategy” for growth, employment, equity and efficiency in Cambodia. The programme aims to transform the public financial management system of the RGC toward international standards by 2025. Strengthening Cambodia’s public financial management is an essential component in building confidence among donors to channel more aid through government systems in a coordinated manner.

The EU is committed to progressively increase the use of the RGC’s own systems for channelling support. The European Commission and Sweden (SIDA) pooled €20 million to support implementation of stage 2 of Cambodia’s PFM reform programme for the period 2012-2016, and a further €33 million for the period 2017-2020. This support will mainly focus on enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and other ministries in implementing the PFM reform.

Sub-National Democratic Development

Poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive economic growth is still a challenging issue in Cambodia. Good governance, as a pre-condition to sustainable economic development, requires participation, enhanced information sharing, accountability, transparency, equality, inclusiveness and the rule of law. Two reforms remain crucial to the development of Cambodia: the Legal and Judicial reform; and the Sub-National Democratic Development (or decentralisation and de-concentration) reform.

The Sub-National Democratic Development (SNDD) reform provides a unique opportunity for increasing civic engagement. Within the governance sector the de-centralisation reform has received to-date the largest bilateral contribution from the EU. The EU has been supporting Cambodia’s local governance reform through the 15-million EUR programme "EU Support to Sub-National Democratic Development" alongside contributions from Sweden and Germany. A Phase II of the EU support programme was launched in 2017. Support to de-centralisation and de-concentration builds upon the
EU's previous Democratic Decentralised Local Governance project (DDLG) to which the EU contributed €10 million.

**Support to the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)**

EU support to good governance, the rule of law and human rights in Cambodia also includes a political and financial commitment to promote international justice and the national reconciliation process in Cambodia. The EU has been supporting the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) since 2007 with a total contribution of over EUR 25 million to date. The EU and the EU Member States combined are the second largest contributor to the Court to-date after Japan.

**Electoral reform**

The EU has been providing substantial financial and technical support to the electoral process in Cambodia since its second National Assembly elections in 1998 as part of its global agenda to promote democratic processes around the world.

From 2016 the EU provided €10 million to support the electoral reform process in Cambodia. This support included the purchase of voter registration equipment for the National Election Committee, technical support and support to civil society organizations. Support for the National Election Committee was suspended in December 2017 in the light of political developments.

**Additional areas of intervention**

**Democracy and Human Rights**

Human rights and democratisation issues are at the heart of the EU agenda, as outlined in the [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015)](https://www.europa.eu/eea/en/eu-action-plan-human-rights-democracy-2015). The EU has made human rights a central aspect of its external relations: in the political dialogues it holds with third countries; through its development policy and assistance; and through its action in multilateral fora such as the United Nations.

To implement EU human rights policy, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was established in 2006. The EIDHR programme aims to support civil society initiatives and back their contribution to democracy.

Since 2003, 72 human rights projects have been funded under this programme in Cambodia for a total amount of €20.5 million (approximately $24.6 million). Those projects have been implemented throughout the country, and aimed at the promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law in Cambodia with particular focus on: land rights, elections, gender and women in politics, freedom of expression, independent media, human trafficking and support for human rights defenders.

**Civil Society**

In Cambodia the EU supports local development and governance projects through the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO/LA) programme by funding international and local NGOs as well as Local Authorities for a total amount of €18.5 million for 34 projects (7 of them implemented directly by Cambodian Local Authorities) aimed at enhancing the capacity of the local administration in the delivery of services to Cambodian citizens, supporting indigenous people’s land security, agriculture and rural development, community livestock, forest management, vocational training, primary health care and sanitation.

**Trade and Private Sector Development**
The trade-related assistance (TRA) that the EU provides to Cambodia forms part of the EU's commitment under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the global TRA programme for LDCs. Cambodia is benefiting from this fund to build trade capacity and promote the diversification and expansion of new export sectors (silk, fisheries, tourism). The EU is the largest donor of trade-related assistance in Cambodia. The successful Trade Development Support Programme (€11.65 channelled through a Multi-Donor Trust Fund with the EU as the main contributor) responded specifically to the country's needs in trade policy formulation, regulation, trade facilitation, and capacity building. The Programme contributed to key regulatory reforms, as well as a very ambitious programme for automating trade facilitation.

Future EU trade-related assistance will be provided through regional programme funds and will focus on strengthening Cambodia's regional integration, by ensuring Cambodia's commitments to ASEAN and WTO, and further improving trade facilitation.

**Food Security and Nutrition**

Cambodia had made impressive progress in the fight against child stunting, though critical challenges still remain and the child stunting rate is 32.4% (2014).

The EU Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) is a facility that provides governments with policy assistance and capacity development support. The aim of the programme is to facilitate policy dialogue around food, nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The EU - FIRST programme for Cambodia (2016-2018) is supporting the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) on Capacity Development and mainstreaming food security and nutrition in agriculture sectors.

The EU concentrates its resources on food security in the fisheries and livestock sector by supporting poverty reduction in most vulnerable households.

**Climate Change and the Environment**

Cambodia is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and is subject to flooding and drought on a seasonal basis. Rising temperatures are likely to increase the variability of rainfall patterns and intensity of weather events. The most vulnerable provinces in Cambodia are Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri which have the highest concentration of indigenous people whose livelihoods are highly dependent on natural resources.

In 2007, the EU created a Global Climate Change Alliance with developing countries hardest hit by climate change. The objective of this alliance is to help developing countries increase their capacities to cope with the effects of climate change. It is also designed to ensure that the voice of developing countries is better heard in climate change negotiations.

The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) is an alliance between the Government, the EU, Sweden (Sida) and UNDP, with UNDP also providing technical support. The CCCA is a comprehensive and innovative approach to addressing climate change in Cambodia. On the one hand, it aims at creating conditions in the form of capacity development and institutional strengthening to prepare for and mitigate climate change risks, and, on the other, to directly help vulnerable communities by enhancing their resilience to climate change and other natural hazards. The EU is the largest contributor with € 6,000,000 to the current phase of CCCA (2014 – 2019).

In parallel, the EU Delegation supports projects promoting the role of civil society and local communities in the forestry sector. The EU's partnership with WWF for the project "Advancing CSO's Capacity to Enhance Sustainability Solutions" aims at sustainable management of forests, biodiversity
Finally, the EU Delegation also coordinates closely with Cambodia on FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade). Cambodia has expressed an initial interest to be more engaged in FLEGT dialogue.

**Gender equality**

The EU believes that gender equality is essential for growth and poverty reduction. Women suffer disproportionately from poverty and its related ills, such as malnutrition, poor health and illiteracy. In Cambodia, through non-government organisations, the EU supports the Gender Strategic Plan 2014-2018 (Neary Rattanak IV) which focuses on economic growth and economic empowerment; access to social services and protection; and issues including women in public decision making and politics; and gender and climate change, green growth and disaster risk management.

The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) for Cambodia (2016-2020), prepared jointly with EU Member States, stresses the need for the full realisation of equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The objectives of the GAP retained as priorities for Cambodia draw from the priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia's Gender Strategic Plan - Neary Rattanak 4.

The EU has supported 11 gender related projects in Cambodia with funds amounting to a total of €4.5 million over the last 7 years. The main activities of these projects include empowerment of women through grassroots activism; gender sensitive approach and general understanding on gender issues; enhancing livelihoods for girls through advocacy, training and empowerment; addressing and awareness raising on violence against women; improving food security for households; support to female commune councillors.

**Gender Action Plan 2016-2020**

**Promoting the inclusion of People with Disabilities**

According to the 2014 Cambodia Demographic Health Survey, Cambodian people with disabilities represent 9.5% of the total population (including any level of functioning difficulty), and 2.1% suffer from a severe disability. The EU is committed to ensuring the full and equal inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in EU development cooperation initiatives - leaving no-one behind. The EU has supported three disability related projects for a total budget of €1.5 million since 2011. These projects have been implemented by non-governmental organizations.

**Inclusion and rights**

**EU Joint Programming**

Joint Programming is the joint planning of development cooperation by EU development partners working in a partner country. It is a policy tool contributing to a stronger Europe and bringing together resources and capacities. Now, more than ever, the European Union, the Member States and other like-minded governments need to join forces, programme their development aid together and, eventually, develop a strategic and coordinated response to key challenges such as migration and climate change. Working closely together will enhance the EU's ability to decisively contribute to the
partner country's national development plan and to support our partners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. More information on how Joint Programming progresses in each partner country: [capacity4dev.eu](http://capacity4dev.eu)

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Joint Programming laid the foundations for European partners to join forces to provide a response that was well coordinated with other development partners' support to Cambodia. The adopted “European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia 2014-2018” includes a joint analysis and response that is aligned to Cambodia's national development strategy. It also defines an in-country division of labour among the European partners and presents indicative financial allocations per sector and per partner.

This Strategy reflects the importance that Europeans place on joint collaboration and partnerships as catalysts for achieving results and increasing the effectiveness of our development efforts. It is for this reason that the EU+ development partners' group active in Cambodia - the European Union and 8 EU Member States: the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom; plus Switzerland – have come together to produce a joint strategy which details joint priorities, planned programmes and a framework for monitoring results.

The Joint Strategy focuses on the following priority areas for European development cooperation:

- **Social development** – including education and health;

- **Supporting sustainable and equitable economic growth** – including support for agriculture and food security, rural development, spatial planning, vocational training, skills development, trade facilitation and supporting banking and business services;

- **Infrastructure** - both in urban and in rural areas, including electricity transmission and distribution, water supply, roads, irrigation schemes, lighting, waste management, sanitation and drainage, public transportation and other economic infrastructures;

- **Governance and Cross-cutting issues** – including the key cross-sector governance reforms of Public Financial Management (PFM), Public Administration Reform (PAR) and Sub-national Democratic Development (SNDD) and for the promotion of cross-sector issues of human rights, gender equality, disability, climate change, civil society development and promotion of culture and arts.

In 2016, the 1st “Annual Monitoring Report for the period 2014-2015” was published taking stock of progress made. This report, together with its conclusions and recommendations, has provided a basis for an informed dialogue with the Royal Government of Cambodia and other stakeholders. The 1st monitoring report concluded that there has been positive progress in key reforms supported by the European partners through the programmes contained in the joint European Strategy. It also outlined the challenges that European partners saw ahead which were discussed in the various consultations, including with civil society and the Parliament. For example, the report noted that achievements in the governance reforms need to go hand in hand with the promotion of citizens’ rights and participation. The report also highlighted that strengthening the judiciary, land rights and sustainable management of natural resources will need to be further discussed in an open dialogue with national stakeholders to support inclusive and sustainable development processes.
More info:

- Video on EU joint programming in Cambodia

Documents

European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia 2014-2018
First monitoring report of European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia 2014-2018
2014-2020 Multiannual Indicative Programme Cambodia
2011-2013 Multiannual Indicative Programme Cambodia

See also

Humanitarian Aid in the country
www.eeas.europa.eu

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