



Photo: Eduard Reif

# GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH CAMBODIA



កិច្ចសហប្រតិបត្តិការ  
អាជ្ញាធរ

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

A JOINT ROADMAP  
FOR A BETTER FUTURE



# **Charting the Road to Cambodia's Development**

## **A Road Map for Cambodia**

This new and updated fourth edition of the “Cambodia Road Map” is proof of its success but also of the increasing demand for reliable geographic information. The new map also bears witness to a tremendous economic growth leading to substantial improvements in Cambodia's infrastructure in general and the road network in particular.

## **Opening the eyes for this marvelous country**

Tourists will find again indications of places of scenic beauty as well as the numerous sites of the rich cultural and historic heritage of this country. I hope that this map will convince visitors that in Cambodia there is more to explore than just the capital city Phnom Penh, the wonders of Angkor Wat or the beaches of Sihanoukville. Travelling to the countryside will open the eyes as well for the social and environmental challenges which the country faces today.

## **Joint efforts for a better future**

German Development Cooperation with Cambodia has built up a good record of successful projects with Cambodia and its various institutions. Germany is proud to be a reliable partner contributing to our joint efforts to create an even better future for this marvelous country and the Cambodian people in reaching the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals.

Ambassador Dr. Wolfgang Moser



„We want to give our children a better future“

## Introduction

### **Cambodia – Facing the development challenges**

Cambodia is still one of the least developed countries in the world. Almost one-third of its relatively young population lives below the national poverty line and is excluded from access to safe drinking water, health care, social protection, education, and other services. Although the past decade has witnessed substantial progress in terms of reducing income poverty as well as in some social sectors, the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis revealed the vulnerability of these achievements. Cambodia presently relies on international support to alleviate extreme poverty, diversify and upgrade the competitiveness of the economy and to further strengthen the young democracy and its institutions.

### **Germany is a major development partner**

Between 2006-10, on average Germany has provided ODA funding of approximately 40 million EUR p.a., including multilateral assistance. With its substantial contribution to the development cooperation work of the European Union as well as to the multilateral agencies Germany is one of Cambodia's



Photo: ZfD / CPS

major development partners. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for planning and programming development cooperation. The German Embassy coordinates the work of the main implementing agencies: KfW for financial and GIZ for technical cooperation. Our support is guided by the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership for Effective Development. The ultimate aim of German Development Cooperation with Cambodia is poverty alleviation as envisaged in Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals (CMDG).

### **Focus of development cooperation with Cambodia**

In alignment with the National Strategic Development Plan, focal areas of Germany's commitment are rural development and health. Germany's activities are guided by priority area strategies, which constitute the framework for a comprehensive support through implementing agencies. All activities are based on national strategies and jointly designed with Cambodian partners. As a cross-cutting area aimed at promoting good governance, Germany supports the development of democratic institutions, civil society and the capacities of the public administration. In addition, programmes of the Federal Foreign Office for de-mining and for the preservation of Cambodia's cultural heritage assist the development of Cambodia.



Photo: Wanlay Thong

## Rural Development

### Improving the rural population's living conditions

77% of Cambodia's population lives in rural areas and the majority of them depend on agriculture. Rural economic growth remains far below its potential due to low productivity, constrained access to land, poor services and lack of infrastructure. With 90% of the poor living in rural areas, promoting agriculture and rural development is crucial for growth and poverty reduction as well as for assuring a fairer distribution of wealth and helping to absorb the steadily growing labour force. For more than a decade German Development Cooperation with Cambodia has supported rural development with the main focus being pro-poor rural growth, rural governance, land tenure security and rural infrastructure.

### Regional Economic Development – Green Belt

Activities are coordinated with other development partners' inputs and are often implemented in joint programmes. Germany supports agricultural diversification and improved productivity in order to substitute imports and to tap export markets. Assistance to promote expansion of small and medium



**“The land titling reduced conflicts in our village”**

rural enterprises aims at higher local value adding to employment and income generation. In order to achieve sustainability, assistance is being provided to farmers and small businesses to increase their competitiveness by establishing and improving demand-driven products and services as well as for the promotion of producer and business associations.

### **Better roads for improved access to markets**

One of the main constraints in rural development is poor connectivity and high energy cost. Therefore assistance has been provided for the rehabilitation and expansion of rural roads and other rural infrastructure. With its Rural Infrastructure Programme, German Development Cooperation has helped to rehabilitate more than 1,600 kilometers of rural roads. This resulted in improved access to markets, schools and health care for more than 40,000 citizens along the roads. Improved roads also reduced transportation costs and time by 40% resulting in increases of households' income by more than one-third. Furthermore, the German Government is supporting Cambodia's plan to build a countrywide rural electrification system. German efforts are focused on transmission lines, substation construction and household connections of more than 25,000 rural families to the national grid in Takeo and Kampot provinces.



## **Successful financial solutions for rural development**

Rural economic development has also been backed by credit programmes for small and medium enterprises (SME) through local financial institutions. One of these institutions is ACLEDA Bank, which we have supported during its establishment. Today, ACLEDA Bank is one of the most successful microfinance institutions worldwide and one of the biggest banks in the country. Since it is nowadays a sustainable and profit-making bank, it receives long-term loans for SME finance on a purely commercial basis through KfW's affiliate DEG.

## **Land tenure security for more than 2 million citizens**

Secure access to land plays an important role for Cambodia's economic growth and stability. German Development Cooperation is helping to establish a modern land administration system by building up professional capacities. Support and advice is offered on land policy, the regulatory framework and institutional issues. The focus is on strengthening the human rights of the poor, indigenous groups and informal settlers. More than 2 million citizens, the majority of which are women, have received land titles through the Cambodian land programme, jointly supported by Germany and other development partners. In the framework of the Royal Government of Cambodia's policy for land distribution, 1,600 formerly landless families have received land.



Photo: Anja Kribanjevic

## Social Health Protection

### Better health care for the people

Since its breakdown during the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia has been making substantial progress in developing the country's health system. Between 2000 and 2008 the number of pregnant women visiting a health care provider doubled, and several key health indicators improved significantly over the past years as a consequence. For example, between 2005 and 2010 infant mortality declined by 57% and Cambodia is on target to reach most health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015. However, despite these improvements, the health sector still faces important challenges. In regional comparison, maternal mortality remains very high, and child malnutrition is increasing. Shortage of qualified personnel, lack of quality standards and control, low motivation as a result of extremely low wages, and poorly equipped facilities all contribute to a low level of health care. On the demand side, high out-of-pocket expenditures for health care and medication limit access to health services, especially for the poor. On average, Cambodians spend US\$ 25 on health care each year. Loss of assets and earnings due to illness are among the main causes of poverty and impoverishment in Cambodia.



Photo: Anja Kuranjevic

## **Ensuring access to medical services for all Cambodians**

Supporting the health system is one of the two priority areas of German Development Cooperation with Cambodia. The Social Health Protection Programme (SHPP), involving both German implementing agencies, was started in July 2009 with the aim of ensuring all Cambodians, especially poor and vulnerable groups, have access and increasingly make use of affordable quality health care. The German Government supports the Ministry of Health in implementing the Health Strategic Plan and contributes towards achieving health-related Cambodia Millennium Development Goals such as a reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates. The German Government's assistance to the health system is directed towards the eradication of extreme poverty and to improved financial protection from the consequences of ill-health.

## **Germany is a major and consistent partner**

Germany has been an important development partner in the health sector in Cambodia for over a decade and has significantly helped to improving basic health care services. Special features of this support are its long-term approach and sustained presence, which results in a high level of trust and appreciation from various partners, and the promotion of social marketing and social franchising models for reproductive health services. Operating



**“This training helps us to improve health care in our communities”**

simultaneously at the policy and implementation levels has enabled innovative measures to be developed and implemented at the local level, with the lessons learned being fed back to the policy level for wider replication.

### **Successful cooperation and achievements**

German Development Cooperation has been supporting the Cambodian health sector reform process, which began in 1995, through both Technical Cooperation (TC) and Financial Cooperation (FC). This continuous support has been designed to strengthen the Cambodian health system at all levels. The major achievements in supporting the development of a comprehensive social protection system, and the success of German Development Cooperation, are reflected in the development and implementation of national strategies, quality standards and clinical methods in order to improve the quality of health services. Improved education and training of midwives, nurses and doctors contributed to a higher quality of services in several provincial hospitals and health centres in the target provinces. The provision of contraceptives and the use of social marketing significantly increased access to and use of reproductive health services. With a large scale voucher programme, access to health care and safe delivery for tens of thousands of women and children has been secured. Future cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia in the health sector will specifically target the poor, women, children, older people and people with disabilities.



„Better reporting makes us more accountable towards the citizens“

## Good Governance

### Promoting good governance in Cambodia

Good Governance is the core element of the Rectangular Strategies I and II and the National Strategic Development Plans of the Royal Government of Cambodia. It is regarded as a prerequisite for economic development and poverty reduction in general. Consequently, all programmes implemented in the framework of German Development Cooperation with Cambodia in the priority sectors of health and rural development include governance components such as strengthening the legal and institutional framework, contributing to capacity development in governmental institutions, fostering participation of civil society, as well as applying a human rights approach.

### Strengthening key governance institutions

Good Governance is also promoted in a number of specific programmes and projects. These include for instance the support to Cambodian institutions that are key to good governance such as the National Audit Authority, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia as well as the National Assembly and Senate. An equally important area is the strengthening of women's rights. For example, assistance has been provided to draft and to implement the law against domestic violence.



Photo: Sotheavin Doch

## **Fostering accountability and participation**

German Development Cooperation is also backing the efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia regarding “Public Administrative Reform” (PAR) and “Sub-National Democratic Development” (SNDD) reform. The goal of these reforms is to improve public services for citizens – in the case of SNDD reform by transferring decision-making and administrative powers together with the necessary resources to local governments. Accordingly, the programme provides policy advice at national level and assistance to capacity development at all levels. The support to SNDD reform is provided through the joint EU Programme for Strengthening Performance, Accountability and Civic Engagement (SPACE) of councils in Cambodia.

## **Targeting development efforts towards the poor**

Effective poverty reduction requires a targeted orientation of development activities towards the poor. Hence, since 2005, the Royal Government of Cambodia has developed standardized and participatory procedures for the identification of poor households called “IDPoor”. German Development Cooperation jointly with AusAid continue supporting the Royal Government’s efforts to achieve sustainable nationwide coverage while at the same time enhancing the accuracy of the data on poor households.



**“The Khmer Rouge Tribunal helps us to cope with our past”**

## Justice and Reconciliation

### Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

In July 2006, the Royal Government of Cambodia in cooperation with the United Nations established the “Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia” (ECCC). It is a Cambodian court with international participation which applies a combination of Cambodian and international law. The ECCC aims to hold the top leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime legally responsible. From 1975 to 1979 about two million people perished under the Khmer Rouge. This period was preceded and followed by war, which finally ended in 1998 when the political and military structures of the Khmer Rouge were dismantled. Today, four former leaders of “Democratic Kampuchea” are in custody. The trial, against the former chief of the Tuol Sleng prison, has been concluded.

### Improved victims participation and rehabilitation

The German Government considers justice and national reconciliation in Cambodia a very important task. It supports the ECCC financially and with



legal advice, contributes to the Victims Support Section of the ECCC and promotes several NGOs in their efforts for justice and reconciliation. Germany promotes the involvement of victims of the Khmer Rouge regime in the trials. Thousands of people have applied to the court to be recognised officially as victims of the Khmer Rouge and have filed civil complaints against the accused.

## Meaningful projects and widespread dialogue

Psychological care, remembrance and truth telling programmes involving young people are other key areas in which Germany assists. Radio programmes about the crimes of the Khmer Rouge and the work of the ECCC are broadcasted over large areas of Cambodia. Seminars teach journalists and media students how to approach reporting on the Khmer Rouge past. The ECCC trials are important, but legal action in itself will not heal wounds. What matters is how the victims and the perpetrators of genocide live together in the future. It is therefore vital to foster widespread dialogue on justice and reconciliation – a task that the German Government in its Cooperation with Cambodia very much supports.



## Cultural heritage of Angkor

### Saving the smile of the Apsaras

Cambodia is a country in the process of recuperation after long and consuming wars. As Cambodia starts to recover, signs of the new beginning can be seen everywhere. In this process the temples of Angkor are playing an important political and spiritual role in the rebirth of self-confidence of the Cambodian people. The Angkor World Heritage Site therefore is of utmost importance for the reconstruction of the Cambodian state and the rejuvenation of the Cambodian people.

### Preservation of the temples for generations to come

Since 1995 the German Government has supported projects focused on the conservation of the temples. 1997 saw the beginnings of the German Apsara Conservation Project (GACP) in close cooperation with the Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) under the cultural preservation program. The project is focusing on the conservation of the marvelous carvings and bas-reliefs that can be found in the Angkor Wat area. The project aims at preventing further decay of these awe-inspiring Khmer temples.



**“I am proud to preserve a symbol of our Cambodian identity”**

## **Skills development for stone conservation**

Since 2007, German Development cooperation is supporting the APSARA Authority with setting up a permanent Stone Conservation Unit (SCU). The Unit carries out conservation treatments in the Angkor Park and offers consultancies to other conservation projects. In order to build professional expertise for sustainable stone conservation at UNESCO’s World Heritage site, the APSARA Stone Conservation Unit provides vocational training for Cambodians in conservation and restoration. The training is based on a “Handbook for stone conservation in Angkor” that is available in Khmer and English.



Photo: Ilona Duerkop

The timeless smile of the Apsaras is only one of the many miracles that the Temples of Angkor provide for the generations to come.

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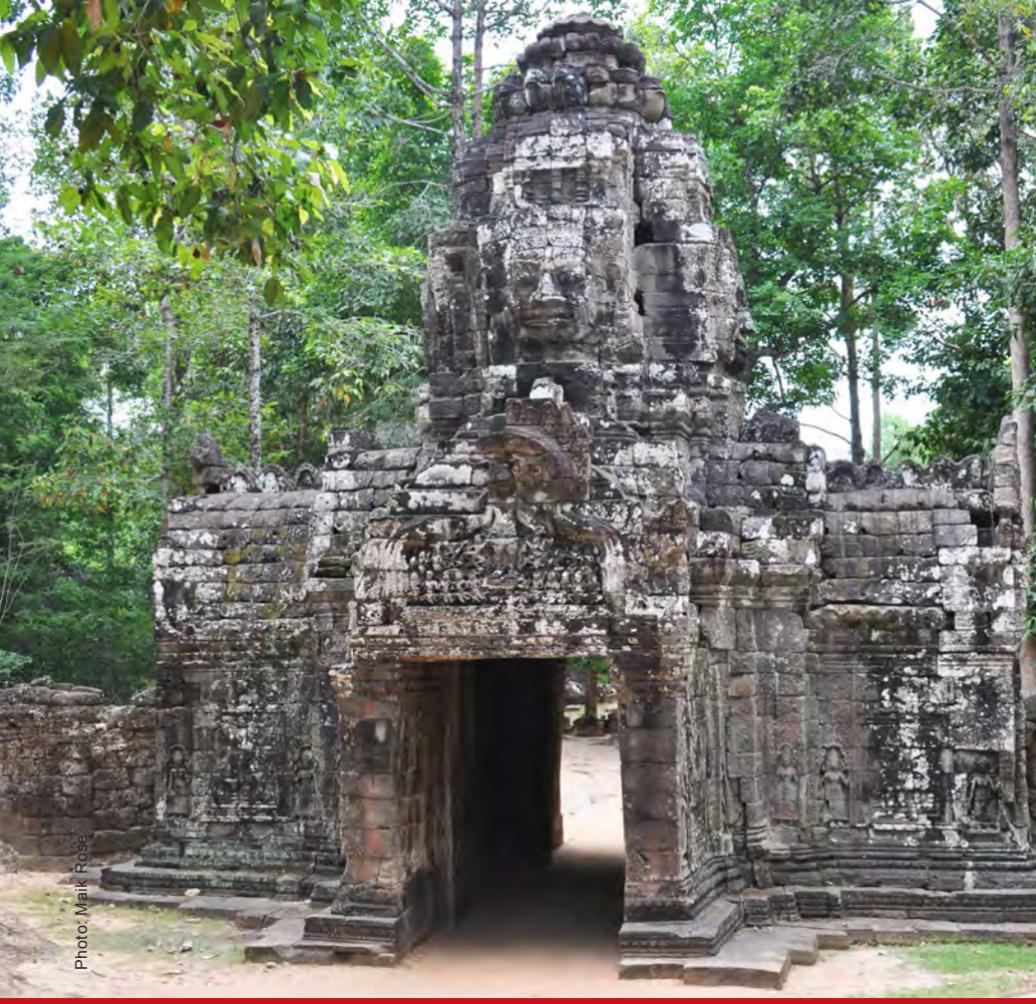


Photo: Malik Rose