

Results strategy for Sweden's  
international development cooperation with

# Cambodia

2014 – 2018



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of Sweden**

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## 1. Expected results

This results strategy governs the use of funds under the appropriation item 'Asia' in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for each budget year. The strategy covers the period 2014–2018 and comprises a total of SEK 1 billion.

The aim is to improve the conditions for democratic development in Cambodia, improve the opportunities for people living in poverty to contribute to and benefit from economic growth, and increase resilience to climate change. The activities are expected to help achieve sub-objectives 1, 2 and 3 in the Government's aid policy framework (Government Communication 2013/14:131).

Contributions within the framework of the strategy are expected to lead to the following results:

### **Strengthened democracy and gender equality, greater respect for human rights and freedom from oppression (sub-objective 1)**

- Increased democratic influence and greater accountability for citizens at local level.
- Improved local autonomy.
- Improved knowledge of human rights, gender equality and the principles of the rule of law among citizens and in the public sector.
- Greater accountability and heightened respect for the rule of law in the context of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).
- More citizens, in particular young people, actively involved in combating corruption.

**Better opportunities for people living in poverty to contribute to and benefit from economic growth (sub-objective 2) with a focus on good education and increased employment**

- More girls and boys in the formal education system leaving school with basic knowledge and skills.
- More young people with usable knowledge and skills for the world of work.
- Improved dialogue between the social partners and better forms of conflict resolution on the labour market.

**A better environment, limited climate impact and greater resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters (sub-objective 3)**

- Greater resilience to climate change at local level.
- Increased collaboration between citizens and local administrative bodies in the interests of a sustainable use of natural resources.

## 2. Country context

Cambodia saw rapid economic growth throughout the 2000s, with growth rates averaging 8 per cent per year. This rapid growth, in combination with the transition from a post-conflict to a more stable situation, has led to improvements for Cambodia's people. A large share of the population, however, still lives just above the poverty line and is still very vulnerable to any economic, ecological or climate changes.

Democratic culture is poorly developed. Corruption is widespread, human rights are violated and the absence of a well-functioning and independent judicial system has an impact on society as a whole.

The education system is of poor quality. Among other things, this has a

negative impact on young people's employability and makes it very difficult for companies to recruit.

Cambodia is vulnerable to climate change and its ability to adapt is low. Over-exploitation and impoverishment of its natural resource base is making the country increasingly vulnerable and leading to a loss of biological diversity and ecosystem services.

Sweden, which has been a long-time provider of aid to Cambodia, is one of just a few bilateral EU donors. Sweden has a special role to play in promoting openness, accountability and equal rights and opportunities for all, not least for women. This, together with Sweden's strong presence in the field of gender equality, constitutes clear added value that Sweden can bring in Cambodia and in the context of the EU's joint programming.

## 3. Activities

Activities within this strategy are part of EU's joint strategy for Cambodia for the period 2014–2018.

In the area of democracy and human rights, Sweden will build on previous achievements and utilise the added value created by the bilateral dialogue on human rights and its links with aid. The activities will focus on administrative reforms, developing capacity, and supporting citizens and actors in civil society, including by means of party-affiliated organisations.

In the area of education, Sweden will build further on the trust it has built up with key stakeholders through its long-term commitment in the primary school sector in order to gradually increase the focus on education geared to the needs of the labour market, thus contributing to increased employment.

In the area of environment and climate change, particular attention will

be given to exploiting the synergies with other areas. Greater democratic influence and accountability at local level are important to bring about a more sustainable use of natural resources. Enhanced cooperation, transparency and exchange of knowledge between citizens and the administration are also likely to lead to better integration of environmental and climate aspects in local development plans.

Enhanced democracy, gender equality and respect for human rights should also be mainstreamed in all results areas. A conflict-sensitive approach will be applied when designing contributions in Cambodia.

Sweden intends to maintain a long-term commitment to Cambodia. General or sectoral budget support will not be made available for the strategy period. There are no other restrictions in terms of aid modalities or cooperation partners.

#### **4. Follow-up**

Follow-up procedures are outlined in the Guidelines for results strategies within Sweden's international aid.