



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT



Cambodia has developed significantly after long periods of conflict following the Khmer Rouge period and subsequent civil war.



The country sustained an average yearly economic growth rate of more than 7% for about 10 years but has experienced a dramatic decrease in growth since the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for continued support is still urgent.



Cambodia is very vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather conditions such as massive floods and droughts. With many Cambodians relying on agricultural production for their livelihoods, addressing extreme weather conditions and ensuring access to natural resources are critical to communities, particularly the most vulnerable.



High dependency on imported agricultural products and long value chains have made the industrial model of agriculture vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT WE DO?

DCA prioritises actions that reach the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, with particular emphasis on the rural poor. Initially, DCA's operations in Cambodia supported the reconstruction efforts and resettlement of refugees during and after the country's devastating, decades-long civil war. In 1997 an office was established in Phnom Penh to work directly with local partners on critical issues facing the country, which reflect the three main pillars of DCA's work in Cambodia today:

Saving lives: Cambodia is ranked among the most vulnerable countries to climate change and natural disasters and its effects on people's livelihood and survival, particularly the poorest. DCA works in coordination with local governments to build communities' resilience and preparedness in dealing with climate change. DCA also implemented cash-based assistance during crisis caused by natural disasters, and emergency responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

Fighting inequality: Emerging from decades of genocide more than 20 years ago, Cambodia has had to rebuild on principles of good governance and respect for fundamental rights. DCA works to strengthen civil society, spreading awareness of rights and promoting accountability. We promote the rights of those most marginalized, including LGBTQI, the poorest, and fight for gender equality and the fair treatment of all.

Building resilient communities: DCA promotes sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers and supports increased agricultural production and income by introducing innovative drought-resistant agricultural technologies and agro-ecology, with ecological principles in designing and managing farm systems to minimize external/artificial inputs. Agro-ecology also shortens the food chain and empowers smallholder farmers to strengthen their relationships with consumers, promoting the resilience of our food system, also in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FACTS:

- **DCA has been operating in Cambodia since 1979**, and in 1997 established a country office in Phnom Penh.
- **Beneficiaries 2021:** 1,620,521 people reached (120,521 direct beneficiaries, 1,500,000 indirect beneficiaries)
- **Turnover 2021:** USD 6,48 million (EUR 5,83 million)
- **Projects:** In 2021 DCA implements 31 projects across 24 provinces in Cambodia and through nationwide advocacy work
- **Partners:** DCA has 3 Partnership Agreement, 44 cooperation Agreements, two self-implemented projects in 2021, and work together with 20 local NGOs

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HOW AND WHERE WE WORK:

DCA works together with 20 local partners to implement projects in all of Cambodia's 24 provinces and in the capital city of Phnom Penh.

Empowering vulnerable Cambodians:

Following decades of genocide and civil war in Cambodia, the country is struggling to rebuild accountability and social protection principles.

DCA focuses on **empowering vulnerable Cambodians** to demand for improved public service, transparent and sustainable natural resource management, and gender equality.

In 2020, **key achievements** include:

- **358 community-led advocacy initiatives** aimed at exposing violations of rights enshrined in the Constitution carried out by civil society and community groups. 124,017 (54,499 women) were empowered to join in those initiatives.
- **287 decisions at local and sub-national levels** prioritized needs and priorities of communities, in particular women and youth
- **A 24% increase in women's participation** and leadership in non-political roles in target communities.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction:

In the context of Cambodia's exposure to natural disasters and vulnerability to climate change, DCA is focusing on **enhanced disaster risk reduction** and working with local stakeholders to **mitigate the consequences of natural disasters**, DCA quickly and efficiently responds to both sudden and prolonged onset humanitarian disasters, using the latest in cash-based technologies and methodologies.

DCA promotes **sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers and low-income families**, helping them to improve, diversify and increase their agricultural production and income generation **through agro-ecology and innovative drought-resistant farming techniques**. We utilize agricultural cooperatives to **open up markets to farmers**, equipping them with the skills to move up the value chain, we partner with responsible businesses to promote innovation and best practices in sustainable development.

In 2020, **key achievements** include:

- **3,791 households reported increased income** from agriculture yields
- **3,165 farmers were trained on climate-smart agriculture practices**, and improved techniques
- **2 Farmer Field Schools were established** to increase farmers' knowledge of agro-ecology
- **4906 farmers organized** themselves as agricultural cooperatives and were able to enter the market.



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