



Photo: Connor Wall

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 required.



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.

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.

Enabling 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.

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**.

FACTS:

- **DCA has been operating in Cambodia since 1979.** In 1997, a country office was established in Phnom Penh.
- **Beneficiaries:** In 2021, DCA has reached **1,620,521 people** (120,521 direct beneficiaries, 1,500,000 indirect beneficiaries).
- **Annual turnover in 2021:** EUR 5,83 million
- **Projects:** In 2021, DCA **implemented 31 projects across 24 provinces** in Cambodia and engaged **in nationwide advocacy work**.
- **Partnerships:** DCA has 57 Cooperation Agreements, two self- implemented projects in 2021, and works together with 20 local NGOs.

CONTACT:

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WHAT DO 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 is reflected through 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. 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 as well as emergency response during the COVID-19 crisis.

Fighting extreme 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 LGBTIQ, 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 agroecology**, with ecological principles in designing and managing farm systems to minimize external/artificial inputs. **Agroecology** also shortens the food chain and empowers smallholder farmers to strengthen their relationships with consumers, promoting the resilience of our food system, also regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.



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