







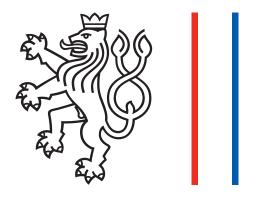




Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic

Cambodia

2018-2023



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Introduction

This programme builds on the Czech Republic's existing development cooperation and partnership with Cambodia and responds to the country's needs and development priorities. It addresses the objectives of the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030 while respecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The programme reflects past experience, including project and sector evaluations carried out during the previous cooperation programme. It takes into account the conclusions and recommendations for Czech development cooperation stemming from the 2016 OECD Peer Review.

Cambodia is one of the poorest and least developed South East Asian countries. Its human development indicators put it into the lower middle income category. The need for external assistance remains high despite the acceleration in economic growth and performance achieved by Cambodia over the past decade.

This programme sets out to assist Cambodia in putting into action its "Rectangular Strategy-Phase III" and "National Strategic Development Plan 2014-29018" and achieving the lower middle income country status. The focus is on reducing poverty and social exclusion, promoting sustainable management of natural resources especially in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector (WASH) including the development of water management infrastructure and training, and on promoting gender-balanced inclusive social development (especially universal access to health care).

To deliver on these priorities, the Czech Republic will help provide poor people with better access to livelihoods. Czech education and training projects aim to give poor Cambodians better chances in the job market, and to encourage them to develop the skills and capacities they need to generate their own income. Healthcare projects will help improve Cambodia's healthcare system and the quality of care especially in rural areas. Care for mother and child will be at the centre of attention (reduction of maternal and infant mortality, development of intrapartum and postpartum care). Overall, the cooperation aims to help Cambodia lessen its dependence on development assistance; to reduce poverty and hunger, and to encourage sustainable economic growth.

This Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme is an integral part of the Czech Republic's comprehensive cooperation with Cambodia. It aims to strengthen the Czech Republic's bilateral political, economic and cultural relations with Cambodia, including greater cooperation between the central and local governments, NGOs and private entities of the two countries.

This programme is the result of active cooperation between the involved central and local government authorities, NGOs and the business community. It is a consensual document laying the groundwork for coordinated and consolidated Czech development cooperation with Cambodia and promoting its sustainability, coherence and visibility.



CAMBODIA 1.

Population (2015 estimate): 15 577 899¹

OECD/DAC country classification (per capita GNI): USD 1,0701; least developed

country (LDC)3

UNDP Human Development Index (HDI): 0.555

(143rd of 188 countries)⁴

Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI):

221 points

(out of the possible total of 100 points, 150th of 168

countries)5

ODA per capita: USD 526

¹ http://www.worldbank.org (2014)

² http://www.worldbank.org (2015)

³ http://www.oecd.org (2016)

http://hdr.undp.org (2014)
 https://www.transparency.org (2015)

⁶ http://www.worldbank.org (2014)

Situation

During the past decade, Cambodia has been regarded as a relatively politically stable country. Cambodia is a predominantly rural and agricultural country. Social inequalities remain huge: the rising economic indicators (7.6% GDP growth according to the World Bank) and economic growth have not improved the social situation. The growth is driven mainly by textile and construction industries, tourism and agriculture; the strategically important energy sector relies on thermal and hydro power generation. The main growth factors for the future will be a pro-export policy and export diversification encouraging a transition to higher value-added light manufacturing and textile production. Cambodia has lower agricultural productivity that its neighbours with comparable soil and climatic conditions.

The construction boom has led to a huge increase in borrowings from banks; this is a risk factor and Cambodia should have more control mechanisms to keep its financial sector stable. The employment rate must be increased urgently; to make this possible, Cambodia needs to improve its education system (mainly secondary technical education and vocational training). Like other ASEAN members, Cambodia has joined the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC); the market integration process is a fairly positive development from the government's perspective, but a source of concern from the perspective of small- and medium-sized businesses with their limited capacities, low productivity, and lack of finance and technologies.

1.1 Analysis of the country's needs

The following analysis of Cambodia's needs is based primarily on the Cambodian government's "Rectangular Strategy-Phase III" and "National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018" documents. It also reflects previous experience with Czech development cooperation in the country, including the results of some project evaluations. Individual needs are analysed against the backdrop of the SDGs.



Cambodia remains one of the world's **poorest** countries despite its steady economic growth. A large part of the population struggle to keep above the **poverty** line and tend to slip below it whenever food prices change or weather turns bad. The **gap in living standards** remains high – between provinces, as well as between urban and rural areas.



Cambodia has recently managed to narrow the gender gap in access to secondary and higher education. However, female employment in the service sector remains low. Women have fairly little influence in decision-making processes in politics and government. Domestic violence remains widespread.



Cambodia has met the development goal on access to water and sanitation. However, sanitation infrastructure and drinking water sources are still rare in remote villages. The main problems are the lack of year-round sources of improved drinking water (in rural and remote areas) and wastewater management (in urban areas).



Cambodia has made progress in the education sector. However, the dropout rate in primary education (six grades) is still too high. Enrolment and graduation rates in lower secondary education fall short of the targets. Access to **inclusive**, **good quality education for all** is a necessary factor for enduring, inclusive and sustainable growth.



Cambodia's healthcare sector has made visible progress over the past 20 years. However, the improvement was largely the result of external assistance. The sector remains partly dependent on outside sources. **Child malnutrition** remains widespread especially in rural areas due to lack of hygiene and nutrition awareness among the population, combined with lack of qualified healthcare professionals. The situation impedes **healthy development and quality of life in general**.

1.2 The country's development priorities and 2030 Agenda SDGs

Cambodia's strategic development document is "Rectangular Strategy-Phase III" (following up on "Rectangular Strategies – Phases I and II") which confirms the country's commitment to the SDGs. The work necessary to attain the SDGs is organised and monitored by Cambodia's Ministry of Planning.

The Cambodian government's main development priorities include:7

- 1. Development of physical infrastructure (transport systems; electrification; water sources);
- 2. Capacity building and development of human resources (strengthening education, science and technology and technological training; promoting health and nutrition; developing social protection and enhancing gender equality);
- 3. Development of agriculture, including forestry and fisheries (improving productivity and diversification; promoting livestock farming and aquaculture; land reform and mine clearance; sustainable management of natural resources);
- 4. Development of the private sector and employment (promoting investment and business; promoting the development of SMEs and the development of the banking and financial sector).

⁷ Rectangular Strategy-Phase III and "National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/KHM%202013%20Rectangular%20Strategy%20Phase%20III.pdf

2. THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN CAMBODIA

2.1. Cooperation track record to date

The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017 included Cambodia among the priority countries, mainly because the priority status made it easier to implement the package of development projects agreed under the terms of settlement of Cambodia's debt to the Czech Republic.⁸ However, the fact that the Czech Republic did not have a resident embassy in Cambodia proved to be a big drawback in the initial stage. The resident Czech Embassy in Phnom Penh was reopened in 2013.

The cooperation included bilateral and trilateral projects managed by the Czech Development Agency and Small Local Projects managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Cambodia also benefited from the Czech government scholarship scheme. The projects must be sustainable, with demonstrable development impacts, and they must raise the Czech Republic's profile in the country.

The geographic focus was on the Takéo province where Czech development intervention contributed to great progress e.g. in the healthcare sector. The sectoral focus was agreed in the debt settlement memorandum between the two Finance Ministries: social development (social and healthcare services, education) and local renewable energy sources. Both sectors are covered by the present bilateral cooperation programme.

Social development projects concentrated on health care (care for mother and child, prevention of malnutrition) in the Takéo province. The cooperation helped build healthcare infrastructure in remote areas and develop the capacities of healthcare professionals in five provincial hospitals. Development cooperation was combined with Czech humanitarian projects addressing the health and nutrition status of rural people affected by floods, including the sharing of disaster preparedness experience.

Energy projects supported the development of a stable market-oriented energy sector with domestic biogas and solar energy systems capable of meeting the local people's energy needs. The cooperation included technical education projects.

Cooperation in the agriculture sector promoted practical agricultural education and training as well as cooperation in science and research, agricultural instruction and internationalisation of higher education (secondments of Czech teachers to the Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh). Czech universities annually admit Cambodian students benefiting from the Czech government scholarship scheme and the EU Erasmus + Programme. The cooperation included an agro-business development project implemented by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts and the UNIDO Regional Office.

The main Cambodian institutions involved in development cooperation in the above sectors include the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Takéo Provincial Health Department, and the National Bank of Cambodia.

⁸ Bilateral negotiations concerning Cambodia's outstanding debt to former Czechoslovakia (originally denominated in convertible roubles) began in 2000. In 2008 the Czech government approved the proposed terms of settlement (Government Resolution No. 517/2008). The government agreed to forgive USD 2,789,423.11 and to deposit USD 833,791.15 in a special account with the National Bank of Cambodia. This sum was to be spent on development projects. On the basis of this government resolution, the Czech and Cambodian Finance Ministries signed a memorandum identifying the priority sectors, including energy, the environment, health care and education.

2.2. Cooperation priorities and objectives

This programme sets out to support the development of human capacities in Cambodia in line with the Cambodian government's development aspirations (the contribution will focus especially on rural health care and education), and to promote sustainable management of water sources and sanitation.

The Czech Republic will assist Cambodia in its effort to tackle poverty and social inequalities and to promote social stability, especially in rural areas. There will be a group of projects promoting healthy life and the quality of life in general (building inclusive social services, encouraging young people to improve their qualifications, and promoting lifelong education for all). The broader objective of this cooperation is to help build a society open to everybody, including excluded and vulnerable groups. Another group of projects will address drinking water supply and protection of water sources, wastewater management and sustainable use of natural and mineral resources. The cooperation will build on the existing experience and capacities, and it will include transfer of technologies and know-how. The broader objective of this group of projects is to help Cambodia in building resilience to the impacts of natural disasters.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS:

I. Sustainable management of natural resources

Universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all in selected locations in the target province



The cooperation will support the development of sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in selected locations, including rehabilitation and building of drinking water sources. Improved hygiene and access to safe water will help control the spread of diarrheal and other infectious diseases and reduce malnutrition rates.

II. Inclusive social development

Reduce preventable neonatal mortality and mortality in children under five years of age, reduce maternal mortality in selected locations in the target province



The cooperation will contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality. This involves developing the capacities of healthcare professionals, delivering equipment to selected healthcare facilities, and organising public awareness campaigns in target areas. Improved health care (equipment and qualified staff) and health awareness will help reduce malnutrition rates.

Equal access of women and men to good quality, affordable and inclusive technical, vocational and higher education including university education



The cooperation will support the building and development of capacities for practically oriented agricultural and technical education in se-

lected provinces. This involves addressing inequalities and promoting equal access to education (mainly vocational and technical). Effective vocational training, available equally to women and men and tailored to the needs of the local job market, will help Cambodia build a productive workforce for social and economic development. The focus will be on the development of expertise in sectors crucial to balanced development (e.g. sustainable management of natural resources, including mineral resources).

In addition to bilateral development activities, the Czech Republic is ready to provide humanitarian assistance to Cambodia, especially in the event of major disasters and adverse climate events. MEDE-VAC⁹ programme combining medical care with humanitarian aid will continue as necessary.

⁹ MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation) – a programme intended primarily for seriously ill children from regions affected by conflicts and disasters. MEDEVAC assists critically ill patients who do not have access to the necessary treatment in their own country. The programme is managed by the Asylum and Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

2.3. Measures to achieve the objectives

Bilateral project-based development cooperation, complemented by trilateral cooperation projects co-financed by other donors, will be central to the achievement of the programme's objectives and results. Supplementary activities will include the Czech Republic's multilateral development cooperation and, where necessary, also humanitarian aid.

Bilateral development cooperation under this programme will be implemented mainly through development projects aimed at building the capacities of partners and beneficiaries, including the transfer of know-how, technology and complete plant equipment. These projects will be carried out solely on the basis of project proposals from local entities, taking into account the programme's goals as well as needs assessment on the ground. Funding mechanisms will include grants, public procurement contracts, budgetary measures and, where appropriate, financial donations to local entities in the partner country. Another instrument are Small Local Projects (SLPs) implemented directly by Czech embassies. SLPs make it possible to deliver smaller, precisely targeted development activities consistent with the focus of the programme and linked to other Czech development cooperation projects. New financial instruments, feasibility studies, business partnerships of a development or investment nature, and trade promotion projects (Aid for Trade) will also be employed. Other activities directly related to the priority areas of development cooperation under this programme will include the posting of teachers and experts to Cambodia, and study visits by the staff of Cambodian government institutions and local authorities to the Czech Republic. The study visits will be permitted only for the purpose of know-how transfers. The programme will make use of synergies with other technical tools (scholarships).

2.4. The Czech Republic's coordination with other donors

In keeping with global principles on aid effectiveness and in the spirit of continuity with its approach so far, the Czech Republic will seek to coordinate its activities with other donors in the thematic areas of its priority interest under the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030. Cooperation will be developed mainly in the context of EU Joint Programming. The Czech Republic has been involved in Joint Programming since 2014 when became one of the ten signatories of the European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia 2014-2018.

Cambodia has a large donor community including all major bilateral and multilateral donors. The biggest multilateral donors are the Asian Development Funds (Asian Development Bank), the Global Fund and the European Union (EU). The largest bilateral donors, over a long-term period, are Japan followed by the United States, Australia, and Republic of Korea; other major donors include Germany, France and Sweden.

The Czech Republic will continue its dialogue on cooperation with fellow donors. So far there has been very little practical cooperation, despite interest expressed by fellow donors on many occasions during meetings and consultations between Foreign Ministries and development agencies. The Czech Republic wants to play a stronger role in donor coordination (including e.g. participation in the Joint Technical Working Groups covering the priority areas of Czech development cooperation). The Czech Republic also wants to be an active part of the Joint Programming process, keeping in mind its priorities and capacities as well as the principles of aid effectiveness, harmonisation and mutual accountability between international donors and the Cambodian government.

3. CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

3.1. Conditions for implementation in the country

The terms and conditions for Czech development cooperation with Cambodia are laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and (competent institution) of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Memorandum of Understanding was concluded on and will be in force The Cambodian side agrees:

- to exempt from customs duties, taxes and other mandatory payments any goods and services financed from the Czech contribution, as well as any equipment, material and work necessary for the implementation of the Agreement;
- to exempt from customs duties, taxes and import surcharges any goods imported for the
 personal use of Czech development project implementers when seconded to Cambodia on the
 basis of this programme as well as any goods imported for the personal use of the dependants of
 such implementers;
- to facilitate the entry and departure customs clearance procedures for the above individuals; to consider reducing the waiting time for visas and work and residence permits; and to ensure favourable treatment for the above individuals.

3.2. Monitoring and evaluations

Project monitoring and evaluation of programme implementation are basic requirements to keep all stakeholders informed of the course and results of cooperation to the necessary extent and quality. These processes will be governed by provisions contained in the External Development Cooperation Strategy and in the Methodology for the Project Cycle of Bilateral External Development Cooperation Projects. The results of monitoring and, in particular, evaluations will form an important basis for comprehensive assessment of development activities, for decision-making on further cooperation with Cambodia at a strategic, programme and project level, and for the subsequent comprehensive management system, linking the results to strategic objectives.

In the continuous monitoring and evaluation of development activities established by this programme, a results-oriented procedure will be implemented, so the outputs and targets of individual projects will be followed as a means of more efficient and accountable management and the flexible setting of necessary changes in response to the evolving conditions of implementation and the experience gained (in the sense of "learning by doing"). The monitoring of all of the Czech Republic's development activities will be carried out by staff of the Czech diplomatic mission in Phnom penh, apart from Czech Development Agency projects, which will be monitored by the Agency's staff. Monitoring will take place once or twice a year. The Czech Republic will strive for joint monitoring missions with the Cambodian authorities, implementers and partners in development activities. Monitoring will result in monitoring reports, which will be shared between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid), the Czech Development Agency, the Czech Embassy and the Cambodian authorities, and will also serve as a basis for follow-up evaluations. For the sake of monitoring the implementation of the programme, the values of the programme's output indicators and objectives will be reviewed in two-year cycles according to sources of data verification (especially those provided from the Cambodian authorities).

Evaluations will assess the long-term impacts and benefits of development interventions in Cambodia according to the OECD's internationally standardised methodology, with a focus on the various thematic areas defined in the External Development Cooperation Strategy that are relevant to this programme. Links to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) named in this programme will also be evaluated. In addition, the geographic and regional focus of the programme will be assessed. The Czech Republic will seek the involvement and building of Cambodian evaluation capacities.

During each year of programme implementation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host one or two consultations between the Ministry, the Czech Development Agency and any other relevant programme implementers. These sessions will be aimed at ensuring there is an ongoing consensus regarding the implementation of the programme and its expected results, and at coming up with a timely response to any eventual major problems. In the medium term, the programme may be adapted so as to respond as well as possible to Cambodian needs and to reflect the results of evaluations and their recommendations to the fullest extent possible. Ahead of the expiry of the programme, the Czech Embassy and the Czech Development Agency will work together to draw up a summary report for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs describing and evaluating the results of the overall impact analysis. The report will include explanations in those instances where set objectives and outputs have not been achieved, and will discuss which tools have proven good and which have not. The report will form an important basis for the final programme evaluation and for a decision on further cooperation with Cambodia.

3.3. Risk management and sustainability advancement

Risk management is conducted in accordance with the External Development Cooperation Strategy. A fundamental underlying document is the strategic and project-related "Risks Analysis of Implementing External Development Cooperation in Cambodia" (the "Analysis"), which includes a list of risk management instruments. The programme of cooperation with Cambodia is based on this Analysis and an analysis of Cambodia's development needs. Risks and measures to prevent them will be monitored regularly.

With reference to the External Development Cooperation Strategy, the sustainability of development assistance and the results of completed projects is one of the fundamental objectives behind the implementation of external development cooperation. Advancement in sustainability is an important criterion of success for development activities in the country. Sound risk management and effective project management in various stages of the project cycle will help to increase sustainability. In line with the provisions of the External Development Cooperation Strategy, the emphasis is on the high-quality *identification* of Cambodia's development needs in accordance with the relevant strategies followed by the Cambodian government, and on the pursuit of goals and activities leading to their fulfilment according to established rules.

A prerequisite is the rigorous analysis of participants and local conditions for development activities, as well as relevant and quality enter data. In this context, in the *formulation* of projects an emphasis will be placed on a *well-prepared exit strategy*. An important element is the stress on the highest possible level of *involvement of local partners in the process* of project preparation and decision-making. This is then linked to the subsequent sharing of *ownership of the results* of development activities, supported by careful and predictable *project handover*, including proper training of beneficiaries. An important factor is cooperation and communication between the implementer and partners when knowledge is being transferred, training is being provided, etc. An important factor conducive to the required development-related synergy effects is *coordination* with other donors and implementers in the area, plus mutual coordination between stakeholders under the Czech Republic's external development cooperation. An emphasis will be placed on strengthening control mechanisms and on the mandatory implementation of recommendations arising from evaluations in strategic external development cooperation documents.

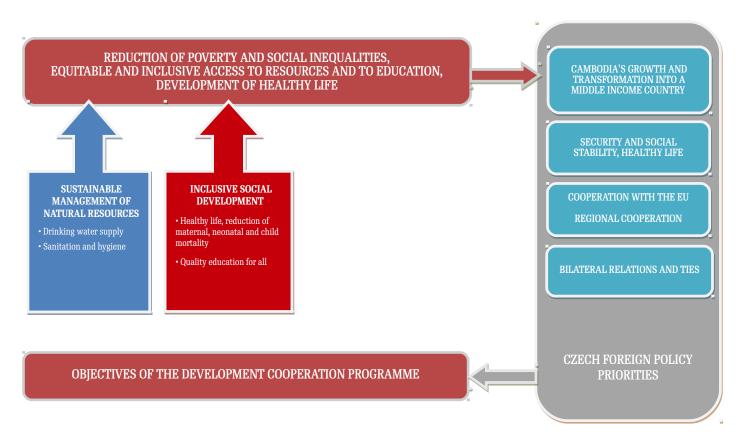
3.4 Programme validity and updates

This programme of development cooperation between the Czech Republic and Cambodia will be in force for the 2018-2023 period. Its implementation will be consistently monitored and evaluated in accordance with the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030 and with annual monitoring and evaluation plans. The results of the monitoring and evaluation will be used to adjust the programme where necessary and appropriate. A comprehensive evaluation will be carried out by 2023 to decide on the course of further cooperation.

4. ANNEXES

4.1 Programme chart

Cambodia 2018 – 2023 Czech Programme



4.2 Results Matrix – Cambodia

Priority Areas of Sustainable Development	Results	Indicators Baseline and Target
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	Outcome 1: Universal and equitable access to safe affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all in selected areas (SDG 6.1. + 6.2.) Output 1.1: Access to affordable drinking water Output 1.2: Access to adequate sanitation and hygiene	Percentage of population using safely managed water and sanitation services in selected areas
Inclusive social development	Outcome 2: End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years age and reduce maternal mortality in selected areas (SDG 3.1. +3.2.) Output 2.1: proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in selected areas increased Output 2.2: Improved access to antenatal and postnatal care services in selected areas Output 2.3: Improved access to medical care for children (under 5) Output 2.4: rates of undernourishment (stunting and wasting) of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women decreased Outcome 3: increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational	Percentage of neonatal, infant and under 5 mortality rates in selected areas 2.1. Maternal mortality ratio and rate 2.2. Percentage of mothers accessing the antenatal and postnatal care services 2.3. Percentage of children using medical care 2.4. Prevalence of undernourishment in under 5 children, pregnant and lactating women Percentage of youth and adults graduated from technical and vocational schools and vocational trainings
	skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship in selected provinces. (SDG 4.4.) Output 3.1: Increased capacity of vocational training Output 3.2: Inclusive education methods introduced Output 3.3: Youth employability increased	3.1. Number of people trained by sustainable new programs of vocational training 3.2 Increased number of vulnerable persons trained 3.3 Number of newly established MSEs (MicroSmall Enterprises) and number of youth employed

4. 3. THE LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

	ČESKÝ NÁZEV	ENGLISH ORIGINAL	
ADB	Asijská rozvojová banka	Asian Development Bank	
AfT	Aid for Trade	Aid for Trade	
ASEAN	Sdružení národů jihovýchodní Asie	Association of South East Asian Nations	
СРІ	Index vnímání korupce	Corruption Perception Index	
CRDB/CDC		Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board / Council for the Development of Cambodia	
ČRA	Česká rozvojová agentura	Czech Development Agency	
DAC	Výbor pro rozvojovou spolupráci	Development Assistance Committee	
EDF	Evropský rozvojový fond	European Development Fund	
EU	Evropská Unie	European Union	
HDI	Index lidského rozvoje	Human development index	
LDCs	nejméně rozvinuté země	Least Developed Countries	
MFAIC	Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	
MDGs	Rozvojové cíle tisíciletí	Millennium Development Goals	
MLP	Malé lokální projekty	Small local projects	
MoU	Memorandum o porozumění o rozvojové spolupráci	Memorandum of Understanding on Development Cooperation	
MZV	Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
OBSE	Organizace pro bezpečnost a spolupráci v Evropě	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe	
OECD	Organizace pro hospodářskou spolupráci a rozvoj	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	
ODA	Zahraniční rozvojová spolupráce	Official Development Assistance	
SDGs	EDGs Cíle udržitelného rozvojeSustainable Development Goals		
TVET	střední odborné vzdělávání	Technical Vocational Education Training	

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	Rozvojový program OSN
ZRS ČR	Zahraniční rozvojová spolupráce České republiky	Czech Development Cooperation
ZÚ ČR	Zastupitelský úřad České republiky	The Embassy of Czech Republic