



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Cambodia Country Brief August 2018



## Operational Context

Cambodia has achieved remarkable economic growth in the last two decades. The poverty rate has decreased from 47.8 percent in 2007 to 13.5 percent in 2014. The Government is committed to reaching middle-income country status by 2030. However, a significant portion of the population remains 'near poor' and still at high risk of falling back into poverty at the slightest shock.

Undernutrition remains a public health concern; 32 percent of children under 5 years suffer from stunting, 24 percent are underweight, and 10 percent wasted. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread. Cambodia is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, with regular monsoon flooding in the Mekong and Tonle Sap basin and localised droughts in the plains. Limited access for the poor to education and health services and low levels of investment in public infrastructure further perpetuate food insecurity and undernutrition.

WFP has been present in Cambodia since 1979.



Population: **15.6 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **143 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **32 percent of children between 6-59 months**

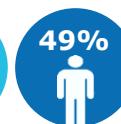
## In Numbers

**932 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 22,164** cash based transfers made

WFP Cambodia's operations are fully funded for 2018 thanks to the generous contributions of partners.

**335,200 people assisted**  
in August 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP is drafting a new Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) which will redefine its role in Cambodia. WFP will shift from a focus on implementation of food assistance activities to play a greater role in developing national and subnational capacities to achieve zero hunger. Based on consultations with government entities, UN agencies and other relevant partners, the focus will be on Home-Grown School Feeding, sustainable food systems, climate change, shocks and risks management, digital transformation, food security and nutrition and social protection governance.

To better define strategic partnership opportunities and approaches for the next five years, WFP's Senior Government Partnerships Officer visited Cambodia from 8-10 August. This provided an opportunity to engage with non-traditional and potential donors, UN agencies, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders.

- WFP signed an agreement with Action against Hunger to produce guidance booklets on Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia. The booklet aims to strengthen the capacities of the commune councils' members, and to sensitize them to the importance of Food Security and Nutrition aspects in the development of their own commune development plans. The booklets can be supportive documents for sub-national level authorities to work together with stakeholders and communities with a nutrition sensitive approach to strengthen food security and nutrition resilience for the most vulnerable households.

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## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September – December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>22.48 m</b>	<b>21.07 m<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0 m</b>

(1) Included 2019 contribution for USDA and Japan

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Children in poor and least resilient areas have reliable access to adequate and appropriate food throughout the year  
Focus area: Root Causes

#### Activities:

- Provide services delivery, policy and implementation support, technical assistance and evidence-base for acceleration of the implementation of the Government's Roadmap towards National School Feeding in 2021.

### Strategic Result 4: Food Systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Poor and vulnerable communes benefit from food systems that are more resilient and responsive to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.  
Focus area: Resilience

#### Activities:

- Enhance community resilience by building climate sensitive assets and integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into local government development planning.

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 3:** National institutions strengthened for effective, coordinated and harmonised action towards ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030  
Focus area: Root Causes

#### Activities:

- Provide technical support to the national SUN network to ensure that national action for nutrition is based on effective knowledge management and stakeholder engagement.

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** National and local governance institutions and social protection systems are better Informed and strengthened toward imp  
Focus area: Resilience

#### Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to national, subnational government institutions to strengthen integrated knowledge and information management systems, to facilitate evidence based, responsive and shock resistant social sector, social protection and emergency response mechanisms.

- The booklet includes best practices and lessons learnt from the food assistance for assets programme that WFP has implemented with the government and NGO partners for more than two decades.
- WFP distributed final cash scholarship to 6,322 schoolchildren for school year 2017-18. WFP cash scholarships are granted as conditional transfers to children from poor and vulnerable families in grades four to six with at least 80 percent attendance. It encourages poor households to send their children to school. From school year 2018-19, WFP is handing over the Cash Scholarship Programme to the primary scholarship programme of the government. This is a part of WFP's commitment to support the nationally-owned school meals/scholarship programme by 2021 while playing a coaching and mentoring role to strengthening government's capacity at national and sub national level.
- WFP conducted a mid-term review of the school meal/scholarship programme under the support of the United States Department of Agriculture covering school years 2016/17 and 2017/18 to help inform the government's future establishment of national school meals programme. The mid-term review focused on programme results, national ownership readiness, programme management approach and strategy, and community engagement. The draft report will be reviewed in early October and the final report will be in late 2018.