



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Cambodia Country Brief June 2019



## 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**

2017 Human Development Index: **146 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

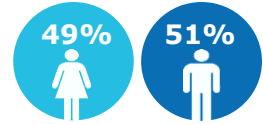
## In Numbers

988 mt of food distributed

US\$ 365,500 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 366,000 six months (July to December 2019) net funding requirements

312,430 people assisted  
In June 2019



## Operational Updates

- School Nutrition Day was held across 584 schools supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Schools invited parents to have breakfast with their children, during which they shared information about the recent introduction of fortified rice into school meals. Participating schools received instructions to organize School Nutrition Day to coincide with National Nutrition Awareness Day, thus amplifying messages around food and nutrition.
- School Nutrition Day provided with the opportunity to conduct an assessment to inform future activities that promote discussions about health and nutrition. The assessment collected feedback from schools, schoolchildren, provincial and district departments of education and implementing partners with the aim of developing a better understanding of the effectiveness of information, education and communication (IEC) materials that WFP produced for the event.
- The assessment found support for an overall key message to 'stay healthy by consuming clean and healthy food and maintaining good hygiene practices'. It also suggested that mothers and teachers are two very important channels for food and nutrition education. Hence, communications targeting children should also be provided to mothers, while emphasising child health. Teachers also have an influence on the children's decisions and should be trained to impart the right education on these topics. The challenge now is to find other platforms through which to provide parents with health and nutrition information.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jun-Dec 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.24 m	16.36 m	0.37 m

**Strategic Result: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Vulnerable communities in Cambodia have access to nutritious, safe, diverse, convenient, affordable and preferred foods by 2025.  
Focus area: Root Causes

**Activities:** Provide implementation support and technical assistance, including support to evidence-based policy and programme development, to national and subnational public and private sector actors engaged in social safety nets, particularly home-grown school feeding.

**Strategic Result: Food Systems are sustainable**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Poor and vulnerable communities in Cambodia are more resilient to shocks and stresses in the food system by 2023.  
Focus area: Resilience

**Activities:** Provide implementation support and technical assistance to national and subnational public and private sector actors engaged in food production and transformation. (CAR: Climate adaptation and risk management activities)

**Strategic Result: Developing Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to mitigate risks and lead coordinated shock preparedness and response efforts by 2025.  
Focus area: Root Causes

**Activities:** Provide technical support and backstopping to national stakeholders engaged in shock preparedness and response mechanisms and risk informed coordination.

**Strategic Result: 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 improved services delivery by 2030.  
Focus area: Resilience

**Activities:** Develop and integrate digital information systems and provide technical assistance in their use to government officials and their counterparts.

**Activities:** Provide technical, coordination and organizational assistance to the Government and other food security, nutrition and social protection actors at the national and subnational levels.

**Strategic Result: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Development and humanitarian partners in Cambodia have access to common supply chain services throughout the year.  
Focus area: Resilience

**Activities:** Provide on-demand supply chain services to other United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors.

## Operational Updates (continued)

- WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) conducted user assessments with 99 participants (of whom 39 were women) including government education officials, primary school principals, teachers, and NGO staff in Siem Reap, Kampong Thom and Battambang provinces. The assessment aimed to gather feedback on the initial prototype of the School Feeding Information System that WFP and MoEYS are developing to improve school feeding programme management and implementation. The findings of the assessment will allow WFP and the ministry to make the system more user-friendly and improve its uptake at both national and subnational levels.
- The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) and the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil conducted an advance mission to Cambodia to prepare for the 21<sup>st</sup> Global Child Nutrition Forum, which will take place from 2 to 6 December in Siem Reap Province. This will be the first time in the Forum’s history that it will be held in Southeast Asia, which was made possible thanks to Cambodia’s MoEYS, which is the host organization.
- WFP’s Country Director met with the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications to discuss future collaboration between WFP and the Ministry on the implementation of WFP Cambodia’s new country strategic plan 2019 -2023, particularly in the areas of digitalization, food security and disaster response.



*Ouch Ith, 60 years old, lives in Kampong Thom Province, where she grows different types of vegetables around her house such as morning glory, pumpkin, eggplant and wax gourd. She provides them to a broker who supplies vegetables to WFP’s home-grown school meal programme. (WFP/ Christine Wenzel)*