



# WFP Cambodia Country Brief March 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



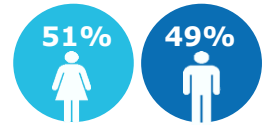
## In Numbers

215 mt of food distributed (estimated)

US\$ 41,365 cash-based transfers made (estimated)

US\$ 1 million six months (April to September 2020) net funding requirements

233,950 people assisted  
In March 2020



## Operational Updates

In its commitment to scale up and transition the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme to national ownership, WFP continued to provide training of trainers on HGSF to 36 provincial and district school feeding committee members in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat provinces. These core members provided 12 cascade trainings to 354 local school committee members on quotation processes to select HGSF suppliers through fair and transparent bidding. The school committees were ready to begin recruiting suppliers but were interrupted by the government's immediate measures to close schools nationwide to combat COVID-19.

Due to the school closures in mid-March, WFP only provided school feeding in schools during the first two weeks of the month. As a further response to the closures, WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport worked together to convert regular on-site feeding in WFP-supported schools to a take home ration approach. These were distributed toward the end of March and into early April, to poor and vulnerable households in targeted districts acutely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and related restrictions. WFP has designated 1,000 tons of WFP rice stock for distribution to approximately 103,500 children currently registered for the Government cash scholarships and from households with ID Poor registration across five provinces. WFP will provide each with 10kg of rice. This initiative is to be carried out under recommended health and hygiene protocols such as hand washing, mask -coverings, and social distancing.

Amid the pandemic, to further commit to and expand the HGSF in three targeted provinces, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) exchanged signatures on a grant agreement worth up to USD 10 million with WFP and MoEYS. This grant will contribute to the transitioning of the HGSF programme from WFP management to full government ownership by 2024.

## 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: 15.3 million

2017 Human Development Index: 146 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

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**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	April- September 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>72.25 m</b>	<b>42.21 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

**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.



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WFP, in collaboration with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) developed a digital questionnaire for collecting field information on the large-scale return of Cambodian migrants following the COVID-19 crisis and closure of border crossings. This builds on the existing Platforms for Realtime Information Systems (PRISM) used to collect disaster risk data. NCDM and their sub-national committees will utilize this system for digital data collection in April across the country—the results of which will assist the government and development partners to better understand the destination of migrant returnees and where to target assistance.

To ensure continuity and capture changes in market dynamics resulting from COVID-19, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery, and Forestry (MAFF), expanded the existing remote monthly food price monitoring from the existing rural and urban markets across seven provinces to include traders from other areas, thus covering the entire country. The two institutions are also in discussion with the call centre to increase its monitoring frequency to bi-weekly intervals.

**Donors:** USA, KOICA, Japan, Government of Cambodia, Private Sector Donors, Australia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UN Pooled Fund, Latter-day Saint Charities (LDSC)