



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief April 2020



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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In Numbers

769 mt of food distributed

US\$ 19,269 cash-based transfers made (HGSP)

US\$ 1 million six months (May to October 2020) net funding requirements

80,767 people assisted

In April 2020

Operational Updates

In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions in the country, WFP continued working with Government and partner organizations to reprioritize programmes and modify activities to the context.

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Youth, and Sport (MoEYS), provided take home rations to 80,767 students in its supported schools, using 769 mt rice from WFP stock and 38 mt rice purchased from local traders using cash made available through the home-grown school feeding programme. The MOEYS and the National Social Protection Council, with technical support from WFP, provided a further 173 mt of rice to 11,500 children in schools under the Government-funded home-grown school feeding programme.

The General Secretariat for National Social Protection Council and WFP co-organized a virtual orientation on shock responsive social protection, in which 23 high-ranking Government officers (including 11 women) participated. The meeting provided an introduction to how social protection can be better adapted to respond quickly and effectively to shocks (climatic, economic or health-related). Stakeholders at the meeting discussed how Cambodia could develop and implement such a framework, to ensure that social protection measures further buffer the impact of shocks on vulnerable groups.

WFP, together with other UN agencies, continued advocating for the scale-up of social assistance activities for the COVID-19 response. As part of these efforts, WFP supported development of a joint UN position paper advocating for sector-wide social assistance and insurance approaches, addressing the essential needs of vulnerable populations. WFP and other UN agencies continue consulting with the Government on the roll out of response mechanisms, including a large-scale cash transfer to half a million IDPoor households.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May- October 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
72.25 m	40.62 m	1.00 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.

WFP and the National Committee for Disaster Management finalized the design of the safe evacuation centers and prepared for their construction as part of a larger community disaster preparedness project. The two institutions are now planning further collaboration on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response, particularly in the flood-prone months of July to October.

In partnership with the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development and Action Against Hunger, WFP has finalized a guidance booklet on how to integrate food safety and nutrition when developing commune investment and development plans and budgets. The virtual book launch is expected next month. WFP is also identifying alternative ways to introduce the guidance to subnational administrators to support a nationwide roll out.

WFP, in support of the Ministry of Interior and International Organization of Migration, has worked to map the official data of the more than 90,000 returning migrants to better understand their movements and where to target support. Additionally, WFP collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to facilitate the UN’s interactions with the Ministry of Interior on potential food security and livelihood support.

WFP and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) jointly support the supply chain priorities in the Government’s national action plan for COVID-19 response. This builds on the existing bilateral service provision relationship between WFP and UNOPS in Cambodia. Discussions are underway with WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP and other partners on urgent and coordinated procurement and logistics actions.

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)