



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief July 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 upper middle-income status by 2030. However, a significant portion of the population remains 'near poor' and still at high risk of falling back into poverty from a shock. Undernutrition remains a public health concern: 32 percent of children under 5 years are stunted, 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 under five**

In Numbers

1,298 mt of food distributed

US\$ 24,000 cash-based transfers made (home-grown school feeding)

US\$ 0.5 million six months (August 2020 to January 2021) net funding requirements

83,297 people assisted (51 percent female)
In July 2020

Operational Updates

Due to the continued school closures and deepening socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), distributed a second round of take-home rations, consisting of rice and vegetable oil, to 83,297 poor and vulnerable households (81,658 households of children registered in the school feeding programme and 1,639 school cooks) in five target provinces. In parallel, WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry to distribute rice to children in another 205 schools where home-grown school feeding programmes are implemented and financed by the government.

In addition, WFP, together with other UN agencies and development partners, supported the Ministry of Planning to expand its system of poverty identification (known as IDPoor) to register newly poor households for social assistance, including the new COVID-19 cash transfer programme. WFP participated in a joint field mission, led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth and the National Social Protection Council, to monitor the rollout of this programme.

Furthermore, in an effort to integrate food security and nutrition actions into the Government's subnational development and investment planning process, WFP conducted field missions to 36 communes in six target provinces to engage with local officials and community members and better understand current development priorities as well as local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP also distributed 3,000 guidance booklets on food security and nutrition, in cooperation with the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ).

Contact info: Chou CHEA (chou.chea@wfp.org)

Country Director: Francesca ERDELMANN

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	August 2020–January 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
72.25 m	42.21 m	0.5 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.

The National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development, with WFP’s support, conducted cascade trainings on integrating climate-change adaptation into local planning for commune councillors and local committees in selected communes.

WFP, in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, and the National Institute of Statistics, initiated a social impact assessment to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on household well-being. This will be repeated on a monthly basis to monitor trends overtime as the situation evolves.

At the national level, WFP and the National Committee for Disaster Management launched the national and provincial contingency plans and the new disaster management information system (known as [PRISM](#)) with 180 participants from the Government and development partners. Both initiatives support national and subnational capacities for disaster risk management, enabling effective preparedness and response actions.



WFP staff demonstrating how to use PRISM to NCDM officials during the launching ceremony. © WFP/Photo Library

Donors: USA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Japan, Cambodia, Australia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UN Pooled Fund, Latter-day Saint Charities and Private Sector Donors