



# WFP Cambodia Country Brief August 2020

World Food Programme

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## 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 following 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**

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## In Numbers

**US\$ 0.5 million** six months (September 2020 to February 2021) net funding requirements

No direct beneficiaries or transfers in August. WFP is distributing take home rations instead of school meals during school closures due to COVID-19, the second round of distribution was finalized in July and the third one will start in November.

## Operational Updates

- In August, WFP continued to support the Government's social protection agenda, which is critical to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable. In particular, as part of its efforts to strengthen national capacity on social assistance, WFP supported the digitalisation of key programmes.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP supported the roll-out of the cash scholarship information system by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). This system was initially developed by WFP in 2019 to manage beneficiaries for this social assistance programme.
- To support the hand-over of the school feeding programme to the Government, WFP and MoEYS completed the development of a school feeding information system. This new system will facilitate the digital management of the school feeding programme by the Government, it will be launched and rolled-out when schools reopen.
- WFP's technical assistance to MoEYS on home-grown school feeding also included the development of self-learning packages for implementers. WFP developed training videos on how to adopt prevention measures during the preparation of school meals in line with health and safety standards linked to COVID-19, as well as videos on how to select food commodities suppliers.
- Together with other UN agencies, WFP also participated in field missions led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth, the Ministry of Planning and the National Social Protection Council to monitor the registration process of vulnerable households into IDPoor and the latest round of the Government's COVID-19 cash transfer programme. Furthermore, WFP and the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council completed the concept note for the formulation of a shock responsive social protection framework, which will be initiated next month.

### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2020–February 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>72.25 m</b>	<b>42.21 m</b>	<b>0.5 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.

- As schools remain closed, WFP and MoEYS took steps towards a forthcoming third round of take-home rations in lieu of school meals. These will be distributed to families holding IDPoor cards with children enrolled in both pre-school and primary-schools in areas supported by both the Government and WFP. School cooks whose jobs were interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic will also benefit from the food packages.
- Following the UN-wide programme criticality assessment and WFP's own programme reprioritization in the context of COVID-19, WFP contributed to the joint UN socio-economic response plan, particularly in the areas of social protection, basic services and food systems. The plan was published this month and is anchored in the Government's economic recovery plan.



Photo: © WFP/Christopher Rompre. Hand-washing station in Trapeang Arak School, Kampong Thom Province.

## Donors

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