



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief September 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 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**

In Numbers

US\$ 0.85 million six months (October 2020 to March 2021) net funding requirements

No direct beneficiaries or transfers in September. WFP is distributing take home rations instead of school meals during school closures due to COVID-19. WFP completed the first round of distribution in April, the second in July and is planning for the third to start in November.

Operational Updates

To prepare for the expected flood resulting from the heavy rainfall in the country, WFP and the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) continued the roll-out of the upgraded [Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring](#) (PRISM) to allow the NCDM and its sub-national authorities to conduct rapid assessments of flood impact. PRISM integrates multiple data sources into a single platform, including field assessments collected via mobile devices, earth observation satellite data and remote sensing products, early warning system data from river gauges, and socio-economic vulnerability data.

WFP, together with other development partners, is working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to develop a handbook on school operations during COVID-19, which also includes instructions on school meal operation. The handbook is expected to be finalized by mid-October and distributed to all schools in Cambodia in December 2020 before onsite school meals restart. WFP is currently planning the third food distribution next month for 39,653 school children from households with valid IDPoor cards and 1,643 school cooks from the school feeding programme.

COVID-19 has put a strain on the Government's spending capacity and has hence delayed WFP's plans to fully handover the school feeding programme in 85 more schools to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport late this year. The Ministry of Economy and Finance, however, has confirmed that the budget for home grown school feeding will remain the same. WFP, together with these ministries is planning further discussion on the transition status and ways forward.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	October 2020–March 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
72.46 m	42.21 m	0.85 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, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and UNICEF, have conducted training of trainers to 484 sub-national education officials on the use of the cash scholarship information system. These officials will later become the core trainers to schools on inputting data related to cash scholarships into the system, allowing the Ministry to better monitor the cash-scholarship programme.

Simultaneously, to ensure that the new updated school feeding information system is useful and user-friendly, WFP has retested the system with 20 school-level end-users in nine schools. The testing will allow WFP to be sure that the system design meets users' needs. WFP collected and responded to the feedback for improvements.



© WFP/Photo Library: Flooded health centre in Angkor Chum District, Siem Reap Province

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