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.

School feeding

WFP has been working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and NGO partners to prepare for the safe resumption of on-site school feeding in line with the reopening of schools. Activities included equipping participating schools with adequate material (such as mobile hand-washing stations and soap) for COVID-19 prevention, transporting food to schools and resuming the home-grown school feeding orientation processes. However, due to the evolution of the COVID-19 situation and the continued school closures, the resumption of the school feeding programme has been postponed. WFP expects school feeding to resume in early January 2021.

Flood response

Following the large-scale flash floods in October, WFP, as co-chair and secretariat of the Cambodia Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), facilitated the launch of a flood response plan with HRF sectors, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The USD 9.4 million plan targets the needs of 237,000 vulnerable people for six months, complementing the wider response led by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM).

To contribute to humanitarian response efforts to alleviate flood impact on affected households, WFP, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is gearing up to implement an emergency response cash-based transfer programme. WFP’s response aims to improve food security and support livelihoods recovery to 3,725 vulnerable households (approximately 18,625 people).

The cash-based transfer programme, using mobile money, will be implemented over a period of six months and will follow on from the immediate food assistance provided to affected households in October 2020 with USAID support.
WFP Country Strategy

Social Protection

With WFP support, the National Social Protection Council kicked off the development of a national shock responsive social protection framework. Over 55 participants provided initial inputs on the content and process, which will run to early next year.

In parallel, the National Social Protection Council, in consultation with WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, has conducted an audit of the national school home-grown school feeding programme, one year after the first schools were handed over to the Government. The exercise is a critical step to reinforcing a culture of learning and commitment to the transition to a national home-grown school feeding programme.

COVID-19 impact assessment

WFP is working to monitor the impact of COVID-19 over time through the high-frequency social impact assessment, alongside UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and the National Institute of Statistics. Initial findings point to concerning trends: from August to October households reported a loss of income, an increase in coping strategies and lower dietary diversity.

Government Partnerships for Zero Hunger


The strategy was developed with support from WFP and development partners.

CARD also organized the seventh National Nutrition Day celebration in Kampong Cham Province. The event, which was supported by WFP and development partners, highlighted the need to strengthen food systems for healthy diets in Cambodia.

Donors: Cambodia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Japan, KOICA, Latter-day Saints Charities, Private Sector Donors, and USA (USDA and USAID)