



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Cambodia Country Brief November 2020

## In Numbers

WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

**US\$ 1.18 million** six months  
(December 2020 to May 2021) net funding requirements

No direct beneficiaries or transfers in November. 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 the third in November.

### 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: <b>15.3 million</b>	2017 Human Development Index: <b>146 out of 189</b>
Income Level: <b>Lower middle</b>	Chronic malnutrition: <b>32 percent of children under five</b>

### 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.

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 Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) launched the second National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2019-2023) demonstrating the Government investment and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 agenda.

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)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	December 2020–May 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
72.25 m	42.21 m	1.18 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.

### Strategic Result: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Vulnerable people affected by crisis in Cambodia have access to nutrition-sensitive food assistance during and after the crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

**Activities:** Provide nutrition-sensitive food-/cash-based assistance to crisis-affected populations to save lives and recover livelihoods.