



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Cambodia Country Brief January 2021



## 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: **15.5 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **146 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **32 percent of children under five**

## In Numbers

**328 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 75,209** cash-based transfers made to schools for Home Grown School Feeding

**US\$ 0.04 million** six months net funding requirements (February to July 2021)

**207,865 people** assisted (52% female)

## School Feeding Resumption

Upon approval from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the school feeding programme restarted in January as schools reopened for the 2021 academic year.

To ensure a safe resumption of activities, WFP, together with national authorities and NGO partners, rolled out standard operating procedures for school meal preparation and serving in the COVID-19 context.

This month, WFP provided nutritious and diverse meals for almost 210,000 students across over 900 pre-primary and primary schools. These children had missed out on regular free nutritious school meals since mid-March when schools closed to curb the COVID-19 spread.

In areas covered by the school feeding programme, WFP and MoEYS had continued supporting over 81,000 of the poorest households with take-home school meal rations throughout 2020 to make up for the lack of school meals.

Still, the school meals resumption comes as a welcome development, as the *Cambodia COVID-19 Joint Education Needs Assessment 2020*, noted that during the pandemic 40 percent of children had consumed fewer meals per day compared to before.

To further the school feeding policy framework, WFP, MoEYS and the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council (NSPC) agreed to jointly update the school feeding programme transition plan towards national ownership, including the development of a related regulatory framework.

## Digitalization

As part of its support to the digitalization agenda, WFP provided technical assistance for the nationwide roll-out of the cash scholarship information system, which enhances the transparency and reliability of the scholarship data. To date, over 29,000 scholarship students (16,359 girls) in three provinces have been registered in the system and training was provided to local authorities to use and troubleshoot the system.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	February–July 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>72.46 m</b>	<b>47.55 m</b>	<b>0.04 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.

**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.

To further inform the implementation of a future national shock-responsive social protection framework, WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation agreed to work jointly on developing and testing a shock-responsive social assistance scheme targeting flood-affected poor households and formulating a disaster contingency plan for supporting household recovery from the recent floods.

**Emergency Preparedness**

As part of its institutional support to national emergency preparedness capacity, WFP conducted a series of refresher trainings to 187 (42 women) officials from the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and its provincial committees in nine provinces. With a view to support the digitalization of disaster-related data collection, the training focussed on rolling-out the disaster management information system (PRISM).

In relation to the coordination of humanitarian partners, WFP, as co-chair of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), organized an after-action review of the October 2020 flood response to document lessons learned and inform the upcoming review of the HRF in the first quarter of 2021.

To strengthen community-level preparedness, WFP, in partnership with NCDM, has been constructing six safe evacuation centres — now nearing completion. These centres, which are equipped with essential facilities such as bathrooms, kitchens, water supply systems and electricity, will provide a safe refuge where affected households can relocate during floods.

**Partnership with the Government of Japan**

The Embassy of Japan and WFP conducted a joint field visit to Kampong Thom province to witness the school feeding programme resumption and observe one of the newly-built safe evacuation centres. Both programmes illustrate the long-standing partnership between the Government of Japan and WFP in support of national priorities in the areas of social protection, food security and nutrition as well as emergency preparedness.

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