



WFP Cambodia Country Brief April 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 remain 'near poor' and are 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 to education and health services for low income families 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

US\$ 0 million six months net funding requirements (May to October 2021)

No direct beneficiaries or transfers in April. The school feeding programme is on hold due to COVID-19 related school closures.

Evolving COVID-19 Situation

The escalation of the COVID-19 situation has led the Government to impose curfews and lockdowns in various communities across the country, particularly in Phnom Penh and Kandal Province. WFP is responding to this evolving situation in a number of ways:

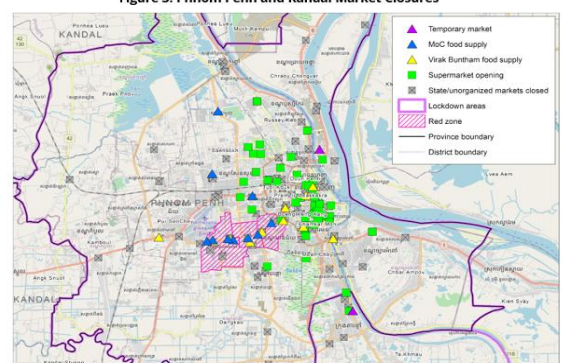
Evidence: To provide evidence to decision makers including the Government and development partners, WFP, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), developed a Food Security and Nutrition Brief ([link here](#)) which describes the evolution of market functionality and the rising prices of basic food commodities in locked down areas, as well as reviewing the government response. The brief also provides recommendations to strengthen planned social response measures.

Coordination: As co-chair and secretariat of the Cambodia Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), WFP is coordinating weekly sectoral meetings with humanitarian partners to monitor the situation in locked down areas by identifying food needs and existing assistance to better define gaps and formulate a standard food and cash assistance package. The Working Group also requested access to the red zone for better assessment and direct assistance.

Advocacy: Under the umbrella of UN Nutrition, WFP together with FAO, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) are advocating for access to an affordable, safe and nutritious diet for the most vulnerable groups in locked down areas. This includes highlighting the specific nutrition needs of certain groups such as pregnant and lactating women or the elderly that require attention. These recommendations were discussed with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth and other key national institutions.

Support to authorities: WFP, as part of a wider UN effort, is supporting the Government's current response to adapt and expand social assistance to help the newly identified vulnerable people in this latest crisis.

Figure 3. Phnom Penh and Kandal Market Closures



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| Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | May–October 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
| 72.25 m | 53.67 m | 0 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 to 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.

Food Systems Summit

In support of the upcoming Food Systems Summit, WFP, in collaboration with the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Planning, organized a virtual national food system dialogue on strengthening the enabling environment for food fortification. Sixty representatives from line ministries, development partners and the private sector participated in the event to jointly discuss the role of strong legislation and regulations in supporting food fortification in Cambodia. A follow-up dialogue will take place next month to advocate for the development of a cohesive Roadmap for Food Fortification that brings together stakeholders with a role in combatting micronutrient deficiency.

Nutrition

Under the UN Nutrition umbrella, WFP, in collaboration with FAO, UNICEF and WHO, jointly organized a dialogue on the National Action Plan on Child Wasting. This sought the Government's endorsement to integrate the draft Country Roadmap for Action on the Prevention and Treatment of Wasting into multi-sectoral policies, strategies and plans. Representatives of key ministries, development partners, civil society associations and the private sector participated in the dialogue. The Roadmap is expected to be finalized by mid-May.

School feeding

To strengthen local value chains as part of the home-grown school feeding programme, WFP and FAO signed a partnership agreement to provide capacity-strengthening support and technical assistance to producers and suppliers of the programme in three provinces. This partnership will also strengthen national institutional capacities and systems on national food safety standards and practices.

Emergency Preparedness

At the community level, the constructions of the six Safe Evacuation Centres (SEC), built with support from the Government of Japan, have all been completed. One SEC was handed over to the community to be used temporarily as a COVID-19 vaccination centre; the remaining will be handed over in the coming month and are also expected to be used as quarantine centres.



Kampong Thom citizens registering for vaccinations at a WFP-supported safe evacuation centre. © WFP/Photo Library