



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Cambodia

Country Brief

June 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

858 mt of food distributed

220,000 US\$ cash-based transfers made to schools for Home Grown School Feeding

US\$ 0.06 million six months net funding requirements (July to December 2021)

30,000 people assisted

Take-Home Rations

To mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable households and ensure that children do not miss out on food during the school closure, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), distributed food parcels to the families of 30,000 students in five provinces. These families were identified as vulnerable by local authorities, held the national IDPoor equity card and had children enrolled in the schools supported by the WFP/MoEYS school meals programme. Each family received 25 kg of rice, canned fish and vegetable oil, which complemented other social assistance initiatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Food System Dialogues

In support of the upcoming Food Systems Summit, WFP, the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and the National Social Protection Council (NSPC) organized an in-depth dialogue on "Shock Responsive Social Protection and Food Systems" to showcase how national social protection effectively supported vulnerable households through the COVID-19 pandemic and explore how to enhance its responsiveness to natural hazards to contribute to building resilient food systems in Cambodia. Over 100 participants from various line ministries, development partners, civil society organizations and private companies participated in the discussion that will inform the upcoming global food systems summit.

Data Analytics

To provide further evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable households, WFP and UNICEF completed the Phase 1 of the technical report on "COVID-19 social impact assessment". This report summarizes findings on people's livelihoods and wellbeing captured by six high-frequency phone surveys conducted between August 2020 and March 2021. The report is to be released in July. A second phase of the assessment has started.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July–December 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	54.19 m	0.06 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.

At sub-national level, WFP and the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) held a series of trainings in five provinces to strengthen sub-national and local capacities to prepare for flood. The trainings focused on disaster management and testing of the existing emergency preparedness plan, as well as on the use of PRISM tool for real-time impact and situation monitoring.

Following the hand-over of the six safe evacuation centers (SEC) to local communities last month, WFP and NCDM organized trainings on the standard operating procedures for the management and utilization of the centers in the three provinces. About 75 officials, including the sub-committees who oversee the newly constructed facilities participated.

WFP and NCDM also initiated a simulation exercise called “Flood Disaster Response Exercises” to test the capacity of relevant sub-national and local officials to respond to a simulated crisis scenario. Over 60 officials from Kampong Thom and Pursat attended to test their capacity in both disaster response and SEC management. Ten families in each province were invited to join, and the officials were tasked with evacuating these families to the SEC and arranging the spaces for them to stay taking into account the COVID-19 context.

To prepare for the coming flood season, WFP and DanChurchAid, as co-chairs of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), held a meeting of all HRF members to review flood-preparedness plans. Members in each sector agreed to record their planned activities in a 4Ws web-based matrix for further sharing with NCDM and enhance coordination with national authorities.



A simulation exercise in Pursat province: one displaced household due to flash floods in the community transported his family members in a tractor to the SEC. © WFP/Photo Library

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