



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief August 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

326 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 215,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 78,000 six months net funding requirements (September 2021 to February 2022)

300,000 people assisted in August 2021

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) distributed family food parcels to about 30,000 vulnerable households in 908 schools across five provinces. The recipients were IDPoor equity card holders and have children enrolled in schools supported by the school feeding programme. Around 660 mt of food was distributed, almost half of which was locally purchased. Each family received 25 kg of rice, 1.7 kg of canned fish, 2 litres of vegetable oil and 2 kg of yellow split peas. The support aimed to complement other social assistance initiatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on poor households.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia, with WFP's support, confirmed its commitment to the School Meals Coalition to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030 through the quality of school meals and the strengthened school meal systems tailored to local contexts to be launched at the Food System Summit in September. This coalition sees already over 40 governments, the UN, civil society, academia, philanthropy and the private sector joining together in recognition that school meals are a crucial element of food systems transformation that can help countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- In preparation for a safe return to schools, WFP, MOEYS and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) conducted a joint field visit to select additional schools for infrastructure support. Three schools in Kampong Thom and Pursat were selected. Model kitchens and dining halls, equipped with energy-efficient stoves and WASH facilities, will be constructed to serve as standards to be replicated in the coming years.

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- In support of the upcoming Food Systems Summit, WFP, FAO and other relevant stakeholders, under the leadership of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and the Ministry of Planning, have finalized Cambodia's Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030. This is the joint result 30 National Dialogues held earlier this year involving more than 2,000 participants from the community to national level. The Roadmap reflects the voices of all participants and the strategic direction of the Royal Government of Cambodia and will be used to facilitate implementation, further discussion and refinement.
- As part of its support to innovative solutions to strengthen food systems, WFP and the newly launched SUN Business Network Cambodia (SBN-Cambodia) have provided mentoring and technical support to a start-up company, Cricket House, to compete in the WFP Innovation Accelerator's Innovation Challenge. The company will develop an environment-friendly and micro-nutrient-rich snack for school-age children to address the triple burden of malnutrition, which is increasing partially due to excessive supply and consumption of unhealthful snacks at school.

Disaster Risk Management

- To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and readiness for the coming flood risk season, WFP, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) organized a training on geospatial information technology for disaster risk management. A total of 22 participants from 12 government institutions and humanitarian agencies were trained on the use of geospatial information to assess and monitor drought and floods in the country.
- WFP and NCDM conducted cascade trainings with 148 commune councillors (32 women) from 16 communes and district and provincial officials from four provinces on disaster risk reduction in the commune development planning process. Based on this, participants identified 77 small-scale infrastructure assets that were badly affected by floods to include in commune investment plans.

Donors

Cambodia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, KOICA, Private Sector Donors, and USA (USDA and USAID)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September'21–February'22 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	67.70 m	0.078 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.