



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cambodia

Country Brief

February 2022



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

232 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 276,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 165,000 six months net funding requirements (March to August 2022)

275,000 people assisted

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- WFP, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Economy and Finance organized a technical workshop in Kampong Thom and a virtual workshop to discuss and finalize the transition strategy of the school feeding programme. Participants agreed to continue to support the transition process and hold regular follow-up meetings to ensure the successful handover.
- WFP participated in a high-level conference to mark the social protection week, in which the national homegrown school feeding programme was recognized as a key mechanism of the social protection framework in Cambodia.
- WFP and the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) discussed the mechanisms to support the supply side of the home-grown school feeding programme. GDA agreed to increase the number of agricultural extension workers going to the field to strengthen smallholder farmers' capacity in producing safe and nutritious food for schools, and facilitate the cooperation with the district office of agriculture to provide the extension service to the suppliers and farmers.
- WFP and FAO conducted 12 district level consultations with 70 farmers and suppliers (38 women) to collect insights on the successes, best practices and challenges of the home-grown school feeding programme. The consultations elicited the enablers to improve programme implementation and promote meaningful participation of local smallholders.

Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP and the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) produced posters on healthy diets and nutrition to disseminate in the targeted communes of the WFP cash-based transfer programme. The posters were designed to encourage beneficiaries to use their transfers to purchase healthy foods for themselves and their families.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	March–August 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	67.70 m	0.165 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.

- The membership of the SUN Business Network (SBN), a private sector network coordinated by CARD and WFP, added and additional two new companies, SHEAgro-Cam product Co. Ltd and Trailblazer Cambodia Organization, to the network. These companies, who specialize in agricultural products and processed food and WASH facilities respectively, will boost SBN's multi-sectoral engagement in the Cambodian business community.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP and the General Secretariat for National Social Protection Council (GS-NSPC) prepared the Shock Responsive Social Protection Framework policy document for submission to the NSPC Executive Committee, which will meet to review and endorse the document.
- WFP, as co-chair and secretariat of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), supported the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) to organize a quarterly coordination meeting with partners to discuss 2021 achievements and 2022 plans and priorities for disaster risk management. Fifty officials from NCDM, representatives from HRF sectors, and other stakeholders participated in the meeting and agreed on common actions, including integrating pandemics into preparedness and response plans, strengthening rapid assessment approaches for floods and other hazard scenarios and organizing a Disaster Risk Reduction Forum under NCDM's leadership prior to the flood season.

Relief Assistance

- WFP completed the delivery of the last cash transfer under its cash-based transfer programme. To date, the programme successfully assisted over 180,000 vulnerable people affected by the combined shocks of COVID-19 and floods. This programme supports the expansion of the Royal Government of Cambodia's "COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme for IDPoor Households", topping up the entitlements received by beneficiaries living in five provinces: Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Siem Reap, and Kampong Thom provinces.

Donors

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

Photo: Chan Sothea, 28, a farmer of a food-processing company which is a member of WFP-led Sun Business Network, is showing an organic pineapple from her farm. ©WFP/Cesar Lopez.