



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cambodia

Country Brief

April 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

114 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 72,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 230,000 six months net funding requirements (May to October 2022)

246,000 people assisted

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- As COVID-19 infection rates continue to be low and stable in Cambodia, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) announced that schools go back to normal. The limitation on the classroom size were removed to increase school attendance rate.
- To expand the infrastructural support to schools and prepare them for handover to the national programme, MoEYS, KOICA and WFP conducted a second joint field visit to evaluate the suitability of primary schools in Pursat and Kampong Chhnang for the construction of standard kitchens and eating halls. An additional school in Kampong Chhnang and another in Pursat have been selected. The construction will begin in the coming months.
- In an effort to further institutionalize the national school feeding programme, MoEYS, KOICA and WFP held a first steering committee meeting to review the programme and finalize the transition strategy for handover. Members of the general management committee and the technical management sub-committee were appointed.

Food Security & Nutrition

- To scale up rice fortification in Cambodia, the WFP-supported SUN Business Network established a Community of Practice on Rice Fortification headed by the Cambodian Rice Federation and with members from leading rice millers, exporters and other institutions. The newly formed group will hold regular meetings to share views and experiences, which will contribute to the government's effort to use food fortification as a long-term solution to address micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition in the country.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May–October 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	67.70 m	0.23 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.

Data & Analysis

- To inform advocacy and design of programmes, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries jointly conducted a survey in 64 markets across Cambodia. The survey collected the current cost of over 90 food items, and the data will be analysed to determine the affordability of a nutritionally adequate and locally available diet. Results will update the 2017 findings when 21 percent of households in Cambodia were not able to afford such a diet.
- WFP released its March market update on the effects of the Ukraine crisis on local food prices and market functionality and is preparing a more in-depth analysis of the repercussion of the Ukraine crisis on the Cambodian food system.

Disaster Risk Management

- To better coordinate disaster risk management efforts, WFP, as co-chair of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), conducted an intersectoral meeting with sector co-leads, UNRCO representatives and the National Committee for Disaster Management to update progress on preparedness for the upcoming rainy season, including rapid assessment guidelines and tools. The HRF will conduct a foresight exercise in May to discuss future risks and scenarios and to provide recommendations for HRF's contingency plan.
- To support local food systems, WFP, the National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development Secretariat and sub-national administrations kicked off the construction work of 26 climate resilient infrastructure projects in 16 communes.

Social Assistance Programme

- To identify the future direction of WFP's social protection and cash transfer programmes, WFP and its regional bureau conducted a scoping study to review the programme portfolio in line with RGC policies and priorities, as well as WFP's country strategic plan and global social protection strategy. The team also met the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to discuss the partnership and how WFP could better support the social assistance implementation in Cambodia.

Donors

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

Photo: Chan Sok, 53, a small-holder farmer in Siem Reap is picking his vegetable for supplying to WFP-run school feeding programme. ©WFP/Christopher Rompre.