In Numbers

- **213,000 people** assisted
- **335 mt** of food distributed
- **US$100,000** distributed to schools
- **US$392,000** six-month (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements

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 17.8 percent in 2019-20. 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.

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- WFP provided nutritious and diverse meals for over 210,000 students across 817 pre-primary and primary schools.
- WFP distributed over 500 metric tons of fortified rice to 222 schools in Kampong Thom, Odar Meanchey and Pursat provinces to improve the nutritional value of school meals. 56,000 schoolchildren will benefit from this nutritious rice to help fight micronutrient deficiencies.
- To mainstream nutrition and food safety in school meals, WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) organized a consultation workshop to review and finalize the operational guidelines for food preparation. 36 representatives from the Government, school directors, cooks, and partners reviewed the content of the cookbook and prepared the script for coaching videos. The cookbook will illustrate the facilities used in school kitchens and include dishes that are more culturally appropriate for children from all backgrounds.
- WFP continued to provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening support to the national homegrown school feeding programme (HGSF). In August, WFP assessed 24 schools in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Stung Treng provinces in terms of their compliance with the HGSF design, the formation and functioning of school feeding committees, adequacy of the infrastructure and equipment, food preparation and handling and community awareness and participation. More schools will be assessed, and relevant stakeholders including school directors, storekeepers, accountants, cooks, suppliers and subnational officials will be interviewed to ensure proper representation of data.

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Food Security & Nutrition

- WFP, MoEYS and the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) conducted a joint mission to Helen Keller International's “Healthy Schools, Healthy Foods, Healthy Futures” pilot project in Kampong Speu Province to learn about the use of human-centred design approaches to identify local strategies to reduce the availability and consumption of unhealthy snacks in schools. The lessons learnt will be leveraged as part of an innovative social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaign to improve the diets of school-aged children.

Social Protection

- To improve the coherence and effectiveness of cash-based transfers for social assistance and emergency response interventions, WFP, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth and Veteran Rehabilitation and Save the Children jointly organized a consultative workshop to validate the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis. Participants, including over 70 representatives from the Government and development partners, explored the ways evidence-based cash transfer values can help address the gaps faced by poor and vulnerable households in meeting their essential needs. A field validation exercise was also conducted among poor and vulnerable households. The final MEB is expected to be finalised in September.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, as the co-Chair and Secretariat of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), conducted a meeting to discuss sectoral preparedness for the monsoon season. New information management tools – the HRF 5Ws platform and stockpile mapping template – were circulated to allow humanitarian partners to report their activities and available relief items to support the Government’s response in the event of moderate or large-scale flooding.

- WFP presented the findings from its climate hazard risk and vulnerability analysis at the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) workshop organized by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Bank.

Donors

Cambodia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Private Donors, the Russian Federation, United States of America (USDA & USAID)