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: 22 percent of children under 5 years are stunted, 16 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.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metrics</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>335 mt of food distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$124,000 cash-based transfers disbursed for Home-Grown School Feeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$390,000 six-month (December 2022 - May 2023) net funding requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213,000 people assisted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) conducted an assessment on the national programme implementation in 56 schools as part of the transition to full national ownership. It aimed to better understand the capacity of the national stakeholders and inform the scope of technical assistance required. The findings will be released early next year.

- WFP supported two officials from MoEYS and the National Social Protection Council to participate in the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Benin. The officials exchanged experiences in implementing and managing the school meals programme, identified collective priorities with other country representatives and explored ways to support one another moving forward.

Shock Responsive Social Protection

- WFP held consultations with key partners, the General Secretariat for National Social Protection Council and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to understand future priorities and WFP’s role in the next five years. WFP support in shock responsive social protection (SRSP) data system and capacity strengthening toward the implementation of SRSP framework and programme deliveries were identified among others.

Food Security & Nutrition

- WFP released its September market and seasonal monitoring update, highlighting that the monthly cost of a basic food basket eased off, but flash floods have caused damage to agriculture production in some parts of the country. In addition, persisting high prices for fuel and fertilizer threaten to reduce domestic food production as agricultural inputs become less affordable.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>December–May 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80.35 m</td>
<td>94.41 m</td>
<td>0.39 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Result: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable communities in Cambodia have access to nutritious, safe, diverse, 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.

- To celebrate the 2022 World Food Day, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, FAO and WFP organized a national event in Kampong Chhnang. It called for greater investment in food systems transformation to ensure food and nutrition security and cope with shocks and crises. Over 200 people joined and observed integrated farming practices.

- WFP and the Ministry of Planning are conducting a socio-economic impact study on the introduction of fortified rice among the general population. A workshop was co-organized to bring together over 50 government stakeholders and development agencies to discuss priorities and identify key questions. The analysis, expected early next year, will 1) help inform the government about the benefits of investing in locally produced fortified rice and 2) evaluate the impact of reducing micronutrient deficiencies among the population.

- In parallel, WFP and the Cambodia Rice Federation organized a consultation workshop to develop a marketing strategy for commercializing fortified rice in local markets. The strategy will be finalized and released in early 2023.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, as co-chair and secretariat of the Humanitarian Response Forum, organized an intersectoral meeting with member organizations, the National Committee for Disaster Management and OCHA’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to discuss the flood situation, the impacts and the possible humanitarian responses for the country. This is in view of heavy rainfalls in the last two months, affecting over 85,000 households in 14 provinces. Recommendations were made to closely monitor the flood situation for timely responses when needed.

- WFP also issued two flood situation reports to highlight the extensiveness of floods in the country and supported the government with information management system.

Donors

Cambodia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, KOICA, private sector donors, the Russian Federation and USA (USDA & USAID)