



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief December 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 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.



Population: **15.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **144 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **22 percent of children under 5**

In Numbers

No school feeding due to 2022 school academic year end & break

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- Marking the end of the 2022 school year, WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) organized 13 cooking competitions to recognize the role school cooks play in the school feeding programme. 251 cooks from 11 districts in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat joined the contest to promote healthy and nutritious school meals. The award was purposed to fund school kitchen equipment. Meals were judged by a panel made of staff from the School Health Department and WFP on their originality, taste, texture, and appearance.
- As WFP continues to prepare schools for handover to the national school feeding programme, it worked to convert additional schools to the home-grown model, such as local procurement by schools, which is preferred by the Government for its own programme. In December, WFP trained 1,113 schools, including the 427 schools of the national programme on the bidding process. Subsequently, 456 suppliers and smallholder farmers were selected to provide food commodities to schools.
- WFP welcomed the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and facilitated a visit to a school and a smallholder farmer's house in Siem Reap Province to learn about the impacts of the homegrown school feeding programme in the rural community. The representative conversed with schoolchildren, cooks, teachers, suppliers, smallholder farmers and local authorities to understand their experiences, challenges and insights into the future of the programme. The visit highlighted the significance of the programme in building human capital and addressing the community's structural vulnerabilities.

Social Protection

- WFP joined the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, the General Secretariat for National Social Protection Council, the Ministry of Planning and UN agencies on a study tour to Chile to learn from the 20-year evolution of Chile's social protection system. A set of recommendations were prepared to inform the future evolution of the Cambodian system. These include reducing the fragmentation of social assistance packages, having a solid national identification system to underpin social protection and enhancing coordination across relevant ministries.

Contact info: Chou CHEA (chou.chea@wfp.org)

Country Director: Claire CONAN

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	January-June 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	97.3 m	0 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.

- WFP presented preliminary findings from the midterm and strategic review of the second national strategy for food security and nutrition 2019-2023 at the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) forum, chaired by the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development in view of the subsequent strategy formulation. Various line ministries consulted during this process discussed key findings, insights and recommendations from the review which will guide the formulation of the next strategy.
- WFP, as the co-chair of the SUN business network, also coordinated a dialogue on private sector participation, challenges and opportunities related to healthy diet and food safety law implementation.

Integrated Risk Management

- WFP conducted an after-action review workshop and flood simulation exercise with subnational- and local-level officials responsible for disaster management in Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear to reflect on the 2022 flood response. Participants identified information inconsistency among the line departments, knowledge discrepancy in using the PRISM tool, and the side effect of EWS1294, alerting people with warning messages even at midnight. These are key constraints planned to be addressed in the update of the provincial contingency plan in 2023.

Donors

Cambodia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, KOICA, Private Sector Donors, SDG Fund, the Russian Federation and USA (USDA & USAID), World Bank/GAFSP