



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cambodia

Country Brief

February 2023



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

248 mt of food assistance distributed

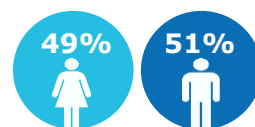
US\$343,000 cash to schools for Home-Grown School Feeding

US\$121,000 six-month (March - August 2023) net funding requirements

179,400 people assisted

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme



- WFP held a cooking contest at Damnakei Primary School in Kampong Chhnang to mark the launch of the FY 2023 US Department of Agriculture 5-year grant for the school feeding programme. Four teams took part in the contest: the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia with celebrity Chef Nak, the WFP Representative with the cook from the host school, the school cook and school director who had won this year's official school cook competition in Kampong Chhnang, and those who had won in Pursat. Over 20 students gave them a helping hand. The Kampong Chhnang champion cook won the first place, highlighting the good work of over 3,000 cooks across the country who prepare nutritious meals every morning for 300,000 rural school children.
- The National Social Protection Council (NSPC), the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and WFP conducted a joint monitoring visit to five schools in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap under the Government management. They reviewed how food safety and hygiene are integrated in the cooking processes and the condition of programme-related facilities and infrastructure. They also discussed with school directors, storekeepers, cooks, suppliers, commune chiefs and sub-national education authorities about how the national Home-Grown School Feeding programme can be better supported through timely budget transfer, adjustment of food ration, and school infrastructure construction and rehabilitation.
- As part of its engagement with academia, WFP hosted a team of 15 Japanese students from the Department of Global Politics at Hosei University to discuss the status of Cambodia's school feeding programme, the challenges and how to make the programme more effective and sustainable in the future. The students visited a primary school in Siem Reap to better understand the programme impacts in the rural context. The experience and information will be developed as a case study in their research about international development and peacebuilding.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	March–August 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.35 m	99.6 m	0.121 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 joined other social protection actors to celebrate Social Protection Week 2023, organized by NSPC. The three-day event brought together the Government, UN, civil society and private sector actors to define a strategic roadmap for social protection policies and discuss the role of social protection in Cambodia's socioeconomic development. Discussions focused on the mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in social protection work, the enhancement of digital interoperability for integrated social protection and the readiness and resilience of future social protection. Three UN agencies, including WFP, were presented with appreciation certificates in recognition of their critical support to the country's social protection system.

Food Security & Nutrition

- WFP released its [January Market and Seasonal Monitoring Update](#) presenting the status and trends around food prices and market functionality. Data from 56 urban and rural markets showed that the price of a basic food basket continued to drop from US\$28.4 in October 2022 to US\$25.9 in January 2023. Prices of most food commodities in the basket remained stable or declined and are approaching last year's levels due to easing prices for fuel and agricultural inputs. However, the market functionality fairly deteriorated compared to the previous month due to the rising uncertainty around the stability of prices and availability for most essential commodities.

Integrated Risk Management

- The National Committee for Disaster Management, with WFP support, organized three regional workshops to train over 80 provincial officials (33 women) across all 25 provinces on integrating gender into inclusive disaster risk management (Gender-DRM). These officials will lead disaster management operations at the local and sub-national levels and ensure gender-DRM integration into commune investment plans.
- To strengthen local communities' resilience to climate hazards, WFP facilitated the final technical evaluation of the 19 community assets completed last year, including canals, reservoirs, dikes and roads, after the six-month defect liability period passed. All the assets were then officially handed over to the 16 communes for maintenance.

Donors

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