



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Cambodia

## Country Brief

April 2023



## In Numbers

**71 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$98,000** cash to schools for Home-Grown School Feeding

**US\$30,000** six-month (May - October 2023) net funding requirements

**184,000 people** assisted

## 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**

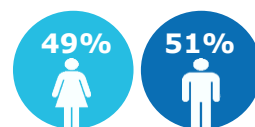
Chronic malnutrition: **22 percent of children under 5**

## Operational Updates

### Social Protection

#### School Feeding Programme

- WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) organized an inter-ministerial workshop to review the process of food commodity procurement for schools under the national school meals programme. Representatives from the National Social Protection Council, relevant ministries, sub-national administration and local authorities reflected on the legislation and the lessons learnt from consultations with suppliers, farmers and key stakeholders. New procurement models were identified as a catalyst for food system transformation and will be piloted to inform the Government's scale-up approach.
- The sub-national department of agriculture, with WFP support, ran a series of trainings on business concepts and financial literacy for smallholder farmers and suppliers engaging with the school meals programme in Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Thom to support their income-generating capacity and daily financial management. A total of 458 farmers and suppliers from 198 schools joined a two-day session, studying various topics ranging from basic income and expenditure plans to annual business plans and access to rural finance.
- WFP released two mid-term evaluation reports on school meals activities (2019-2023). The assessed programmes, implemented in Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap, aim to address short-term hunger impacting literacy, attendance and concentration and support the local economy through the purchase of local food from communities. The reports found impacts on mobilizing local support and their sustainability as a key component of the national social protection policy, resulting from high-level policy support and increased national ownership.



**Contact info:** Chou CHEA ([chou.chea@wfp.org](mailto:chou.chea@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Claire CONAN  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May–October 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
87.92 m	99.25 m	0.03

## 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.

- The Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), with WFP support, participated in the fourth Global Conference of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme in Vietnam. Over 350 representatives from national and sub-national governments and stakeholders across the world gathered to review the successes, opportunities, barriers and bottlenecks concerning food systems transformation, revisiting governance and policies, discussing the key levers of change and rethinking the global governance architecture for food systems. CARD emphasized Cambodia's focus on the public procurement system and school meal coalition commitment and suggested adding Cambodia as a "high achieving country" for food systems.
- As part of its preparation for the school nutrition social behaviour change campaign, WFP rolled out a survey to understand school directors' and vendors' knowledge, attitudes and practices related to healthy and unhealthy food and the implementation of the MoEYS' Directive No 18, which regulates sales of unhealthy food and beverages in the school compound. Sixty percent of the sampled respondents were interviewed, including 32 school directors and 50 vendors in Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap. The survey is expected to be completed next month, and its findings will be used to inform the campaign rollout this year.

## Integrated Risk Management

- WFP and UNICEF hosted a monitoring mission of the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation to witness the progress of the shock-responsive social protection scale-up project for managing climate risks and disasters in Cambodia. The team met with government partners at both the national and sub-national levels to understand the multi-level implementation of disaster risk management and how it could be linked with the shock-responsive social protection scheme for more effective preparedness actions and responses. The delegation engaged with the people who received cash assistance during the 2022 floods to understand their experiences and perspectives.

## 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

© WFP/Samantha Reiders: Mech Sinat, 36, a vegetable supplier in Bos Thom, near Siem Reap. She is an integral part of the WFP school feeding programme in the area