In Numbers

395 mt of food assistance distributed

US$ 514,000 cash to schools for Home-Grown School Feeding

In the next 6 months, there is no funding gap for the current CSP.

185,000 people assisted

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- To ensure a sustainable nationally-owned homegrown school feeding programme, WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) are working to finalize the programme's operational manual, which serves as a critical resource for effective programme implementation and management at both national and sub-national levels. A consultative workshop was organized to bring key stakeholders to discuss the changing landscape since 1999, possible structures of school feeding committees, resource mobilization strategies and the school meals' nutrition standard. Recommendations were incorporated to address challenges and provide innovative solutions to the programme, ensuring the provision of nutritious meals to schoolchildren and the promotion of local agricultural development.

- WFP and MoEYS finalized the standard kitchen design for schools. A total of 100 schools in Oddar Meanchey, Pursat and Siem Reap will be selected for the rollout of these kitchens. The current state of kitchens in these schools is inadequate, with some lacking kitchens entirely, resulting in cooks having to prepare meals at home and transport them to schools. Additionally, some existing kitchens constructed through community funding are in a deteriorated condition. The introduction of proper and standardized kitchens will ensure the effective management of school meals, enhancing the overall quality and efficiency of the program.

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.

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Food Security & Nutrition

- WFP partnered with Virginia Tech University to present the findings from the socio-economic impact assessment of fortified rice in Cambodia to the Government and businesses, estimating the return on investment for rice fortification in the school feeding programme. Additionally, they also presented a commercialization strategy for fortified rice in Cambodia. These were two important steps forward that WFP took to support the national agenda on food fortification and respond to recommendations from the 2021 Food Systems Dialogues to strengthen advocacy around food fortification nationally.

- WFP, the national food systems convenor, and the Cambodian Ambassador to Italy participated in the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in Rome. Cambodia showcased its progress in building resilient food systems through a compendium of case studies, including WFP’s initiatives on nutrition, food systems and social protection. Examples such as the homegrown school feeding programme and collaboration with Agrihouse to produce healthy snacks highlighted the promotion of healthy diets and innovative alternatives. These successful multi-sectoral efforts demonstrated the country’s transformative achievements in food system development and emphasized the importance of resilient food systems for food security, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience and reduced humanitarian needs.

Integrated Risk Management

- WFP conducted a study tour of its projects in Kampong Thom, with a primary focus on enhancing the resilience of food systems to climate change and disaster risk management. Through a range of initiatives, including the development of climate-resilient infrastructure and awareness-raising activities, WFP is actively collaborating with the Government and local communities to facilitate adaptation to climate shocks. These efforts aim to facilitate effective adaptation to climate shocks and pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for Cambodia.

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/ Cesar Lopez: Horn Mom, 40, sits with her children at home in Bakan District, Pursat province. She is one of the smallholder farmers benefiting from WFP-Cambodia’s crisis response and recovery programmes through food and cash assistance between 2020 and 2022.