



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cambodia

Country Brief

August 2023



Ouy and sister Ai help their mother Orn Tinh to make waterlily soup for lunch at their home in Bos Thom village near Siem Reap.
©WFP/Samantha Reinders

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 191 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

391 mt of food assistance distributed

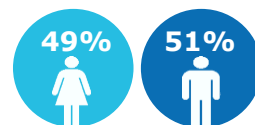
US\$ 540,000 cash to schools for Home-Grown School Feeding

US\$4 million six-month (September 2023-February 2024) net funding requirements

185,000 people assisted

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme



- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), with WFP's support, initiated a comprehensive review of its procurement process for the national Homegrown School Feeding Programme to ensure compliance with the country's procurement regulatory framework and optimize programme quality. The final validation workshop brought together key stakeholders from MoEYS, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, sub-national institutions, schools and partner organizations. The insights, including optimizing the procurement process and exploring centralized rice procurement as an alternative option, will be incorporated into the programme's operational manual, informing future design and enhancing its delivery and impact for the well-being and education of children in Cambodia.

In response to the transfer of education functions to district administration, WFP conducted interviews with district governors and their staff in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey to assess the implementation of the Decentralization and Deconcentration reform at the sub-national level and its implications for the school meals programme. Findings revealed inconsistent practices among districts regarding the utilization of education office's monitoring budgets, impacting operations and monitoring activities. Clear administrative guidelines, instructions and training are needed to guide district administration and address this issue effectively.

- WFP collaborated with the Institute for Development and Peace to collect data from 28 schools across four provinces (Battambang, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, and Siem Reap) for an impact study on Cambodia's school meals programme. The study aims to examine the programme's potential in enhancing food and nutrition security by integrating education, promoting agricultural production, developing value chains and markets, and improving production facilities. Cambodia's noteworthy advancement in the programme, particularly with the ongoing transition plan towards full national ownership, make it an ideal choice for this study.

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 US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	September 2023–February 2024 Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
87.92 m	99.26 m	0
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.		

Food Security & Nutrition

- WFP and United Nations (UN) agencies collaborated with the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development to host the second national World Food Safety Day in Cambodia. The event brought together 300 stakeholders, including policymakers, non-government organizations, experts, private sector representatives, and youth groups, to raise awareness about the importance of food standards and promote collective action for food safety. With an emphasis on a multi-sectoral approach and shared responsibility, the event highlighted the social, environmental, and economic impacts of unsafe food. Sub-national events will follow the national event, extending efforts to enhance food safety practices across the country.
- WFP assessed the capacities of three rice millers, two quality control and assurance companies, and a potential fortified rice kernel (FRK) producer. The objective was to strategically expand the pool of rice millers capable of producing fortified rice for the school feeding programme and future commercialization ventures. Additionally, Cambodia forged a valuable partnership with Royal DSM, a renowned leader in nutrition and sustainable living, resulting in a substantial donation of 10 mt of FRK. This strategic collaboration will bolster the effectiveness of the school feeding programme and pave the way for successful commercialization pilots in 2024, ensuring sustainable solutions for food security and nutrition in Cambodia.

Integrated Risk Management

- WFP, as co-chair and secretariat of the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), in collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Asia and the Pacific and the Cambodia Humanitarian Country Team, organized an inter-sectoral workshop to update and finalize the monsoon contingency plan, aiming to enhance preparedness and response capacities of monsoon-related disasters. The workshop convened 50 key officials and humanitarian actors, fostering discussions and insights on vital operational aspects including planning assumptions, disaster impact modelling, sectoral impacts, immediate needs, response activities, coordination arrangements and thematic considerations such as gender and protection. The updated monsoon contingency plan will be annexed to the existing HRF contingency plan, affirming its strategic importance in the country's comprehensive disaster risk management framework.

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