



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cambodia Country Brief November 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 hazards, 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

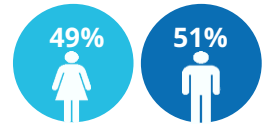
337 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$465,000 cash to schools for Home-Grown School Feeding

US\$679,301 six-month (December 2023-May 2024) net funding requirements

185,000 people assisted

Operational Updates



Social Protection

- As part of the joint transition strategy, WFP identified 126 schools to transition into the national homegrown school feeding programme in 2024. Each school underwent a thorough checklist review of infrastructure, equipment, and capacity. Preparatory procedures, such as food and cash clearance, report submission, and information dissemination, were followed. Provincial offices of education have been notified, awaiting an official confirmation for a seamless transition.
- To foster shock-responsive social protection, specifically in cash assistance deliveries and responses, WFP identified the National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF) as a key partner. A comprehensive capacity needs mapping exercise was conducted, engaging multiple cross-functional departments within NSAF. They completed assessment worksheets, offering evidence-based inputs and generating recommendations and next steps. The assessment encompassed policy and legislation, institutional effectiveness and accountability, strategic planning and finance, and programme design and delivery. The exercise resulted in a comprehensive capacity assessment report, guiding future partnership agreements between WFP and NSAF.

Food Security & Nutrition

- In celebration of Cambodia's 10th National Nutrition Day, the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, with support from WFP, UNICEF and key stakeholders, launched a Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, providing crucial insights into the barriers to healthy diets in the country. The analysis revealed that while progress has been made in improving access to nutritious foods, current diets remain inadequate, leading to all forms of malnutrition, increased risk of non-communicable diseases and an annual economic burden of US\$1.5 billion (i.e., 6.6 percent of GDP). Targeted interventions and comprehensive strategies are urgently needed to address these challenges and promote access to healthier diets in Cambodia, with a particular focus on social assistance programmes.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	November 2023–April 2024 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
87.92 m	76.02 m	0.68 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.

- To promote fortification and nutrition initiatives in Cambodia, WFP and the Ministry of Planning launched a workshop on the development of rice fortification standards. Twenty key stakeholders representing the ministries of health, planning, industry, and commerce actively participated in the workshop, discussing the scope of work for national strategy on food fortification, encompassing rice, salt, oil, fish and soy sauce. Participants reviewed the latest evidence, examining the feasibility of the food fortification programme, exploring strategies to address micronutrient deficiencies, and evaluating the socio-economic impacts of fortification. The workshop provided an overview of existing policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks. Moving forward, the participants agreed to integrate rice fortification standards into the country's broader strategy. To ensure effective implementation, a steering committee will be established, with well-defined roles, responsibilities and a detailed workplan.

Integrated Risk Management

- With support from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Humanitarian Response Forum, co-chaired by WFP and DanChurchAid, conducted a comprehensive review of the monsoon contingency plan for 2023-2024. The plan aims to improve emergency preparedness and response coordination among UN and international organizations engaged in humanitarian action in Cambodia. It seeks to strengthen collective preparedness and enhance coordination with the National Contingency Plan, ensuring a more efficient and effective response to individuals affected by disasters and humanitarian crises. The finalized plan will be shared by December.
- The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), with support from WFP, conducted a three-day disaster response simulation workshop in Banteay Meanchey to enhance the disaster response capacity of national and sub-national disaster management committees. One hundred and fifty participants from six provinces: Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom and Kampong Chhnang provinces practiced planning, preparedness and response strategies specifically tailored for simulated storms and floods. The exercise emphasized the importance of proactive measures, promoting close cooperation with local authorities and relevant ministries and the significance of coordination among NCDM officials at all levels to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to future emergencies.

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