

EVIDENCE PRODUCTS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cambodia focuses on supporting national efforts on human capital development, climate change adaptation, and crisis response as these areas are essential to enhance food security and nutrition in the country. WFP's activities are designed to support the following national systems: the social protection system, the food system, and the disaster risk management system. WFP plays an enabling role, working with the Government of Cambodia to achieve sustainable impact and progress towards achieving upper middle-income country status by 2030.

Policy and programme progress depends on having reliable and timely evidence. WFP has been actively promoting the development and utilization of strong evidence products, emanating from research, assessments, and analytics, particularly in the context of social protection. The below compilation details some of these evidence products, sorted by their relevance to social protection initiatives across three areas: (I) targeting and prioritization, (II) determining assistance entitlements, and (III) assessing essential needs.

I. TARGETING AND PRIORITIZATION

What is it?

What is the purpose?

How does it work?

Who engages in this?

Climatic Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment



The analysis maps out socio-economic vulnerability of Cambodian households and the risks they face in terms of climate-related hazards, namely floods and droughts, at the commune level. This information is useful for targeting of vulnerable populations for interventions linked to disaster risk management and social protection.

Vulnerability is characterized by household demographic and socioeconomic factors that determine food security status, serving as a proxy for household welfare. Subsequently, a machine learning algorithm was used to extrapolate sample-based information to all communes across Cambodia. Risks to floods and droughts were assessed by the interaction between these hazards, socioeconomic vulnerability, and exposed population/assets. The study used household data from the CSES 2021 of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and open geospatial big data.

Understanding vulnerability and risk associated with floods and droughts is crucial for preparedness and response activities. WFP conducted the initial data analysis, and together with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) organized a consultative workshop to validate and leverage the findings, with various stakeholders engaged in disaster risk management and social protection.

II. DETERMINING ASSISTANCE ENTITLEMENTS

What is it?

What is the purpose?

How does it work?

Who engages in this?

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Analysis



The MEB is a tool to establish a monetary threshold for households' essential needs, including food and non-food needs. It can serve as an input for the determination of cash transfer amounts for crisis response or social assistance programmes.

Based on the concept of essential needs, the MEB defines what household requires to meet their essential needs. It includes associated costs for households to ensure minimum living standards without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity, and essential livelihood assets. The current MEB was derived household expenditure data from the CSES 2021.

WFP and Save the Children International, as the co-chair of the social protection development partner group, have led the analysis and validation of the MEB, which is intended to be utilized by Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) member organizations as well as national social protection stakeholders.

Monthly Food Price and Market Monitoring Updates



Changes in monthly food prices provide a measure of households' purchasing power, and it can help inform the need to adjust transfer value in the face of price hikes. Extreme food price spikes may trigger adjustments to the cash transfers.

The prices of 48 food commodities and market information are collected monthly from 58 markets across Cambodia. These data are analyzed to monitor trends and market functionality. Additionally, the cost of a basic food basket is calculated using current prices and a basket of essential food needs to monitor households' food accessibility.

WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Agriculture Market Office (MAFF-AMO) collaborate to produce the monthly bulletin. It provides insightful evidence for government stakeholders and development partners working in social protection, disaster risk management, and food systems.

III. ASSESSING ESSENTIAL NEEDS AND SHOCKS

What is it?

COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA)



This study provides information on the negative impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent shocks on Cambodian households. It provides useful information for the design and monitoring of social protection interventions, ensuring that these effectively respond to the identified needs of vulnerable populations.

How does it work?

Multiple survey rounds were conducted as part of this assessment, between August 2020 and May 2023, to assess the short to long-term impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent shocks on households' economy and livelihoods, their access to essential services and goods, along with education, health, food security and nutrition. The assessment focused on the most vulnerable populations, including IDPoor households.

Who engages in this?

The study was a collaborative effort involving the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WFP, in collaboration with NSPC. The findings provide insightful evidence for stakeholders engaged in shock-responsive social protection and food systems disaster risk management, and food systems.

Food Security and Nutrition Assessment for Flood-Prone Areas of Cambodia



The assessment establishes a crucial and solid foundation for understanding household vulnerability, essential needs, and resilience in flood-prone areas in Cambodia. It guides the identification of necessary policy and programmatic measures for preparedness and response efforts, ensuring a proactive approach to mitigate the potential impact of such shocks.

This assessment comprised a series of household surveys conducted between August 2021 and March 2023 to assess and monitor household food security, nutrition, vulnerability, essential needs and resilience in areas identified as prone to seasonal flooding.

The data collection and analysis for the assessment were conducted by the WFP. The findings of the assessment inform stakeholders engaged in humanitarian response, social protection, food systems, food security and nutrition including NCDM, NSPC, MOSVY, CARD, and MAFF.

Monthly Seasonal Monitoring Update



The monthly update provides timely information on hydrometeorological hazards concerning floods and droughts, along with their implications for agricultural production and food security. Its primary objective is to inform planning and preparedness by activating early and anticipatory actions by disaster risk management and social protection actors.

The monthly seasonal hydrometeorological monitoring update analyzes trends in observed and forecasted rainfall, temperature and river water level, and assesses their impact on vegetation conditions.

WFP conducts monthly analyses and prepares seasonal monitoring updates using open geospatial data. The main target audiences are stakeholders working in humanitarian and social protection, including NCDM, MAFF, NSPC, NSAF, and their development partners.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMO	Agriculture Marketing Office
CARD	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
CSES	Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NSAF	National Social Assistance Fund
NSPC	National Social Protection Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme



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