



World Food Programme

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# WFP Cambodia

## Country Brief

### January-March 2024



## 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**

2023 Human Development Index: **146 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Highlights

WFP & the Government of Cambodia signed a 5-year Cooperation Agreement to implement WFP's country strategic plan (CSP) 2024-2028. The plan focuses on strengthening human capital through nutrition and social protection while building climate resilience through food systems and disaster risk management.

## Operational Updates

### Social Protection

#### *Institutionalizing the National School Meals Programme*

- WFP continued to work with the Government to advance the institutionalization of the school feeding programme by supporting the policy framework, developing guidelines, including one on food safety from farm to school gate to strengthen suppliers' capacities, and implementing a monitoring system to track progress, assess performance and ensure programme accountability.
- The Government took over an additional 126 schools that WFP has previously funded and managed. To date, schools handed over to the Government cover half of all programme schools. The approved 2024 budget covers food costs and incentives for cooks. Prior to the Government's takeover, schools underwent a comprehensive review of infrastructure, equipment and capacity.
- Following the endorsement of Sub-decree #65--the highest-level legislative instrument for implementing the national programme--in 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sport further endorsed the establishment of the national inter-ministerial school feeding committee. WFP is assisting in setting up these committees at national and sub-national levels, strengthening inter-ministerial coordination.
- The commitment to institutionalize the national school feeding programme was highlighted in a government-led Education Congress, organized by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in March and attended by over 2,000 participants. School feeding's crucial role in improving access to quality education, enhancing children's health, and promoting local economic development was recognized. The Congress emphasized its integration into model school standards, supporting students' holistic development.

#### *Shock Responsive Social Protection*

- Complementing the traditional responses to natural shocks led by disaster management authorities, WFP supports the Government to establish a systematic and comprehensive approach to shock-responsive social protection, ensuring improved data capture

*Photo caption: WFP and Foreign Ministry sign 5-year agreement to implement strategic plan 2024-2028. ©WFP/Darapech Chea*

**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)	December-May 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
63.38 m	29.02 m	0.37 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.

and vulnerability assessments, response design, financing mechanisms and coordination. A socio-economic impact assessment report, developed with UNICEF and ADB, was launched to build a resilient and sustainable social protection system. A list of WFP's evidence products for social protection was published and shared during the celebration of the National Social Protection Week, organized by the National Social Protection Council, in March with over 500 social protection practitioners attending.

- Following the Prime Minister's endorsement of the National Shock Responsive Social Protection Framework--developed in collaboration with WFP--in December 2023, WFP is supporting the Government to operationalize the framework through the development of a systems strengthening plan, a business process and scalability framework.

## Climate Risk Management

### Digital Solutions

- To enhance the targeting and prioritization of anticipatory actions and response design, WFP and the National Committee for Disaster Management conducted a climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risk analysis, employing a data-driven composite index approach. The approach utilizes statistical machine learning algorithms to assess flood and drought risks at a lower administrative level and combines household information from the Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey with geospatial data to inform future disaster risk management and social protection initiatives.

### Emergency Preparedness

- WFP supported the Government to develop a National Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) by combining vulnerability and risk information. Consultations were held, engaging selected communities, government authorities, and diverse stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels. The findings will be integrated into a national plan to create a comprehensive AAP for each targeted location.
- WFP collaborated with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System team to gather insights to enhance early warning systems for floods anticipated in targeted river basins. This initiative also aims to foster collaboration among key stakeholders to enable timely and effective mitigation actions.
- WFP collaborated with the Royal University of Phnom Penh to build future human resources for effective preparedness and response. A Geographic Information System (GIS) lab was established in the university and the undergraduate curriculum was enhanced by including GIS and remote sensing technologies to develop students' practical knowledge and skills in utilizing GIS and Remote Sensing technologies for disaster risk management.

## Donors

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