



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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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 and high-income status by 2050—by sustaining growth and accelerating structural transformation. 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 and overweight/obesity is on the rise. Cambodia is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, with regular monsoon flooding in the Mekong and Tonle Sap basin and localised droughts in the plains. These climate-related disasters can undo years of developmental gains.



Population: **16.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Highlights

The Royal Government of Cambodia, the Republic of Korea, and the Philippines, with WFP support, co-hosted a Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Summit to establish a regional network focused on school meals and collaboration by sharing evidence-based strategies, governance models, and financing mechanisms. The summit recognized school meals as a key social protection scheme for better nutrition, education, livelihoods, and resilience. The Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister announced the intent to anchor the School Meals Coalition into the ASEAN framework as a long-term regional priority.

Operational Updates

Nutrition

- To maximize the nutritional content of the school meals, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS), with WFP's support, is incorporating fortified rice into nationally governed schools in Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, and Kampong Chhnang. These efforts aim to improve the nutrition of 80,000 schoolchildren by decreasing micronutrient deficiencies.

Social Protection

Shock-Responsive Social Protection

- The National Social Protection Council (NSPC), with WFP's technical support, developed the Shock Responsive Social Protection operational plan as a cross-ministry effort. The plan, covering programme design, delivery systems, data and information systems, finance, and policy and institutions, aims to enhance the country's resilience to shocks, including floods and droughts. It is scheduled for approval by the NSPC executive committee next month and will then be rolled out.

Institutionalizing the National School Meals Programme

- As part of the transition strategy towards sustainability, the Cambodian Government took over an additional 133 schools within the school feeding programme, bringing the total number of government-owned schools to over 60 percent of the programme schools. Moreover, the government allocated US\$7.4 million for the national programme for the 2024-2025 school year, marking a substantial increase in food rations for over 190,000 students across 686 schools.
- To enhance school meal delivery and procurement efficiency, WFP partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to develop a framework that establishes a stable supply-demand linkage, sourcing at least 70 percent of vegetables and protein from local producers. A key component of this framework is the Market Linkage Dialogue model, which strengthens connections

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	February-July 2025 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
63.38 m	33.21 m	2 m

Strategic Result: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2028, systems are strengthened for people in Cambodia, particularly women and others most at risk of being left behind, to benefit from improved nutrition, education, and social protection.
Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 1: Provide technical support, facilitate coordination and generate evidence for public and private actors towards reducing all forms of malnutrition.

Activity 2: Provide technical support, facilitate coordination and generate evidence for national and subnational authorities to strengthen the social protection system, with a focus on the transition to the national home-grown school feeding programme.

Strategic Result: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

Strategic Outcome 2: By 2028, food systems and disaster management systems in Cambodia are strengthened to better support the livelihoods, climate adaptive capacity and ability to manage shocks of people in hazard-prone areas.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 3: Provide technical assistance to, and generate evidence for, institutions and value chain actors, particularly women, to strengthen food systems resilience to climate change.

Activity 4: Provide national and subnational authorities and communities with technical support, coordination and evidence generation services relevant to disaster risk management and shock-responsive social protection.

Strategic Result: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Strategic Outcome 3: Crisis-affected populations in Cambodia are able to meet their food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after crises.
Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 5: Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations.



WFP-Cambodia's strategy (2024-2028): Enhancing human capital, fostering resilience, and enabling emergency response through evidence-based, gender-inclusive partnerships with the government and communities.

between schools, suppliers, and farmers, while extending the benefits of school meals to local food system actors and producers. By integrating agricultural cooperatives into the programme, the model aims to improve procurement practices, enhance food traceability, and support local agriculture. This approach will be expanded across eight districts and 24 communes in 2025.

- WFP completed the evaluation of the KOICA-supported school meals programme (2020-2024), highlighting its strong alignment with national strategies by contributing to food security, education, and economic development. Key achievements include increased student satisfaction, higher school enrolment, strengthened government capacity, stable incomes for farmers and enhanced women's roles in farming and trade. While challenges like meal quality and procurement efficiency remain, the programme is well-positioned for a successful transition to full national ownership with further investment and technical support.

Food Systems

- WFP and the Cambodia Agriculture Cooperative Corporation (CACC) completed the construction of a warehouse and the installation of drying facilities in Monduliri to provide post-harvest management support to local farmers. This facility, spanning 12 ha, features a storage capacity of 5,000 mt and a drying capacity of 150 mt of paddy daily. Starting from 2025, this infrastructure will improve rice collection, storage, and distribution to both local and international markets, benefiting small-scale farmers, especially indigenous communities engaged in organic and sustainable rice farming.
- The Council for Agriculture and Rural Development launched a new initiative, supported by WFP, FAO, and UNICEF through SDG-funds, to strengthen food systems for better nutrition, resilience and gender equality. The programme focuses on updating the 2030 Food Systems Roadmap, with the development of an action plan and financing strategy to ensure sustainable funding. Advocacy tools will be used to enhance communication and mobilize resources aligned with roadmap priorities.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP supported relevant government counterparts, including NCDM and NSPC with the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning for disaster risk management and social protection planning and budgeting. This technical support included the launching of the Disaster Risk Assessment, which uses these approaches for advanced risk analysis down to the commune level to inform targeted disaster planning, budgeting, and preparedness efforts to enhance the nation's resilience against intensifying natural hazards.

Donors

Cambodia, KOICA, private sector donors, Russia, and USA (USDA and USAID)