



WFP Cambodia Country Brief

Highlights

WFP and the Ministry of Education held the 9th annual National Workshop on the School Meals Programme in Battambang Province. Sixty-six participants from the Ministry, Provincial Department of Education, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and subnational authorities discussed the road map towards a sustainable national school feeding programme by reviewing lessons learned, challenges and solutions from the last year of the programme's implementation. The workshop also built more awareness among participants on possible future resources and support from sub-national government policy such as commune investment and development planning for a sustainable national school meals programme.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200202 (June 2011 – Dec 2018)	191.5 m	113.6 m (59%)	-

*April – September 2017

WFP provides assistance to the most marginalised Cambodians living in food-insecure communities through the Country Programme (CP). The CP, launched in 2011, has been extended until December 2018. The programme covers food and cash-based safety nets in the sectors of education, nutrition, asset creation and livelihood support. Food assistance is also provided in response to emergencies, when required.

In 2016, WFP assisted 610,150 people in Cambodia. With a preceding record of assisting 840,000 people annually since 2011, WFP's school feeding programme, including the school meals and scholarship programmes (cash or take-home rice entitlements granted as conditional transfers to pupils with at least 80 percent attendance), has supported universal access to primary education and promoted increased enrolment, retention and graduation. Building on this success, WFP is working with the Royal Government to establish a national school feeding programme by 2021.

WFP's nutrition programme aims to reduce malnutrition through nutrition sensitive investments and public health measures such as rice fortification. Considering that Cambodia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region, WFP's Food-For-Assets (FFA) programme aims to strengthen resilience and climate change adaptation amongst the most vulnerable communities.

WFP's ongoing projects are in line with the Zero Hunger Challenge, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the development goals of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.



Cambodian School Children Imaging 'Zero Hunger. Our Future Begins with Food': Students of Reaksmeay Samaki Primary School in Siem Reap Province attended the Children's Design Competition organised by the WFP in 2017. School children from WFP-assisted schools submitted their drawings for the 2017 competition. WFP has selected the five best drawings and submitted them to WFP Headquarters for entry in the global competition with other school children around the world.

Photo Credit: WFP/Ratanak Leng

In Numbers

320,539 people in need of food assistance

People Assisted
March 2017



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Charles Fox
Caption: School children receiving their breakfast from the WFP school meals programme in Siem Reap Province



March 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP Country Office facilitated a mission by Japan Suisankanzume Packers Association (the suppliers of canned fish) to visit WFP's school meals programme with the aim of seeing how Japanese-provided canned fish is used to assist school children. The mission, which was joined by representatives from the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia, visited three WFP-assisted schools in Kampong Chhnang province to see breakfast being served, including canned fish, for Cambodian school children.
- With grant assistance of about USD 2 million from the Government of Japan in 2016, WFP has planned to distribute approximately 290 mt of canned fish to provide breakfast for school children during the 2016-2017 school year in the most vulnerable communities.
- WFP conducted a training workshop for 50 officials from the Agricultural Marketing Office of the Department of Planning and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on market price data collection, with the aim of undertaking an analysis of the affordability of nutritious diets in Cambodia using the Cost of Diet tool. By late March 2017, market price data collection had been completed in 95 markets across 19 provinces throughout Cambodia. With support from the WFP headquarters nutrition division, WFP Cambodia is conducting data entry for further analysis. The final result of the analysis will complement other nutrition analyses to contribute to the formulation or development of food and nutrition security related strategies and policies in Cambodia.

Challenges

- Due to limited funding, WFP Cambodia has been running at 45 percent of the overall planned activities. Since November 2014, 195,000 children and their families have been cut off from the school meals programme; food distributions under the maternal and child health and nutrition component ended in June 2014; FFA activities have been reduced by 50 percent; and the cash-for-work pilot has been suspended since 2014.

Country Background & Strategy



Cambodia has achieved remarkable economic growth in the last two decades. The poverty rate has decreased from 47.8 percent in 2007 to 13.5 percent in 2014. The Government is committed to achieving a lower middle income status by 2020. According to the World Bank, a significant portion of the population remains 'near poor' as they are still at high risk of falling back into poverty at the slightest shock.

The 2014 Cambodia Demographic Health Survey found that undernutrition rates remain a public health concern, with 32 percent of children under 5 years of age stunted, 24 percent underweight, and 10 percent wasted. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread. The maternal mortality ratio is 170 deaths per 100,000 births, while the under-5 mortality rate is 35 per 1,000 births, both significantly improved since the last survey. Cambodia is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, with regular monsoon flooding in the Mekong and Tonle Sap basin and localised droughts in the plains. Rising inequality, landlessness and deterioration of common resources have eroded the coping capacity of food-insecure people. 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: **15.6 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
143 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle income since July 2016**

Chronic malnutrition: **32% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

USA, Japan, Cambodia, Germany, Australia, Private Sector

Contact info: Mr. Ratanak Leng (ratanak.leng@wfp.org)

Country Director: Mr. GianPietro Bordinon

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia