



# WFP Cambodia Country Brief

## Highlights

WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has conducted research on school meals and the home grown school feeding programme. After the completion of data collection, the results of the research are expected to be finalized in October.

### 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)	189.6 m	114.3 m (60%)	-

\*August 2017 – January 2018

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.



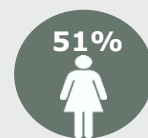
WFP provides a daily nutritious breakfast to 300,000 pre-primary and primary school children in 1,219 primary schools located in nine provinces.

WFP aims to improve the education of children from the most vulnerable, food-insecure households through the school feeding programme in Cambodia. The programme includes school meals and scholarships supporting universal access to primary education and promotes increased attendance and retention.

### In Numbers

**330,877** people in need of food assistance

People Assisted  
July 2017



**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Ratanak Leng  
Caption: Schoolchildren receiving their breakfast from the WFP school meals programme in Siem Reap Province.



July 2017

## Country Background & Strategy



## Operational Updates

- WFP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with support from WFP Cambodia, led the first regional Southeast Asia School Feeding Meeting as part of its efforts to encourage the learning process between countries implementing national school feeding programmes. The meeting brought together school feeding practitioners from Southeast Asian countries to share their experiences and learn from their peers in neighbouring countries, possibly leading to collaboration across borders. In addition, the meeting allowed WFP staff to discuss how they can better assist governments to get the best return on investment for school feeding programmes. The meeting provided an opportunity for government officials to network with their peers from neighbouring countries, engage in discussions with WFP technical staff, and facilitate cross-learning within the ASEAN region. Additionally, field visits to school feeding programmes in Siem Reap Province (showing different modalities such as in-kind, home grown, hybrid home grown, and lunch) provided an opportunity for participants to interact with school staff and beneficiaries, which further informed discussions.
- WFP Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, also sponsored an additional meeting to discuss the Government of Cambodia's National School Feeding Programme. Participants from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and other stakeholders further discussed technical and institutional aspects of the national programme towards a sustainable national school feeding programme by 2021.

## 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.

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](mailto:ratanak.leng@wfp.org))

Country Director: Nancy WALTERS

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia)