



## USDA/WFP Cambodia partnership

The Government of the United States of America (US), through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Mc Govern-Dole, has been a trusted funding partner to the WFP in Cambodia since 2001.

Thanks to this support, the WFP School Feeding programme in Cambodia has assisted more than 3,4 million children to attend school, giving them the opportunity to go onto secondary education.

USDA Mc Govern-Dole has played a vital role in this success story. Following an initial allocation in 2001, USDA Mc Govern-Dole supported access to education and food security for poor children in Cambodia with a total value of almost \$46 million up to 2015, including 9,140 metric tons of various food commodities (rice, vegetable oil, beans, and Super Cereal).

In line with the Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship, USDA Mc Govern-Dole's multi-year funding has ensured improved predictability of funding available to WFP for the coverage of one of its core programmes in Cambodia.

## 2013-2015 contribution

In September 2013, USDA Mc Govern-Dole signed a US\$20 million agreement covering school meals and food scholarships for three years.

USDA Mc Govern-Dole funding covers three provinces (Battambang, Siem Reap and Kampong Thom) including 864 primary schools per year with 170,351 primary school students for onsite breakfast and 6,513 students in grade 4 to 6 for the scholarship programme with priority given to girls where there is a clear gender gap.

The programme includes the following complementary activities implemented through Plan International:

- ◆ Provision of school equipment and supplies;
- ◆ Establishing school gardens and develop partnerships with farmer groups to supply food to schools;
- ◆ Building and rehabilitating school facilities (incl. latrines, store room, kitchens, wells and water stations);
- ◆ Awareness raising on hygiene, sanitation and nutrition;
- ◆ Capacity development on food safety through training of school administrators and teachers;
- ◆ Strengthening monitoring and evaluation.





## USDA contributions to WFP School Feeding Programme

| Cycle        | Year | Beneficiaries    | In cash (US\$)    | In kind (mt)  |              |              |              |
|--------------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|              |      |                  | Total budget      | Rice          | Veg. oil     | Bean         | CSB          |
| 2001-03      | 2001 | 291,593          | 965,125           | 1,500         | 160          |              |              |
|              | 2003 | 317,053          | 1,063,900         | 2,010         | 180          |              |              |
| 2007-08      | 2007 | 450,000          | 2,864,300         |               | 870          | 1,725        |              |
|              | 2008 | 492,719          | 5,570,200         | 3,999         | 400          | 558          |              |
| 2010-12      | 2010 | 515,890          | 5,691,690         | 3,975         | 267          | 200          |              |
|              | 2011 | 364,094          | 4,225,300         | 1,788         | 493          | 875          | 1400         |
|              | 2012 | 507,381          | 4,400,900         | 2,754         | 50           | 149          | 500          |
| 2013-16      | 2013 | 176,864 per year | 5,719,300         | 2,600         | 70           | 210          |              |
|              | 2014 |                  | 7,455,100         | 3,930         | 110          | 320          |              |
|              | 2015 |                  | 6,825,600         | 3,955         | 103          | 319          |              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |      | <b>3,469,322</b> | <b>45,781,415</b> | <b>26,511</b> | <b>2,703</b> | <b>4,356</b> | <b>1,900</b> |

Note: The budget for 2015 will be for next year transfer.

## Impact

The case for the effectiveness of school feeding is well established globally. In Cambodia, an independent evaluation (2010) and a World Bank study on food and cash scholarships (2013) confirmed the role of WFP's school feeding programme helping to promote access to education, food security, and improved dietary diversity.

Under the "Education for All" vision, the Government of Cambodia committed to provide universal primary education by 2015. The USDA Mc Govern-Dole contribution to the WFP School Feeding programme has played a vital role in achieving a 97% access rate by 2013. School feeding enables children to concentrate better and contributes to increased enrolment, attendance and retention in school. According to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS)'s Education Information Management System (EMIS), net enrolment rates in WFP assisted districts progressively increased from 93% in 2007 to 98.6% in 2013, while the drop out reduced from 11.8% to 7.8%, and promotion increased from 75% to 88%.

The school feeding programme is increasingly acknowledged as an effective social safety net. Beneficiary interviews show that by reducing the burden of providing breakfast to children, school feeding and scholarships allow families to use their resources for other food items or productive investments, thereby preventing negative coping strategies and reducing child labor. School feeding can also contribute to a much-needed sense of normality for children living in poor food insecure environments.

Building on this success, WFP is working with the Government of Cambodia to establish a national school feeding programme. The Government's commitment is evidenced by its yearly contribution of 2,000 metric ton of rice and associated cost to support WFP programmes. In 2012, the Minister of Education signed a "Letter of Intent" outlining the Government's intention to transition to national school feeding. Significant responsibilities in the implementation of the food scholarship programme were handed over to MoEYS in two new provinces, successfully testing and strengthening national capacities at central and sub-national level. Additionally, a home-grown school feeding pilot, aimed at sourcing school meal commodities from local smallholder farmers, was jointly designed with the MoEYS, commune councils, NGOs and school authorities for implementation in 2014.