

# CAMBODIA Fact Sheet

## FEED THE FUTURE AT A GLANCE

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, encompasses a renewed commitment to support country-driven approaches that address the root causes of poverty, hunger, and under-nutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Globally, we aim to increase the incomes of millions of families, mostly small-holder farmers. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce undernutrition.

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

Though it is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, Cambodia emerged from the recent economic crisis relatively unscathed. From 1994 to 2004, strong economic growth lifted 10 to 15 percent of Cambodia's population out of poverty, and undernutrition declined significantly. Still, while Cambodia experienced rapid economic growth from 2004 to 2008, measures of undernutrition have not improved significantly since 2005.

Despite an overall national surplus each year since 2008, rice production in Cambodia suffers from low productivity and poor storage, resulting in high levels of post-harvest loss. Most rural Cambodians cannot afford to buy rice or other foods at the market on a regular basis, and therefore grow or catch most of their own food. Agricultural production is generally undiversified. Furthermore, the majority of agricultural production depends on rain rather than irrigation and is highly vulnerable to both flood and drought. Rural communities depend on the country's critical watersheds and rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, all increasingly under threat from illegal logging, evictions, overfishing, and climate change.

Poverty, especially in rural areas and among farmers, further constrains the ability of these households to purchase food. Additionally, poor dietary choices by Cambodians at all income levels reflect a general lack of information about proper nutrition, water and sanitation, and child feeding practices.

### Cambodia Quick Facts

- Cambodia has a population of 15 million, of which 70% is under age 35
- 80% of people live in rural areas, and 70% rely directly on agriculture for a living
- A third of rural Cambodians live below the poverty level
- 37% of children under five suffer from stunting and 36% are underweight

## OPPORTUNITIES

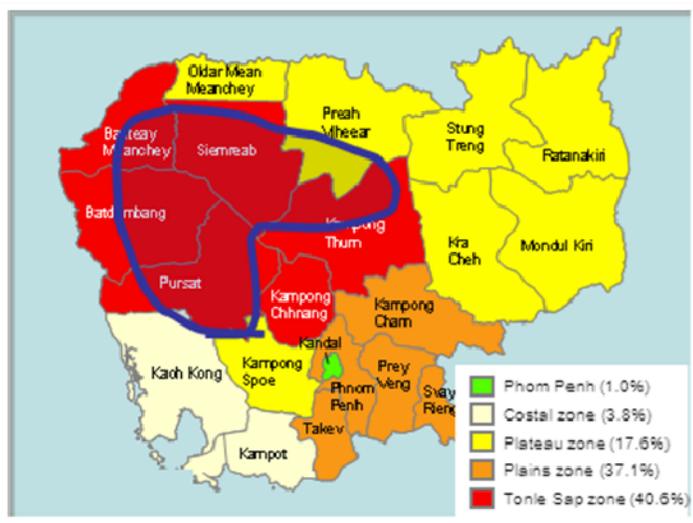
The Government of Cambodia is making genuine efforts to improve food security and nutrition. Cambodia is a compelling example of a developing country where authorities responsible for agriculture, environment, nutrition, health, and economic development are working together to reduce undernutrition and poverty. Working closely with the international donor community, the Cambodian government developed the comprehensive Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, the Strategy for Agriculture and Water 2010-2013 Investment Plan, and other key analyses and strategies. In early June 2011, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, an international trust fund that supports national investments in food security, approved the Cambodian government's request for a \$39.1 million program to improve food security and household nutrition.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

- Improve equitable growth in the agriculture sector
- Improve nutritional status, especially of women and children
- Reduce rural poverty in selected areas and targeted populations

## TARGET REGIONS

The Feed the Future strategy in Cambodia targets the Rural Tonle Sap region, shown below. This region has a poverty rate of 45 percent – the highest in the country – and includes about a third of all food-insecure households (one million people during the lean season). The highest concentration of child stunting and undernutrition is also found here. Agricultural production is concentrated around the region, which has relatively high soil fertility, and in an inland fish catch that constitutes 80 percent of the total for Cambodia. Cambodia's Feed the Future activities will focus on four provinces: Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, and Pursat.



## FEED THE FUTURE: IMPACT IN CAMBODIA

Over the next five years:

- An estimated 138,000 vulnerable Cambodian women, children, and family members—mostly smallholder farmers—will receive direct targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty.
- Approximately 89,000 children will be reached with services to improve nutrition and prevent stunting and child mortality.
- Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement, institutional investments, and programs supported by the U.S. Global Climate Change Initiative.

### CORE INVESTMENTS

Feed the Future in Cambodia will focus on three areas:

- **Availability:** Enhancing capacity to improve sustainable agricultural production
- **Access:** Improving rural income generation
- **Utilization:** Enhancing capacity to meet food and other nutritional needs of the targeted population

To achieve these results, Feed the Future activities in Cambodia will involve increasing access to inputs and credit, reducing post-harvest losses, expanding household storage and improved water and sanitation, and delivering nutrition education.

### Targeted Value Chains

Improved food security will rely on upgrading or expanding three major value chains: rice, horticulture, and fish. Feed the Future will help improve rice yields and reduce post-harvest losses of rice and horticulture in Cambodia. The initiative will also help reverse trends of wild fish resource depletion; reduce post-harvest losses from farm-and-capture fisheries; and promote small-scale processing.

### Natural Resources Sustainability

Feed the Future programs will be designed to improve natural resource management and resilience to climate change. Investment in this area will improve the ability of farmers and others to adapt to climate change through improved agricultural and farm-and-capture fisheries management techniques; community-based natural resource management of forest, fisheries, water resources, and protected areas; and ecosystem services.

### Capacity Development

Achieving improved food production and income requires capacity development for both government and private sector players in economic and natural resource governance skills at both local and national levels. U.S. Government programs in Cambodia already engage in several activities that foster improved governance across the sectors critical to food security, and will continue and expand such activities under Feed the Future. Additionally, Feed the Future will provide needed training to community-based farmer groups, natural resource management groups, and business associations. Training to these groups will take place alongside their local government counterparts to increase constructive engagement, foster local solutions to emerging issues, and promote sustainability of results.

### Policy Reform

The absence of a mature regulatory environment for addressing food security issues can serve as a major impediment for investments by the private sector, donors, and government entities in any country. Helping to grow the regulatory environment, the Feed the Future initiative, in coordination with other key donors, will provide unified advice and comments to the Cambodian government on various draft laws and regulations related to the agriculture, animal health, environment, and food security sectors.

### Nutrition

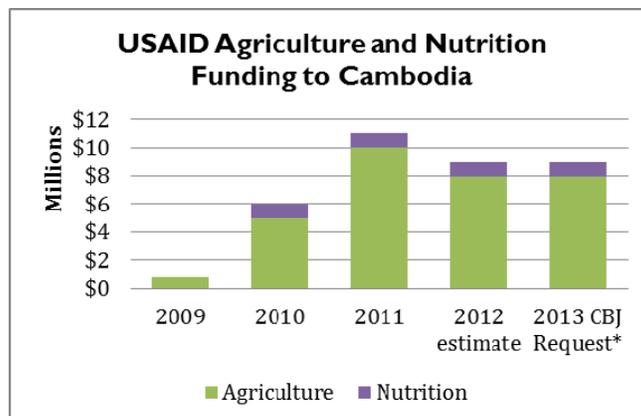
Undernutrition among Cambodia's rural and urban poor is widespread. It is most acute among children under five years of age and among pregnant and nursing women. Under Feed the Future, resources will be used to achieve key results in the areas of maternal-child nutrition, infant and child feeding practices, household dietary quality and diversity, and access to nutrition-enhancing goods and services.

### GENDER EQUALITY

In Cambodia, women often control and manage household finances, though, on average, women are paid 30 percent less than men for the same work. Women, like most men in Cambodia, are reported to have limited access to agricultural loans and high-quality farming supplies and services, despite owning or operating 62 percent of all listed businesses in Cambodia. The 2010 USAID Cambodia Gender Assessment noted that women are increasingly participating in farmer training programs and more than 62 percent of farmers are women. Female-headed households comprise almost a quarter of rural households and 69 percent of rural poor households. Feed the Future activities in Cambodia will take a multi-pronged approach to gender and will design programs that maximize women's economic power, decision-making capacity, access to inputs and resources (e.g., credit and training), and opportunity to increase household income.

### WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Feed the Future strengthens coordination across the U.S. Government to harmonize investments for greater collective impact. This interagency engagement includes collaboration between USAID, the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Treasury, Peace Corps, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Centers for Disease Control. For example, in support of Feed the Future nutrition education, Peace Corps/Cambodia has recruited 22 health and nutrition education volunteers. These volunteers arrived in Cambodia in July 2011 and were deployed to deliver essential nutrition education in Feed the Future focus provinces. USDA regional staff provide coverage for Cambodia from Vietnam, overseeing USDA food aid and technical assistance work related to animal health and sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.



\*2013 is included in the President's budget request to Congress and is not yet approved