



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/country/cambodia>

COUNTRY PROFILE



Cambodia

In Cambodia, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Cambodia and the results of Feed the Future's work there.

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
15.4 Million Number of people living in Cambodia (World Bank, 2014)	11.7 Percent Percentage of population living below the poverty line in Feed the Future target regions	44 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	79 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Cambodia (World Bank, 2014)	7 Percent Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 29.8% of value added (World Bank, 2014)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
103 Thousand Producers using new technology and skills with Feed the Future's help in FY14	\$8.7 Million New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY14 from agricultural product sales	13.2 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14 across Cambodia	38.3 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	\$2.2 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

Approach

Cambodia has transformed in remarkable ways in recent years. The country is at peace after decades of conflict. Strong economic growth since the mid-1990s has helped reduce the proportion of people living in poverty. Fertility, child mortality and child malnutrition rates have also declined. Notably, the prevalence of stunting nationally among children under 5 years old **dropped** from 50 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2010.

Even so, Cambodia remains a low-income, food-deficit country where nearly a third of the rural population lives below the poverty line. Nearly a quarter of all Cambodians are food-deprived, and the deteriorating health of young children signals an urgent need to strengthen food security and improve nutrition.

Cambodia is an agrarian society, located in Southeast Asia. According to the World Bank, approximately 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas, with an **estimated** 70 percent relying on agriculture, fisheries and forestry for their livelihoods. But rural communities' dependency on Cambodia's rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity is increasingly under threat from illegal logging, over-fishing and a changing climate.

Inadequate numbers of experienced technicians and professionals also constrain development in Cambodia. The country has some of the lowest education rates in the region, and **70 percent of the population** is under the age of 35. The limited capacity of civil society and public and private institutions, poor financial services, and inadequate infrastructure for producing and storing crops further constrain the agriculture sector.

Yet Cambodia's underdeveloped agriculture sector has the potential to be a strong engine of growth for the economy. Feed

the Future supports the Royal Government of Cambodia's development strategy by helping to increase agricultural productivity and diversification as well as improve the well-being of the rural poor and promote sustainable management of the country's rich natural resources.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 25 percent.

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of children suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments along with the [Global Health](#) and [Global Climate Change](#) initiatives to:

- Increase agricultural productivity and diversification
- Increase capacity to meet food and other nutrition needs
- Increase rural incomes and equitable growth in the agriculture sector
- Improve agriculture and nutrition knowledge and practices
- Improve natural resource management and resilience to climate change
- Improve the economic enabling environment
- Improve the nutrition of women and young children

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

Value Chains

- Rice
- Horticulture
- Fish

Target Regions

- Rural Tonle Sap region, particularly the following provinces:
 - Battambang
 - Siem Reap
 - Kampong Thom
 - Pursat

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. Agricultural production systems in Cambodia suffer from high production costs, inefficient market systems and a lack of modern on-farm technologies. Feed the Future's investments in Cambodia support a sound agriculture production system, help producers adopt improved varieties and cultivation techniques, and strengthen the agriculture policy environment in the rice, horticulture and fish value chains. Feed the Future is helping improve productivity in each value chain while reducing post-harvest losses. Feed the Future is also helping agribusinesses provide more affordable, quality products and services, including those associated with seeds, fertilizers, pest management and fisheries. Given the geographic dispersion and poor coordination among producers in Cambodia, linking them together and to markets is a priority.

Policy. The absence of a mature regulatory environment for addressing food security issues can be a major impediment for private sector investments in agriculture. To improve this, Feed the Future, in coordination with other key donors, is providing technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia on various draft laws, policies and regulations related to agriculture, food security and the environment.

Gender Integration. In contrast to much of the developing world, in Cambodia women often control and manage household finances. Yet they are paid 30 percent less, on average, than men for the same work, according to a USAID assessment in 2010. Feed the Future takes a multipronged approach to gender in all of its activities and includes programs that maximize women's economic power, decision making, access to resources (such as credit training), and opportunities to increase household income.

Nutrition. Undernutrition among Cambodia's rural and urban poor is widespread and most prevalent among children under 5, as well as pregnant and nursing women. Using a nutrition-sensitive approach, Feed the Future is supporting micronutrient supplementation for women and children. Feed the Future is also promoting improved maternal health, better infant and

young child feeding practices, and increased dietary diversity during the 1,000 day window of opportunity from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, when nutrition interventions can have the greatest impact.

Climate-Smart Development. Feed the Future's activities in Cambodia are designed to improve natural resource management and resilience to climate change. These activities help farmers and other producers improve their ability to adapt to climate change by:

- Sharing improved agricultural and farm-and-capture fisheries management techniques
- Promoting community-based natural resource management of forests, fisheries, water resources and protected areas
- Strengthening ecosystem services
- Promoting agricultural technologies that enable producers to adapt to climate change

Additionally, Feed the Future is helping rural households engaged in agriculture diversify their production to increase resilience. Diversification into higher-value products such as vegetables and aquaculture offers significant financial gains and increases demand for inputs and local on-farm jobs.

Scaling Innovations. Feed the Future is helping smallholder farmers in Cambodia scale up horticulture production using a commercially oriented approach.

Results

Results by the numbers*

- More than **103,800 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on more than **38,300 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help last year.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales last year by more than **\$8.75 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$2.27 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Cambodia.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **13,200 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Key achievements*

- Feed the Future achieved its nutrition target in Cambodia two years ahead of schedule, with child stunting in targeted regions dropping from 44 percent in 2010 to 35 percent in 2014.
- Feed the Future is on track to reach its poverty reduction target in Cambodia by 2015.
- Since 2010, average yields have increased by 37 percent among 51,150 rice farmers, 111 percent among 1,800 aquaculture farmers and 344 percent among 16,450 horticulture farmers.

*What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps and U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for FY2014. For more information on the indicators above, please view our [FY14 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

The Cambodian government 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](#) approved the Royal

Government of Cambodia's request for a nearly \$40 million program to improve food security and household nutrition.

Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.

If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Cambodia, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us, and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.

Activities

Feed the Future supports the following programs, partnerships and organizations in Cambodia.

- Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD)
- Capacity Building for Evaluation for Feed the Future
- Enabling Agricultural Trade Project
- [Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers](#)
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification
- [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#)
- Helping Address Rural Vulnerabilities and Ecosystem Stability (HARVEST) Program
- Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education
- Integrated Nutrition, Hygiene and Sanitation Project
- National Census of Agriculture in Cambodia
- NOURISH
- Peace Corps
- Rice Field Fisheries Enhancement Project
- Seed Scaling: Deploying Vegetable Seed Kits to Tackle Malnutrition
- Seed Scaling: Stress-Tolerant Rice Varieties by Smallholder Farmers in Nepal and Cambodia
- [USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program](#)
- Vegetable Post-Harvest Handling Project

Target Regions

Funding

