

CONTEXT

- Cambodia is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change, particularly flooding, due to its low-lying river deltas, seasonal rainfall, and location in the Mekong River flood plains.
- Nearly 80 percent of Cambodians live in rural areas highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. Additionally, 65 percent of the population relies on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry for their livelihoods. Cyclical droughts, floods, sea level rise, and other natural disasters can destroy agricultural lands and livestock, leaving rural populations more vulnerable to the effects of future shocks.
- Nearly one-fifth of Cambodians are undernourished, consuming less than the minimum daily calorie requirements, while approximately 32 percent of children younger than five years of age exhibit stunting, or low height-for-age related to undernutrition. Approximately 24 percent of children are underweight, and an additional 10 percent suffer from wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP) as of March 2022. Limited access to health services and minimal investment in public infrastructure further perpetuate food insecurity and undernutrition across Cambodia, particularly among poor households, WFP reports.
- Heavy rainfall in early October 2020 caused severe flooding across Cambodia, adversely affecting approximately 800,000 people. The flooding resulted in 42 deaths, temporarily displaced approximately 14,300 households, and damaged or destroyed more than 161,500 houses, nearly 813,000 acres of agricultural land, and numerous bridges, roads, and other infrastructure.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) works in Cambodia to implement a combination of emergency assistance and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities designed to address affected populations' immediate assistance needs and to mitigate disaster risks by bolstering the capacity of communities, government officials, and local non-governmental organizations to prepare for and respond to natural hazards.
- Following weeks of heavy rainfall in October 2020, USAID/BHA provided \$100,000 to WFP for the delivery of in-kind emergency food assistance to approximately 2,550 households affected by flooding in Battambang and Pursat provinces. Subsequently, USAID/BHA provided an additional \$600,000 to WFP to deliver six-month cash transfers for food to an estimated 3,725 households most-affected by the floods, supporting long-term food security and recovery efforts among more than 18,600 individuals.

- Since 2018, USAID/BHA has supported WFP to develop the Platform for Real-Time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM), a multi-hazard disaster management platform designed to reduce the impact of shocks on vulnerable populations in Cambodia. In coordination with the Government of Cambodia’s National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), WFP is improving impact-based risk forecasting systems and utilizing information technology to enhance coordination and risk mitigation mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels. Following the October 2020 floods, PRISM bolstered NCDM efforts to conduct a joint rapid needs assessment in flood-affected provinces and inform humanitarian relief efforts. Additionally, WFP helps improve disaster risk reduction, as well as national- and provincial-level response coordination by conducting awareness campaigns, capacity building and analysis dissemination workshops, natural hazard simulations, and technical information exchanges. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA contributed \$750,000 in funding to the PRISM program, for a total of nearly \$2.5 million in funding since FY 2018.



With support from USAID/BHA, in October 2020, WFP distributed food assistance to 2,550 households affected by floods in three districts of Cambodia’s Pursat Province.
Photo Credit: WFP

USAID/BHA Funding in Cambodia ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$700,000	\$872,500	\$1,572,500
FY 2022	–	\$750,000	\$750,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 16, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.