

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 susceptible to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. Additionally, 65 percent of the population relies on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry for their livelihoods. Droughts, floods, sea level rise, and other natural disasters can destroy agricultural lands and livestock, exacerbating rural populations' vulnerability to the effects of future shocks.
- Up to one-fifth of Cambodians are undernourished, consuming less than the recommended minimum daily calorie intake, while approximately 22 percent of children younger than five years of age exhibit stunting, or low height-for-age related to nutrition. As of December 2022, an estimated 16 percent of children were underweight and an additional 10 percent suffered from wasting, a form of malnutrition with a high risk of mortality and morbidity, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Limited access to health services and minimal investment in public infrastructure further increase vulnerability to food insecurity and undernutrition across Cambodia, particularly among poor households.
- Recurrent seasonal flooding in Cambodia adversely affected 14 provinces during 2022, with Battambang, Siem Reap, and Banteay Meanchey among the provinces most affected. Between September 1 and October 11, 2022, flooding negatively affected more than 160,000 individuals, resulted in at least 15 deaths, temporarily displaced 5,000 households, and damaged or destroyed more than 33,100 houses, as well as nearly 380 acres of agricultural lands and numerous bridges, roads, and other infrastructure, according to relief actors.



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 mitigate disaster risks by bolstering the capacity of communities, government officials, and local non-governmental organizations to prepare for and respond to natural hazards.
- 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. PRISM bolstered NCDM efforts to conduct a joint rapid needs assessment in flood-affected provinces and inform humanitarian relief efforts following the October 2022 floods. Additionally, WFP helps improve disaster risk

reduction and national- and provincial-level response coordination by conducting awareness campaigns, capacity building and analysis dissemination workshops, natural hazard simulations, and technical information exchanges.

- USAID/BHA contributed \$750,000 in FY 2022 funding to the PRISM program for disaster risk reduction policy and practice, totaling nearly \$2.5 million in funding since FY 2018. The funding builds on the existing PRISM platform by developing and integrating digital information systems and providing technical assistance on their use to government officials and their counterparts.



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 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 February 3, 2023. 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.