

# MULTISECTORAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN CAMBODIA

One World – No Hunger Initiative

Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience Programme

## Background

Many rural households in Cambodia do not provide sufficient quantities as well as adequate qualities of nutritious food for a balanced diet. Women of reproductive age and young children in particular suffer from micronutrient deficiencies which increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth resulting in low birth weight.

Hygiene practices can also impede adequate nutrient intake. Around one-third of children under the age of five years in Cambodia are chronically undernourished and show symptoms of stunting. A further 10% of children are acutely undernourished (wasted) and around 23% are underweight.

## What We Do

Through a multisectoral approach, the programme aims to improve the nutrition of women and young children. The programme is implemented in three fields of action:

- **Improving the quality of nutrition services** by providing training for health workers. Male and female nurses, midwives and community health care assistants learn about balanced nutrition and basic hygiene and acquire the skills they need to deliver training and awareness-raising programmes.

Project name	Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security in Cambodia (MUSEFO)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Cambodia
Lead executing agency	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD)

The curriculum covers the following topics: the importance of nutritious foods, a balanced diet, breastfeeding, supplementary feeding and nutrition for pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers as well as good care and hygiene practices. Meal preparation demonstrations focus on supplementary nutrition for children aged six months and older.

- **Diversifying nutrition and food production** by providing trainings for farmers, building their capacity to grow a more diverse range of crops and improving their access to healthy foods. A key priority for the programme is to encourage families and schools to create their own kitchen gardens. Organic gardening, prevention of contamination in food production, preparation and storage and promoting good hygiene practices and a healthy environment are just some of the topics covered in the training sessions.



Photo left: A diversified, organic food production increases the availability of healthy products at the farm level

Photo right: Mothers ensure their children's health with a nutritious complementary feeding



Even on small land, families can grow a great food variety for their household consumption



Trained advisors inform the community about a balanced diet and basic hygiene

Evi-Kornelia Gruber  
 evi.gruber@giz.de  
 Tel.: +855 23 21 38 64

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- **Embedding successful approaches on national and regional level** is the third field of action. Successful interventions are assessed and documented. The information is then shared with other partners, particularly the Technical Working Group for Social Protection and Food Security and Nutrition which supports the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition and the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative for Cambodia, as well as with research institutes and the general public.

## Our Partners

The lead executing agency for the Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience Programme is Cambodia's Council for Agricultural and Rural Development which is responsible for implementing the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy.

### National Level Partners

Ministry of Health is the programme's implementing partner at the national level. Responsibility for implementing the Ministry's Nutrition Strategy lies with the National Maternal and Child Health Centre and its sub-unit, the National Nutrition Programme. Extensive consultation also takes place together with health authorities and the Technical Working Group for Social Protection and Food Security and Nutrition.

### Local Level Partners

At the provincial level, the programme is implemented in conjunction with provincial and district health and agricultural authorities. At the village level, it is implemented with the support of volunteers .

## Non-Governmental Organisations

The programme also cooperates with national and international NGOs, such as the Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture and the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance, as well as with other donors, including the United Nations International Child Emergency Fund and the United States Agency for International Development.

Cambodia Facts	
Population	15,328,136 (2014)
Population living in rural areas (% of total)	79.49 % (2014)
Undernourishment (% of total population)	14.2 % (2015)
Global Hunger Index ranking (2015)	60 out of 104
Agriculture, value added (% of the Gross Domestic Product)	29.83 % (2014)
Jobs in agriculture (% of total)	51 % (2012)

### Cambodian-German Development Cooperation

Cambodian-German development cooperation focuses on rural areas, where most Cambodians reside and where the level of poverty is especially high.

In the context of bilateral cooperation, the German Government works closely together with the Cambodia Government on the basis of intergovernmental agreements and actively supports the Cambodian Government's development process. The main priority areas of the Cambodian-German development partnership are the promotion of development in rural areas and the enhancement of capacities within the health sector.

Funding of up to 4.8 million Euros is available to improve food and nutrition security in Cambodia over the next four years in Kampot and Kampong Thom provinces.

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GIZ Office Phnom Penh  
 # 17, Street306, P.O. Box 81, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 T +855 (23) 860 110  
 F +855 (23) 212 783  
[giz-kambodscha@giz.de](mailto:giz-kambodscha@giz.de)  
[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Author(s) Silke Koenighofer

Layout Jenny Nickisch

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Addresses of the  
 BMZ offices

**BMZ Bonn**  
 Dahlmannstraße 4  
 53113 Bonn, Germany  
 T +49 (0)228 99 535 - 0  
 F +49 (0)228 99 535 - 3500

**BMZ Berlin**  
 Stresemannstraße 94  
 10963 Berlin, Germany  
 T +49 (0)30 18 535 - 0  
 F +49 (0)30 18 535 - 2501

[poststelle@bmz.bund.de](mailto:poststelle@bmz.bund.de)  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)