

# Cambodia



Cambodia joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in March 2022 around the following areas: Policy, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

## Achievements

Cambodia has expanded ownership and investment in its Home-Grown School Feeding programme in areas with high poverty, undernutrition and poor education outcomes:

- In 2025, the government funded 686 schools (61% of the total), including an additional 259 since 2023. The national budget allocation increased from USD 4.3 million in 2023 to USD 7.4 million in 2025 and is projected to reach USD 9 million by 2026 and USD 14 million by 2028.
- The government endorsed a School Feeding Policy and established steering committees at the national and sub-national levels with representatives of key ministries and institutions to oversee implementation. The policy has been integrated into relevant sectoral policies and a School Feeding Policy Action Plan is expected to be endorsed in August 2025.
- Cambodia has optimized the design of its programme through evidence generation, including nutrition guidelines and standards. The redesigned procurement process, which promotes local sourcing and the integration of local cooperatives in supply chains, and the focus on the nutritional quality of meals contribute to healthy diets for students and local economic growth.
- Cambodia has integrated a holistic package to support human capital development of children and their communities, including health and nutrition education, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and training that builds local capacity and ownership.
- From 2023-2025, Cambodia rolled out a monitoring and evaluation framework to track implementation and outcomes through cross-sectoral indicators.
- Cambodia has engaged in regional and global platforms both as a provider and recipient of knowledge and experience. In November 2024, the country co-led with the Philippines the organization of the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Meeting, which served as a platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.

## Next steps

To strengthen the design and sustainability of the programme, Cambodia is prioritizing evidence generation and the exploration of diversified financing strategies. A Return on Investment study and Financing Strategy are underway with technical support from the Sustainable Financing Initiative and WFP.

A mid-term review of the M&E framework is planned in 2028. Additional priorities highlighted by the government include:

- Incentives and tailored support mechanisms such as training on procurement requirements or assistance in accessing credit, to support robust participation from local agriculture cooperatives in the school meals supply.
- Ensuring food safety, especially in rural areas.

## Highlights

- In 2025, the government funded 686 schools (61% of the total), including an additional 259 since 2023. The national budget allocation increased from USD 4.3 million in 2023 to USD 7.4 million in 2025 and is projected to reach USD 9 million by 2026.
- Optimized the design of its programme through evidence generation.
- Co-led with the Philippines the organization of the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Meeting, which served as a platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.