

# Multisectoral food and nutrition security in Cambodia



## Context

Cambodia is a country that could actually be self-sufficient and it even exports rice on a large scale, yet unbalanced diets are very common here. As its economy experiences steady growth, Cambodia is seeing both persistently high rates of stunted growth – i.e. a lack of physical growth due to chronic malnutrition in children under five – and a tendency towards obesity. This trend is linked to an increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. The whole country is affected by this, including rural regions.

Malnutrition can have serious consequences, especially for infants under two. Since the various causes of malnutrition can only be tackled on a holistic basis, the activities pursued by the

Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Project (MUSEFO) in Cambodia focus on multisectoral food and nutrition security. The MUSEFO project combines health, hygiene and agricultural measures, which complement one another and offer great potential for ensuring better nutrition in Cambodia. The project is being implemented in two regions within the country. It is aimed at improving maternal and child health by boosting staff capacity at health centres, for instance.

Another measure focuses on diversifying agricultural production, for example through funding for multipurpose farms. This enables households to provide for themselves by cultivating their own range of varied and healthy foods.

## Activities in Cambodia

➔ To help mothers and other caregivers understand the importance of good basic nutritional and hygiene practices, the project is funding training for staff in rural health centres. They are trained in healthy eating for infants and pregnant or breastfeeding women and in how to spot the early signs of malnutrition.

➔ Funding is being provided for multipurpose farms so that a variety of fruit and vegetables and protein-rich animal-source products such as eggs, meat or fish can be produced. This enables families to enjoy a varied and healthy diet.

➔ The project boosts multisectoral cooperation between the various institutions involved at municipal, provincial and ministerial level. This means that experiences and successful approaches can be incorporated into Cambodian policy over the long term.

## Our objective

Food-insecure people in Cambodia, especially women of childbearing age and children under two, have access to sufficient, healthy food at all times – including during hunger crises.



## Regions

Kampot and Kampong Thom provinces

## Budget and term

EUR 17 million / March 2015 to March 2023

## Commissioning party

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## Implementation partner

Action Against Hunger; GFA Consulting Group

## Lead executing agency

Cambodian Council for Agriculture and Rural Development

## Target group

15,000 women of childbearing age, i.e. between 15 and 49, and 3,000 infants aged between 6 and 23 months

## Sustainable Development Goals



## Example of our work

The Chum family farm in the province of Kampong Thom is home to several generations: a husband and wife, their daughter and grandparents too. They run a multipurpose farm, with every member of the family involved. In addition to rice, they grow a range of other crops, which helps ensure that the family's own nutritional needs are met and they can enjoy a more varied and healthier diet. However, the family is also able to generate additional income by selling at least some of their crops at the market.

The Chum family is one of 200 'model farmer' families that receive support from the MUSEFO project. The idea behind the model farm scheme is that it offers an opportunity to test out innovative technologies and cultivation methods for multipurpose farms, such as cultivating moringa trees. At the same time, it promotes the use of moringa at home. Moringa leaves are rich in vitamins and minerals and are served alongside many traditional dishes.

The model farmers meet regularly to talk about their experiences. Regular sessions are also arranged with the agricultural advisors who have been trained up by the project, providing a forum for sharing agricultural expertise and practical experience. The project is thus reaching up to 15,000 small farming households.

## Results

The project is also making a contribution to health care. For example, a training manual has been developed for nurses and midwives, with 200 of them across 50 health centres now trained in giving nutritional health advice to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and infants. These nurses and midwives are now able to apply their knowledge in maternal and child health consultations and offer professional support to other caregivers.



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