

Cambodia NOURISH Project



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To promote optimal child growth and development, Cambodia NOURISH targets women and children during the first 1,000 days—from the start of pregnancy until the child reaches two years of age.

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THE PROBLEM

In Cambodia, one in three children under the age of five is chronically malnourished or stunted. Stunting—being severely short for one’s age—is an irreversible outcome of inadequate nutrition, hygiene and sanitation. This is of grave concern for Cambodia because stunting has detrimental long-term consequences on health and economic development. Stunting, which is the most common form of child malnutrition in Cambodia, is preventable during the “first 1,000 days”—from the start of pregnancy until a child’s second birthday

OUR RESPONSE

With funding from USAID and the U.S. Government Presidential Initiative Feed the Future, NOURISH works to accelerate stunting reduction by focusing directly on several of the key causal factors of chronic malnutrition specific to Cambodia—poverty, lack of access to quality food and nutrition services, unsanitary environments, and social norms and practices that work against optimal growth and development. NOURISH **aims to improve the nutritional status and well-being of women and children** in 565 under-served, rural communities in *Battambang, Pursat, and Siem Reap* provinces, uniquely integrating **health/ nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and agriculture.**

NOURISH is implemented through four over-arching strategies.

- 1. Improving community delivery platforms to support improved nutrition:** A major delivery platform supported by NOURISH is the community stunting prevention program that uses fixed locations for promoting children’s growth, with referral and follow-up for sick and severely malnourished children through existing social support and health systems. NOURISH supports village health support groups (VHSGs) to deliver quality nutrition services and establish strong links to health centers. Collaboration with the agriculture sector offers opportunities to address food security constraints, and broad reach within the community to promote social and behavior change for improved nutrition.
- 2. Creating demand for health, WASH, and agriculture practices, services, and products:** Conditional cash transfers (CCTs), vouchers, and social and behavior change communications (SBCC) work to create demand for improved practices, services and products. CCTs serve as an incentive for women to access health and nutrition services by addressing poverty-related constraints. Community-led total sanitation creates the demand for sanitation, and the provision of vouchers helps the poor to purchase agricultural (e.g. local vegetables, eggs, fish/fish powder) and WASH products (e.g. water filters, latrines).
- 3. Using the private sector to expand supply of agriculture and WASH products:** On the supply side, NOURISH works with small and medium enterprises to increase the market for agriculture and sanitation products. Expanding the supply to meet the demand ensures that households and communities have access to agriculture and WASH products, which contributes to improved household and community diet diversity and sanitation practices.
- 4. Enhance capacity of sub-national government and civil society in integrated nutrition:** NOURISH strengthens the capacity of partners in health/nutrition, agriculture, sanitation and hygiene activities through organizational development, mentoring, and advocacy. The project supports local leaders to encourage nutrition activities in the community, reinforcing the social and behavior change messaging and community structures for nutrition.