

Cambodia Nutrition Country Fiche

In the last two decades, Cambodia has made impressive progress in the fight against child stunting, with rates steadily falling (from 58.6% in 1996 to 32.4% in 2014) and child mortality reducing at an equally dramatic rate. However, rates of stunting remain significantly higher for the lowest quintile (41.9% as compared to 18.5% for the highest quintile) and the number of wasted children under five (9.6%) has not significantly changed in recent years. Anaemia also presents a key challenge with a prevalence of more than 80% among children under two and 45% among women.

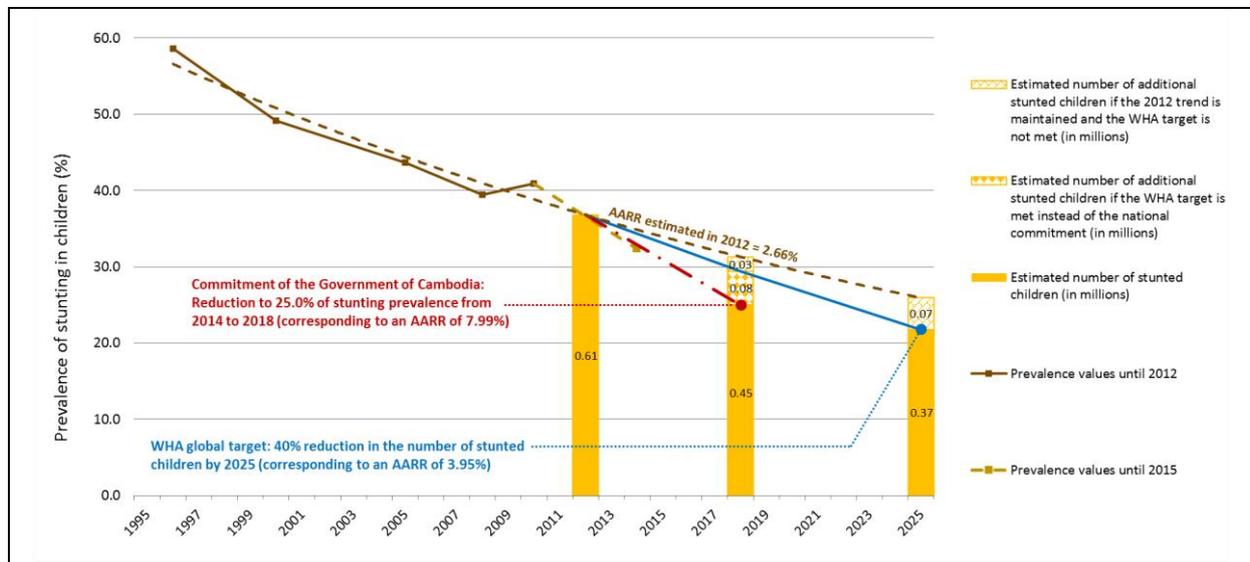
Progress against the World Health Assembly targets¹

WHA Nutrition Indicators	GNR 2015 analysis of progress ²
Stunting of children under-five years of age	Green
Wasting of children under-five years of age	Red
Overweight of children under-five years of age	Yellow
Anaemia of women of reproductive age	Red
Low birth weight	NA
Exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months	Red

Data last referenced by EU

Prevalence	Year
32.4%	2014 ³
9.6%	2014 ³
2.0%	2014 ³
45.4%	2014 ³
8.2%	2010 ⁴
65.0%	2014 ³

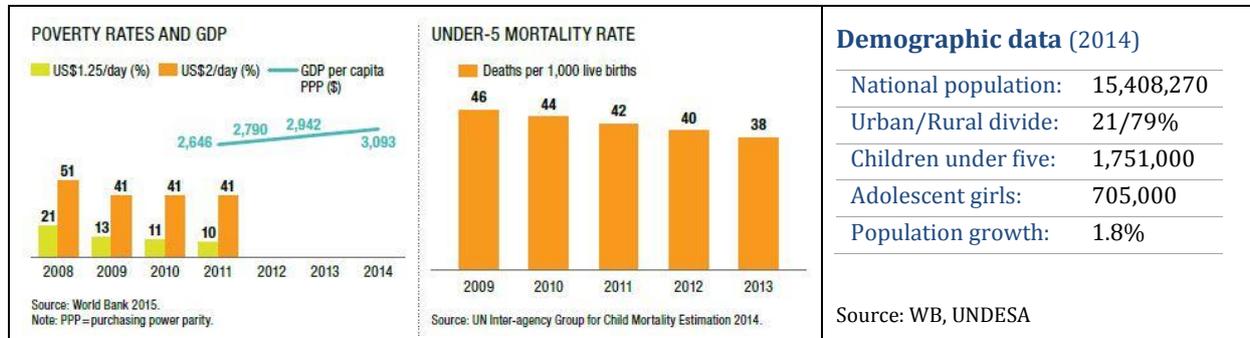
EU Analysis of Stunting Trends and Projections



Implications for Development Planners⁵

The line graph shows the historic trend in prevalence of stunting and the forward projection (based upon data until 2012) with the current average annual rate of reduction (AARR) of 2.66% (brown dotted line) as well as the projected AARRs of 7.99% (red broken line) and 3.95% (blue line) to meet the government's own commitment and the WHA target (respectively). In 2012, **610,000 children under-five were stunted**. Given the current trend and considering the population growth, 440,000 children will be stunted in 2025. However, the WHA target for 2025 calls for additional efforts by government and development partners to reach an extra 70,000 children and avert them from stunting.

Economics and Demography



Key Dimensions of Nutrition

Key drivers of poor nutrition in young children are inadequate complementary feeding practices, poor hygiene and high prevalence of diseases, including diarrhoea. Inequities in health and nutrition outcomes and in health care utilisation continue to persist between rural and urban areas, across provinces and between people with different educational levels and economic status. An estimated one in three Cambodians lives below the poverty line and stunting prevalence for the poorest wealth quintile is over two times greater than that of the richest quintile. The impact of (i) large-scale land investments on security of tenure and (ii) hydro dams infrastructure on the Mekong (projected to drastically reduce fish production) remain critical in relation to the right to adequate food and nutrition. The shift from small - scale integrated agricultural systems to commercial crop production, as well the overall degradation of water resources, food safety concerns and low consumer awareness also constitute key concerns.

Nutrition Governance

Member of SUN Movement: Yes since 2014	HANCI ranking (out of 45): 32 nd (Very low commitment)
<p>Government's commitment to nutrition (including N4G event):</p> <p>The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has positioned food security and nutrition as a national development priority and committed to reduce chronic malnutrition (stunting) of children under five from 39.9% in 2010 to 25% in 2018.</p>	
<p>Multi-sectoral policy framework for nutrition:</p> <p>Recognition of the importance of nutrition can be seen with the development of the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (NSFSN) 2014-2018. The RGC is also developing a National Nutrition Investment and Action Plan (NNIAP) that includes both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive actions.</p>	
<p>Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination:</p> <p>The NSFSN is led by the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) with participation of several line ministries, along with a Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition.</p>	



Support of the EU and Member States

MIP Focal Sector(s) for nutrition 2014-2020: 1) Agriculture / Natural Resource Management.

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition:

- At present the Government's budgetary commitment to agriculture is highly donor dependent and European partners will seek to address this and strengthen Government systems.
- In particular, nutrition will be prioritised through support to the Fisheries Sector (support to community-based production, protection of habitats and advocacy for more sustainable infrastructure development [hydro dams and irrigation] on the Mekong).
- European partners will continue efforts to support land rights in terms of both policy and enforcement to reduce insecurity of land tenure for smallholders, indigenous people groups and the landless poor.

Scaling-up actions:

- In the Fisheries sub-sector, the EU plans to finance actions up to €144 million to support access to fish protein by the poor as well as to increase the value of fish products through the value chain, including a focus on increased processing efficiency, improved product quality and increased market competitiveness of micro/small and medium sized enterprises, thereby increasing rural incomes.
- Local communities will be empowered to participate in the conservation and management of capture fisheries through efforts to address the cumulative impacts on natural ecosystems and illegal fishing.

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base:

- The EU plans to continue support to the Ministry of Commerce to strengthen trade policy development in the context of ASEAN integration. European partners' dialogue with the Government will address the strategic significance of developing national indicators for income generation within the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors and sub-sectors, as key data to measure equitable and sustainable growth.

¹ http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/

² Global Nutrition Report 2015. For stunting and overweight: red = "Off course: No progress", orange = "Off course: Some progress" or "On course: At risk", green = "On course: Good progress"; For exclusive breastfeeding: red = "Off course: Reversal" or "Off course: No progress", orange = "Off course: Some progress", green = "On course"; For wasting and anaemia: red = "Off course", green = "On course". In some cases the GNR analysis will differ from the EU analysis on stunting because the EU database precedes 2000 and projects trends from a longer historic perspective.

³ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014.

⁴ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010.

⁵ The figures presented here using the EC-DEVCO stunting tracking tool might differ from those generated by the WHO tracking tool (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/trackingtool/en/>) because there are differences in the methods used regarding: i. the calculation of the estimated numbers of stunted children in 2012; ii. the calculation of the target number of stunted children in 2025; iii. the demographic assumptions made; and iv. the historical stunting prevalence considered.