



**STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC
RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS ACROSS
CAMBODIA**



Although poverty rates have significantly declined in recent years, approximately 23% of rural Cambodians still live in poverty[1]. Many households are burdened with debt and 51.1% of the population are facing moderate or severe food insecurity[2] with only 49% of children[3] and 57% of women consuming adequately diverse diets[4].

This financial strain forces families to adopt negative coping strategies, including withdrawing children from school early to contribute to household income. Nearly 20% of children aged 5 to 9 and 47% of those aged 10 to 14 are engaged in work, often in low-wage and unsafe working conditions[1], undermining their education, health, and long-term livelihood prospects.

World Vision Cambodia is working to reduce household poverty and child labour and improve overall food security and nutrition by using grants, sponsorship and private funding to carry out economic resilience and/or livelihood programmes in Phnom Penh and six other provinces. The portfolio focuses on diversified, land-independent livelihoods, climate-smart and nutrient-sensitive agriculture, strengthened sub-national coordination, and market system development through value-chain and private-sector partnerships.

Our Impact in 2025

In 2025, World Vision Cambodia's Economic Resilience and Livelihood Programme benefited



3,956

households

(including 7425 children), of whom 63% are classified as poor, 912 are women-headed and 305 households included a member with a disability.



Khloth Sochan, a 44-year-old farmer from Kampong Chhnang Province, transformed her life with support from **World Vision International in Cambodia**. Once struggling with infertile soil, unpredictable rainfall, and unprofitable rice farming, Sochan gained new skills through World Vision– supported training in **climate-smart agriculture, livestock management, and sustainable livelihoods**, delivered in partnership with her local agricultural cooperative.

With this support, Sochan diversified her farming, converting part of her rice land into vegetable production and poultry raising. By applying techniques such as drip irrigation, organic fertilizer, crop diversification, and integrated farming systems, she now earns a stable income—generating income from both vegetable sales and chicken raising. **'These practices not only improved efficiency but also enhanced the overall productivity of my farm'**, said Sochan. Her household food security has improved, and she is now able to save for her children's education.

World Vision's training, resources, and ongoing guidance empowered Sochan to overcome initial challenges and gain confidence, even changing her husband's perspective on adopting new farming methods. Today, she is a thriving farmer who shares her knowledge with others, demonstrating how World Vision's support can help rural families build resilient livelihoods and a more secure future.



[1] National Institute of Statistics (NIS). Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2019–20: Final Report. Royal Government of Cambodia, 2021.

https://www.nis.gov.kh/nis/CSES/Final%20Report%20of%20Cambodia%20Socio-Economic%20Survey%202019-20_EN.pdf

[2] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme, & World Health Organization. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation and Healthy Diets across the Rural–Urban Continuum. FAO, 2023. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

[3] Food Systems Dashboard. Cambodia: Diet Quality Indicators. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, 2023.

<https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/countries/khm>

[4] National Institute of Statistics (NIS), Ministry of Health (MoH), & ICF. Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021–22: Summary Report. Royal Government of Cambodia, 2023.

[5] Education in Cambodia, Wikipedia, last modified December 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Cambodia

[6] EVALUATION REPORT of Improving Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience of Vulnerable Farming Households in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia (IFNSR) 2023–2025, May 2025

[7] Climate-Resilient Green Community (CRGC) | Cambodia | World Vision International; <https://www.wvi.org/publications/brochure/cambodia/climate-resilient-green-community-crgc>


Household income, livelihood resilience and food security has improved

Uptake of climate-smart agriculture increased **from 15.5% at baseline (April 2023) to 72.5% at endline (May 2025)**, driving higher production, improved food quality, and increased incomes through vegetable farming, greenhouse installation, livestock, aquaculture, and drought-resilient crops. **This contributed to an increase of 20% (from 42% to 62%)[6] of the 900 target households earning above the baseline average**

Cooperatives have grown and developed




21
Agricultural
Cooperatives



3,195 members
(2,223 women), collectively accumulating
US\$831,822 in capital and US\$10,352

in social funds support emergency needs; such as illness treatment, maternity care, and elderly assistance; and community development, including road and building repairs.

Household savings have grown:



79
Active savings
groups



2,684 Members
(2073 women)

saved US\$540,968, up from 32 Saving Groups with 1,369 members at \$US144,596 in 2023, disbursing 1,184 loans for business (367), productivity activities (285), paying debts (110), food (127), education (121), health (134), and other purposes (40). The social fund totalled USD 8,002[7].

Business partnerships have developed:

Ten collection points were equipped to improve post-harvest handling and storage, while 164 farmers were integrated into a new vegetable market in Rovieng district, **collectively producing 84 tons of vegetables**. **Small-scale producers gained access to local markets**, and larger-scale producers related to private buyers, including organic rice groups linked to Amru Rice and cashew nut cooperatives partnered with Mirarth Agri Tec Co.

Our Approaches

Our approach supports Cambodia’s most vulnerable households to transition from survival-based livelihoods to sustainable economic empowerment through a five-prong approach:



Skill-building:

In partnership with government’s Commune Agriculture Officers, World Vision builds farmers’ capacity in climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural techniques. These practices strengthen farmers resilience to floods and droughts, allowing them to produce higher yields year-round and secure a more reliable income for their families. At the same time, nutrition-sensitive agriculture ensures that nutrient-rich crops are available for both consumption and sale, increasing access to nutritious food for rural Cambodians and contributing to improved nutrition outcomes for children.



Access to finance:

By linking farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and small to medium enterprises to financing, World Vision enables these groups to grow and fully participate in markets. World Vision facilitates access for households to a range of financial services, including savings and credit offered through agricultural cooperatives and savings groups, helping them strengthen their economic resilience and investment capacity.



Behaviour change: Introducing new methods like climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive agriculture can be challenging, but it is essential to ensure all children have enough nutritious food. To support this, World Vision launched the **ENOUGH campaign**, promoting healthy eating behaviours in communities and advancing Cambodia’s **Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2024–2028)**.



Financial Literacy:

World Vision supports household financial literacy through trainings and individual coaching. Families are supported to develop plans for the future and are provided with tools and knowledge to enable them to reach their goals.



Promote Sustainable Market Access:

World Vision interventions aim to ensure that households and groups benefit from participating in sustainable value chains connected to both local and external markets. On the supply side, World Vision supports groups of farmers in collaborating and forming agricultural cooperatives, increasing the volume of produce available for larger buyers. World Vision also works with relevant private sector actors to stimulate demand and link them with these cooperatives, fostering the development of sustainable and mutually beneficial value chains.

Across World Vision’s Economic Resilience and Livelihood Programmes, two key principles underpin all activities: **Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Environmental Sustainability**. Women and people with disabilities are actively empowered to participate in planning, decision-making, and leadership development; in 2025, 96% of households reported women engaged in decision-making. Recognizing that farming can contribute to environmental degradation, World Vision promotes practices that increase productivity while preserving the natural environment/resources, **including Farmer Managed Natural Resources, regreening initiatives**, environmentally sustainable farming techniques, natural regeneration, reforestation, and land restoration.

Our Partnerships and Strategic Alignment

World Vision works in partnership with government, private sector, and development actors to support and transform the lives of the Cambodia's most vulnerable households. The programme aligns with the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Pentagonal Strategy, contributing to Pentagon 1: Human Capital Development (Side 2: Technical Skills Training); and Pentagon 2: Economic Diversification and Competitiveness Enhancement (Side 1: Development of Key Sectors and New Sources of Economic Growth). It also aligns with Cambodia's Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2024–2028) and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

To deliver on these priorities, World Vision collaborates closely with provincial and national institutions including — the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Agriculture Cooperative offices, Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, Council for Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Humanitarian Response Forum — to implement, monitor progress, and provide guidance, particularly in extension services, capacity-building programs, national awareness campaigns, and facilitating the exchange of information and experiences.

Our current development and private sector partners include Climate Change Technical Working Group, Agriculture and Water Technical Working Group, Agriculture Cooperatives, Cashew Network, Preah Vihear Mean Chey Agricultural Cooperative Union, Agri-business and market actors including Amru-Rice, Khmer Organic Cooperative, Signature of Asia, Sna Dai Mae Restaurant, Cambodian Agricultural Cooperative Corporation, The Natural, Prine, and financial institutions, including Angkor Microheranhvatho Kampuchea (AMK) Microfinance, Lanka ORIX Leasing Company (LOLC) Microfinance, ACLEDA Bank, PHILIP Bank, and Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ARDB).



THE ROAD AHEAD

DIVERSIFYING OUR APPROACH

World Vision Cambodia's strategy for the Economic Resilience & Livelihood Programme prioritises four avenues for strengthening household economic empowerment::

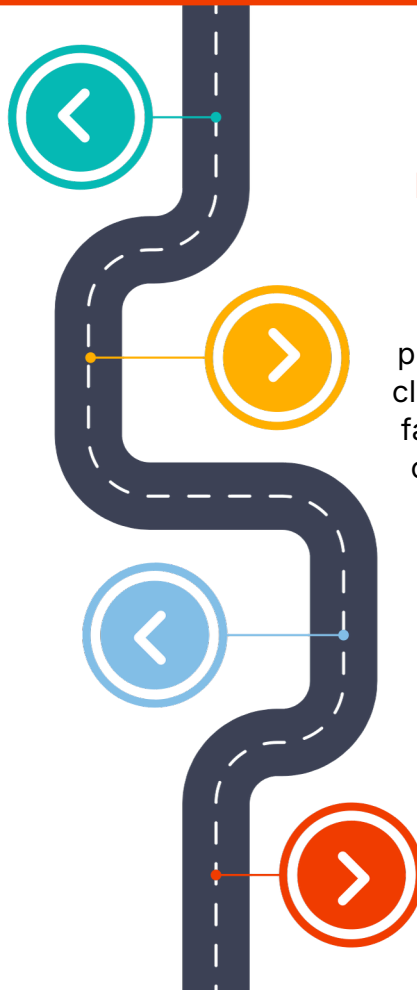


Diversify our livelihood approach beyond agriculture by

by piloting three land-independent approaches to increase households' income.

Strengthen stakeholder coordination by

improving collaboration among local stakeholders across agriculture, WASH and health sectors, enabling integrated service delivery and more efficient use of resources for vulnerable households.



Enhance climate-smart agriculture

by partnering with Commune Agricultural Officers and the private sector to build capacity in climate-smart techniques, helping farmers increase yields, adapt to climate risks, and improve food security.

Strengthen market systems

by securing funding for new projects that enhance market linkages and develop sustainable value chains, expanding access to buyers and increasing income opportunities for smallholder farmers.





World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.



World Vision
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YEARS OF GRATITUDE, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE



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