



World Vision

ឆ្នាំនៃការដឹងគុណ ភាពធន់ និងក្តីសង្ឃឹម
YEARS OF GRATITUDE, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE



**IMPROVING CHILD
NUTRITION AND
MATERNAL HEALTH
ACROSS CAMBODIA'S
MOST VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES**

World Vision: Improving Child Nutrition and Maternal Health Across Cambodia's Most Vulnerable Communities

More than one in five Cambodian children under five years of age experience some form of malnutrition. According to the most recent Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (2021-2022), **about 22 % of children under five are stunted** (a sign of chronic undernutrition leading to low height for age) and **around 10 % are wasted** (a form of acute malnutrition characterized by low weight for height) — making malnutrition among children under five one of the country's most pressing health challenges.

Gender disparities in health and nutrition remain a significant challenge. The Global Affairs-CANADA baseline[1] indicates that while women have gained greater decision-making power in health, they still bear 86 percent of the water collection burden. **Despite high awareness, immediate breastfeeding remains low (30 percent)**, and empowerment related to domestic violence is limited (30 percent). These inequities restrict women's time and agency, limiting their ability to adopt optimal nutrition and health-seeking practices for themselves and their children. Together, these factors undermine child survival, learning, and future productivity, reinforcing intergenerational poverty and placing sustained pressure on Cambodia's health and social systems. Addressing child malnutrition is therefore both a public health priority and a strategic investment in human capital and sustainable development.

In response, **World Vision International in Cambodia** is implementing integrated nutrition programmes across nine provinces to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and young children. These efforts focus on strengthening the quality of, and access to, primary health care services and promoting healthy childcare and nutrition practices to ensure children receive the appropriate care and nutrition they need to thrive.




Voices from the field: A Mother's Experience at a Baby-Friendly Health Centre


In Siem Reap province, Mrs. Srein Leim welcomed her first child at Cha Chuk Health Centre, a facility supported by the Baby-Friendly Health Centre Project.

Mrs. Leim emphasized the compassionate care she received. "I was very pleased with the support I received at the health centre. The staff were kind and polite, making me feel comfortable throughout the process.

They gave me good advice on how to care for my new baby, including safe breastfeeding, vaccinations, and managing fever. I will definitely share what I learned here with other mothers in my community."

Our Impact in 2025

 **41,887**
children (20,376 girls)
benefited from health and nutrition
activities.

 **91%** met the dietary diversity
standards

 **70%** were exclusively
breastfed in the
first six months

 **1,150** children with severe
malnutrition received
urgent treatment from
the health facility

The ENOUGH Campaign increased public
awareness and promoted positive
nutrition-related behaviour change,
reaching over

 **96,000**
people directly

and indirectly through youth leadership,
content creators, and social media
engagement.

 **28,939**
caregivers benefited from
health and nutrition activities, including
22,009 women of reproductive age who
received direct advice and support from
community health workers

 **72%** of women reported
increased food consumption during
their most recent pregnancy.

The campaign enhanced youth leadership
and policy influence on nutrition and food
security, supporting evidence-based
advocacy that contributed to the
adoption of **Cambodia's 3rd National
Strategy on Food Security and Nutrition**
and the implementation of youth-led
advocacy actions at district level.



Our Approaches

World Vision's Health and Nutrition Programme works toward one key outcome: **improved access to health and nutrition services and positive behavioral change among pregnant women and caregivers of children under five years of age.** To achieve this outcome, World Vision Cambodia applies the following approaches:



Improved Early Childhood Care and Development

World Vision, in collaboration with health center staff, form mothers' groups and grandmother groups (where appropriate, based on the primary caregiver). These groups are supported through capacity building on a range of Early Childhood Care and Development topics to drive community-wide improvements in childcare practices. Complimentarily, World Vision is implementing the ENOUGH Campaign to promote healthy eating habits among caregivers and their children in order to ensure that every Cambodian child has ENOUGH nutritious food to eat.



Key Projects Implemented

- 27 Health and Nutrition projects funded through private sponsorship and implemented in eight provinces.
- Baby-Friendly Health Centres Project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, implemented in 34 health centers in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces.
- Every Dream Matters Project, funded by JYP Entertainment, implemented in Kratie and Preah Vihear provinces.
- Realizing Gender Equality, Attitudinal Change and Transformative Systems in Nutrition Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, implemented in Kratie province.
- Integrated Early Childhood Development Project, financed through private funding and implemented in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces.
- Social Accountability Framework Project, funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the World Bank, implemented in 20 provinces and Phnom Penh.



Strengthened Quality and Accessibility of Health Care Services

World Vision strengthens the quality and accessibility of primary health care by building the capacity of Ministry of Health staff at provincial, district, and health centre levels in areas such as malnutrition management, newborn and infant screening, and birth spacing/Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. World Vision also trains Community Health Workers - especially Village Health Support Group members - to lead outreach, promote healthy childcare practices, identify undernutrition cases, and refer people for treatment. To support accountability, World Vision raises community awareness and establishes feedback mechanisms to ensure services meet Ministry of Health standards.



System Strengthening

World Vision participates in the Technical Working Group supporting the implementation of the Primary Health Care-Booster Implementation Framework and technically supports Ministry of Health in any policy and/or strategy development/amendment for expecting mothers and children under five.



Our Partnerships and Strategic Alignment

The programme operates under Strategic Objective 2 of the World Vision Cambodia Country Strategy 2023-2027: **'Increase in children who are healthy and well-nourished with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in financially stable homes.'** It is closely aligned with Cambodian government priorities, contributing to:

- Cambodia's National Pentagonal Strategy – Phase 1 focused on "Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability". Specifically, WVI's Health and Nutrition Programme contributes to Pentagon 1- Human Capital Development, Side 3: Improvement of People's Health and Well-Being.
- Cambodia's National Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategy 2020-2025
- Primary Health Care- Booster Implementation Framework 2023
- The Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2024-2028.

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To achieve improved access to health and nutrition services and positive behavioral change among pregnant women and caregivers of children under five years of age, the programme works in close partnership with government health agencies, including Provincial Health Departments, Operational Districts, National Maternal and Child Health Centres, and the National Humanitarian Inclusion Program. It collaborates with these organisations to guide and support Village Health Support Groups, ensuring effective and context-appropriate services reach the most vulnerable populations.

In partnership with the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), World Vision advocates for strategic improvements in nutrition and agricultural development.

The programme regularly coordinates with United Nations agencies and other Non Governmental Organisations, such as UNICEF, and Helen Keller International, and MEDiCAM to expand it's reach and maximize impact.



THE ROAD AHEAD

EXPANDING EQUITABLE, GENDER-RESPONSIVE HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

World Vision International- Cambodia is committed to expanding its Health and Nutrition Programme coverage to underserved regions, including Mondulkiri Province. This expansion aligns with our mission to serve the most vulnerable populations in remote communities.

Integrating with this programme, **we will prioritize livelihoods interventions that strengthen nutrition-sensitive agriculture and climate-resilient food systems** as well as support healthy eating habits through the ENOUGH Campaign to improve nutrition outcomes for children. These will complement our current efforts on Early Childhood Care and Development to further enhance food security and nutrition.

Embed Gender-Transformative Framework for Nutrition (GTFN) into Kratie's health systems by **integrating gender-responsive budgeting and indicators into annual plans**. This builds institutional capacity to sustain equitable nutrition outcomes and address root power imbalances.

Recognizing emerging needs, **World Vision aims to integrate Mental Health and Psychosocial Support activities into the Health and Nutrition programme design**, particularly addressing maternal mental health, including post-natal depression.





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.



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