



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



THE THIRD NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
2024–2028

DEVELOPED BY
THE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION*

2024–2028

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Kingdom of Cambodia

រាជរដ្ឋាភិបាល
Royal Government

ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Nation Religion King

Message

**Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
To support the implementation of the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition
2024–2028**

Over the past 25 years, under the Win-Win Policy of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, former Prime Minister and current President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodia has achieved full peace, stability, public order, and significant development across all sectors. Through the coordination of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, substantial progress has been made in food security and nutrition. This progress is evident in the Global Hunger Index, which demonstrates a reduction in Cambodia's score from 41.40 in 2000 to 14.90 in 2023. According to the Cambodia Demographic and Health Surveys conducted between 2000 and 2021-2022, the prevalence of child stunting under the age of five has declined from 50% to 21.9%. Additionally, the rates of child wasting and underweight have dropped from 17% to 9.6% and from 39% to 16%, respectively. By 2023, 86.60% of the rural population have access to basic sanitation, and 83.50% have access to clean water supply.

During the same period, the underweight rate among women aged 15-49 decreased from 20.6% to 10.55%. However, the rate of overweight young women has significantly risen from 7% in 2000 to 32% in 2021-2022. This shift reflects Cambodia's remarkable recent economic growth, which has been accompanied by significant changes in the food environment, resulting in increased availability and consumption of unhealthy snacks and beverages high in fat, salt, and sugar across all segments of the population.

These developments highlight the ongoing efforts of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia across all sectors, consistently dedicated on improving the health and well-being of every citizen. This includes enhancing food systems, health systems, and social protection, along with clean water supply, sanitation, and hygiene, all aimed at ensuring food security and nutrition for everyone, leaving no one behind.

The Royal Government of Cambodia of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly continues to prioritize food security and nutrition as key priorities and fundamental pillars for boosting productivity and fostering human capital development. In this context, the Royal Government, through the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, has launched the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition for 2024-2028 which vision is to ensure that all Cambodians have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food while being protected from all forms of malnutrition through strengthening food systems to make them more resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and equitable, promoting good nutrition and health for everyone.

The National Strategy aims to promote healthy diets by encouraging both individual and social behavioral changes and regulating food environments through ensuring food quality and safety, as well as improving access to various nutrition services to address the triple burden of malnutrition: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity. The strategy prioritizes key

areas, including: (1) sustainable food systems, (2) health systems, (3) social protection systems, (4) water sanitation and hygiene, and (5) social behavioral change, and includes sector-led responsibilities such as agriculture, industry, commerce, health, and education. Additionally, the strategy addresses cross-cutting issues such as gender and youth, climate change, equity, private sector engagement, and digitalization. Governance and partnerships are also integrated into the strategy, ensuring broader and more inclusive implementation.

I would like to express my deep appreciation and support to the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Technical Working Group for Food Security and Nutrition, under the leadership of His Excellency Senior Minister Dr. OUK Rabun. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all ministries, institutions, development partners, civil society, and the private sector for their undying support and collaboration throughout the whole process in the development of the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, 2024-2028, aligning it with the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 and the Royal Government's priority policy programs.

The successful implementation of the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, 2024-2028, is of utmost importance for achieving Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) 2016-2030 and serves as a foundation for human capital development in reaching Cambodia's Vision 2050. In this regard, I urge all ministries, institutions, sub-national administrations, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to actively implement this Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, 2024-2028, and contribute to its success.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that every stakeholder within the Royal Government, development partners, civil society, and the private sector will fully utilize the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2024-2028 for better effectiveness and efficiency in this implementation, contributing to the development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Phnom Penh, 11 March 2025

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET

Foreword

The Royal Government of Cambodia, under the brilliant and energetic leadership of **Samdech Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**, has launched the **Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability**, which continues to place a top priority on People. This includes Pentagon 1 for Human Capital Development which focusses on people's health and well-being, and strengthening the social protection system and food system to support food security and nutrition for all Cambodians. Pentagon 4 Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Development promotes gender equity and ensures environmental sustainability, managing natural resources and agricultural and rural development aimed at the development of a modern, diversified and resilient agricultural sector that supports rural development, ensuring food security and safety, value adding, competitiveness, and the strengthening of people livelihoods.

The Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (the 3rd NSFSN), 2024-2028 is align with the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1, 2024–2028, the National Strategic Development Plan 2024–2028, the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 and to follows the Second National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2019–2023. **The 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028** also serves as a legal document and based on the Cambodia's Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030, the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, the Country Operational Roadmap for the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, Cambodia's Nutrition for Growth Commitments and their related legal documents.

The Royal Government of Cambodia recommends that all responsible ministries, institutions and sub-national administrations continue to cooperate with development partners, civil society, academia and the private sector to accelerate their efforts to implement **the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028** towards the achievement of Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2: **ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture**.

The Council for Agricultural and Rural Development assists the Royal Government of Cambodia in coordinating agricultural and rural development, food security and nutrition and food system transformation, and continues to work closely with all stakeholders to address all forms of malnutrition in Cambodia through coordination, collaboration and interventions with relevant sectors, cross-cutting issues, multisector priorities, and the governance of food security and nutrition and food systems. These actions are in line with the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1, especially the fourth angle of Pentagon 1, which is the strengthening of the social protection system and food system and the third angle of Pentagon 4, which is the promotion of agriculture and rural development.

On behalf of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and as Chairman of the Technical Working Group for Food Security and Nutrition, I would like to express my deep

gratitude to all stakeholders, both national and international, for their cooperation, support and inputs in developing this strategy to its successful completion. I call on relevant ministries, institutions, sub-national administrations, development partners, the private sector, academia and civil society to participate in the implementation of **the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028** to ensure that it leads to the most positive impacts.

Dated: 30th December 2024



H.E. OUK Rabun, PhD

Senior Minister

Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development

List of Abbreviations

ACF	The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation
ASMP	Agricultural Sector Master Plan 2030
BMI	Body Mass Index
CA	Competent Authority
CAO	Commune Agricultural Officer
CARD	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
CCTWG	Climate Change Technical Working Group
CCWC	Commune Committee for Women and Children
CDHS	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CDP	Commune Development Plan
CIP	Commune Investment Program
COP	Conference of the Parties on Climate Change
CSDG	Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals
CTPWCu2	Cash Transfer for Pregnant Women and Children Under 2 Years
DP	Development Partner
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH</i>
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
GS-NSPC	General Secretariat for National Social Protection Council
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HRF	Humanitarian Response Forum
ISC	Institute of Standards of Cambodia
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JMI	Joint Monitoring Indicator
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MISTI	Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation
MoC	Ministry of Commerce
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoInf	Ministry of Information
MoLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoWRAM	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MUAC	Middle Upper Arm Circumference
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NADP	National Agricultural Development Policy
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCDD	National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NMCHC	National Maternal and Child Health Centre

NNP	National Nutrition Program
NSCFF	National Sub-committee for Food Fortification
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NSFSN	National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition
NSPC	National Social Protection Council
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PFM	Public Financial Management
POU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
PWG-FSN	Provincial/Municipal Working Groups for the coordination of Food Security and Nutrition
RAC	Royal Academy of Cambodia
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SASC	Social Assistance Sub-committee
SBC	Social Behaviour Change
SBN	SUN Business Network
SSB	Sugar-Sweetened Beverage
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG-FSN	Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition
VHSG	Village Health Support Group
VNR	Voluntary National Review
W&N SWG	WASH and Nutrition Sub-Working Group
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
ZHC	Zero Hunger Challenge

The Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, 2024–2028

1. Introduction

Throughout its history, Cambodia has made many great achievements through the implementation of win-win policies founded on the principles of national solidarity and unity under the motto of the Nation, Religion and the King, these efforts have played a crucial role in restoring Cambodia's economic and social development. This has elevated Cambodia from low to lower-middle-income country status, an impressive achievement that has set the stage for Cambodia's vision to reach upper-middle income status by 2030, and high-income status by 2050.

Nutrition is a critical factor in Cambodia's development as a healthy and productive nation. Malnutrition includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies) along with overweight and obesity, with associated diet-related non-communicable diseases. Despite notable economic growth and poverty reduction, malnutrition remains a significant challenge, affecting human capital development and imposing high social and economic costs estimated as high as 2.66% of GDP¹. By comparison, Cambodia's entire health expenditure was about 7.5% of the country's GDP in 2021². Poor nutrition diminishes individuals' productivity and increases healthcare expenses, with women and children being particularly vulnerable. Prioritizing nutrition is essential for Cambodia to achieve its goal of reaching upper-middle income status by 2030 and high-income status by 2050. Addressing malnutrition, adapting food systems to climate change, and fostering strong leadership and partnerships are vital to ensuring long-term health, education, and economic benefits.

Cambodia's recent impressive economic growth has been accompanied by dramatic shifts in the nutrition landscape. Stunting in children under five reduced from 32% in 2014 to 22% in 2022, with major differences between wealth quintiles (31% among poorest compared with 12% among wealthiest); however acute malnutrition or wasting still affects 9.6% of children under five. On the other hand, overweight and obesity among women aged 15-49 increased from 18% to 32%, increasing with age. Moreover, the proportion of women meeting minimum dietary diversity standards dropped from 68% to 57% in 2021 (CDHS, 2021).

This changing nutrition landscape demands a strategic shift to reduce wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and prevent overweight and obesity. With the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in Cambodia, inadequate nutrition and obesity are major risk factors to address. To do so requires the promotion of healthy, nutrient-adequate diets, specifically focusing on more fruit and vegetables, fewer unhealthy snacks and drinks, and promotion of fortified foods. With increasing availability, accessibility and consumption of unhealthy snacks and drinks with high fat, salt and sugar content across all population segments, the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (The 3rd NSFSN), 2024-2028 underscores the need for policy measures that incentivize and regulate food environments, use social

1

https://cdn.wfp.org/wfp.org/publications/Report%20on%20Economic%20Consequences%20of%20Malnutrition%20in%20Cambodia.pdf?_ga=2.225673629.686798521.1603989474-1617563600.1601314520

2 https://uniatf.who.int/docs/librariesprovider22/default-document-library/cambodia-ncd-report.pdf?sfvrsn=12263136_1

behaviour change to promote improved diets and care practices, and improve supply chains for healthier food options.

In alignment with this vision, the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) has collaborated with line ministries, institutions, and development partners to develop the 3rd NSFSN 2024-2028. This strategy builds on the foundation of the 2nd NSFSN, 2019-2023 and is aligned with the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 and Cambodia’s Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030.

2. Conceptual Foundations

The 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028 is based on the well-known UNICEF framework for nutrition, which also guided the previous strategy. This framework highlights the key factors that influence nutrition for mothers and children, focusing on access to healthy diets and proper care practices. These factors include how available and accessible nutritious food is, the feeding practices used, and the overall quality of the environments in which people live. The strategy emphasizes using proven, evidence-based methods to address these critical aspects of nutrition.

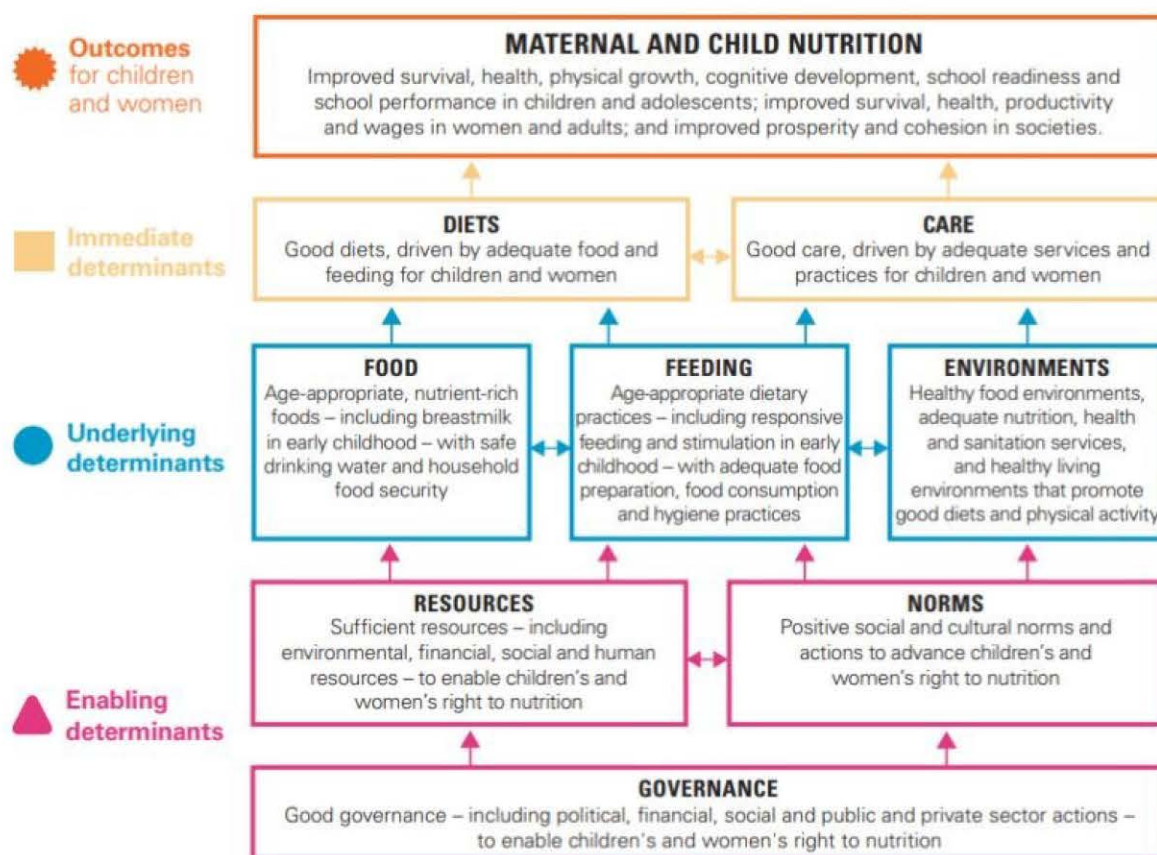


Figure 1: The UNICEF Conceptual framework on the Determinants of Maternal and Child Nutrition (2020). A framework for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms.

The concept of food security adopted in Cambodia, as part of the 'food' determinant of malnutrition, is based on six key dimensions: availability, accessibility, utilization, stability,

agency, and sustainability³. According to the most widely accepted definition from the High-Level Panel of Experts (2020), *'food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life'*.

This strategy uses a systems approach to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition. This approach ensures that all sectors contribute clearly and work together across different levels. Key principles include promoting inclusivity, enhancing research and analysis, and fostering good governance, partnerships, and coordination at both national and local levels. **Cross-cutting** issues such as Gender and Youth, Environment, Climate Change, Equity, Private Sector Engagement, Digitalization are also integrated into all relevant activities.

3. Strategic Directions

Cambodia's strategic directions for the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028 are outlined in several key frameworks:

1. Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 (2024–2028)
2. National Strategic Development Plan 2024–2028
3. Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030
4. Sectoral and cross-cutting strategies and action plans

These strategies and plans provide a clear foundation for all sectoral and multi-sectoral strategies.

To ensure that Cambodia meets its international commitments, particularly those related to food security and nutrition, including Food Systems Coordination Hub, SUN Movement, Alliance of Champion for Food System Transformation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 targets and Nutrition for Growth Commitments, the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 incorporates several national plans. By harmonizing these plans, the strategy aims to:

- Simplify the policy landscape, making it easier to understand and navigate.
- Reduce perceived duplication of efforts, ensuring resources are used efficiently.
- Highlight key directions and activities, providing clear guidance for implementation to close gap between current plans and actions required to address the goals set forth in this strategy.
- Recognize and involve the relevant authorities to improve healthy diets and care practices to address all forms of malnutrition in Cambodia.

The 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 is further supported by Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMIs) developed by the Technical Working Group for Food Security and Nutrition, which is chaired by the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD).

3.1 Vision

All Cambodian people are food secure and protected against all forms of malnutrition by sustainable and resilient systems that promote health, well-being, and equity, in line with the CSDG 2030 agenda.

³ HLPE. 2020. Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome⁴ Ministry of Health (2020) Cambodia National Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Social Behavior Change and Communication Strategy 2020-2025.

3.2 Goal

Between 2024^[1] and 2028, Cambodia aims to achieve the following improvements for women and children, aligned with the Fast-Track Roadmap for Nutrition 2023-2030 and in line with Cambodia’s SDG targets 2030:

- **Reduce the rate of child stunting** (children who are too short for their age) from 21.9 % to 19%.
- **Lower the rate of child wasting** (children who are too thin for their height) from 9.6% to less than 5.8%.
- **Prevent any increase in childhood overweight.**
- **Halt rise in overweight and obesity** among women aged 20-49, currently at 32.6% to 27%.

^[1] The baseline reference date is from 2022 because this was the date of the most recent CDHS, 2021–2022.

3.3 Objectives

The objectives for the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028 are to improve dietary quality (particularly among women of reproductive age and children aged 6-23 months), food security, and care practices (measured by outcome indicators in Table 1).

3.4 Baseline Situation, Progress and Targets

The baseline situation for key indicators and accompanying targets are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: BASELINE 2000, PROGRESS TO 2021–2022, TARGETS FOR 2028

IMPACT INDICATORS	CDHS 2000	CDHS 2014	CDHS 2021–22	Target 2028
Stunting children under 5	50%	32%	21.9%	19%
Wasting children under 5	17%	9.6%	9.6%	5.8%
Overweight children under 5	3%	2%	4%	No increase
Overweight women (BMI ≥25.0) 20–49 years	7.87% (15-49)	18% (15-49) <i>(3% among 15-19)</i>	32.6% (20-49) 6% (15-19)	No increase- among women 20-49
Underweight women (BMI <18.5) 20–49 years ⁴	20.64%	11.39%	7.10%	5.4%
Micronutrient deficiencies women 15-49		Anemia: 44% ⁷	Anemia: 47% (WHO, 2019)	23.1%
Micronutrient deficiencies 6-59 months		Anemia: 53% ⁷	Anemia: 49% (WHO, 2019)	
OUTCOME INDICATORS	CDHS 2000	CDHS 2014	CDHS 2021-22	Target 2028
Prevalence of Undernourishment	20% in 2004 (SOFI)	16% in 2016 (SOFI)	4.8 in 2024 (SOFI)	TBD
Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women 15-49 (MDD-W)			57%	65% (2025) 70% ² (2030)
Children 6–23 months who consume MAD	21.7% (2005) ³	30.4%	42%	60% (2030)
Sweetened beverage consumption 6-23 months			28%	
Sweetened beverage consumption women 15-49			63%	

Zero fruit and vegetable consumption 6-23 months			29%	
Unhealthy food consumption 6-23 months			21%	
Unhealthy food consumption women 15-49			33%	
Exclusive breastfeeding 0-5 months	11.1%	64.6%	50%	50% (WHA 2025) ¹ 85% (2030) ²
Households with adequately iodized salt	13.8%	68.9%	49%	65%
Households without a toilet facility	79%	43.4%	11.7%	N/A
Access to basic water supply services⁵			74.7%	97%
Access to basic sanitation services⁵			78.5%	97%

** The operational plan and M&E framework (including output level indicators) will be developed upon endorsement of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028.

Sources:

¹ World Health Assembly

² N4G Commitments (2021)

³ Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding practices. Part 3 Country Profiles. UNICEF 2010.

⁴ Prior to 2021–2022, the averages for women aged 20–49 years were calculated from published CDHS data for all age groups, weighted according to the proportion of the sample falling within each group.

⁵ MRD MIS - Q4 2021 data.

⁶ National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health and ICF International. 2015. *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014*.

4. The Twin Track Approach

In the previous strategy (The 2nd NSFSN, 2019–2023), a **'twin-track' approach** was used to distinguish between sector-led activities and joint priorities that required collaboration across multiple sectors. This approach continues in the Third NSFSN (2024–2028), where different sectors contribute to improving diets and care practices, while also addressing the gaps between typical sector activities and the areas where sectors need to work together.

The main responsibilities for **sector-led activities** fall within Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Health, and Education. However, certain priorities – the **“joint priorities”** – require multisectoral coordination to enhance healthy diets and care practices. In addition, the strategy integrates critical **cross-cutting** elements to ensure inclusion and sustainability; and is built on a foundation of strengthened governance frameworks and partnership.

These elements are represented in Figure 2 and described in further detail below.

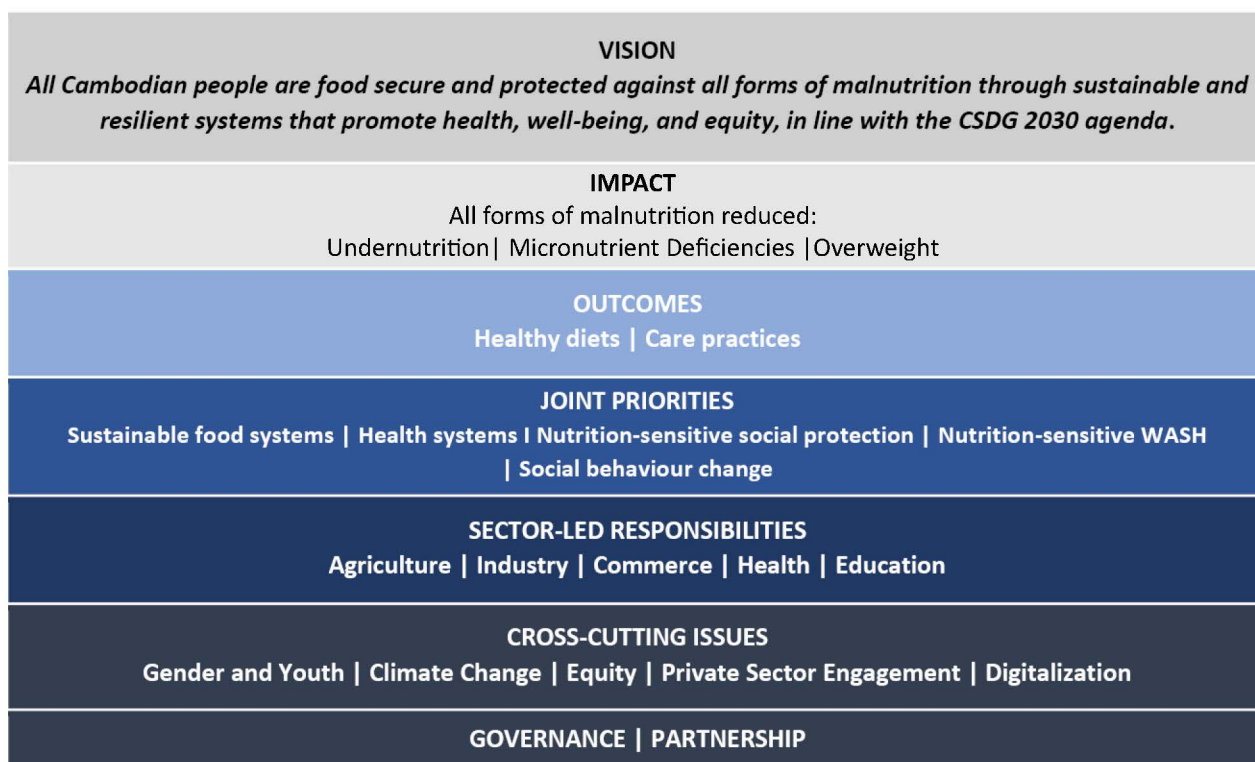


Figure 2: The Strategic Framework for the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028

5. Joint Priorities

Key ‘**joint priorities**’ have been identified as essential to improving diets and care practices in Cambodia. These priorities cut across multiple systems—food, health, social protection, and WASH—and require social behavior change to encourage better practices. Each sector has a role to play in addressing these priorities – some of these sectoral activities have already been programmed and budgeted whereas others still require scaled and concerted effort.

5.1 Sustainable Food Systems

- **Ensure Access to Healthy Diets:** Support consumers, especially women of reproductive age and children during their first 1,000 days of life (from conception to a child’s second birthday), to access healthy, diversified, and adequate diets by addressing gaps in knowledge and financial, physical and social barriers to access.
- **Strengthen Food Environments:** Reduce the promotion and availability of unhealthy foods and sweetened beverages. Improve food safety and standard mechanisms to ensure compliance with food fortification standards and better regulate complementary foods produced for children. Regulate food environments in public spaces including schools to protect children’s diets during formative years.
- **Promote Diversified and Sustainable Food Production:** Encourage the production of a variety of nutritious and sustainable foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and fish. Strengthen value chains to ensure food safety, quality, and resilience, particularly in the face of climate change.
- **Protect Food Security and Livelihoods:** Safeguard food security, nutrition, and livelihoods from seasonal, chronic, and unexpected shocks and stresses, including those caused by climate change.
- **Promote Equity in the Food System:** Ensure equal and equitable access to and control over the food system. Empower women, youth, girls, diverse gender groups, and

indigenous peoples to exercise their rights and take on leadership roles in decision-making related to the food system.

5.2 Health Systems

- **Improve quality and equitable primary health care Services:** Expand the coverage, quality, accessibility, and use of health services related to nutrition and child care, especially in areas with high wasting rates.
- **Strengthen policy development and implementation** for the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and risk factors including overweight and obesity.
- **Improve data systems** to track coverage of health and nutrition services, and progress on key nutrition indicators.

5.3 Nutrition sensitive Social Protection Systems

- **Reduce Barriers to Access:** Lower the barriers that prevent vulnerable and marginalized groups—such as infants, young and adolescent girls, pregnant women, and indigenous people—from accessing sufficient, nutritious, and diverse foods. Ensure that financial transfers are sufficient to cover healthy diets and care services, and that these transfers are paired with interventions that discourage unhealthy food consumption and promote healthy diets and care practices.
- **Mandate Food Fortification:** Require food fortification in food-based social assistance programs to reduce micronutrient deficiency and related health issues.
- **Protect Nutrition During Disasters:** Safeguard nutrition outcomes during droughts, floods, and other climate-related disasters through responsive and nutrition-sensitive social protection. Set transfer values that meet nutritional needs and ensure services can continue or be adjusted to meet these needs.
- **Provide Healthy School Meals:** Provide nutritionally adequate school meals to primary and secondary school daily in the morning.

5.4 Nutrition-Sensitive Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Improve Nutrient Absorption:** Enhance nutrient absorption and reduce diseases among children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescents by increasing access to safely managed drinking water and improving hygiene and sanitation practices at the household level.

5.5 Social behaviour change

- **Strengthen community engagement** on nutrition promotion and referral to social services that contribute to improved nutrition.
- **Promote Healthy Lifestyles:** Encourage healthy lifestyles and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding through multiple channels and service platforms, for optimal nutrition and to prevent diet-related non-communicable diseases.
- **Broaden channels and audiences:** Identify and pilot SBC approaches using non-traditional platforms (e.g schools, agricultural cooperatives and Commune/Sangkat Agriculture Officers, Village Health Support Groups (VHSGs) to reinforce messages delivered through the health sector and reach a wider audience (particularly those who are important influencers of behavior)

6. Sector-Led Activities

In the Third NSFSN 2024–2028, sector-led contributions are crucial for improving diets and care practices. These contributions are guided by specific policies, strategies, and plans within individual sectors, involving ministries, private sector, development partners, and civil society. Each sector has its own coordinating mechanism at both national and sub-national levels to ensure effective implementation. The sector-led priorities for the Third NSFSN 2024–2028 are:

6.1 Agriculture

The agricultural sector is focused on enhancing production sustainably to ensure food security and boost livelihoods. With the overarching goal to drive agricultural growth through increased productivity, commercialization, and diversification, efforts also emphasize promoting digitalization for competitiveness and inclusiveness. Policies are tailored to minimize risks and maximize benefits along the entire food value chain—from production to consumption. Critical contributions from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM), along with sectoral coordination through various Technical Working Groups (TWGs), support productivity and diversity essential for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN).

The Fifth and Sixth Priority Policy Programs of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly and the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development 2024–2028 have the overall goal *“to promote agricultural growth through increased productivity, commercialization, agricultural diversification, and promote digitalization with competitiveness and inclusiveness that provide high quality and safety products and ensuring food security with high consideration of land, water, and forest and fisheries resources management.”* The Cambodia Roadmap for Food System for Sustainable Development 2030 is another important strategic and policy document. The National Agricultural Development Policy, 2022-2030 recognizes that there is a need to reshape the current food system towards a system that is sustainable and inclusive, produces food that is healthy and nutritious, while also being both beneficial for people’s health and profitable for the economy. While the availability of rice is sufficient at the national level, domestic demand will continue to develop in terms of the types and quantities of food desired – particularly fruit and vegetables, animal-sources foods – as Cambodia transitions to upper-middle-income country by 2030.

MAFF will take the lead on:

- Given gaps in vegetable and fruit consumption to meet WHO recommendations of 400 grams/per adult/per day, MAFF’s diversification agenda can contribute significantly and can contribute to improve diets and prevent NCDs
- Rising incomes provide an excellent opportunity to increase quality and safety awareness among both consumers and producers, and to strengthen demand for a healthy diet; but concerted effort is required as incomes can also contribute to a deterioration in diets. Emphasis will also place on scaling up climate-smart agricultural practices to protect natural resources.
- Improving post-harvest handling and primary-processing to reduce losses and improve safety. This includes investing in infrastructure such as cold storage and enhancing the safety and quality of food through improved handling and value addition practices, thereby strengthening public-private partnerships and ensuring a supply chain that meets the demand for healthy, nutritious foods.

6.2 Industry

Industry plays a critical role in nutrition by establishing food standards, enhancing food processing, promoting and increasing market availability of healthy food options, and ensuring food safety, thereby supporting nutrition-sensitive food systems. It also focuses on maintaining a healthy workforce. The sector prioritizes creating environments where the quality and safety of nutritious foods, such as iodized salt and other fortified products, are monitored and promoted, complying with established standards. The Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MISTI) oversees food standards in Cambodia, with specific responsibilities related to processed foods. This includes overseeing advanced food processing activities, as well as improving traceability, transportation, storage, and logistics to ensure food safety and industry compliance. MISTI is also a key Ministry supporting efforts to reduce in salt content throughout the food system, as per the National Action Plan for Salt Reduction 2021-2027.

6.3 Commerce

Commerce contributes to FSN by managing food stocks in line with the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) strategic plans and adhering, ensuring adherence to food marketing regulations, nutrition labeling and food standards. This includes compliance with Sub-Decree 133 on the Marketing of Products for Infants and Young Child Feeding, and Sub-Decree 145 on the Establishment of the Cambodia Food Reserve System and Fortified products. Commerce also promotes a business environment conducive to private sector engagement and safeguards consumer interests through measures such as establishing regulations related to food labelling, maintaining food price stability, enhancing food safety, enforcing labeling and geographic identification, and protecting consumers from fraudulent claims.

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) is responsible for food safety as a competent authority managing the food control system in accordance with Food Safety Law. MoC ensures food safety in commerce through effective traceability systems, and by promoting cold chains and, food hygiene practices. This approach is supported by, but not limited to, by contributions from other ministries such as the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Ministry of Information (MoInf), Ministry of Planning (MoP), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), and the Ministry of Interior (Mol), among others.

6.4 Health

The health sector plays a crucial role in improving diets and care practices by enhancing the quality and accessibility of nutrition-related services. This encompasses a wide range of initiatives such as promoting optimal nutrition and breastfeeding practices, nutrition counseling, routine health and micronutrient supplementation, growth monitoring and promotion, treatment for acute malnutrition (including severe and moderate wasting), preventing diet-related non-communicable diseases, and promoting healthy food environments through legislation, food standards for children, and quality assurance of fortified foods. The Ministry of Health (MoH) leads these efforts through comprehensive strategies, including the Fast Track Road Map for Improving Nutrition 2023-2030 and the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2022-2030.

The MoH takes a leading role to:

- Promote awareness of healthy diets and ensure women's healthcare between the ages of 15 - 49, including prenatal care, safe childbirth, postnatal care, and care practices;

- Promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, continued breastfeeding until two years and counseling on nutritious and adequate complementary foods for children aged 6-23 months;
- Monitor growth of children, screen for acute malnutrition, and provide referral, in-patient treatment and out-patient services as necessary for acute malnutrition;
- Protect children from consuming unhealthy foods including sweet beverages through advertising restrictions and behaviour change promotion;
- Protect breastfeeding through restricting advertising and promotion of formula milk substitutes to replace breast milk, and provide access to nutritional services, including breastfeeding support and counselling;
- Lead and coordinate measures to reduce risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases, including implementation of the National Action Plan for Salt Reduction 2021-27 and advocacy for regulatory instruments such as increased taxes on sugar sweetened beverages;
- Provide health and nutrition information through the Health Management Information System (HMIS);
- Set micronutrient targets to develop fortification standards to address nutrient needs of the population, working closely with MoP, MISTI and MoC;
- Develop and promote national food-based dietary guidelines.

6.5 Education

Education contributes to healthy diets and nutrition through the National Policy on School Health (2019) and accompanying National Action Plan on School Health (2021-2030). To support operationalization of these strategic documents, the Ministry of Education Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) has developed Standard Operational Guidelines for School Health Promotion (2022) and Model School Standards (2023), both of which establish standards and indicators related to health and nutritional promotion activities in schools. Schools, teachers, parents, guardians and communities will be more responsible for student study results, including school health, hygiene, environmental education and nutrition status. In supporting health and safety in education, schools should monitor and record nutrition status of individual student (age, weight, height) and information on students that are receiving nutrition interventions. MoEYS also implements social protection programs – including home-grown school feeding and scholarships – that actively contribute to school-age children’s nutritional status. In terms of unhealthy food, MoEYS leads efforts to improve the quality of food sold by vendors located on school grounds through Directive 18, which prohibits sale of snacks and drinks with high fat/salt/sugar content, as well foods that are unsafe or unhygienic. The integration of all nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific activities including nutrition education, school feeding, deworming, WASH in schools, school gardening, and other health programs all fall under a cohesive program. Sub-national administration and local communities must be sensitized and engaged in supporting FSN activities in schools

7. Cross-cutting issues

In addition to the sector-led activities and joint priorities, key cross-cutting issues are incorporated throughout the Third NSFSN 2024–2028 to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach. All responsible agencies required to report progress on the following cross-cutting issues to CARD:

- **Gender and Youth Inclusion:** The strategy promotes gender equality and youth engagement across all actions. Priorities include fostering an inclusive environment and enhancing agency among all stakeholder groups, with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) playing a central role.
- **Climate Change:** Addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, environmental contamination (or soil, water, food) and managing water use are crucial. The Circular Strategy on Environment 2023–2028 aims for Carbon Neutrality by 2050, with contributions expected from several ministries, including the Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC).
- **Equity:** Actions will focus on reducing disparities by addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged. Equity is integrated across all interventions, with significant contributions from MoH, MoWA, MoSVY, and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MLVT).
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Recognizing the private sector's role in improving availability of nutritious food, food safety and FSN, and the critical role that the private sector plays in influencing the food environment; private sector engagement spans production, processing, distribution, marketing, and retail, and is supported by entities like the Cambodian Rice Federation and Chambers of Commerce and coordinated by the SUN Business Network.
- **Digitalization:** With Cambodia’s digital transformation agenda, interventions and strategies should consider the use of digital tools, systems and innovation where feasible to achieve effective and sustainable results. This includes digitalisation for data systems, communication, training to improve nutrition.

8. Governance and Partnership

The strengthening of governance and partnerships and the promotion of Community-Led Nutrition have implications for all joint priority activities as well as for sector-led activities. CARD plays a critical function to bring different sectors together to address the many determinants of malnutrition and supports coordination among relevant sectors to ensure convergence of interventions, consistency in messaging and standards, joint research, provision of training, advocacy, knowledge and information management, and facilitating networks. CARD also chairs the TWG for FSN, the FSN Forum, the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Food Systems Dialogues, WASH and Nutrition Sub-Working Group, and supports the PWG-FSN and Provincial Core Team for Nutrition-sensitive WASH.

Partnerships like the SUN Networks will be strengthened and expanded and used more effectively to promote dialogue, gather data and share information knowledge on progress, and to capitalize on regional and global support. The SUN Business Network is a key platform for engagement with the private sector requiring ongoing support.

At the sub-national level, 25 Provincial/Municipal Working Groups for Coordinating Food Security and Nutrition were officially established and meet on at least a quarterly basis to guide the implementation of their annual joint action plans in alignment with the 3rd NSFSN 2024-2028. In addition, structural arrangement at sub-national level to support the implementation of this national strategy.

Improved governance arrangements for food security and nutrition include the continuing development of digital capabilities, research and information systems for knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation progress and information sharing. These capabilities are essential for CARD and will contribute to relationships with line ministries, development partners and for the sub-national administrations. At the commune/sangkat and district levels, technical assistance and other resources are required to enhance the capacity in FSN.

9. Community Led Food Security and Nutrition

Communities should be actively engaged in designing and managing nutrition and information related services and have access to the array of services they require and desire (health, WASH, agriculture, social protection etc.) to achieve good nutrition and food security. Building capacity for local authorities and support staff working at the community level such as the Village Health Support Group (VHSG) and the Commune Agricultural Officers (CAO) are critical steps in promoting community led FSN.

The aim of community led FSN is to increase efforts to reach communities with FSN information and services. With the ongoing decentralization process in Cambodia, there is a good opportunity to engage commune councils in development to accelerate good nutrition at the community level. In addition, there are also opportunities for drawing external resources to directly support FSN activities at this commune level and require significant capacity and infrastructure support. Commune councils will be increasingly responsible for coordinating FSN programme implementation with active participation in decision-making and action by families and communities.

CARD, relevant ministries and Development Partners (DPs) will continue to work with the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD) at the sub-national level to support the PWG-FSN and conduct capacity building at the commune level for mainstreaming FSN into the CDP and CIP, in line with the guidelines of the NCDD.

Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) is critical on many fronts, and the roll-out of the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition SBCC Strategy 2020-2025⁴ will raise awareness of healthy diets and promote healthy behaviour including support for cash transfer programmes, and celebration of national events around food security and nutrition.

10. Financing

Following the release of the Third NSFSN 2024–2028, joint priorities for multisectoral coordination will be costed as part of the Food Systems roadmap financing strategy, with potential funding sources identified. At a minimum, the activities managed by CARD must be fully costed to optimize resource use and advocate for necessary funding to support coordination efforts crucial to the strategy's success.

Advocacy and Budgeting: In line with the distinction between sector-led and multisectoral activities, CARD will support advocacy on budgeting for joint priorities, while each ministry is responsible for sector-led activities as per the framework above. Ministries are required to outline specific outcomes and activities aimed at improving food security and nutrition, with these details needed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to justify requests for increased national budget allocations. This level of detail ensures that funding claims for FSN can be supported effectively.

⁴ Ministry of Health (2020) Cambodia National Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Social Behavior Change and Communication Strategy 2020-2025.

To further strengthen FSN funding, innovative financing mechanisms such as private sector investments, public-private partnerships, and international funding opportunities should be explored. Diversifying funding sources can help complement national budgets.

Sub-National Budget Allocations: Sub-national budget allocations and expenditures are critical to implementing the Third NSFSN 2024–2028. It is essential that budget allocations by communes and Sangkats be tracked to understand how investments translate into results. Given the limited budgets and competing demands at the local level, CARD and relevant line ministries will assist commune and Sangkat councils in accessing additional funding for FSN initiatives. Advocacy efforts for these investments must align with the financial and policy frameworks set by the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD). This support will ensure that local governments have the necessary resources to implement FSN initiatives effectively, while also tracking and demonstrating the impact of these investments on local food security and nutrition outcomes.

11. Operationalization Plan and way forward

This strategy is critical not only for preventing all forms of malnutrition in Cambodia but also for fulfilling the country’s commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The successful implementation of the strategy requires strong commitment and adherence to clearly defined responsibilities to achieve the set targets for food security and nutrition by 2028. The strategy will be **operationalized at both national and sub-national levels**. The planning and operational plan development phase ensures that local governments are empowered to implement and sustain food security and nutrition interventions aligned with NSFSN priorities, while also allowing for context-specific adaptations. Key steps include:

- **Workplan Development and Sectoral Integration:** A detailed workplan for the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 will be developed within the first six months of the plan’s endorsement, and align with sectoral plans across key ministries. This will ensure responsibilities of each ministry are clearly outlined, ensuring efficient resource use and effective interventions.
- **Strengthened Coordination Mechanisms:** Effective coordination is vital for the success of the strategy. CARD will lead coordination efforts through established mechanisms that bring together government agencies, development partners, and other stakeholders at national using the Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition and Provincial Working Groups on Food Security and Nutrition to ensure adequate financial and technical resources are mobilized and leveraged for effective and sustainable NSFSN implementation. CARD will champion the joint narrative as articulated in this narrative and support the operationalization of joint priorities through sectoral and multi sectoral contributions.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability:** A robust M&E system will be set up to track progress and provide feedback loops for continuous improvement. This system will ensure accountability and allow for timely adjustments to the strategy where needed.
- **Costing and Resource Allocation:** The costing of CARD led and supported activities, particularly related to convening, coordination, capacity building and M&E, will be completed within six months of the endorsement of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028. Moreover, the joint priorities, as outlined above, will also be costed- underscoring areas that require greater sector or collaborative (convergent) engagement to achieve

the outcomes of this strategy. This costing will be used to inform sectors' subsequent budget planning cycle.

- **Sub-National Rollout and Implementation:** At the sub-national level, local workplans will be developed in partnership with local authorities and stakeholders in alignment to the NSFSN's operational plan. This collaborative approach ensures that interventions are tailored to specific community needs and are implemented with local ownership within the first year of the plan's endorsement.

ANNEX 1: KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2025

The overarching framework is designed to promote convergence between the sector-led priorities, joint priorities and cross-cutting issues under the Third NSFSN 2024–2028, as well as to accommodate a systems approach as part of a conceptual shift in the sectoral strategies at the national level. The emphasis on convergent actions should be a strong element of a supporting Action Plan for Food Security and Nutrition 2024–2028.

1. Sustainable Food Systems

1. Cambodia's Roadmap for Sustainable Food Systems 2030 is revised, including action plan.
2. Financing strategy for food systems transformation to mobilize resources from diverse sources to ensure the transformation is implemented sustainably at scale.
3. Advocacy strategy for food systems and nutrition finalized to engage sectors and sub-national authorities.
4. Operational guidelines developed for the implementation of **Directive No. 18 dated 24 June 2013 for Promoting food safety and healthy diets in public and private educational institutions**
5. Operationalization of the Food safety Law.
6. Reduction of food waste and food loss in municipal areas through the development and communication of relevant key strategies and messages to the policy makers and public.
7. Cold storage supported for perishable products missing in current diets or at risk of food safety risks including fish and animal-source foods, vegetables, fruits.

2. Health system

1. Strengthen quality of maternal and child nutrition interventions, including prevention and treatment of wasting, Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling, micronutrient supplementation
2. Conduct a policy landscape analysis on overweight and obesity to strengthen policy implementation.
3. Strengthen regulation related to marketing of commercially produced complementary foods, breastmilk substitutes and sugar tax

3. Nutrition-sensitive Social Protection

1. Evaluation of Family Package based on diet quality indicators included to advocate for design tweaks/complementary packages.
2. Strengthen promotion, referral and monitoring of social cash transfer recipients to essential health services.
3. Nutrition Guidelines and Standards for school meals are finalized and phased approach designed to improve the quality of the school meal. As a first step, fortified rice will be included in at least two provinces.

4. Nutrition-sensitive WASH

1. Operationalization of the National Guiding Principles on Nutrition-Sensitive WASH
2. Support targeted health and school facilities on climate-adapted measures, for a safer and better care and learning environment for children which has an impact on nutritional outcomes

5. Social behaviour change for healthy diets and improved care practices

1. Improve quality and scale-up Maternal and Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCN) counselling and promotion.
2. Strengthen community engagement on child nutrition screening-referral, and growth monitoring promotion.
3. Strengthen interpersonal communication of social services providers (health workers, Village Health Support Groups (VHSGs), teachers, etc)
4. Healthy lifestyles guide dissemination
5. Pilot Healthy Diet SBC Package for Agricultural Cooperatives

6. Evidence for advocacy on healthy diets and improved care practices

1. Finalize and disseminate secondary analysis of CDHS, 2021-2022
2. Conduct cost of malnutrition study
3. Food systems modeling and financing analysis (Hesat2030)
4. Food-based prevention and rehabilitation for acute malnutrition
5. Research into the climate-nutrition nexus in Cambodia
6. Strengthen data systems in relevant sectors (e.g Health, Agriculture, Social Protection) for indicators that track related nutrition outputs and outcomes (as per M&E plan of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028)
7. MoH studies:
 - a. Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices (KAP) about breastfeeding and maternal diet among mothers of children aged 0-6 months
 - b. Finalization & Dissemination of Implementation Research to Inform Local Food-Based Complementary Feeding Recommendations for Children aged 6-23 months

ANNEX 2: CAMBODIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, 2016–2030 RELEVANT TO THE THIRD NSFSN 2024–2028

CROSS-CUTTING GOALS for the Third NSFSN 2024–2028			
Goal 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere.			
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture and other CSDGs.			
Goal 5: Gender equality.			
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities.			
KEY SYSTEMS			
FOOD	HEALTH	SOCIAL PROTECTION	WASH
CROSS-CUTTING TARGETS			
CSDG 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women — in particular, people who are vulnerable and experiencing poverty — have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.			
CSDG 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people and particularly people experiencing poverty and people in vulnerable situations (including infants) to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.			
CSDG 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons by 2025.			
SDG 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws.			
SDG 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment from 51% for 2020–2022. ⁵	CSDG 2.2.2a Reduce wasting in children under 5, from 9.6% in 2021–2022, to 5.8% in 2028.	SDG 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment reduced from 51% for 2020–2022.	CSDG 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.
SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity from 47.7% male and 54.6% female for 2020–2022.	CSDG 2.2.2b reduce the rate of overweight and obesity for women aged 15–19 to 3.4%, aged 20–49 years by 4	SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity reduced from 47.7% male and 54.6% female for 2020–2022.	CSDG 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open

⁵ FAO Statistics based on a three-year rolling average.

	percentage points to 28.2% by 2028.		defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and people in vulnerable situations.
CSDG 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural production and incomes of small-scale food producers — in particular women, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and fishers — including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	CSDG 3.3 (SDG 3.2) By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5, aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.	CSDG 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	SDG 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.
SDG 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help to maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	CSDG 3.9 (SDG 3.8) Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	CSDG 4.3.2 The number of student enrolments in technical-vocational education programs (15 to 24 years old) by sex.	
SDG 2.a Increase investment — including through enhanced international cooperation — in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services technology development and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity.			

<p>SDG 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information (including on food reserves) to help limit extreme price volatility.</p>			
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Annex 3: Aligned Plans, Strategies and Policies

Food System

- Cambodia’s Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030⁶
- Policy Priority Program 5 and 6 of the Royal Government in the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly and the Agriculture Sector Development Strategic Plan 2024–2028
- Alliance of Champion for Food Systems Transformation

Agriculture Sector

- National Agricultural Development Policy 2022-2030

Health Sector

- Health Strategic Plan 4 (not yet official dissemination or launch by MoH)
- Fast-track Roadmap for Improving Nutrition 2023-2030
- National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2022–2030
- National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development 2022-2026
- National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2018–2027
- National Action Plan for Salt Reduction 2021–2027
- National Maternal, Infant and Young Child (MIYCN) Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy 2020-2025

⁶ https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FS-Roadmap_Cambodia_Final-for-submission-1.pdf

Social Protection Sector

- National Social Protection Policy Framework Vision 2035
- Cambodia’s Roadmap for Universal Health Coverage 2024–2035

Education Sector

- Education Strategic Plan 2024-2028
- National Policy on School Health 2019
- National Action Plan on School Health 2021-2030

Nutrition-Sensitive WASH

- The National Guiding Principles for Nutrition-Sensitive WASH Interventions and the accompanying Operational Plan, 2023–2027

Plans Relevant to Multiple Systems

- Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1: for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability
- Cambodia’s Roadmap for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2022–2035⁷
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport’s Directive 18 on Strengthening the Implementation Rules for Promoting Food Safety and Well-being at Public and Private General Education Facilities
- *Neary Rattanak VI*, Strategic Plan for Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment 2024–2028
- The Country Operational Roadmap for the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting⁸
- Cambodia’s Nutrition for Growth Commitments⁹
- SUN Business Network Cambodia Strategy 2021–2025¹⁰
- Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) Framework 2016-2030 & Revised List of Targets and Indicators by Goals (2022)
- Cambodia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution 2020
- The Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028
- The National Action Plan for the Zero Hunger Challenge 2015–2025¹¹
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cambodia 2024–2028

⁷ General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia and SWITCH-Asia RPAC (2021).

⁸ <https://www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework>

⁹ https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/tracker/?search=Cambodia&order_by=-date_made&org_location=&target_country=#listing

¹⁰ https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000140219/download/?_ga=2.239948099.153048541.1709170463-2147107047.1709170463

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC173301/>

Annex 4: Policy processes Related to Food Security and Nutrition Sector

The development of the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, 2024–2028 was based on the key strategic frameworks that follow.

4.1 Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1

The priority areas for the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability¹² guide the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) of the Seventh legislature of the National Assembly for 2024–2028. Of the five priorities for the Pentagonal Strategy, the top priority is People. For the Pentagons comprising the strategy, **Pentagon 1: Human Capital Development** and **Pentagon 4: Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Development** are most relevant to promoting gender equity, agriculture, rural development, environment and natural resources.

4.2 The Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs)

The Third NSFSN 2024–2028 supports the CSDGs, particularly CSDG 2, **ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture**. Ensuring food security and improved nutrition is vital for sustaining healthy human resources to help Cambodia transition from Less Developed Country status by 2027 and for contributing to sustained growth and development to achieve upper-middle-income country by 2030.

The CSDGs 2016–2030 are overarching goals for the Third NSFSN 2024–2028. The CSDG indicators are generally robust, and the methods of data collection and analysis have become more reliable with each data collection cycle. Under CSDG 2.1, the goal is to end hunger and ensure access by all people (especially people experiencing poverty and other vulnerable situations, including infants) to safe, nutritious and sufficient food year-round by 2030. The goal of CSDG 2.2 is to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. This includes achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five and addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons by 2025. Other CSDG targets are included in the Third NSFSN 2024–2028 to reflect the broader contributions of the food, health, social protection and WASH to food security and nutrition. The relevant CSDGs and targets are presented in Annex 1 as part of the framework of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028.

¹² <https://mfaic.gov.kh/files/uploads/1XK1LW4MCTK9/EN%20PENTAGONAL%20STRATEGY%20-%20PHASE%20I.pdf>

4.3 Aligning Companion Plans

In addition to the key strategic directions discussed above, several plans relating to food security and nutrition and to food systems are incorporated into the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028. Other sectoral plans also complement and support the goals of the Third NSFSN. The harmonization of plans helps to simplify the policy landscape, highlight key directions and activities, and reduce the burden of work. The key plans for harmonization with the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 are listed in Annex 2.

To promote coherence and convergence, a deeper engagement with the relevant sectors is required to ensure that decision-makers understand how their sector supports the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 and what is meant by **sector-led activities**. Sectoral leads should be familiar with the Third NSFSN 2024–2028, and they should share information with CARD, ensuring the government, development partners, the private sector and civil society are involved where relevant. CARD has a crucial role in leading and coordinating international cooperation at the national and sub-national levels, adopting a systems approach for analysis and strategic action, and dialogue relating to food security and nutrition. The key plans for harmonization with the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028 are listed in Annex 3.

Further details are provided in Cambodia’s Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030, the Country Operational Plan for Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, and Cambodia’s Nutrition for Growth Commitments — initiatives that are coordinated by CARD.

CARD is a member of Global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and has played a crucial role in the organization, including the production of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Cambodia: Advocacy Strategy 2021–2024 and the SUN Business Network Cambodia Strategy 2021–2025.¹³

4.3.1 Cambodia’s Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030

Under Cambodia’s Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030¹⁴, the country has identified four main priority areas.

1. Healthy diets for all to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.
2. Empowerment of youth, women and vulnerable people.
3. Resilient livelihoods and resilient food systems.
4. Governance for more inclusive food systems.

¹³ https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000140219/download/?_ga=2.239948099.153048541.1709170463-2147107047.1709170463

¹⁴ <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/member-state-dialogue/dialogues-and-pathways/en>

The four main priorities of the Roadmap serve as the framing for many actions within this Strategy for both sector-led and joint priorities requiring multisector coordination. The framework for the Third NSFSN 2024–2028 serves as a guide for joint monitoring and evaluation and reporting for the National Strategy Development Plan (NSDP) 2024–2028, and for periodic measuring of food systems transformation.... The relevant actions are included in the framework of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024–2028 presented in Annex 3 of this Strategy.

4.3.2 Cambodia’s Operational Plan for the Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Wasting

In March 2020, five UN agencies (FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) released the Framework for Action for the UN Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting¹⁵ to accelerate progress in preventing and managing child wasting. The GAP identifies four outcomes to achieve the SDG targets on child wasting and to improve the early detection and treatment across four key systems: food, health, social protection and water, sanitation and hygiene.

In May 2021, Cambodia successfully developed a Country Operational Roadmap under the framework for GAP. Developed under CARD’s leadership, the Country Operational Roadmap identified 13 provinces with high prevalence of child wasting. The Roadmap takes a life-cycle approach to addressing wasting and identifies four outcomes:

1. Reduced incidence of low birthweight
2. Improved child health
3. Improved infant and young child feeding
4. Improved treatment of children with wasting

Under each outcome, several priority actions and delivery platforms were identified. To address the problem of child wasting in Cambodia, there is an urgent need for additional resource mobilization and swift implementation of the Country Operational Roadmap for the Global Action Plan (GAP) to accelerate the prevention and treatment of child wasting. **Within the scope of the Third NSFSN 2024–2028, the Country Operational Roadmap for the GAP will be reviewed and updated to remain relevant during the implementation of the Strategy.**

4.3.3 Cambodia’s Nutrition for Growth Commitments

The Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments¹⁶ have been incorporated in the overarching framework for the Third NSFSN 2024–2028 to ensure progress is measured and reporting is conducted on a regular basis. In addition, the inclusion of N4G commitments into the common framework

¹⁵ <https://www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework>

¹⁶ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100275456.pdf>

helps to identify where some aspects of work contributing to improved nutrition have not been included in the commitments. The N4G commitments are built into the table in Annex 2, which presents the framework of the Third NSFSN 2024–2028. **During the implementation of the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028, the N4G should be reviewed and amended as necessary to reflect progress.**

4.3.4 The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF)¹⁷ is a strategic coalition of ambitious countries determined to act urgently, together. As a signatory and founding member of the Alliance, Cambodia is committed to driving systemic change, taking a **whole of government approach** and inspiring others to go further and faster to deliver better outcomes for people, nature and climate. At the heart of ACF membership is a commitment from member governments to act across 10 priority intervention areas. Many of these relate directly to food security, nutrition and the food system, and fall within the scope of the Third NSFSN 2024–2028.... Alliance members are committed to:

1. Strengthen national vision and food systems transformation pathways, inclusive of the 10 priority intervention areas and consistent with science-based targets.
2. Update Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, in line with the National Food System Transformation Pathways and/or Implementation Plans by 2025.
3. Communicate on progress and report annually on targets and priority intervention areas.

The five key outcome areas for the Alliance are: (1) food and nutrition security, (2) adaptation and resilience, (3) equity and livelihoods, (4) nature and biodiversity, and (5) climate mitigation. The 10 intervention areas proposed by the Alliance are associated with these outcomes and have been incorporated into the 3rd NSFSN, 2024-2028. Cambodia has added two additional intervention areas for **consumer choice** and **private sector engagement**. These additional intervention areas are proposed for Cambodia based on country experience and fitting to the recommendations made by Samdech Thipadey **HUN MANET**, Prime Minister, on the Tenth National Nutrition Day, which took place on November 6, 2023. Annex 5 details the key intervention areas for food systems transformations for Cambodia, and how they align with the priority areas for the Cambodia Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030.

¹⁷ <https://allianceofchampions.org/>

Annex 5: Key Intervention Areas for Food Systems Transformation

KEY INTERVENTION AREAS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION ALIGNED WITH THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE CAMBODIA ROADMAP FOR FOOD SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2030.

Intervention Areas (per ACF numbering)	Ministries and Institutions	Reporting Responsibility	Flagship Activities in Cambodia
Food Systems Roadmap Priority Area: Healthy diets for all to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.			
1. Increase the affordability of food	GS-NSPC, MoSVY, MoEYS, MAFF, MoC, MEF and CARD	CARD, MAFF, MoC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination mechanisms and financing programs, promoting production, market access, and price stability for key agricultural products at reasonable prices.¹⁸ Food reserve system contribution to price regulation as per policy priorities (Green Trade). • Promote linkages between Social Protection and Food Security and Nutrition, including Cash Transfers for Pregnant Women and Children Under 2 and the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (GS-NSPC, MoEYS, MoSVY, WFP). • Routine monitoring and analysis of food prices (MoC, MAFF, WFP).
Food Systems Roadmap Priority Area: Resilient livelihoods and resilient food systems to protect food systems against climate change and other shocks and stresses.			
2. Improve livelihoods for those who working throughout food supply chains	MAFF, MISTI, MoC, MoE, MLVT, MRD, MoWA	MAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploying Commune Agricultural Officers to all agricultural communes across the nation and supporting modern agricultural cooperatives (MAFF).¹⁹ • Supporting vocational and technical training for youth from poor and vulnerable households across the nation²⁰ (MAFF). Rural economic diversification: training in animal and fish raising, crop production, and other skills (MRD). More inclusive, nutrition-sensitive value chains and food systems. Women's Empowerment Program focuses on providing skills and techniques for raising chickens, growing vegetables, handicrafts, tourism services and other services (MoWA).

¹⁸ Immediate Policy Priority for the 7th Legislature of the RGC

¹⁹ Immediate Policy Priority for the 7th Legislature of the RGC

²⁰ Immediate Policy Priority for the 7th Legislature of the RGC

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting income through exports and trade (MoC)
3. Build and enhance the resilience of food systems	MAFF, MoE, NCDM, NSPC, MoWRAM, CARD, MoH, MoC, and MRD	MAFF, NSPC, MoC, MoE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment, and SWITCH-Asia RPAC (2021). Cambodia’s Roadmap for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2022-2035. • Improved irrigation systems and water management (MAFF and MoWRAM). • Early warning systems and anticipatory action (MoWRAM). • Adaptive social protection policies to support food security and nutrition when disaster hits. Enhance and expand social protection systems to increase the resilience of people against life-cycle socioeconomic risks and shocks (UNSDCF and GS-NSPC). • Food reserve system (Green Trade) digitalization opportunities (MoC). • Rice fortification (Private sector, MoP and WFP). • One Health Programme (MoH, MoE, MAFF, FAO, WHO). • Infrastructure construction, especially resilient rural roads, data collection and mapping of road networks and hazards (MRD, World Bank). • Strengthening the adaptive capacity of systems and communities to climate change and disasters (UNSDCF).
5. Protect and restore nature	MoE, MAFF, MOEYS, CARD	MoE and MAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia’s Roadmap for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2022-2035. (MAFF) • Promoting agro-ecological transitions and a landscape approach to protect ecosystem services. Conservation of protected areas, restriction of deforestation, forest, and wetland restoration (MoE). Development of forest and fisheries communities, and Community Protected Areas using a landscape approach, including Indigenous Communities. For example, the Community Action for Sustainable Forests Project (MAFF, MoE, FAO, UNDP, RECOFTC, WCS supported by Swiss Development Cooperation). • Cultivation and replanting of trees (Campaign to plant 1 million trees a year) (MoE). • Cooperation within the framework of ASEAN and the Greater Mekong Subregion, focusing on environmental protection, conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and sustainable development in Cambodia (MoE). • Enhanced natural resource management, conservation, preservation, and restoration activities (UNSCDF). • <i>Sala Baitong</i> / Forest Education (MOEYS).

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote of biodiversity conservation by protection, conservation and restoration of wild life in the protection zoon and ruined ecology systems to increase the service and ecology system, maintain the food chain and community well-being.
6. Scale-up sustainable management practices	MAFF, MoE, MISTI, DPs	MAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agrifood systems are more efficient, climate-adapted, inclusive, formalized and safer. For example: PEARL Project (UNSDCF, MAFF, MoE, FAO). Promote GAP, climate smart agriculture, GAqP and GAHP, organic production, and deforestation free agricultural production (MAFF). Regulate illegal exploitation of natural resources and promote agro-forestry. Future Food Together (WWF Mondulkiri). School gardening (MoEYS).
7. Reduce GHG Emissions	MoE, MAFF, MISTI	MoE, MAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a new round of national climate plans (NDC) in 2025 which aligns national food systems pathways with climate-related targets, including National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (MoE), Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 and Long-term Strategy for Cabon Neutrality 2025 (LTS4CN) (MoE) Implement mitigation actions including deforestation free agricultural practices, reduced burning for agriculture, reduced tillage, improved water management, and reduced food loss and waste²¹ (MAFF). Encourage Green Production methods for all the food processing activities (MoE, MISTI).
8. Reduce food loss and waste	MAFF, MoE, CARD and Municipalities	MoE, MAFF and CARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative actions and information to reduce food loss and food waste and to manage potential risks along the food chain, ensuring food safety guidelines are public and standards enforced, through participation of stakeholders and consumers²² (MoE, MAFF). Promote waste recycling and the reduction in the use of plastic bags, with campaigns targeted at community-based eco-tourism, schools, and factories throughout the country, and pilot projects to process kitchen waste into compost at four schools in Sihanoukville (MoE).

²¹ PM Recommendation #4, National Nutrition Day (NND) 6 Nov 2023. The MoE must continue to implement and coordinate with relevant ministries and institutions to promote the livelihoods and improve the nutrition of local communities through the conservation and sustainable management of protected areas and the development of supporting ecotourism communities, while continuing to promote the campaign to plant one million trees per year to increase forest cover and achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, and promoting the Nationally Determined Contributions for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and advocate for green growth to ensure environmental protection, ecosystem services and sustainable food systems.

²² PM Recommendation #6, NND 6 Nov 2023.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular Strategy with 3 angles: Clean, Green, and Sustainable (MoE). • Roadmap on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2022-2035 (MoE and WWF).
Food Systems Roadmap Priority Area: Empowerment of youth, women and the vulnerable.			
4. Improved gender equity	MoWA, CARD, MoH, MAFF, NSPC	MoWA and CARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating the agency of women, adolescent girls, gender diverse groups, youth, and the most vulnerable in decision making process around food and nutrition system (MoWA). • Promote action at family and community level to remove discriminatory gender norms and practices to ensure equitable access and utilisation of food and nutrition services (MoWA). • Encourage women to actively participate in marketing, infrastructure and services for food systems to maintain the quality and quantity of products and to reduce food loss (MAFF, MoWA). • Women's Awareness Raising Program on Food Security and Nutrition, as well as establishing and operating nursery classes since 2018 (MoWA). • Increase civic participation in development and decision-making at all levels, including for women and youth (UNSDCF). • Promote awareness raising on micronutrient deficiency for pregnant women and child feeding until 5 years old.
Food Systems Roadmap Priority Area: Governance for more inclusive food systems.			
9. Acceleration of Innovation	MISTI, MEF, MAFF, MoC, MoEYS, CARD, RAC, Universities	MAFF, MISTI, and CARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for increase investment on nutrition and incentives for innovative practice, with a focus on youth, education, digitalisation, mechanisation, enterprise, and SMEs (MISTI and Private Sector). • Capacity building and institutions to support research and development (MAFF, RAC). • Mechanization, digitalization, value adding, rice fortification (MAFF, MoC, WFP, Private Sector). • Digital schools and digital library (MoEYS)
10. Realign public financial	MEF, MoP, MoH, MAFF, CARD and	CARD, NCDD MEF and MoP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising for increased investment in nutrition (CARD). • Food fortification policy/strategy (MoP).

<p>and policy incentives</p>	<p>NCDD for sub-national level</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal reform and promotion of green growth (MEF). • Advocacy for tax reforms to promote healthy diets and discourage consumption of unhealthy foods (CARD, DPs, CSOs). • Strengthen the governance and policies on climate change and the engagement of all stakeholders (UNSDCF).
<p>11. Promoting informed consumer choice (Support healthy food choices from sustainable food systems).</p>	<p>MoInf, MoEYS, MoH, MoC, MISTI, MoE, MAFF, MoP, CARD</p>	<p>MoInf, MoEYS, and CARD MoC, MoH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the supply of nutritionally diverse, minimally processed staple foods such as fresh, seasonal and local fruits and vegetables. • Facilitate the supply of a culturally acceptable, diverse basket of foods of both plant and animal origin to ensure sustainable diets (i.e. both healthy and environmentally sustainable). • Encourage the production of educational materials related to the topic of food systems, food safety, nutrition, and climate change for wide dissemination to the public (MoInf)²³, with MoC, MoH, MoC, MAFF, MoE. Promote nutrition awareness campaigns to foster behaviour change. Nutrition and Health days promoted at schools (MoEYS). • Create economic structures and support services to encourage and support better nutrition for pregnant and lactating women, exclusive breast-feeding for infants up to six months and complementary feeding of children up to two years. Support for exclusive breast feeding (MoH), food fortification (MoP), promotion of locally sourced, safe and nutritious foods (MAFF), consumer protection through food safety and food labelling (MoC as focal point for food safety alerts and ACC ASEAN product recalls etc.). • Food labelling (MoC, MISTI) including Eco-labelling (MoE) and establishing a traceability system and certification standards for aquaculture, fish and fish products, and other seafood products, to provide consumer information on the sustainability of fish products and other seafood products and to finance community fisheries (MAFF)²⁴. • Facilitate biodiversity conservation through sustainable use by promoting the production and consumption of nutritionally rich neglected and underutilized food species and local varieties (CARD, MAFF, FAO).

²³ PM Recommendation #2 NND, 6 Nov 2023.

²⁴ MoE, Cambodia's Roadmap for Sustainable Production and Consumption 2022-2035.

12. Engagement of the Private Sector	MAFF, MoC, MoH, MISTI, MoP	CARD, SUN Business Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the contribution of the private sector towards healthy diets and practices for improved nutrition for all Cambodians. • Provide incentives for improving the nutritional quality of processed foods and their promotion in food retail and advertising, as well as disincentives for non-adherence. • Improved food labelling and packaging (MoC, MISTI, MAFF, MoE, MoH). • Monitoring production standards and promotion of Iodized salt (MISTI).
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