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THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

THE CONVERGENCE ACTION BLUEPRINT OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Aligning Food Systems Transformation and Climate Action to Operationalize NDC 3.0 and Mobilize Investment

1. INTRODUCTION

The Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) serves as a practical framework designed to facilitate synergies between food systems transformation and climate action to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement objectives at national level. Cambodia's CAB is a living document and will be updated periodically. It provides a structured approach for conceptualizing and implementing strategic actions in the Kingdom of Cambodia that align with both agendas while promoting sustainable development. The CAB is divided into four main pillars, namely:

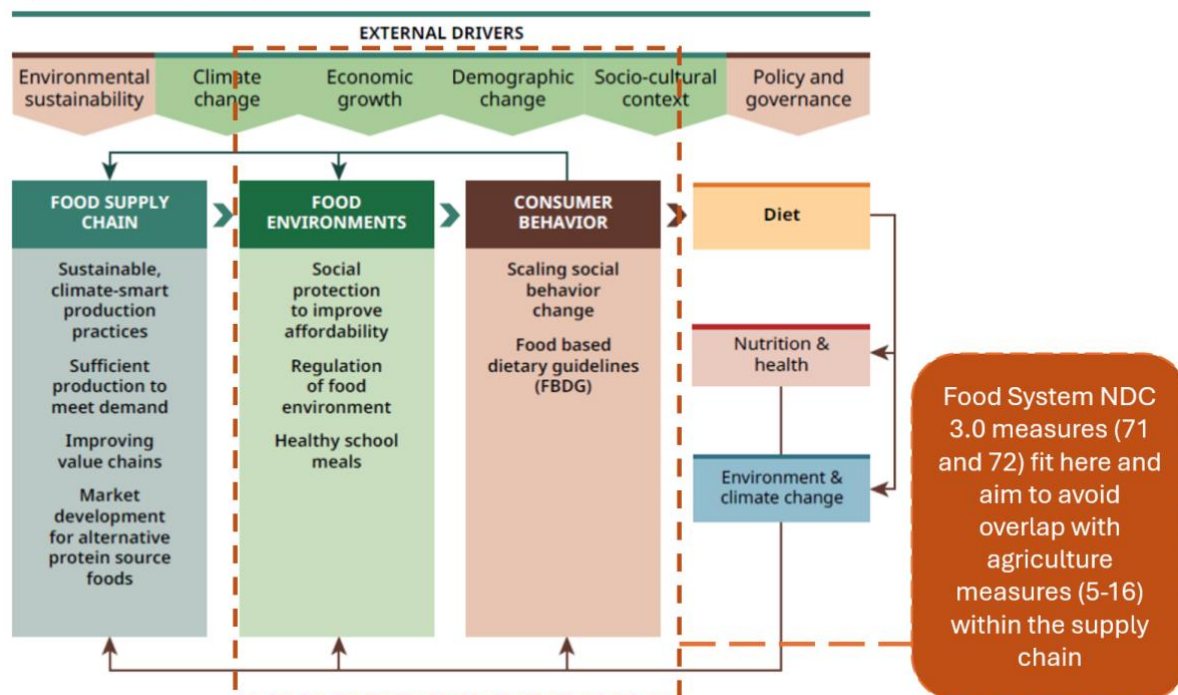
- I. convergence objectives and targets
- II. key convergence interventions and milestones
- III. monitoring, evaluation, and accountability, and
- IV. financing the transformation

1.1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Food systems are the structural foundation of Cambodia's development, nutrition, and climate agendas. As the country advances toward upper-middle-income status by 2030 and targets net-zero emissions by 2050, transforming these systems has become a strategic economic necessity and a climate imperative. Cambodia has distinguished itself as a regional leader by becoming one of the first nations to formally integrate food systems into its **NDC 3.0 Adaptation measures**, under the leadership of CARD. Specifically, the two dedicated measures (**#71 and #72**) are designed to complement, rather than duplicate, agricultural production measures (**#5–16**) by focusing on the **food environment and**

consumer behavior (consumption and waste). Backed by country-specific evidence (WB, WFP 2025), these measures are uniquely positioned to deliver "**Triple Wins**": preventing the triple burden of malnutrition (Health), capturing a potential 31% reduction in food-related greenhouse gas emissions (Mitigation), and building a population and economy resilient to accelerating climate shocks (Adaptation).

Figure 21 Multisectoral approach in food systems



Source: Food systems conceptual framework. Adapted from HLPE 2020.

Note: The text underneath the three pillars summarizes multisectoral interventions for food systems transformation toward healthy sustainable diets.

WB/WFP (2025) Healthy Sustainable Diet Analysis.

Currently, a significant dietary imbalance persists: nearly **80% of daily energy** is derived from rice and sugar, while the intake of fruits, vegetables, and diverse proteins remains critically low (WFP, *Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis*, 2023). This dietary distortion is the primary driver of a "triple burden" of malnutrition – persistent undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and hypertension. These health challenges cost Cambodia an estimated **USD 1.5 billion annually** (approximately 3% of GDP) in lost productivity and healthcare expenditures and can be expected to increase as food environments shift to enable unhealthier options. Furthermore, evidence of high microbiological contamination and chemical residues in informal markets underscores that without a shift in the food environment to address food safety issues, the nutritional benefits of healthier diets will remain undermined for vulnerable households.



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Environmentally, shifting toward nutrient-dense fruits, vegetables, and sustainable proteins significantly **reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and water footprints**. Modelling that informed **Cambodia's NDC 3.0** food systems target shows that rebalancing diets – reducing rice and ultra-processed food while boosting intake of plants and smaller proteins – could cut food-related emissions by **31%** based on NDC 2.0 targets. When paired with climate-smart agriculture and rice fortification, this potential increases to **55%**; if food loss and waste data could have been included in the model, this figure could be even higher.

In addition to climate change mitigation, transforming the food system is a primary **climate-resilience and crisis-prevention strategy**. The food sector is increasingly stressed by erratic rainfall and frequent floods that threaten the production of vegetables and fish – the very foods essential for health that are already under-consumed. Simultaneously, climate change decreases the nutrient density of available crops, further burdening a population already struggling with micronutrient deficiencies. A population fueled by a diverse diet is physically more resilient to climate-induced stress, disease outbreaks, and economic shocks. A diversified food system is far less likely to collapse during extreme weather events. This is why the food systems measures in Cambodia's NDC's sit firmly in climate change adaptation. Cambodia is now a regional leader by placing these dietary, production and waste reduction shifts at the heart of its national climate adaptation commitments.

Shifting dietary patterns and eliminating food waste are systemic challenges that go beyond individual agency. While often viewed as personal rational choices, daily behaviors are structurally determined by the **socio-ecological environment** – the 'choice architecture' – in which people live. To help individuals easily make these choices, **Social Behaviour Change (SBC)** provides a multi-level framework that moves beyond simple awareness to address the multifaceted drivers of action. An individual's capacity to adopt a healthier diet or reduce waste is contingent upon a cascade of influences: from **intra-household dynamics** and peer norms to **institutional settings** (such as school food environments and market-level advertising) and the overarching **national policy landscape** influencing price and affordability. By optimizing this architecture, we shift the burden away from the consumer and make healthy, sustainable practices the default, most accessible option.

To operationalize the NDC 3.0, strategic investments are required to facilitate production shifts, improve food environments, and reduce waste – ensuring that healthy, sustainable diets remain available, safe, and accessible in a changing climate.

1.2 LINKAGES – NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PATHWAYS AND NDC 3.0

Food Systems Roadmap Update (2025-2030)

In 2024, Cambodia initiated a critical update of its National Food Systems Roadmap. This process examined the entire food system – from **food supply, food environments, and consumer behaviors**, with a particular focus on climate change, gender and private sector engagement. Following an evidence review and a series of national and subnational

consultations, **six high-impact "gamechangers"** were identified. These priority areas were selected for their potential to trigger systemic shifts in how food is sourced, sold, and consumed, providing a clear path toward "triple-win" outcomes for health, economy, and the environment. These priority areas are fully aligned with the 3rd National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (3rd NSFSN), which differentiates between sector-led and joint-priorities – highlighting both food systems and social behavior change as joint priorities for multi-sectoral action.

Third Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0, 2025-2035)

In parallel, as Cambodia began designing its **NDC 3.0**, emerging evidence from the **WB/WFP Healthy Sustainable Diets Report** highlighted a significant opportunity. The data demonstrated that shifting national diets could deliver a unique triple win, contributing to a **31% reduction in food-related emissions, and as high as 55% when coupled with agriculture shifts and food fortification**, while simultaneously building human resilience to climate shocks. While data wasn't available on losses and waste, reducing food waste is considered a global imperative.

Recognizing this, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) carved out a dedicated space for food systems within the NDC framework. Measures **#71 and #72** were specifically designed to:

- **Complement and align:** Leverage existing agriculture measures (#5–16), health, and social protection to shift food systems and enable healthy sustainable diets and reduce food waste.
- **Avoid duplication:** Focus strictly on the "demand-side" (food environment and consumer behavior) and circularity (waste reduction) gaps that were previously unaddressed.

This CAB serves as the operational link between these two policy processes and provides a structured action framework to achieve the NDC food systems targets set for 2035. By aligning the **six Roadmap gamechangers** with the **two NDC 3.0 food systems targets**, the CAB ensures that Cambodia's climate and nutrition goals are moved from high-level policy into a coordinated, multi-sectoral reality.

2. CONVERGENCE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

Objectives: As per the NDC 3.0 main document *"For food systems, the NDC 3.0 promotes healthier, more sustainable diets by improving access to nutritious food, regulating unhealthy products, and linking nutrition with social protection programs. It also aims to reduce food loss and waste through research, policy development, and pilot projects that encourage reuse and value addition across the food chain."*

NDC 3.0 Food Systems Targets

NDC Adaptation Measure #71 seeks a population-level shift to consumer healthier and sustainable diets, cutting food-related emissions by 31% through:

- Dietary diversity: Increased fruit and vegetable consumption to at least 400g; increasingly replace pork and beef consumption ($\leq 10g$) with egg, fish, legumes, nuts, and seeds (50–200g), and not increasing rice consumption to allow for space for diverse foods on the plate.
- Reduced sugary drinks and unhealthy snacks.
- Increased consumption of fortified foods.

NDC Adaptation Measure #72 seeks to establish a circular food chain to reduce food waste through baseline research, policy development, and value-addition pilots. Quantified targets have not been set due to inadequate food waste data.

The description of the two NDC Food Systems Measures is captured in the table below, fully aligned with the Food Systems Roadmap 2030.

Adaptation measure	Title of the measures and descriptions	Responsibility
Food system		
71	Shift food consumption towards more nutritious, healthier and more sustainable diets. 1. Increase physical and economic access to the foods required for healthy and sustainable diets. 2. Strengthen linkages between social protection (particularly home-grown school feeding) to improve equity in access to sustainable and healthy diets. 3. SBC for sustainable and healthy diets. 4. Regulation of unhealthy and ultra-processed foods and beverages. 5. Expand use of fortified rice across social protection programs, food reserves, and institutional markets. 6. Strengthened food reserve system.	CARD with MoP, MoSVY, MISTI, MoEYS, MoC, GSNSPCC, MEF

	7. Strengthened food system governance at national and sub-national levels, including food safety and quality. 8. Supporting action from agriculture: Promotion of domestic fruit and vegetable production.	
72	Reducing food loss and waste 1. Baseline study on food waste in urban and rural situations. 2. Policy and programme development for food waste reduction, reuse and value adding. 3. Research and development of cooperative actions and information to reduce food loss and food waste, to manage potential risks along the food chain and support pilot projects to reuse and add value to food waste.	CARD with MoE, MAFF, MoEYS & Municipalities

The goal of this 'Blueprint' is to validate the major actions required to achieve adaptation measures #71 and #72, avoiding overlaps with other measures in agriculture, health and social protection.



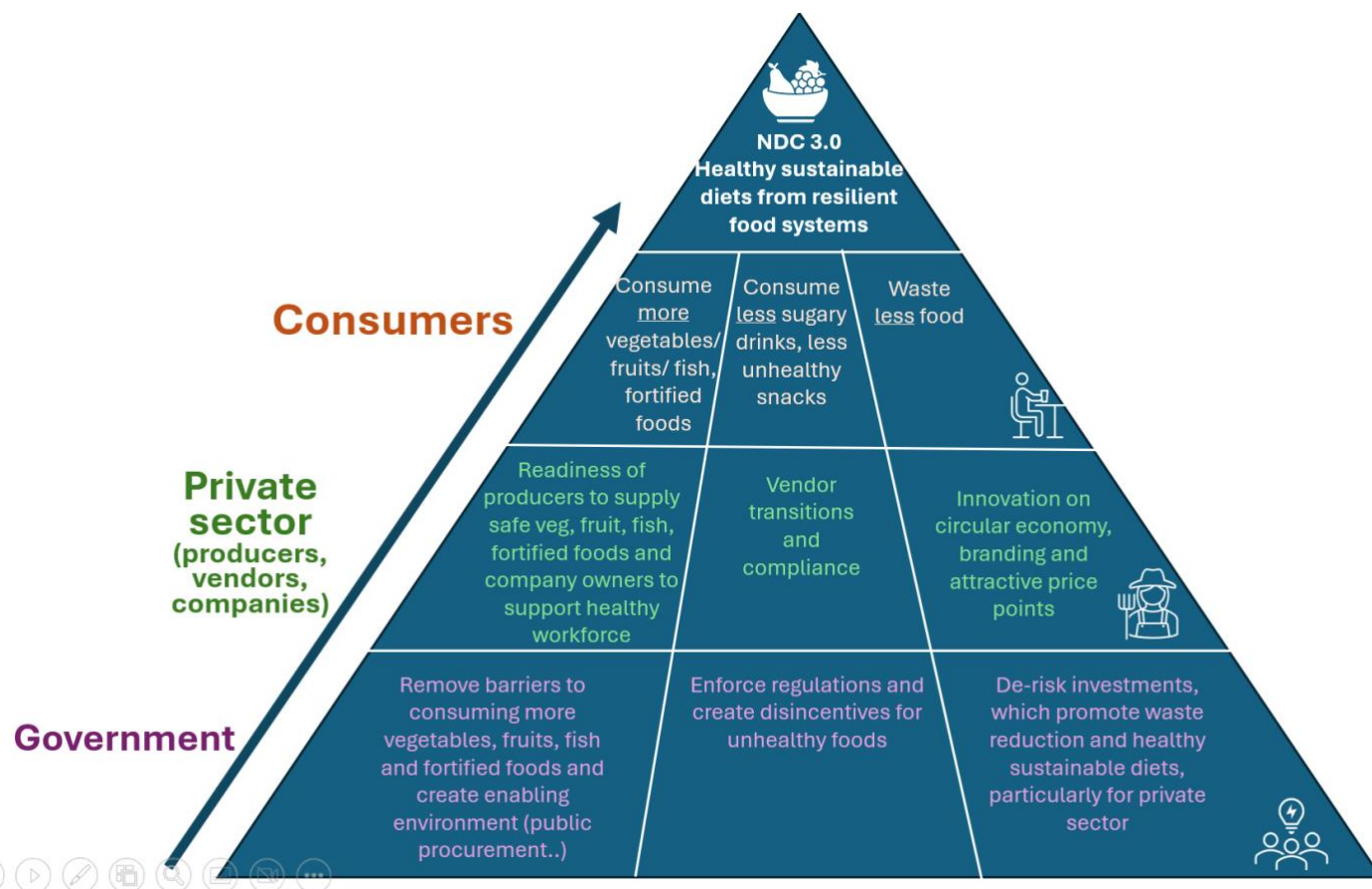
3. KEY CONVERGENCE INTERVENTIONS

How to achieve this target by 2035: The NDC 3.0 requires both demand and supply-side behavioral shifts and enabling changes to make healthy and sustainable diets and waste reduction 'easy' for consumers. This requires a social and behavior change approach, recognizing that behaviors are influenced not only by knowledge, but facilitated by our environment and enabling policies. The meeting will breakdown three central threads:

- **Consumer practices:** Scaling coherent SBC packages to shift household diets, addressing individual motivation and interpersonal influences (parents/caregivers/peers) toward cooking, feeding and eating. These approaches should always be paired with interventions to address barriers to changing behaviors (price point, access, convenience, etc.)
- **Private sector practices:** By linking with agriculture-focused adaptation measures #5-16, food systems measures #71 and #72 focus on food environment, diets, and waste. The focus here is on readiness to link with institutional buyers, vendor livelihood transitions, de-risking investments including in fortified food production, circular economy innovations to adding value to 'waste', compliance with safety and quality standards by vendors and companies, leveraging corporate social responsibility and investments in a healthier workforce.
- **Enabling environment:** Government-led actions including sustainable public procurement for school meals, fiscal disincentives (e.g., taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages), and policy regulations on food labeling and advertising, quality control, strengthened sub-national service capacities to encourage behavior shifts across points of contact, and alignment of government agriculture targets to support these food systems measures.



The following is an illustration of the behavioral and systems shifts required across food systems (from consumers, private sector, to government) to shift consumer behaviors.



The following tables unpack the **proposed milestones for 2030 and 2035** to achieve these behavioral shifts.

Pillar 1: Consumer Practices (Demand-Side Social Behaviour Change)

Focus: Shifting behaviours through a coordinated SBC ecosystem. These actions aim to make it easy for consumers to adopt healthier more sustainable diets and reduce food waste at the individual and household level.

What	Why essential for healthy sustainable diets & NDC 3.0	Milestone 2030	Milestone 2035	Responsible entity
Scaling coherent SBC campaigns and approaches: Implement FBDGs via campaigns like 'Battle for Healthy Diets', SSB sugar campaigns, 'Mahob Brojam Krosar', MoH sugar/salt/fat campaign and complement these with measures to address barriers to adopt healthier and more sustainable practices.	Generates demand for safe, nutrient-dense, low-emission foods and shifts norms toward reducing sugary drink intake. Pilot approaches to address individual and household barriers to consume healthy sustainable diets and reduce waste.	1. # of campaigns using 'branding' coherent with FBDGs. 2. # of campaigns coupled with interventions to address barriers (like women's work burden, income, access, food safety concerns). 3. # of evaluations of projects/ pilots/ campaigns to address barriers to consuming healthy sustainable diets and reducing waste tabled at TWG-FSN to inform strategy.	Evidence-based & coherent SBC campaigns scaled (reaching # HH) through commune platforms, schools, and health services nationwide.	MOH, NCDDS, MAFF, MOEYS, CCWCs, CARD, ADB, WFP
Alignment of SBC approaches: Transition from "project-based"	Ensures consistent "prevention approaches" across	1. National SBC Strategy for Healthy, Sustainable Diets approved	National monitoring system in place to verify progress (e.g.,	CARD, MOI/NCDDS, MOWA, MISTI, MoC, DPs, MOH, MOEYS

to a national coherent SBC ecosystem.	ministries to nudge consumers toward healthy, sustainable diets and reduced waste.	with a 5-year investment plan. 2. Roles and responsibilities across national and sub-national entities identified to advance SBC and achieve targets.	vegetable intake moving toward 400g/day).	
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Pillar 2: Private Sector Practices (Supply-Side Resilience) *Focus: Aligning production and value chains to ensure healthy sustainable food is available and safe, waste is reduced, and sugary ultra processed foods are replaced with healthier options.*

What (private sector action)	Why essential for healthy sustainable diets & NDC 3.0	Milestone 2030	Milestone 2035	Responsible entity
Product innovation: Develop and market nutrient-dense, shelf-stable snacks using local (and otherwise wasted) ingredients (crickets, small fish, pulses).	Reduces reliance on high-sugar/fat/salt UPFs; utilizes "waste" or underused primary foods to create high-value alternatives that also have a long shelf-life.	At least 1 flagship product (e.g., "Num Nutrii") optimized for children's taste/price-point and linked to blended finance.	SMEs achieve market penetration in school canteens; local "healthy snack" brands become price-competitive with UPFs.	SBN, Khmer Enterprise, others, CARD, state-owned company
AC and producers: Market readiness to supply fresh vegetables to institutional and local markets.	Aggregate production to address supply-side issues for the HGSFP including traceability and safety standards, to ensure that children receive	X POs professional business plans and formal contracts with MoEYS/MAFF.	PO-led supply model institutionalized nationwide and POs and smallholder farmers supplying all 1114, following food safety and	AC, MAFF, MoEYS, Private Retailer, IFAD, WFP, FAO, CARD, GIZ, WWF, MoC

	safe & diverse meals daily; institutional markets offer a market pull for foods currently unconsumed.		quality standards.	
Vendor transformation (micro-entrepreneurs): Shift school-based vendors from UPF-heavy inventory to healthier alternatives and fresh options (in line with Directive 18).	Protects the livelihoods of (women) vendors by equipping them with the marketing/business skills to sell healthy snacks within children's \$0.63/day purchasing power.	2 pilots conducted across schools to support transition of offerings in line with Directive 18; training vendors in bookkeeping and stock management; "Healthy Food Vendor" registers established to support supply chain links with healthier alternatives.	A profitable, self-sustaining network of vendors operating in line with Directive 18 across 1,114+ schools with little dependence on donor grants for working capital.	Impact Hub, HKI, MOEYS, WFP, CARD, Department Drug and Food (MoH)
Fortified food production: Scale domestic production and commercial distribution of fortified staples (Rice, salt and condiments).	Immediately addresses 8 micronutrient deficiencies.	Number of millers trained to produce fortified rice and other fortified products. Food Fortification Standards adopted based on verified micronutrient deficiencies and quality adherence measured.	Millers have the capacity to independently procure FRK, blend, deliver and ensure quality of fortified rice to all institutional markets. Establish a clear pathway to import premix.	MISTI, Green Trade, Rice Federation (CRF), SBN, CARD, NSCFF (MoP), MOC, Department Drug and Food (MoH), Trade and Custom

Healthy workforce commitment: Industrial scale-up of nutritious canteens within the garment and manufacturing sectors and private companies.	Leverages the "Workforce Pull" to create commercial demand for fortified rice and fresh produce, directly boosting worker productivity and resilience.	10 factories adopt "Healthy Sustainable Workforce" pledges; including for canteens to serve fortified rice and (as close as possible to 400g) of seasonal vegetables daily.	Fortified rice and nutritious meals become the standard labor requirement across all Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial parks.	GMAC/TAFTAC, MLVT, SBN, Factory Owners, CARD, MoP, MoH, MoWA, MoLVT, ILO, worker unions, MoE, WFP
Funding mobilization for nutrition business incentives	Enable private sector engagement to scale initiatives and strengthen compliance mechanisms.	Open for funding opportunities and identify mechanisms best aligned with NDC 3.0 targets.		MoE, MoC, SBN, CARD



Pillar 3: Enabling Environment (Policy and Governance) *Focus: Driving systemic change through regulation, enforcement, and fiscal leadership.*

What (public sector action)	Why essential for healthy sustainable diets & NDC 3.0 links	Milestone 2030	Milestone 2035	Responsible entity
CARD leadership on NDC 3.0 food systems targets	As the custodian of the NDC 3.0 food systems measures, CARD will operationalize how these targets will be achieved, leverage financing, coordinate and advocate for sector engagement, and measure progress.	1. Use micronutrient survey data to further advocate for (affordable) healthy sustainable diets and fortification. 2. Establish a cross-ministerial sub-working group on food systems led by CARD to steer NDC 3.0 Measures #71 and #72. 3. Submit or support partnerships on bankable pitches for financing. 4. Identify and support 'champions' for healthy sustainable diets across government	Fully integrate 50 FSCI indicators into national M&E and measure progress against NDC 3.0 target using CSES data	CARD

		institutions and networks. 5. Support MOH to champion FBDGs across all population groups and design targeted messages for specific population groups. 6. Facilitate the coherent SBC ecosystem strategy [referred to under consumers] for healthy sustainable diets and waste reduction.		
Public procurement: Fortified rice and PO-sourced perishables served across 1,114+ schools.	Uses the state's "buying power" to guarantee a market for climate-smart/nutrient-rich produce. <i>Link to NDC 3.0 Adaptation measure #64</i> (Sustainable Procurement).	1. A dedicated budget line approved for annual local procurement. 2. Regulatory framework for fortification adopted/enforced with mandates for MISTI/MOC.	100% of HGSP meals include fortified rice and PO-sourced perishables; Functional inspection system ensures safety standards are upheld at school level.	MEF, CARD, MOEYS, WFP
Fiscal & regulatory measures: National sugar tax, Directive 18 enforcement, and SSB/UPF	Employs fiscal tools and regulation to limit UPFs/sugary drinks, making unhealthy	MOH/MEF generate evidence for content-based sugar taxation during the implementation	SSB Tax revenue reinvested into nutrition-sensitive social protection; Regulatory	MEF, MOH, MISTI, MOEYS, MOC, CARD

marketing bans, along with subsidies and incentives for healthy foods.	choices less affordable. Reinvests revenue into human capital or incentives for healthy food.	of the Excise Tax Roadmap for tobacco, alcohol, and SSBs review; MISTI/MOC strengthen regulatory enforcement of food standards (vendor-school contracts, digital scorecards) and align trade policies, complemented by vendor incentives and SBC in schools.	mapping in preparation to support. Mandatory nutrient declaration (and other nutrition labelling such as front-of-pack labelling) adopted for all processed foods.	
Waste reduction: measures and policies to reduce waste, particularly of vegetables and aquatic foods.	Stabilizes year-round access to nutrient-dense food; lowers safety risks from heat stress/spoilage. <i>Link to NDC 3.0 Adaptation measure #14.</i>	1. Baseline study on urban/rural food waste. 2. Financing mobilized for cold-chain hubs	Pilot projects for re-using/upcycling food waste (value-adding)?	MISTI, MOC, MAFF, Municipalities, CARD, UN
Sub-national governance and capacity strengthening: Establish and capacitate service delivery agents to promote safe, healthy	Moves policy from paper to practice; ensures that sub-national service delivery agents encourage healthy and sustainable	National & provincial roles and responsibilities are defined to roll out SBC campaigns, encourage local supplier linkages with	Digital monitoring system active across all target districts, tracking vendor compliance, school meal quality, and market food	NCDDS, MISTI, CARD, MOC, MOH, ADB, WFP, UNICEF

sustainable diets and waste reduction, and to enforce regulations.	diets and waste reduction through their mandates	institutional buyers, supports quality assurance and inspects schools on the implementation of Directive 18, and deliver SBC packages/camp aigns.	safety in real-time.	
Align agriculture targets and investments to enable healthy sustainable diet goals (5-16)	Address availability and accessibility constraints faced by households to consume a healthy and sustainable diet, including boosting local production of diverse foods.	Collect dietary data through large-scale rural programmes to understand contributions of income/ag production on diets and include SBC elements where possible.	Align production measures (#6-16) and agriculture targets with healthy sustainable diet goals (grams/pp) and waste reduction.	MAFF, CARD





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Cambodia's monitoring framework will build on existing national data systems and institutional platforms, avoiding parallel systems while strengthening coherence across food systems, climate, and nutrition agendas.

As part of the Global Countdown Initiative, GAIN has been supporting a localized Food Systems Dashboard for Cambodia, including mechanisms to measure progress against NDC 3.0 Food Systems Commitments using CSES data. The adoption of this framework will be critical. The dashboard will include a prioritized set of food systems indicators that will draw from existing national datasets. The dashboard will align with global approaches while being tailored to Cambodia's institutional capacity.

CARD has a central role in ensuring that monitoring translates into action by convening the Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition (TWG-FSN) as the primary platform for reviewing progress on food systems transformation, linking monitoring outputs to policy dialogue, planning cycles, and budget discussions, and coordinating across line ministries to consolidate reporting.

Development partners (including FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, GIZ, World Bank and others) will continue to support by providing technical assistance for indicator refinement and data analysis, strengthening data systems, and capacity building at national and sub-national levels.

As decentralization processes progress, feedback loops will ensure that data informs local planning and service delivery and that sub-national systems can be leveraged to track implementation. This will enable Cambodia to move from national commitments to locally driven implementation and accountability.

5. FINANCING THE TRANSFORMATION

To transition from fragmented, project-based interventions to a systematic, program-level approach, Cambodia will require a **Blended Finance Framework**. This model strategically deploys catalytic public and donor capital to de-risk private investment and incentivize the behavioral shifts outlined in the NDC 3.0.

Evidence suggests that **promotional or positive Social Behaviour Change (SBC)** – such as nudging increased consumption of fruits and vegetables – is often more readily financed. In contrast, **regulatory and fiscal measures** designed to disincentivize negative behaviors (e.g., reducing sugar and ultra-processed food intake) involve higher political and structural complexity. Consequently, while positive behavioral shifts can be financed through the blended mechanisms outlined below, direct **public financing and high-level government commitment** are essential to strengthen the regulatory 'choice architecture' required to limit unhealthy options.

While presented as three phases, the framework below is not intended to operate as a rigid or fully sequential process. In practice, financing streams will likely evolve in parallel, reflecting the different timelines of public finance reforms, private sector investment, and international climate finance mechanisms. The framework is designed to function across simultaneous, reinforcing tracks, where progress in one area can catalyse movement in others.

The transition between phases will be guided by signals of policy commitment and system readiness. This approach recognizes that:

- Private sector and IFI financing mechanisms can mobilize rapidly, particularly where viable investments exist;
- Domestic resource mobilization measures (e.g., fiscal reforms, budget allocations) often require longer political and institutional timelines;
- Early access to climate and blended finance can play a catalytic role in supporting and accelerating domestic reforms, rather than waiting for them to be fully implemented.

This allows Cambodia to leverage external financing to accelerate implementation, while continuing to strengthen domestic fiscal anchors over time.

Phase 1: Catalytic Grant Capital (The "De-risking" Phase)

Focus: Financing public goods and proof-of-concepts where private returns are currently insufficient.

- **Strategic technical assistance (TA):** Utilizing multi-partner grants (e.g., **Joint SDG Fund, GCF Readiness, GAFSP**) to fund the institutional architecture. This includes finalizing the **National SBC Strategy**, digitalizing **Directive 18 enforcement** (e.g. scorecards), and establishing the **Food Fortification and Food Safety Regulatory Framework**.
- **Operational pilots and product R&D:** Using grants to incentivize SME innovation in nutrient-dense, shelf-stable products (e.g., cricket-based snacks, small fish powder). This covers incremental funds for machinery and premix until a commercial business case is established.
- **Vendor and workforce transitions:** Financing the "transition cost" for school vendors to shift from UPFs to fresh produce and supporting garment factories to audit and upgrade canteen infrastructure for fortified meal delivery.

Phase 2: Domestic Resource Mobilization (The "Anchor" Phase)

Focus: Creating a predictable "market pull" through sovereign fiscal policy.

- **Sustainable public procurement (the offtake):** The progressive integration of **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)** into the national budget (MEF/MoEYS) serves as a

guaranteed market. This "anchor demand" provides the necessary price stability for producer organizations to invest in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and food safety certification.

- **Fiscal levers (the revenue):** Implementing the **SSB Excise Tax** under the revised Excise Tax Roadmap. This creates a ring-fenced revenue stream for nutrition-sensitive social protection, reducing long-term dependency on external ODA.

Phase 3: Programmatic Scaling & Climate Finance (The "Impact" Phase)

Focus: Leveraging IFI balance sheets and global climate markets to reach national scale.

- **Policy-based lending and budget support:** Accessing IFI instruments (e.g., **ADB**, **World Bank**) that link disbursements to policy reforms, such as the national adoption of front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) or the achievement of sub-national food safety inspection milestones.
- **Concessional loans for resilient infrastructure:** Financing large-scale "hard" assets-solar-powered cold chains essential for Target #72 (Waste Reduction).
- **Results-based climate finance:** Leveraging **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** and the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**. By quantifying the **31-55% GHG reduction** triggered by dietary shifts and methane-lowering rice production, Cambodia can access carbon credits and results-based payments for verified mitigation.

