

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016

ChildFund Cambodia is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in the developing world.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists more than 14 million children and families in 63 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity and is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

ChildFund began work in Cambodia in 2007, and works in partnership with children, their communities and local partners to create lasting change, while responding to humanitarian emergencies and promoting children's rights. We implement a range of programs at national and sub-national levels, including in Svay Rieng and Kratie Provinces, focusing on the rights of children and their families in the areas of child protection and resilience, education, sustainable livelihoods, local governance, nutrition, safe migration, water and sanitation, and youth empowerment.

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Front cover: Nita, age 10, Cambodia

AS A CHILD-FOCUSED ORGANISATION, ChildFund Cambodia's programs have resulted in significant positive change in the lives of large numbers of children, youth, their families and communities through our integrated community-based projects in the provinces of Kratie and Svay Rieng.

In our programming, we focus on building assets in areas such as education, healthcare, livelihoods, and water and sanitation; strengthening protection for children; amplifying the voice of young people, and ensuring children's rights are both understood and upheld. This leads to improved education, better hygiene, sanitation and wash facilities, greater economic opportunities, and meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes at local levels.

ChildFund Cambodia has continued to implement a range of education projects, focusing in particular on giving children greater access to quality education. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and expert local organisations such as the Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE), we have established child-friendly libraries, constructed primary schools, and provided capacity building support and materials to teachers, children's councils, and parents. We support school leadership and management committees, assist in the adoption of child-friendly approaches, and build sanitation facilities and playgrounds. By prioritising early grade reading, ChildFund has also introduced technological interventions to boost the motivation and performance of students in their reading competence.

Our community wellbeing program provides communities with better access to clean water and sanitation. We help to increase household food security and enhance livelihoods by providing training and equipment, establishing community-based savings groups, and improving youths' understanding of safe migration.

Children are at the centre of all our programs. We strengthen the voice of young people so they can actively participate in community decisions that are relevant to them. At the same time, we strengthen the governance mechanisms of duty-bearers so they can provide a conducive environment for children and youth. With this support, more Community Investment Plans include

input from children, youth and women on issues such as child protection, unsafe migration, gender-based violence and climate change.

On behalf of ChildFund Cambodia, I wish to thank our many development partners and collaborators, including the relevant Cambodian Government Ministries and Departments at national and sub-national level, donors and stakeholders. We

gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian Government, ChildFund Alliance and thousands of child sponsors around the globe.

Most importantly, we are thankful to the many children, youth and communities who make our efforts possible with their unconditional support.

Yours sincerely,



Prashant Verma
Country Director
ChildFund Cambodia



SOLAR LAMPS LIGHT THE WAY

AROUND 70 PER CENT of people in Cambodia have no access to electricity. Not only does this make daily life difficult, but living without light puts children at risk. Thirteen-year-old Tharin's house has burned down twice due to accidents with their kerosene lamp, and left her father permanently disabled due to severe burns on his leg.

The darkness also makes it dangerous to move around at night, says Kakada, Tharin's friend. She explains: "When I go to the toilet at night, my feet get cut with pieces of glass and nails."

Fortunately, a new and innovative product introduced by ChildFund is now bringing light to rural communities – solar lamps. Not only are they a safe and cost-effective way to generate light for families, but the lamps enable children to study at night, and increase their chances of staying at school. Tharin says: "The solar lamp helps me and my big brother



study at night. It is helping me at school, and my school marks have improved. Now I dream of finishing school and being a doctor, so I can help my family. And I wish all children could have solar lamp like mine."

A SEAT AT THE DECISION-MAKING TABLE

CHILDFUND'S Community Voice Project is strengthening the capacity of children and youth in facilitation skills, leadership and advocacy. Why? So that they are ready and able to contribute to the Annual Community Investment Plans created by Commune Councils.

"Having youth involved in the Council is good because they are very active and provide assistance to many Commune Council activities. This includes gathering data from communities and taking notes on families," says Saitei, a member of a Commune Council in Chhloung District.

This year, ChildFund worked with 13 target communes in Svay Rieng Province to implement their Annual Community Investment Plans, facilitating the participation of more than 13,000 community members, including children, youth, people with disabilities and local authorities.



HEALTHY LEARNING

IN RURAL CAMBODIA, a lack of proper water and sanitation facilities means many communities practice open defecation. For girls attending school, this can cause embarrassment and difficulty. "Before we had a toilet at school, I would sometimes run to my house to do my business. And during study time in class, it smelled bad outside," says Lina, a 10-year-old girl studying at a primary school in Kratie Province.

Currently, around 30 per cent of students drop out of primary school every year, usually between Grades 4 to 6. The reasons are many, including poverty, illhealth, and distance, as well as a lack of proper sanitation facilities, according to Mr Sareourn, a local village chief.

During the last year, through its community wellbeing program, ChildFund Cambodia has provided six latrines and five hand-washing stations to 11 primary schools. Awareness-raising on basic hygiene and sanitation has also been conducted, with over 2,000 students and teachers taking part.

"I am so happy with the new toilet and hand washing station. I am happy to come to school every day and promise to clean and maintain the new toilet so that it lasts longer," says Lina.



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CHILDFUND CAMBODIA is working with local partners to introduce new agricultural technologies to help communities improve food security and increase household incomes. This year, ChildFund supported the implementation of 35 biogas systems, which convert animal manure to compost for the garden, and produce gas which can be used for cooking stoves.

ChildFund is also working in partnership with agricultural families to improve their understanding of how to adapt to climate change. This includes providing training on growing vegetables which require less water, and the development of disaster response plans. Children are also active participants, taking part in training on planting vegetable gardens, raising frogs, and other activities through the bio-garden component implemented in primary schools.





MAKING IT EASY TO LEARN

ALTHOUGH MORE CHILDREN in Cambodia are accessing educational opportunities than ever before, the quality of education in some areas remains poor. Classrooms are not equipped for the learning needs of students, teachers are underqualified and poorly paid, and the education curriculum is outdated.

This has led to a situation where many children are unable to read properly. To address this, ChildFund Cambodia is partnering with local organisation Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE) to implement the Easy2Learn Project.

The project uses a groundbreaking approach. This involves utilising mobile technology to help children learn literacy skills more effectively, as well as pairing older student tutors with younger student learners to help them read and write. Outdated school libraries have also been redesigned

to make them more fun for students to use.

In particular, the peer tutoring initiative has been highly successful. During designated sessions, older students help younger schoolmates read and write in Khmer using special reading toolkits provided by ChildFund.

For slow learners, this informal support network means tutors can explain concepts more simply and in a private environment, with no pressure from teachers. Children are more comfortable and confident, and learn more quickly and effectively. In this sense, children themselves become an important resource in improving the quality of education in schools.

This program has been of huge benefit for teachers, with the School Director in Svay Phaem noting: “I’m relieved as I no longer have to worry

as much about students’ reading abilities. The older tutor students are very good at teaching the younger students in a way they find interesting and enjoyable. I can see that many more students’ reading abilities are getting better.”

Recent results from the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) highlight the improvements that have already been made – with the reading scores of Grade 1 students tested doubling from a baseline of 7% to 14%, and Grade 2 scores almost tripling from 9% to 25%.

This project not only promotes literacy, but teaches leadership skills, and develops respect, teamwork and friendship among the student body. Rina, a student tutor, says: “I feel very proud because of what I am doing. I’m so happy to see that the students I’ve been assisting are improving!”

THANK YOU

COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Cambodia:

ChildFund
Korea

BARNFONDEN

ChildFund
International

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Deutschland



Un Enfant
par la Main
Membre de ChildFund Alliance
Un enfant grandit, un village avance

Australian
Aid

H.E. Prak Sokhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • H.E. Vorng Saut, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation • Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport • H.E. Chea Sophara, Minister of Rural Development • H.E. Nhem Vanda, Senior Minister & Vice President, National Committee for Disaster Management • H.E. Madam Nhep Sopheap, Secretary General, Cambodia National Council for Children • H.E. Sar Chamrong, Provincial Governor of Kratie province • Mr. Heng Sotha, District Governor, Chhloung district • Mr. Hang Chandy, District Governor, Chetr Borei district • H.E. Men Vibol, Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng province • H.E. Pov Sopheap, Vice Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng province • Mr. Penh Chea, District Governor, Romeas Haek district • Mr. Soth Kimchan, District Governor, Svay Chrum district • Ms. Carol Mortensen, Former Country Director • Ms. Carol Strickler, Consultant • Mr. Pat Fulton, Consultant • Ms. Kristen Rasmussen, Consultant • Ms. Jocelyn Pederick, Consultant • Mr. Min Muny, Consultant • Mr. Lim Vannak, Consultant • Mr. Khiev Kim Lee, Consultant • Life with Dignity • VBNK • KAPE • Wathnapheap • CCASVA • KAFDOC • Kookmin Bank • Industrial Bank of Korea • Radiohjalpen • local authorities and relevant departments of Svay Rieng and Kratie Provinces • Mr. Shin Kook Soo

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2016

Income Statement	2016 (US\$)	2015 (US\$)	Balance Sheet	30 June 2016 (US\$)	30 June 2015 (US\$)
Income	3,239,866	3,506,769	Total assets	1,377,626	1,795,971
Expenditure	3,714,396	3,286,167	Total liabilities	365,904	269,698
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-474,530	220,602	Net assets	1,011,722	1,526,273

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EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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