

ChildFund
Cambodia

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 36 million children and their families in 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government’s overseas aid program.

ChildFund began working in Cambodia in 2007 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables children and young people in vulnerable situations, to assert and realise their rights. Projects are implemented in the rural districts of Kratie, Prey Veng and Battambang provinces, focused on improving living standards for excluded or marginalised communities.

ChildFund Cambodia focuses on child protection and resilience, quality education, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, improved local governance, water and sanitation, and youth empowerment. ChildFund Cambodia is working to strengthen the government’s policy frameworks to improve early grade reading performance through technology interventions and build community-based child protection mechanisms.

ChildFund Cambodia implements its programs in collaboration with local civil society organisations, and in partnership with the relevant ministries and government departments.

ChildFund Cambodia

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to present you the annual report for 2022-23, a year of remarkable achievements despite a challenging global context.

ChildFund Cambodia is particularly proud to be moving towards localisation, working more closely with local partners including NGOs, community-based organisations, commune councils, and government officials to strengthen their capacities and systems. This year we directed our focus on supporting our partners to lead with greater autonomy, competency and confidence. We also supported civil society organisations to build their technical capacities.

While ChildFund closed its offices in Svay Rieng and Prey Veng this year, we continued to implement projects in both provinces through solid and values-driven partnerships on the ground.

Swipe Safe, which helps children and young people to safely navigate the online world, expanded its reach into Cambodia this year. The program is supporting young people in Kratie, Battambang and Prey Veng provinces. Constructive and meaningful advocacy at national and sub-national levels in the past year contributed to the expansion of the evidence-led online safety program, and resulted in the endorsement of the program by the Cambodian Government.

ChildFund’s work to implement play-based learning in community preschools has similarly been acknowledged by the government. Teachers in these preschools are now supported by the government.

Community-based social workers trained with the help of ChildFund are also now being supported through commune budgets and now play an important role in child protection systems.

We continued to collaborate with relevant ministries and departments at national and sub-national levels to design, implement and improve education and child protection systems.

Thank you to our ChildFund Alliance members for helping us achieve these successes and manage the challenges of the past year.

On behalf of the team at ChildFund Cambodia and our partners, I would like to thank all Cambodian Government Ministries and Departments, our donors worldwide, and other stakeholders for their continued support. We are also grateful for the support from the children, youth, and communities in which we work.

I would like to thank the ChildFund Australia management for their active engagement, guidance and support. Last but not least, thank you to our partner organisations. Together, we can contribute meaningfully and deliver lasting change to the lives of children and young people whom we serve in Cambodia.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with all our partners and donors to support more children in Cambodia to have a bright future.

PRASHANT VERMA
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING



64,896
PEOPLE REACHED



39,530
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED



14
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

5

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS

5

CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS

9

EDUCATION PROJECTS

OUR
IMPACT

Essential life skills helping young people to lead and give back to their communities

SreyYorng, 23, (pictured below) is the first person in her village in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia, to graduate from university and become a midwife.

She said the support of her family and the skills she developed in a youth project implemented by ChildFund and local partner, Santi Sena, helped her to achieve her goal. "My family's assistance in helping me complete my studies, along with my experiences with youth groups, are what I believe have contributed to my success," SreyYorng said. As a participant in

ChildFund's youth project, SreyYorng learnt life and leadership skills. "The training was essential to me as it provided a foundation for my life," she said. "It taught us how to manage ourselves, lead, be confident, and accomplish life goals."

SreyYorng said most of the youth who took part in the project had gone on to have successful careers as medical professionals, private sector employees, and business owners. "I am proud to be the first woman in my village to graduate in midwifery."

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I am proud to be the first woman in my village to graduate in midwifery.

SreyYorng, 23

10,271

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS.



EDUCATION



Making literacy and numeracy easy to learn for all children

For many children in Cambodia, their sixth birthday signifies the exciting day they get to go to school. But 13-year-old Sobine (pictured above and, right, with his mother and sister) didn't start school until the age of 10 because his family could not afford it.

Sobine's mother, Sophors, said: "My family was very poor, and I had no idea how I would be able to send Sobine to school." When Sobine and his mother moved in with their stepfather, a construction worker, they were able to save some money and Sobine was enrolled in the nearest primary school. But Sobine struggled to keep up with reading and writing.

"I couldn't read very well in the second grade," he said. "I'm older than my classmates, but they could read and I couldn't. This stressed me out. I didn't like myself because I couldn't achieve as much as the others."

ChildFund Cambodia's Easy to Learn project is helping to make sure every child, regardless of their background, can access a quality education. The project runs activities that give teachers the skills to support children who are falling behind in literacy and numeracy. It also renovates libraries and provides schools with tablets where children can access a digital library with age-appropriate books. Children in vulnerable circumstances like Sobine also receive supplies such as uniforms, school bags, books, and stationery to support them to complete their primary school education.

Sophors is delighted that Easy to Learn exists and can support her son's education. "I am really pleased that Sobine has been able to study further," she said. "I am limited in what I can provide, but I want my children to be literate so they can have rewarding careers in the future."

Today, Sobine is doing well in class. "I'm so happy that I can read better now," he said. "My teachers and classmates gave me a lot of support. They helped me to memorise the alphabet and symbols. I also enjoy using the apps and reading toolkits to help me learn the letters. "When I grow up, I want to work in an office building."

39,530

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR EDUCATION PROJECTS.



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I am so happy that I can read better now. My teachers and classmates gave me a lot of support.

Sobine, 13



Life jackets for children to get to school safely

While most children drive or walk to school, children in one rural community in Cambodia travel by boat. Most of the time this trip is a fun time for the children to chat to their friends. But when it's stormy, the trip can be scary and unsafe.

Nine-year-old Dav (pictured above), who started school last year, said: "I feel terrified when there is rain, large waves and storms."

Children can either travel by rowboat or motorboat to school. The motorboat, which is a lot faster, costs about US\$7.50 a month for a child to travel to and from the mainland on school days – a cost that most families can't afford.

When Dav was just three years old, her father passed away, leaving her mother, Sopheap, to raise eight children. Her mother makes about US\$7 a day working on a nearby farm. The whole family relies on this income for food, shelter and education.

ChildFund and local partner, Kampuchea Action to Promote Education, provided Dav with support to attend school. ChildFund also provided life jackets for Dav and her peers so that they could get to school safely. Dav is also learning how to swim.

"During the rainy season I am distracted because my mind is with my children journeying home from the school by boat during a storm," Sopheap said. "But now they have the life jackets, I feel more comfortable and can focus more on my work. I'm glad to see that my kids can float in water and that they can swim – just in case there is a boat disaster."



Sopheap wants all her children to be able to read, write, and understand maths so that they can have a better life than she had. "When I was a child, my siblings and I did not attend school," she said. "We had to help my parents earn an income to survive. It makes me sad that some people can't read, myself included. Listening to my children read makes me happy, and I have started to learn from them."

ChildFund also supported Dav's school by training teachers and building toilets, a new library with tablets that have reading and maths apps, and a child-friendly playground.

Supporting children with a disability to access an education

Twelve-year-old Ny lives with his grandmother, Teyas, (both pictured below) in a remote community in Kratie Province. When he was nine months old he became ill and had a seizure that changed his life. "He had a fever and he needed to stay at the hospital for about three months," Teyas said. "After that experience, he could not walk properly."

As Ny grew bigger and taller, Teyas could no longer carry him. Ny became used to using his knees to get around home and his village. He often got injured by sharp rocks and objects on the ground, and wore through his clothes quickly. Ny relied heavily on the support of his family, particularly his uncle, to move around. He wanted to be more independent, but his limited mobility made this challenging.

However, Ny did not let living with a disability deter him from going to school. Sometimes, it took him almost an hour to get to class, although his school was only 700 metres away.

"He wants to go to school and learn," Teyas said. "No one forces him to do that."

Ny said: "I like studying because I want to learn and have the same opportunities that other children my age have. At school, I can also meet and play with my friends."

In 2022, ChildFund and local partner, Khmer Association for Development of Countryside, supported Ny with a three-wheeled bicycle.

"I can now go to school by myself, ride around the village, and be able to play with friends," Ny said. "I am so happy to receive the bicycle."

Teyas said: "My grandson has wanted this for a long time, but with our income we just couldn't afford it."

With the bicycle, Ny's family no longer worry about him getting injured and moving around, and can focus on earning an income.

Every child has the right to an education. With the bicycle and this support from ChildFund, Ny is more independent, can get to school faster and easier and have fun playing with his friends.





3,243
PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH OUR CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECTS.

Supporting families to create safe and supportive environments for children

Young families in isolated communities in the province of Battambang frequently engage in domestic violence, which raises concerns for the development of children.

ChildFund’s positive parenting education aims to support families so children can grow up in secure, supportive environments.

Thirteen-year-old Nita* often saw her parents argue and occasionally use violence. “I was not happy and disappointed to see my parents always arguing. It had a bad impact on my study,” she said.

Nita’s community was introduced to ChildFund’s Safe Community for Children project, which supports parents to learn

about non-violent ways to resolve conflicts, and positive parenting.

Nita’s mother, Vy*, who has been participating in the project, said: “I felt my life brighten when I joined the parents’ group and had my first session. It lowered my anxiety. I enjoyed participating in activities, and learning from other mothers.”

The parents’ group helped Vy better manage her relationship with her husband. Their relationship is now more peaceful.

“I hope that my parents will always get along with each other,” said Nita, who is now the top student in her class.

*Names have been changed to protect individuals’ identities.

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:



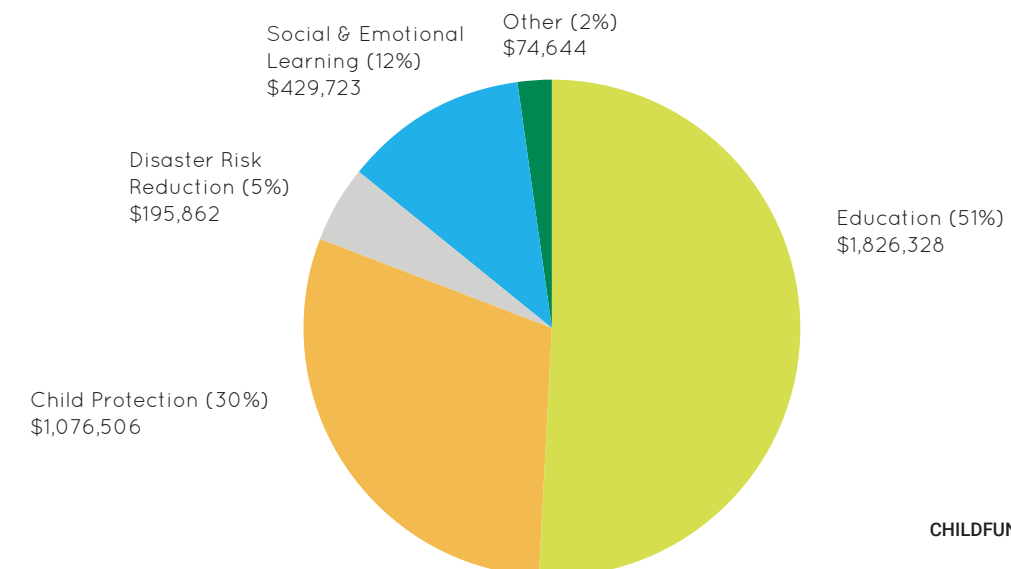
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport • Ministry of Rural Development • The Council for the Development of Cambodia • Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation • National Committee for Disaster Management • National Committee for Counter Trafficking • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Women’s Affairs • General Department of Taxation • Cambodia National Council for Children • Governor of Battambang province • Governor of Kratie province • Governor of Prey Veng province • Children’s Action for Development • Cambodian Disabled People’s Organization • Cambodian Rural Development Team • Khmer Association For Development Of Countryside • Kampuchea Action to Promote Education • Khmer NGO for Education • Komar Rikreay • Life With Dignity • Operation Enfants Du Cambodge • Santi Sena Organization • Women Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing • Wathnakpheap

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE	FY 21-22 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Donations	3,184,808	2,405,937
Grants	1,175,042	1,427,075
Total income	4,359,850	3,833,012

EXPENDITURE	FY 21-22 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Program and projects	3,215,295	3,603,063
Program support	667,368	628,574
Accountability and administration	669,529	619,350
Total expenditure	4,552,060	4,850,987

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 22-23 (USD)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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