

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



2020 - 2021

K R A T I E



FROM THE COUNTRY  
DIRECTOR

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented and catastrophic impact on children and young people across Cambodia, particularly those in rural areas already living below the poverty line.

The adverse effects of the pandemic have led to prolonged school closures in Cambodia. This has not only made children's education more difficult, but it has also caused concern about the psychological impacts on children whose daily lives have dramatically changed.

ChildFund Cambodia has continued to live its values and demonstrate its commitment to the wellbeing of children during this time. Through strong partnerships with local NGOs, and strategic collaboration with key government line-ministries, ChildFund initially focussed on protecting children, their families, local partners and staff by providing health information and resources to slow the spread of the virus.

We made it our priority to support children and develop the mechanisms for young people to access a quality

education through distance learning while schools have been closed. All projects were updated, and resources were diverted to our education and protection programs. We also ran two back-to-back emergency response operations with support from the ChildFund Alliance.

As a member of the Joining Forces Alliance, a group of six leading child-focussed international NGOs, we took the lead on joint national advocacy activities to encourage the government to ensure children had equitable access to education.

ChildFund has increased its investment in community-based child protection, village level education and e-learning initiatives. Due to the number of children learning online, ChildFund included online safety as a key feature in existing projects.

On behalf of ChildFund Cambodia, I would like to thank our many partners and collaborators, including Cambodian Government Ministries and Departments, donors and other stakeholders for their unconditional support. We are also grateful for the support from the children, youth and

communities with whom we work.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts from the entire ChildFund Cambodia team this year. While most people in Cambodia were working from home and taking care of themselves, our staff continued to work – many in the field – to ensure the most vulnerable children and families were safe and were able to access food, healthcare, and education.

The commitment and passion from our staff has been outstanding, and we are proud of every individual team member.

Together, we will continue to strive to make a positive difference in the lives of children across Cambodia and support them in achieving their full potential.

Prashant Verma  
Country Director, ChildFund Cambodia

Warmest Regards

Prashant Verma

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHT

**04 SCHOOL BUILDINGS** were constructed

**3 COMPUTER LABS** established and equipped with **48 COMPUTERS, 3 LCD PROJECTORS, and 3 PRINTERS**

**11,160 STORY & READING BOOKS** have been provided to **17 schools**

**120 TABLETS & 6 SMART TV** distributed to support students learning and researching

**8 PUMP WELLS** were built for the community preschools

**510 VULNERABLE CHILDREN** received **SCHOLARSHIP** from the education project

**325 FOOD KITS** provided to **Covid-19** affected households

**53 CHILD ABUSE CASES** intervened by **ChildFund-supported Community Social Workers**

**1,135 CHILDREN** trained and joined **15 SIMULATION EXERCISES** on disaster risk reduction

**110 BICYCLES** provided to needy students

**184 SOLAR LAMPS** provided to poor kids

**1,100 POSTERS** and **50 BILLBOARDS** on **Child Protection** published

**5,609 COMMUNITY PEOPLE** raised awareness on the importance of why their kids need birth certificates and how to keep them safe

**NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY** endorsed by the government



**4,610 LITRES OF ALCOHOL WIPES, 218 BOTTLES OF HAND WASHING GEL, 366 THERMOMETERS, 9,792 SOAPS, 45,406 FACE MASKS & 8,742 COVID-19 AWARENESS POSTERS** distributed to the communities

## ChildFund supports families affected by natural disasters and pandemic



## I am SAFE.

In the last year, heavy rainfall has led to widespread flooding in Cambodia, impacting around 200,000 across the country.

Thousands of families lost their homes, schools were closed, and unfortunately there was loss of life. ChildFund Cambodia worked in close partnership with civil society organisations, local partners and other international organisations like the Red Cross to provide emergency assistance to children and families impacted in Battambang Province. This included providing evacuated families with tents, hygiene supplies and emergency food rations.

At the same time as the floods, many families had already been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting nationwide lockdowns. ChildFund worked to provide relief by distributing food and COVID-19 hygiene kits to 2,658 vulnerable households in 452 villages across the provinces of Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Battambang, and Kratie.

Earlier in the year, 275,000 children and their families were also provided with COVID-19 hygiene kits. ChildFund also supported primary schools to share vital health and prevention messages to keep children safe and prevent the virus from spreading.

## Rosany fights for an education

# I am EDUCATED.

Schools across Cambodia have been closed for the vast majority of the year due to the strict nation-wide lockdowns.

This was devastating for girls like Rosany. She lives in a remote village and doesn't have access to the internet or television, meaning she was unable to follow along with remote learning lessons.

Rosany is a promising student. She wants to be a teacher and, before the pandemic, she was doing well in school. But, like all her older siblings, she now faces the risk of never finishing her education.

"I want to go to school rather than take care

of my brother. I want to study until I finish high school because I want to be a teacher so I can share my knowledge with the next generation," Rosany said.

Rosany and her sister Alisea helped to look after her one-year-old sibling while her parents, whose jobs had been impacted by the pandemic, looked for work.

ChildFund's team in Cambodia worked with provincial and national governments, local partners, and community leaders to improve teaching standards and ensure schools meet the needs of their students during the pandemic.

School latrines was built and upgraded to provide a clean and safe space especially for girls. ChildFund invested in libraries and equipped them with books and tablets with

learning apps installed.

Children could borrow those resources to learn at home during the pandemic.

"Reading story and comic books is my favorite thing to do at school," said Rosany.



## Children take roles in keeping school operating



## I CONTRIBUTE.

‘Student Councils’ have been a big part of ChildFund’s education programs in Cambodia in the last financial year. This initiative develops young leadership teams that assist teachers and school principals in improving their schools. The councils are made up of school students who help manage daily activities such as tutoring services to younger students, bicycle parking, caring for the school garden, and maintaining school facilities. The councils also shared important information with students about the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am delighted to share knowledge with younger students,” says Sopheaney, 13-years-old (pictured to the left) is President of Wat

Cheng primary school’s student council. When her teacher is preoccupied with meetings or other things, Sopheaney supports her teacher in helping the lower grade students. Sopheaney is one of the 27 young tutors who worked in schools to help her peers keep up with the curriculum.

“I am ecstatic and honored that I may be able to assist young bamboo in becoming more intelligent. I even happily informed my grandmother and mother about my new duties. The more I share my knowledge, the more knowledgeable I become,” says Sopheaney.

# New Generation School for rural students

ChildFund worked in a remote community in Svay Rieng to build a 'New Generation School', a first-of-its-kind, quality-oriented school management approach.

The school itself was upgraded with glass windows, fans, painted walls, child-friendly decorations, projectors, laptops, laboratory area and a garden. This is part of ensuring that pupils can learn and play in a safe and welcoming environment.

Primary school students were able to access the internet for research projects. The new curriculum included a variety of laboratory work, group work, sports, and student-centered teaching methods. The school collects an annual fee from those families

able to afford it. This helps to cover the costs of state teacher salaries and school operations. The school fee also means all children in the community can attend the school, including those from low-income families.

"From grade one to three, I was always in first place, but when I arrived at New Generation School, I was in second place in grade four. It's not simple to achieve first place at New Generation School since there are so many exceptional students," says Chek, 14 (shown above), a grade six girl who has attended the school for three years.

Chek's mother, Khom, was willing to pay the annual school tuition because she was impressed with the school. "I am not wealthy,

## I have a FUTURE.

but I will set aside funds for my daughter's school fees, since I do not want her to transfer because this school is exceptional in my community. I am confident that the school will provide a bright future for my daughter and my entire family."



**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

[www.childfund.org.kh](http://www.childfund.org.kh)