

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

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 23 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 vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights. Projects are implemented in the rural districts of Svay Rieng, Kratie, Prey Veng and Battambang provinces, focused on improving living standards for excluded or marginalised communities.

With a focus 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 also 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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Front cover: Panha, 5 years old



The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe and long-lasting socio-economic impacts in Cambodia. Over the last year, the Government has run a successful large-scale vaccination program, and organised cash-transfers to support the most vulnerable families.

Despite this, there is increasing concern about Cambodia's progress towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals and the target of being classed as an upper middle class income country by 2030.

The prolonged closures of schools have led to an increase in dropout rates and poorer performance, especially for children from low-income families.

Added pressure on community health services because of COVID-19 meant that the healthcare system is increasingly fragile. The pandemic made it harder to access day-to-day health care. Efforts to promote social engagement, frequent training in workplaces and support leadership meant an improvement in quality treatment.

The last year has been yet another challenging year for ChildFund Cambodia. By the start of 2021, we were able to slowly return to working from the office. Inspired by different ways of working, we adopted a hybrid work environment. This managed remote work fatigue and deepened relationships and trust among staff.

At the start of 2021, we worked with a range of partner NGOs to establish new ways of working together. A trust-based relationship, collaborative methods of work and strategic partnerships allowed us to identify emerging challenges. Together we supported children to return to the classroom in a safe way. We provided extra support to vulnerable and remote families facing additional challenges.

With many children learning online this year, ChildFund commissioned a study to identify risks associated with online learning and prepared training on online safety.

We moved forward with innovative programs, including sport for development and early childhood initiatives that support the development, life skills and leadership of children and young people and launched a new social and emotional learning program focusing on youth resilience. We also advocated as part of the

Joining Forces coalition to demand safe schools, child protection initiatives and to end violence against children.

On behalf of ChildFund Cambodia and its partners, I would like to thank all of our partners, supporters, including the Cambodian Government Ministries and Departments, donors, ChildFund Alliance, and other stakeholders for their continued support during these challenging times. We are also grateful for the support from the children, youth, and communities in which we work.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of ChildFund Cambodia's staff and front-line workers of our partner NGOs who ensured the most vulnerable children and families were safe during this time. The commitment and passion from our staff and partners is outstanding.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Prashant Verma'.

Prashant Verma
Country Director
ChildFund Cambodia

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With many children learning online this year, ChildFund highlighted the risks associated with online communities and undertook a study to identify these risks and prepared a training on understanding online safety.

2022 IN NUMBERS



1,238 vulnerable children

received scholarship and needs-based support



599 teachers

trained on disability, school management & updated teaching materials



6,994 community people

trained on positive parenting to reduce domestic violence



53 children with disabilities

identified and supported to go to school



1,165 students in need of additional support

supported with extra-class



150 child abuse case

referred & supported by relevant authorities and stakeholders



136 classrooms

renovated to be child-friendly and accessible by children with disability



The National Toolkits on Positive Parenting

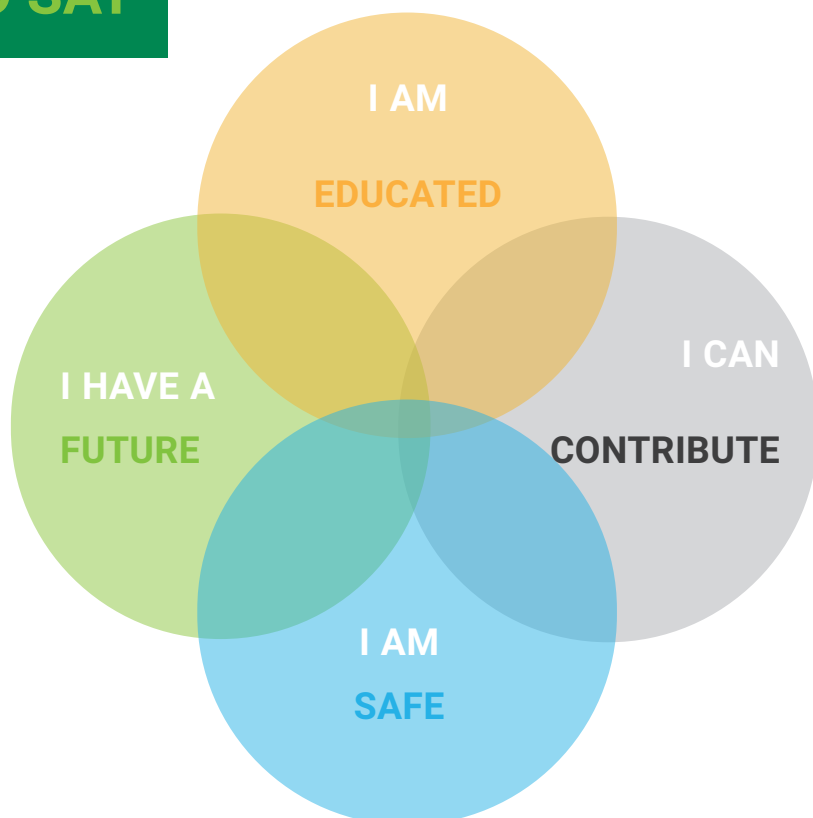
adopted and roll out by the government



33 youth clubs with 457 members

formed and trained to be able to work with local authorities on community development

WE WANT EVERY CHILD TO SAY





FEATURE STORY: I AM EDUCATED

NEW SCHOOL NEW HOPE

For children and young people in rural Cambodia, accessing education is still a significant issue. Children in one village in Battambang haven't had access to education for generations.

Neamchea is a grandfather to six-year-old Den. He says that just 30 per cent of the 72 households have been able to send their children to school.

"Most locals who are farmers can't afford suitable vehicles or spare time to take their children to school," he said. The closest school is 6km away at the foot of the mountain, down a rough, rocky road.

ChildFund Cambodia supported the community by building a new school. They also worked with local partner KHEN, to recruit volunteer teachers and provide the training they needed to become state-accredited teachers.

Building a school in such a remote area took more time than it normally would. The process began with de-mining and levelling the ground. Then by moving all the equipment up the mountain.

"Ninety per cent of the residents now send their children to school because they don't have to spend time driving them to the base of the mountain," said Neamchea. "We can simply let them walk to school."

His grandson, Den, said: "Compared to the old school, the new

school is closer. I enjoy it."

Neamchea hopes that the new school will provide his grandson and other children with a bright future.



Den, 6 years old, second from left



I AM EDUCATED

Clean water helps female students stay longer in school

At one school in remote Cambodia, students take turns fetching water from a local creek for the school toilets and to wash their hands. Access to clean, safe water remains a struggle for schools in rural regions, with many forced to purchase water from private companies or dig a well.

The school principal, Oeurn, said: "On average, four to five pupils drop out of school each year, and clean water could be one of the reasons."

Many children, particularly girls, living in poor communities are forced to leave school early because of a lack of safe water.

Last year, ChildFund worked with local partners and the community to build a new water system at Oeurn's school. The water system provides enough water for handwashing and toilets. ChildFund also built a new latrine to make sure all students had adequate sanitation facilities.

Chakrya, a 13-year-old student, said: "We no longer need to take turns fetching water from the creek or returning home."

The clean water system has led to a significant decrease in the dropout rate at the school. During the COVID-19 pandemic it provided students with a reliable source of safe water for handwashing.



I CONTRIBUTE

The Battambang coaches ready to change their communities through rugby

Nuth and Pholla are two young women who joined ChildFund Rugby's curriculum as coaches in 2019 before being recruited by the Cambodia Federation of Rugby. But COVID-19 lockdowns put a pause to their work as coaches.

This year, the Battambang-based women were excited to resume their work. Both women have always been active in sports, and they became very fond of rugby.

"My family initially didn't approve of me playing rugby," Pholla said. "They think it's a sport that's exclusive for men and

boys. But I didn't let this stop me. I kept on playing rugby until eventually they became supportive. They saw how passionate I am, and they saw how I can give back to my community through rugby."

Nuth said: "What I love about the curriculum is that we are not just playing, we are also teaching children and young people life skills that can help them with their lives, and help them become good members of our community."

For both coaches, being women is especially impactful because they are acting as role models to the girls and young women in their community.

"What I love about being a coach is I can teach children and young people, especially the females, about being brave, about believing in themselves and overcoming challenges," said Nuth.

ChildFund's Rugby curriculum work with young women to provide them with the opportunities to play, learn and lead through the power of sport.



I AM SAFE

Ending violence against children through positive parenting programs

In many households across Cambodia, corporal punishment is still considered an acceptable way for parents to discipline their children. ChildFund's Positive Parenting project is looking to change this so all children can grow up in a safe, nurturing household.



Anisa (first left) with her family

As a teenager in a remote village in the Kratie Province, Sles often experienced domestic violence at the hands of his father. Now 37 years old, Sles promised himself he would not use violence to discipline his own children. But the cycle of abuse is difficult to break. His eldest daughter, 15-year-old Anisa shared that she has experienced violence at home.

ChildFund intervened and formed a group of parents, children and young people and provided training on a variety of topics, including positive parenting.

"The training jolted me awake," Sles said. "Now, when I'm in a bad mood, I remember what my teacher said: 'Violence is a crime, and it won't help us improve things'."

Anisa said: "Now, I feel like my family is full of love. We understand each other and communicate better, and that's mostly because there hasn't been any violence in my family."

The Positive Parenting project is part of a child protection program designed to keep children safe in their communities.

I HAVE A FUTURE

Disability isn't a barrier for Sokchea

For children born with disability in rural Cambodia, their parents often fear they will be left behind and they try to conceal their child's disability. Sokchea, 16, was born with physical and intellectual disability.

"She had a poor memory," said her mother, Vy. "She started school two years later than everyone else and I find it hard to be optimistic about her education."

Sokchea said she was "terrified" when she started school. "People were afraid of me, and I was bullied. I didn't want to go to school anymore."

ChildFund Cambodia worked with local organisations and authorities to help improve the lives of children with disabilities through the Disability Empowerment and Education project. The project empowered children with disability to be confident in claiming their rights.

Sokchea's teacher took part in the project and learnt how to create a friendly, inclusive and safe classroom for Sokchea. This has made all the difference and Sokchea now has friends and enjoys school. "No one wanted to play with me or even sit with me before, but now I have a close friend," Sokchea said. "During recess, she always plays with me."

Over the next three years the project will help 230 children with disability across two districts in Battambang Province. ChildFund is working with two local organisations, Cambodian Disabled People Organization and Khmer NGO for Education to implement the project.



Sokchea (st) enjoy playing swing with her friends



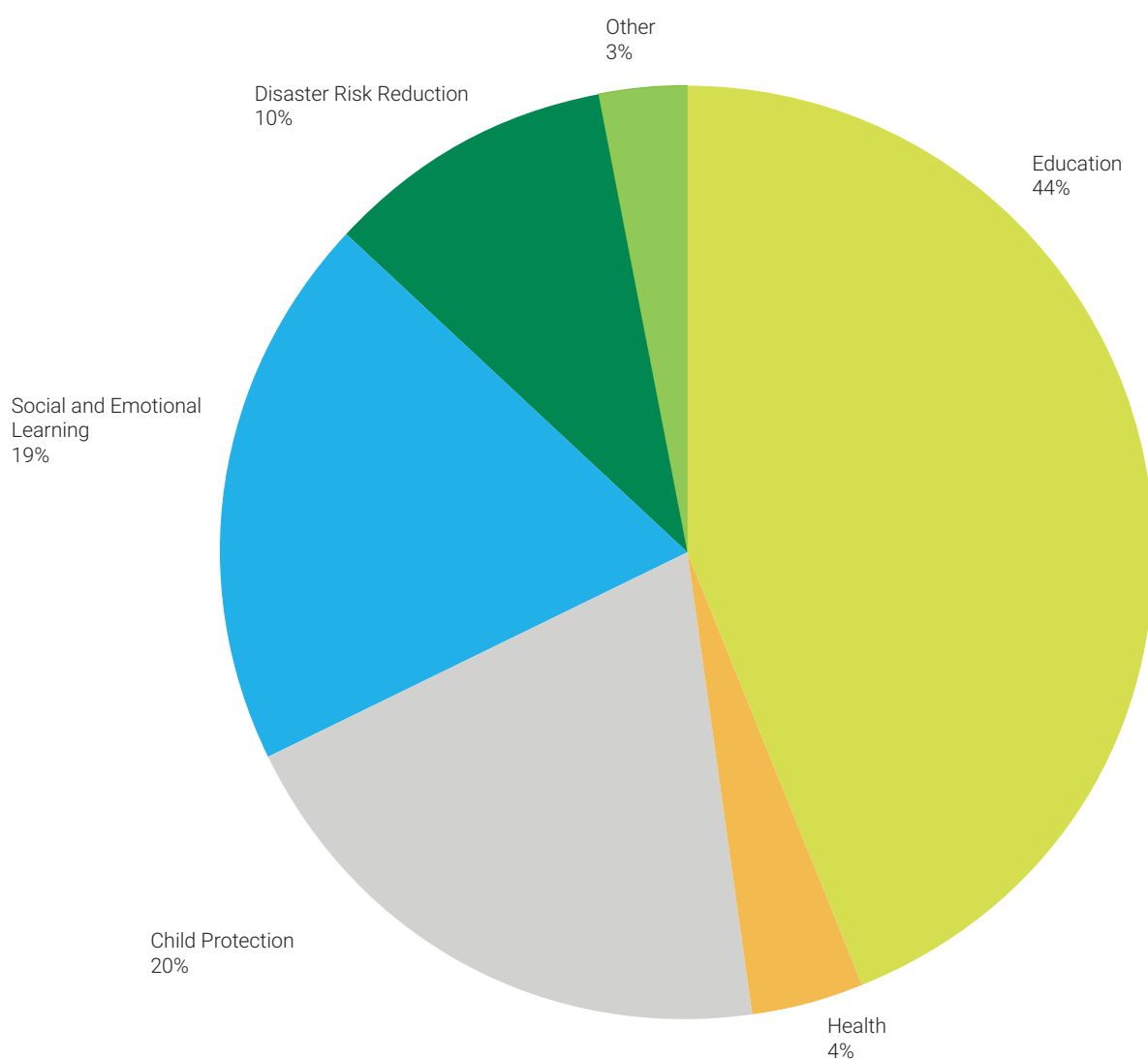
FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

REVENUE	FY21 (US\$)	FY22 (US\$)
Donations	3,701,574	3,184,804
Grants	1,497,287	1,175,042
Other income/(loss)	84,960	(83,339)
Total revenue	5,283,821	4,276,509

EXPENDITURE	FY21 (US\$)	FY22 (US\$)
Program and projects	2,821,035	3,215,293
Program support	649,998	667,369
Accountability and administration	692,280	676,397
Total expenditure	4,163,313	4,559,059

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY2022 (US\$)



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:



- **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **H.E. Dr. Aun Pormoniroth**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy & Finance
- **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron**, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport
- **H.E. Dr. Ouk Rabun**, Minister of Rural Development
- **H.E. Chheang Yanara**, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CDC/CRDB
- **H.E. Vong Soth**, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- **H.E. Gen. Kun Kim**, Senior Minister & First Vice President, National Committee for Disaster Management
- **H.E. Chou Bun Eng**, Secretary of State, Permanence Vice Chair, National Committee for Counter Trafficking
- **H.E. Prak Samoeun**, Director-General of Administration and LEAP Project Director, Ministry of Interior
- **Ms. Te Daline**, Director of the Department of Women and Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs
- **H.E. Kong Vibol**, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, Delegate of Royal Government in Charged of Director General of the General Department of Taxation
- **H.E. Kim Sovannndy**, Secretary General, Cambodia National Council for Children
- **H.E. Men Vibol**, Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng province
- **H.E. Sok Lou**, Provincial Governor of Battambang province
- **H.E. Va Thorn**, Provincial Governor of Kratie province
- **H.E. Chea Somethy**, Provincial Governor of Prey Veng province
- CAD - Children's Action for Development
- CDPO - Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation
- CRDT - Cambodian Rural Development Team
- KAFDOC - Khmer Association for Development of Countryside
- KAPE - Kampuchea Action to Promote Education
- KHEN - Khmer NGO for Education
- KMR - Komar Rikreay
- LWD - Life With Dignity
- OEC - Operations Enfants du Cambodge
- SSO - Santi Sena Organization
- WOMEN - Women Organisation for Modern Economy and Nursing
- WP - WathnakPheap



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au