



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
2019 – 2020

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 16 million children and their families in over 60 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 with children, their communities and local institutions to create lasting change, respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote children’s 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**

Street address: #30, Street 228, Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mailing address: P. O. Box 93, Phnom Penh

Phone: +855 (0) 23 224 158

Email: [info@childfund.org.kh](mailto:info@childfund.org.kh)

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

### **ChildFund Australia**

Address: Level 8, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone: 1800 023 600

Email: [info@childfund.org.au](mailto:info@childfund.org.au)

Website: [www.childfund.org.au](http://www.childfund.org.au)

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**Author:** Pisey Khun

**Editor & designer:** Rita Mu

**Photography:** ChildFund staff

**Front cover:** Sreyleak, age 8, Cambodia



The past year has been an exceptional year for ChildFund Cambodia, experienced with mixed feelings of both joy and concern. While the first half of the financial year was filled with many

positive developments in our programs and among children, the sudden COVID-19 crisis forced us to quickly adapt and pivot our work.

By February 2020, we found ourselves in a context that required a rapid multi-pronged response to protect and support the children, families and communities with whom we work across several Cambodian provinces. The past year also marked the end of ChildFund Cambodia's five-year strategic plan, with much of our focus on ensuring we achieved the goals we had set in 2015.

During this time, we have worked closely with civil society and governments to successfully establish community-based child protection mechanisms; we launched the innovative sports for development program ChildFund Pass It Back, and developed a new initiative to promote inclusive education for children living with disability. We also strengthened our existing mechanisms on disaster risk reduction.

Working with six like-minded international non-government organisations (INGOs) on ending violence against children, it has also been a successful year in influencing key policymakers on child rights.

The celebration in Cambodia of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was a highlight in 2019. This demonstrated how the Government, donors, INGOs and civil society can work together to promote children's rights.

ChildFund Cambodia's relationship with key Government Ministries and National Councils has reached new heights, particularly in the area of strengthening existing policy frameworks on child protection.

For example, there are now better systems in place to support young migrant workers and prevent child trafficking.

In early 2020, our priority has been to support the children and families who are most vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those families who have lost their jobs and are facing food shortages.

Within a short period, we were able to reach more than 250,000 children and their families in need. We worked with communities to build their capacity to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, and provided children and families with personal protective equipment and information on prevention methods. As schools closed indefinitely, we also worked with the Government to introduce e-learning opportunities for children so they could continue their education.

I would like to acknowledge the generous support of our ChildFund Alliance partners, particularly those facing their own challenges because of the pandemic. The ongoing support of child sponsors has also been invaluable in allowing us to respond quickly to the COVID-19 crisis and continue implementing projects to improve the lives of children.

On behalf of ChildFund Cambodia, thank you to our many partners and collaborators, including the relevant Cambodian Government Ministries and Departments, donors and stakeholders, for their unconditional support during this critical time. We are also grateful for the support of the many children, youth and communities with whom we work.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the entire ChildFund Cambodia team. When 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 had access to food, healthcare and education. The commitment and passion of our staff is outstanding, and we are proud of every individual team member.

**Prashant Verma**  
Country Director  
ChildFund Cambodia

We want every child with whom we work to be able to say:

# I AM SAFE

## Protecting children from COVID-19 and the crisis' impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe consequences on many working poor families in Cambodia, who were already economically vulnerable due to low wages and insecure employment.

In addition to increasing community awareness about the virus, ChildFund Cambodia is working with commune councils to support vulnerable families like Rakiyas' with essential food and groceries.

Six-year-old Rakiyas (pictured right) was worried about going hungry when her mother Sainob lost her job working on a farm because of the pandemic. "When I learnt about the COVID-19 outbreak, I was very scared," Rakiyas says.

"I was afraid of having nothing to eat because my family is so poor. Everyone started buying food to store, except my family.

Today, Sainob's family has adequate food resources, and ChildFund staff have ensured her local community understand how to protect

themselves from the virus: through frequent handwashing, wearing a mask in public places, and maintaining a physical distance from others.



Rakiyas , age 6

# I AM EDUCATED

## Making Literacy easy to learn

For the first two years of her education, 12-year-old Lyching (pictured right) was falling behind in her grades. She had to walk 3km to her school, which was in disrepair with few learning facilities.

"I used to think about dropping out of school because studying was hard for me," Lyching says. "I was angry at myself for not being able to read."

ChildFund Cambodia is working with local partner, Khmer Association for Development of Countryside, to implement the Easy to Learn project to improve the quality of teaching and infrastructure of schools in disadvantaged communities like Lyching's.

It is also focused on improve children's access to education, particularly girls'. As a result of the

project, Lyching now has a bicycle, which makes her trip to school faster, easier and safer. Her school has a new library, and teachers have the skills to develop and deliver engaging lessons that motivates their students to continue learning.

"I am so happy to be able to spell and read," says Lyching, who is now among the top students in her Grade 6 class. "I find it easy to learn now as my school has a modern library and new learning facilities."



Lyching, age 12

# I CONTRIBUTE

## Children and youth groups helping to create positive change

In the rural communities of Cambodia, many young people miss out on education and feel they have limited opportunities and skills to have their voices heard and contribute meaningfully to society.

This can result in high-risk activities, such as migrating to neighbouring countries to live and work where they are at risk of exploitation.

ChildFund Cambodia and local partner, Khmer NGO for Education (KHEN), is helping to address this issue through their work in Battambang Province, which is close to the border with Thailand.

Working in partnership with local communities, ChildFund and KHEN have implemented child and youth-led groups that empower children and young people as decision-makers, and give them the opportunity to influence change in their communities.

These groups now have the skills to report child-related abuse cases, monitor students' school attendance, and assist children who are falling behind in their learning, among other things.

Sixteen-year-old Rany (pictured below), who is a part of a child and youth-led group, says: "I am getting a lot of experience and knowledge that is not taught in school, and my communications skills have improved."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the young people in these groups have been raising awareness about the virus and ensuring children understand the measures they need to take to stay safe.



Rany, age 16

# I HAVE A FUTURE

## Empowered communities bring new hope for children with disability

When six-year-old Samnang began school a few years ago, the other children teased her because she was born with one arm and one leg. Due to the stigma she experienced at school, Samnang stopped attending.

Children like Samnang can experience many challenges during childhood. In addition to the social stigma, studies show that children living with disability are at least three times more likely to be abused or neglected than their peers without disabilities. They are also more likely to be seriously injured or harmed by maltreatment.

ChildFund Cambodia is working with commune councils and the Ministry of Social Affairs to help to change community views about people living with disability by training caregivers, young people and children about child protection and positive parenting. ChildFund is also helping to build the capacity of local social services, to ensure that children and families can be connected to the support they need.

After attending a community session run by ChildFund, a neighbour of the family reached out

to Samnang's mother, Sat, and helped her to get in touch with a social worker.

The community social worker, who had taken part in child protection training facilitated by ChildFund, helped her refer Samnang to a hospital where she received an prosthetic leg and learnt how to walk.

"I am very happy to be able to walk normally," Samnang says.

"I can do things on my own."

Samnang is now looking forward to going to school, with her social worker providing her with additional support as she transitions back into the school environment.

Samnang, age 6





A preschool that ChildFund Cambodia helped community members build in Kratie Province.

# I HAVE A FUTURE

## A loud and clear community voice for development

Poor governance and the limited resources of local authorities to plan, implement and manage projects can contribute to a lack of development in remote communities. There can also be a shortage of opportunities for community members to be actively involved in these projects.

When Tey became a member of a commune council in Kratie Province in 2013, there were no proper systems in place to plan for development. “Retired members were not trained and did not keep a legacy for newly elected members,” she says. “We needed to start again each time.

“We didn’t have a preschool in our community, so I tried to raise funds to build one, as well as toilets and a well for the students, but people in the community did not trust the way we worked and how we managed our budget.”

ChildFund Cambodia is helping local authorities collaborate better with other community members. Through the Community Voice project, commune councils are

learning new skills in planning, project management, fundraising and leadership. Child and youth-led groups are also being established to ensure children and young people have a say in the development projects.

Since ChildFund’s project began in Tey’s community, four preschools and four wells have been built. Preschool teachers have been trained and equipped with child-friendly teaching materials, and parents and caregivers have been helping to maintain the schools by repairing and maintaining infrastructure.

Thirty-five toilets have also been constructed in homes, providing better hygiene and sanitation for children and their families. The council is also supporting unemployed youth to complete vocational training.

“Community members now trust how we work because there is transparency; we are consulting and meeting with them about plans and results,” Tey says.

“We are making sure that community members, especially young people, work with us so there is joint-ownership of projects.”

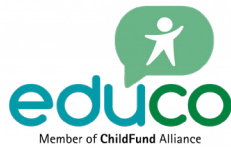
Mother-of-three, Samros, says ChildFund has helped empower people in her community. “There is more information sharing, many consultation meetings, and more people are confident to raise issues or advocate with the government,” she says.

Samros’ five-year-old daughter Sina (pictured below with Samros) is enjoying going to preschool and learning numbers and the alphabet. “Going to school makes me happy,” Sina says.



## 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:



- Bornefonden • CCPCR • CDPO • Dr. Aun Pormoniroth, Minister of Finance and Economic • Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport • H.E. Chheang Yanara, Secretary General of CDC/CRDB
- H.E. Chou Bun Eng, Permanence Vice Chair, National Committee for Counter Trafficking • H.E. Kong Vibol, Director General of the General Department of Taxation • H.E. Kun Kim, Senior Minister & Vice President, National Committee for Disaster Management • H.E. Madam Nhep Sopheap, Secretary General, Cambodia National Council for Children • H.E. Men Vibol, Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng province • H.E. Nguon Ratanak, Provincial Governor of Battambang province • H.E. Ouk Rabun, Minister of Rural Development • H.E. Pov Sopheap, Vice Provincial Governor of Svay Rieng province • H.E. Prak Sokhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • H.E. Va Thorn, Provincial Governor of Kratie province • H.E. Vorng Saut, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation • Industrial Bank of Korea • Ingenuity • Jeju Jinsan Engineering Co., Ltd. • KAFDOC • KAPE • KHEN • KMR • KNGO • Kookmin Bank • Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) • Krousar Thmey • Life with Dignity • Local authorities and relevant departments of Svay Rieng and Kratie province • Radiohjalpen • Seongnam Foreign Language High School • Taiwan Fund for Children and Families • Wathnakpheap • Woori Bank

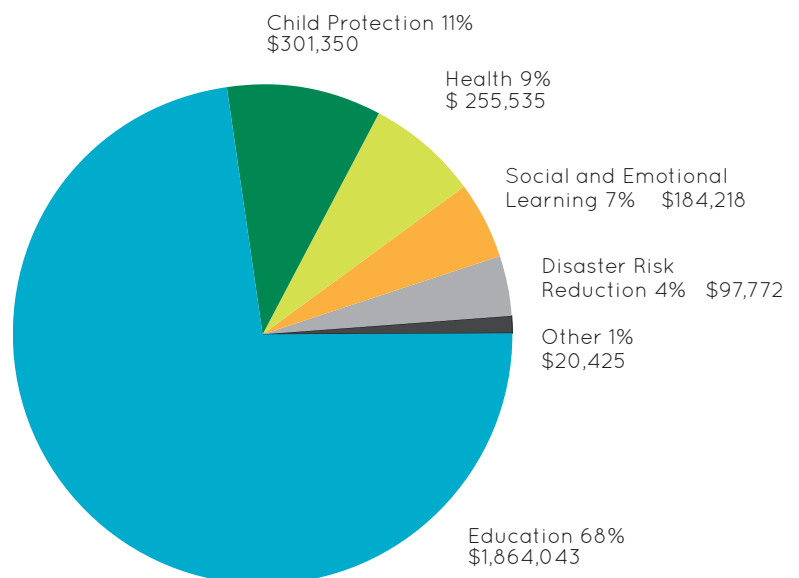
## FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2020

REVENUE	FY1920 (US\$)	FY1819 (US\$)
Donation	3,477,105	3,608,184
Grants	1,718,235	1,323,910
Other income	1,117	550
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5,196,457</b>	<b>4,932,644</b>

EXPENDITURE	FY1920 (US\$)	FY1819 (US\$)
Program and projects	2,723,343	3,783,664
Program support	808,533	634,257
Accountability and administration	608,568	624,740
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4,140,444</b>	<b>5,042,661</b>

**PROGRAM EXPENDITURE**  
FY1920 (US\$)



**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

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