



Save the Children

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS FOR CHILD PROTECTION



THE PROBLEM

In Cambodia, children continue to face violence in a variety of settings, including within their own families. Violence in the form of physical punishment, such as beating, is especially common. Corporal punishment of children by their parents remains legal in Cambodia. The Civil Code allows parents and caregivers “to personally discipline the child to the necessary extent.” The Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of the Victims

Law also implicitly authorises physical discipline of children. In 2011, the United Nations Committee for the Convention on the Rights of the Child concluded that increased efforts are needed to educate Cambodian parents on early childhood care, parental guidance and joint parental responsibilities.

OUR RESPONSE

This project is training caregivers in positive parenting including nonviolent discipline. It is improving access to social work services, and strengthening child protection mechanisms in 13 communes in Prey Veng province.

Village volunteers have been recruited and trained in positive parenting. They have formed parents' groups to share their knowledge and skills through monthly discussions



on positive parenting, child protection, and nonviolent discipline. The groups emphasise the importance of paternal involvement in child-raising, and provide fathers, mothers and other caregivers and relatives, with positive parenting skills.

The village volunteers have been carefully trained, they receive ongoing support through coaching, mentoring and follow up by Save the Children's partner: Social Services of Cambodia, a local NGO recognised for its extensive expertise in social work training and child protection. The village volunteers work closely with the Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWC). It is expected that by the end of the project, at least 3,960 marginalised and disadvantaged children will have benefited from improved parenting practice. In parallel, 3,500 children will have received training on self-protective behaviours including being made aware of the protection services available to them in their communities.

PARTICIPANTS

The project is working with 7,460 children and youth people, including in-and-out-of school adolescent girls, 517 parents and community people.

PARTNERS

This project is funded by Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through Save the Children Australia. Save the Children, with Plan International, organize regular Child Protection Forum meetings attended by stakeholders including UNICEF, World Vision, Child Fund, Child Help Line, Cambodia Act, ECPAT, Chab Dai Coalition and others. Video spots with positive parenting messages are being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The project has also provided budgetary and technical support to MoWA to conduct consultations with

parents, local authorities and children, with a view to developing an evidence base for MoWA's work on eliminating physical and humiliating punishment of children in the family.

TIMEFRAME

August 2013 to July 2017





**Australian
Aid** 

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