



Save the Children

# EDUCATION FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT EYE



## THE PROBLEM

Over 40% of Cambodia's population is under 18 years of age. Without timely investments in vocational and civic education, young Cambodians will find it difficult to fully participate in society, and they will become increasingly marginalised. Alternatively, if young people are equipped with the right skills, if they are provided with decent work, and are encouraged to engage in decisions that affect their lives and communities, they can be a powerful engine for change.

## OUR RESPONSE

The EYE programme aims to empower vulnerable young people in rural and urban areas through non-formal education and training to become active economic, social and political citizens.

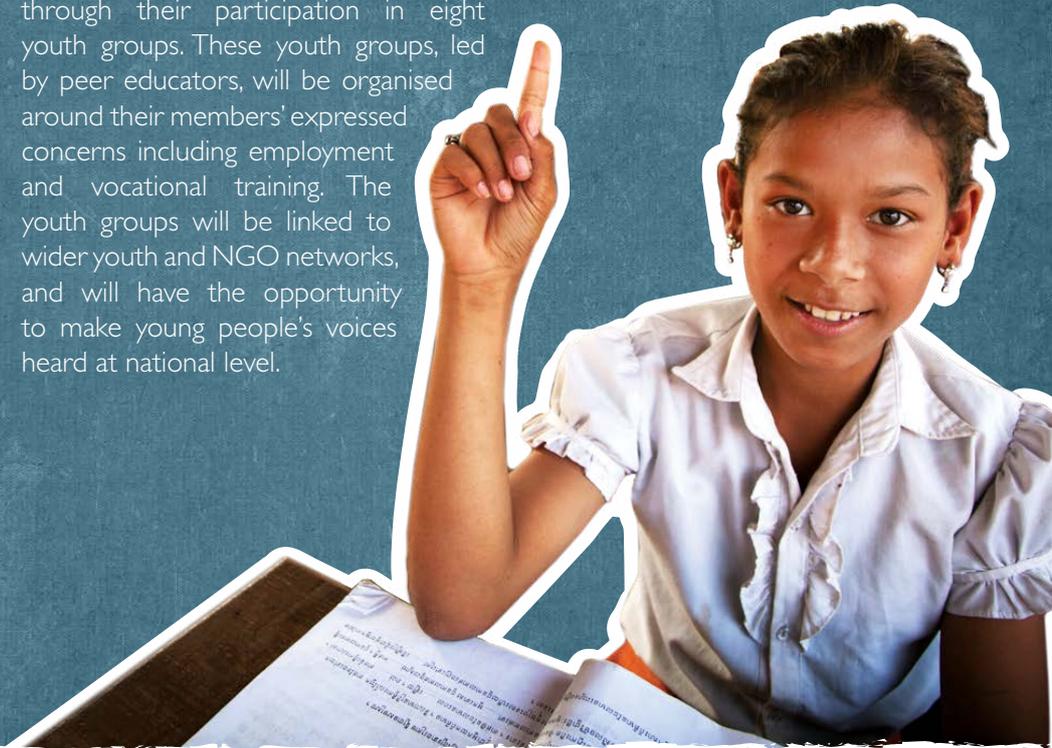
It will do so by enhancing their literacy and life-skills capacity, linking them to enterprise-based training and gainful employment. The project is currently piloted in Phnom Penh, this initial phase will provide the direction for planned

expansion. The guidelines and model will be used to lobby government and policy makers to provide quality non-formal education and vocational training to young people.

The EYE programme will enable youth to engage in decisions that affect them through their participation in eight youth groups. These youth groups, led by peer educators, will be organised around their members' expressed concerns including employment and vocational training. The youth groups will be linked to wider youth and NGO networks, and will have the opportunity to make young people's voices heard at national level.

## OUR WORK ON THE FIELD

In 2013 and 2014, Save the Children and its partners invested in information gathering, including a youth situation analysis, mapping of non-formal education and vocational training and consultations with vocational



training providers and young people. The findings resulted in strategies and activities for life-skills training, career counselling, and youth groups that were field-tested and fine-tuned for implementation in the EYE programme.

## PARTICIPANTS

The EYE programme is working with young people, aged 12 to 24 years, who are living in slums on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. They are out-of-school children and youth, many of whom are likely to have moved from rural areas to the city in search of economic opportunities to support their families but without skills they generally find it difficult to secure employment. When they do find work, these are often low paid, and in poor or hazardous conditions. The selection process will give priority to girls, young people with chronically ill parents including those living with HIV/AIDS, and young people with disabilities.

## PARTNERS

This project is funded by the Danish International Development Agency

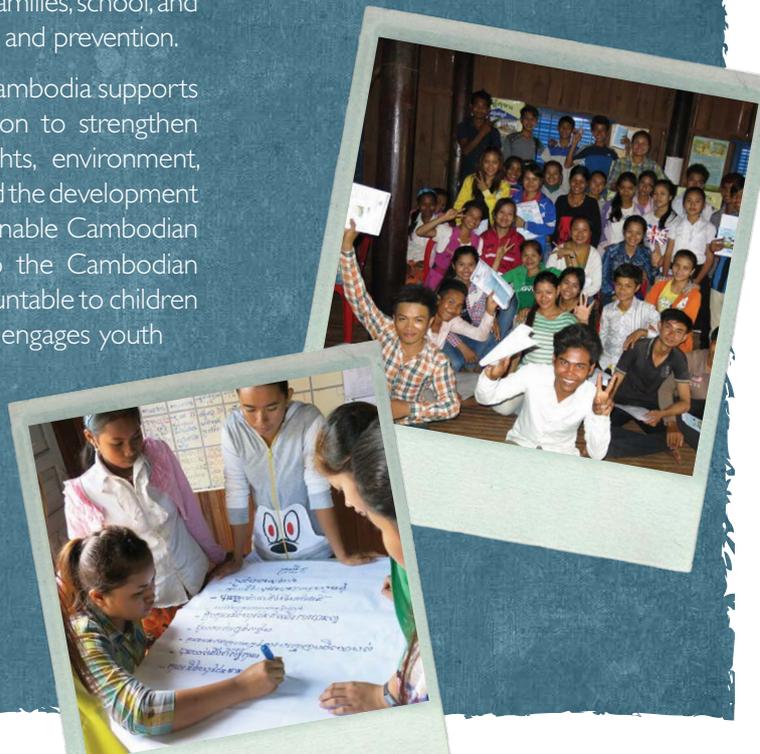
(DANIDA) through Save the Children Denmark. Save the Children is working with two local NGO partners, Mith Samlanh and the Youth Council of Cambodia, to implement this project. Mith Samlanh was established in August 1994 to work with Phnom Penh's street children, it aims to facilitate young people's reintegration into their families, school, and work, through outreach and prevention.

The Youth Council of Cambodia supports active youth participation to strengthen democracy, human rights, environment, health, gender equity and the development of a peaceful and sustainable Cambodian society. It advocates to the Cambodian government to be accountable to children and young people, and engages youth to be active citizens, through human rights and democracy training and youth group formation.

## TIMEFRAME

Pilot: January 2015 to December 2015

Extension: January 2016 to December 2018





## Save the Children

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### Save the Children

Cambodia Country Programme

#5, Street 242

Sangkat Chaktomouk

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: +855 23 224 403/4/5/6

info.cambodia@savethechildren.org

www.cambodia.[savethechildren.net](http://savethechildren.net)