



CAMBODIA
ANNUAL REVIEW 2014

<http://cambodia.savethechildren.net>



Save the Children

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children

Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

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This page, photo credit: David Wardell, Save the Children Australia.

Cover: Preynheang Village, Snoul Commune, Krolanh District, Siem Reap Province. Ten-year-old Vit Savivit and 11-year-old Tuy Tak are engrossed in a book they're reading. Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children.

Introduction

As 2014 comes to a close and as we look back, we have made good progress against our plans for the year notwithstanding that we have had a period of significant leadership changes, organisational stretch, and programme growth.

Looking back over the last 12 months we have a lot to celebrate. The USAID award in Nutrition (**NOURISH**) – which comes with much needed, substantial funding for nutrition in Cambodia – was launched during the year. This led us to expand our geographical focus with the inclusion of Battambang province and will enable us to address the high level of malnutrition in the country. It also has a child development component aimed at increasing demand for positive parenting which complements our work in **ECCD (Early Childhood Care & Development)** and **Child Protection**. Over the year we invested a lot in further growth which we hope to see into fruition in 2015. The focus has also been in strengthening our programme operations platform to be able to deliver our projects and programmes more efficiently and effectively.

Cambodia is a vibrant country that has seen considerable achievements for children and young people over the years. The child rights situation is improving. More children survive and develop. More children are protected from abuse and increasingly adults realise the need to fight for and protect **Children's Rights** including the right to participation. However, we still have a long way to go.

In the year ahead, we will be embarking on developing

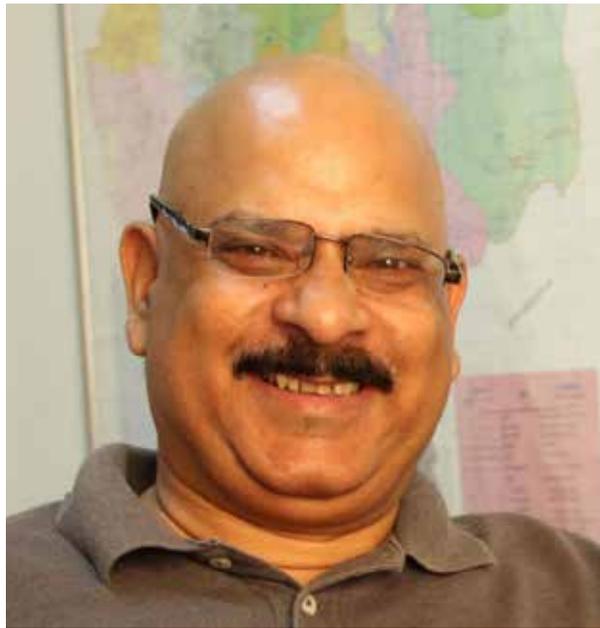


Photo credit: Khim Sambo Rothana/Save the Children

our country strategy that will chart a path for 2016-2018. We will pilot a very high profile and challenging programme on **Investment in Children**, going to scale in 5 provinces. In 2015 we will continue our **I'm Learning** pilot, and step up the related research activities which will give important inputs to advocacy for increased budget allocation to quality improvements and the importance of quality learning environments. We will further scale up our **Education** programme, nearly doubling our reach in ECCD and extending our work on **QLE (Quality Learning Environment)** to all target schools while continuing to facilitate access for the hardest to reach. Urban programming will be initiated through our **Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE)** programme focusing on social, economic

and political empowerment of out-of-school youth in poor communities in Phnom Penh. We will also start our work with primary schools in Phnom Penh.

We will explore better ways to manage our growth and to push as hard and as fast as we can to get closer to the goals we have set ourselves. In 2015 we plan to continue to develop our operational structure and decentralize functions to support the expanding country programme. The main emphasis will be on: 1) scale up of provincial office structure in the west of Cambodia; 2) decentralize and build up an integrated programme support function to all thematic areas through increased provincial coordination and management; 3) devolve the budget management and financial system processing responsibilities to the provincial offices through improved budget segregation and training to staff; 4) successfully implement the new competency framework initiative to improve performance management; and 5) continue to promote our zero tolerance to fraud, through an effective fraud awareness campaign.

To meet the challenges we have set ourselves and to meet the rights of Cambodian children, we need the collective strength of our Save the Children members, donors, partners and staff: we cannot do any of this without you. I have no doubt that with your ongoing efforts we will achieve more together for children in Cambodia next year and beyond. Thank you!

Ranjan Poudyal
Country Director
Save the Children

Where We Work

Save the Children has been working in Cambodia since 1970. The children's aid agency had to leave the country when the Khmer Rouge regime took control but re-engaged when they fell in 1979.

Programme Target Areas

Education

Preah Vihear
Koh Kong
Siem Reap
Kampong Chhnang
Kampong Cham
Tboung Khmum
Pursat
Prey Veng
Kratie
Phnom Penh
Stung Treng

Child Protection

Prey Veng
Pursat
Phnom Penh

Child Rights Governance

Prey Veng
Phnom Penh
Tboung Khmum

Health

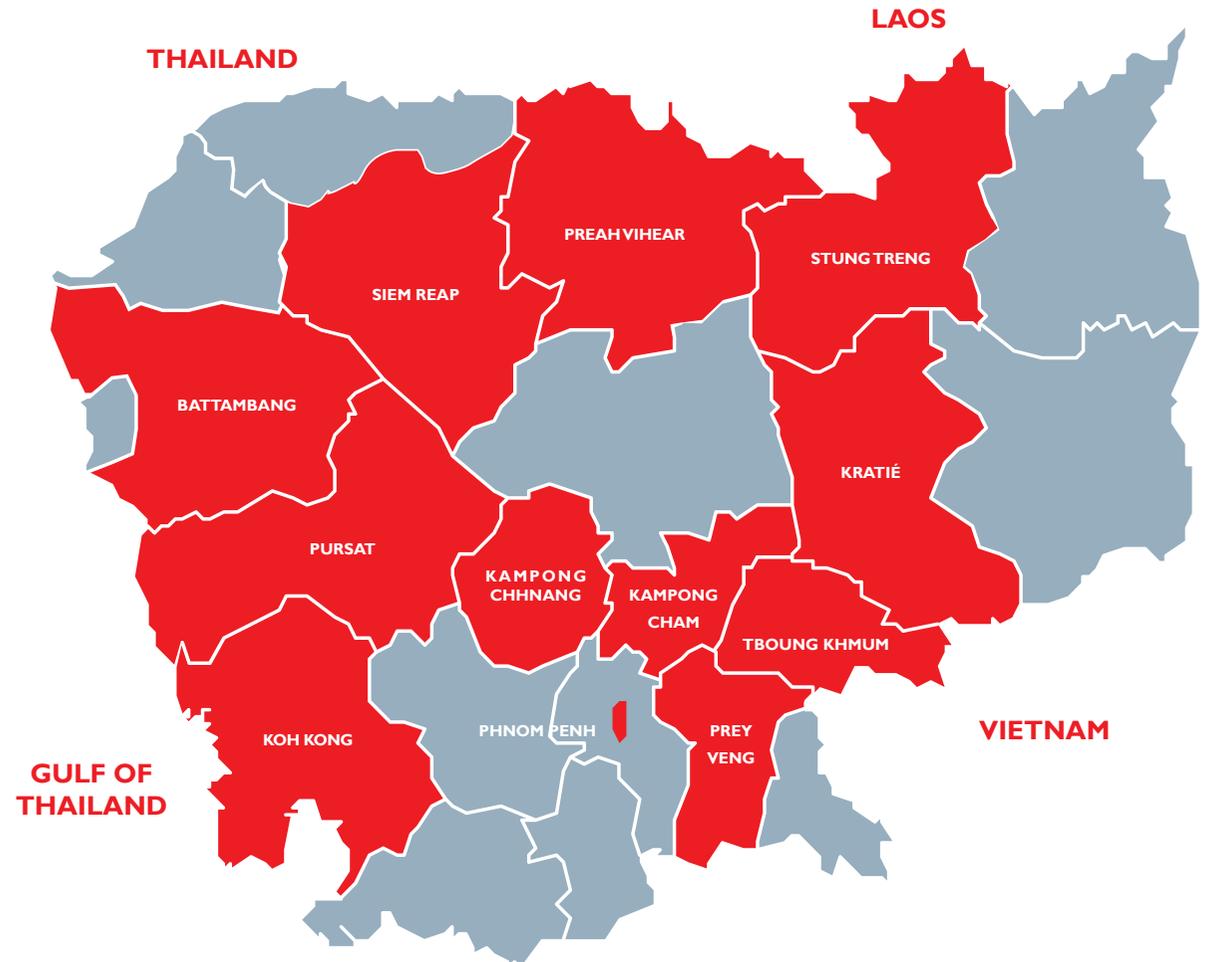
Kampong Cham
Kratie
Stung Treng

DRR/CCA and Emergency

Phnom Penh
Kampong Cham
Prey Veng
Koh Kong
Siem Reap
Kampong Chhnang
Kratie
Stung Treng

Nutrition

Pursat
Battambang
Siem Reap



Results for Children

“Humanity owes the child the best it has to give.”

Eglantyne Jebb

Founder of Save the Children
(1876-1928)



Photos, clockwise from left: 1) At Preah Vihear Primary School, Preah Vihear Province, Nine-year-old Seng Seaorey reads aloud from a book in the school's library; photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children. 2) Photo credit: David Wardell, Save the Children Australia. 3) Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children.

9,756

children aged 12-59 months received vitamin A and Mebendazole

6,458

pregnant women gave birth in a health facility with skilled birth attendants

1,126

children contributed their views on issues affecting their lives through Save the Children child-led research

941

children received home visits and counseling from the Commune Council for Women and Children in collaboration with the Community Social Workers

479

households became more resilient to the impacts of disasters and climate change

517

parents attended positive parenting village level groups



Our education projects drive Save the Children's vision of a **Quality Learning Environment (QLE)** for children in Cambodia

In 2014, Save the Children's **"First Read"** project, in partnership with Wathnakpheap and funded by Prudence Foundation Asia, distributed 35,162 children's books to 19,885 families, reaching 24,157 children. Familiarising children from a very young age to illustrated books at home develops critical cognitive skills and improves their literacy and numeracy. First Read helps parents of pre-school-aged children gain knowledge, skills and reading materials to help them prepare their children for school and life.

A growing number of children under 5 years of age are now entering primary school with literacy and numeracy exposure – setting them up to thrive. In Save the Children target areas, 13.7% of children aged 3-5 years are now equipped with basic literacy and numeracy before entering primary school. The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme expanded in 2014, providing access to both home-based and school-based pre-school care. Projects also increase cognitive development and socialisation skills, such as communicating with adults and knowing the behavioural expectations of schools.

"I'm Learning" is a project being piloted to test the co-relations between QLE and children's

learning outcomes and development. Specifically, it aims to improve children's competency in literacy and numeracy, and to develop their life skills, such as critical thinking, communication, and morality.

Self-confident, independent, self-reliant, engaged with society and their community: these qualities describe our **"Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE)"** project participants. EYE aims to empower vulnerable young people in rural and urban areas through education and training to become active economic,



Photo credit, above and left: Krister Borja for Save the Children Above: Chamkar Khley Village, Kampong Chanang Province. Nine year old Tann Thona is a member of the Children's Club, organized by the Rolear Paear primary school to practice skills. Left: Sles Slab Village, Sles Slab Primary School.

Education Achievements



Provided the tools parents need to teach at home through the distribution of **35,162** children's books

13.7% of children aged 3-5 years are equipped with literacy and numeracy before entering primary school



612 youths (502 in-school youth and 104 out-of-school youth) received soft-skills training

social and political citizens. Over 600 in-school and out-of-school youths received soft-skills orientation in 2014, improving their critical thinking skills and resulting in tangible benefits for the participants.

In August 2014, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) announced the introduction of Cambodia's comprehensive "Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Education Sector" to ensure the continuation of **Education in an Emergency**. Save the Children was the lead organisation to contribute, partnering with other NGOs and the government to help create this approach. Save the Children continues to support MoEYS through building capacity and coaching for this programme.

Fundamental education change goes beyond our work in building schools, training teachers, and influencing policy. By partnering with head teachers, teachers, parents, and the government, Save the Children can serve children through integration across all of its core themes of Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Health, Nutrition and Humanitarian Assistance.

Left, Sala Khum Village, Boribo District, Kampong Chhnang Province, Five-year-old La Menglong plays with a toy made from coconut husks, helping with physical development. Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children.





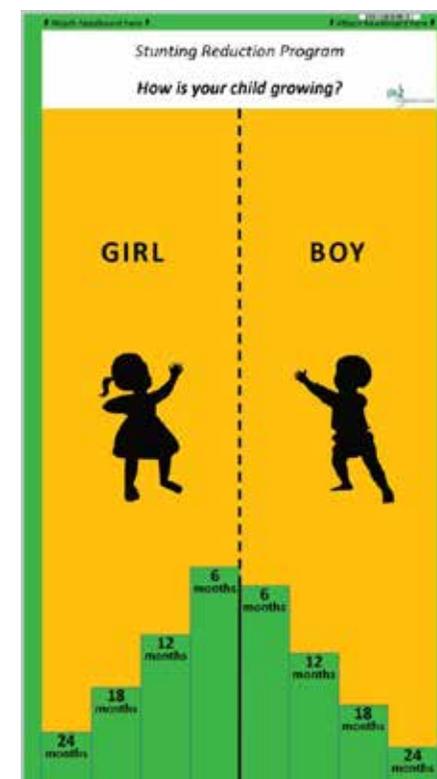
NOURISH will reach more than 500,000 people over the life of the project.

Funded in June 2014, Save the Children's NOURISH project promotes optimal growth and development during the crucial "first 1000 days" from the beginning of pregnancy until a child reaches age two. The project addresses the complex, multi-faceted causes of chronic malnutrition through an integrated approach that includes nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and early child development. Focusing on malnutrition early in life takes advantage of the window of opportunity to prevent irreversible damage to a child's brain development, immune system, and physical growth.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has granted funds to Save the Children for this five year stunting prevention project, which operates in three geographic areas – two of which are an expansion of Save the Children's existing efforts in Cambodia. The project aims to improve the well-being of women and children in the poorest areas in Battambang, Pursat, and Siem Reap Provinces.

Local partners have been identified, setting up a formula for success that involves strengthening

community platforms; building capacity; generating demand for, and advancing the supply of nutrition and WASH services and products.



Left, in Tra Pang Neang Village, Kampong Cham Province, a big smile from 6-month-old Baby Boy Kim Chouen who has been exclusively breast-fed by his mother Sokhea Mon. Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children.

Save the Children have been supporting child and maternal health in Cambodia since 1999.

Maternal and newborn health is of paramount importance to Save the Children. We are succeeding in strengthening the delivery of health services through a significant increase in participating health centres in the **“Partnering to Save Lives”** project. Now in its second year, the project has expanded its health centre coverage from 37% to 63% across Kratie and Stung Treng provinces.

The Midwives Coordination Alliance Team (MCAT) was established by Save the Children as a mechanism to increase the skills of midwives. MCAT also offers a 21-day training course which was attended by 100% of midwives from the project’s health centres. Over 870 volunteers were trained and supported through Partnering to Save Lives this year, including village health support groups and other community health volunteers.

To ensure that valuable findings are converted into policy, Save the Children work with partners CARE and Marie Stopes International through our combined national and regional Coordination and Learning Unit.

Save the Children continue to raise awareness among parents that breast milk substitutes like baby formula are not the best option for their children’s health. Breast milk is undoubtedly the best source of nutrients for any child. Save the Children and

partners are campaigning for improved commercial adherence to government Sub-Decree 133 regulating the promotion of breast milk substitutes.

Our **“Newborn and Child Survival”** project finished its final year with strong results, highlighted by 1,998 (64%) of women having their babies delivered by skilled birth attendants and 846 (94%) of pregnant women giving birth at Health Centres receiving a conditional cash transfer (CCT). These significant changes in service utilisation for reproductive, maternal, and child health are one part of Save the Children’s contribution to the UN’s Millennium Development Goals Four and Five: the reduction of child and maternal mortality rates.

Save the Children’s **“Community ‘DOTS’ – Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse”** project for tuberculosis finished in March 2014, focusing on treatment at the community level, and culminating in 95% of registered TB patients in the target area being treated via the project.

Save the Children’s health programme aims to increase access to, and quality of, primary health care and nutrition services to the poor, by strengthening demand, building capacity, and refurbishing health infrastructure.

Right, at Rolouss Health Centre, Kratie Province Cambodia, midwife Ang Sreymech does a post-natal check on newborn Phin Molerna. Photo credit: David Wardell/Save the Children Australia.





Significant progress in policy and positive parenting training helped make 2014 a successful year.

Through the “**Strengthening Community Systems for Child Protection (SCSCP)**” project, Save the Children supports Community Social Workers (CSW) who partner with the Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC) to identify children who have been victims of abuse, domestic violence and neglect, in order to provide counseling and referrals to health and justice services. 76 children have received direct services through the CSWs and 865 children have received home visits and counseling, as a result of input from the CSW, through the CCWC.

Prior to the SCSCP programme, child protection offered by local authorities had largely been constrained to school support. However, as a result of training, CCWC members displayed increased understanding of larger issues of child protection – demonstrated in increased skills in village mapping of children in need, and the ability of council members to identify children in need of social services. As a result of this new knowledge 136 CCWC members and 40 commune chiefs developed action plans to respond to child protection issues.

Save the Children piloted a programme to train volunteers to facilitate positive parenting groups, providing training, reporting on successes

and challenges and creating a positive feedback mechanism, with 517 parents attending the groups.

At the national level, Save the Children has worked closely with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) to influence national strategies to prevent violence against children, including introduction with partners of the Positive Parenting initiative of Neary Rattanack – the national strategic five-year plan for the Ministry.

“My mother beat me because I went out with bad people and did not help her. When I slept under the tree, I was very afraid and many mosquitos bit me....”

“I am very happy now. My mother cares, loves and gives me enough food to eat. I do not avoid school anymore. I love my studies. I want to be an organisation staff or a blacksmith when I grow up.”

— Child receiving services through Community Social Worker

Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children

Participation between government ministries and child organisations strengthens Save the Children's Child Rights Governance programme.

In 1992, the Royal Government of Cambodia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, committing to promoting children's rights within Cambodia. Save the Children work with the Government, civil society organisations and children to promote the inclusion of these rights in children's lives.

The joint development of a Child Rights Indicator Tool with the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), a government body tasked with monitoring child rights and coordinating the response to child-rights issues amongst stakeholders, helps evaluate the child-rights situation within Cambodia.

The input of civil society and children and youth groups supported by Save the Children has been sought in these meetings, and these discussions have informed the drafting of the Child Rights Situation Report, which is included in the UN Universal Periodic Review Report.

In 2013, Save the Children supported the development of the Child Participation Guidelines that outlined the process of mainstreaming child participation practices into national Ministries. The government has assumed ownership of this document and in 2014 has begun the process of disseminating this document through the CNCC to relevant Ministries

and CNCC structure at sub-national level.

Working with partners, Save the Children had supported workshops to develop the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), a comprehensive plan to promote child rights within individual government Ministries.

Save the children works to ensure that children's voice are heard, particularly children with disabilities are included in all processes of project cycle. Over 1500 responded on issues of key importance to children's rights, and over 2000 took part in a Commune Development Plan.

"When I was selected as the leader of the child club, I hesitated to accept the voluntary job because I did not trust my ability. So all my problems were kept hidden."

"I now understand well my roles and responsibilities. During my free time from school, my voluntary job is to facilitate club meeting every month, collect and present children issues and suggest for inclusion into the agenda for commune meetings. I would never be able to do this without having attended the meetings and trainings by the organisation."

— Sok Bros, male, 14 years old



Photo credit: Save the Children



When disaster strikes, Save the Children is here and ready to help affected children and families.

Emergency response and preparedness through our **“Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Cambodia II”** project are key components in our humanitarian efforts to ensure communities continue to have access to education, sanitation and hygiene, health, child protection, and sources of livelihood.

Launched in 2014, Save the Children and People in Need Cambodia (PiNC) also work proactively through the **“Disaster Resilience through Improved Education and Livelihoods (DRIEL)”** project, which focuses on community livelihood resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) education for children and adults, and community council involvement in Climate Change Adaption (CCA).

Coordinating planned 2014 “DRR Days” with the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) campaign to raise awareness has made messages more effective and practical, and encouraged community ownership and participation. School disaster committees now include the commune chief, which ensures a higher commitment level to not just be aware of risks, but to create plans in advance to mitigate them.

Photo credit: Save the Children

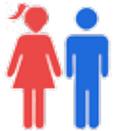
Working in close collaboration with the Department of Education, Youth and Sport (DoEYS) in coastal communities in Koh Kong Province, the project has mainstreamed scientific thinking and life-skills into curricula for grades four through six. At the same time, through community council hazard mapping, parents are taught to understand the impact of climate change, and how CCA can help them.

This holistic, multi-channel approach influences children, parents, and communities, amplifying the effectiveness of response planning and risk reduction.

“This is our common problem, it is not individual, so we need to increase the adaptive capacity of children, communities, government and civil society to mitigate disaster risks.”

— Khim Phearum, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator at Save the Children in Cambodia

Children Reached Directly



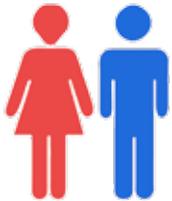
Girls: 156,788 (49%)
Boys: 161,732 (51%)

Children Reached Indirectly



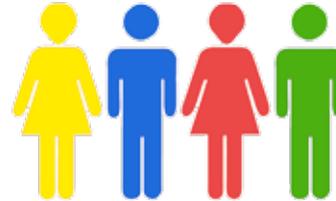
Girls: 298,295 (51%)
Boys: 288,346 (49%)

Adults Reached Directly

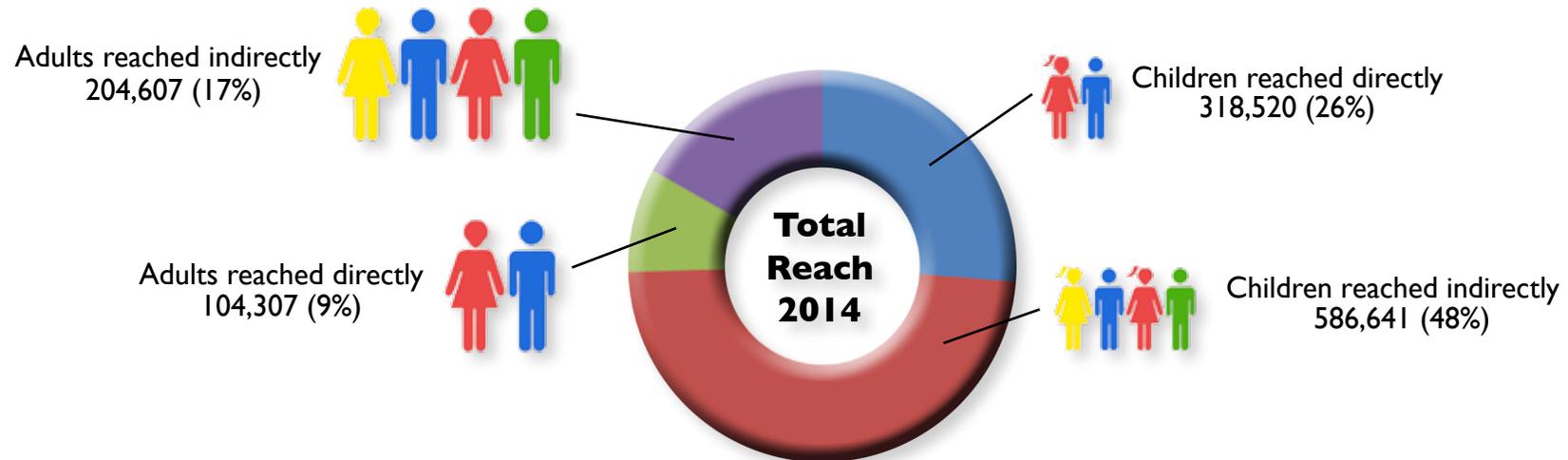


Women: 70,400 (67%)
Men: 33,907 (33%)

Adults Reached Indirectly



Women: 101,853 (50%)
Men: 102,754 (50%)



Save the Children in Cambodia Staff during the retreat 2014





Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children

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Cambodia Country Office**



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Kampong Cham province

Kampong Chhnang:

Thormayuth Village
Sangkat Phaé, Krong Kampong Chhnang
Kampong Chhnang province

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Prey Veng

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Stung Treng Town, Stung Treng Province

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Battambang city, Battambang province

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Stoeung Veng village, Stoeung Veng commune,
Krong Khmerak Phumin, Koh Kong province



Photo credit: Krister Borja for Save the Children