



Save the Children

PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND EVIDENCE



THE PROBLEM

Children in Cambodia continue to face violence and abuse in a variety of settings, including at school, in residential care institutions, and within their own families. More than half of Cambodian children experience some form of physical violence prior to the age of 18. These children commonly experience multiple instances of abuse during childhood, and are subjected to different – and often overlapping – forms of violence, such as sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Child protection systems at the commune, district and provincial level are weak, underfunded, uncoordinated and poorly staffed.

To address these issues, the Royal Government of Cambodia has begun to make significant progress in the prioritisation of family-based care and reducing violence against children, and has demonstrated a clear commitment to support a comprehensive long-term process of care reform and strengthening the role of social work in child protection.

By harnessing the learning from

previous work and taking these lessons to significant scale, Save the Children is supporting the government to catalyse the development of service provision, further developing the capacity of authorities at the local and national level to deliver and resource child protection services.

OUR RESPONSE

The *Protecting Children Through System Strengthening and Evidence* project will support and strengthen community based child protection systems in Prey Veng province, ensuring that children have access to high quality preventative and responsive social work services.

Save the Children and local partner organisations **WOMEN and Social Services of Cambodia (SSC)** will provide quality social services at community level to support

parents, caregivers, communities and local authorities in target areas to provide better care, and practice positive and non-violent child rearing.

Save the Children aims to ensure that all girls and boys, including children with disabilities and those without appropriate family care (including children placed in residential care institutions), are protected from all forms of abuse and violence through strengthened policies, legislative frameworks, and a supportive



community environment for child protection and prevention of abuse. The project will train parents on the importance of joint parental responsibilities, and encourage fathers to play an active and positive role in their children's upbringing.

Save the Children and partners will continue to expand support to local Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWCs) to fulfill their mandated roles according to government policy, including supporting child protection services. We will work to address the gaps in child protection systems between commune, district province and national levels, and focus on building evidence of practices that bring about impact through improved documentation, research, and strong relationships and advocacy with provincial and national child protection actors. Working in partnership with other civil society organisations, academic institutions and the Cambodian government, we will support the development of national level child protection systems, social work standards, and case management systems.

PARTICIPANTS

The project will work with the most deprived and marginalised children and their families, specifically children at risk of child protection issues. It will include male and female caregivers, members of Women and Children's Consultative Committees (WCCC) at the provincial and district levels, Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWC), community based groups, key relevant ministries including the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), and the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC).

PARTNERS

This project is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through Save the Children Australia. Save the Children will coordinate and collaborate with major child protection actors and key ministries

and technical working groups to seek long-term support for policy and legislative change, and advocate for increased resource allocation for the implementation of government's Positive Parenting Strategy 2017 – 2021, and the National Plan of Action on Violence Against Children 2017 – 2021.

TIMEFRAME

August 2017 to July 2021





**Australian
Aid** 

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