

## Celebrating the past, looking towards the future

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**Phnom Penh, 24 May 2019:** *Save the Children in Cambodia will host a free public event to celebrate 100 years since the founding of the global organisation. The celebration will be held at AEON Mall Sen Sok City, Phnom Penh and aims to inspire hope for the future for all children in Cambodia. Special guests include a representative from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and football players from Phnom Penh Crown Football Club. There will be a variety of fun activities, such as a children's football zone, a reading zone with children's books and read-aloud story times, a display of children's drawings, and much more.*

In May 1919, an Englishwoman named Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton started the Save the Children Fund to provide relief to children suffering from famine in post-war Europe. Now, Save the Children has become one of the largest and most recognised international humanitarian and development organisations in the world. It is the leading independent organisation for children, operating in more than 120 countries worldwide.

In 1923, Eglantyne Jebb drafted the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Switzerland, which became the first-ever human rights declaration of any kind approved by an inter-governmental body when ratified by the League of Nations in 1924. This document was the precursor to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN in 1959, and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

“We are celebrating the past 100 years of Save the Children, and looking towards the future for children in Cambodia,” said Elizabeth Pearce, Save the Children in Cambodia Country Director. “We know that all children have some idea of who they want to be in the future, but unfortunately not all children have the means to realise it. At Save the Children in Cambodia, we want all children, no matter where they live or what their background, to realise their Hope for the Future. We believe that one crucial aspect to achieve this vision is Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).”

ECCD refers to the holistic approach to healthy and beneficial development for young children. It includes a child's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development during the prenatal period when the child is still developing inside their mother's womb and onwards through their early childhood years. The early childhood period is a crucial time in the child's life when the benefits of ECCD are greater than ever.

“However, it is clear that not all children have equal opportunities. Not surprisingly, it is far more difficult for a child from a poor family in a rural area to benefit from ECCD than a child from an upper- or middle-class family in a large city with more resources and available services,” explained Ms. Pearce. “At Save the Children in Cambodia, together with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, we focus our ECCD efforts in some of the most remote and marginalised communities in the country, such as the villages in and around the Tonle Sap lake, so that all children can benefit from ECCD.”

To this day, Eglantyne's vision inspires all that we do as an organisation, and her ideals guide our global mission. Within our celebration of this momentous anniversary, we will keep Eglantyne's vision at the forefront as we look towards a bright and positive future for all children in Cambodia.

For 100 years, Save the Children has protected hundreds of millions of children around the world and given them the chance to realise their potential. In 2018 alone, we directly reached over 40 million children around the world through our work and with partners. In Cambodia, we supported 213,000 Cambodian children through our programming during 2018.

We invite the public to join us as we celebrate the past 100 years of Save the Children, and look towards the future for all Cambodian children.

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For media inquiries, please contact Ms. Say Sokpheap, Communications Manager via her email: [sokpheap.say@savethechildren.org](mailto:sokpheap.say@savethechildren.org) or her phone: 012 682 770