



# Save the Children

# CAMBODIA CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE



Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in over 120 countries.

Our Child Rights Governance programmes aim to raise the issues and status of children in all societies to ensure they are treated as the citizens of today. In doing so, we push child rights up the political agenda.

## FULFILLING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Children's lack of power and their low social status are the root causes of children's rights violations. Children's views are rarely sought or considered in decisions affecting their lives, and society is largely unaware of the concept of children's rights. Since 1979, Save the Children has worked to make the Royal Government of Cambodia accountable to children by monitoring government commitment to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

## PROGRAMME GOAL

Our aim is to build a child friendly society and to work closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia to increase resources to address children's needs.

## OBJECTIVES

**Advocate** for the Royal Government of Cambodia to increase budget allocation for children; and promote quality public services through the Implementation of a Social Accountability Framework.

**Support** civil society organisations, children and youth networks to promote awareness of the CRC in communities,

and ensure children are involved in local decision-making, including in the development of Commune Investment and Development Plans, and budgeting and monitoring.

**Strengthen** the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the CRC and support the Royal Government of Cambodia to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution with a Child Rights Unit.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2013, our **Child Rights Governance programme reached almost 7,000 children** and their families. Through our work, we have also seen children's issues being addressed in Commune Investment Plans and budgeting.

We have supported CNCC to strengthen child rights monitoring systems, develop guidelines for children's participation, and develop a national strategic plan and a 2015-2018 national plan for children.

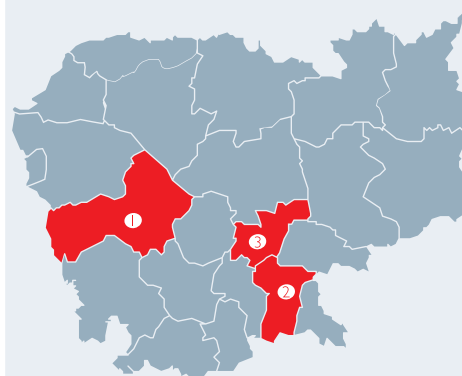
Children and youth groups have been assisted to conduct participatory action research on domestic violence and

children drinking alcohol, and to present key findings to relevant stakeholders.

Save the Children provided technical and financial support to NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child and its members to work with the Steering Committee of Cambodia Working Group to review the draft National Human Rights Institution law. The final draft now includes a Child Rights Unit to be an independent office supported by both the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners to monitor child rights implementation.



## WHERE WE WORK



1. Pursat

2. Prey Veng

3. Kampong Cham



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## CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING

Save the Children facilitates child and youth involvement in rights monitoring. We support the Cambodia Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights to continuously gauge children's concerns and communicate with duty bearers. At a sub-national level we work with children, young people and civil society to monitor the effectiveness of local administration.

Save the Children is also advocating for the government to sign and ratify the 3rd Optional Protocol (OP3) to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The OP3 is a communication mechanism that allows children and concerned persons to file individual complaints to the UNCRC committee.

We provide support to NGO CRC and its members to develop the UN Universal Periodic Review report from civil society, and we support the development of an alternative children's report.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SYSTEMS

Along with our partners UNICEF and Plan International we are strengthening

the CNCC including the development of a national plan of action for children. We bring a child perspective to NGO Forum's advocacy for budget transparency to create opportunities to influence the Royal Government of Cambodia to broaden public disclosure of budget information and to improve budget credibility and prioritisation of children's issues.

## BUILDING CAPACITY AND AWARENESS

Save the Children promotes child and youth participation in policy planning and budgeting at a local level with the intention of ensuring children are actively involved in identifying, discussing, and prioritising the development initiatives and spending decisions that affect their lives. We work with Commune Councils and the Commune Committee for Women and Children to strengthen their capacity in fulfilment of their roles and responsibilities. Together with our partners, Save the Children develops child-friendly materials and promotes children's rights through community workshops, forums, and meetings.

## SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

We work with the Royal Government of Cambodia and civil society to implement the Social Accountability Framework with the aim of empowering children and other citizens, improving their engagement and enhancing social capital and trust. We aim to ensure transparency and accountability, improve service delivery and allocation of budgets based on children's needs.

### PARTNERS

Cambodia National Council for Children, National Council for Decentralisation and Deconcentration, Working Group for Partnership in Decentralisation, Ministry of Economy and Finance, UNICEF, NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child, Child Rights Foundation, Cambodia Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights, Phnom Srey Organisation for Development, Women Organisation for Modern Economy and Nursing, NGO Forum, Transparency International Cambodia, Wathnakpheap, Cambodian Cooperation Committee, Plan International, World Vision, The Asia Foundation, Advisory Group Global Alliance for Children Cambodia, World Bank.

### DONORS

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation through Save the Children Norway, the Danish International Development Agency through Save the Children Denmark.



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