

Cambodia

HIV and Orphans & Vulnerable Children

The HIV and Orphans & Vulnerable Children projects offer support structures to children and their families through pagodas and monk peer groups and child clubs.



Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project

Working through Buddhist pagodas Save the Children Australia provide practical and emotional support to children and their families with the assistance of monks and volunteers.

The OVC program supports over 8,200 people. Srey Povv*, a grandmother who is looking after her three granddaughters is one of them. The youngest child who is six years old was recently confirmed as HIV positive. The eldest girl had to stop attending school to work and help to provide for the family. With the assistance of the OVC program and the monks, the girl is now back at school and her little sister is receiving medical attention.

Bora*, eight, and his sister who is 13 years old have also been living with their grandparents since they were orphaned five years ago. Bora was recently confirmed as HIV positive and is receiving medical attention. The monks have been providing counselling and support to Bora and his family.

Thanks to the help and advocacy of the OVC projects and the Buddhist monks the lives of orphans such as Bora have improved significantly. A specific emphasis of the OVC program is to keep the orphaned and vulnerable children within their community as much as possible.

HIV

Bopha* is HIV positive. She has two children, of whom the youngest is also HIV positive. Her husband disappeared shortly after he discovered he had HIV.

Kampong Cham was their homeland before they moved to Prey Veng. In Prey Veng, she lived with her younger sister who contributed to her meager income by working in the rice field or construction industry. Her sister's house was very small, forcing Bopha to find somewhere else to live. At the same time she and her youngest child had health problems but no access to health care.

Save the Children works with the Buddhist pagoda to support families in this situation. They now receive essential medical care and money from a self support group. Monthly contributions from families were used to build a small house for her.

Bopha and her children now have a house and good health. The monks visit regularly and she has started a small grocery business through an income generating program. The business is going well with the expectation the family will be sustainable in the near future.

* not real names