

# Cambodia

**Save the Children Australia has been providing humanitarian relief and development assistance predominantly in the health and education sectors to Cambodia since 1979.**



In 1987 Save the Children Australia established an office in Cambodia and began implementing projects with the Ministries of Health (MOH) and Education (MOEYS) in Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, and Kampot Provinces. Since that time, the program has grown and diversified but the focus has remained constant. For close to 30 years, Save the Children Australia has worked in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), NGOs (local and international), People's Organisations (PO), Buddhist monks, community organisations (CO), Save the Children (United Kingdom, New Zealand, Sweden, Norway and Korea) and UN agencies to improve the lives of Cambodian children.

Save the Children Australia's current programs in Cambodia focus on health, HIV and AIDS and child protection. These include:

- The **Health Sector Support Project (HSSP)** supports the Cambodian Ministry of Health to provide access to health services for remote communities to improve knowledge about public health facilities and services.
- The **Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Project** strengthens existing health practices at public health facilities and raises awareness in communities of positive health behaviour in order to promote improvements in children's health and reduce mortality and morbidity rates.
- The **Community-based Tuberculosis (TB)-DOTS Project** involves community testing, follow-up, and referral of patients with TB.
- The **TB/HIV Project** supports TB patients to access the HIV Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) clinics and referral centres.
- **HIV and OVC.** The Orphans and Vulnerable Children programs offer support structures to children and their families through pagodas and monk peer groups and child clubs. The program ensures that vulnerable children are safe in the community, attending school, receiving health care and are not the victims of discrimination.
- **Child Protection** provides a sustainable and meaningful contribution to the development of a Child-Safe Cambodia in which all children are safeguarded from sexual abuse and exploitation. The program concentrates on developing child protection policies with government and non-government organisations, preventing members of the formal and informal tourism sector from contributing to child sexual abuse, and working at the community level to enhance and support existing child protection mechanisms.
- **Rewrite the Future.** Save the Children Australia has started a program with a difference in remote Dambae district in Cambodia's Kampong Cham Province. Termed 'child friendly schools', the project takes a holistic approach to education and goes beyond improving access to quality basic education. Five satellite schools have been selected in a pilot phase to address constraints such as low enrolment rates, high repetition rates, teacher shortages and poor facilities among communities in remote areas. A core concept of the 'child friendly school' approach is the notion that schools and communities should be allowed to make individual choices to ensure their needs are met and they have control of their own implementation plans.