

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Ratanakiri. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.

In the last year, girls and boys have been able to catch up on their studies and return to new and well-equipped schools closer to home. And young women gained vocational skills, helping them to earn an income and support themselves as they enter adulthood.

The health of families is also improving, thanks to new community wells. More than 4,000 people can now access safe water, and 248 families have improved their knowledge on good hygiene practices.

Children are also growing up strong and healthy with treatments for malnutrition.



639

Children and youth increased knowledge on gender equality



249

Children received treatment for malnutrition



1,422

Students were provided with school supplies



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN CAMBODIA

Hear from Sreynor about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"During the pandemic, my village was locked down and my father could not travel to find work. He struggled to earn an income and provide food for our family. Fortunately, we were supported by Plan International with cash assistance so we could buy food, medicine, and learning supplies for my brother and me."

CASE STORY: BREAKING BARRIERS AND DREAMING BIG



NAME: KARRY

AGE: 18 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: READING & WRITING

"I am thankful for the Girls Lead project and the activities that have motivated girls and young people, especially in rural areas. I will try to realise my dreams and contribute to changing negative gender norms in my community."

Meet Karry

Like your sponsored child, Karry has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Karry is completing grade 11 at a high school away from home – breaking barriers and forging a path for other girls every day. With skills she built from attending Girls Lead workshops, Karry now has the confidence to speak up for her rights, advocate for equality, and she has big future dreams.

Challenging Gender Roles

In Karry's rural community, girls are often prevented from playing active roles in public spaces.

Joining social clubs is not encouraged, and parents often keep their daughters at home to help with household chores. Early marriage is still common, and education for girls is not highly valued.

Karry used to follow these gender roles, until she joined Plan International's project on girls' rights. Along with other girls, she learned about gender equality and the importance of finishing her education before getting married.

Dreaming of a Bright Future

The Girls Lead programme helped Karry gain confidence in public speaking and she is embracing leadership roles in her community.

In March, she took over the role of foreign ambassador for a day. Her dream for the future is to become president, so she can continue to challenge gender roles and advocate for the rights of girls. And Karry has the support of her parents to reach her full potential. Many parents also took part in the Girls Lead programme, and they are now committed to girls' education and gender equality, which will help more girls like Karry.



Karry at the Indian Embassy in Cambodia

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 10,654 CHILDREN IN RATANAKIRI

OUR PROJECTS IN SIEM REAP ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



Less than half of youth in Cambodia have completed secondary school. Without the opportunity to gain technical and professional skills, young people, particularly girls, struggle to earn a good income.

In Ratanakiri, 59 young women and 57 young men enrolled in Plan International's Skills For Success programme. These youth gained skills on various topics such as sewing, welding, motorbike repair, and beauty salon care. Now 29 young people are employed and earning a good income.

10 youth received small grants to start their own businesses

Youth also received accommodation support, daily meals, and health care treatments while taking part in the programme, so they could focus on learning new skills. And more than 300 parents also took part in training sessions on gender equality, helping them to encourage their daughters and sons on building skills for their futures.

INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



Around one in five students drop out of school in Ratanakiri. Schools are often far away and many families struggle to afford fees and supplies. Closures during the pandemic also caused children to lose significant learning time, leaving them at risk of missing out on critical skills.

Working with rural communities and regional education authorities, Plan has supported the construction of five new schools in remote areas. Hundreds of girls and boys can now continue their education close to home.

And more than 1,700 out-of-school children took part in education programs to help them catch up with their academic grade levels. 196 girls also received scholarships to cover stationary materials and school fees.



"I used to travel 10km across a mountain and river to get to school. I had to drop out, along with many friends. Now Plan has constructed a new school closer to my community. I am thankful as now I can continue my studies.

- Lida (14) from Ratanakiri

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



26%

Of children are underweight



61%

Of households do not have access to sanitary toilets



31%

Of adults cannot read or write



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

- We will continue to promote girls' rights and work with local partners to raise awareness of the harms of child marriage.
- We will collaborate with education authorities to ensure out-of-school children are able to continue their education and open the door to a brighter future.
- We will support the work of village health support groups to reduce malnutrition and help girls and boys have a healthy start in life.
- We will also work to improve the health of children and families by supporting communities to construct sanitary latrines and hand-washing facilities.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter, happier future for the children in Ratanakiri.



"Our deep gratitude to all sponsors that together, we continue to reach thousands of girls and boys each year. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there are new projects established to tackle school drop-out rates and malnutrition. Your support inspires us" to work even

Puth Bunthoeun

Programme Area Manager, Ratanakiri

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS