

# ANNUAL UPDATE

# CAMBODIA

## STUNG TRENG



**Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Stung Treng. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.**

This year, improved access to Early Childhood Development services and nutrition benefited at-risk children and their families—helping establish a healthy start to life, and reducing cases of malnutrition and stunting.

Pupils were better able to access their right to an education through scholarships, improved school buildings and educational materials.

As a result, young people—and their families—have a brighter, more empowered future ahead.



**2129**

Students benefited from hygienic school latrines



**5103**

Children and adults took part in reading day events



**375**

Events raised awareness for child protection

**“MALNUTRITION IS STILL AN ISSUE. HOME GARDENING HAS HELPED ME AND MY FAMILY ACCESS FRESH VEGETABLES.”**

Sokha, 10-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: LITA**

**AGE: 17**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
DOCTOR**

**“I SHARED MY EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT OTHER GIRLS, WHO HAVE THE SAME CHALLENGES, TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES, NOT TO GIVE UP.”**

## Meet Lita

**Like the child you sponsor, Lita is making steps towards her goal and achieving lasting change.** Despite pressure to quit school and marry, Lita fought for her right to an education. Her inspiration is the 19-year-old Lek Karry, a Plan International Ambassador for Cambodia’s Girls Get Equal Campaign.

## The Pressure to Leave School

Lita faced enormous pressure to leave school and marry a boy in the village, as her older sister had. For years, Lita resisted her parents’ entreaties; she felt blamed when she went to extra classes and sometimes, she didn’t want to come home to listen to her parents. It was hard to explain the importance of her studies to them.

The Girl Lead project equips youth with training on empowerment and leadership, supporting young people with resources and connections to shape their lives. Last year, Lita was selected as a children’s club member and shared her challenges with others. They in turn shared her issues with the community committee for women and children, who spoke to Lita’s parents about the importance of education. With this support, Lita’s parents listened.

## An Advocate for Education

Now, Lita attends secondary school with her parents’ encouragement. She understands that her parents were worried about her future. And while she was angry with them, she feels this experience has made her even stronger. Lita wants to be a doctor so she can treat patients and her parents when they get sick.

During club meetings, Lita encourages other girls to dream big. She said the Girls Lead project had changed her life entirely. Through her advocacy, Lita will help create change in her community so other girls can pursue their educational dreams.



*Lita encourages others*

# OUR PROJECTS IN STUNG TRENG ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



The programme improved nutrition and food security for girls, boys and pregnant women in Stung Treng so that families have access to better health.

## PROMOTING A HEALTHY CHILDHOOD



**A healthy life has its foundations in early childhood.** Yet in Stung Treng, only 60% of children under six have access to Early Childhood Development services, and many children lack adequate nutrition and clean water. Access to health and nutrition services and interventions is key to empowering families as they support their children's growth—so is improved access to Early Childhood Development services and home-based care for the most at-risk children.

This year, 607 parents of small children received information and counselling on key childhood development services. Children were screened for malnutrition and received healthcare treatment. In addition, 173 pregnant women benefited from nutrition counselling and supplements. And the percentage of preschools and primary schools with functional water and sanitary facilities rose from 22% to 63%.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



**In Stung Treng, many children—especially girls and ethnic minorities—drop out of school.** Poverty, as well as a lack of classrooms, educational materials and school latrines are key reasons. This year, the educational programme made a significant impact as it supported 6,062 students in 47 primary and lower secondary schools in accessing their right to an education. More than 200 at-risk children benefitted from re-entry classes, while scholarships empowered 150 students. Educational materials enhanced learning outcomes for 792 pupils. Hygiene practices improved with new latrines in 16 schools and handwashing stations in 90 schools. Community-led transportation helped students who live far from schools. Together, these initiatives helped make it possible for children to access their right to an education.

“I participated in the accelerated class. Therefore, my study can get back on track. I am grateful to Plan and its partners as they support my school with this project and construct a new school for us.” - **Setra (11), from Stung Treng**



# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Stung Treng.

- 19% of women aged 20-24 are married or in union by age 18. We will continue to provide information on the effects of early marriage and gender rights.
- Malnutrition among children under five is a main concern. By partnering with health centres and NGOs, we will increase access to health screening and nutritious food for families.
- The enrolment rate in lower secondary schools is just 29.9%. Our awareness campaigns and interventions will continue to support pupils with transportation, school materials and infrastructure so children can access their right to an education.

Thank you for your continued support.



"I would like to thank you for sponsoring a child in Stung Treng. We will continue our work to address issues such as school drop-out, abuse and stunting."

**Bunthoeun Phen**  
Programme Area Manager

## THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

## THE LAST 12 MONTHS



**MARCH**

**518**

Children enjoyed new school buildings



**MAY**

**22**

Preschools fitted with hygiene facilities



**OCTOBER**

**240**

People celebrated International Day of the Girl



**DECEMBER**

**1398**

Parents attended healthcare sessions

