

# SAFE SCHOOL

## Case Study of Phnom Srok

### CONTEXT

Mok Chhneang primary school is located in the North West of Cambodia, at Mok Chhneang village in Banteay Meanchey province; Spean Sreng Commune, Phnom Srok district.

The school has 9 teachers (5 females), 72 students (34 girls), and 24 registered children (13 girls). Every year, the school faces issues with flooding and strong winds. This can make it difficult for students and teachers to access the school and can lead to the cancellation of classes during the wet season. The cancellation of classes is often due to the poor condition of the roads and overflow from the nearby river or rice fields.



### AREA PROGRAM INTERVENTION

Due to its vulnerability and capacity, the Phnom Srok Area Program of World Vision International-Cambodia integrated and implemented the safe school programme into its main Education and Life Skills project in 2018. The project has worked on all three pillars of the safe school guidelines from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS); which also aligns with the ASEAN Common Framework for Comprehensive School Safety (CFCSS). During the first year of implementation the Area Program has built the capacity of local partners, starting with Training of Trainer (ToT) training for 2 District Education staff (1 female) and 5 school directors (1 female) on the concept of disaster management and the safe school framework. The project cooperated with the ToT to continue providing this training to their School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC). Specifically for Mok Chhneang primary school, 13 members of the School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) received training. This included 6 student council members (4 girls), 5 teachers (1 woman), and 2 school management committee members. After training, the school developed a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan and School Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, based on their assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities. The project has cooperated with SDMC to prioritize the action plan and mobilize resources for implementation. The number one priority to improve road access to the school was carried out by filling in land on the road and installing a culvert to drain flood water from the area. This was done to ensure the safety of the students when traveling to school in the wet season. Furthermore, SDMC provided disaster awareness sessions to their students, which covered hazards at school, evacuation maps, and self-protection.



Mr. Eeang Hang, school director, stated that "Before school students don't have safe walk ways enabling access to the school building. Every year the walkway access to the school building is always flooded in the rainy season, and the school is always closed when it is raining or they know it will rain. Through cooperation with World Vision Organization, the school mobilized resources from the commune chief, community people, Khmer living at Switzerland and the program budget in order to purchase land to 1) build the road to school 2) Repair the culvert to reduce flood water in school and 3) build a rainwater tank and handwashing station for improving hygiene habits at school.



Nowadays the students have a safe walkway to access the school in both rainy and dry seasons. However, we still need more support from World Vision Organization to fill land in school grounds for children to play and to build walkways in school for students to access the latrines, hand-washing stations and safe water from the rainwater tank. I would like to say thanks to World Vision and Sponsors who always support my school and community people. I promise that I will continue to build good cooperation for child well-being."

Veat Socheata, a grade three student of nine years old, said, "I am glad that my school cooperated with World Vision Organization to purchase land to fill in the road to make school safe and accessible for both the rainy and the dry season. I am really thankful and hope that World Vision Organization will continue to support my school and community."



For the new fiscal year, the program will continue strengthening the capacity of the School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and schoolteachers, to continue implementing their DRR and preparedness plans. This also includes regularly sharing roles and responsibilities of SDMC, providing awareness about hazard maps and what to do and what not to do when disasters happen. Furthermore, the program still supports the school filling in the grounds and planting trees to create a safe place for children and a positive environment.

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