



**PROTECTING
CHILDREN
AND EMPOWERING
THEIR
PARTICIPATION
ACROSS CAMBODIA**

Violence Against Children remains widespread in Cambodia. The Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021–22 reports that 66% of children aged 1–14 experienced violent discipline, including 5% severe physical punishment, while over 4% of females and 5% of males experienced sexual abuse before age 18. In addition, although children and adolescents make up 38.5% of Cambodia’s population, their participation in policymaking remains limited despite existing guidelines.



To address these gaps, World Vision International in Cambodia collaborates closely with Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Interior to implement a Child Protection and Participation Programme in eleven provinces and Phnom Penh. Efforts contribute to Strategic Objective 1 of World Vision’s Country Strategy: increasing the number of children and adolescents who are protected from all forms of violence and who participate in decision-making.

Our Impact in 2025

In 2025, 226,262 children (116,365 girls) were reached through World Vision's Child Protection and Participation Programme with the following results:



28% of adolescents reported having experienced any physical violence and/or psychological aggression by parent/caregivers in the past 12 months a decrease of 38% since the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021-2022



100% of 912 Child protection cases were responded to by the Child Protection Committee

Adolescents implemented 404 Community Service Learning Projects – giving back and make a difference in their communities



Over 60 churches and 124 faith leaders are actively delivering positive parenting and disability inclusion sessions within their communities, fostering positive, inclusive, and peaceful relationships.



132 Children and Youth participated in national level networks/dialogues influencing key decision makers including inputting into the development of the National Violence Against Children Action Plan 2025–2030 with Cambodia National Council for Children .



507,828 Vulnerable children were reached through policy changes to which World Vision made a significant contribution and of which there is evidence of implementation

Voices from the field: “Learning to Love Better” Families, Facilitators, and Futures Celebrate Change

When Mr. Loun Kim Leang first heard about Celebrating Families, he resisted: **“I felt blamed and didn't think I could change my habits.”** After joining, his parenting transformed. Today, he proudly declares, **“I am a father and a husband, not just a man. This hand will not be used to harm again.”**

Launched in 2011, Celebrating Families is part of World Vision's Child Protection and Participation initiative equipping parents with skills in positive communication, emotional awareness, and nurturing discipline. Parents report significant changes: **“My child never used to listen, and I would react with frustration. Now I use calm communication, and it works much better. Our home is more peaceful,”** shared Mrs. Riya.

Facilitators observe stronger family bonds and more confident children. Government officials, including H.E. Keo Ratana Tara, highlight the program's importance: **“Children are the next generation. We must invest in their future.”** Families like Mr. Leang's are now eager to see the program expanded to other communities.



Our Approaches

To strengthen child protection systems and enable meaningful child and adolescent participation in decision-making, World Vision:



Builds children's and youth's life skills and resilience

World Vision establishes Child and Youth clubs and equips members with life skills to prevent, identify, and report violence, understand their rights, and participate in decisions that affect them. Children and youth are also supported to engage constructively with local authorities and lead Community Service Learning Projects that address priority community issues.



Promotes positive parenting

Aligned with the Ministry of Women's Affairs Positive Parenting Programme, World Vision delivers positive parenting training (called Celebrating Families) to caregivers that promotes non-violent discipline and strengthens safe, nurturing family environments.



Strengthens child protection systems

World Vision works closely with Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Interior to support the rollout of the Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures. This includes acting as a co-trainer with government ministries and building the capacity of communities and Commune Committees for Women and Children to identify and refer cases of Violence Against Children to District Focal Points. The Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures also provide clear guidance to District Focal Points for case management of Violence Against Children cases. In addition, World Vision has supported the development of the draft Child Protection Law and the National Action Plan on Violence Against Children (2025–2030), launched in October 2025.



Enables child and youth participation in decision-making

World Vision creates safe and inclusive spaces for children's voices to be heard at family, organizational, local, national, regional, and international levels. Through positive parenting training, caregivers are encouraged to listen to children and involve them in decisions that affect their lives. At the organizational level, World Vision has established a Child and Youth Council, enabling elected child and youth representatives to engage directly with the World Vision Senior Leadership Team to share concerns and recommendations. At the local level, World Vision facilitates dialogue with Commune Councils, while nationally, regionally, and internationally, World Vision actively seeks platforms that allow children and youth to participate and represent Cambodia.

Our Partnerships and Strategic Alignment

World Vision's Child Protection and Participation Programme supports Cambodia's **National Pentagonal Strategy, particularly Pillar 1: Human Capital Development**, contributing to improvements in people's health and well-being, strengthening social protection systems, and promoting an inclusive, moral, and equitable society. The programme also aligns with the **National Action Plan on Violence Against Children (2025–2030)**, with a strong focus on system strengthening, inclusion, and emerging risks such as Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse .

World Vision works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehaillitation, and the Cambodia National Council for Children, and actively contributes to national child protection coordination platforms including the Child Protection Forum, Chab Dai, and the Child Alliance.



The Road Ahead: Strengthening Child Protection in the Digital Age

As children increasingly engage in the digital world, World Vision will focus on mitigating emerging risks while maximizing opportunities for safe online engagement. Key priorities include:

POLICY AND PROGRAM ALIGNMENT:



Increase awareness among children, youth, and communities about online risks and safe digital practices, empowering them to protect themselves and their peers.



CAPACITY AND AWARENESS BUILDING:

Increase awareness among children, youth, and communities about online risks and safe digital practices, empowering them to protect themselves and their peers.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

Expand collaboration with local Non Governmental Organisations to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms for Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and mobilize resources for comprehensive, evidence-based interventions.





World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.



Contact Us

-  PO Box 479, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
-  Phone (+855) 23 216 052
Fax (+855) 23 216 220
-  contact_cambodia@wvi.org
www.wvi.org/cambodia
-  [facebook.com/WorldVision Cambodia](https://facebook.com/WorldVisionCambodia)
-  [@WorldVisionKH](https://twitter.com/WorldVisionKH)
-  youtube.com/wvcambodia