



TRANSFORMING EARLY GRADE LITERACY ACROSS CAMBODIA


In Cambodia, a Grade 6 National Learning Assessment was carried out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 2021 to analyze learning loss as a result of the COVID Pandemic. Findings demonstrated significant negative impacts with only 46.5% of students in grade 6 meeting basic proficiency levels in Khmer and only 38.3% meeting basic proficiency levels in Math[1].

To support Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports’s response, and as part of the Country Strategy 2023-2027, World Vision International – Cambodia implements its education programme with 669 primary schools across 10 provinces with the strategic objective to achieve an **“Increase in primary school children who are equipped with literacy for life”**.

Our Impact in 2025

Daro, a nine-year-old girl living with her aunt and uncle after her parents’ separation, has shown strong resilience despite poverty and long daily journeys to school. Through World Vision’s support, her caregivers became more engaged in her learning, and Daro received targeted assistance, including a bicycle and school materials, which improved her access to education. Her teacher reflects, **“Her family now shows a strong connection to school. They never miss a meeting unless something important comes up. They support Daro emotionally and physically, and because of that, her studies have improved. She ranks ninth in her class.”** Despite her vulnerabilities, Daro remains hopeful and dreams of becoming a teacher, she shares: **“I want to help more children in my community get better knowledge.”**

 **164,949**
 Children (80,764 girls),
 most of whom are among Cambodia’s poorest and most vulnerable, were reached through World Vision’s education programming.


 **53%**
 of grade 3 children
 are achieving at least a minimum proficiency in reading


 **61%**
 of schools
 have improved learning environments.


 **83%**
 of trained teachers
 demonstrate child-centered teaching practices

 **98%**
 of schools
 supported by World Vision are receiving supervision by a trained local education authority

 **970**
 reading camps
 87,115 children were engaged in structured literacy learning to improve reading skills.

 **8**
 schools
 Constructed with 34 classrooms, two 5-room toilet buildings, and 3 solar systems in Preah Vihear and Kratie.

 **16,077**
 students
 Delivered daily school in 75 primary schools across three districts of Kampong Thom, supporting improved nutrition and school attendance.

 **5,026**
 out-of-school children
 received bicycles from poor households and remote areas, improving access to education and school attendance.

Our Approaches

To achieve meaningful improvements in children's literacy, World Vision applies a four-pronged approach:



Strengthened teaching instruction in Grades 1–3:

World Vision works closely with the District Office of Education and the Provincial Office of Education to train teachers on the Government's Early Grade Learning Package (Komar Rien Komar Cheh), integrating the five core reading skills into classroom instruction.




Improved learning environments:

World Vision strengthens literacy by establishing and maintaining print-rich, functional school libraries. This includes upgrading library infrastructure, such as bookshelves, and supplying age-appropriate reading materials. Where needed, World Vision also supports school construction and rehabilitation through the Cambodia Consortium for Out-of-School Children Project.



Increased support for children's reading:

Through Reading Awareness Promotion sessions, caregivers are informed about the importance of literacy and encouraged to create reading spaces at home. In parallel, community volunteers are trained as Reading Camp Facilitators to lead reading camp sessions for children, particularly slow learners and out-of-school children. These camps provide a safe, engaging environment where children can build confidence and enjoyment in reading.



Strengthened education systems:

World Vision collaborates closely with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Primary Education Department to support Early Grade Learning through national-level curriculum development and sub-national rollout. Additionally, World Vision works with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Department of Legislation to strengthen coordination, capacity, and collaboration at the sub-national level following the decentralization of education roles and responsibilities to District, Municipality, and Khan authorities.



Our Partnerships and Strategic Alignment

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has developed Early Grade Literacy and Mathematics packages and prioritized decentralized decision-making as key components of its 2024–2028 Education Strategic Plan and Inclusive Education Master Plan. At the national level, World Vision's Education Program contributes to these government priorities by working closely with ministerial departments, as well as district, municipality, and khan education officials, to strengthen literacy skills among children in Grades 1 to 3. In addition, World Vision supports the implementation of Sub-Decree 213, which formalizes the transfer of education functions to District, Municipality, and Khan authorities.

At the sub-national level, World Vision facilitates Training of Trainers for District and Provincial Offices of Education, equipping them to train, mentor, coach, and supervise teachers effectively.

The program is funded by Aide et Action and supported through partnerships with 11 World Vision funding offices worldwide.

World Vision Cambodia is a member of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Education Sector Working Group and the NGO Education Partnership (NEP).



THE ROAD AHEAD STRENGTHENING SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSION

To ensure children are equipped with literacy for life, **World Vision recognizes the need to strengthen school governance and inclusion in the coming years.**

School Management Committees - comprised of school directors, village chiefs, Commune Committees for Women and Children, and other key stakeholders - **play a critical role in driving sustainable, quality education.** These committees are responsible for supporting re-enrollment by visiting families when children drop out and for disbursing scholarships to the most vulnerable learners.

As such, **World Vision will focus on building their capacity to effectively monitor, plan, and implement strategies that strengthen education quality and inclusion,** with particular emphasis on prioritizing children with disabilities and out-of-school children and youth for scholarship support.

In addition, **World Vision will continue to support the rollout of Sub-Decree 213** to ensure that the effective transfer of roles and responsibilities leads to improved education outcomes for children.





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.



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