



## BACKGROUND

Bakan district is located around 16km from Pursat town. Bakan district boasts 40 children/youth clubs across four communes, with a total membership of 1,027 children, including 513 girls, 13 children with disabilities and 96 IDpoor children. The clubs were founded in 2016 by Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWC), with support from Save the Children funded by the European Union. The clubs were established as part of the CCWC's mandate to ensure children's involvement in commune investment plans.

Each club has a club leader, two deputy leaders and 15 - 35 children members. The purpose of the club is to promote child rights and children's participation in local decision making processes at commune level. To date, 12 children including 4 girls have become members of CCWCs and members of Commune Planning and Budgeting Committees. All children aged 8 – 17 years old are welcome to join the clubs, and children with disabilities and other marginalized children are particularly encouraged to join.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Organise monthly club meetings to share, update and educate their members on child rights and children's issues and concerns.
- ◆ Organise quarterly Children's Club leaders' meeting with technical support from CCWC focal person and local partner to build confidence in facilitation and public speaking skills.
- ◆ Participate in child rights related workshops or trainings organised by CCWCs and other civil society organisations at both local and national level.
- ◆ Conduct participatory action research and disseminate key findings to local authorities with support from Save the Children and its partners.
- ◆ Advocate Commune Councils to prioritise and allocate budget to address children's issues.
- ◆ Monitor budgets and be involved in the commune investment plan process.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN'S INTERVENTION

Save the Children and its partners provide training to Children's Club members on child rights; child participation (especially in the commune investment plan process); participatory action research; investment in children; and how to monitor commune budgets and expenditure. Together with partners, we ensure that children feel confident in raising issues which affect them and advocating with Commune Councils for increased investment in children. We also work with local authorities to build trust between children and their adult counterparts, thereby increasing children's engagement in commune planning and budgeting.

- ◆ Participate regularly in Women and Children's Consultative Committee monthly meetings at district level and CCWC meetings at commune level.

## BACKGROUND

Rumlech commune is located in Bakan district, Pursat province, around 30km from Pursat provincial town. Save the Children implements five projects in this commune, including three education projects, one child rights governance project and one school-based drought response intervention.

Some of the main problems experienced by children in Chey Kampok include high rates of school drop-out and migration. Children with disabilities often face difficulties in accessing schooling due to lack of transportation, school materials and discrimination. In addition, many of the members of the Commune Council and Commune Committee for Women and Children have little experience in child rights and child protection, and their capacity in involving children in the commune investment planning process remains limited.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN'S INTERVENTION

### 1. Realising Children's Rights through Improved Local Governance in Cambodia, funded by the European Union.

Together with partners, Save the Children is supporting children to raise their own voices and demand what they need from their government, communities and families. We will contribute to ensuring that children and young people's rights are taken into account during decision making processes that affect them. We will support local civil society organisations, and the children and youth with whom they work, to strengthen their participation in monitoring and fulfilling the rights of children and young people.

In parallel, we will strengthen the capacity of local authorities and public service providers to improve service provision and public financial management, as well as strengthening their capacity to involve children in commune investment planning processes.

### 2. Basic Education, funded by NORAD

Save the Children is working closely with Provincial Office of Education to improve the accessibility and quality of basic education for children, particularly from disadvantaged groups. We build the capacity of head teachers, teachers and school support committees on teaching, positive discipline and school environment improvement.

### 3. Inclusive Education for All, funded by IKEA Foundation

This is the second time we have received funding from the IKEA Foundation and this project is built on the previous project's achievements. With this project, Save the Children is supporting marginalised children, including children with disabilities, in eight schools in one district, to have access to and thrive in inclusive and quality learning environments. Through this project, we will showcase how government policies on inclusive education can be cost-effectively implemented with a focus on increasing the capacity of education professionals through the use of existing tools and guidelines, and through strengthening involvement and collaboration with children and youth, civil society groups, and local authorities.

### 4. Cambodian Consortium for Out of School Children, funded by Educate A Child

Save the Children improves the equitable access to education and retention in education for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our target provinces through working in partnership with government education authorities, local NGOs and school support committees. To identify, retain and ensure quality education for out-of-school children, together with partners, Save the Children improves school management information system. Each school develops and updates their school mapping to identify school aged children, especially out of school children, and information related to barriers to accessing education. We also improve school facilities with community participation and provide means (study materials, transport means or scholarships) to out of school children to access primary school.

### 5. Education in Emergencies, funded by Save the Children UK

The project aims to ensure that flood and drought-prone schools are able to access clean water, and that children's education is not disrupted during natural disasters. Save the Children has provided water filters and hand-washing devices to schools, as well as building the capacity of head teachers, teachers, school support committees, and Commune Committees for Women and Children on sanitation and hygiene. We also support schools to develop mechanisms which will ensure they are prepared for any emergency.