



**GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)  
PROMISING PRACTICES**

**YOUTH FOR CHANGE PROJECT IN CAMBODIA FACTSHEET**

## **BACKGROUND**

Young people under the age of 30 in Cambodia make up almost 60% of the total population<sup>1</sup> with the majority living in rural areas. While this represents significant opportunity for economic growth, social change and innovation, young people in Cambodia face many challenges which prevent them being equipped and empowered to create a positive future for themselves, their families and communities. World Vision International-Cambodia's (WVI-C) national baseline (2018<sup>2</sup>) of youth life skills and participation found that many young people did not know how to achieve their goals and did not have necessary skills or experience. Although they felt that civic engagement was important, they did not know how to engage, did not think it was their responsibility, and were not aware of where and how to raise issues to duty bearers, and when they did so they saw limited result. There were higher rates of reported violent behavior among both male and female youth than expected, seeming to stem from lack of role models in families and peer groups who address conflict peacefully, and from alcohol and drug use. To address some of these challenges, WVI-C implemented an Adolescent and Youth project in 2018-2020. The project implemented through sponsorship funding in 23 districts of 7 provinces (Taeko, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom) and have worked with 231 youth clubs from 2018-2020.

<sup>1</sup>Cambodia Population Census 2019, RGC

<sup>2</sup>WVI-C Youth Technical Programme Baseline 2018.

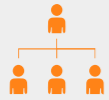
# OBJECTIVES



The goal of the project is to ensure “Adolescent and youth are participating as agents of positive change”. Specifically, the project aims to support a new generation of young Cambodian who have the capacity and agency to approach life and its challenges with a creative and innovative mind-set that demonstrates critical thinking and flexibility for their environment. There are three main expected outcomes:



Adolescents/youth have improved life skills and assets for positive self-concept and future orientation.



Adolescents/youth have the capacity to lead social change.



Positive, caring, and nurturing relationships are developed between adolescents and adults including parents, peers, facilitators, and community members.

# MAIN ACTIVITIES



Youth for Change is a project which works through youth-led clubs to engage, develop and prepare youth to contribute positively to their own lives and the lives of those around them today and in the future. The project strengthened the capacity of male and female adolescent and youth and created an enabling environment for youth’s engagement, empowerment, leadership, and development. The project used sport for development to engage most vulnerable adolescents to build team work and positive gender peer relationships through life skills and football training and youth-led community service-learning projects.

# World Vision’s GESI Approach



World Vision’s GESI approach promotes equal and inclusive access, decision-making, participation, systems and well-being of the most vulnerable; transforms systems, social norms, and relations to enable the most vulnerable to participate in and benefit equally from development interventions, builds individual and collective agency, resilience, and action and promotes the empowerment and well-being of vulnerable children, their families and communities.



# YOUTH FOR CHANGE GESI IMPACTS



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## Access<sup>3</sup>



Improved access to life skills through life skill training and sport activities for girls and boys.



Trained and engaged about 8636 adolescents [3,255 male and 5,381 female], Provided leadership skills for young male and female adolescents to lead activities.



Increased access to information on child rights, how to identify and recognise child abuse.



Increased access to information on child protection and violence support services and supported boys and girls at risks of exploitation and abuse to access support services.



93% of adolescent reported knowing available support services for abuse, exploitation, violence or other form of harm.

## Decision-making



Improved the engagement of male, female and vulnerable adolescents and youth in local government decision-making process.



Developed and improved planning and decision-making skills among boys and girls.



Developed and trained male and female youth to become effective club leaders.



Increased responsible young leaders who lead social change projects and make decision on issues affecting their communities.



455 youth leaders [68% are female] have strengthened the leadership capacity.



59% of participants reported increased leadership skills compared to 29% of baseline.

<sup>3</sup>Youth for Change programme evaluation in 2021.

## Participation



Developed young people to become **responsible, trustworthy citizens** who contributed to the common good of their community.



**Increased the engagement and participation** of young people in community and social development activities.



93.7% of participants reported can identify a platform to raise issues to duty-bearer compare to 34.7% at baseline.

## Systems



Addressed **gender stereotypes and social norms** that excluded girls from sports activities.



Improved young people's connection with peers, family members, adults and local leaders in the community.



Increased **community appreciation and values** of young people as positive agents of change.



Increased the **engagement** of local community adults role model and mentors to support young people.



27,525 local adults were engaged and supported youth clubs and youth-led projects and campaigns.

## Well-being



**Built confidence, a sense of worth, safety, and empowered youth** to lead a positive life. There was a reduction in percentage of youth engaged in risky behaviors from 78.1% at baseline in 2018 to 44.6% in 2021.



Improved **positive relationships, and respect** among adolescent boys and girls



Increased **conflict resolution skills** for adolescents to solve conflict peacefully and reduced violent behaviors.



Improved adolescents' social connections, **collaboration and team spirit** with peers, parents, community members, and leaders.

