



World Vision

Welcome

Introducing Basedth community, Cambodia

By partnering with the Basedth community,
you're helping to create lasting change in children's lives
through improvements to education, health and livelihoods.

Cambodia overview



Basedth, Cambodia

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. It shares borders with Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Phnom Penh is the capital city. The official language is Khmer, whilst French and English are also spoken. Over 95 percent of people are Buddhists.

Around 80 percent of Cambodians live in rural areas, making it one of the least urbanised countries in the world.

Three quarters of the population earn their living from agriculture, fishing or forestry. Tourism is a major industry and exports include clothing, timber, rubber, rice, fish and tobacco.

Community overview

The Basedth community is located in southern Cambodia's Kampong Speu Province, about two-and-a-half hours' drive from the capital Phnom Penh and about 50km from the nearest district town. There are mountains in the area, but the landscape is dominated by rice paddy fields. The climate is hot and dry, with average daytime maximums above 30 degrees Celsius all year round.



Eighty percent of families rely on seasonal rainfall to grow rice crops, but regular droughts and limited farming skills and resources lead to poor harvests and low incomes. Some families try to supplement their incomes through casual labouring jobs or by migrating to urban areas or neighbouring countries to work in garment factories.

Food shortages, lack of health and nutrition knowledge, unsafe water, lack of toilets and poor hygiene all contribute to ill health and malnutrition amongst mothers and children. Less than 30 percent of families have a household toilet and many people depend on drinking water from unprotected dams and ponds and open wells.

Education quality is low as schools lack basic facilities like toilets and playgrounds and many teachers lack skills and motivation. There are only two preschools in the community and many children drop out of school before reaching year nine to earn income for their families.



Football and volleyball are among popular sports

played by children in the community. Girls like to skip rope and play a game called "Tres", which involves placing small stones on their knuckles and then flipping their hand and trying to catch them all.



Most people travel by bicycle or motorbike.

Very few families own cars and there are only dirt roads in the community which become riddled with potholes during heavy rains.



Most families live in houses built on wooden stilts

to protect them from flood damage. The average home has two rooms and a veranda.



At harvest time there's a major celebration in the community.

Families come together for a traditional noodle meal and dancing. During this time families also contribute donations to be shared amongst vulnerable community members.

In comparison to Australia

students for every teacher

Basedth: 1:60



Australia: 1:24



Indicator	Cambodia	Australia
Population	15.4 million	23.6 million
Population living on less than US\$1.25 a day	10.1%	0%
Life expectancy	68.4 years	82.4 years
Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	37.9	4
Access to clean water	76%	100%
Adult literacy	73.9%	96%
Children who don't finish primary school	35.8%	3%
Internet users	9%	85%

Sources: United Nations Development Programme 2015 and UNICEF 2016.

We're making progress

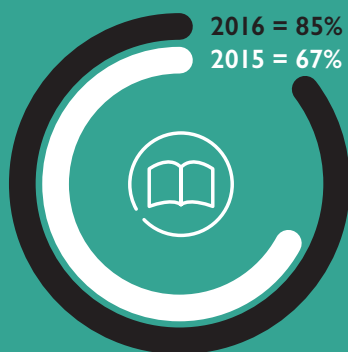
“World Vision staff work with community people and youths to form children’s club [and] conduct meetings on child learning. I see children write letters and take photos, since having a children’s club at my village. Children come together here and learn counting numbers and Khmer spelling.”

– Phany, aged 11



World Vision is implementing an Area Development Program in the Basedth community to improve living standards and ensure that all families living there can meet their children's needs now and in the future.

The program started in October 2015 and is expected to run for about 12-15 years. It aims to benefit more than 23,000 people spread across 46 villages in the Basedth District.



Most vulnerable families who can meet education costs without help



Women giving birth with the support of trained health workers

Pisey becomes a change maker in her community

“Youth club is very useful. It helps me and other youths to learn many things.”

– Pisey, aged 16



Before joining a youth club supported by World Vision in the Basedth community, Pisey was largely disconnected from the world around her.

“I did not care about others,” she explained. “I was not brave and had limited skills and knowledge.”

But now this year 11 student is a leader in her community. Together with her friends she leads local children in recreation activities and tutoring sessions in subjects including English, maths and Khmer language.

Her youth group is also active in the wider community, spearheading village clean-up campaigns and raising awareness about issues like the importance of education, good nutrition and hygiene, and child rights.

“I am very happy,” added Pisey. “Now, I am able to teach the children and also have time to enjoy with many other youths at club where I can help my community.”

Pisey was elected by her peers to be leader of the youth group after they witnessed her enthusiasm and hard work. She’s grateful for the knowledge and group facilitation skills she has gained through training sessions organised by project.

“I thank World Vision for encouraging me to be a youth club leader and help better my community. I can see transformation in my community ... the children are building close relationships, care for each other, [practise] good hygiene and parents pay more attention to their children’s health and study.”

There's still much more to do



Great things have been achieved in the Basedth community, but there is still much left to do before all children living there have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Through your partnership with the community, you will be supporting the following development activities that focus specifically on improving education, health and household incomes.

Education and child rights

- Working with the Department of Education to improve school governance, and learning and teaching resources, and build teachers' skills.
- Supporting youth groups and local authorities to conduct awareness raising campaigns on the importance of education and child rights.
- Supporting education in parenting skills.
- Strengthening the capacity of student councils to support learners with special needs.
- Supporting children and youth, especially girls, to lead project activities.
- Supporting community groups and youth groups to monitor the wellbeing of all children in the community and to report incidences of abuse and neglect.



Health

- Working with the Provincial Health Department to build the capacity of staff working in the area's three health centres.
- Equipping Village Health Support Groups made up of local volunteers with knowledge and skills so they can provide health education and advice to families.
- Supporting Village Health Support Groups to conduct child growth monitoring and hold cooking demonstrations so mothers and caregivers can learn how to prepare nutritious meals for their children.
- Increasing the number of clean water sources, supporting families to build hygienic toilets, and conducting hygiene education in schools and the wider community.



Livelihoods

- Establishing agricultural cooperatives made up of local farmers and training them in farm production and business skills so they can increase their incomes.
- Setting up and supporting savings and loans groups to promote a culture of saving money in the community and to provide families with access to credit so they can grow their incomes.
- Training the most vulnerable families in farming skills including raising poultry and vegetable and rice growing.

For more information

Visit worldvision.com.au/TBC or contact TBC.