



Cambodia Youth Network

About the Network

The Youth Champion Network in Cambodia has around 460 members and 1.4k followers on social media. Twenty of the youth members from three provinces – Siem Reap, Battambang and Phnom Penh – are actively engaged as youth volunteers.

The network works with everyone from young volunteers to government decision-makers, helping young people meaningfully engage with the issues they care about.

From social inclusion and gender equality to tackling climate change and the ongoing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, the network helps to build knowledge, skills and experience in young people and communities.

Social inclusion

Cambodia has a large youth population, and these young people are facing several major challenges – to the economy, employment, health, and the environment. And despite an interest in the issue of climate change and social exclusion and gender inequality, there are few resources or opportunities for the youth to effectively engage in local decision-making processes and take up leadership roles in both their professional and civic lives.

The network successfully engaged experts to deliver a 10-week online training course in social inclusion and gender for 22 key community members – including youth leaders, NGO staff, academics, and LGBTQ+ advocates.

These prominent figures have begun outreach in their communities on the importance of social inclusion and gender equality, acting as catalysts to challenging harmful social and gender norms, addressing inequality and discrimination, and improving access to local social services, including speaking on the radio and issuing a call-to-action to local authorities and communities to tackle these issues too.

Climate change

Youth champions coordinated a similar workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action, and waste management for 28 representatives of youth, civil society organizations, community volunteers, and entrepreneurs.

The network worked with the participants in a program of online outreach, including conducting online training and producing short videos to raise awareness of environmental issues, featuring two entrepreneurs. With these, they reached more than 1k Facebook users with messages on climate change and local youth climate solutions, waste management and recycling, and green job creation. They also started the Facebook challenge: Stop Climate Change, Start with You, encouraging people to post pictures of themselves doing daily climate-friendly habits, such as cycling to work and using refillable drinking bottles.

Covid-19

Youth champions were at the forefront of the response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Cambodia, promoting awareness and vital safety information to marginalized and rural communities.

The network mobilized 254 young people in Kampong Thom and Kampong Chhnang provinces to design and disseminate communication and educational materials on Covid-19 and

Volunteers distributed...

2,800+ posters

2,300+ leaflets

9 banners and

100+ resources

in Braille

...to combat Covid-19

dengue fever in their communities. They distributed more than 2800 posters, 2300 leaflets and nine banners, as well as over 100 resources in Braille.

Youth engagement

Getting involved in issues such as social inclusion, climate change, and the global pandemic requires knowledge and skill – knowledge and skill that many young people in Cambodia have little opportunity to nurture, but volunteering can open up new opportunities to do just that.

With the support of VSO and the government, 355 youth volunteers were trained in soft, digital, and project management skills. They were then matched with mentors from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 86 teams in 25 provinces to help design and implement volunteering projects across the country.



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