



# GREEN GENERATION

Innovative environmental-based education project in Cambodia



Working with children and young people to conserve nature and tackle the climate crisis.



**Save the Children**

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Save the Children partnering globally on environmental education

## Why?

The need for environmental education has never been more urgent. The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, extreme weather resulting from climate change, are all results of our destructive relationship with nature. To repair this relationship we need to fully understand the essential role nature plays in our lives and that understanding starts with education.

Cambodia ranks as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, according to the 2021 Children's Climate Risk Index (UNICEF). Our consultations have revealed that children in Cambodia are worried about the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, pollution, and the overuse of plastics. Children are worried about losing their families' livelihoods, homes and schools to drought and floods – particularly in areas already experiencing climate change impacts.

The persistent issue of environmental pollution has major implications on children's rights, their nutrition, health, and education.

It is essential that Cambodia equip its citizens with problem-solving skills to protect and nurture its biodiversity and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This will require transformative thinking and action by new generations. Environmental education is the key platform for furthering Cambodia's environmental and education goals. Current environmental education in Cambodia is limited to ad-hoc examples that lack systematic mapping and reporting. There is an urgent need to develop an environmental education strategy, which places the interaction between people and the natural environment at its center, while ensuring children are equipped with the 21st century skills necessary to bring lasting change and resilience to their communities.

## Target Areas

The survival of thousands of inhabitants living in poverty in the Tonle Sap Lake area is being undermined by negative impacts resulting from climate change, dams, and environmental pollution. The Tonle Sap Lake is the largest body of freshwater in Southeast Asia and its wetlands support critically endangered species and fisheries as part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Tonle Sap Lake is home to ethnic communities that face severe inequity and discrimination. Due to remoteness and status, communities on the lake do not have access to basic infrastructure such as a waste disposal system. As a common practice, trash is thrown into the lake or burned on the side of it. As communities burn their trash on the shore, toxic air pollution can easily enter children's respiratory tracks. As climate-induced floods are becoming more frequent and severe in Cambodia, schools located on the lake are at high risk of flooding and their schools are easily damaged. As a result of climate change, children and teachers get hurt or lose access to their learning space.

286 km away in Koh Kong Province, our teams are reporting that when faced with increasing crop failures, parents are withdrawing their children out of school to work and/or migrate to urban centers or abroad.

# What is Green Generation?

- Project-based environmental education run via extracurricular Green Generation Clubs
- Via weekly clubs, the teacher facilitates child-led problem solving for real-world environmental challenges
- Students assess their school and community's environmental needs, develop action plans and implement solutions
- This will improve the environment in their schools and communities, while enabling students to become leaders of environmental actions and productive citizens
- The Green Generation model has been designed in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and initiated in Myanmar.

## Green Generation Pilot in Cambodia 2022 Accomplishments

- ✓ Contextualized and translated key teaching and learning materials, which include flipbooks and facilitator's guidelines, into Khmer. There are six learning units: Why Nature Matters, Water, Waste and Litter, Deforestation, Our Forests, Wildlife, validated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS)
- ✓ Training of 40 staff, pre-test and evaluation conducted in 12 schools
- ✓ Formal Letter of Agreement (LoE) signed between MoEYS, and Save the Children in March 22, 2022
- ✓ Began implementation in September in 12 schools

# Green Generation 2022-2024

Goal	Children in target schools demonstrate increased environmental conservation knowledge and practices, and 21st century skills (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity).
Timeline	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024
Target schools	12 target schools in Kampong Chhnang (9), Pursat (1), and Kampong Thom (2)
Primary participants	Schoolchildren grades 4-6
Other participants	36 teachers 60 school management committee members
Quality Improvement	Integration of environmental education in school policies Implementation of Green Generations environmental teaching and activities Greening of school facilities and practices Partnership and outreach activities

## Funding Sought

WWF and Save the Children are seeking \$800,000 as co-financing for the scale-up of of Green Generation's pilot in Cambodia.

### Aims

To **strengthen environmental education** in primary and middle schools throughout Cambodia and grow an environmental youth movement

To **support and align** with current initiatives from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and their sub-national arms

The government of Cambodia has highlighted adaptation as a key priority in its strategic focus on climate change.

Save the Children's Green Generation model contributes to strategic objectives from the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan, specifically Strategic Objective 5: Improve capacities, knowledge and awareness for climate change responses.

The proposal also aligns with: **The National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction** and National Guidelines on Eco-Schools in Cambodia, by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

### Innovative elements for success

- **Project-based learning:** children will develop their 21st century skills through project-based activities that are driven by child-led participatory action research and resulting in real-world action for change.
- **Authentic Audience:** Throughout the activities, children engage their advocacy skills by presenting their research, action, and recommendations to relevant community, local government bodies.
- **Building a Movement:** The project will link with "Generation Hope," the global Save the Children Initiative for supporting youth-led campaigns, piloting strategies for amplifying the voice of children in the global environmental movement.
- **Multimedia materials for Green Generation's** facilitator self-study, including content related to environmental education, as well as key child-led pedagogical approaches.
- **Sustainability at Scale:** Institutional ownership of project interventions is core to the Green Generation model to ensure integration and mainstreaming in formal curriculum.





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