

# Cambodian Red Cross Society

## Working towards School Safety



Cambodian Red Cross Society is active throughout the country through a network of 25 branches located in all provinces. In such branches, Red Cross volunteers work hand-in hand with staff members and youth Red Cross members to implement school safety initiatives.



In 2006, Cambodian Red Cross Society established a formal partnership with the Ministry of Education through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to the establishment of Red Cross Youth clubs (“RCY clubs”) aimed at strengthening the capacity of youth in the schools. This includes developing the structure of such clubs as well as their annual activity plans. As of March 2017, 78 RCY clubs are functioning in the country, through which youth members promote health and safety among their peers in and around schools.

Cambodian Red Cross youth policy was updated in 2014 with a view to continue attracting youth to participate in humanitarian activities. It included some of the core areas of Cambodian Red Cross

services such as disaster management, community health as well as promoting non-violence and peace. It also urges all stakeholders to increase their attention to education, training, and capacity building for youth. School safety is at the core of all these themes.

Through a wide range of activities and initiatives, Cambodian Red Cross contributes to the three pillars of the Comprehensive framework for School Safety. Furthermore, over the years the RCY and Red Cross branches have focused more specifically on particular areas of risk faced by school children: road accidents, lack of access to safe water in schools as well as poor sanitation and hygiene practices. Finally, the activities in schools also contribute to the Cambodian National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018.



# Outreach



School

**472**

Number of schools reached



Children

Secondary: 20,302 total  
(12,100 girls and 8,202 boys)  
High school: 40,321 total  
(20,122 girls and 20,199 boys)



Red Cross Youth

**78**

clubs were established  
(in 8 secondary schools and in 70 high schools)



### Water supply at school

Water supply in schools and within communities constructed by Cambodian Red Cross Society.



### Facilities for children with disability

Accessible ramp to the classroom built by Red Cross youth



**1**

## Safe Learning Facilities

Water and sanitation interventions  
Small-scale construction

**2**

## School Disaster Management

School safety plan  
Contingency planning for school and neighboring community  
First Aid training

**3**

## Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Teaching sessions for teachers, parents and children  
Organization of campaigns and competitions  
Joint activities with scouts clubs, environment clubs



### First Aid training

Red Cross Youth youth first aid demonstration in school.



### Hygiene promotion

Community hygiene promotion activities by Red Cross Youth



### School Safety competition

Drawing competition on safe school



### Tree planting at community

Red Cross Youth Tree Planting campaign in the community

" At school, my team promotes road safety among friends and community in Dey Lo village, Sangkat Toek Tla, Khan Serey Sophorn and Banteay Meanchey. We want all friends and villagers to understand the importance of road safety and its impact. When we wear a helmet properly, it reduces the risk of a head injury and prevents us from being disabled by a road traffic accident. We will continue to carry out road safety awareness to support our friends and all road users."

Ork Sirimongkol Cambodia Red Cross Youth club member  
Grade 11 student at Samdach Ov High School in Banteay Meanchey Province.



## Challenges

- Effective knowledge sharing and communication among all stakeholders, including school management, teachers, Red Cross Youth, Red Cross branches, etc.

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- Sustainability of the Red Cross Youth requires a strong commitment from education authorities at every level.

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- Turnover among youth remains a key challenge as the membership of the youth clubs is constantly evolving. This requires ongoing capacity building efforts as well as simple guidelines and tools for youth to take action.



## Ways forward

- ➔ Strengthen the structure and mechanisms of Red Cross Youth clubs through peer-to-peer learning during the monthly meetings.

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- ➔ Establish a core group of school safety facilitators among youth members to allow further dissemination of knowledge and skills within and across clubs.

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- ➔ In partnership with education authorities, expand the reach of Red Cross Youth clubs to more schools across the country.

### Contact Details



**Madam Pum Chantinie**  
Secretary General  
Lot: 16A, Street 652@271, O Bek Kaam,  
Sangkat Toek Laak 3,  
Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh,  
Kingdom of Cambodia  
Email: [pum.chantinie@redcross.org.kh](mailto:pum.chantinie@redcross.org.kh)  
[info@redcross.org.kh](mailto:info@redcross.org.kh)  
[www.redcross.org.kh](http://www.redcross.org.kh)

**Marwan Jilani**  
Head of Country Cluster Support Team  
IFRC Bangkok  
[marwan.jilani@ifrc.org](mailto:marwan.jilani@ifrc.org)  
[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)