



Fast Facts

Country: Cambodia

Duration: February 2002 to January 2005

Implementing UN Agencies: UNESCO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; local NGOs

Budget: \$609,248.16

Key Words: Access to education; children; youth

BACKGROUND

Following nearly three decades of civil war, Cambodia's physical and administrative infrastructure was severely damaged and its educational system in very poor condition. Although the country had made significant progress in restoring the system of primary education, many marginalized and poor children remained excluded from the formal educational system. In 2001, UNESCO estimated that there were 700,000 economically active children aged 5 to 17, and that the majority of these children had either

dropped out of school or never attended school in the first place. Many of these at-risk children were engaged in informal activities such as begging, scavenging garbage dumps, shoe polishing and washing dishes in small restaurants. Their vulnerability made them easy targets for criminal gangs and sexual exploitation. Thus, there was an urgent need to facilitate access to basic education for these marginalized children and to address their most critical insecurities

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this three-year project was to (i) provide basic education for marginalized and vulnerable children who had been excluded from the formal education system; (ii) empower and improve the beneficiaries' lives in the long-term; (iii) promote poverty reduction and a more equitable human development; and (iv) build partnerships and networks of organizations working with disadvantaged children

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted orphans, school drop-outs, street children, working children and youth at-risk between the ages of 5 to 24. In total, the project provided 3,065 boys and 2,955 girls with access to education. In

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