

BREAK BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FOR CAMBODIAN CHILDREN

ISF Cambodia (ISF) is a Cambodian-based organisation with over 15 years' experience of using education and sport to change lives. Founded in response to the widespread poverty and inequality left behind by the Khmer Rouge Regime, our aim is to make a fundamental and lasting change to the lives of disadvantaged children and their families in Cambodia. Through our holistic programmes combining education, healthcare, sporting, and community development initiatives, we are supporting those most in need to build a brighter future.



681

Students enrolled in ISF's Education Programme



47%

Of ISF's students are female



559

Families supported through ISF's programmes

BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

The families ISF supports live in urban slum communities around Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh. Poverty, low levels of education, and high unemployment levels often result in parents' inability to meet their children's basic needs and many survive on less than \$2 a day. Struggling to pay rent or buy food, more often than not, families cannot afford to send their children to school. Instead, many do not attend school or drop out in order to work to help financially support their families or help with care burdens. Every year a child stays out of school, it becomes harder for them to re-integrate. As a result, those forced to work to support their families are often left behind not only academically, but also socially.



ISF EDUCATION PROGRAMME

For children who join ISF's Catch-Up Education Programme, they will have likely never attended school or received healthcare before. The aim of our programme is to give each student the foundation of a quality education, improve their health and nutrition, build their confidence, and give them the opportunity to build a brighter future.

Our accelerated learning programme gives out-of-school children the chance to catch up on missed education by studying two years of the standard curriculum in one school year. Once they have caught up to the right grade for their age, we integrate them into the state school system. To break down barriers to education, ISF will provide holistic support for as long as they remain in school – from basic education to employment/ university.

HOLISTIC SUPPORT

- School fees, uniforms, and stationary.
- English and ICT classes
- Comprehensive healthcare
- Two school meals a day, six days a week
- Monthly family food parcels
- Extracurricular activities
- Skill development training
- Employment counselling and support
- University scholarships
- Community development

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE FAMILY

Utilising a community-based model, we don't just support children but their whole family. When a child joins ISF, parents are involved in all key decision-making and offered ongoing support from social care visits, monthly food parcels, and our community development projects. These include adult literacy courses, women's economic projects, and community libraries. Rather than providing handouts or creating dependency, ISF provides opportunities to the whole family empowering them to change their own circumstances and break out of the cycle of poverty.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The families ISF supports have been most vulnerable to the ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 and 83% of families have lost between 40-100% of their income. Rising financial stress significantly increases the risk of our students dropping out of school and engaging in unhealthy behaviours. To ensure their education is not further disrupted, ISF is committed to responding to the changing needs of our students and their families during the pandemic through a range of additional support:



Remote learning initiatives to all students



Data top-up cards for students without internet access



Rental subsidies to support families in need



Assistance to access government subsidy funds



Additional food parcels to those in extreme hardship



Hygiene products to keep family members safe