



EDUCATION PROGRAMME



January - June 2024

isfcambodia.org
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA



**THANK
YOU**



This year, **you've directly helped 697 Cambodian children and young people, just like Srey Da*** (pictured) on their education journey.

Your generous and continued support is actively bringing brighter futures to all the children and young people involved in our Education Programme.

We are pleased to present our semi-annual Education Programme update.

With Gratitude,

Vicheka Chourp
Chief Executive
ISF Cambodia

* Names of children under 18 have been changed throughout this report.

EXTREME POVERTY AFFECTS 49% OF CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA. (UNICEF, 2022)

Access to quality education is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty these children face. With your support, we can provide lifelong learning opportunities and a pathway out of poverty through our **Education Programme**. By overcoming educational barriers and supporting families, we ensure students have the best chance of completing their studies.

“Education and good attitude builds your successful future.”

- Grade 2 student, age 9



As of July 2024, there are

697 students enrolled in our Education Programme.

Girls make up 49% of our student body.

100% of students believe they can finish high school and go to university or find gainful employment.

98% of Catch Up students passed their first exam & moved up a grade this semester

Together, we are making a difference
One Child at a Time

YOU'RE WITH OUR STUDENTS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Breaking generational poverty through education, doesn't happen overnight, it's a years-long journey. When a child enrolls at ISF we commit to supporting them, from primary school to university and employment.

Our three-step programme allows students the best possible chance of completing their education so they can build brighter futures.

Meet Roath and join his education journey...

Catching Up On Missed Years of School

Roath, a 10-year-old who lives near a garbage dump and has never been to school, has just been accepted into our Catch Up Programme, thanks to his mum hearing about ISF. He is one of 50 selected for our accelerated learning class. **Our programme will help Roath catch up to his age-appropriate grade in three years, setting him on a path for future success.**



Support Through Public School

After graduating from the Catch Up Programme, Roath, now aged 13, is enrolled in his village's public school with the help of our Social Workers. We continue to support him with books, uniforms, health services, and food parcels to ensure he completes high school. **Roath comes to ISF for a free breakfast every school day and he also takes part in English and computer classes at ISF centre five times a week.**



After Graduating High-School

Roath, now aged 18, has graduated high school and is pursuing his dream of becoming an architect. **Our employment team helped him discover his passion and supported him into university.** With a two-year scholarship, Roath is on a path out of poverty. He is grateful to ISF and often volunteers at ISF events to give back to the community.

BREAKING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

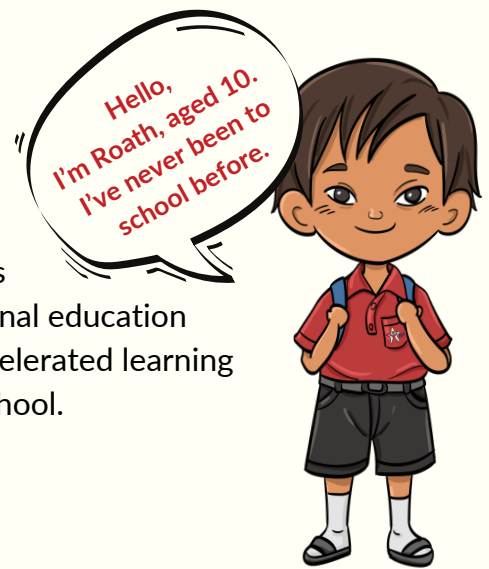
Children living in generational poverty face many barriers, which is why we provide a range of support that helps them stay in school. **All students receive uniforms, educational materials, daily school meals healthcare access, food parcels, and family support.** We also incorporate English, IT, and various extracurricular activities to enhance their learning. As they grow older, we offer skills development and training to prepare them for life beyond the classroom.



CATCH UP PROGRAMME

WHAT IS CATCH UP?

ISF's Catch Up Programme Education Programme supports children aged 8-11 years old who were previously unable to attend school due to poverty. Catch Up Programme students join us five days a week to learn up to two years of the national education curriculum in 12 months. Once they have completed our accelerated learning programme, students are integrated into their local public school.



"Education is a treasure that won't be lost by time, or be stolen"

- Srey Mom*, Grade 2

141 students in our Catch Up Programme.

98% of students passed their first exam and moved up a grade.

FROM ENROLLMENT TO EXAM EXCELLENCE

Term began in December 2023 with 50 new students enrolling, bringing our total to 142. Unfortunately, one student dropped out of the programme due to a lack of interest. Despite intervention from his parents and our social work team, he decided to leave ISF, and his parents accepted his choice.

From the start of term until May, students worked diligently towards their first exam. For many of the new students it was their first time taking an exam. We are incredibly proud of our students, 98% of students passed and advanced to the next grade.

All Catch Up Programme students have been regularly attending and engaging in their classes. Those who face learning challenges or frequent absences receive one-on-one support, extra lessons, and family assistance to ensure they stay on track.

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT!

Student Wins Seven-Year Scholarship for Top Phnom Penh School!

Channy's* journey with ISF Cambodia began in January 2022 when she was accepted onto our Catch Up Programme as a shy and uncertain eight-year-old.

Over the past two and a half years, Channy has achieved several key milestones. She gained confidence, excelled academically passing from Grade one to Grade five, and has become an active participant in the ISF football team. She was selected for scholarship preparation classes last year and after a lot of hard work she has **emerged as the top student in the examination process.**

Channy was awarded a highly coveted seven-year scholarship to a leading international school in Phnom Penh.

Channy's exceptional story demonstrates transformative power of education. Channy starts her new school in Grade 6 in August 2024, and will continue to receive support from ISF until she is ready for university.

Your support has made this journey possible, transforming lives through education.

Be Inspired by Channy:
Don't miss Channy's sharing her joy of receiving her scholarship. Watch the video [here](#) and feel the impact of your contributions.

Are You Scared
about going to your
new school?

No, I am not scared.
I believe that I can
do it!



[Click to Watch](#)

As of July 2024, we are supporting
443 STUDENTS
enrolled at Public Schools and ACT.

Girls make up 48% of our student body.

WHAT SUPPORT DOES ISF PROVIDE?

After graduating from the Catch Up Programme with the knowledge, self-esteem, and confidence they need, students move on to Public Schools in their communities or our partner school, the Academy of Careers and Technology (ACT) a general and technical high school where students study vocational skills on top of general education.

We also continue to support students with all the essentials to complete their studies and reach their academic goals. We provide uniforms, educational materials, school meals, healthcare, employability skills training, and support for their families and communities. This ongoing assistance helps our students stay in school giving them the best chance to complete their education leading to a brighter future.



Unfortunately, five students (aged 15 -18) decided that they no longer want to pursue education. They are now in career counselling with our employment programme. Eight students (5 girls) dropped out of the programme entirely. Six students relocated to another province and two left to support their family business.



“**Teachers open the door, but you need to enter by yourself.**”

Girl student, grade 7, age 13

If you believe you can, you can.

100% of students believe they can finish high school and go to university or find a stable job. This fantastic result is a direct reflection of the supportive environment we've built and the ongoing dedication from ISF and our incredible donors.

100% of ACT students passed their exam



An impressive, **94% of Public School students passed** their English exam this term.

ENGLISH CLASS

Each week, **428 students from both Catch Up Programme and Public School programs attend ISF English classes**. In early 2024 we discovered that some students struggled with attendance, we adjusted class schedules and added an evening class. These changes boosted attendance and student participation. We're thrilled with the progress and continue to ensure that all students receive the support they need to excel. **94% of Public School students and 86% of Catch Up students passed their end-of-term English exam.**

COMPUTER CLASS

This term, **328 students participated in our weekly computer classes**, and we're thrilled to share that **100% of our Catch Up students attended and passed their exams, and 95% of Public School students also successfully passed their exam**. These outstanding results reflect the programme's impact on essential skills for higher education and future careers. Computer classes are vital for providing students with crucial skills for academic and professional growth. It's also noteworthy that **50% of our participants are girls, showcasing strong and diverse engagement**.

“**Computer session is one of my favorite sessions. I enjoy learning computer skills because this skill is very important for my studies and future career.**”
Girl student, Grade 8, Age 14

HEALTH SERVICES

Without access to healthcare, families often struggle to prioritise their child's education. ISF's holistic approach to our Education Programme ensures that both students and their families receive comprehensive health and well-being services, empowering them to stay healthy and fully engage in their education. Since January, **ISF nurses have provided 2,236 treatments and cared for 1,059 patients**. In addition, our partner hospitals have administered 271 ear, dental, and eye care check-ups and treatments for ISF students.

1,059 Happy Patients



HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Do you remember joining the world of work for the first time and how complicated it was? That's exactly what our Employment Support Team does. They're here with our young people every step of the way as they transition from high school to stable jobs.

The Employment Support Team supports both university students and our high school graduates who chose not to pursue higher education. This support is tailored to each individual and includes career counselling, life skills training, vocational training, internships, and job placements.



ISF paid for me to learn motorbike repair because my family couldn't afford it. ISF also gives my family a monthly food parcel. I promise to study hard. When I have the skills, I will be able to help myself, my family, and poor people

- Thea Pov, a student mechanic.

**In the last six months,
17 young people
successfully
transitioned to stable
full-time employment.**

All of these young people grew up in extreme poverty, where stable jobs were a rarity in their communities. Achieving stable employment is a monumental milestone for them, breaking the generational cycle of poverty. This success is a testament to their hard work, the unwavering support of our team, and the generous contributions of our donors.

Currently, there are **22 young people** registered in our employment support program:

- Eleven are in full-time employment and receive ongoing mentorship until they are feeling confident and stable.
- Six young people are in the career counselling process, exploring their passions and career options.
- Five are in vocational training, gaining on-the-job experience in various fields.

Unfortunately, despite multiple interventions, one student dropped out of our Employment programme as he no longer wanted to receive support from ISF.



**Congrats to our
four university
graduates**

OVERCOMING THE ODDS TO EARN DEGREES

We are incredibly proud that **four students graduated from their university courses this year**. They now hold degrees in Automotive Engineering, Accounting, Web Development and System Network Administration.

These graduates have been studying with ISF since their primary education, with the earliest enrollment fourteen years ago in 2010. We are now supporting them to find their next career move.

83 ISF students are currently studying at university.

Thanks to your donation, the students hard work and our team's dedicated support, these students are on track to earn Bachelor's and Associate Degrees in various fields - such as Accounting, Graphic Design, Food Technology and many more.

“

ISF's support has been transformative. Thanks to them, I'm now at university, expanding my knowledge and skillset. This allows me to contribute financially through a job that aligns with my education, easing my family's burden. **I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to build a brighter future.**

- Second year university student

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In the last six months, four university students have deferred their placements. Three of them are working full-time to support their families and save money, and one postponed due to mental health and is focusing on self-support.

These decisions highlight broader challenges like a lack of encouragement from families and the need for self-sufficiency. **We continue to offer job placement assistance and follow-up support, consulting with students and their families to address these issues and find solutions.**

A FUTURE LAWYER IN THE MAKING



I joined ISF in 2014 when I was 12.

Growing up, my family struggled with money, making it hard to afford school supplies, fees, and food.

Life was tough, and I didn't have the dreams other kids my age had. But when I started at ISF, things changed. **They gave me access to education that I wouldn't have had otherwise.**

Now, I am studying International Law at the National University of Management in Cambodia. **Before ISF, my living conditions were poor, and my life was hard. I had no dreams for the future. Now, I dream of becoming a lawyer, and I am almost there.**

Ravith, like all ISF students has overcome significant educational challenges. His story of perseverance and ambition highlights the impact of educational support. **Ten years after enrolling at ISF he is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Law.** Ravith tells us his journey, which was made possible by your support.



Ravith's story is inspirational to us all, serving as a beacon of hope for our current students who believe they too can follow in his footsteps and work hard to build a brighter future.

Without your support, children who have similar dreams to Ravith, wouldn't have the opportunity to even start primary school.



THANK YOU

**Because of you, we can make a difference
one child at a time**



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Phnom Penh, Cambodia