



FY2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

We support Cambodian children today
so they can support themselves
and their communities tomorrow.





IT'S GREAT TO SEE CHILDREN GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL,
BUT UNFORTUNATELY,
MANY ARE NOW BEHIND IN THEIR LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

A Message from the Board President

After describing a challenging year last year due to COVID-19, it's disappointing to report that the pandemic continued to impact the communities with whom we work severely. While the health impact on Cambodia was relatively low, the economic impact on this region, characterized by endemic poverty, has been severe.

Despite these challenges, I'm proud to report that CFI continued to go from strength to strength this year, building the professional abilities of our Cambodian staff and the long-term sustainability of CFI towards our goal that it becomes an entirely Khmer led organization.

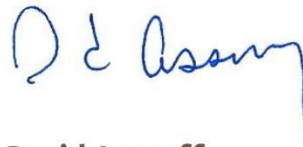
The aim underpinning all our work is to reduce the dependence of people we serve so they no longer require CFI's services. Our participatory case management approach is progressing well, focusing resources on those in greatest need and encouraging families to make decisions about their future needs.

CFI pivoted successfully to provide ongoing support in this difficult time. Staff creatively adopted new methodologies, including virtual learning, small group meetings in remote locations, and online communications. New work this year included livelihood and risk-reduction strategies for migrant families returning when borders closed due to the pandemic.

We relied on the CFI family more than ever during the pandemic, and we appreciate that this was unwavering. Every dollar directly funds CFI's programs making a genuine difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families.

And finally, I would like to thank the CFI staff in Cambodia. They showed remarkable dedication and passion again this year. Working under tough conditions, they've enthusiastically and successfully adapted to new techniques and new demands.

Thank you all.



David Asseoff
Board President



VISION

A future where every Cambodian child is safe, healthy, educated and thriving.

MISSION

To foster a generation of educated, self-reliant and compassionate role models for Cambodia by promoting child rights and offering quality education and opportunities to the most impoverished children in rural Cambodia.



OUR VALUES



Love every child equally



Treat every child with respect and compassion



Help others



Work hard and be a dependable part of CFI



Take the initiative and be accountable for your actions



Communicate openly



Be honest



Have fun



Learn and grow together

OUR STORY

Children's Future International was founded in 2009 by Jenny Ciucci and Andrew Wolff to bring education, healthcare and community development to communities in impoverished, rural areas of Cambodia.

CFI continues to serve poor and vulnerable children and their families who face the risks and hardships of living a life of disadvantage in an underdeveloped country.

Without support, CFI students face poor education outcomes and risks, including child and family separation, unsafe migration, malnutrition, preventable diseases, family violence, trafficking and child labour.

CFI's programs serve young people between 5 and 22 years to learn and flourish in a safe and nurturing environment.

Our dedicated teachers, social workers, and support staff deliver comprehensive supplementary education, well-being, and community development programs.

With a long-term commitment to empowering the community, creating sustainability and reducing service dependency, CFI is uniquely positioned to respond to and address child safety risks.

Our established and professional organization uses strengths-based case management pathways and can react immediately to high-risk cases.

With strong connections in communities and local authorities, and an understanding of community needs, we facilitate community-led and sustainable solutions focused on empowering this generation and the ones that will follow.

CFI operates in rural areas of Battambang province in the northwest of Cambodia. It is a United States 501c3 charity and a registered NGO in Cambodia.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

This year has been challenging throughout the world, but Cambodia has been affected more than many countries. Cambodia's economy collapsed when the tourism industry ground to a complete halt. As a result, many families lost employment and, with few resources, also lost access to food and other essentials.

This challenging situation worsened when severe flooding left many people homeless. CFI supported local authorities in addressing this wherever possible. Since February, Cambodia has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases, and restrictions have further destroyed livelihoods. In addition, the closure of schools for long periods has impacted the future of young Cambodians.

A significant development in the Ek Phnom region was the number of migrant families suddenly returning from work abroad and in other regions. Around 820 people returned, placing families already with stretched resources under tremendous stress, with more people to feed and accommodate. We worked directly with these families and partnered with local authorities to develop livelihood programs, provide training and support for families to set up small business ventures. Livelihoods will be a significant part of our operation as we support sustainability rather than simply giving handouts.

A key feature of our approach is working with local authorities to keep children safe and living together with their families. Local authorities are "the front line" in safeguarding children, and we've helped upskill their staff to assess risks and make appropriate referrals. This enables CFI to expand its reach within the community.

CFI focuses on reducing service dependency and providing children and families with the necessary skills and support to survive and thrive. We also focus on involving participants in decision-making, encouraging them to take responsibility for setting objectives, achieving solutions to their problems and becoming independent.

We were grateful to receive additional funding from several organizations this year to assist our COVID-19 recovery efforts.

We thank all our supporters for their ongoing contributions and essential role in our CFI family and look forward to working with them in the future.

From the CFI Executive Team



Lee Henley
Executive Director



Hor Sokhors
Technical Director



Zoey Henley
Managing Director





2021 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Child Protection | Education
Community Development

CHILD PROTECTION

The Child Protection Program provides material goods, counselling, nutrition and health care to meet children's basic needs.

Our social work team works each day in the community with children and their families to ensure young people are safe, healthy and thriving.

They ensure children's basic needs by providing material goods, counselling, nutrition and health care.

This program delivers child safeguarding services directly to the community using two international approaches. Signs of Safety provides a voice for families in decision-making about keeping children safe. The Child Status Index tool enables us to assess whether risks have increased or decreased.


We are delighted to have addressed all of the identified targets from last year and increased our social work team by two.

Key Successes





- ★ Completed 215 Child Status Index risk assessments.
- ★ Trained local authorities to assess families at risk and refer to the more severe cases.
- ★ Received 252 referrals into our robust intake process, and 211 were assessed as high need and accepted into our services. Only 176 received social work services, demonstrating our case management pathways' effectiveness and resource-saving.
- ★ Transferred 98 young people from high-intensity social work services, and 91 safely exited from CFI services.
- ★ Actively participated in two national networks to develop, improve, and strengthen Cambodia's nascent child protection system - Family Care First | ReACT and 3PC.
- ★ Improved our intake and exit pathway to ensure we work with families in greatest need and safely and sustainably exiting them from our services in the shortest possible time.
- ★ Moved into a community participation phase, engaging with and seeking the views of young people and families and addressing the imbalance between CFI (the 'experts') and the community.
- ★ Ran a range of positive parenting, safe migration and alcohol awareness sessions (primarily delivered online due to COVID-19 restrictions) to prevent family separation and keep children safe.
- ★ Continued providing community hygiene and training and ensured child protection remained a priority when the health emergency could have easily diverted attention.



NUTRITION

-  Provided monthly rice support for 95 families.
-  Provided emergency food support to 157 families impacted by COVID-19.
-  Safely exited 21 children and two families from the food support program.





SHELTER AND CARE

-  Built or repaired 15 houses.
-  Provided two families with housing assistance, including initial rent support and home repairs.
-  Transitioned six children from residential care (orphanages) to family-based care.
-  Reintegrated 10 children (1 girl) from residential care (orphanages) to family-based care.

HEALTHCARE

-  Provided access to healthcare for 138 students.
-  Funded 27 hospital visits.

PSYCHOSOCIAL

-  Provided more than 700 sessions to individual students.
-  Conducted 8 additional activities in life skills and employment preparation.
-  Conducted a Next Generation Initiative (NGI) Life-skills program for 85 young people in grade 8 students to help them prepare them for high school.
-  Presented our NGI Employment skills course for 70 young people.

HARM REDUCTION

-  Prevented 37 children from entering Residential Care Institutions (RCIs).
-  Trained 96 local authority staff in skills such as violence against children, strengths-based practice and supervision.
-  Trained the local authority on identifying the highest risk families and providing emergency supplies plus ongoing food support to more than 40 families.
-  Delivered awareness campaigns reaching 10,902 people with messages around the importance of children remaining in families.
-  Developed a referral app for safe migration that CFI and other NGOs now use.
-  Delivered support for 30 high-risk families returning from Thailand.
-  Supported 70 children to live in kinship care, ensuring a safe and loving home environment.
-  Worked with local authorities to identify safe solutions in the community to ensure children were not placed in residential care, trafficked to Thailand, or forced to work in servitude.

LIVELIHOODS

-  Delivered livelihoods training and support for 47 families helping them to set up small businesses and earn sustainable incomes.
-  Provided start-up funding (average \$350) for 81 families to establish new businesses.

EDUCATION

Key Successes

- Supported 108 children in supplementary lessons at the Learning Centre when schools reopened briefly early 2021
- Worked with young people at risk of dropping out, ensuring they returned when schools opened.
- Supported 93 students with virtual lessons and exam preparation during school closures in 2020/21
- Supplied tablets to 10 Grade 9 and 12 students preparing for exams to access online resources.
- Duke of Education Award program - 8 new enrolments (Bronze) and 8 progressing to Silver.
- Continued a targeted program (Future Goals) reaching 97 young women to help them plan career choices.
- Supported 6 young people with vocational training education after grade 9.
- Sponsored 17 students to complete university education.
- Offered professional internships at CFI to 10 university students, providing valuable employment and communications skills.
- Trained local NGOs to deliver the Next Generation Initiative, a comprehensive curriculum providing employment and life skills to youth in grades 9 and above.
- Reintegrated 25 children into education who had dropped out of school when schools reopened briefly in late 2020.
- Worked with an Indian NGO (Enabling Leadership), implementing Just for Kicks, a leadership program based on football, including an online version delivered due to COVID-19.

In collaboration with local public schools, supplementary classes at CFI's Learning Centre provide children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to live fruitful, productive lives. CFI funds all the education costs, including public school fees, uniforms, school materials and bicycles for 239 children.

In addition, the Learning Center provides access to modern education, including computer classes, in a safe and supportive environment. Children also have opportunities for sport and play.

CFI's teachers are trained in working with children affected by trauma and adversity and how to foster a learning environment catering for the individual needs of each student. Our Education Advocate liaises with teachers, social workers, tertiary education providers, students and their families to deal with issues at public school (including attendance) and to set and achieve educational goals. We also facilitate an annual parent-teacher event.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Program collaboratively engages local families, community members, local authorities, and partner organizations. Our goal is to strengthen child safety and protection mechanisms at local and national levels.

CFI fosters self-sufficiency and income generation initiatives among families, engaging in a participatory approach and supporting families to identify solutions make decisions to improve their economic situation.

CFI employs a strength-based approach to work with families, and we increasingly involve families in decision-making and ensure local authority colleagues understand this work.

During this period, CFI completed a community campaign on the importance of children living with their families comprising three messages; families are stronger together, children should live in families, and children need warmth and love. We also introduced training and small start-up grants for families to set up new businesses.

Key Successes

- Facilitated 5 consumer advocacy group meetings (average of 6 participants) to gather people's views.
- Organised 5 youth participation groups (average 15 students)
- Presented community-based interactive workshops to 88 people on unsafe migration, trafficking and child labour, domestic abuse and alcohol misuse, positive parenting and reproductive health.
- Continued an ongoing partnership with Eco soap employing two families making recycled soap for our community programs and sale to other NGOs.
- Reached 869 people directly and 10,033 online with campaigns about keeping children with families.
- Supported 47 families to improve their livelihoods and achieve self-sufficiency.



Cambodia weathered the initial health impacts of the pandemic well, with relatively few cases and no deaths. However, when case numbers increased in February 2021, the government reintroduced restrictions on movement and gatherings. The resulting economic downturn further devastated livelihoods in communities with whom CFI works.

After focussing on health, hygiene and emergency support in 2020/21, CFI transitioned this year to provide more sustainable, long-term support and deal with longer-term risks resulting from the pandemic.

CFI supported one hundred fifty-seven additional families impacted by COVID-19, a 40% increase in food and shelter support demand due to job losses and business closures. We provided support and materials, including training, food and shelter for 30 families. In addition, support for returning migrant workers and their families was a new area of need addressed by CFI.

As well as the economic impact, lockdowns and restrictions led to increased risks, including family violence, family separation, child harm, child labour and unsafe migration. CFI focused on child protection, conscious that attention is often diverted during emergencies. Social workers maintained regular contact with at-risk children and families by phone or personal visits and provided livelihoods support to supplement family incomes.

In addition, CFI conducted a range of community training to keep children out of residential care (orphanages), reduce unsafe migration, and promote child protection. In addition, we provided training to help local authorities identify children at risk of violence, manage cases during COVID-19, promote positive parenting and child protection and utilise a strength-based framework.



Schools reopened for a short time at the end of 2020 but have effectively been closed since March 2020. As a result, children in remote areas with limited technology could not access lessons from public schools and risked falling well behind. CFI's teachers responded quickly with regular communication, technology support and virtual classes.

Staff required to work from home designed creative new working methods to deal with COVID-19 restrictions. Some will continue in future, including virtual learning techniques that will enable CFI to provide education to children who live too far away to attend the Learning Centre.

FEATURE STORY

Children reunited with their family after living in an orphanage

Sakara (14-year-old boy) and his sister, Lyly (13-year-old girl), had lived in a residential care institution (RCI - orphanage) since 2018. Their parents admitted the children to the RCI when they migrated to work in Thailand, believing it was the best place to grow up.

In 2020, CFI worked with the RCI to complete assessments of all young people in their care to identify those ready to return to family-based care. This process ensures families and young people are ready to go back by addressing some of the issues that led to their admission to residential care. For example, we addressed issues of poverty by assessing a family's ability to set up a small business with our support.

After being identified as candidates for reintegration, Sakara and Lyly decided they wanted to return home to their family and were actively involved in discussing plans for the reintegration.

With the RCI, CFI also worked with the parents, sharing that children are safer living with families. As a result, the family's views of RCIs changed, and they were keen to accept support to have Sakara and Lyly return home.

In partnership with the RCI, CFI completed positive parenting work with the parents and training on safe migration. The parents and the young people participated in an iterative process to learn the skills required to live together safely as a family.

This training covers child protection, child rights, nonviolent sanctions and communication. Sakara and Lyly and their parents completed this work to strengthen the family relationship.



CFI provided the family with training, start-up funds, and material to establish a small chicken-raising operation. With this business, they can live together, take care of their children and work around their commune to earn more money.

They have now decided they do not want to migrate in future for work. We also provided materials so the family could welcome Sakara and Lyly back home.

This included basic needs (food, groceries, clothing, shoes, soap, toothpaste, school uniforms, school materials and bicycles) and household items (beds and mattresses, bedding, kitchenware, wardrobe and bookcase).

Sakara and Lyly have been living with their family since June 2021. They are comfortable living at home, and things are going well. The young people regularly attend school, improving on their time at the RCI when they often missed classes and were at risk of dropping out.

CFI continues to provide support, including a regular re-assessment of risk and safety using the Child Status Index tool. This is completed once every six months and demonstrates whether the risk has increased or decreased.

Sakara and Lyly are now safely back with their family, living a life where they feel happy and loved. They help feed and take care of the chickens in their free time and help with household chores like other children in the community.



ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS



Parenting with local authorities

Working together to ensure child safety, we continue to partner with local authorities, upskilling, not replacing, wherever possible. For example we continued training local authorities to identify children at risk and refer them to appropriate agencies.



Harm Prevention Campaign

A community campaign focused on learning from last year's harm prevention sessions, raising awareness of the benefit of children remaining in their families, reaching almost 11,000 in meetings and online



App to reduce or prevent unsafe migration

CFI and partners developed a referral app to help streamline and enable more effective referral pathways to reduce migration risk. The App allows front-line workers to quickly and efficiently make referral to support agencies.



Participatory Approach

The involvement of young people and their families is critical to the design and measurement of our services. Feedback from youth and user groups is incorporated into our future project plans.



Support for returning migrants

The return of migrant workers continued to result in economic and social problems in many communities. We helped families integrate returning migrants with housing, livelihoods and other support.



Reintegrating children from orphanages

CFI expanded its engagement with local residential care institutions to help return young people to family-based-care and prevent new admissions. A key feature is dealing with the drivers that encourage families to admit their children to care.



Livelihood support

CFI continues to respond to the impact of COVID-19 with small start-up business training and support for families whose livelihoods have been adversely affected by the pandemic. This has been a critical feature of our service delivery this year and will continue to be a focus in future.



Networking

We continued working with partners in two national networks to share success, interventions and best practice. Together we work to strengthen Cambodia's nascent child protection system.



Enabling leadership through football

With our partners Enabling Leadership from India, we delivered an online version of the Just For Kicks leadership program. Young people trained regularly and completed a league at the end of the program.



New skills in remote service delivery

CFI staff adopted creative new methods of maintaining contact and delivering services remotely, including school lessons, child protection and family support. These valuable skills will be used in future to expand our reach and increase efficiency.



Professional recognition - publications and interviews

CFI's professional social work approach, its focus on rigorous evaluation and experience working in pandemic environment has been recognised with a number of our articles published in prominent publications. In addition, Zoey Henley was interviewed for an in-depth podcast.

<https://bit.ly/329GFX2>

<https://bit.ly/3pabHXC>

THE CFI FAMILY



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Learning Centre Manager

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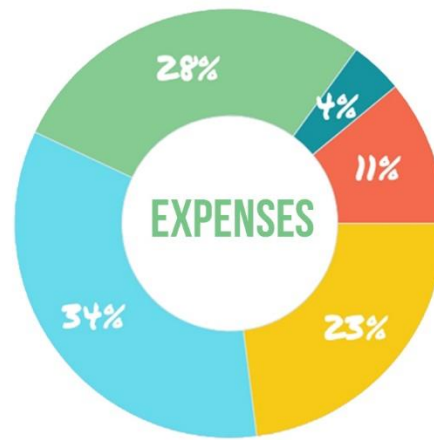
HACH Hour
Social Work Manager

THOU Sreyrath
Education Advocacy Manager

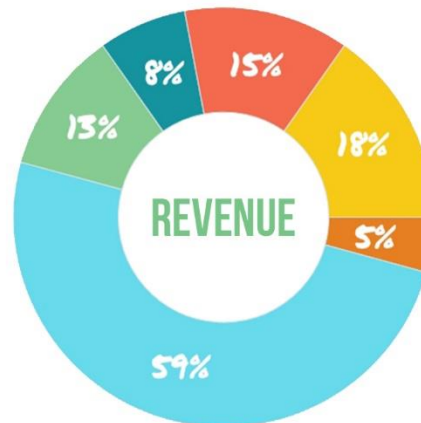
REVENUE AND EXPENSES

This period has seen a substantial change in our revenue and expenditure pattern. We received a significant increase in 'emergency funds' to respond to COVID-19 which have been instrumental in supporting families who lost employment and, more recently, those required to isolate. We delivered all this support in conjunction with our local authority partners.

Our support increasingly focused on more sustainable approaches with families. For example, families were encouraged to identify a small, sustainable business, and CFI provided start-up funding and ongoing support. This fits our aim of reducing dependency on CFI services.



Programs and Services	\$82,547
Child Protection	\$122,292
Education	\$100,891
Fundraising	\$9,603
Management	\$40,593
Total Expenses	\$355,925



Corporate	\$21,321
Foundations and Grants	\$265,198
Government Grants	\$59,781
Individuals	\$34,256
Partnerships	\$65,919
Miscellaneous and interest	\$3,035
Total Revenue	\$449,510

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTER



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LEADERSHIP
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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

BECOME A CLASS PARTNER HELP GET LEARNING BACK ON TRACK AFTER COVID-19

CFI children returning after COVID school closures are now seriously behind in their studies. Many are at risk of not returning when schools reopen.

You have the power to change the education and life outcomes of these vulnerable children.

As a Class Partner you will support a specific class (Khmer, English, Math or IT), receive regular, personalised feedback about your class and their progress and learn about the lives of the children and how your support is helping.

www.childrensfuture.org/class-partner



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

CFI founded in 2009, provides basic needs, safety and educational opportunities to nearly 300 children, age 5-21, and their families.

\$10 per month sponsors a student's lunches

\$35 per month buy a student's school supplies

\$70 buys a student a bicycle

\$420 per year sponsors a student's education

\$1,500 per year sends a student to University

CFI is a registered United States 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information or to donate please visit:

www.childrensfuture.org





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