

# Cambodia Newsletter 2026



## *Dear Supporters,*

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your continued support and generosity towards our Cambodia project. 2026 has been another exciting and inspiring year, and we have so much to share with you in this newsletter!

From forming new partnerships with schools in Cambodia to support some of the most vulnerable children, to continuing our educational and extra curriculum projects. Everyday we are supporting children to feel empowered through their education.

A special thank you goes to our incredible supporters. Whether you have climbed a mountain, walked the length of Cambodia, sponsored a child, or donated to our work, your support makes everything we do possible. We simply could not do what we do without your continued love, trust, and support for Edukid.

As always, thank you for being part of the Edukid Family!



# A New Village Partnership

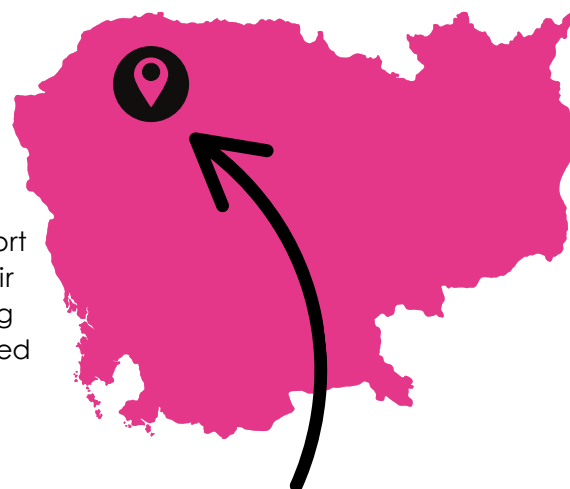
Over the last couple of months, Edukid has been working closely with our in-country team in Cambodia to explore how we could support some of the most vulnerable children. We are delighted to begin supporting a new village community in Chhnour, Banteay Meanchey Province.

This is a remote area with significant levels of poverty, and until now there has been no NGO support in the region. Many of the children we are now working with come from families facing chronic poverty, where access to education has often been out of reach. For some of these children, attending school has never been possible.

Reaching communities like Chhnour is a key part of Edukid's mission, ensuring that children who are most at risk of being left behind are given access to education and the chance to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The project has already welcomed 20 children into education, and we expect this number to grow as more families become aware of the support now available and begin to see the long-term value of education for their children. Alongside helping children to access school, we are also working with families to address some of the barriers that have previously prevented children from attending and remaining in education.

This marks an important first step for the community and a significant milestone for the children involved. Together, we're helping vulnerable children return to the classroom, continue their education, and create brighter futures for themselves!



**Chhnour, Banteay  
Meanchey Province**



# Vanna's Story

Meet Vanna, a student in Cambodia whose life has been changed through access to education and essential school supplies.

Vanna is 11 years old and the eldest of five children. She lives with her grandparents while her parents work in Phnom Penh (approx 220 miles away). Like many children living in rural Cambodia, she carries a lot of responsibility at a young age.

As the eldest daughter, her responsibilities include caring for her younger siblings, cooking meals, washing dishes, and helping to support the family's small farm. On the farm, they grow rice along with cucumbers, watermelon, pumpkin, and peanuts, all of which help sustain the household and provide food for the family.

In many rural communities, it is still traditional for girls to remain at home and support their families in this way, often meaning education is not seen as a priority or is simply out of reach.

Vanna's story was first brought to our in-country team's attention five years ago, when it became clear that although she was of school age, she was not attending school due to her family's circumstances and vulnerability.

Due to the cost of school supplies and the responsibilities she has at home, she would have been unable to access education. However, through the support of Edukid, she has been able to go to school for the past five years. It is a joy to see girls like Vanna accessing their right to an education and beginning to build a brighter future for themselves.

Over this time, Vanna has settled into school life and is doing incredibly well. Through Edukid's support, Vanna has stayed in school for the past five years, where she has been able to learn, develop, and build on opportunities that were previously out of reach.



# Educational Projects

Each year, our school packs continue to play an important role in helping children start the school term prepared and ready to learn. While the items themselves may seem simple, the difference they make in the classroom is significant.

Teachers often tell us that *“having the right materials from day one helps children settle more quickly into learning. When students have exercise books, pens, and the basic supplies they need, they are able to take part fully in lessons without distraction or embarrassment. It also helps create a more balanced classroom environment, where every child is starting from the same place”*.

We are also hearing from teachers about the positive impact this has on attendance and engagement. Children who may previously have felt unprepared or discouraged are now more confident to participate, complete their work, and stay focused throughout the school year.

For many families, these packs also help ease a small but important financial pressure at the start of term, supporting children to remain in school consistently.



## What is included in the school packs?



# Recent Project Updates

A huge thank you to Book Relief UK for their generous support of Edukid's educational projects. During 2026, Book Relief UK have supported our work in Cambodia, helping to fund our School Packs and Story Books Project. Through their contribution to our 2025 Big Give Christmas Campaign, they helped raise an incredible £3,425, providing vital resources that will help children access education and develop a love of reading.

Book Relief UK is a literacy charity that began as a community group in Bideford, North Devon, in 2006 before becoming a registered charity in 2010. Run entirely by dedicated volunteers, the charity raises funds for literacy projects by selling donated books through its shop and online. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and support, which is helping to create greater educational opportunities for children across our projects!



## Sanitary Project

Through Edukid's sanitary project in Cambodia, girls take part in workshops led by our in-country team, Sok, to learn about menstrual health and the different products available to them. These sessions provide a safe space to ask questions, build confidence, and challenge the stigma that can surround periods. From this year onwards, every girl will receive sanitary towels every month to help ensure they do not miss a day of education.



## Clean Water Project

Edukid's clean water project ensures that every village school we support is provided with a water filtration system, giving students access to safe drinking water throughout the school day. These filters help reduce waterborne illnesses and create a healthier environment for children. By improving their health and wellbeing, children are able to attend school regularly and make the most of their education.



# A Trip Down Memory Lane, Srey Da's Story

Srey Da grew up in Cambodia and was one of the very first students enrolled on the Edukid programme. When she was young, she lived in a slum, where life was extremely difficult. The environment was dirty, schools were far away, and everyday life was a struggle just to survive.

In 2000, a fire destroyed all the houses in the slum, and Srey Da and her family were relocated to SenSok Village. This new village had no school, no hospital, and very few opportunities for children. When she was 14, Srey Da noticed that many children in the village were not attending school because their parents wanted them to work and earn money instead. She felt this was deeply unfair and knew she had to do something to help.

Determined to make a difference, Srey Da began talking to the children and offering lessons from her home. She taught them, guided them, and provided care and support, giving them hope and opportunities they otherwise would not have had. Alongside this support, Edukid heard Srey Da's story and supported her to attend school, gain the qualifications she needed, and begin to break the cycle of poverty she was born into.

As with many Edukid students, Srey Da's journey didn't end with her education. She has always remained closely connected to her community and has continued to give back through the very programmes that once supported her.

Today, Srey Da is a valued member of our in-country team and has recently been promoted to Executive Director. On many occasions, she has taken a leading role in managing our overseas projects, helping to ensure they continue to run effectively and reach those who need them most. She now supports thousands of children every year, helping them access education and opportunity, just as she once dreamed of for herself!



Listen to  
Srey Da's  
Story here!



# Overseas Visit to Cambodia

During a recent visit to Cambodia, members of the Edukid team had the opportunity to meet families supported through our village projects. One family in particular reminded us why this work matters so much.

We met a mother and her two children living together in a single room. The family had no access to running water or bathroom facilities at home. To wash or use the toilet, they had to walk across the village to a relative's house. While this provided some access to basic facilities, it offered very little privacy and can be particularly unsafe for the children during the evening when it is dark.

Despite working incredibly hard to provide for her children, employment opportunities in the village are limited. At times, the mother had to travel away from home to find work, leaving her eldest child, just nine years old, to care for himself and his younger sister.

The Edukid group spent time with the family, listening to their story and learning about the daily challenges they face. It was a powerful reminder that things many of us take for granted, such as clean water and safe sanitation, remain out of reach for many families Edukid support in rural, Cambodian villages.

Wanting to make a difference, the group returned home determined to help. They began fundraising to provide the family with a well and bathroom, giving them access to clean drinking water and a safe place for washing and hygiene.

We are delighted to share the image below of the family enjoying their new facilities. A simple change, but one that will make a lasting difference to their everyday lives. Thank you so much to the student from Queens College for making this happen!



**On our most recent trip to Cambodia, students from Queens College met with university students and spent time together on a boat trip down the Mekong River. They shared experiences, listened to success stories, and exchanged their own journeys.**

# Thank You To Our Wonderful Fundraisers!

As part of their DofE Bronze Award, Aylie has chosen to take on a challenge inspired by Edukid's work in Cambodia. Aylie decided she will virtually walk the 318 km journey from Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, to Siem Reap, where many of Edukid's projects support children and families.

The challenge she set herself aims to raise awareness and money for Edukid's work, particularly its support for girls' education. In Cambodia, many girls still face barriers to attending school and are often expected to stay at home, work, or care for family members instead. Through school resources, hygiene education, support workers and access to further education, Edukid helps girls remain in education and create brighter futures for themselves and their communities! Thank you Aylie for taking on such an incredible challenge, but also raising £100!



**Tom came through our UK school's Global Citizenship Programme as a former student from one of our partner schools. In October 2025, Ed joined Edukid on a trip over to Cambodia, and on his return has been completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering for Edukid!**



*"Having been lucky enough to volunteer with Edukid out in Cambodia, I decided when I embarked on my Gold Duke of Edinburgh journey that I wanted to continue supporting Edukid.*

*When out in Cambodia, I saw the poverty that children have to live in every day; dirty housing, lack of clean clothing, and for many, a challenge in accessing education due to financial reasons. Seeing how Edukid helps and gives children the opportunity to get qualifications and go on and lead fulfilling lives really inspired me into continuing to support them.*

*I decided that over the course of 12 months, I was going to raise money for education packs for children in Cambodia, in an aim to ensure that as many children as possible can access education with the required equipment.*

*I raised money through many different ways, with my two main fundraising events being a coffee morning in my village and completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, with my smaller efforts being 'odd job days' for neighbours and friends. In total, I managed to raise £791.86.*

*Whilst the organisation of the coffee morning was a challenge at times, I would say that the walk was the toughest part. It took a lot of physical and mental strength to keep going and try and make it round before it got dark! Despite this, I really enjoyed the experience and it is something that I will definitely remember for years to come!*

*The experience of volunteering for Edukid has been brilliant; knowing I am genuinely making a difference to people's lives is such a great feeling to have been part of"*

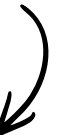
# Khmer New Year!

Khmer New Year, known as *Choul Chnam Thmey*, is one of the most important celebrations in Cambodia. Held each April, it marks the end of the harvest season and the start of a new year, bringing families and communities together for several days of festivities.

At our partner schools, the children were busy gathering everything they need for the celebrations, from decorations and traditional game materials to preparing activities and food. What makes these celebrations especially meaningful is that they are organised by the children themselves. They plan the games, help prepare meals, decorate their classrooms, and take responsibility for making the celebrations a success.

Throughout the week, schools are filled with laughter, music, dancing, and traditional Khmer games. One of the most recognisable parts of Khmer New Year is the fun throwing of water and powder. While it may look like a lot of fun, these traditions have much deeper meaning. Traditionally, younger people would gently pour water over the hands of elders as a sign of respect and to receive blessings for the year ahead. Over time, these traditions have evolved into large water fights, while still keeping their spirit and tradition of community and respect!

*Lots of lovely photos from Khmer New Year across the villages!*



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for being part of the Edukid family and for your continued support throughout another incredible year. Every donation, fundraising event, and act of generosity helps create opportunities for children and villages across Cambodia.

The achievements celebrated in this newsletter, from new village partnerships and strengthening our educational projects, to providing 1,500 children with school packs and supporting higher education and university scholarships, are only possible because of supporters like you. Together, you are helping children access their right to an education, build brighter futures, and realise their potential.

These stories represent just a small glimpse of the impact your support is making. We look forward to reaching even more children, families, and communities in the years ahead.

With love and best wishes,

The Edukid Team!

**If you would like to get more involved with Edukid through events, fundraising or visiting Cambodia and meeting the communities you are helping, please email [office@edukid.org.uk](mailto:office@edukid.org.uk)**

