

## What We Do

Youth Star Cambodia is a dynamic Cambodian NGO that provides Cambodian university graduates an opportunity to gain experience and develop their civic leadership skills by working as volunteer interns in underserved rural areas. Recognized by an independent agency as one of only seven Cambodian NGOs to be awarded a Good Practice Certificate, Youth Star Cambodia benefits these young interns and the communities they serve.

Youth Star Cambodia interns work in from nine to 18 months in the following areas:

- Keeping kids in school and engaging them in community activities
- Increasing food security and introducing modern farming technology
- Improving local hygiene and health practices
- Strengthening local business skills and expanding options for earning income
- Strengthening the skills of young people to participate in local development activities.

A total of 79 volunteers have completed their service since 2006.

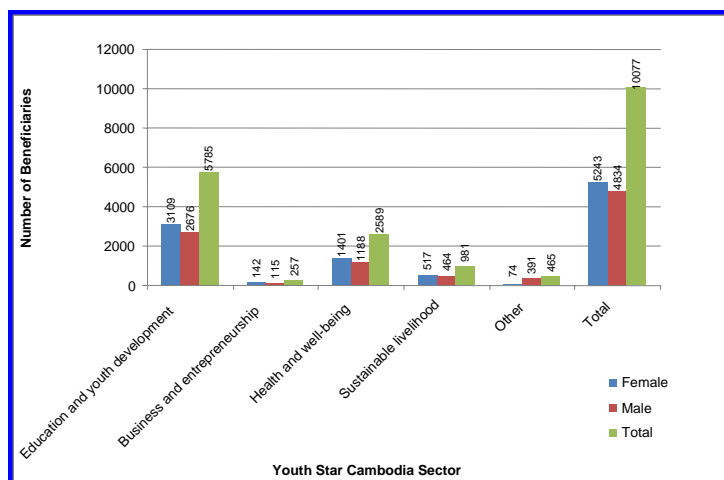
Interns gain practical work experience as they respond to the needs of their communities, working hand in hand with community partners such as school directors, young farmer groups, local tourist associations and commune councils. The interns benefit from a distance-learning course provided by the Australian Centre for Education, and scholarships with the American Intercon Institute upon completion of their internships. Former interns are also eligible for agricultural internships in the US state of Hawaii.

The interns report that they themselves benefited from their service. “This experience taught me how to communicate with all types of people, from children to local officials,” said Rattanak Azizah. “Together we strengthened the teamwork among the teachers, parents, farmers and local officials. Since I had many duties, I improved my organizational skills. I had my first public speaking experience when I gave a speech on volunteerism and development in a meeting with the district chief.”

“The biggest change was in my perspective about the future. I became deeply invested in children, and in their need for education,” she said. “These experiences gave me more confidence and a clear direction for my future.” She now works on a land rights awareness project for an international NGO.

Similarly, Nhem Nimul said that he learned a lot during his internship. “When I began my service I thought my job was to share what I knew,” he said. “But this community has taught me how to turn ideas into action.”

More than 10,000 individuals benefited Youth Star Cambodia activities in 2008, as shown below.



### *Examples of Youth Star Cambodia Successes*

- The number of students from Svay Chreah Commune in Kratie attending high school rose from one to 12.
- Khem Sokhean organized extra Khmer and Math classes for 13 students in Grade 2 who had fallen behind in class in Cheung Kle Km 94 in Kratie. As a result, ten students were able to pass their exams.
- Sokhean also convinced the parents of a 14-year-old girl who had never been to school to enroll her in first grade. She now attends school regularly.
- Kem Ratany reports that 50% of the children who study at her children’s club in Kavaek Village in Kampong Thom bring boiled or filtered drinking water to class.
- 69 children’s club members in Khyaok Kandal village in Prey Veng grow vegetables and mushrooms, which generates income for the club – which promotes further mentoring and tutoring. Some students started gardens at home, too.
- Nhem Nimul helped a local eco-tourist group in Koh Trong Commune in Kratie to develop home-stay sites, bicycle rentals, cafes and local handicraft production.
- Kha Kimra created new employment opportunities for 65 people in Kal Make village in Kampong Thom by arranging for them to do piecework for a garment factory.

For more information, or for an application form for interns or community partners, please call **023 883 491, 023 884 135, 023 884 360** or email: [info@youthstarcambodia.org](mailto:info@youthstarcambodia.org)