

Child sponsorship changes lives



One of Soleap's favourite things to do is help kids from her village in Stong, Cambodia, learn to read. She volunteers at the afterschool reading club and plans to go to university to become a teacher.

But just a few years ago, Soleap (right) could only dream of getting an education. She couldn't go to school with her friends. Instead, she had to look after her little brother at the lake while her parents fished for a living.

Everything changed when World Vision New Zealand started partnering with her community and a generous Kiwi decided to sponsor Soleap. Thanks to awareness campaigns, her parents began to understand the value of education. World Vision staff visited her family often, encouraging them to send Soleap to school. Eventually, her father decided to fish alone and let Soleap's mother care for the children.

Although she missed years of school, Soleap was able to catch up quickly with the help of literacy programmes at the children's club, which child sponsors make possible. Instead of being left behind, she got the extra support she needed. Soleap is determined to pass on everything she's learned.

"If I become a teacher, I'll be able to help my brother and other children in the community," she says.

Child sponsorship empowers children and their communities to target the root causes that keep kids trapped in poverty. Generous child sponsors give children brighter futures. Not just for a day or a year, but for the long term.





Every child has the right to an education

Literacy unlocks human potential. It leads to better health, better employment opportunities, and safer and more stable societies.

Since 2008, New Zealand child sponsors have been empowering children like Soleap in Stong, Cambodia, to learn to read, and training their community to support them. Here are five highlights from Stong last year:

500+ children attended weekly reading clubs to boost their skills and build a culture of reading.

180+ parents completed workshops on the value of literacy and ways to support children's learning.

33 reading club leaders received extra training to help kids learn to read.

17 teachers **+10** school directors were trained on core reading skills for grades 2 and 3.

16 reading clubs are now running in the community, after **3** more were established last year.





Creating futures for children living in extreme poverty

We believe the best way to build better lives for children is to invest in the communities in which they live. By partnering closely with local community groups, churches, families and children themselves, we address the root causes of poverty that directly impact children. This approach strengthens the good work that the community is already doing, and ensures that the ownership of their children's futures remains in their hands.

Child sponsorship connects sponsors with vulnerable children and their communities. When a child is sponsored, they become a link for the sponsor to the community that child lives in. Sponsors' donations establish long-term improvements that benefit their children's whole community, such as building schools or providing access to clean water.

World Vision New Zealand sponsors supported children and their families in 28 Area Development Programmes across the world in 2019:

Bangladesh

Mirpur, Mithapukur, Nilphamari Sadar, Pirganj

Cambodia

Chi Krong, Koh Andaet, Stong

India

Dumka, Korukonda, Nalanda, Nawada

Malawi

Chigodi, Lipiri, Onga

Mali

Togogana, Yehi

Myanmar

Chauk, Myeik, Palaw

Niger

Chadakori

Rwanda

Kabuga, Tubehoneza

Tanzania

Ibwera, Luguru, Magugu

Uganda

Buyamba, Ngogwe



Other projects

Quang Tri Province, Vietnam
Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia
Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar

