



QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2025

This quarter, Free To Shine continued its vital child protection work in Siem Reap, Cambodia, preventing school-aged girls from being trafficked into the commercial sex industry. Despite heightened anxieties caused by rising tensions on the Cambodia-Thailand border, our social workers provided tailored case management, mentoring, and education support to ensure vulnerable girls remain safe and in school.

*Names of all girls in this report have been changed to protect their privacy.

Goal of the quarter
**SAFE
COMMUNITIES**



325

Safety Visits



139

Social Work
Interventions



40

New Girls
Enrolled



46

Packets of
Vegetable Seeds
Provided



7

Water Filters
Provided



30

Bikes
Provided

THE NUMBERS THIS QUARTER

Free To Shine is a child protection organisation that prevents school-aged girls being trafficked into the commercial sex industry in Cambodia.

Our team of professionals conduct monthly safety visits and social work interventions, focusing on strengthening family and community systems to prioritise the safety and education of their children.

Free To Shine's work is implemented through three inter-dependent goal areas which are:

- Safe Communities
- Educated Girls
- Women in Leadership

OUR THREE GOALS PROGRAM STRATEGY



GOAL 1 SAFE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

We teach families how to protect themselves from exploitation and abuse - We address complex factors such as poverty, hunger, illness, unemployment, migration, addiction, violence, family breakdown and debt.



GOAL 2 EDUCATED GIRLS

While physically in the classroom girls are safe. We provide the materials and funds they need to access their local state school, and keep girls in school by providing access to water, food and shelter.



GOAL 3 WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

We model gender equity and invest in the next generation of Cambodian women leaders by providing leadership training to emerging leaders, and funding university places.

During this reporting period, tensions between Cambodia and Thailand escalated in May 2025 following a fatal clash between soldiers, sparking a diplomatic crisis and increased military buildup on both sides which eventually led to a major military confrontation on July 24, which resulted in a total of 172,094 internally displaced persons (IDPs)- as of July 30, 2025.¹ Whilst the conflict happened outside of the reporting period, the rising tensions impacted the girls and families we worked with, in terms of heightened anxiety around a potential conflict and post traumatic stress from historical conflict.

Displaced people can be highly vulnerable to being trafficked, in particular unaccompanied and separated children and families in crisis, who face hunger, poverty or lack of a safe passage, and may be deceived by traffickers' false promises or even forced to send children into exploitative situations out of desperation for survival. Loss of earnings as a result of displacement will have an ongoing debilitating impact on those affected, long after this current crisis is over.

For the purposes of this report we will focus on the work that has been conducted over the last three months on the **Safe Communities for Children** goal area and the needs that the social workers are identifying and responding to through their work with school-aged girls in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.

1. Cambodia Ministry of National Defense referenced in Situation Report #13 Displacement Caused by Cambodia -Thailand Border Conflict, World Vision International in Cambodia, 03rd August 2025



IMPACT NUMBERS. SAFE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN



139

Social work
interventions

28

(for 27 intakes)
Initial Assessments

47

Number of girls (& their
families) on social work
program

16

Average case load per
social worker

1

Exit from social work

13

Intakes and referrals to
social work

105

Total number of girls
(& their families) in the
education program

4

Total number of girls
(& their families) exited
from the Education
Program

13

Intakes to the Education
Program

325

Safety visits



FROM RISK TOWARDS SAFETY: SOCIAL WORK IN ACTION

Free To Shine works with local authorities to identify the communities that require support. Through our work with local authorities and schools, we are able to identify those girls and families who are most vulnerable and would benefit from a social work intervention. Our team of social workers utilise the Child Status Index, which provides a framework for identifying needs, creating individualised goal-directed case plans, and program-level monitoring and planning. It enables our team to track changes over time and the efficacy of our interventions.

During this quarter, of the 47 girls on the program receiving intensive social work support, 21 were identified as being at high risk related to needing protection from abuse, 19 were identified as being at high risk related to shelter, nine at high risk related to emotional health, nine at high risk related to care, seven at high risk related to nutrition and growth, seven at high risk related to health care services, seven at high risk related to legal protection, five at high risk related to performance, four at high risk related to food security, one at high risk related to work and education and two at high risk related to wellness. We are helping to protect those girls and families who are at high risk, and prior to our support were highly vulnerable to being trafficked. The team work to address the level of risk in each area through their interventions, providing individualised case management, mentoring and referrals to facilitate positive outcomes for school aged girls.

WORDS FROM OUR SOCIAL WORK TEAM ON NEEDS

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Child protection concerns remain the most significant challenge among girls enrolled in our social work program. Reports of child abuse, including physical discipline, child labour, and neglect, are prevalent within the client group. There is a growing worry about untreated health problems among new intakes to the program, highlighting gaps in access to essential medical care. Food insecurity is also a persistent issue, especially for new intakes, and is closely linked to poverty, irregular or insufficient income, and family indebtedness. Additional concerns have emerged around sexual assault, online sexual abuse, and substance use (alcohol and drugs) in some communities.

OUTCOMES FROM THE SOCIAL WORK TEAM OVER THE LAST QUARTER

In response to these needs the social work team achieved a number of strong outcomes over this quarter. These included delivering information sessions to families about debt bondage and the legal risks of using official documents (birth certificates) to guarantee loans, training school teachers on child protection which led to one teacher proactively reporting child abuse and another reporting online sexual abuse, completing all intakes of new girls ensuring eligible beneficiaries are now active in the program and the exit of one girl and family to safety.

If you would like to support our social work team to protect vulnerable girls, respond to abuse, and keep children safe in school, you can visit

www.freetoshine.org/donate