



QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT

1 JANUARY TO 30 MARCH 2026

Supporting girls, families,
and communities through times
of conflict and peace

Between the 1 January and 31 March 2026, Free To Shine supported 155 girls and their families across social work, education and university pathways, with new intakes exceeding exits and services delivered in nine communes and three districts. The team conducted casework and safety visits, responded to new protection concerns, supported access to Poor ID entitlements, and delivered targeted emergency assistance to Internally Displaced People (IDPs), while preparing to pilot a Child Safe Agent network.

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

Goal of the quarter
**SAFE
COMMUNITIES**



What is an 'exit to safety'?

An exit to safety is a planned transition out of the program when a girl and her family are no longer at risk of trafficking. The family has the knowledge, support, and stability to keep her safe independently.



180

Safety Visits



75

Social Work
Interventions



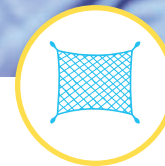
22

New Girls
Enrolled



17

Exits to
Safety
(see note)



5

Nets for Vegetable
Gardens



5

Emergency Food
Packages



2

Water Filters
Provided

THE NUMBERS THIS QUARTER

HIGHLIGHTS THIS QUARTER

- 01 **Social Work Program Highlights**
- 02 **Support for IDPs from the Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict**
- 03 **Extenuating Circumstances Support**
- 04 **Raised Garden Beds**
- 05 **Child Safe Movement Partnership**



Free To Shine is a child protection organisation that prevents the sex trafficking and exploitation of school-aged girls in Cambodia. We strengthen community and family systems to prioritise children's safety and education.



01

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During this quarter, there were a total of 48 girls and families in the social work program, nine intakes and referrals, and the team's clients came from 18 schools, 18 villages and five communes.



02

SUPPORT FOR IDPS FROM THE CAMBODIA-THAILAND BORDER CONFLICT

On 27 December 2025, a ceasefire was declared between Cambodia and Thailand. However, between the 1 January and 31 March 2026, the impacts of the conflict could still be felt, particularly through significant displacement and social and economic disruption in both countries.

According to the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) Situation Report 22, citing the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), as of 15 January 2026, 141,850 people remained displaced across the country. Of these, 54,033 people were living in 102 displacement sites, while the rest were staying with relatives or host communities¹.

Although overall displacement decreased during the quarter, IDPs continued to live in camps and with relatives in Free To Shine target communities. Households had urgent needs for food, hygiene supplies and child protection support, so Free To Shine mobilised internal resources, coordinated with 3PC Cambodia, and conducted targeted fundraising to respond.

On 13 January 2026, the program team partnered with one commune to distribute hygiene supplies and clothing to IDPs temporarily staying in the camp located there.

The team collaborated with commune and village leaders to assess needs and respond. Using budget allocations from Free To Shine, 53 families each received a package containing soap, trousers, underwear, a skirt, a shirt, and a dress. On 25 February and 27 February, Free To Shine collaborated with another target commune to provide food packages containing about 80 kilograms of sausages to 80 displaced families.

This support was made possible through donor contributions via Friends-International, under the partnership with 3PC Cambodia. Our team received a certificate of appreciation from the commune leaders recognising the support provided to displaced families during this period.

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03 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SUPPORT

During the quarter, five families received extenuating circumstances packages to help meet urgent needs related to human rights deprivations, including lack of access to food, hygiene supplies, and other emergency essentials.

One family lost its main source of income when the mother, who had been earning, passed away. Another case involved a girl whose parents were living in Thailand and were unable to provide financial support due to the border conflict. The remaining three families were experiencing severe financial hardship linked to low income, limited job opportunities, exploitative working conditions at construction sites and resulting food insecurity, which increased the risk of girls dropping out of school.

Free To Shine social workers are providing ongoing support to these families, ensuring that girls who might otherwise have been excluded from education are able to stay in school and continue their studies.

04 RAISED GARDEN BEDS

A grant from The Haydon Kirkwood Charitable Trust has enabled Free To Shine to provide raised garden beds to 10 school-aged girls and their families in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. This initiative supports education and health by improving household food security and nutrition, reducing financial pressures on families, and helping girls stay in school and engaged in learning.

Last year, the social work team reported persistent food insecurity, particularly for new intakes, closely linked to poverty, irregular or insufficient income, climate-related crop loss, and family indebtedness. Increasingly heavy rains linked to climate change are destroying crops in predominantly agriculture-dependent communities and worsening chronic food insecurity among newly enrolled families.

In response, this project builds on our ongoing work of distributing vegetable seeds to families experiencing food insecurity by providing more resilient

garden infrastructure. The team completed the identification and assessment of all 10 families and distributed raised garden beds to each household. Each support package includes a concrete garden bed, roofing net, seeds selected by families, and fertiliser. By elevating crops and providing roofing netting, the beds also help reduce the risk of damage from flooding and seasonal rainfall, supporting more reliable year-round food production. As a result, girls and families will be able to maintain their nutrition levels and better mitigate the impact of severe weather events.





05 CHILD SAFE MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Free To Shine is excited to share an important development in our child protection work.

This year, we have begun partnering with Friends-International through their recognised ChildSafe movement. ChildSafe is a child protection framework that trains and supports people in communities to better protect children from abuse, exploitation and unsafe situations.

As part of this partnership:

- Our program and social work staff have completed ChildSafe “training of trainers,” equipping them to pass on these skills to others.
- A ChildSafe Agent is a trained community member who knows how to recognise when a child may be at risk, respond safely and refer concerns to appropriate services.

- Free To Shine’s social workers will train local volunteers, community leaders and other trusted adults in our target communities as ChildSafe Agents, so communities are better equipped to identify and respond to child protection concerns.

For girls and families, this means there will be more informed, trusted people nearby who know how to respond when they see something worrying for a child. This strengthens the safety net around children beyond our own team and helps build a stronger culture of protection and shared responsibility in rural communities. Through this partnership, our staff are better equipped to work with families, schools, community leaders and local services, sharing clear prevention messages and practical actions that help communities keep children safer and reduce the risk of trafficking and exploitation.

Your support makes it possible for us to invest in this kind of collaboration and capacity building. By partnering with Friends-International and growing a network of ChildSafe Agents, we can prevent harm earlier, respond more effectively when concerns arise and keep more girls safe, in school and connected to support.

Through these efforts, Free To Shine reaffirms its commitment to creating a safer, more educated, and empowered community for all.

If you would like to contribute towards this work you can do so here:

www.freetoshine.org/donate

SOURCES

1. Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF). Situation Report 22: Cambodia-Thailand Border Situation. 16 January 2026.