



2024: Empowering Democracy



Inside

A message from the Executive Director

2024 Highlights

Our work in Cambodia

Democracy

Governance

Human rights

Environment

Health

Gender

Sustainable development

Advocacy in action

How we spark change

An organization you can trust

Financials

Our valued supporters

Message from the Executive Director

Over the past two decades, youth engagement has played a crucial role in Cambodia's development, yielding significant achievements, meaningful changes, and notable challenges. YCC, in collaboration with government bodies, national and international NGOs, local authorities, and key stakeholders, has actively contributed to strengthening governance and political accountability through youth participation. These collective efforts have been instrumental in driving sustainable development, and we look forward to furthering this approach, particularly in our 2025 initiatives.



In 2024, YCC made significant progress in advocacy, partnering with global NGOs to amplify the voices of youth, women, and marginalized groups. These efforts have ensured that their concerns are acknowledged by the public, service providers, and policymakers. Through its Task Force and the commitment of member organizations, YCC has played a leading role in empowering citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes. This recognition underscores YCC's status as a prominent youth organization dedicated to capacity building.

Throughout the year, YCC successfully implemented various national and regional projects, receiving strong engagement and support. With a growing number of skilled staff and the guidance of the Board of Directors and Management Team, the organization has effectively expanded its impact. As change remains a constant, YCC has embraced innovation through its Strategic Plan (2025–2029), which emphasizes youth, women, and marginalized communities as key stakeholders. This plan strengthens youth advocacy efforts on national, regional, and global platforms while reinforcing partnerships and credibility.

Looking ahead, YCC remains committed to addressing emerging challenges and seizing opportunities for growth. The unwavering dedication of its staff, Board of Directors, and partners continues to drive its success, ensuring a lasting impact on youth development in Cambodia.

Im Sothy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Im Sothy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive Director

Key Accomplishments

Thanks for your support

In 2024



This is what lasting change looks like:

Number of youths gained knowledge on Democracy

More than 240 of of youths gained knowledge on entrepreneurship

Number of youths gained knowledge on public speaking, critical thinking, social media

Number of youths gained knowledge on climate change and environmental protection

1000 youth gained knowledge on App application

Number youth contributed to the education development for children



Bringing about long-lasting transformation in Cambodia

We support young people who lack access to civic involvement in communities throughout Cambodia, from rural to urban areas. With decades of experience, the Youth Council of Cambodia collaborates with pertinent

Democracy

YCC built youth capacity in democracy. One of the main activities is the Advanced Democracy Seminar (ADS). Several projects have been undertaken to enable young people to engage in community development through democracy approaches. Notably, youth in Siem Reap, Koh Kong, Stung Treng gained knowledge from the topic on democracy where they understand the democracy in the global context and in Cambodian context. ADS is training provided youth with a comprehensive understanding of their roles in a democratic society, fostering active citizenship and informed participation in democratic processes. ADS is as an activity of project called “the Stimulating participation and civic engagement (SPACE)”. The project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through BBC Media Action.



Governance



Figure 1: Meeting at Khan Chbar Ampov Administration

Through a number of initiatives, including training and a way to involve young people in the decision-making process, YCC increased youth capacity in the good governance in democracy approach. Innovation for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC) is one of the projects where YCC developed youth capacity to mobilize thousands of people to use their voice to improve public service delivery, particularly in the areas of primary school, health center, and Sangkat (commune) administration in the municipality of Phnom Penh.



For example, YCC educated Community Accountability Facilitators (CAF) to help with activities like disseminating information for



citizens. The goal of this program was to give CAFs the tools they needed to inform communities about nearby service providers, encouraging

accountability and openness at the local level. The "Joint Accountability Action Plan (JAAP)" is an annual development plan that can be created by citizens and local government representatives.



Figure 2: youth to attend the Commune Monthly Meeting in Tropang Rung commune administration, Koh Kong district, Koh Kong province

One of the activities of the SPACE project, which allows youth to attend the Commune Monthly Meeting in commune administration to bring the collective community concerns for authority to consider to address, is another initiative that engages youth in good governance. Youth can also find opportunities to assist in addressing those issues in their capacity, such as helping to collect the trash in the villages. In the province of Siem Reap, YCC arranged a training session under the SPACE project. The program's goal was to strengthen youth networks' capability while promoting active engagement in tackling regional concerns pertaining to democracy, education,

and human rights.

Human rights

YCC carried out a number of projects that, via youth involvement, empowered citizens, including young people, to exercise their human rights. For instance, with the assistance of the ASEAN Foundation, YCC conducted the Enablement Session for Underserved Youth 2024 of ASEAN Data Science Explorers (ASEAN DSE) and provided training to approximately 1000 young people in data analytics and app development. For the benefit of their future careers, the information helps young people

develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and ASEAN



understanding skills.



In the province of Siem Reap, another project is called "Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Local Governance through Civic Engagement" (STA). The project focuses on enhancing civic engagement to promote transparent and accountable local governance. People from the community came together to speak up and find solutions to life's problems.



In terms of socioeconomic rights, YCC carried out a Youth's Entrepreneurship in Cambodia project to teach business management and financial literacy to



over 240 young people from six provinces. They became more knowledgeable about managing their finances, recognizing safe loans, and launching and growing enterprises.





Environment

YCC engaged young people in environmental preservation efforts and developed their capacity. The Partnership to Act on Climate Change and Environmental Protection (P2ACE) project, which sought to educate young people about environmental issues and climate change, is one of the many initiatives that have been put into action. By interacting with local people, participants improved their knowledge of and dedication to environmental protection. ActionAid Cambodia is

providing funding for this initiative.



Figure 3: Orientation on Climate Change and Leadership for students at Hun Sen Siem Reap high school in Siem Reap Province





In a worldwide setting, YCC collaborated with international youth organizations to develop a youth involvement strategy about climate change. Notably, in Azerbaijan, YCC representatives jointly discuss the climate change solutions, particularly in light of COP 29 preparations.



Health

YCC joined the event on health education to share the idea to promote safe health for the youth. For instance, in October 2024, representative of YCC participated in the event "Let's Talk Sexual and Reproductive Health", organized by DKT Mekong, aims to foster open dialogue about sexual and





reproductive health in Cambodia and serve as the official launch of comprehensive one-stop shop solutions for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) of DKT International.

Furthermore, as part of the ISAC project, young people who are CAFs also provided citizens with health information, mainly on the services offered by the health center.



Gender

With the help of its initiatives, YCC gave young people of both genders the tools they needed to improve their livelihoods. For example, YCC conducted a Door-to-Door awareness campaign in 3 Sangkats - Tuek Vil, Krabei Riel, and Chong Khnies. YCC youth visited 40 households consist of 46 members (34 female) to collect info shared by local citizens on administrative services, citizens' rights in receiving specific information from stakeholders and local authorities, and ways to contribute to improving public services in their Sangkats/communities. Participants were also allowed to freely share their experiences and concerns, such as issues related to safety, public service delivery processes, gender equity, good governance, human rights, and discrimination against LGBTQI+.





Sustainable development

YCC collaborated with international youth organizations to talk about giving young people the chance to get involved in solving global problems, such as climate change.





Figure 4: attended the 4th International Youth Forum on Human Rights and SDGs at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Advocacy in action

To promote youth development in Cambodia and around the world, particularly in addressing global issues like climate change, YCC maintained strong partnerships with a number of international organizations, including ActionAid, the BBC, Media Action, Danmission Cambodia, IREX, the ASEAN Foundation and Maybank Foundation, FHI 360, Transparency International, VBNK, etc.





How we spark change

In 2024, the Youth Council of Cambodia made significant strides in empowering



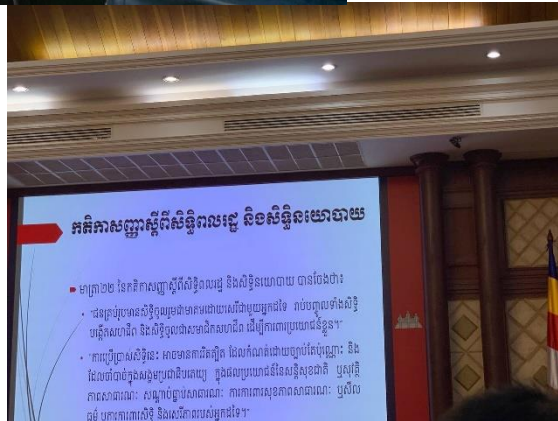
youth and promoting sustainable development. Through our diverse programs and collaborations, we have equipped young Cambodians with the knowledge and skills necessary to become active

participants in their communities and the broader society. We remain committed to fostering youth engagement and look forward to continuing our mission in the years to come.

An organization you can trust

With its strategic plan, YCC is steadfast in its dedication to designing creative programs for youth engagement in sustainable development in a democratic way, in cooperation with its management team, Board of Directors, youth network, stakeholders, and donors.





Financials

YCC is committed to financial transparency and accountability. Detailed financial statements are available upon request.

Our valued supporters

We sincerely thank our partners, employees, volunteers, and funders for their commitment and continuous support.





By working together, we are making great progress in empowering Cambodia's future leaders.

