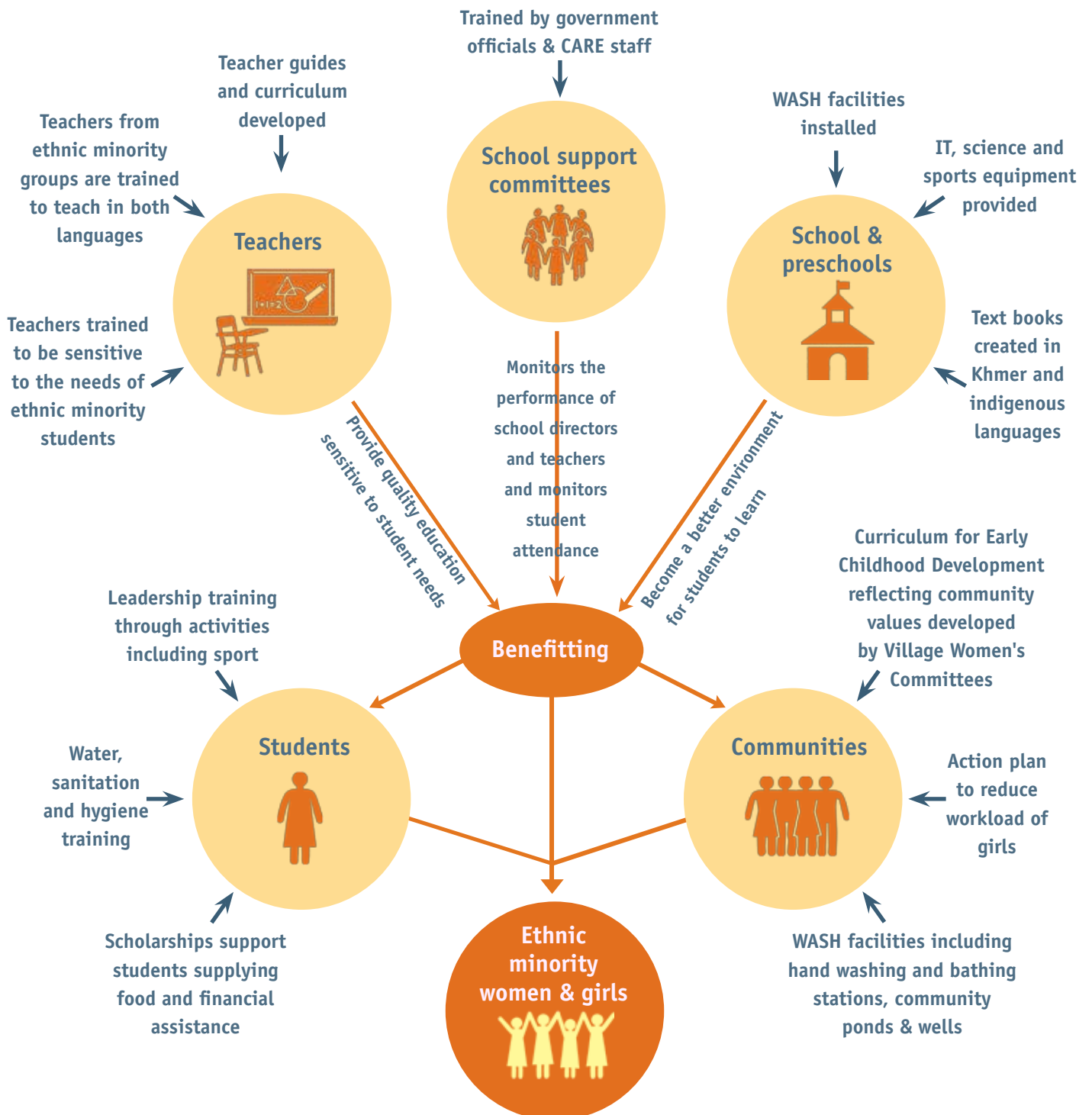


EDUCATION IN CARE'S ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN PROGRAM

CARE's Ethnic Minority Women program aims to ensure that women and girls who experience discrimination and exclusion have their rights respected, their identity valued and that they have equitable access to livelihoods and skilled jobs. A key part of this is ensuring girls from indigenous communities have equal opportunities to access quality education.

This means ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage because of their gender or because they are from an ethnic minority. Multilingual education allows ethnic minority children to learn in their own language before being introduced to the national language of Khmer, improving literacy rates in ethnic minority communities. Considering specific factors affecting the lives of girls—such as traditional division of roles in the home—ensures girls are not excluded from development in their communities.



Thanks to this work, more children are accessing education and reaching higher levels of education as schools are more accessible, and they are able to learn in the language spoken at home.

With community ownership, school management models and CARE teacher training, children are taught what's important to their communities and teachers address issues such as gender roles, violence, migration and early marriages.

CARE began work in the north-east of Cambodia in 2002 to improve literacy rates among ethnic minority communities and continues to empower women and girls in Ratanak Kiri through education.

KEY FACTS

- CARE has worked in more than **350 schools**. This includes 32 community preschools (early childhood development), 311 primary schools (including multilingual education schools) and 11 Lower secondary schools.
- CARE has supported multilingual education in **five provinces** in Cambodia for early childhood education and **four provinces** at primary level and reaching 54 primary schools.
- Close to **100 books** have been developed and distributed by CARE across all school levels, including text, story and picture books.
- **More than 1300 children** attended multilingual education schools supported by CARE in 2015.
- **More than 300 teachers** were trained by CARE since 2003.
- More than **250 school management committee** members have been trained by CARE.

IMPACTS

CARE's efforts in the north-east of Cambodia have contributed to a number of notable impacts:

- Enrolments in multilingual education schools have **doubled since 2009**.
- More **women from ethnic minorities** are becoming teachers.
- Ratanak Kiri communes have signed action plans to **reduce workload of girls** and **prioritising girls' education**.
- The **Ministry** of Education, Youth and Sport issued a proclamation on multilingual education.
- CARE's model is now being rolled out across Cambodia by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport under a dedicated **National Action Plan**.

Taveang Lower Secondary School director Mr. Chan Nareoun said they were grateful for CARE's continuous support to their school, of which about 90 per cent of students are Brov.

“Now we need to keep encouraging parents to send their children to school.”



Mao Nangmark received CARE teacher training and now teaches grade two at a Kreung village school.

“I wanted to become a teacher to support children and give them easy access to education – which I did not have. I want the students to learn their own language as well as Khmer, for all of reading, writing and speaking. It is so different from when I went to school, when the teachers just spoke Khmer. I remember this and keep it in my heart and mind.”



CARE's work to improve education for girls from ethnic minorities is supported by the Australian Government, the Capacity Development Partnership Fund and many other private donors.



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