

# Hoeun Hang's Journey to Community Leadership

Hoeuy Hang, a 22-year-old from Bos Trav village in Svay Chak commune, Angkor Thom district, Siem Reap Province, lives with his parents and seven siblings. His father is a farmer, and Hoeuy is currently a grade 12 student at a high school far from his village.

Growing up, Hoeuy Hang had little awareness of community social work. He never participated in local development activities or trainings organized by NGOs, preferring to spend time with friends at school rather than engage in community work.

However, as he matured, Hoeuy Hang began to see the importance of community improvement and the need for education on children's rights and child protection. Motivated by this realization, in February 2022, he volunteered for social work in Svay Chek commune. That same month, he attended an FSC meeting introducing the Protection Plus project to child and youth clubs in the district. Inspired by the project, Hoeuy Hang stepped forward to lead the child and youth club.

In May 2022, First Step Cambodia (FSC) provided capacity building to ten children and youths, including Hoeuy Hang, on children's rights and child protection, covering topics such as the prevention of early marriage and essential life skills. As a leader, Hoeuy Hang actively mobilized and encouraged his peers to participate in FSC's trainings and workshops. He was eager to learn and to share his new knowledge with others in the community.



Hoeun Hang, a representative of Child and Youth Club of Svay Chek commune  
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“Taking the first step to serve my community was not easy, but it opened my eyes to the power of knowledge and leadership. Through learning about children's rights and protection, I realized that change starts with each of us. By leading and encouraging my peers, I discovered that even one young person's dedication can inspire others and create a ripple effect of positive change. I am committed to continuing this journey, growing in strength and knowledge, so I can help build a safer and brighter future for my family and community.”

Through ongoing meetings and coaching sessions with FSC, Hoeuy Hang grew in confidence, sharing what he learned with 20 of his school peers in Svay Chak commune. FSC supported him in reflecting on his experiences, helping him to identify strengths and areas for future improvement.

Today, Hoeuy Hang and his family express deep gratitude to FSC for their support and education on children's rights and protection. Hoeuy Hang is committed to remaining involved in the child and youth club, eager to further his knowledge and contribute to his community. He feels empowered to pursue higher education and is determined to support both his family and the wider community.

