CARE Cambodia’s Young Women in Business (YWIB) project worked to increase income generation opportunities for young women and girls in Koh Kong province through developing local capacities, expanding and diversifying income sources, and advocacy efforts to create an enabling environment for women.

The project focused on activities such as livestock raising which women can conduct at home. Training on improved techniques and personal coaching from staff helped to ensure women’s efforts were fruitful and contributed to increased income. To complement this, improved financial literacy skills to support record keeping and saving had a significant impact on both home finances and business profits.

YWIB also promoted engagement with local authorities and provincial government to encourage consideration of the challenges faced by women in remote rural areas. This resulted in improved links between women and markets for their products, as well as greater understanding of women’s needs among local authorities.

Key achievements: income generation activities

- **Participants gained an estimated average net income of $709 from activities**
  This was primarily gained from livestock raising, with 97% of beneficiaries now engaged raising pigs or chickens.

- **Average income among livestock raisers has increased significantly**
  End of project monitoring indicates that among those who raised livestock before, the average income from chicken raising activities has increased from $105 to $397, while for pigs this has increased from $323 to $758.

- **Households saw significant increases in income from $970 to up to $1679**
  Baseline data estimated average annual household incomes before the project at $970, so additional money from project activities has had a huge impact on household incomes.

- **An estimated 2/3 of beneficiaries are engaged in three or more different income generation activities**
  As well as the 97% of participants raising at least one type of livestock, many have diversified to also grow vegetables, open shops or provide veterinary services.

- **Households have improved food security**
  Those raising livestock and planting vegetable gardens not only have improved access to nutritious food sources but also report now having sufficient income to meet their food needs.

- **Incidences of disease and animal mortality has been greatly reduced**
  The training of paravet women combined with improved knowledge among livestock raisers has meant more animals have been vaccinated against infectious diseases.

“Learning to build pens for animals has really helped livestock raising in our village. It makes it easier for farmers to care for their animals so they grow faster and has allowed people to keep their animals under control so diseases do not spread. Animals in pens do not destroy crops or vegetable gardens and this has also reduced conflict between households.”

Ms. Orn Da, Prai village
Young Women in Business: facts & stats

- Worked in **60 villages** across 16 communes in **Koh Kong** province
- Trained over **1,700** young women & girls
- Supported **170** demonstration farmers
- Created **56** para-vets
- Conducted **8800 person days** of livestock training for pig or chicken raising
- Conducted **6864 person days** of financial literacy training
- Held **four advocacy seminars** with district and provincial decision makers and one **advocacy workshop** with **68 participants** at provincial level

“Not only has income increased, but women have also taken on a more active role in the family. Men will now follow our advice about livestock rearing and record keeping, as well as being more inclined to help with our own efforts to earn money. Women are now more respected and valued by their husbands.”

Kong Mom, Prai village, & Tho Saroem, Kandol village

Key achievements: women’s empowerment

- **Women are more financially independent**
  All participants are able to carry out income generation activities successfully to earn money by themselves.

- **Improved financial literacy has increased household savings**
  Record keeping skills are not only being used to monitor business income but have also increased women’s ability to keep track of household expenses.

- **Positive impact on gender relations within families**
  Women report they feel more valued by their husbands as a result of their efforts.

- **Women’s leadership skills are being developed**
  Improved self-esteem has helped increase women’s confidence when dealing with others and representatives of women’s groups are now having their voices heard by local authorities.

“Book recording is very helpful for running my coffee shop. I can now clearly see my daily income, expenses, and those who owe money so it is not confusing like before. It has also helped me at home as I can prioritise my expenses. This enables me to save more for my family.”

Ms. Dong Sor, Chroy Svay Lech village