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Annual Activities Report 2021



Residency Scholarship Students at the Phnom Srok Learning Center (PSLC)

OUR TEAM:

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| - Suon Bun Rith, Executive Director | - Chay Vuthy, Financial Advisor |
| - Samet Seithoung, Program Coordinator/ Teacher | - Phan Phollin, English Teacher |
| - Hien Sayuon, Program Coordinator/ Teacher | - Yort Uot, Office Caretaker |
| - Horvann Vuthy, Computer/ ICT Teacher | - Mak Samphoas, PSLC Caretaker/ Cook |

OUR MISSION

Sangkheum Kumar Kampuchea (SKK) is a Cambodian local non-profit organisation registered under the Ministry of Interior in 2018 and holding Certificate of Tax Registration VAT TIN: B101-901805641.

SKK's mission is to promote and protect children's rights and youth to education. It aims to ensure that disadvantaged children in remote rural communities be able to access education as a means to break the cycle of poverty in Cambodia.

We are working untiringly with our Belgium partner, Hope for the Children (HftC) and other generous supporters, to achieve our mutual goal of positively transforming the rural community through potential educational empowerment.

THE CORONAVIRUS AND VACCINATION

Since the beginning of 2021, the pandemic outbreak continued to inflict devastating nationwide. The 20th February community spreading incident has had a serious impact on every single life. Cambodian authorities have been forced to stricter lockdowns, especially, between March and May to minimise the spreading of Coronavirus. The circumstance continued alerting, abnormally in June whilst the infected cases shot up to almost 1,000 persons every day.

Schools were closed as of February, providing grave consequences for children's education, and E-learning comes with a greater struggle for schools in rural communities. The Education Ministry is working to strategise an alternative approach to overcoming the current predicament.

Nevertheless, Cambodia was praised as outstanding in battling against the pandemic. The Royal Government of Cambodia has put a high priority on the vaccination campaign. By the end of 2021, the National Framework for Covid-19 Vaccine (CPV-19) reported that Cambodia has vaccinated over 14 million people aged five and older, or 89.14% of the country's total population of 16 million, including 99.12% of group ages between 12 to 17 (targeted 2 million) and 105.23% of group ages between 6 to 11 (targeted approx. 2 million). The RGC launched the booster dose campaign in October 2021 and prepared the fourth dose with Pfizer vaccines in January 2022.



Students at PSLC got vaccinated and they strictly observe the 3 DO'S & 3 DON'TS

OUR PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Rong Veau Primary School

❖ New School Building:

SKK continue working together to support the school and gradually improve its learning environment. The new school building, funded by Miss Belgium, was completed and ready to welcome students. The Solar Lights were installed within the school grounds for security reasons, to light up from dusk to dawn, and make the community shine at night time. The Provincial Education Department has donated new student tables for our new classrooms with the assistance of the Phnom Srok District Education Office, thanks to Madam Dane for her awesomely hard work.



Appreciated the new school building, new tables, new environment

❖ Old Buildings and Flooding Classrooms:

Rong Veau Primary School is suffering heavy flooding annually, particularly during the rainy season. The School Support Committee decided to level up the ground by adding more soil, which subsequently the classrooms are at a much lower level. Consequently, when it's raining, the water flowed into the classrooms and is stored there, for many days, until it evaporated. Therefore, if this situation continues for a longer period, it will become unhealthy for students and diseases may strike. SKK works with the school director to compile an appealing report about the current school condition to the Phnom Srok Office of Education, provincial administration and relevant local authorities, and other potential partners, as well as the villagers to request renovation support.



Flooding classrooms at Rong Veau Primary School

❖ SKK Office Upgrading:

The annual heavy rainy season, along with the severe flooding from the previous years has badly damaged our office housing. SKK decided to take precautionary measures by refilling the land and rebuilding the fens on the lakeside to reinforce against further flooding. We also renovated the office ceiling, fixing the walls and the floors to make more spaces for our interns and volunteers who come and work for the community in Rong Vean.



Reinforcing against flooding

2. Learning & Teaching Activities

❖ English Language:

Because of the spreading of Covid-19, schools were closed in February and were not able to reopen until students received their vaccination in September. Our teachers work hard to provide extracurricular classes for 110 students, ranging from preschool to lower secondary level, free of charge. We follow the government guidelines on standard hygiene practices, students are divided into smaller groups for a safe learning environment. We work together with the public school to keep those children in the village engaging in various learning activities whilst having fun.



Safety First: Temperature checking before entering each class and wearing a face mask

❖ Distance Learning and Alternatives:

Distance learning is very challenging for our teachers and students, we are lacking technique and learning equipment. However, they have made a great effort to keep children learning alternatively. Our teachers used Google Meet for students in grades 7, 8, 9 and follow the online materials of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. For primary level grades 1 – 6, children were inaccessible to

electronic devices for online learning, therefore, we provided paper handouts for their exercises to study at home and return to their teachers for presentation and questions twice a week.



We Can Do Too: Students learning persistently against all odds

❖ Extra Creative Learning:

Due to the prolonged school closure and stressful online learning, physical activities have been very limited. Children are facing depression and mental health against the restriction for gathering and playing amongst their crowd. To lessen the consequences, we created some free-style drawings and funny games for them to play and enjoy together in a smaller group, at the same time, remember to follow the SOP standard hygiene regulated by the Ministry of Health.



Look At Me: Recreational learning activities whilst having fun

❖ Cultivating Reading Habits:

Our Singaporean teachers and friends worked attentively with students and parents in Singapore to collect the used textbooks for Cambodian children in Rong Veau to read and learn. This little gift of friendship had made a significant inspiration for those students who studied the books and thought about our indefinite Singaporean friends. There are over 200 books, in excellent condition, from pre-school to primary education, varied from vocabulary and English grammar to Mathematics and problem-solving. The books are available to children of all ages to come and to enjoy reading books at their own time, at SKK Community House. Students in the village are excited and pleased to come to learn how to read and discover books, which help cultivate the habits of reading to uncover new knowledge and information from their reading.



Hello: Read me, play with me and you grow up wise

❖ Consulting and Following up:

We understood that to ensure students learning progress, they required strong support, mostly from their own family, including learning materials, attention and motivation for studying. Our teachers frequently visited each household and initiated a dialogue, with students and parents to comprehend their condition, particularly students in grades 7, 8 & 9. We have alerted the family that every parent is an obligation to keep encouraging their children to stay resolute in studying as their primary chore. We also assisted some students who have trouble with E-learning programs and electronic devices. We ensured everyone knows only education can transform them to where they wanted.



Following up: A conversation with students and parents on their children's learning progress

3. Phnom Srok Learning Center (PSLC)

❖ Welcoming Orientation to Students and Parents:

- **Virtual Welcoming:** On 10 January 2021, due to the Covid-19 travel restriction, to reopen the PSLC centre and welcome students, a videoconference was arranged with Suon Bun Rith, Director of SKK. Teacher, caretaker and residency scholarship students were gathering for an introductory meeting for the new school year. Students were reading the internal rules and regulations, learning about the organisation's mission and reminding themselves of their purposes for staying in the centre. The orientation session aims to ensure everyone understands and has a productive time living together for the year to come.
- **Boarding and Lodging:** This year, our residency scholarship programme supported 27 students, from Rong Veau and the nearby villages. There are 9 students (7 females) in grade 10, whilst grade 11 has 13 students (8 females), and grade 12 has 5 students (3 females), which makes a total of 27 (18 females & 9 males). We have rearranged their sleeping spaces to ensure a convenient and healthy homestay. The maximum capacity of each housing is suitable for a total of 18 mattresses for females and 12 mattresses for males. The residency student is entitled to

two meals daily and the monthly allowance (15 USD), plus attending additional classes free of charge for English language, Computer ICT and Creative Arts, as well as participation in other educational exchange activities.

- **PSLC Students & Parents Gathering:** On 16 January 2021, students and parents were gathering at the centre with their teachers and the Chairperson of SKK, Mr Neb Sinthay. Every parent was invited to the centre to discover and witness the environment where their children lodging. The chairperson emphasised that it is significant for each parent to fully understand their children's wellbeing and mental fortitude. They must keep closely connected with their children who live at PSLC. Taking advantage of the visit, students' parents were required to inspect houses and surrounding atmospheres to make a good sense of their children's living spaces.

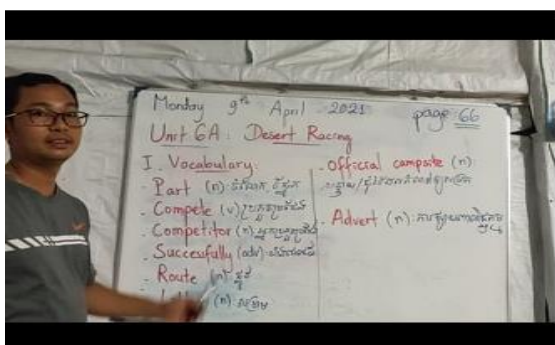
The Chairperson reminded that both new and old students are required to strictly observe all rules and regulations, be responsible and determined to do excellence in school, take dignified ownership at the centre, show graceful attitudes and behaviours as well as share and live together in a harmonious brotherhood.



Orientation to Parents: Returning to our beautiful boarding houses

❖ E-Learning and Challenging:

The classes were divided to fit different grades and levels and correspond to their schedules at public school. In late February, to prevent severe consequences from community spreading, all schools were closed and our students were required to return to their home village. We have to lock down our centre to comply with the authority. Since they are at the secondary level and mostly possess or have access to a smartphone, they can keep following the lessons. Teachers used social media, YouTube, Telegram, Group Chat, Google Classroom and necessary E-learning recourses available as well as recording videos as a medium for learning.



Challenging Me: E-learning for scholarship students of PSLC

❖ Maintenance and Renovation:

In order to create a healthy homestay, it is crucial to keep the spaces tidy clean and green. We have to refurbish and maintain the centre in good condition every year. Residency students are obligated to work together to decorate an enjoyable living quarter for themselves.

- Cleaning & Gardening Campaign: Teachers and Caretakers led students to clean up the centre, collect garbage, wash toilets, arrange bedrooms ... etc. They also take care of the home garden, plants and flowers as well as cutting grasses ... etc.
- Repainting and Decorating Classrooms: They have worked together to paint and decorate their classrooms to look fresh and feel anew. They hung some favourable pictures and portraits to create the ambience look alive.
- Solar Reflecting Lives: To make everyone's life easier and better for safety reasons, under the supervision of the teacher, 4 solar panel lights have been installed within the compound. Students were excited to learn more about the solar lighting system.
- Living with Covid-19: To stay resilient and protected, we need to better understand and stricter practice the safety measures correctly, because fear is hopeless. Posters promoting awareness of Covid-19 are available for everyone to observe and exercise the safety norm. We have to follow the "3 DO'S and 3 DON'TS".
 - (3 DO'S = Do wear a mask; Do wash hands frequently; Do keep a social distance)
 - (3 DON'TS = Don't go to crowded places; Don't go to enclosed places without ventilation; Don't touch each other, shake hands or hug)
 - COVID-19 stands for: Co = Corona, Vi = Virus, D = Disease, 19 = 2019
- Alert & Security Checking: To ensure safety for the centre, since its closure, the teacher and caretaker take turns to come checking into the centre 3 times every week. When doable residency students are encouraged to come for a monthly cleanup. All in all, we have to ensure and well-maintaining safety of the centre.



Boarding Me: Clean up and refurbish, let lighting up!

4. Community Development and Social Welfares

- ❖ **Rice to Lives:** SKK were able to provide some rice bags (50 Kgs) to the three most disadvantaged families in Rong Vean village. This is to temporarily help support their basic needs, especially during this life-threatening pandemic time.



Rice to Lives: Rice bags and bags to lives!

❖ **Rong Veau Solar Street Lights:** For safety and convenience within the community, SKK has installed Solar LED lights at the road intersection, which made the village shine every single night.



Night Sunshine: Shining at the Rong Veau Village

❖ **Helping Hands In Times of Need:** We believe every small contrition will make a difference. SKK donated 160 packages of drinking water to the District Quarantine Centre in Phnom Srok. We hope our goodwill gesture will lighten some heavy work of our life-saver frontline white-shirt soldiers, in combatting against Covid-19. The District Governor expressed his gratitude and welcomed all kinds of contributions during this pandemic period.



Water for Life: Drinking water, flushing away the Coronavirus!

- ❖ **Environment education:** Particularly during monsoons with daily heavy rain, to keep maintaining good hygiene practices becomes an essential key to healthy living. Our students in grades 7, 8, 9 came together to move the flooded garbage boxes into the dried area. They are taking good care of their living environment and also learning to help each other for a good cause in their community.



A healthy environment is our community lifestyle

- ❖ **Small Gifts With Big Meanings:** Our friends from Phnom Penh went to visit the village with a big heart to help children at Rong Veau Primary School. They brought some educational materials such as notebooks, pens, pencils, colour markers and face masks to hand-delivered children at school. Their little gifts with great care motivated children to study harder and feel enthusiastic.



Little gifts with a big kind heart

5. Budget and Expenditures

Balance Brings Forward to January 01, 2021		\$ 1,166.50
Funds Received from Hope for the Children, Belgium		\$ 37,998.40
Budget items		
1	Personnel Costs	12,600.00
2	Support PSLC and Scholarship Students	6,660.00
3	Support Rong Veau Primary School	967.00
4	Equipment, furniture and maintenance	3,953.79
5	Support Community & Social Welfare	555.00

6	Operation costs	1,469.90
7	Management's visits and monitoring	1,861.00
8	New school building	9,925.00
9	Other incidentals	1,631.60
	Grand Total	\$ 39,623.29
	<i>Overspending in 2021</i>	<i>(\$458.38)</i>

6. Looking forward

2021 was a tough year for all of us, despite looking forward to a greater endeavour. SKK is thrilled to continue our collaboration at all levels of Phnom Srok and Banteay Meanchey local authorities to improve the quality of life at the community level, particularly educational learning and teaching innovation.

Together with our resolute strategic partnership, Belgium Hope for the Children and Miss Belgium, plus other individual philanthropists, friends and great minds think alike, SKK will be striving for greater achievement in the year to come as follows:

- Improve E-learning technique and equipment for children at Rong Vean Primary School.
- Continue to assess and follow through with PSLC secondary students to support their learning progress and distance learning encountered.
- Collaborate to design a new classroom to form a recreational space for children learning.
- Call for encouraging assistance on creative arts activities to cultivate children's critical thinking.
- Call for support to design a reading room for children to cultivate reading habits.
- Call for support to establish a clean drinking water supply at PSLC.
- Create a secured space for motorbikes parking at PSLC.
- Support environmental education, public health and clean drinking water supplies.
- Continue supporting the disadvantaged families in Rong Vean village.