

Cambodia: «Vieng Vey» Project

Improved education and livelihood for poor farmer children



Project region

District Teuk Phos, province
Kampong Chhnang

Project duration

01.01.2018 – 31.12.2020

Project budget

CHF 550'000

Background

Compared to its neighbouring countries like Vietnam or Thailand, Cambodia is still relatively underdeveloped. The general education is very low and more than 30% of the population – especially farmers in rural regions – live below the poverty line. The reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge (1975-1978), during which 2 million people died, left long-lasting marks. Through the abolition of school and pagodas as well as the persecution of teachers, the education sector was completely destroyed.

The Project “Vieng Vey” offers high-quality education from kindergarten to secondary school for children of poor families in the Teuk Phos District. Most people in Teuk Phos work as rice farmers. They often face food shortages and are unable to ensure their families’ livelihood through their work. Often, parents take up casual or seasonal work on top of farming. Therefore, it is common that children have to help at home or on the fields, with school being a low priority. School fees and a long school way add to children only visiting school irregularly or dropping out.

Goals

- Enhance equal access to education
- Improve school facilities, schoolyard and sanitation
- Ensure effective teaching and learning
- Ensure effective school management
- Strengthen the participation of families and school committees
- Increase income for poor students’ families

Beneficiaries

- 2 kindergartens, 2 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.
- 1'000 pupils and 27 teachers per year.
- 1'230 family members profit from the livelihood projects.
- Around 27'800 people in the project area benefit indirectly.

Partner organization

SOFDEC was founded and registered in October 2006 as an independent Cambodian NGO.

Vision: Better standard of living for people in rural communities around Kampong Chhnang.

Thematic Focus: Furthering income, basic education, environmentally friendly farming methods, micro finance and sustainable use of natural resources.

www.sofdec.org

Activities

- Distribution of study materials, such as books, pens and school uniforms.
- Support through provision of bicycles for 250 poor students who live far away from school.
- Awareness campaign for school registration and allocation of scholarships.
- Improved infrastructure, schoolyard and sanitation in 4 schools.
- Child friendly teaching methods and materials ensuring quality and efficacy of teaching and learning.
- School management training with a focus on efficiency and sustainability.
- Strengthened collaboration between the school and its committees. Parents' involvement is crucial.
- Livelihood projects for poor families. Individual plans are developed based on the work force, available land and other resources.

Results from the predecessor project «Ches Pi Rien», 2015-2017

- A new school building was built and the school infrastructure at all 4 schools was improved.
- 220 poor families of school children as well as 21 teachers and 22 members of the school committee started livelihood projects and improved their income.
- 4 schools and 2 kindergartens received teaching and learning materials as well as equipment for games and sports.
- The libraries received 1'830 new books.
- In order to continuously improve the quality of education, teachers underwent further training in different topics.
- A productive cooperation between the schools, the local department of education and the school committees has been established.

Sustainability

The project helps schools to be child friendly and more attractive. As they are state-owned, the schools continue to exist after the project has ended. The improvements regarding the school's infrastructure will remain intact for a long time. Due to awareness campaigns and the involvement of the population people now value education much more and the schools have a bigger significance in the communities. These are sustainable long term changes. Families are motivated to send their children to school. Poor families get the opportunity to improve their income through individual and sustainable livelihood projects.

The project improves the cooperation between the education authorities, the schools, the parents and the NGO's. The school management is strengthened and improved. These complementary activities will sustainably promote a high quality education.



New study material, furnishings for libraries and creative teaching methods



Families and teachers improve their income through livelihood projects

CO-OPERAID is engaged in the international children's right to education in East Africa and South Asia. The association was founded in 1981, is politically independent and denominationally independent and ZEW certified since 1998.

Vision: Qualitative good education for children and youths as a basis for a self-determined and dignified life.

Thematic Focus: Basic education and vocation training with complementary elements such as fighting poverty, farming income projects, furthering girls, Aids prevention, health.

www.co-operaid.ch