



Ches Pi Rien Project, Cambodia: 2015-2017 report

Education for children of poor rice farmers in Cambodia

<u>Project location</u>	Cambodia, Kampong Chhnang Province, Kampong Leng District
<u>Swiss partner</u>	CO-OPERAID, Kornhausstrasse 49, P.O. Box, 8042 Zurich, Tel. 044 363 57 87, info@co-operaid.ch, www.co-operaid.ch Responsible: Marcel Auf der Maur, aufdermaur@co-operaid.ch
<u>Cambodian partner</u>	The Society for Community Development in Cambodia (SOFDEC) Toul Kralanh Village, Kampong Chhnang Commune, Kampong Chhnang City, Kampong Chhnang Province, www.sofdec.org , sofdec@camintel.com Responsible: Dr. Khun Leang Hak, Executive Director, Phone 026 989 03
<u>Project duration</u>	1.1.2015–31.12.2017
<u>Reporting period</u>	1.1.2015–31.12.2017
<u>Expenditure</u>	CHF 367'887

April 2018

Summary

The project was implemented according to the planning. It successfully managed to make the project a joint effort of school staff, parents, education authorities and NGOs. The six rural partner schools (2 lower secondary schools, 2 primary schools, 2 Kindergartens) made substantial progress in the 3-years project period. Furthermore the project enabled individual livelihood support for the poorest families of school children and improved the earnings of rounded 250 families. Most important results are as follows.

- **Improved study results:** 97% of students in lower secondary schools and in primary schools graduated (before project 73% and 77% respectively). Enrolment with 96% was substantially higher than before the project. Drop-out rates reduced to 1.3% (from 24% or 1 out of 4 before).
- **Improved school facilities:** the project constructed two new school buildings in order to provide more space and developed the school compounds. The provincial education department contributed a new teacher's house and a building for a kindergarten. The schools reached between 90-95% of the Cambodian child friendly school score – a very encouraging achievement.
- **Increased awareness for education:** enrolment and awareness campaigns as well as school events (school birthday, sports day) and the school materials support for children increased the awareness for education. Higher enrolment and lower drop-out rates are a result of it.
- **Better school management:** trainings and guidance for School Management Committees (SSC) and school directors/teachers were offered. SSC's developed realistic action plans and practised transparency regarding the school funds. The funds attracted donations and support from the community. The project built the capacity of the local authorities and communities including planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Increased income for poor families:** the livelihood projects have been set up after an individual consultation with each of the nominated families. Families received support depending on their needs. The projects received support for 1 to 2 years. Most of the projects until now have been successful and the families increased their income and earnings. The idea is that the projects continue in future.

The total project expenditure in CHF was 367'887 whereas the budgeted expenditure was CHF 446'000. The reason is the currency exchange rate that remained favourable for the Swiss Franc (CHF) to the Cambodian Riel (KHR) during the whole project period. The total cost in local currency corresponded the budgeted local cost to 95%.

CO-OPERAID thanks Eagle Foundation for the appreciated contribution that helped to set up child friendly school facilities and school environment (objective 2)! This report refers to results of all project objectives and shows details of objective 2 (chapters objective 2 and financial report objective 2).

Background

The conditions for project implementation were favourable. Most importantly there was an effective reform of the national education sector after the appointment of a new responsible minister in 2014. The working conditions of teachers improved greatly. The salary of primary and lower secondary school teachers is about \$180-200 now (\$120-140 at project start). All the schools opened a bank account and government support is transferred regularly. It consists of a Program Budget (yearly per students support; \$2,25 for primary schools and \$4.75 for lower secondary schools) plus a yearly amount according to the facilities of the school (\$200-675 in case of the project partner schools).

Economically and politically the picture is not so bright. According to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has increased from \$1'043 in 2013 to \$1'225 in

2015. At the same time inequality widens. In rural parts land grabbing of private companies remains a big issue with repeated interventions of the army to crack down protests.

On the political stage prime minister Hun Sen closes his grip on the country. With national elections ahead the popular opposition party (Cambodia National Rescue Party) was banned, their elected representatives removed from their posts and its leader arrested. Cambodia seems on the way to an authoritarian society with Hun Sen at its head and his kin and clientele supporting.

Project main goal and achievements

Main goal: Better education for children and improved livelihood for poor farmer families in Kampong Leng District, Cambodia

- Objective 1: To enhance equal access to education
- Objective 2: To provide child friendly school facilities and environment
- Objective 3: To improve the quality of education
- Objective 4: To ensure effective school management
- Objective 5: To increase the income of poor student's families and teachers

Project implementation, under the responsibility of the NGOs Sofdec and CO-OPERAID, was conducted in close partnership of the school staff, community and parents representatives and education authorities. Project services were discussed among this stakeholders. Teacher trainings were selected in discussion with the school staff and education authorities. Beneficiaries' selections were done by committees comprising school directors, school teachers, school support committee members, village chiefs, commune chiefs and education officers from the district department. The project established a close collaboration of the mentioned stakeholders.

Number of students

School	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	Students	Teachers	Students	Teachers	Students	Teachers
Samrong Kindergarten	31	1	31	1	32	1
Domnakorkos Kindergarten	29	1	29	1	27	1
Samrong Primary School	184	3	189	3	181	5
Domnakorkos Primary School	107	3	87	3	77	4
Pur Secondary School	175	5	198	5	217	5
Chronok Secondary School	330	8	390	8	442	12
Total	856	21	924	21	976	28

Education quality indicators

School	Enrollment %		Graduation %		Repetition %		Drop-out %		Attendance %	
	16/17	project start	16/17	p.st.	16/17	p.st.	16/17	p.st.	16/17	p.st.
Samrong	98	89	97	73	3	9	0.5	16	96	68
Domnakorkos	98	85	96	81	4	9	0.3	11	97	85
Average	98	87	97	77	3	9	0.4	13	97	77
Pur	97	84	97	70	2	3	1.5	27	96	76
Chronok	96	85	96	75	2	5	2.0	21	94	82
Average	96	84	97	73	2	4	1.3	24	95	79

Objective 2: To provide child friendly school facilities and environment

Samrong Primary School

- Fence construction, school gate repair and water pump installation, flag pole installation
- About 8000m² land of the school campus was cleared, filled with 1'435m³ soil and levelled. Installation of sports and play facilities
- Garden of 180m length (flower garden and vegetable garden for demonstration/practice) created
- Classroom walls painted and decoration with old sayings, numerals, Khmer alphabet etc.

Domnakorkos Primary School

- New school building (5 classrooms) was constructed. In use since the school year 2016/2017
- Fence construction and school gate construction
- School campus was cleared and filled with soil. Flower garden (50 meters) was created

Pur Lower Secondary School

- Fence construction
- School ground levelling (about 10'000 m²). Installation of sports and play facilities
- 2 resting shelters with sitting benches constructed

Chronok Lower Secondary School

- New school building (2 classrooms) was constructed
- 2 resting shelters with sitting benches constructed
- School campus cleared and levelled (about 10,000 m²). Installation of sports and play facilities



Old primary school building at Domnakorkos.



During construction.



New 5-classroom building.



Sports team with new equipment.

Provision of school equipment

The schools were supported with materials like: solar panel, bookcases, meeting tables and chairs, water filters, first aid box, toilet materials and trash storages.

Computer course

20 computers with 2 printers were installed at both lower secondary schools. The schools started basic computer lessons, however with irregularities at the beginning (availability of teacher with computer skills, increased electricity cost, power breakdown). The Swiss volunteer teachers (see below) assisted to start the computer lessons.

School libraries

School libraries (integrated in the classrooms) were established in both primary schools. The project provided book shelters, 2'997 story books/reading books (history, Khmer legends, agriculture, health), 172 learning games. Teachers were trained and implemented a one hour library class per week in their curriculum – to improve the students reading abilities or to do creative work. Library class is popular amongst all the pupils. 75% of the students borrow and read books.

Instruction materials provision

The project provided instruction materials to support the lessons: global map, papers, pens, reading books, notebooks, board rulers, paper clip, ring binder, staples, calculators, scissors... etc. Picture books, drawing books, geometry pictures, picture of traffic light and signs, picture of animals... etc. were provided to both primary schools. Secondary school textbooks of all subjects were updated but not provided in sufficient number from the education department. Therefore the project provided rounded 1'000 additional textbooks.

Provision of sports materials

The project provided sports materials such as volleyballs, footballs, sports cloth, sports shoes to the four partner schools. Pur and Chronok lower secondary schools both set up a volleyball team. Samrong, Domnakorkos and Pur schools set up an athletics team.

Contribution of stakeholders

The project successfully maintained a local network of stakeholders who collectively contributed to reach the project aims. Most important contributions from stakeholders were the following:

- **Education authorities:** Staff from the provincial and district departments of education participated in all trainings and events of the project. The provincial department (PoE) appointed four additional primary school teachers, contributed a new teacher's house to Chronok (\$26,300) and one new Kindergarten building for Samrong (6m x 6m, \$3'000). PoE also provided students textbooks and 3 bookshelves to all schools and 45 tables (\$2'000) to Chronok.
- **School support committee members:** the SSC members joined all activities (meetings and trainings) regularly. They took part in the selection of poor families and did social work by guiding the families who had problems (livelihood project, student's weak performance or absenteeism). Samrong SSC members joined the teachers' house construction.
- **Parents:** The parents contributed materials for the teachers' house and donated money during school events. They volunteered in the construction work for teachers' house and for school campus. The high attendance of parents in meetings and trainings was very positive.
- **Students and teachers:** Students and teachers in Chronok helped to set up the school fence, the volleyball and football fields. They also assisted for the livelihood project of a poor family (parents with mental problems) and built a pig house. Students in all schools clean the classrooms and the school campus. Regarding the teachers in general their attendance in meetings and co-operation with the project was very good.



New computer class in secondary school.



School library training for teachers.



New water pump in Samrong school.



Construction of a teachers house through community members.



Creation of a school development plan with project coordinator Piseth Moth (left).



SOFDEC and CO-OPERAID visiting the district education department.

Case studys

Sophen Phat, 11 years, lives with his parents and 3 sisters in a small wooden house next to the rice field in Samrong village. He attends grade 5 of Samrong primary school. His oldest sister (16) dropped-out of school and works in the garment factory now. The other sisters still are in school. The area where the family lives is flooded during rainy season. Sophens parents are farmers and fishers. They produce about 2 tons of rice in dry season for their own consumption and catch fish in rainy season with an income of about \$5 a day. With this income they live in poor conditions. The regular salary of their daughter is their insurance for survival. Ches Pi Rien project started a chicken raising project with the family (project contribution of \$150). After 6 months they earned \$200 with the chicken and kept 10 hens, 2 roosters and 50 chicks. With their profit they also invested in the rice field in order to increase the harvest. Sophen is very happy that his parents are now able to buy school materials for him and his sisters.



Reurn Rin, 42 years, is a school support committee member of Chronok lower secondary school. Together with his wife and daughter he lives in Kandal village. Two years before his son joined the temple to become a monk. Mr. Rin completed primary school and is respected as a diligent and honest community member. Therefore he was suggested as school committee member. He thinks education is important for the younger generation. He thanks the NGOs for the support given to Chronok School like students materials, teaching materials and renovations. The family wants their daughter Sreyvuth (as seen on the photo together with her father) to

study in high school. Currently she is 16 and attends grade 9 of Chronok School. Mr. Rin received help through the program to start a livelihood project that would help him support his daughter. With this support he managed to enlarge his pig raising endeavours from 2 pigs to 18 pigs and now also owns a sow. His income increased considerably in 2017 and comes from several sources now. With his rice field Mr. Rin earns about \$1'000 a year. The profit from pig raising was \$850. Mr. Rin used the profit to buy a rice milling machine and a motorbike. The rent of the machine brings him about \$40 per month. He feels that his living conditions have improved a lot already.

Financial report: objective 2 detailed cost

Ches Pi Rien II, 2015-2017, financial report	2015	2016	2017
Objective 2: To provide child friendly school facilities and environment	33'380	65'986	9'742
<u>Samrong Primary School</u>		0	0
2.1.1 Renovate school gate, and fence		0	0
2.1.2 School campus improvement		3'413	3'332
Soil-filling		945	1'883
School-bench		578	0
School garden construction		0	1'449
Fee for construction		0	0
Water pump		1'890	0
<u>Domnakorkos Primary School</u>		0	0
2.2.2 School building construction		50'190	0
<u>Pur Lower Secondary School</u>		0	0
2.3.1 Repairing school fence		0	0
2.3.2 School campus improvement		194	1'082
School Campus leveling		0	0
Football goal installation		89	0
Volleyball installation		53	0
Construction fee		53	0
Resting shelters with benches		0	1'082
<u>Chronok Lower Secondary School</u>		0	0
2.4.1 School campus improvement		1'071	0
School Campus leveling		0	0
Football goal installation		0	0
Volleyball installation		0	0
Construction Fee		0	0
Resting shelters with benches		1'071	0
2.4.2 School building construction		0	0
		0	0
2.5 Distribution of instruction materials to the 4 partner schools		1'295	1'285
Instruction materials		1'263	1'256
Transportation		32	29
2.6.1 Provision of school equipment to Samrong		1'587	1'519
Bookcases		0	218
Water filters		0	0
Trash bin		0	0
First aid box		21	0
Book shelters		236	0
Reading books		1'272	916
Game and playing equipment		0	357
Flower pot, Toilet brush, soap		0	0
Transportation		58	29
2.6.2 Provision of school equipment to Domnakorkos		1'587	967

Trash Bins		0	0
Water filters		0	0
Book shelters		236	0
Reading books		1'272	939
Playing tools		0	0
Transportation		58	29
First aid box		21	0
2.6.3 provision of school equipment to Pur		3'218	681
Bookcases		0	0
Water filters		0	0
Trust bins		0	0
First aid box		21	0
Computers		2'759	0
Computer tables		399	0
Printer		146	0
Meeting table		0	236
15 chairs		0	394
Transportation		93	51
2.6.4 provision of school equipment to Chronok		3'208	681
Bookcases		0	0
Trust bins		0	0
First aid box		21	0
Computers		2'749	0
Printer		146	0
Meeting table		0	236
15 Chairs		0	394
Transportation		93	51
2.7 provision of sport materials to 4 partner schools		224	193
Volleyballs		72	69
Footballs		101	82
Sports clothes		21	0
Sports shoes		30	0
Bamboo ball		0	42

The contribution of Eagle Foundation was used to reach the goals of objective 2: improvement of school facilities, school campus and equipment for the schools.

- Total expenses for objective 2 were CHF 109'108. CHF 33'380 was spent in 2015. The contribution of Eagle Foundation was used to cover expenses in the years 2016 and 2017 (total expenses of CHF 75'728).
- CHF 20'000 was used to cover expenses of Domnakorkos school building construction. The remaining donation was spent in 2017 (total annual cost of \$9'742).

Global financial statement 2015-2017 (in CHF)

Project expenditure, in CHF	Totals
Objective 1: enhance equal access to education	37'113
Study materials and bicycles support	32'021
Education awareness (meetings, events)	5'092
Objective 2: provide child friendly school facilities and environment	109'108
School gates, fences, school campus, water pump	14'814
School buildings construction (2 buildings; 5-room, 2-room)	72'802
Equipment, instruction materials, sports materials	21'492
Objective 3: improve the quality of education	8'224
Teacher trainings	3'778
Exchange visit, students tests and sport events	4'446
Objective 4: ensure effective school management	8'647
Trainings and meetings SSC, school directors	7'593
School fund	1'054
Objective 5: Increase incomes for the poor student families and teachers	43'792
Selection, meetings, trainings	3'997
Livelihood projects for students families	35'070
Livelihood projects for teachers	4'725
Project staff salaries	73'310
Salaries field staff	50'587
Insurances field staff	6'343
Salaries office staff	16'380
Project monitoring, evaluation and audit	21'941
Administration cost in Cambodia	12'407
CO-OPERAID project management cost*	53'344
Grand total	367'887

*CO-OPERAID project-related costs: development, management and monitoring of the project, project visit including flight tickets (Economy), fundraising, administration costs.

Project funding

Public sector (communities, cities, lottery funds)	45'500
Foundations, organisations	198'762
CO-OPERAID's own funds	125'000
Total	369'262

Financial statement variation

CHF 244'00 was contributed by partners, and CHF 125'000 by CO-OPERAID. The cost in CHF was considerably lower than the budgeted cost of CHF 446'000 (variance CHF 78'000). Main reasons are:

- CHF remained strong during the whole project period and currency exchange rate was therefore more favourable than budgeted.
- Activities costs were CHF 18'000 lower than expected (lower construction cost, lower monitoring cost). All in all the cost in local currency was close to the budget.
- CO-OPERAID's project management cost also lowered because of the decreased project expense in CHF.

The figures in this report are adapted to the average currency exchange rate of 3 years (CHF:\$, 1.05). They might differ slightly to figures in annual reports of single years 2015-2017 because of the adapted exchange rate.