

File form: 0584-2108 Final Report for the Eagle Foundation – October 2021

Emergency food assistance for destitute people in Ou Chum District, Ratanakiri Province

Funds received: 21/04/21

Amount of grant: GBP 16,579

Conversion rate: Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.38 USD 19/10/21

Total number of beneficiaries: 200 families received food parcels, 30 families received water filters and 30 families have access to a rice mill

Expenditure: GBP 16,629

Overspend: GBP 50

Ou Chum Commune, Ou Chum District, Ratanakiri Province

Ou Chum is one of seven communes in Ou Chum District, Ratanakiri Province, located in north-east Cambodia. Ou Chum commune itself is divided into eight villages:

- Ou Chum
- Tharang Chorn
- Svay
- L'eun Kraeng
- L'eun Chorn
- Tang Kreng
- L'eun Kangmis
- Tang Pleng
- Tang Kamal



The total population of Ou Chum Commune is 5,326 with 2,833 women. Ou Chum District has the highest number of indigenous people in Ratanakiri Province. The majority of families rely on income from farming, the average wage is US \$2 a day.

COVID-19

Ratanakiri province saw the worst of the outbreak in June 2021. Many areas were placed in lockdown and strict curfews were enforced for many weeks. Ratanakiri Provincial authorities installed checkpoints to control traffic in and out of the province. Each person had to have their temperature checked, to identify their departure location and final destination with a reasonable purpose of travel, so that they can proceed. The authorities also ordered the closing of restaurants, markets, and banned public gatherings.



The entry checkpoint was installed at the Steung Treng-Ratanakiri border

Ou Chum district has a high proportion of indigenous communities. Even before the outbreak could be confirmed in Ratanakiri, its indigenous communities took matters in to their own hands and closed many villages to outsiders. In Ou Chum, villagers held traditional ceremonies, lasting five days and five nights, to pray to ancestral spirits to protect them from COVID-19. For the first three days, no one was allowed to even walk outside their homes. At the end of ceremony, they roasted a whole pig and celebrated in prayer.



Members of the Indigenous community hold a meeting to discuss closing their villages due to the fear of COVID-19



"No entry for the outsiders" – this is written on signs in front of each indigenous village throughout Ou Chum District

Project activities

In May 2021, the Cambodian government once again enforced a nationwide lockdown, restricting all travel between provinces. Delivery of the food packages, water filters, and rice mills was postponed. As soon as travel restrictions were eased in August 2021, IMPACT Cambodia was able to organise delivery and distribution of all the items in the budget.

200 food packages were delivered to Ou Chum Health Centre, and distributed to families in Ou Chum Commune. The families came from four villages; Ou Chum, L'eun Chorng, L'eun Kangmis, and Torng Kamal village. Families able to receive the food packages were prioritised accordingly; families with a disabled member, headed by a female, with a pregnant women, and families on little to no income.

Each parcel contained:

- 30kg of rice
- 2 boxes of canned fish (20 cans)
- 6 boxes of noodles
- 2 bottles of soy sauce (800ml/bottle)
- 2 bottles of cooking oil (1L/bottle)
- 2kg of iodized salt
- 4 bars of soap
- 3 packs of detergent (450g/pack)
- 1 box of face masks (50 masks/box)





All items were delivered to Ratanakiri Province and stored at Ou Chum Health Centre



All the items were delivered to each target village the next day



Distribution of the food packages and water filters was organised by a team which included; IMPACT Cambodia outreach team, Ou Chum Health Centre staff and members of the Ratanakiri Provincial Hospital.



IMPACT Cambodia's outreach team organised delivery of four rice mills to Ou Chum Health Centre. We are delighted to report that thanks to the success of our Covid emergency appeal we were able to fund a further three rice mills for the use of communities in Ou Chum Commune. The Rice mill generously by Fondation Eagle has been delivered to a community building not far from Ou Chum Health Centre. 30 families already have access to a reliable ongoing and sustainable source of nutrition, they expect this to be available for another 10 families after the next harvest.

30 water filters were distributed amongst families living in Ou Chum Commune. These families were organised to ensure that those affected by COVID-19, on little to no income, or those with a disabled member were prioritised.

IMPACT Cambodia's outreach team gave the representatives of the families' guidance on how to use the water filters and how to maintain and clean the filters.



Khanh Sovy – Head of Ou Chum Commune

Khanh Sovy is the head of Ou Chum Commune and very active and busy in her work. She is part of the Kreung ethnic group and works hard to support vulnerable members of the community, which includes many members of the indigenous communities.

"Ou Chum Commune has the highest number of indigenous people compared to other communes in Ou Chum District. Indigenous people only depend on natural resources, but while natural resources are being lost now, they have to go outside to earn a living. So, they are more vulnerable, especially during this pandemic. They completely lost their regular income, and their awareness of hygiene is low due to their traditional way of living. The shortage of food package in the house is the major challenge for indigenous people. These food packages would really help making it more reliable for many people to maintain their livelihoods until harvesting time. This is the very first time ever for us to receive this much of food donation for our people" Khanh Sovy.



Thou Khoeur - Ou Chum District Governor

Thou Khoeur has been working in Ratanakiri Province for more than 10 years. He is very dedicated to the people of Ou Chum District and he is well respected. The District Governor was delighted to participate in the Feeding Program activities.

"This is the very right time for right people in the right areas. People in our areas are not allowed to travel to any other villages or move from place to place like before, which made it very difficult for them to make any income or find food. We, the Government also did our best to provide as much as we could but it was still not enough." Thou Khoeur



Chan Sarom

Chan Sarom is a single mother living with her son in Ou Chum village. She is 65 years old. Her 35 year old son has a mental health illness and she is his carer. She works as a dish washer when she can find work. When the team asked her how she felt receiving the food package, she was silent for a few minutes and she tried to hold back her tears. Then she replied:

"This food will help me and my family for a long time. During this pandemic, it is hard for me to earn a living. Sometimes, I eat only rice with soy sauce because I cannot even make \$0.25 per day. I am very happy and I would like to thank you for this food package." Chan Sarom



Sven Sarv

Sven Sarv, 76, lives in Ou Chum village. She is from the Kreung ethnic group. She is a widow and lives alone. Her husband died just a few years ago. Previously, she would walk for three or four hours to Banlung town to sell vegetables, but she is unable to do this as she is getting more frail. It is now very difficult for her to go outside the village to earn a living. She was very grateful to receive her food package and thanked all those who had helped her.



Yom Kantol

Yom Kantol's family live in Tang Kamal village. There are six members in his family. He could not come to receive food package on the same day as other people because he was sick. One day later, the head of Ou Chum District, Thou Khoeur, along with his team, brought the food package to Kantol's house.

"I am happy that I receive this big donation of food. This is the first time for my family to have these boxes of noodle and this is the very first time ever that we have this much of food in our house. I used to buy only three or four packs and we share it together. Thank you" Yom Kantol.



Expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
	3 month supply for 200 families	3 month supply for 200 families
Emergency food assistance parcels	13,200	13,200
<i>30 kg rice</i>	<i>9,600</i>	<i>9,600</i>
<i>Noodles 10 packets</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>1,800</i>
<i>Soy sauce 1 litre</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>600</i>
<i>Cooking oil 2 litre</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>600</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>600</i>
Rice Mill Machine	700	700
<i>Benefitting 30 families (approximately 150 people)</i>		
Water Filters x 30	990	990
<i>Benefitting 30 families (approximately 150 people)</i>		
Logistics and transportation	900	950
Sub-total	15,790	15,840
Project Management @5%	789	789
Grand total	16,579	16,629

Conclusion

The generous support of Fondation Eagle has enabled many vulnerable families to access nutritious food that will support them for many months. Providing a rice mill provides a sustainable source of food that will benefit many hundreds of people living in Ou Chum Commune. The water filters provided ensure a safe source of water for the most vulnerable of families.

“Thankfully and luckily, you have come to provide these items at a time of great need. I strongly believe that we are walking our same path in this matter. Thank you for always thinking of the people here, you were not hesitated to lend a helping hand.” Thou Khoeur, Ou Chum District Governor