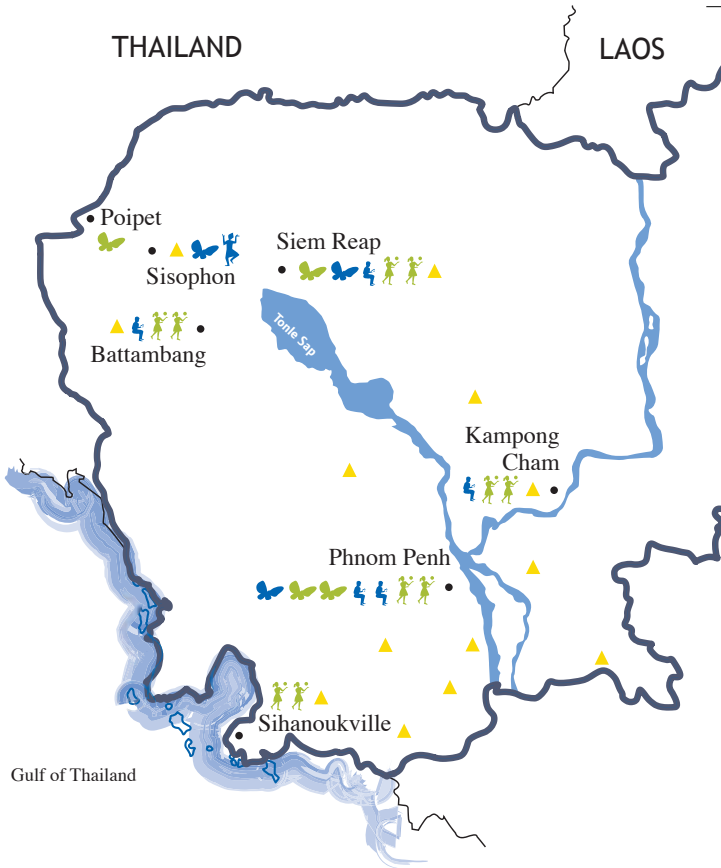




Krousar Thmey
គ្រួសារថ្មី



Krousar Thmey - New Family
First Cambodian foundation
assisting underprivileged children



BY CAMBODIANS FOR CAMBODIANS







Since its creation in 1991, Krousar Thmey (“New Family” in Khmer) has been the foremost Cambodian organization assisting underprivileged children. Non political and non-religious, the organization is state-approved in the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France.

Krousar Thmey seeks to provide underprivileged children with emotional, social, educational, and material support that is appropriate to their environment. This assistance is designed to help these children develop into independent and responsible adults, while respecting their culture and traditions. Krousar Thmey’s programmes are designed to integrate these children into their culture and environment, and not to isolate them from it.

For Krousar Thmey, long range development cannot be managed without the participation and responsibility of local partners. Thus all our projects are run by Cambodians: 360 of them work daily in collaboration with three European volunteers, who help with communications and financial matters. Fundraising is carried out by volunteers from European branches of Krousar Thmey.



VIETNAM

-  Street children temporary centre
-  Permanent protection centre
-  Family house
-  School for deaf or blind children
-  Integrated classes
-  School of Arts

KEY FIGURES

14 programmes
and 81 centres of activity
all over Cambodia

1,100 in our direct care and
2,700 others benefit
from assistance

360 Khmer employees
and 3 European volunteers

less than 4 % of
administrative costs





OBJECTIVES

To provide appropriate care for abandoned or orphaned children, for street children or for children who have been victims of child trafficking, so that these children can become autonomous and responsible adults.

To provide both educational and moral formation which are consistent with traditional Khmer traditions and values.

THE « STREET CHILDREN » PROGRAMME

The dangers of the street

From 10,000 to 20,000 children fend for themselves in the streets of Phnom Penh. (Source: UNICEF)

2/3 are addicted to drugs or alcohol. (Source: Krousar Thmey)

3,000 children are victims of trafficking every year to Thailand.

The protective shelters

3 street children temporary centres

The children who accept our help are welcomed in our centres for 3 to 6 months in an attempt to stabilize them. During this time they receive basic care, concepts of hygiene, and moral education.

For those children who are successfully stabilized, the educators investigate what reasons lead the child to a life in the street, and evaluate the most appropriate long-term solution for each child, planned with the child himself.

Family reintegration

When the family circumstances permit, the reintegration of the child into his own family is the preferred option. The child then becomes an “outside case” and is monitored regularly by Krousar Thmey. When necessary the family is assisted financially, or given direct material support. Krousar Thmey assists nearly 420 such families each year.

3 permanent protection centres

These centres receive up to 45 children under 16 years old, living in precarious conditions and who cannot be reintegrated into their families. Life in the centre is organized according to traditional khmer life style and values: children grow up in a stable and protective environment while participating in daily chores.

10 family houses

The youngest - or the most traumatized - are cared for by a Khmer couple who, in addition to their own children, are responsible for raising as many as 10 such children. This family structure can keep track of the child’s development and facilitates his return to a balanced life.

The social reintegration

Vocational training

Those young people who have had delayed schooling, or who are eager to enter active life, are referred to the various vocational training programmes offered by other NGOs who work in partnership with Krousar Thmey (Friends, Salabai, Artisans d’Angkor, etc.). In these programmes they can be trained as cooks, hairdressers, mechanics, and many other professions.



AFTER KROUSAR THMEY STORIES



Soeun Sokny, 23 years old

Arriving from Site II border refugee camp with her two sisters, Soeun Sokny was welcomed in 1993 to Takhmao, a protection centre based in the south of Phnom Penh.

“Presently, my father lives in Thailand and my mother died. Thanks to Krousar Thmey, I received affection, cares and education.

Now I’m a student in economics of the Royal University of law and economic sciences. In addition I’m working as a dental assistant four hours a day.”

Soun Rathanak, 31 years old

Abandoned by his very poor parents in 1991, Rathanak was welcomed into Site II refugee camp and then raised by Krousar Thmey.



“I was welcomed by Krousar Thmey into the Site II refugee camp near the Thai border and then integrated the permanent protection centre of Takhmao until 1999.

Krousar Thmey gave me affection and education that I had never had. Currently my wife and I have two children and I’m tuktuk driver in Siem Reap. I spend my free time painting watercolours for Krousar Thmey.

I want to kindly thank Krousar Thmey for taking care of me during all these years”.



Prevention campaign against child trafficking and prostitution

The permanent repertory company from the Sisophon School of Arts and Khmer Culture presents a prevention campaign against child trafficking and prostitution. To this end it travels once or twice a month to a rural area to give it performance.

Once in the village, prevention posters and leaflets are distributed prior to the performance. Once the performance has been completed the audience is questioned to make certain that they have understood the message. T-shirts and caps are also distributed.





OBJECTIVES

To offer an educational opportunity to handicapped children - especially to blind, or deaf children.

To inform families with handicapped children, as well as the Cambodian population at large, about the educational opportunities for these children.

To involve public authorities in these programmes.

ASSISTANCE FOR DEAF OR BLIND CHILDREN

From the creation of specialized schools to vocational trainings, Krousar Thmey is the only foundation to have implemented a complete programme to encourage the reintegration of deaf or blind children into society.

The isolated child

2.2 % of the population of Cambodia suffers from a disability.

There are from 10,000 to 20,000 blind or deaf children in Cambodia.

There are very few specialized facilities in Cambodia for these children - barely 8 % receive any education.

The child integrated into society

5 schools for deaf children and 4 for schools for blind children

These schools provide a specialized educational programme that is compatible with the Cambodian National Education Curriculum. Lessons are taught through Braille and in Sign Language. In addition to the official curriculum these children learn mobility and orientation in order to make them fully independent. Besides the deaf children are taught dancing lessons and the blind children are given music classes.

Pilot project: a kindergarten for deaf children opened in 2004 in our school for deaf of Chbar Ampov (Phnom Penh).

44 integrated classes

In the rural areas some **37 specialized classes** for the deaf and **7 specialized classes** for the blind have been integrated into regular public school classes. These programmes give the handicapped children in these regions who can not attend the schools for the deaf or the blind, to benefit from an education that is adapted to their needs.

Sign Language Committee

After having developed the first Khmer Sign Language, this committee is now charged with the creation of new signs, adapting the national text books, and with creating a dictionary of the Khmer Sign Language (www.krousar-thmey.org/dico).

Braille book making workshop

This workshop, which is based in Phnom Penh, is **responsible for adapting national text books, and then printing them in Braille** for the blind students in our 4 schools, for our integrated classes, and increasingly for our blind students who go on to university!

Specialized Assistance

The NGO “Enfants Sourds du Cambodge”, speech therapists and physiotherapists regularly visit our schools to train and advise local staff.

BLIND GRADUATES!

In August 2006, for the first time in Cambodian history, three young blind students or visually impaired successfully passed their final high school exams. This success opened the doors to higher education and gave these students real prospects for the future. After four years of university studies, they will be qualified to enter the workforce - just like any valid university graduate.

Subsequent promotions continued this success: three more blind students passed their exams in 2007, and nine did so in 2008!

While some of these students have chosen to continue their education, mainly in English or Khmer literature, others have opted to become teachers in Krousar Thmey's schools for the blind.

Not only is their success a tribute to the efforts of their teachers and educators, but it represents a huge success story in a country that only a few years ago had no educational programme for blind children.





Advocacy programme

Krousar Thmey's advocacy programme is designed to increase the involvement and accountability of the government and the local authorities towards the support of educational programmes for handicapped children.

This programme also seeks to inform the families of these children of the educational opportunities that exist for deaf or blind children.

It also seeks to change the attitudes of the population and to facilitate the integration of the handicapped into the mainstream of Cambodian society. This is done, in part, through the diffusion of a weekly television news programme in sign language, through their involvement in official ceremonies, and through awareness programmes.

Vocational training

A variety of vocational training programmes are offered, these include: massage, music, dance, painting, weaving, computer science, teaching, and others. New training programmes are continually discussed with our partner NGOs.

Teachers training

Teachers are trained with respect to the special needs of their blind or deaf pupils. Training programmes are conducted each year and teachers receive an additional 8 week training programme to further develop their knowledge and to improve their educational skills.

REMOTE SCHOOLS SUPPORT

Krousar Thmey has been involved in the actual construction of primary schools in Poipet, Sisophon, Takhmao and Siem Reap; but we have also provided financial assistance to the Prum Nimith School in Poipet. Moreover, we provide additional pay for teachers in the public schools that educate Krousar Thmey children, as well as school materials and school uniforms for the neediest students.



OBJECTIVES

To allow children to discover the roots of their own culture and to recover their identity in Khmer traditions and artistic expression.

KHMER CULTURE AND ARTS

School of Khmer Arts and Culture in Sisophon

The school offers 4 types of artistic and cultural activities: dance, music, sculpture, and painting. This structure, which is the only cultural facility in the region, is open free of charge to all children in the Sisophon area. Each week over 1,200 children come here to practice these activities.

Artistic activities in the centres

Art workshops are presented weekly in all Krousar Thmey schools and centres. Handicapped children equally receive training in the arts: music is taught to the blind, and traditional Khmer dancing is taught to the deaf.

Highly regarded and appreciated, the troupes of young deaf dancers and blind musicians give performances at official events.

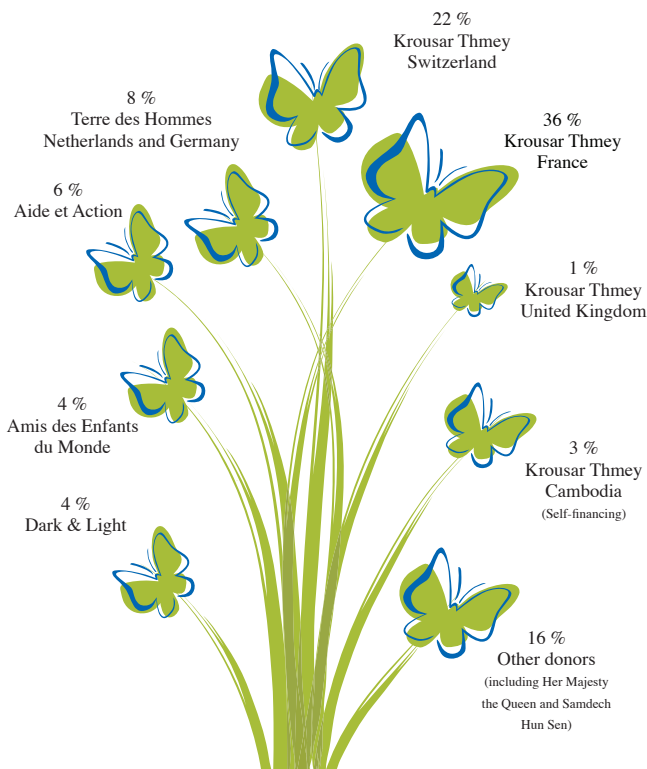
“Tonle Sap, source of life” exhibition in Siem Reap

Under the high patronage of Unesco, the exhibition presents the ecological and cultural wealth of the Great Lake.

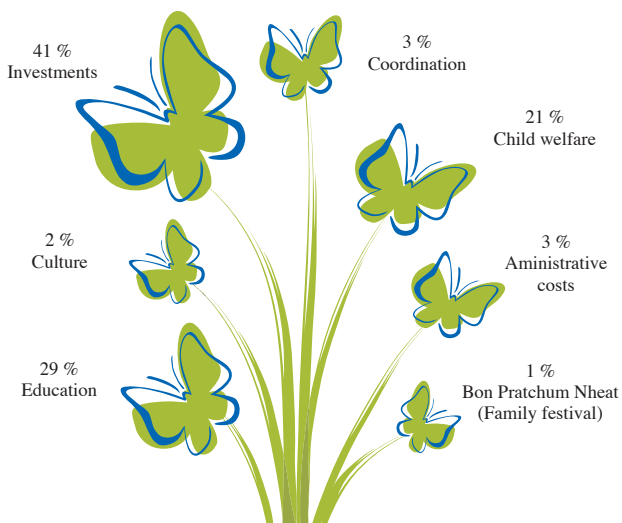
Showcase of the organization by its location (on the road to the Angkor temples), the exhibition is visited by hundreds of school children in Cambodia and many tourists.



MAIN PARTNERS IN 2008



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**“We need
your support !”**



Krousar Thmey
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