



Krousar Thmey
គ្រួសារថ្មី

*First Cambodian foundation
assisting deprived children*

សមាគមនៃជនពិការភ្នែកកម្ពុជា

(មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលជាតិបណ្តុះបណ្តាលធនធានមនុស្ស)

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***Association of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC)
and
Krousar Thmey***

Project Title: Integrating Blind Children into Education
Target area: Kampong Thom, Kampot, Prey Veng and Siem Reap
Reporting Period: From April 1st to July 31st, 2007 (4 months)
Project supervision and contact detailed:

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1. Impact of the project (purpose level)

In 2006, Association of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC) and Krousar Thmey have received funds from Dark and Light Blind Care Foundation Netherlands. The aim was to set up the "Integrating Blind Children into Education" project in Kampong Thom, Kampot, Prey Veng and Siem Reap Krousar Thmey School for blind children in order to provide them an education and the same opportunity as normal children. This project started on 2nd of October 2006.

The impacts of the project are:

To allow equal access to school by providing education for blind children in remote areas of Cambodia. There are totally 30 children attending integrated classes in the three target provinces Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, and Kampot and 14 students in Siem Reap are sent to the School for blind children in Siem Reap.

To make education for blind students more widespread and durable by implicating the government. Krousar Thmey and ABC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports open the integrated classes in the mainstream school. The Ministry promises to give a classroom to Krousar Thmey and nominate a teacher when this organization can gather at least 6 blind children living in the same area. The foundation is also in charge of training the

teacher on Braille and teaching methods for blind people and paying an extra salary. This cooperation aims to transfer this program to the Ministry in the future.

To contribute to the "integration" of disabled children in Khmer society, by schooling blind students among "normal" students in public schools. From grade 3 on, the blind children follow classes in the same classroom as "normal" children. This inclusive education aims to promote the fact that disabled children are as intelligent as normal people. It means that they are able to learn as normal ones.

The purpose of this project coordinated by ABC provincial coordinators is to facilitate blind and visually impaired children in Prey Veng, Kampong Thom and Kampot to receive an education. This process will enable blind and visually impaired children to have the same chances and opportunities as sighted children in terms of education.

2. Project results (target level)

In the 4 target provinces, we have found 73 blind and low vision children under 14 years old. We started to refer them to integrated class from 1st of October 2006. Between October and March 2007, there were 44 students attending integrated classes (10 blind children in Kampot, 9 blind children in Kampong Thom, 11 blind children in Prey Veng and 14 blind children in Siem Reap).

ABC is in charge of informing families about the education in the school that may be far from home. The association is also responsible for contacting with the foster families in order to accommodate the children if he lives far away.

Krousar Thmey plays the role of coordinator with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports in order to open the integrated classes. The Ministry will assign a classroom in a selected school accepted by Krousar Thmey. Krousar Thmey is responsible for the training and the salary of the teacher.

In each class, the teacher is responsible for checking the attendance of the students. If a student is often absent, he/she informs Krousar Thmey staff in charge of integrated classes and he will inform the provincial coordinator of ABC. The latter will find out the reason why the child is absent.

In 2006-2007, around 50% of the students passed from grade1 to grade 2. And we hope that 100% of the students will pass to upper class at the end of next the school year.

The inspector from Krousar Thmey or Mrs. Neang Phalla, coordinator of the program Special Education, regularly visit the integrated classes in order to assess the performance of the teacher and help them if necessary.

From April to July 2007, 4 blind children were gave up – 1 in Kampong Thom and 3 in Siem Reap province. The causes of problem were:

- The one from Kampong Thom
This blind girl was transferred from Siem Reap to attend integrated class in Kampong Thom because she is 17 years old (too old to attend special school). She stayed only two months in Kampong Thom and when she went back home to see her family her grand mother did not allow her to go back to the integrated class. We also went to follow up and ask the reason and

her grand mother said that she wanted ABC to provide some money to her every month because in the past she could live as her grand daughter was used to work as a beggar by asking people for money.

- Other three blind in Siem Reap: 1. Neourng Rotana, F, 12 years old, 2. Pheap Kim Leang, F, 13 years old and 3. Noun Ny, M, 15 years old.

Neourng Ratana went back home in May 2007. The foster home said that it was difficult to take care of this child because she always makes a fuss with the other children and has a bad temper and she was a bit depressed to be far from her home.

Pheap Kim Leang went back home in April 2007. She had a brain surgery the brain to remove the pus. She stayed in Siem Reap Children Hospital a week and after that, her mother brought her back home to take care of her.

Noun Ny went back home in April 2007. His mother brought him to Thailand to be a beggar.

3. Participation of target group

According to the evaluation of the inspector from Krousar Thmey, children are very glad to go to school. Generally, this is the first time they go to school. Most of them enjoy school life and making friend.

There is shortage of the participation of the families of the children due to the low standard of living. So they have to work in the field and don't have time to look after the children.

4. Expenses

Expenses		Exchange rate		1.26
Number	Description	Approved	Expenses (loc. Curr.)	in Euro
800	ABC budget: transport 48 children for home visits	4,800	2,994	2,376
1100	medical care & clothes 48 children	768	773	613
1100	food & accomodation in foster families	16,800	10,465	8,306
800	transport parents to visit school	480	386	306
1100	soya school milk program formula	2,381	1,440	1,143
1100	two field trips	770	249	198
800	transport 14 children in blindschool Siem Riep	1,400	1,069	848
1100	medical care & clothes 14 children siem riep	224	176	140
1100	accommodation & food in foster families 14 children Siem Riep	4,900	3,845	3,052
800	transport parents to visit school	140	90	71
1100	school milk program formula for Siem Riep	694	491	390
1100	two field trips	252	0	0
600	KT budget: staff salaries	3,305	1,744	1,384
500	schooling material	1,885	1,331	1,056
700	training of teachers + follow up	1,065	403	320
2000	miscellaneous	559	265	210
				0

5. Financial sustainability

The royal government of Cambodia does not yet have budget line for the special education for the blinds. But Krousar Thmey always raises awareness amongst those people and gets them involved in this project step by step.

As the education in Cambodia is free of charge, students don't pay school fees, if especially they come from poor families who can not afford or contribute to the running costs of the project.

The project can run thanks to the support of the Dark and Light Blind Care.

6. Cooperation

In each target province, Association of the Blind in Cambodia has cooperated with Head Provincial Social Affairs, Local Authorities and Krousar Thmey school for blind in order to facilitate and access this project smoothly.

ABC is responsible for finding blind or visually impaired children and providing accommodation, food, and transportation for home visit, medical care, children uniforms and orientation mobility or daily living skill to children and foster parents.

Krousar Thmey collaborates with the Ministry of Education to open the integrated classes in mainstream school. It provides education to blind children and training techniques to the teachers and school materials.

7. Staff performance

This is the first year for the project of integrated classes in Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Kampot. The teachers have to improve their knowledge on Braille code as well as on the adapted teaching methodology for the blinds. The inspector from Krousar Thmey School for blind in Phnom Penh goes to do a class assessment regularly in order to improve the quality of teaching. He is optimistic that the teachers know well how to use teaching tools and take good care of the children.

All the teachers from the integrated classes take part in the annual training held in the school for blind from August to September (school holiday). In addition, the teachers participate also one day training in February, after the annual meeting of all integrated classes run by Krousar Thmey.

ABC's staffs working for this project are one coordinator, one project assistant and four provincial coordinators. They were trained and experienced in the fieldwork involving rehabilitation program in Provincial Development Project funded by the Nippon Foundation, Japan.

8. Internal evaluation

The success of the project can be cited as follow:

- About 50% of students pass to upper class in 2006-2007.
- Children become more autonomous than before going to school.
- Children can basically write and read in Braille.
- Children understand the importance of education.
- Very good participation of the director of the school.
- Very good participation of the teacher.

Problem encountered:

- Blind children parents did not believe our group work.

- Blind children want to go to school but the parents say 'no' and state that their children are too young.
- Parents worry about their children living away from home and family, accommodation and nurse at school.
- Parents do not believe in the ability or capacity of the blinds, especially, to study at school.
- Some parents were interested in sending their children to enrol at the blind school but the children did not want to go away from parents.
- Some children reached the school but they could not adapt themselves to the situation because it is so new for them. They keep crying when their parents go back home.
- Children return back to school late when they visit their family.
- Teacher knowledge on the Braille is limited.
- Children can hardly remember their lesson.
- 4 children gave up.

In order to solve these problems, ABC and Krousar Thmey has to work in close collaboration in order to follow up the children to bring them back to school on time and to raise awareness among families who have blind children. Continue to work with teachers, assist them and providing them more training on the teaching method and Braille are also our common objective.

9. Statistics:

Name of students attended the school now

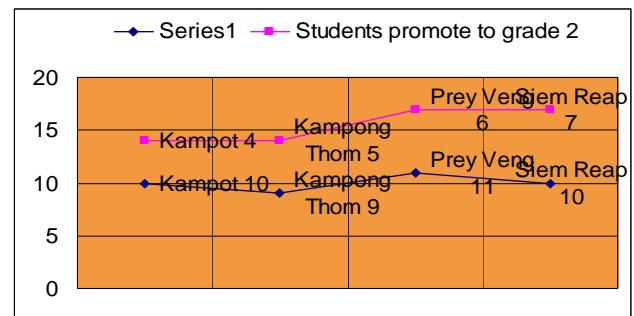
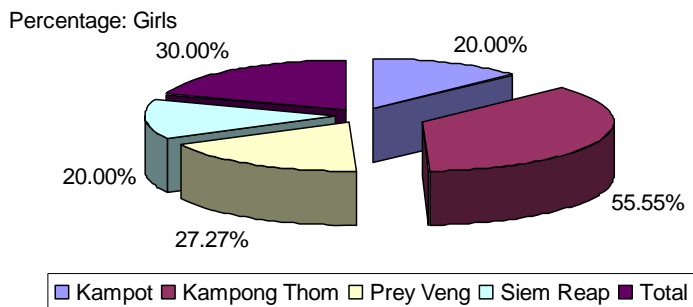
No	No	Name	Age	Sex	Village	Commune	District	Province	Grade 07-08
1	1	Ton Chankoshal	9	M	Baray Kert	Baray	Kampong Leav	Prey Veng	1
2	2	Yeng Pett	12	M	Prey Klang	Preak Antas	Kampong Leav	Prey Veng	2
3	3	Put Sophak	14	M	Punley	Baboum	Peamros	Prey Veng	2
4	4	Cheab Tey	13	F	Chrov	Kraboia	Kamchay Mea	Prey Veng	2
5	5	Ton Sann	13	F	Chnoung	Sdao Kaong	Bar Phnom	Prey Veng	2
6	6	Thoeurn Chary	12	M	Andong Saart	Kraboia	Kamchay Mea	Prey Veng	2
7	7	Song Sitha	14	M	Prek Kampleng	Kampong Popel	Pea Rang	Prey Veng	2
8	8	Sien Chamroeurn	12	M	Phum Beng	Thmor Poun	Kagn Chreak	Prey Veng	1
9	9	Mi Srey Orn	11	F	Trea	Kagn Chrom	Pea Rang	Prey Veng	1
10	10	Poung Krem	10	M	Thmor Sor	Trapang Sor	Me Sang	Prey Veng	1
11	11	Sarom Odom	13	M	Ampel Toul	Prey Toteng	Me Sang	Prey Veng	2

12	1	Phean Vibol	10	M	Prey Rusey	Prey Tonle	Bantey Meas	Kampot	1
13	3	Phan Phang	10	M	Sre Prey	Wat Ang	Bantey Meas	Kampot	1
14	4	Em Seth	9	M	Trapeng Pring	Trapeng Pring	Kampot	Kampot	2
15	5	Ly Heang	10	M	Sovan Sakor	Kampong Kandoal	Kaampong Bay	Kampot	2
16	6	Khan Chrep	14	F	Toteng	Wat Ang	Bantey Meas	Kampot	1
17	7	Ke Channy	14	F	Trapeng Ril	Dang Tong	Dang Tong	Kampot	2
18	8	Chun Reach	8	M	Trapeng Lbeik	Trapeng Bey	Chhouk	Kampot	3
19	9	Deam Rathay	8	M	Trapeng Lbeik	Trapeng Bey	Chhouk	Kampot	1
20	10	Sok Dyna	16	M	Beoung	Beoung Nimol	Chhouk	Kampot	1
21	11	Hy Chandea	14	M	Tek Kraham	Kandole	Kampot	Kampot	1
22	1	Ya Year	12	M	Prey Khar	Pra lay	Stouk	Kg.Thom	1
23	2	Prak Somveth	9	F	Chormash	Som Bo	Prasat Sam Bo	Kg.Thom	1
24	3	Sort Phak	13	F	Svay Reang	Roung Roeung	Stoung	Kg.Thom	2
25	4	Him Chreang	14	F	Chher Lving	Takrasang	Santuk	Kg.Thom	2
26	5	Pen Sophat	10	M	Roka Chor	Kleng	Sandan	Kg.Thom	1
27	6	Kem Soknim	13	M	Roka Chor	Kleng	Sandan	Kg.Thom	2
28	7	Pen Sopheak	13	M	Roka Chor	Kleng	Sandan	Kg.Thom	2
29	8	Ran Signa	13	F	Kork Srok	Tang Krosao	Prasat Sambo	Kg.Thom	2
30	9	Lon Sovanlux	6	F	Prey Tahon	Prei Ta Hou	Stung Saen	Kg.Thom	1
31	1	Sao Seiha	13	M	Thnol	Ta Same	Angkor Chum	Siem Reap	2
32	2	Mon Sek	9	M	Kork Thnot	Kak Sen	Angkor Thom	Siem Reap	1
33	3	Chann Bunthan	13	M	Pring	Chikreng	Chikreng	Siem Reap	2
34	4	Chhea Barang	13	M	Lvear	Korl	Angkor Chum	Siem Reap	2
35	5	Chhoung Houng	10	F	Ta Ram	Chikreng	Chikreng	Siem Reap	2
36	6	Non Chamreoun	14	M	Sdoa Pok	Chrouy	Srey Snom	Siem Reap	2
37	7	Run Sam Nang	13	M	Ta Lear	Don Peng	Angkor Chum	Siem Reap	1
38	8	Phai Mei	10	F	Kra Van	Rom Chek	Bantey	Siem	1

							Srey	Reap	
39	9	Khleak Harb	14	M	Chan Run	Chan Run	Varin	Siem Reap	2
40	10	Tith Meng	14	M	Kamboar	Svay Sor	Varin	Siem Reap	2

• **Statistics of blind children from March to July 2007**

Provinces	Total	Girls	Percentage: girls	Number of Low-vision	Percentage: Students promoted to upper grade
Kampot	10	2	20.00%	4	40.00%
Kampong Thom	9	5	55.55 %	4	55.55%
Prey Veng	11	3	27.27 %	2	54.54%
Siem Reap School	10	2	20.00%	9	70.00%
Total	40	12	30.00%	19	55.00%



10. Other relevant information

- **2 April 2007:** MAKI HONDA, the Nippon Foundation's coordinator visited Kampot integrated classes and the blind children parents at home.

- **15 June 2007:** Paulin, Dark and Light project manager and ABC staffs visited blind children classes, foster parents and some blind children at home in Kampot province. On that day we discussed with the school director about the blind children situation in the classes.

- **Opening of new integrated classes:** The month of October is synonymous with the beginning of a new school year for all the young Cambodian pupils. Once again, this year, several new integrated classes have opened their doors. They allow young blind and deaf children living in remote areas to receive a normal education. Three new classes for blind children have been created in Kampot, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng, and 2 classes for deaf have opened in Pursat and Kampong Speu. Unfortunately, one class for deaf children in Kampong Cham and one class for blind children in Sihanoukville were compelled to close. The lack of pupils and their advanced ages are the main reasons of the closing.

- **3 blind children finished high school:** More than one year after getting their diploma, what about Vibot, Sothey and Sovannary, our first high school blind graduates?

The three young men successfully finished their first year of university and reached the upper level at the beginning of the school year. In fact, Vibot and Sovannary are attending the second year of a degree in Khmer Literature and Sothey is now attending the second year of the first degree of English. Step by step, our three students are taking their independence and are becoming more autonomous in spite of their handicap. We hope they will get their diploma very soon.

- **New school for blind in Phnom Penh:** The situation of the school for blind children in Chbar Ampov is getting worse. Nearly 400 meters separated the school from the Tonle Bassac banks at the time of the construction in 1994. Today, there are only few meters left. Moreover, the rainy season makes the soils very fragile and friable. The new school's construction should start soon, the time to obtain all the agreements and necessary authorizations.

At the moment, more than 900 trucks have already filled in the new plot for the school for blind children in Phnom Penh Thmey. The construction of the buildings will begin when the ground has been flattened. The opening of the school is foreseen for the next school year. This new school will welcome the blind children from the previous Chbar Ampov School. Every year, schooled blind children are more numerous thanks to the new school they will have more space.