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Krousar Thmey
គ្រួសារថ្មី

New Family – First Cambodian foundation for underprivileged children
Nouvelle famille – Première fondation cambodgienne d'aide à l'enfance défavorisée



Child welfare EDUCATION FOR DEAF OR BLIND CHILDREN
CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH AND HYGIENE
ACADEMIC AND CAREER COUNSELING

ANNUAL 2024 REPORT

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***Benoît Duchâteau-Arminjon
Krousar Thmey, Founder***



As we look back on 2024, we are reminded that real change is born not from ambition alone, but from empathy, trust, and unwavering belief in the potential of every child. At Krousar Thmey, our mission has always been guided by a deep-rooted understanding of community and a commitment to inclusive, human-centered development.

This year, more than ever, that vision came alive through the thousands of meaningful connections we built with children, families, teachers, partners, and communities. Through an integrated approach spanning child welfare, inclusive education, health, empowerment, and arts we have created pathways that uplift not just individuals, but entire communities.

Whether it was helping a traumatized child return to school, safeguarding a child from violence, supporting a parent through vocational opportunity, or watching a deaf dancer take center stage, each moment spoke to something larger, the promise of a future shaped by inclusion, not limitation.

We have continued to adapt, evolve, and respond with heart and purpose during 2024 whether challenges have come our way.

From empowering educators, social workers and parents to championing child rights, inclusivity, and community, our success is a testament to the shared will of those who dare to imagine a better world. Together, we have shown that even in the face of adversity, transformation is possible when we work with humility, listen deeply, and act boldly.

“**Our work is not only about protection or education; it is about nurturing resilience, dignity, and opportunity.**”

As we close this chapter, I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated team, volunteers, our donors, and most importantly, the children and youth who remind us every day of why this work matters. The legacy we leave behind is not just a service, it is light of hope, which shines brightly amidst the darkness.

CHOUR Darong
Krousar Thmey, Executive Director

KROUSAR THMEY AT A GLANCE

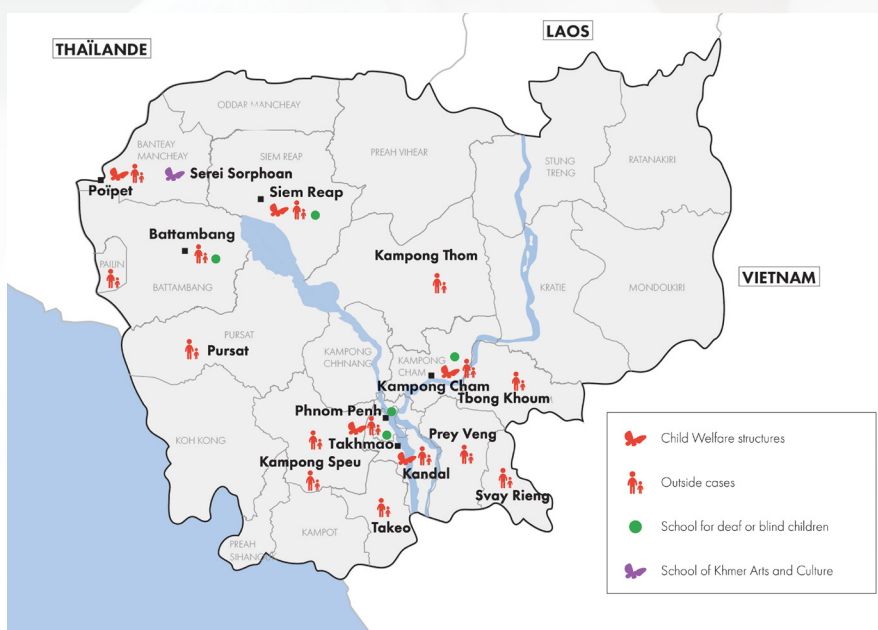
The 1st Cambodian organization helping disadvantaged children, founded in 1991 in the Site II refugee camp in Thailand.

Krousar Thmey offers a portfolio of cross-cutting programs and projects supporting over **4025 children in their development in 2024**: Child Welfare, specialized and inclusive Education for Deaf or Blind Children, Cultural and Artistic Development, Academic and Career Counseling, as well as Health and Hygiene. **In 2024, 4732 people have benefited from the Foundation's activities.**

In the spirit of sustainable action, Krousar Thmey ensures that its support **does not lead to any privilege, dependence or disparity in the community.**

Krousar Thmey's main principle is the development of projects **led by Cambodians for Cambodians.** Only two European volunteers provide the organization with support in communication, donor relations, and grant contract management.

KROUSAR THMEY OPERATES 3 PROGRAMS AND 2 CROSS CUTTING PROJECTS IN 12 CAMBODIAN PROVINCES



OUR VISION

A world in which all children are empowered to grow into independent and responsible adults

OUR MISSION

Enable the integration of underprivileged children into Cambodian society through education and support adapted to their needs, with respect to their traditions and beliefs

OUR VALUES

IDENTITY

every child can reconnect with their roots and traditions

INTEGRATION

every child is fully integrated into Cambodian society

DIGNITY

every child is respected and can build the future they deserve

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Krousar Thmey benefits from the support of various entities around the world. Their fundraising and communication networks greatly contribute to the success of all programs thanks to their communication and fundraising operations.

KROUSAR THMEY BRANCHES



CAMBODIA

68

Cambodian employees

02

European volunteers

10

members on the Board of Directors



FRANCE

63

members

40

volunteers

01

seat on the Board of Directors of Krousar Thmey Cambodia



SWITZERLAND

5

members

2

volunteers

1

seat on the Board of Directors of Krousar Thmey Cambodia

INTERNATIONAL Awards

2019

Hero Award
(World of Children)

2015

Benoît DUCHTEAU
ARMINJON receives Trophy
for French living abroad,
Humanitarian and social
category

2015

Phalla NEANG
nominated in the top
10 best teachers in the
world by the Global
Teacher Prize

2013

First Prize for Education
in the Asia-Pacific region
(Stars Foundation)

2012

Humanitarian
Prize (World of Children)

2010

Wenhui Award for
Educational innovation
(UNESCO)

2003

Human Rights Prize of
the French Republic

2000

Cooperation Prize
of the French
Republic

KEY FIGURES 2024

4025

CHILDREN AND YOUTHS
SUPPORTED BY THE ORGANIZATION

OUR PROGRAMS ↘



CHILD WELFARE

312	Children directly supported
490	Children identified during outreach
162	Children welcomed into our structures
167	Children followed-up as outside cases
42	Children reintegrated into their families



EDUCATION FOR DEAF OR BLIND CHILDREN

834	Students in the five special schools
424	Students enrolled in inclusive classes (public schools)
165	Special Education Teacher
376	New signs created
1255	Books in braille printed



CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

1476	Students at the School of Khmer Arts and Culture
146	Children and youths benefited from cultural and artistic activities in our structures
17	Students in the art school's permanent troupe

OUR CROSS-CUTTING PROJECTS ↘



ACADEMIC AND CAREER COUNSELING

437	Youths supported
242	Students in high school
132	Youths in employment
53	Youths enrolled at university
10	Youths in vocational training



HEALTH AND HYGIENE

434	Children supported
106	Children monitored by local doctors
61	Children vaccinated against Covid-19
87	Children monitored by local dentists
85	Children monitored by psychologists

STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

STRATEGY IN 2024

Since transferring its special schools for deaf or blind children to the Ministry of Education in 2019, Krousar Thmey has continued its commitment to supporting disadvantaged children—now focusing primarily on its Child Welfare Program, where needs are most urgent, while still providing support to blind or deaf youth in pursuing higher education and integrating into the job market.

The intention to transfer the School of Khmer Arts and Culture in Serey Sophon to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts continues to gain momentum. Meanwhile, crosscutting projects—such as Academic and Career Counseling, as well as Health and Hygiene—are becoming increasingly central to Krousar Thmey’s strategic vision.

Priority IN 2024

Development of a Holistic Approach

Krousar Thmey has adopted a holistic approach and works to break the cycle of poverty for families. Strengthening communities helps ensure both the sustainable reintegration of children and the prevention of abandonment or separation from their families. The year 2024 was thus marked by ongoing training tailored to actual needs, provided to both local authorities and parents. Following this approach, Krousar Thmey launched the “Child Safe Agent” network in a district of Kandal province. This program relies on the voluntary involvement of community members—such as tuk-tuk drivers, mothers, and village security guards—who receive specialized training in child protection delivered by Krousar Thmey. In collaboration with local authorities, these agents play a key role in ensuring children’s safety in vulnerable areas, serving as effective local relays for Krousar Thmey’s efforts. As part of this strategy, community-based complementary classes provide support to disadvantaged children. In 2025, university and vocational guidance will be strengthened through a North/South division of activities, each overseen by a dedicated officer well prepared in 2024.

Continuous collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the NISE

In 2024, Krousar Thmey conducted the fourth evaluation mission of the special schools transferred to the Cambodian Ministry of Education in 2019. This mission resulted in a comprehensive final report,

consolidating all recommendations from the 2021 to 2023 evaluations. In line with its strategic vision, the Foundation has continued to actively support the National Institute for Special Education (NISE) in expanding its national, regional and international direct connections with key partners. Additionally, NISE staff, special school teachers, and youth with visual or hearing impairments have participated in a wide range of training programs aimed at strengthening their respective skills.

Continuous Transition of Krousar Thmey

2024 marked a significant milestone for the School of Khmer Arts and Culture in Serey Sophon. The Minister of Culture and Fine Arts opened door to direct discussions exploring the school’s future transfer to the Ministry, signaling growing intention toward a progressive handover. The next key phase of this transition is set forth in 2026.

Meanwhile, Krousar Thmey’s two crosscutting projects have gained increased prominence in response to growing needs. The Academic and Career Counseling Program now plays a vital role in supporting both young adults in the Child Welfare Program and students with visual or hearing impairments. The Health and Hygiene Program has also evolved, placing greater emphasis on psychological care, which is a foundational element in the transformation and well-being of the children supported by the Organization.

Continuing to actively seek out local fundraising opportunities

Despite challenges, 2024 was a year where new local partners have become part of the fundraising opportunities for Krousar Thmey, sparking new hope of local fundraising. Although the amount raised locally doesn’t cover the need, the Organization continues to explore ways in the Cambodian context by keeping close contact of international donors to diversify chances to get funds.

H I G H L I G H T O F

JANUARY

The transition of the new center director for Teuk Thla, Ly Phanit, a former Krousar Thmey beneficiary



FEBRUARY

The Executive Director attended the UNHRC UPR in Geneva, representing Cambodia on the rights of people with disabilities



APRIL

Ongoing monthly outreach to children living in the Poipet area on the Cambodia-Thailand border



MAY

Krousar Thmey Staff Training in Kampot on Psychology: Fostering the Strength and Autonomy of Adolescents to Support Children in Our Care Structures



JULY

New English class expansion in Poipet City to equip the opportunity to children with less attention



OCTOBER

Caregivers, cooks, social workers, health referent, mothers, and school director joined food safety training by local health partner



NOVEMBER

Krousar Thmey joined International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) World Conference 2024 in India.



YEAR 2024



MARCH

The staff retreat aimed at strengthening team solidarity, reflecting on past achievements and challenges, and setting new goals and strategies.



JUNE

The Fourth Special Schools Audit and Evaluation to Ensure All Educational Needs of Deaf or Blind Children Are Met After Their Transfer to the Ministry



AUGUST

Krousar Thmey Permanent Troupe performed the traditional Khmer play Mohaori, 'Art Connects Us,' to raise awareness about art and seek local funding



SEPTEMBER

Meeting with Minister of Culture and fine Arts to deliver the updated report of Arts and Culture program



DECEMBER

Krousar Thmey staff and children participated in Charity Run for Krousar Thmey organized by Susu Running Team



OBJECTIVE

Facilitate the **reintegration** of **marginalized children** into their families and society through **emotional, educational** and **material SUPPORT**



Facilitate the reintegration of marginalized children into their families and society through emotional, educational and material support.

Victims of neglect, poverty, trafficking or difficult family situations, street children constitute a vulnerable, out-of-school, often traumatized and marginalized population.

The Child Welfare program, which helps children and their families by providing emotional, educational and material support, aims to create the necessary conditions for them to build a better future.

To this end, Krousar Thmey's priority is to strengthen the quality of its care and monitoring of beneficiaries to help reintegrate children into their families.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Krousar Thmey's Child Welfare Program is a fundamental pillar of our organizational commitment to safeguarding Cambodia's most vulnerable children and families. We firmly believe in the inherent potential of every child, regardless of their circumstances. To realize this potential, we implement a comprehensive and integrated spectrum of strategically designed services that address immediate needs, facilitate healing, and cultivate pathways toward long-term empowerment and societal contribution. Our work is guided by a deeply embedded methodological framework of community engagement.

This ensures that the support we provide is contextually tailored, fostering safety, stability, and nurturing environments where children can thrive. We recognize that vulnerability is multifaceted, often exacerbated by socioeconomic disparities and societal challenges, including varying degrees of familial deprivation. Our interventions are therefore designed to mitigate these disadvantages and empower children and families to build resilience.

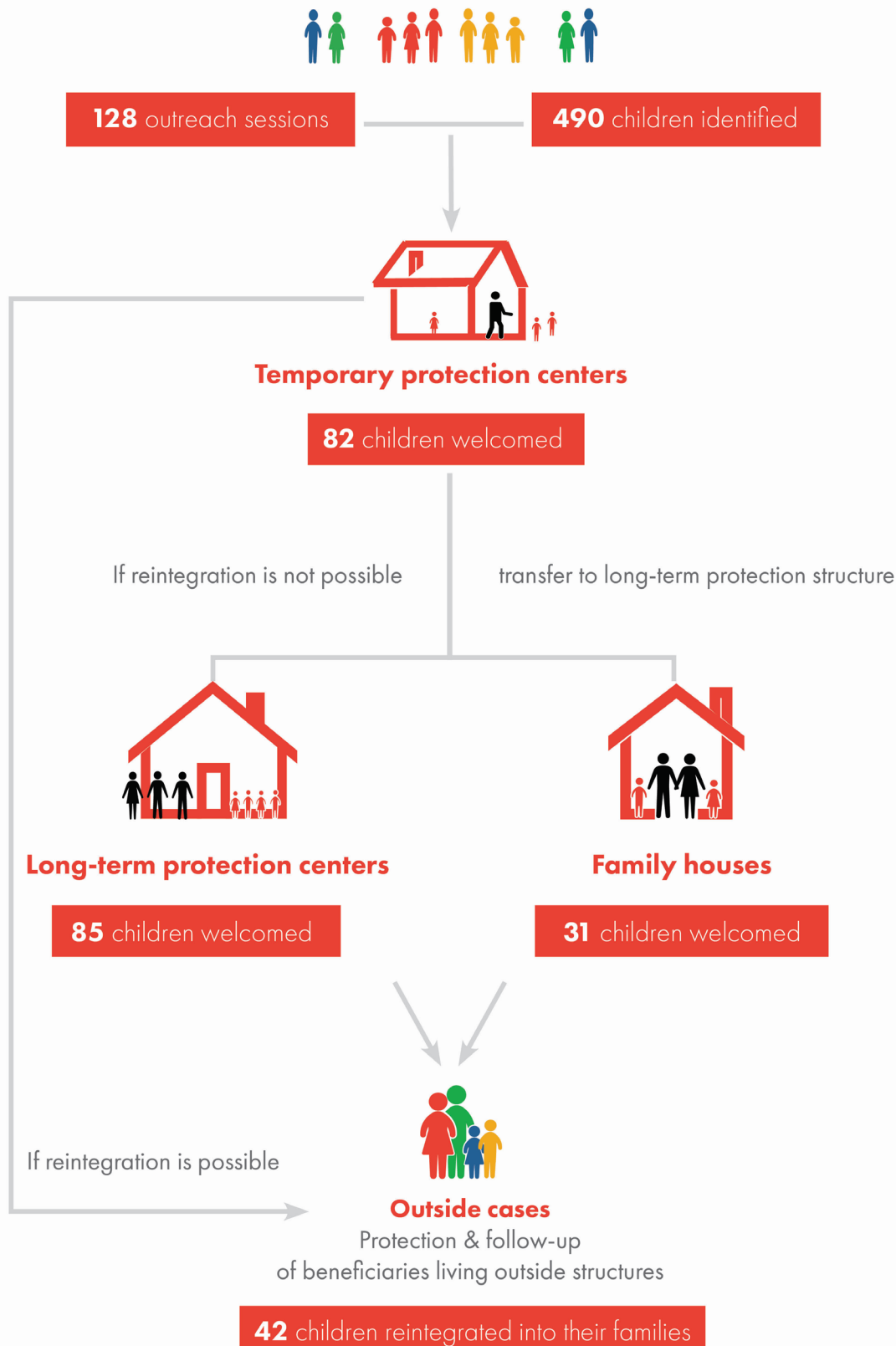
Our comprehensive range of services includes:

1. *Outreach Activities:* Proactive efforts to identify and reach vulnerable children and families who may not be accessing services
2. *Family Assessment:* Thorough evaluation of family dynamics and needs to tailor appropriate interventions
3. *Provision of Family Houses and Protection Centers:* Safe and nurturing residential environments for children who lack adequate care
4. *Facilitation of Family Integration:* Support and resources to help children safely and successfully reintegrate their families whenever possible
5. *External Case Support:* Ongoing support and monitoring for children and families in the community to ensure their continued well-being
6. *Income Generation Initiatives:* Programs that empower families economically, reducing vulnerability and promoting self-sufficiency
7. *Strengthening Community Child Protection Mechanisms:* Training and support for community members to become active agents in protecting children

Through these interventions, Krousar Thmey strives to create a protective and empowering environment where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to a more just and equitable society

SUPPORT SYSTEM OF INSIDE CASES IN 2024

Identification of vulnerable children and Assessment of the family situation





Nurturing Holistic Development and Fostering Socioeconomic Resilience in Vulnerable Children Inside Structure

In 2024, Krousar Thmey's commitment to vulnerable children shone brightly across our network of care. We provided a holistic journey of transformation for 162 children through our two long-term protection centers (Siem Reap, Takhmao), two temporary protection centers (Poipet, Teuk Thla), and two-family houses (Siem Reap and Kpop Veng). One family house in Kampong Cham and another one in Siem Reap were closed during the year following the global strategy of Krousar Thmey.

Our approach goes beyond providing shelter. We create nurturing and safe environments where children thrive, thanks to comprehensive support that includes:

- Nurturing care and a safe haven
- Education (formal and non-formal)
- Essential well-being (nutritious food and healthcare)
- Life skills development (soft skills and vocational training)
- Enrichment and joy (sports, Khmer traditional arts, and social participation)
- Community and expression (internal activities encompassing sports, drawing, dance, and traditional folk games)



INTEGRATED INITIATIVES IN FAMILY WELL-BEING AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Krousar Thmey's 2024 Community Empowerment Strategy prioritized interventions aimed at bolstering family resilience and expanding access to educational capital. The organization implemented evidence-based training modules across four provinces (Siem Reap, Kandal, Takeo, and Banteay Meanchey) engaging over 253 community stakeholders, including parents and 38 local authority representatives.

A notable highlight was the inclusion of Child Safe Agents, such as Tuk Tuk drivers, vendors, construction workers, village security guards, and local officials, who were equipped with knowledge and practical skills in positive discipline, child protection, and community-based safeguarding practices.

Complementing this, Krousar Thmey launched and expanded its «English Class for Community» initiative. Commencing in Kandal in October 2023 and extending to Poipet in July 2024, these no-cost programs, sustained by local authority support, currently engage over 105 students from socioeconomically vulnerable households. This initiative directly responds to demonstrable

community demand for enhanced educational opportunities, providing underserved children with foundational English language proficiency crucial for improved future prospects and social mobility, with plans underway to establish a third «English Class for Community» in a remote area of Siem Reap province in 2025.

This year, we also invested in 6 income generation activities, creating sustainable funding and providing eight permanent jobs for parents or guardians. By empowering families economically, we contribute to long-term stability and positive change within the community.





PROJECT SAFE MIGRATION

OBJECTIVE: Ensure decent return conditions and reintegration support for families deported or repatriated from Thailand following their illegal migration

The implementation of our Safe Migration project has been significantly impacted by the government's decision to relocate the transit center from the city of Poipet, where Krousar Thmey operates a protection center, to the Battambang region.

While awaiting the reopening of the original facility, we have decided to shift our focus on migration-related issues, with a particular emphasis on internal movements, especially those driven by rural exodus. We are now concentrating on alternative prevention and support activities, different from those initially planned.

In peri-urban areas of Phnom Penh, particularly in Kandal province, our teams conduct awareness workshops to inform communities about the risks associated with unplanned migration and the challenges faced by those leaving rural areas. These sessions aim to promote safer migration practices and long-term protection strategies. In 2024, 95 people participated in these workshops.

Our teams in Poipet also continue to support, whenever possible, families who have recently migrated from other provinces, particularly those seeking work in the growing construction sector.

Similar informal outreach is carried out in the border provinces of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng, where internal and cross-border migration to Vietnam are significant. To help coordinate these efforts, Krousar Thmey also took part in 9 coordination meetings with governmental and non-governmental actors.



CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM SUPPORT SYSTEM



IDENTIFICATION Outreach / Authorities

Integration

INSIDE CASES

KROUSAR THMEY STRUCTURE



Temporary
protection centers



Long term
protection centers



Family
houses

Stay

OUTSIDE CASES

CAMBODIAN SOCIETY

Youth

Family

Community



Activities for prevention,
protection and empowerment

Reintegration



IN 2025

10

Parents or guardians attended
vocational training

131

Parents or guardians created
an income-generating activity

“



TESTIMONY: Chanthou, 15 years old, beneficiary of Family House

Chanthou is the second oldest of four children living in the Kpop Veng family house. Her older sister, Chantra, is a scholarship student at university studying Hydraulic Engineering. Her two younger brothers, Phanna (14) and Phanny (11), are in primary school.

Before being taken in by Krousar Thmey, Chanthou and her siblings were left to fend for themselves. Their parents, focused on work, didn't have time to care for them. Chanthou admits, "I was an undisciplined child with bad behavior. I hated studying and didn't go to school. I had no obligations and wasn't integrated into society."

Her first experience with the social workers was difficult. She wasn't happy to be placed in the long-term protection center in Takhmao, but things

began to improve when she moved to the family house. "At first, I was sad and felt trapped, but now I feel safe and balanced. I have a daily routine, I go to school, and I'm surrounded by other children. I feel free to grow without risk." She adds with a big smile, "I love the carefree life I experience here. I'm freer and happier than before. I finally feel like any other child."

Chanthou is active in the family house, helping Sokhy, the «mother,» with cooking, caring for the younger children, and maintaining the garden. During her free time, she enjoys studying, playing with the other children, and especially writing personal articles about her dreams and hopes.

Chanthou's dream is to become a teacher of Khmer literature or physics, ideally teaching grades 8 and 9, her favorite subjects. She is thriving at school, motivated by her teachers' kindness, and wants to inspire others just as they have inspired her. Her parents visit regularly, bringing the children's favorite food and hoping for a future reunion.

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STRATEGY IN 2025

- ▮ **Capacity building to frontline** through staff training in academic support, psychosocial care, and case management
- ▮ **Community safeguarding expansion** via the Child Safe Agent network and volunteer training
- ▮ **Shelter system enhancement** through center integration and facility renovation

EDUCATION FOR DEAF



OBJECTIVE

Enable children with **visual** or **hearing** disabilities to find their rightful place in society by providing them with access to tailored **education**, and **support** and prepare them for **WORKING LIFE**

OR EDUCATION **BLIND**



Since 1994, Krousar Thmey has been committed to the education of deaf or blind children and their integration into society. A network of five special schools was created and administered for 25 years, until its transfer to the Cambodian authorities in July 2019.

Since then, the schools have been strategically placed under the responsibility of the Special Education Department (SED) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS). Krousar Thmey follows up on the transfer of the special schools' budget management by conducting audits until the end of 2024.

Meanwhile, the Foundation is working closely with the National Institute for Special Education (NISE) to further develop an inclusive education model in Cambodia. The common objective is to

enable people with visual or hearing disabilities to succeed at school, and then to integrate into society and the workplace. Krousar Thmey also continues to address civil society by raising awareness of disability issues, and remains one of the major spokespersons at official local and international events.

One of the major successes and impacts resulted from Krousar Thmey's initiatives, in 2024, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) voted for Krousar Thmey to represent Cambodia to the Regional Executive Committee of the ICEVI network.

Thus the long lasting impact of Krousar Thmey was praised by the UN OHCHR in Cambodia – where Krousar Thmey was invited among other NGOs to the Universal Periodic Review 2024 meeting at the UN Head Quarter in Geneva.

EDUCATION FOR DEAF



Enduring Legacy of Inclusive Education : Insights and Recommendations from Krousar Thmey's Evaluations

Since the inception of its special education program for deaf or blind children in 1993 , Krousar Thmey has made remarkable strides over the past three decades, tirelessly championing the rights and education of children with disabilities in Cambodia.

A significant milestone occurred in 2019 with the handover of its special schools to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport. This transition marked a significant shift in responsibility, but also paved the way for further assessments of service quality and impact.

Evaluations from 2021 to 2024 aimed to improve education for students with visual or hearing impairments. Recommendations to the Ministry included developing tailored curricula, prioritizing

lower grades, and enhancing resources, such as training more sign language interpreters and advancing Khmer text-to-speech software at the National Institute for Special Education. Schools were also advised to improve teaching quality and address resource gaps.

Despite challenges like limited budgets, the transition to the Ministry represents a significant success for Krousar Thmey's philosophy of local ownership and sustainability.

The Ministry's commitment to incorporating these recommendations into the next Education Strategic Plan will help ensure quality education for children with special educational needs.

OR EDUCATION **BLIND**



KROUSAR THMEY, People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAfID) and National Institute for Special Education (NISE)

In 2024, Krousar Thmey, with the support of PAFID in partnership with NISE, launched a transformative initiative to empower children with visual impairments (CWVI) across Cambodia. Implemented in Battambang, Kampot, and Siem Reap, the project combined eye screenings, follow-ups, and provision of spectacles with specialized training for educators and authorities, laying the foundation for more inclusive education.

A key component was the distribution of 110 manuals to pre-service teachers, core trainers, and special schools, a vital resource for inclusive education. The project also strengthened educator capacity, 156 teachers and school leaders were trained in visual impairment pedagogy, enabling them to make classroom adjustments to support all students.

The project's direct impact on students was profound, 323 children received eye screenings, with 133 receiving glasses. This intervention improved their classroom participation. Follow-up visits to 9 schools ensured the project's impact extended beyond training.



EDUCATION FOR DEAF

IN 2025

376

Signs documented
and created

2750

Sign Language
text book printed

323

Children received
eye screenings

Developing Cambodian Sign Language

The Sign Language Committee, an integral part of NISE, continued its work in 2024 to develop and document Cambodian Sign Language (CSL). Six field missions were carried out, during which 376 new signs were recorded. These signs will contribute to the creation of updated learning materials, including a new Grade 7 biology textbook.

All content will be made available through the Signs Discovery platform—an evolving e-learning tool designed to support sign language learning and promote inclusive education. In addition, 2,750 printed textbooks incorporating sign language were produced for Grades 4 to 6, covering subjects such as mathematics, Khmer literature, history, geography, and ethics.

Promote Inclusive Education for students with hearing impairment

To strengthen inclusive education, a structured training program in Cambodian Sign Language interpreting was finalized in 2024. Developed by an international expert and adapted into Khmer through collaborative validation workshops, the program provides a level-based framework aimed at building the skills of special school teachers and members of the Sign Language Committee.

Pending official approval from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the program represents a key step toward the professionalization of CSL interpretation and the promotion of more inclusive learning environments for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

OR EDUCATION BLIND

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TESTIMONY - CHI PISETH, 11-year old, a beneficiary of Low Vision Project

My name is Chi Piseth, and at eleven years old, I am a fifth-grade student at Raksmei Khemarak Primary School in Krong Bokor, Kampot province. My life is rooted in Kilo 12 village, Koh Toch commune, where I reside with my parents and two siblings.

For as long as I can remember, a persistent visual impairment has cast a blur upon the distant world. While capable of contributing to household chores, the classroom blackboard remained an indistinct haze, an ever-present frustration that impeded my deep desire for knowledge. School, a place I inherently love, often presented a struggle for me to keep pace with my peers due to this visual constraint. Yet, the unwavering kindness of my nearby friends has been a constant solace. They have always welcomed me into their games, and I've never been subjected to ridicule for my eyesight. My educational journey began at this school in first grade, though I do not recall if I ever had an eye examination at that time. It was only recently that I received a thorough vision assessment.

The pivotal eye exam took place near my school, though specific details escape my memory. What remains vivid is the compassionate individual who carefully examined my eyes and explained the

nuances of my vision. During this encounter, I received my first pair of spectacles. The arrival of these glasses brought a transformative change. My teacher, with understanding, positioned me at the front of the classroom, enabling me to see the blackboard clearly and engage fully in the lessons. As a result, my academic performance significantly improved, particularly in Mathematics, a subject that has always fueled my intellectual curiosity. The thrill of solving complex problems and the subsequent improvement in my grades motivate me to continue working hard.

The unwavering support from my teachers and classmates has been truly remarkable. My teacher remains attentive to my needs, and my classmates always include me in their activities during breaks. With my newfound clarity of vision, my confidence has blossomed, profoundly enriching my learning experience.

My dream is to become a doctor, a healer who alleviates suffering and improves the lives of others. Empowered by the support I've received; I now see boundless possibilities ahead. I eagerly embrace the future, committed to working tirelessly to reach my goals. I am deeply grateful to the low vision project for granting me the priceless gift of seeing the world in its vibrant, intricate detail.

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STRATEGY IN 2025

Advance inclusive education through public awareness and specialized teacher training for deaf or blind students

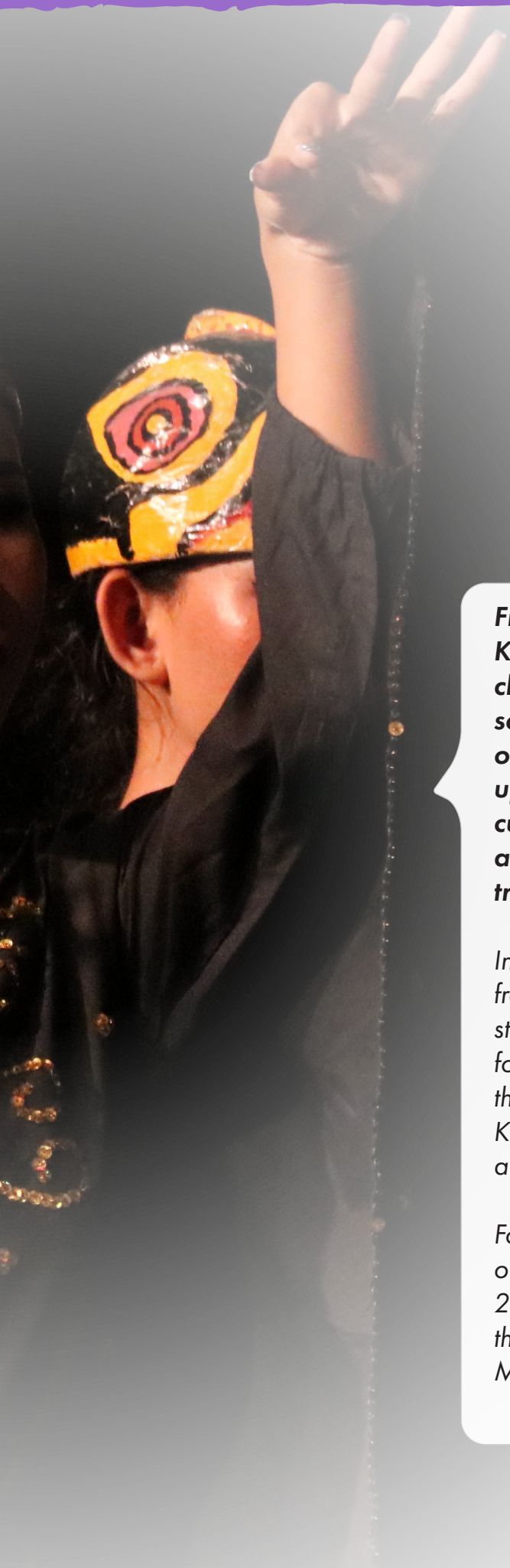
Strengthen Cambodian Sign Language via resource development, dissemination, and advocacy for additional funding

Support syllabus adaptation to ensure quality education for children with visual or hearing impairments based on recommendations of final evaluation of special schools



OBJECTIVE

Enable children to make their
cultural heritage,
and **their own** and to grow
through the (rediscovery) of
TRADITIONAL and **ARTS**



From its beginnings in the refugee camps, Krousar Thmey has sought to foster in the children a sense of belonging to Cambodian society and thus facilitate their knowledge of their roots and their social (re)integration upon repatriation. The Foundation has set up cultural exhibitions for the public and initiated art classes for children to teach them music, traditional dances and Shadow Theater.

In addition to passing on a culture and know-how from one generation to another, Krousar Thmey strongly believes that art provides therapeutic support for children with troubled pasts or disabilities. Today, the program is divided into two parts: the School of Khmer Arts and Culture in Serey Sophon, and artistic activities in the Foundation's protection structures.

Following the transfer of the five special schools of Krousar Thmey to the Cambodian authorities in 2019, the cultural and artistic education taught within these structures is now under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.



Artistic And Cultural Activities In The Protection Structures

For 34 years, Krousar Thmey has made cultural and artistic activities available to all beneficiaries of the Child Welfare program. Through the practice of traditional music and dance classes, Shadow Theater, the celebration of Khmer festivals, as well as cultural visits, the children are able to develop their creativity and self-confidence. It is also a therapeutic way for them to express themselves in ways other than words, which contributes to the healing process of traumatic experiences. Ultimately, these teachings enable them to reconnect with their identity and to better embrace their culture.

Children are also regularly invited to perform at public celebrations to promote Khmer culture. In total, 9 public performances took place in 2024. In addition, several cultural outings were organized, notably at the French Institute of Cambodia following the signing of a partnership agreement in February 2023. Since then, the children at the Teuk Thla and Takhmao centers visit the Institute's media library once a month and regularly tour its exhibitions.

IN 2025

1476 | Students enrolled during the school year

17 | Students in the art school's permanent troupe

146 | Children from our child protection structures

Krousar Thmey's Permanent Troupe Showcases Mohaori Dance Talent to the Public

In 2024, Krousar Thmey initiated an extraordinary artistic event, offering the SKAC troupe a chance to share their exceptional Mohaori dance talent with the public. This remarkable performance took place at the Kok Thlok Association in Phnom Penh, where the troupe captivated the audience with a dance form dating back to the 9th century. Mohaori dance is renowned for its intricate orchestral ensemble and expressive storytelling, where the gestures of the performers communicate sung texts that resonate deeply within Khmer society.

The event, themed «Art Connects Us,» was made possible through the partnership between Krousar Thmey, the French Institute, and Lycée Français. The performance attracted nearly 600 attendees, raising approximately \$5,000 in support. This resolutely inclusive evening not only celebrated the rich tradition of Mohaori

dance but also highlighted the talents of twelve deaf dancers and a duo of blind musicians, who demonstrated their skills on stage, proving that art knows no boundaries.

In addition to the captivating performances, the event offered educational workshops focused on Braille and Cambodian sign language, further raising public awareness and promoting accessibility for all. It was a night that truly showcased the power of art to unite, inspire, and break down barriers.







TESTIMONY - Pouy Dareurng, 17 years old, student supported by the NGO SKK, beneficiary of the school of arts

Pouy Dareurng, a Grade 12 student at Phnom Srok District High School, is a passionate advocate for Khmer art and culture. For the past three years, she has been honing her dancing skills at Krousar Thmey School of Art, a journey driven by her deep love for Khmer traditions and her desire to promote them globally.

Despite coming from a family where no one had pursued art before, Dareurng has big dreams of becoming a dance teacher. She hopes to share the beauty of Khmer dance with younger students in her community and across the country.

Reflecting on her early experiences, Dareurng recalls how challenging it was at first, she struggled to move her arms in sync with the dance style. "I tried to imitate my teacher's movements, even though my arms hurt a little," she shared.

But her perseverance paid off. Today, Dareurng confidently performs traditional dances like Choun Por, Neary Chea Chour, and Romvong Khmer Style, even performing for foreign guests visiting her hometown. She says, "I feel happy, self-confident, and proud to perform on stage."

In addition to dance, Dareurng also studies painting and drawing, though she admits her skills in these areas aren't as strong. Nonetheless, she once posted her drawing of a Romduol flower on social media, which garnered praise for its charm.

Her message to her peers is clear: "Don't give up on what you think you can't do. Take that first step, and you'll be surprised at what you can achieve." Dareurng believes that all Khmer youth should come together to learn and celebrate the arts, embracing the cultural richness they have to offer.



STRATEGY IN 2025

Sustain Khmer arts and culture

through collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and progressive transition planning

Strengthen arts education by engaging public schools and recruiting new members to the SKAC art troupe

Nurture youth development and creative expression through enhanced coaching, cultural trips, public performances, and school-based artistic events.



OBJECTIVE

Support young Cambodians in building their future by facilitating access to **Higher Education, Vocational Training** and **Employment**



Since 2011, Krousar Thmey has supported the young people in its programs in building their futures, particularly in terms of access to higher education, vocational training or employment.

The Foundation provides them with advice, personalized follow-up and guidance towards the path best suited to their needs and desires.

The project officers also offer various workshops and trainings to middle and high school students, with the aim of increasing their interpersonal and non-technical skills on various topics such as life skills, self-confidence,

problem solving, communication, interview preparation, and life goal setting.

Following the transfer of the special schools in 2019, the NISE became responsible for the follow-up of students with visual or hearing disabilities, with the backup support of Krousar Thmey who is also directly involved in the follow-up of the youth in the Child Welfare program both inside and outside cases.

The support to outside cases was launched officially in 2024 following Krousar Thmey's global strategy to strengthening durably the community.



Krousar Thmey's Commitment to Student Empowerment: Aligning Students with Their Potential

Witnessing a young person step confidently into a career that truly fits them, their skills, their passions, their very being, that's the heart of what we strive for at Krousar Thmey. In 2024, Krousar Thmey continued its commitment to empowering students through several key initiatives, focusing on guiding them toward fulfilling careers and future educational opportunities.

Our dedicated academic and career counseling teams work divided into two caring arms, one reaching across the south (Phnom Penh and Kampong Cham), the other embracing the north (Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey) to unlock each student's potential, providing tailored guidance and support to individual and group sessions for students in grades 9-12, including children from aged 13 who can also benefit from these training opportunities.

These sessions go beyond curriculum knowledge, equipping students with essential interview skills and addressing their broader needs and aspirations. We also facilitate connections with higher education and vocational training opportunities, organizing tours and partnerships with over 10 universities and 15 vocational training centers. Through our partnership with the National Institute for Special Education, we provide dedicated support to deaf or blind students in grades 9-12, covering self-discovery, mental health care, and essential life skills. Our job placement

program focuses on aligning students with fulfilling careers. In 2024, we provided soft skills training to 203 students from our child welfare program and 173 students from special education high schools.

Krousar Thmey acknowledges the obstacles these students face and remains dedicated to their success. Especially in Child Welfare Program, we support university students and vocational trainees with money, materials, and administration help. Students on vocational training get daily expense support, whilst university students living alone get housing aid. We also provide essentials like laptops, uniforms, or cooking tools, and cosmetic products based on need. In 2024, 17 students got this support to keep learning and succeed.

IN 2025

437	Youths supported	242	Students in high school
132	Youths in employment	53	Youths enrolled at university
24	Young beneficiaries in university	10	Youths in vocational trainings

“



TESTIMONY - KER Tola's, beneficiary of the Academic and Career Counselling

KER Tola's story is exemplary. The first beneficiary of Krousar Thmey's child welfare program to pursue a career in healthcare, she is preparing a nursing diploma at the regional health center in Kampong Cham. Driven by the dream of becoming a midwife in 2027, she works diligently and has been awarded a 100% government scholarship, in recognition of her dedication.

Her early days in Siem Reap were marked by hardship. At the age of 12, after her parents separated, she and her sisters found themselves on their own.

In 2014, Krousar Thmey offered them stability and hope. Two years later, she joined the family house in Kampong Cham province, where she flourished in a protective environment. Graduating from high school in 2022,

she pursued her passion for healthcare by volunteering in the health department in Tbong Khmum province. Here she acquired invaluable skills, from administering serum to supplying oxygen to patients. With Krousar Thmey's support, Tola has become independent, learning to manage her responsibilities and express herself with confidence. «Education is powerful».

Even if you fail, dare to move forward, she confides. Tola's story illustrates the power of education and resilience. Thanks to her commitment and the support of Krousar Thmey, she has rewritten her future, proving that with perseverance and solidarity, anything becomes possible.

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STRATEGY IN 2025

Guide youth toward career pathways

through regular counseling sessions in centers and communities tailored to their skills and aspirations

Expand inclusive learning opportunities

by strengthening partnerships with universities and vocational training centers

Support youth with visual or hearing impairments

with targeted services, soft skills training, follow-up, and family engagement to durably improve access to education and employment



OBJECTIVE

Support young Cambodians in building their future by facilitating access to

**Higher Education,
Vocational Training
and Employment**



The Health and Hygiene project aims to provide all children and staff members at Krousar Thmey with enhanced medical care in order to improve their health and ensure their daily well-being.

This includes educating children and training staff in good hygiene practices, food safety and the prevention of infectious diseases.

In 2020, Health and Hygiene activities continued to be a cross-cutting project, common to both the Child Welfare and Education for Deaf or Blind Children programs.

Since 2022, the project has benefited exclusively the children and staff of both the Child Welfare program and the Cultural and Artistic Development program. The Ministry of Education is now responsible for monitoring the health of students and staff in the special schools.

ផ្លូវចិត្ត / Mental

ប្រិយភាព / Sympathetic Joy

Nurturing Hearts and Health at Krousar Thmey

In 2024, we successfully expanded our network to include 13 public hospitals both national and subnational level and 7 specialized partners, enhancing access to essential healthcare services. These partnerships enabled us to provide basic medical care, Hepatitis B vaccinations, routine health screenings, and dental services to children and staff. We maintained diligent follow-up protocols to monitor health outcomes and facilitated referrals for specialized treatment when needed, ensuring comprehensive care for all beneficiaries. Mental health support remained a cornerstone of the program, addressing emotional well-being and building resilience. Through early detection, preventive care, and integrated psychological services, the project contributed significantly to the overall health and wellness of our community.

Capacity Building and Training Initiatives in 2024

Krousar Thmey's dedication to supporting disadvantaged children is reflected in three complementary types of health training initiatives in 2024. A total of 227 participants engaged in these programs: 121 staff members received targeted capacity-building, 106 children and youth participated in prevention and awareness activities

Staff capacity-building covered key areas such as First Aid (with Help Kampuchea), Food Safety (in collaboration with the Siem Reap

Provincial Health Department), and Sexual and Reproductive Health (in partnership with M'Lop Russey). These sessions significantly enhanced staff skills to better support children's medical, nutritional, and psychosocial needs.

At the same time, children and youth regularly attended personal hygiene and dengue fever prevention sessions delivered by health advisors and care staff at our centers, which helped promote their physical health and safety.

Finally, since the launch of the enhanced psychological well-being program in 2022, over 70 staff and adolescents have benefited from it, leading to increased resilience and positive behavioral changes among children supported. Together, these strategic training efforts strengthen Krousar Thmey's circle of care, fostering safe, supportive environments and healthy development. Continued support will allow us to expand and deepen their impact.

IN 2025

- 434** | Children supported
- 61** | Children vaccinated
(9 general medical checks up in our centers – 106)
- 102** | Children monitored by local dentist: (5 general session of dental checks up in our centers)
- 85** | Children individually monitored by psychologists



TESTIMONY – Chum Samnang, Krousar Thmey beneficiary, received psychological follow-up

Born in 2017, young Chum Samnang's early life was marked by hardship. Growing up in a severely disadvantaged environment, Samnang endured violence within the family and was forced into child labor, walking the streets to sell goods.

These painful experiences left deep emotional scars, he rarely spoke, often appeared tearful, preferred isolation, and struggled with schoolwork. Teachers and caregivers found it difficult to engage with him, as he responded minimally and resisted efforts to connect.

However, everything began to shift after Samnang was welcomed into the Siem Reap Child Support Center on July 27, 2023, and entered a foster home. With gentle care and the support of the TPO organization, who guided him through 12 dedicated sessions, Jum began to heal.

Today, the changes are remarkable. Samnang speaks and plays with peers, opens up to caregivers, and actively participates in learning activities.

He has grown noticeably more confident, responding to staff, completing homework, and showing genuine interest in education. His stubbornness has softened into cooperation, and he now helps with household responsibilities and cares for his mother.



STRATEGY IN 2025

Strengthen cross-sector partnerships

with health organizations and local authorities to improve access to medical, dental, and psychosocial care

Enhance psychological support

by training staff in mental health care, supported by ongoing coaching.

Promote community health awareness

through regular education sessions on primary care and first aid for families and beneficiaries



The year 2024 shows no sign of improvement for Krousar Thmey's financial situation compared to 2023. Without the interest income generated by the Term Deposit of funding from asset sales, the funding received during 2024 attains only 61% of the budget planned overall. Together with the interest income, it comes up to 91% of the original overall budget planned for 2024.

Despite the revenue from interest income, the Organization remains in fragile position. The field operations have been scaled back to preserve financial stability without compromising core services for marginalized children.

Additional support is urgently needed to sustain and grow our Child Welfare Program, especially as Krousar Thmey remains the only NGO in Cambodia providing certain types of services while respecting traditional Cambodian values.



Bong Meng

AL REPORT



Bong Meng

CAMBODIAN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- HIS MAJESTY THE KING NORODOM SIHAMONI
- HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER NORODOM MONINEATH SIHANOUK
- PRIME MINISTER SAMDECH MOHA BORVOR THIPADEI HUN MANET
- SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
- SAMDECH DR. BUN RANY HUN SEN
- THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
- CAMBODIAN MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS
- CAMBODIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORT
- CAMBODIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND FINE ARTS
- MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
- MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
- MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
- HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR FOR CAMBODIA AT UNESCO
- HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR FOR CAMBODIA TO FRANCE

ORGANISATIONS, FOUNDATIONS & INSTITUTIONS

- LES AMIS DES ENFANTS DU MONDE ASSOCIATION
- CARIGEST SA
- DUBRULLE FAMILY
- ENFANCE ESPOIR FOUNDATION
- HELPING AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION
- GREEN LEAVES EDUCATION FOUNDATION
- INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (ICEVI)
- OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (ONNET)
- JAVARY-FIALA FAMILY
- LES 7 DE LA CITÉ THEATER TROUPE
- MAY-OUI FOUNDATION
- THE NIPPON FOUNDATION
- PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (PAFID)
- PROMESSE ST EGREVE ASSOCIATION
- ROTARY CLUB OF PERTH
- ROTARY CLUB OF PHNOM PENH
- STIFTUNG HIRTEN KINDER FOUNDATION
- VAN THIENEN FAMILY
- LA VOIX DE L'ENFANT ASSOCIATION
- FRENCH EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH

- RAKSA KOMA ORGANIZATION
- SUSU RUNNING TEAM
- MUSICA FELICE
- FONDATION ANDRÉ & CYPRIEN
- FONDATION HIRZEL
- FONDS MECENAT SIG
- INDIVIDUAL DONOR: PETER TSCHOFEN
- FONDATION AMANJAYA
- FONDATION MASALINA
- TALIKA
- INDIVIDUAL DONOR: SUZANNE ROY, GRANTS BARBE.
- MIWAKO FUJIWARA - MUSICA FELICE FOUNDATION

TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES

- CANTON OF GENEVA
- CITY OF GENEVA
- CITY OF GENEVA
- CITY OF MEYRIN
- TOWNS OF COLLONGE-BELLERIVE, MEINIER AND VANDOEUVRES
- TOWN OF HERMANCÉ

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- 3PC (Partnership Program for the Protection of Children)
- ONE-2-ONE
- Dental Clinic of Puthisastra University
- National Institute for Special Education
- TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOSOCIAL ORGANIZATION (TPO)
- SKATEISTAN
- 11 national and subnational hospitals
- KAMPUCHEA BALOPP
- MITH SAMLANH
- M'LOP TAPANG
- SALA BAÏ HOTEL AND RESTAURANT SCHOOL
- SIPAR
- TAKEO EYE HOSPITAL (CARITAS)
- École Hôtelière Paul Dubrule
- ACLEDA Business Institute
- ANGKOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- ANGKOR UNIVERSITY
- ASIA EURO UNIVERSITY
- ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND IN CAMBODIA
- BAYON PATISSERIE SCHOOL
- BROWN COFFEE

- CARITAS BATTAMBANG
- CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS
- CAMBODIA WORLD FAMILY
- CHEA SIM UNIVERSITY OF KAMCHAYMEAR
- CHILDREN IN FAMILIES
- CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
- CRC CAMBODIA
- DAMNOK TOEK
- DEAF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
- DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL SIHANOUKVILLE
- DON BOSCO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
- ENFANTS SOURDS DU CAMBODGE AND MR. JEAN-PAUL BERAHA
- EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION AND REPROCESSING (EMDR)
- FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL
- GHEEKO
- GLOBAL PEACE ALLIANCE - CAMBODIA
- LA GUILDE EUROPÉENNE DU RAID
- KANTHA BOPHA IV CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- MLUP RUSSEY ORGANIZATION
- NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY BATTAMBANG
- NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY PHNOM PENH
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
- NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA
- NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF BATTAMBANG
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
- NGO EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (NEP)
- OUTREACH BTB
- PANHA CHIET UNIVERSITY
- PANNASASTRA UNIVERSITY OF CAMBODIA
- PSC EDUCATION CENTER
- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CAMBODIA
- ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF PHNOM PENH
- ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW AND ECONOMICS
- SALA BAÏ HOTEL AND RESTAURANT SCHOOL
- SANOFI
- SIGNS DISCOVERY ASSOCIATION
- SY GUECH INSTITUTE
- TRAPEANG SANGKAE COMMUNITY BASED ECOTOURISM-KAMPOT
- UNIVERSITY OF CAMBODIA
- UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA
- WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

COMPANIES

- AMANJAYA HOTEL
- ANGKOR ARTWORK (Eric STOCKER)
- BAJAJ INTRACITY
- BLIND MASSAGE CENTER
- BODIA NATURE
- CAMH Co. LTD
- CMDK
- D+Z URBAN HOTEL
- PROMOTION FOR DISABILITY PROJECT
- KHMER CERAMICS & FINE ARTS CENTER
- LONG RA Car mechanic
- PUNLEU THMEY Restaurant
- RADIO HAPPINESS VOICE FOR THE BLIND
- SAN FRANCISCO COMPANY
- SEIN LIM
- SENG POV Car mechanic
- SMART Cambodia
- SOCIAL COFFEE
- SOFT SKILL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERVICE
- TEMPLATION ANGKOR BOUTIQUE
- THALIAS (Malis Restaurant, Khema, Arunreas Hotel)
- TOP STREET RESTAURANT
- VOICE OF THE BLIND Radio station
- SOFITEL Phnom Penh Phokeethra

KROUSAR THMEY TEAMS

The volunteers of Krousar Thmey France, Krousar Thmey Switzerland and the employees of Krousar Thmey Cambodia.

AND ALL THE PRIVATE DONORS





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