



## Completion Report

KHM-CHO-EDU-P05, Poipet, Cambodia  
Reporting period: July to December 2016

### Children's Anti-trafficking pre-school "School on the Mat"

**Budget:** \$45,000 – fully funded!

**Update:**

The School on the Mat project provides an informal school in five villages along the Cambodian-Thai border. Each village has two schools – one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with the same teacher teaching both sessions. The ten schools cater to 96 boys and 103 girls, allowing them the opportunity to learn Khmer, Math and life skills, up to grade three. By providing informal education, the children are then able to catch up and enroll in the government school. Numbers in the schools decreased by 17 over the period, with families having to migrate to find work. While this is discouraging it is encouraging that 30 students (20 female) have enrolled in Government schools over this same period.



Students from one of the schools

Our partner does not just provide school on the mat, but holistic community development projects also. Mot Maev (aged 49) shares how through a combination of projects, her whole family is benefitting:



Handing out school supplies

*My husband and I do not have a permanent job, we've had to move around a lot doing labour work in Thailand. Taking all 4 of our children with us has caused them to miss school. We were sad but we had no choice.*

*We currently live in Banteay Tmey village and have heard about the school on the mat and how it has provided children with free education and they also provide school materials. We were very happy to enrol two of our children there, one is age 15 and the other one is 13. Since they've started school we have seen changes in their behaviour and their knowledge, they can now read and write. We can see that with education they will have a good future and help the family.*

*[The partner] not only provide children in our village with an education but also gave opportunities to parents to access low interest loans.*

*They provided business planning, bookkeeping, and marketing training in our village, which my husband and I joined. After the training, we decided to get a loan from CHO to start our own business. Currently we have our*

*home-based small shop that sell rice porridge and noodle soup. We are very happy with our business because we get to stay home close to our children.*

*We are very thankful to CHO and the donors for giving another chance to rise up our living condition and have a better future.*

As well providing basic education, the children are taught about their rights, anti-trafficking, hygiene, substance abuse and domestic violence, as well as right behaviour. Feedback from another parent:



Teacher training

*“their child have changed a lot since they started the class. Their morality and knowledge have improved a lot. They help around the house more and respect their elders and they some of them would even read their lessons to their younger siblings.”.*

During this period, our partner also worked with the Government and conducted teacher training. Each teacher is chosen from the area around the school on the mat, and are then trained up. It is not just the students who benefit from the program but also the teachers who would otherwise also have to travel for work. These teachers now have a skill base on which to continue to improve their lives.

This was the final year in a five-year project. As you can see this program is achieving amazing things and we are impressed with what our partner has achieved over those years. Behavioural change is happening and lives are being transformed. As a result of the impact, we have decided to run another three year project, continuing to work in those villages around Poipet where children cannot enroll in the Government school. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement during this five years. Thanks to you, numerous children have a better, safer future.



Learning to read



Learning life skills through art