

School on the Mat

KHM-CHO-SOM-P03



Poipet, Cambodia



Education

Total Budget

\$126,570

Project Timeline

JAN 17

JULY 20



Overview

This project has supported five teachers to run ten informal schools in villages along the Thai/Cambodian border area. The area is poor and many land mines have been left behind as a result of the Khmer Rouge civil war. An informal morning and afternoon school is run in each village teaching basic academic skills, together with art/craft, drama and music. The school provides a means of helping children into the school government system. The children and parents also learnt about human trafficking prevention, substance abuse, children's rights, domestic violence and disaster preparedness through schooling and an annual camp which was a highlight of the year.

Objectives



90% students into school



584 children attended school on the mat

Impact

Children from poor villages are often left to their own devices whilst parents seek work, often daily across the border, putting the children at risk. The project has seen over 90% of students pass the tests to attend local, formal schooling.

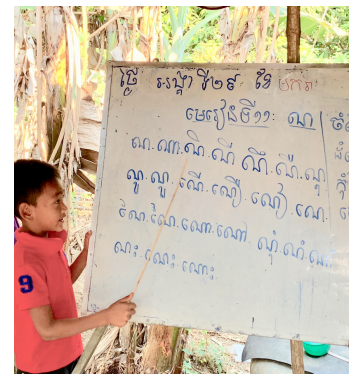


School on the Mat was divided into year groups, even though many students were much older than the academic level due to their circumstances. Thousands of families have benefitted from the whole-village approach to education.



A life transformed!

All the children have a story! Here is one that is typical of those who attended School on the Mat. "My name is Moon and I am 9 years old. My mother passed away and my father would go to Thailand often leaving me and my siblings for many days. Sometimes we would have to go to the jungle or ponds to find food. Now I go to School on the Mat and I am very happy. I learn Khmer, maths and many things. I never want to miss a class. I want to be a teacher so that I can help other kids like me. My dad is happy knowing that I am safe and have a bright future." Wonderful!



Life change

- Greater opportunities for parents to earn an income while knowing children are safe and cared for
- A quality start to schooling with greater potential to continue through Primary School in the government system and a foothold for future education
- Communities with the tools to prevent trafficking and reduce other at-risk situations

