

Micro Loans, Macro Impact!

KHM-CHO-MMI-P01



Poipet, Cambodia



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

\$35,000

Project Timeline

JULY 19

JULY 20



Overview

Poipet, on the Cambodia/Thai border, is a popular gambling destination for Thai and Chinese tourists. It is also a transit point for human trafficking. It presents many daily risk factors to the community. Poor Cambodians often cross into Thailand seeking employment. This project followed a 3-year micro-loan project supported by Entrust. It offered business training and micro-loans to interested families who are struggling to survive. By setting up small businesses and reducing the need to travel to Thailand for work, children are protected from trafficking and families are kept together. Due to problems from COVID-19 and other matters, we have brought this project to a close after one year. Micro-loans have provided a great start for many families over the years.

Objectives



Loans provided for 46 families

46 families were identified and screened for suitability for a microloan by our partners through discussion, visitation and a checklist. Loans of around \$500 were given out to families starting small businesses after receiving training.



25 businesses started

The first group of 25 have started businesses and are doing well. It is expected that all will have repaid the loan in the first 12 months. The next 21 families have finished training and business plans and have just commenced businesses.



A new start!

San Yes is 35 years old and had a hard life growing up. He dropped out of school to find work across the border illegally, always dodging the police and moving about. It was stressful and he earned a pittance. Exhausted, he returned to Poipet to start a welding business but without the knowledge, skills and the right tools, the business failed. He joined the microloan program and received a loan, business advice and support. He is saving and buying tools to improve the business. Customers are increasing and he is very thankful for the new start in life.



Life change

- An opportunity to become self-sufficient and stay together as a family
- Children can attend school, providing a chance to move out of poverty for future generations
- Reduction in trafficking leading to better outcomes for children and families
- Develops stronger communities as families band together

