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SCC & F2F COMMUNITY CENTRE

Academic year, 2011-2012



**Annual Report
April 2011 - March 2012**

**Prepared by
Mr. San Pon, Branch Manager**

**Verified by
Mr. Prum Thoeun (Executive Director)
Mr. Tep Monyrotha (Program Manager)**

**Submitted to
Face to Face AIDS Project
Global Giving
JC Foundation**

Location: Battambang Province

SALVATION CENTRE CAMBODIA (SCC)

IDENTITY

SCC is a dynamic Cambodian faith based organization that has played a major role in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Through the loving kindness, compassion, sympathy, equanimity, commitment and dedication of a team of Buddhist monks, nuns, staff, volunteers and generous supporters, SCC has been able to improve the lives of many people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. SCC has aided the poorest and least fortunate families in the villages—especially children—either orphaned or adversely affected by HIV/AIDS.

VISION

A Cambodian society characterized by a sustained reduction in HIV/AIDS, the elimination of stigma and discrimination against PLHA and OVC and the continuing respect of their basic human rights.

MISSION

SCC will develop a committed staff team to work through a network of monks, nuns and other local and national stakeholder groups to expand capacity, reduce vulnerability, and provide a range of supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Our goal is that these beneficiaries will be able to claim their rights and improve their lives.

GOAL

SCC's goal is to make a significant contribution to HIV prevention and AIDS care, and the improvement of the living conditions of PLHIV and OVC.

VALUE

Salvation Centre Cambodia in all its actions is guided by its core values, which are solidarity, spirituality, compassion, human rights, good governance, democracy, and the rule of law.

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I- INTRODUCTION TO THE CENTRE

The SCC & F2F Community Centre was first put forward in the middle of 2009, during the visit of Mr. Ken Wong, Director of Face to Face AIDS Project. After an in-depth discussion between SCC and the donor (F2F), we received an official affirmation on the approval of the centre entitled "SCC & F2F Community Centre".

While planning for the Center began years ago in 2002, actual construction of the Face-to-Face Community Center at SCC began in August 2009 when initial funding was attained. The one-story, high-roofed center have 3 classrooms, 1 office, 1 storeroom, and 2 bathrooms. Construction was completed on January 10th, 2010.

The SCC & F2F community centre in Battambang is under the leadership of Mr. San Pon, SCC Battambang Branch Manager with the association of five staffs (four female teachers and a security) including the actions of many other foreign and national volunteers.

Supplemental studies and vocational training are offered to the orphan, vulnerable and poorest children. The aims are to promote the community participating in intervention advocacy of children's right education to help reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV, OVC. Care and support is also provided to the children so that they can enjoy in their studies. However, the negotiation and cooperation between CBE and public schools are also done in order to let those children free from facing the difficulties such as additional payment to the teachers etc.

II- MAIN PROJECTS

A variety of programs were offered at the community center, all aimed to give people the opportunity to improve their lives and their happiness. The programs include:

- Children Basic Education (CBE)
- Sewing Vocational Training (SVT)
- Handcraft Skill Training (HST)

III- STUDY PROGRAMS

- Study programs based on Basic Level (Primary level) Studies from Monday to Friday.
- Subjects include Khmer, Math, Science, hygiene and English throughout the year, taught by Cambodian teachers including interns and volunteers from oversea.
- Vocational class is another skill provided.
- Sewing vocational training to women and older girls.
- Handcraft skill training to a group of women beneficiaries.

IV- STUDENTS

Children Basic Education

Monday to Friday the Centre runs two primary education children's classes (grades 4-6), one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The CBE classes are run for three hours each by two female teachers and a foreign F2F volunteer, providing lessons in English, Khmer,

mathematics, music, and photography in addition to education regarding basic health and hygienic practice. The classrooms are equipped with basic visual learning aids in both Khmer and English; a few reading books and other classroom materials are also provided by SCC to build the children's abilities in reading, listening, writing and practice.

In this fiscal year 2011-2012 there are 88 CBE students enrolled at the Centre, 46 of whom are female, but currently **only 46 CBE students and 25 of whom are female are studying at the class** as the other 42 students moved to grade 7 at the public school and stopped at our CBE.



Sewing Vocational Training

Monday to Friday, up to **20 women** are trained in tailoring all sorts of clothing and other accessories. The project assigns one trainer for teaching this skill, fully equipped with training material and equipment. Very organized and well experienced in skills training, the sewing teacher produces both theoretical and practical training modules and copies them to distribute freely to all students to keep as reference when needed.

In this fiscal year 2011-2012 there are 32 trainers enrolled at the Centre, 32 of who are female, but currently there are only 16 trainers attending the class and all of them are female, whereas the other 16 moved, stopped, get married and got jobs at their own communities. Most students come from poor families in the surrounding districts of Ek Phnom and Sangkae.

Handcraft skill training

Nine women PLHIVs at a time are chosen to produce handcrafted eggs and jewelry after being trained at the SCC-F2F Community Centre,

Like the sewing skills classes, this form of skills training is broken into two components—one of general theory in handcrafted production technique and the other providing essential practical experience in handcrafting the eggs and jewelry.

The latter is a painstakingly intricate craft using traditional Cambodian textiles bought in local markets to cover wooden beads or duck eggs that have been carefully cut open, cleaned, and glued back together again. Multiple coats of varnish of various dilutions are applied to each bead or egg, along with repeated sanding to smooth out the surface. Mastering the craft takes time and effort.

V- ACHIEVEMENTS

Children Basic Education (CBE)

1. Nutritional Supplement

Make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds by covering all expenses for special schools. By adopting this project, children chance to experience the joys and potentials of learning, as well as an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

Additionally, to help cover the guardians' costs of feeding the children, SCC offers refreshments during afternoon and morning classes, encouraging them to continue to attend their schooling at the Centre.

Both SCC and F2F place great importance on education and believe that any form of supplementary education can be an effective tool in breaking the cycle of poverty, illness and discrimination in these sorts of communities.

Student profiles are currently being developed as is a system of keeping them updated. These profiles include family history, contact details, living arrangements as well as academic performance. These are beneficial for both SCC as well as F2F to keep their donors informed of the activities and progress of the CBE at the SCC-F2F Community Centre. However, more work is needed for establishing communication with teachers from the students' local public schools and the parents/guardians of the students.



Some of CBE students can speak and write basic English under the instruction of Miss. Sokkanika, Ly Srey Touch and Miss Tao Li, a volunteer from USA who worked for SCC Seven months.

All of CBE students are happy to learning English, Mathematics, Art, and Music in SCC-F2F Community Centre and also they learn take photo trained by Mr Geordie the free land photographer.

2. School Uniform and Material

Besides ensuring that a classroom of children who attend special schools for orphans and vulnerable children have quality uniforms, SCC covered basic supplies such as exercise books and pencils., To encourages the CBE students who study at SCC*F2F Community Centre We covered the materials such as note books, text books, pens, pencils, rulers and others. In this fiscal year 2011-2012, SCC provided the school uniform to 45 CBE children (F25).



3. Happy Happy Program

Conducted the happy happy program for CBE students to play and eating together swimming at the pools, in order to reduce the stigma and discrimination, want them to be friendly, communication strong commitment to learning, children are happy so much because



they never play or working in the groups.

4. Transmission (Linkage to other school)

Most students come from poor families in the surrounding districts of Ek Phnom and Sangkae and also receive education at local public schools, such as Norea Primary School or Balat Primary School.

5. Follow up

Teachers and staff field visit at their home to meet their parents and care givers to know the situation of their living and counseling them to study hard.

Sewing Vocational Training (SVT)

6. Purchased Equipment

SCC Purchased Sewing machines for women so that they began to generate their own income at home after they complete the training course.

7. Purchased Material (Clothes)

More than just vocational training, this unique sewing program also teaches orphaned girls and women suffering from HIV and poverty to manage finances, operate home businesses, and to assist similarly affected women in their community, SCC support for all materials for them to learn.



8. Lunch Support

During the learning the sewing at SCC F2F Community Centre Provided lunch for women participating in the training program for HIV+ women and the poorest of the poor until they are complete successfully the training.

9. Students' Meeting

We always regular conducted the students meeting to introduce the main activity and project goal to them and want to learn more challenges from students.

Handicraft Skills

This program not only provides income generating skills for HIV+ people, it also provides a safe haven from stigma and discrimination. Crafts offered include jewelry and beading, varnishing, and hairstyling. Women at the Community Centre in Battambang learn skills such as craft-making and hairstyling.

The handicraft skills that these women can develop for themselves have given them a greater chance of overcoming the discrimination they face daily and generating a sufficient income to support themselves and their families. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, it gives them a sense of pride and achievement in the work they create as well as a sense of



companionship amongst those who have experienced similar stories to their own. Indeed, where once they were stigmatized, the women can become role models to others who must also cope with HIV/AIDS and poverty.

The results show an array of high quality bead necklaces, bracelets, and eggs that are both beautiful and unique and found the new places for selling the handicraft at Siem Reap province.

Other Activities Highlighted:

1. Income Generation Activities (IGA)

SCC provided program beneficiaries with financial support through grants and loans and as a result beneficiaries have developed income generation activities. The beneficiaries chose activities to pursue based on their interest and resources and staff from SCC provided training and support to undertake these activities.

Provided 20 Capitals to families affected by HIV so that they started or grew their own business, offering a brighter future for their children.

2. House Renovations

SCC BTB repaired the 4 houses of beneficiaries who supported by JCF and built the 2 new houses for poorest families.



House before renovation



House after renovated

VI- CASE STUDY

Rith Sara – new student in the SCC*F2F Community Centre CBE Morning Class

Meet 15-year-old Rith Sara. Sara is just one of the many students that SCC and F2F are supporting in an effort to strengthen some of the poorer communities in Battambang through their CBE program. Her story is one that would be particularly difficult for any 15-year-old girl to live with. But nonetheless she has a strong willed attitude that has brought her to the



SCC*F2F Community Centre and that has the potential to improve her and her family's life for the future.

Sara is the second of four children in her family. All were born and raised in their early years in Ta Kok Village in the Norea Commune of the Sangkae District in Battambang. However, due to her parents' poor income and unsteady marriage, their living arrangements have since changed multiple times.

When Sara was approximately 5-years-old, her mother, whose name Sara cannot remember, sold the land on which they were living and the whole family moved to Banteay Meanchey Province in the far north of Cambodia. There they lived on land owned by their grandmother (mother's mother), but were not required to pay rent.

Her father **Choeun Sarith** and her mother were working as farmers on a wage for approximately 5 years before then moving to Thailand in seek of further work. In the time that her parents were in Thailand, Sara and her siblings all stayed with their grandmother in Banteay Meanchey. However, their mother returned after only 3 months and their father not long afterwards. It was two months later that Sarith's aunt, Rotha Saran, still living in Ta Kok, that the house on which they previously had lived in and sold was now unoccupied and the owner was willing to rent it out to them if they wished to come back to Battambang. As his marriage to Sara's mother was so bitter, Sarith took his four children back to live with him in their old house in Ta Kok while his wife stayed in Banteay Meanchey with her sister and mother. They have not been officially divorced and Sara's mother no longer works.

In their small house, made up of only one room/raised platform, Sara lives with her father, 12-year-old sister Rith Saran and 10-year-old brother Rith Chanrith. Her 17-year-old sister Rith Sarain is currently living with and is being supported by Rotha Saran, their father's aunt who informed them of their old house being available for rent. Their mother has been to visit them twice since her separation from the family but for one night in 2010 and for less than a day in 2011. Sara and Sarain both said their relationship with her is pleasant but it is still quite bitter between her and Choeun Sarith.

Sarith works for his aunt Rotha Saran everyday from 7am-5pm earning 15 000Riel/day (\$US3.25/day) making farming and harvesting equipment. To cover the costs of rent (150 000Riel/year, (\$US32.50/year) and general living expenses such as food and school materials, he has also had to borrow money (20 000-30 000 Riel, (\$US5.00-6.50 at a time) from his neighbor Hoeun Hong, who is also the mother of fellow CBE morning class student Som Keo Sor. Sara and Sarain say that sometimes their father is slow to return the money but they have a good relationship and it is never a problem. Sara is also works during school holiday time, cleaning and babysitting in one of the houses at Wat Balat. She works from 7am-5pm earning 5000Riel/day (\$US1.25/day), however, she says that this is her money and it does not go towards the family living expenses. With regard to her schooling, Sara is in grade 6 at Norea Primary School as is her 12-year-old sister Saran. Sarain is currently studying in grade 10, while Chanrath studies in grade 3. Sara did start school in 2002 at the age of 5 as most students do, however, she repeated grade 3 once and also repeated grade 4. However, she said that she found grade 5 in the 2010-2011 school year much easier and is looking

forward to grade 6 later this year. She says that her father is fully supportive of her education but sometimes he cannot afford to pay for some school materials such as books and pens. Their family cannot afford means of transportation either, forcing all children to walk to school and their father to walk to work. In terms of their health, all family members have lived in good health for as long as Sara and Sarain can remember, with the exception of Chanrath who was once diagnosed with dengue fever. However, he is apparently now healthy. The top level to their house is empty and there are actually no stairs that lead to the top level.

VII- CHALLENGES

- Some students are absent from classes, often due to familial obligations to help support the family or lack of parental enforcement of education.
- The trainees of PLHIV and poorest adolescents give up the course of sewing because they did not sit for a long time and they also do not have the income to support their families when they are learning.
- The products of handcraft cannot sell to clients, so make our beneficiaries are hopeless.

VIII- NEXT PLANS

To continue opening the second term for poorest teenagers and adolescents and PLHIV, OVC who are not able to earn living to support for their families to attend the sewing training.

- To continue providing lunch for trainees who get vocational sewing skill in SCC community centre
- To continue teaching additional education for children and support refreshment for them
- To continue the production of eggs, necklaces, Bracelets, earrings and finding the market for selling.

IX- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None of our works at the community centre would be possible without the support of F2F, J&CF and Global Giving Foundation. As the Program Manager of Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC), I would like to thank F2F, J&CF and Global Giving Foundation and take this opportunity to acknowledge their very valuable support. As my conclusion, I would like to appreciate the Governing Board, all of my staff colleagues and SCC's volunteers for their hardship and energy in work so far.

X- APPENDIX

- 1- List of student at CBE
- 2- List of student attending sewing vocational training
- 3- List of student attending handcraft skill training