

Cambodia Development Organization for Children (CAMDOC)

Achievement report in Reul Commune, Puok district, Siem Reap, Cambodia For 2009 to 2010

I. Organization Background:

Cambodia Development Organization for Children (CAMDOC) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profitable organization founded in 2009 with the support of Netherlands, Germany and USA. CAMDOC's mission is to improve the quality of life of Cambodian people, particularly children and adults, rebuild the human resources, enhance life expectancy and reduce the poverty in rural Cambodia. Currently, the target community of CAMDOC is Reul commune, Puok district, about 30km at North-West of Siem Reap City. The programs and achievements from 2009 to 2010 are particularly concerned with the language education, vocational training and hygiene enhancement.

II. Organization's Objectives:

The objectives of the organization are to:

- Enhance a level of education for Cambodian children comparably to surrounding areas and towns through the provision of schools, vocational training centers, libraries, scholarships and others
- Provide an equal opportunity in education for everyone, particularly children and adults
- Reduce poverty by strengthening human resources and improving household economics
- Reduce the rate of death by various infections, diarrhea, malaria through the missions to enhance the living sanitation and environment

III. The certain goals:

The certain goal of the organization is to have 80% of the English class children are able to speak English at acceptable level, 80% of sewing trainees are able to get paid jobs no matter with CAMDOC or with others, 80% of people in Reul commune have access to safe water and toilets, 80% can afford to buy hygiene goods and willing to live in clean environments and to reduce the rate of drop out before grade 10 by 50% within 5 years.

IV. Target area & Target group:

The current target area of the organization is Reul commune, located about 30 North-West of Siem Reap. This commune consists of 14 villages and housed about 15,000 people.

V. Projects and Achievements:

The activities and achievements of the organization from 2009 to 2010 are described as below:

1. The support to Boo Young Secondary School: The organization has

- Installed window bar for 3 classrooms
- Gave a lab top computer
- Built a two-room toilet

- Constructed a ring well
- Provided 5 whiteboards

2. Health and Hygiene Projects:

+ A. The support to Reul Health Center:

The organization has

- Provided 3 patient beds
- Provided 1 computer (lab top)
- Provided Necessary medicines
- Transported the serious patients to get treatment 3paxs
- Purchased and installed 5 washing bowls

+ B. Mouth and Dental Hygiene Program:

- The organization has made presentation on mouth and dental hygiene to about 2118 children. Those were including children from Kouknang, Reul, Prolit and Tumreong primary schools. At the end of the presentation, a set of toothpaste and toothbrush were provided to each children and teachers.

- So as to continue with the Mouth and Hygiene Project, the organization has set up channel of distribution of some hygiene goods such as toothpaste and soap. The villagers from the 14villages of Reul commune can buy these goods from their village representatives at the price of 50% off from market price.

3. Clean Water Supplied Project:

There are 26 water wells were completely built and provided to 78 families for using and taking care. Please see the list of water wells as below:

4. Language and Vocational Training Project:

- There were 27 among 30 trainees have successfully finished their sewing training course of 6 months. Now some of them are opening their own business, some working for others with their sewing skills, while some continue to work as construction and rice field workers.

- There are about 200 children are attending English class, 50% of them are able to speak and write English.

5. Community Participation:

CAMDOC has organized the meeting with local authorities and people many times and we even successfully formed a community organization chart, which 4 ladies represent one village. Below are the table of the names of village representatives and their village. These village representatives play very important roles in raising, solving the problems in the community based on guidelines and direction of the organizations and local authorities. The roles and responsibilities of them are including:

- Disseminate the missions and goals of the organization to people in the community

- Help the organization to implement its projects more successfully and transparently
- Raise the issues in their community to discuss with the organization for better solution
- Attend the meeting with the organization staffs and management
- Being the distributors of toothbrushes, toothpastes, soap, shampoo and others
- Cooperating with village leaders to find out the poor families and report to the organization for any possible help, including providing water well, children adopted project and other projects

VI. Problems and Challenges:

+ For Sewing Class:

- Most of the trainees were often absent because they had to work to support their families and taking care their children (widow) and brothers, sisters
- Some trainees had no mean of transport so they had to depend on their friends' bikes, when their friend were absent, they had to be absent too.

+ For English Class:

- Some of the children were often absent because they needed to help their parents at rice field and making money to support their families
- Some children did not have mean of transport (bikes) so they had to walk for a long distance while some of them were depending on their friends' bikes when their friends were absents they had to be absent too.
- We had only one classroom so we were not able to accommodate children more than 40 with the same class time.
- Some class hours the numbers of children there were more than 30 which caused difficulties for students and teacher in their communication
- The children were not properly encouraged by their parents because some parents were not aware very well the importance of study
- Some children forced to drop out because they needed to work to support their families

+ Health and Hygiene Projects:

- The knowledge of community in terms of hygiene was very low and needed more time to convince them
- Most of the people cannot afford to buy hygiene goods including soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo...etc
- People did not understand well the importance of cleaning their teeth and washing their lands before meals that led to unwillingness in spending money to buy toothpaste, toothbrush and soap
- The perception of some people is that "the habit of living in good and sanitation environment costs much money and takes much time, they are used to with the current living"
- People were not fully convinced by the commune health center in terms of service quality
- Most of the people cannot pay for transportation fees from their home to the district and provincial hospital
- Lacked of toilets in the villages led to polluted environment and infection
- Most of the people were not used to in using toilet, they still like the old culture – going to forest when they need toilet

- The rate of people who had access to safe water are still low because the number of clean water wells in the community was still limited and people were not willing to boil and filter water before drinking
- Most of the people or patients are not willing to go to Health Center before their health condition becoming worse

VII. Solutions to the problems and Objectives to be achieved in the future

+ For Sewing Class:

- Creating new disciplines, policies and criteria to select the better trainees in terms of their commitment and enthusiasm regarding their course
- Making contract with them and their parents to ensure that they will be attending the course successfully and won't allow their job/housework interrupts their course
- In any forms, the organization will try to find them the job after they have finished their course successfully with excellent outcomes (good skills and knowledge)
- Prepare a small loan for them to start up their own job/business with the skill they have learnt from the organization
- Improve the current operation of its tailor shop in order to create the job opportunity for trainees who have finished their course

+ For English Class:

- Keep seeking for foster parents for the selected children and offer them and their family the basic supports so that they can go to school freely and happily
- Offer support for the best children in terms of their school stationeries, school supplies, uniform and rice...etc
- Regularly making exam, the best children will be gifted and the poor children or often children will not be allowed to go on next level
- Set up one more classroom so that the children can have better learning environment and create more space for new children enrolling for the course
- Keep advising the children, the importance of learning both at public school and at CTC (English language)
- Organizing the game and play with the children to make the school environment more happily and attractive
- Lead and encourage children to speak out what they have in mind concerning their study, their family and their goals in the future
- The children who are punctual and no-absent should be gifted to keep them motivated
- Keep track on the attendance and absence of the children
- Visit the children's houses and talk to their parents to find out the exact reasons that caused the children's absence and take appropriate steps to the issues

+ Health and Hygiene Projects:

- Appointing a staff or a team to be in charge of sanitation project. The team's roles and responsibilities will include making plan, implementing and measuring the outcomes

- Conduct hygiene training to operating team and village representatives by expert from concerned departments and offices
- Conduct meeting with community on hygiene and the harms and disadvantages cause by unclean practices in their daily life
- Appointing one active leader to work with 4 village representatives to improve the sanitation in their village
- Make it more affordable to people in the community to buy hygiene goods such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap and shampoo by subsidizing 50%
- Work hand in hand with commune health center to improve the service as well as to convince the people to visit health center when they are not well
- Try to reply the necessary need to the health center and the community within available budget
- Organize mean of transport at any acceptable form (both organization and community) by discussing with commune officials and commune health worker.
- Creating insurance packages at a price and term and condition which people can afford to buy or to encourage people in the community to buy the existing insurance packages

VIII. Conclusion:

According to above disclosing, we found that the organization has walked in its right directions and we can say that we got success in step by step. The numbers of children who are able to write and read English increasing month after month and some sewing trainees are able to use their skill learned from the organization to work for others and open their own shop, while other coming back for further improving their skill with us. As far as mouth and dental hygiene project, the children who had been taught how to clean their teeth and the importance of cleaning their teeth keep cleaning their teeth until now, we can see some of them have come to us to buy new toothpaste with the price of 50% off and more and more parents are becoming aware of the advantages of brushing their teeth as well and they are willing to buy it for their children. In general, we can see their behavior towards hygiene is better than before. In addition to toothpaste, they even asked us to sell soap, washing shampoo...etc and they are willing to buy at an affordable price (50% off from the market price). Moreover, most of them are becoming more aware that using safe water really makes them healthy and helps them to reduce the expenses to medication. Most of them are now willing to use filter, clean water well, washing their hands before meals. Furthermore, the concept that participation from the community itself is very important is being aware and we can see people are willing to join with our projects and activities obviously, we have 4 women per village representing their village in taking part with us surrounding the plan and mechanism to develop their community. However, there are much more work needed to be done those including mechanism and strategies to keep children coming to school regularly, effective plans to provide paid jobs to sewing trainees after finishing their course, putting more efforts in disseminating the importance of sanitation including using of toilets, cleaning their teeth, washing hand before meal, mechanism to prohibit the spreading out of some infection, diarrhea, malaria and typhoid...etc The organization also need the cooperation from the community, beneficiaries and local authorities to make the mechanisms to sort out the present facing issues. More importantly, CAMDOC and its partner CCA will try to appeal for more funds to continue the current implemented projects as well as to continue with other projects.