

Building Schools in Cambodia

Primary Education



Why Build Schools?

Every child deserves access to quality education and a safe and secure learning environment is essential for educational success. It has been proven that education is one of the most important factors in eradicating poverty. Education is the building block of every society and we believe education is a fundamental human right, not a privilege of few.

Challenges in Cambodia

Cambodia has an unfortunate history in which people's lives were destroyed progressively and exponentially as successive regimes gained and then lost power following Cambodia's independence from France in 1953. During the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1978, and the 13 years of civil unrest that followed, the Cambodian people were subjected to an extreme violation of their rights and genocide.

At least 1.5 million Cambodians died while under the Khmer Rouge regime. Forcefully evacuated from their homes and separated from their families, Cambodians continue to suffer from long periods of starvation, forced labour and extreme hardship.

After more than two decades of civil war, Cambodia has become one of the poorest and least developed countries in South-East Asia, with low adult literacy and high drop out and repetition rates in primary and secondary schools.

Building Schools in Cambodia

While main cities, such as Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, may seem to be thriving due to the booming tourism industry and assistance received from the high influx of non-government and community-based organisations, development is not evenly spread in Cambodia. Many families continue their struggle to make ends meet, as the majority of villages outside cities remain invisible, unsupported and have no share in the socio-economic growth. This coupled with the very poor condition of school buildings, means that education takes second place, as parents fear for their children's safety. Although most of the communities understand the importance of education, they lack the resources and ability to provide clean drinking water and basic school and sanitary facilities. Hence, building schools in Cambodia is critical for increasing students' participation in education.

Our Model

We develop “smartnerships” with best-practice local NGO’s who have the vision, drive and community standing to create change. Empowering local people creates positive change. As projects progress, and through to completion, we create proof of impact reports for our donors with updates, photos and GPS coordinates on google maps and inspiring stories from the field.



About Our NGO Partner in Cambodia

Child’s Dream was established in 2003 as a charitable organisation dedicated to unconditional help for underprivileged children in the Mekong Sub-Region. This region is at the core of many humanitarian crises and children are suffering the most. Child’s Dream has implemented over 300 projects in extremely remote and neglected areas in this region. Child’s Dream is on a mission to empower marginalised communities to shape their own futures. They achieve this by working with communities to improve health care and education for children and provide socioeconomic opportunities for families.



Approach

Guided by a bottom-up approach, community leaders and the school committees are engaged in close collaboration and consultation, from the early stages on to develop and construct the facilities. Classroom of Hope and Child’s Dream believe in fostering good relationships with the communities, as it enables us to understand their real needs and ensure the projects’ sustainability. Through regular follow-ups and communication, we remain sensitive to their needs even after the project is completed, enabling us to continue supporting them in promoting education and increasing children and youth’s participation in school.

Budget & Reporting

Depending on the size of the student population, the construction of a school building (with between 3 to 6 classrooms) costs US\$40,000 to US\$70,000 and accommodates around 75 to 200 students. It is also possible to contribute part of the total cost of a school building (e.g. 50%). As with all our projects, a detailed final report will be provided together with a financial reconciliation.