



## Final Report for

## Classroom of Hope

## Project concerned

## Prey Khpos Primary School Building

We supported the local community of Po Village in Battambang Province, Cambodia, by building one new, fully-furnished school with six classrooms and five toilets.

## Implemented and funded by

Child's Dream Cambodia Organisation (CDCO)  
N. 160, Group 10  
Krous Village  
Svay Dangcum Commune  
Siem Reap, Cambodia

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## Executive Summary

Located in Po Village, Prey Khpos Primary School serves 319 students (175 boys, 144 girls) aged 6 – 12. The school building's foundation was cracked in multiple locations and the wooden structure had deteriorated to the point that the structure was posing a significant risk to the students and staff.

To address this situation, we constructed one new, fully-furnished school with six classrooms and five toilets. Construction of Prey Khpos Primary School was fully completed on 23 May 2020.

### 1. Overview

Since their independence from French colonial powers in 1953, Cambodian people have been subjected to many years of exploitation by successive government regimes. From 1975 – 1979, the fragile social fabric of Cambodia was further weakened under the oppressive rule of the Khmer Rouge regime. During the four short years that the Khmer Rouge was in power, Cambodia was systematically destroyed. Imperiled by genocide and the extreme violation of their rights, over 1.5 million Cambodians died during the regime's rule. Citizens were forcefully evicted from their homes and separated from their families.

Thirteen years of civil unrest followed, endangering further generations of Cambodian people. They continued to suffer from long periods of starvation, forced labor, and extreme hardship. Decades of political and social turmoil caused tremendous disruption to the country's development and progress. Many children were denied the opportunity to receive a proper education.

Po Village is located in the Bavel District of Battambang Province, in western Cambodia. The vast majority of the population is dependent on subsistence farming for their income. The area has a population of 1,625 people in 426 families.

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Located in Po Village, Prey Khpos Primary School serves 319 students (175 boys, 144 girls), aged 6 – 12, and employs eight teachers (three men, five women). The school building's foundation was cracked in multiple locations and the wooden structure had deteriorated to the point that the structure was posing a significant risk to the students and staff.

In an effort to address this problem, we constructed one new, fully-furnished school with six classrooms and five toilets. The new facility will not only encourage consistent attendance, but will allow the students to reach their full potential in a safe, comfortable, and motivating learning environment. The construction of the school emphasizes the importance of education to the whole community and provides an incentive for the students to complete their primary-level education.

## **2. Operational Implementation**

It is our belief that establishing a close partnership with community leaders and the school management team leads to a more successful outcome. As with all of our projects, we encouraged the village to actively contribute to the construction process in order to instil a strong sense of pride and ownership in the project. The community agreed to contribute by filling the building foundation, removing the debris from the old school building, and later organizing the opening ceremony.

We are required to follow government-approved construction plans and designs when building schools in Cambodia. We partnered with a local contractor to manage labour and transportation of materials, oversee construction, and supply the furniture. The contractor was paid in instalments after the completion of each step of the building process, according to a written agreement. Five percent of the total construction cost will be held back for six months after completion of construction as a guarantee for the quality of the work.

Construction began in February 2020. Our team closely monitored the progress of the construction to ensure our high quality standards were met. We visited the site various times throughout the building process and were pleased with the cooperation of the community. The entire construction process went well and we are satisfied with the results. Construction was fully completed on 23 May 2020. The school will be formally handed over to the Cambodian Ministry of Education, the school management team, and the community during the opening ceremony which has not been scheduled yet due to concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic. It would be great if you could join us for the opening ceremony; if you are interested, please let us know and we will coordinate the logistics.

## **3. Project Performance**

**Effectiveness:** The following objectives were achieved:

- One new concrete school building with six fully furnished classrooms and five toilets were built. A quality learning environment for the students will incentivize them to finish their primary education.
- We expect the community to benefit tremendously from the new school building. Students will be more engaged, literacy rates will increase, school attendance will rise, and school dropout rates will decrease. We further expect that more students will complete their primary school education.

**Efficiency:** When building schools and boarding houses in Cambodia, we are required to follow specific designs and guidelines, which provides financial consistency. We agreed on a fixed price with a contractor to ensure that project costs would not change due to currency fluctuations or changes in the price of building materials. Our final construction costs were, therefore, in line with the proposed overall budget of USD 71,345. Administration expenses are a fixed percentage of the total construction budget and were allocated in full.

**Sustainability:** Sustainability of the school is guaranteed through close cooperation and collaboration with the government. Prey Khpos Primary School is a fully accredited government school; the government will provide teacher salaries, staff training, school maintenance, and resources for future renovations. The community will ensure that the school is properly maintained. We will carry out regular follow-up visits for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

#### 4. Project Chronology

The following link provides additional information on the various phases of construction:

<https://childsdream.org/projects/prey-khpos-primary-school/>

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your support and trust. Together, we were able to make a significant impact on the lives of many children. Thank you so much!

We would love to embark on a similar project again together in the near future.

Chiang Mai, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

#### Child's Dream Cambodia



Marc T. Jenni  
Founder & Managing Director Operations



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5. Photographs



The former Prey Khpos Primary School building



The building had significant damage to the foundation and structure



Meeting with community members about the new building project



Contract signing ceremony



Work on the foundation began in February 2020



Construction progressed as expected



Construction progressed as expected



A finished classroom with new desks



The front of the finished school building



The finished toilets (left) and back of school building (right) in May 2020

Construction was fully completed on 23 May 2020. Thank you very much for your great support again!

