

SIX MONTHS REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear readers,

Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) is committed to empowering rural communities through targeted interventions in clean water, sanitation, education, and leadership development. Over the past six months, we have witnessed remarkable progress through our various initiatives, each contributing to a ripple effect of positive change across communities.

One of the most significant impacts has been achieved through our life-saving hand pump wells. By drilling these wells in remote villages, we've eliminated dependence on unsafe water sources, improving health outcomes and overall well-being. Furthermore, we ensure long-term sustainability by training water user committees on proper maintenance, guaranteeing generations to come have access to clean water. Investing in education remains a cornerstone of our mission. School packs distributed to children serve as a symbol of opportunity and ignite a passion for learning. AOC empowers women and girls through training, promoting healthy habits and contributing to improved family health. Additionally, we piloted an innovative organic gardening program, equipping women with skills to cultivate nutritious food in limited spaces, promoting self-reliance and food security. Beyond immediate needs, AOC champions community resilience by equipping commune leaders and teachers with training on safe migration and anti-human trafficking.

This transformative journey wouldn't be possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, board members, and countless supporters. Their financial contributions, volunteer hours, and unwavering belief in our vision are the bedrock of our success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their support.

Sincerely,

Heng Pisey
Executive Director
Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC)

ABOUT ASIAN OUTREACH CAMBODIA (AOC)

Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) is a Christian organization that was founded in 1993. Its holistic vision is to restore hope and dignity to Cambodians by breaking the poverty cycle in rural communities, and all our programs align with this goal. True and sustainable transformation of communities requires spiritual, physical, educational and economic change. Therefore in recent years, we have contributed to the development of diverse communities through capacity building, human resource development by vocational training, education on safe water, sanitation, hygiene and positive parenting. We also raised awareness, trained and empowered women and girls. Our aim is to change the attitudes, behaviors and ideas of the communities to ensure sustainable development and ownership of changes. We are in a new season with a strong commitment to strengthening Cambodia's rural communities for a better future. All of our projects meet the actual and felt needs of the communities.

VISION:

Restoring hope and dignity to Cambodians by breaking the poverty cycle in rural communities.

MISSION:

Equipping and empowering rural communities through training, resource development in education, life skills, health, and hygiene.

PURPOSES:

Strengthen Cambodia's rural communities to have equal opportunity access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation and help poor children to have access to quality education. Develop leadership, including our staff, youth, community leaders, by empowering them to fulfill their vision and potential.

CORE VALUES:

1. **National Vision and Leadership:** We believe in serving and facilitating the vision of nationals and empowering local leaders to effectively fulfill them.
2. **Sustainability and Accountability:** We strive for excellence, transparency, and sustainability in all our projects, resources, and communications.
3. **Restoring Dignity:** We treat all people with respect through relationships, dignity, and compassion.
4. **Christian Witness:** We are witnesses of our Christian identity, message, and values and seek to be led by the Holy Spirit in all we do.
5. **Partnership:** We actively pursue partnership and networking, both locally, and internationally



WATER ACCESS PROJECT (WAP)

Improving water access, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Project Update:

We are dedicated to helping remote communities access clean water. We've made great progress recently, including setting up water user committees in each community to manage their water systems responsibly. We've also provided hygiene training to promote healthy practices and protect water sources. We aim not just to provide solutions, but to empower communities to manage their water sustainably. We're committed to reaching more remote areas to improve water security and quality of life.

Achievements:

- 22 remote communities were surveyed to assess the need for water and identified as beneficiaries for hand pump wells.
- 23 hand pump wells were constructed in the remote communities.
- 4 workshops were conducted for water user committees to help them understand the hand pump well construction process and their responsibilities.
- 6 workshops on the maintenance of hand pump wells were conducted for water user committees, enabling them to learn how to repair the hand pump wells independently.



THE HOPE CENTRE (THC)

Building human resources for a sustainable future.

Project Update:

Our approach to empowering young people is comprehensive, providing diverse opportunities and resources to support their growth. We aim to boost their self-esteem and talents, helping them achieve personal goals and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Our initiative creates a nurturing environment for young people to learn, connect, and develop into future leaders capable of making positive changes.

Achievements:

- 4 young couples attended the marriage seminar to enhance their relationship-building, communication skills, and understanding within marriages, aiming to strengthen their bonds and enhance marital satisfaction.
- 93 youths and school teachers were trained in first aid to provide them with essential skills and knowledge on administering first aid in emergency situations, potentially saving lives and promoting a safer environment within schools and communities.
- 70 youths attended the English Camp to enrich their learning experience and cultural understanding, helping them improve their communication skills, teamwork, and ability to share their talents and abilities.
- 20 youths were trained in Writing Through to enhance their writing skills, foster creativity, and improve communication abilities, valuable skills for personal development and future academic or professional endeavors.



ASSISTING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL (ACTS)

Reducing drop-out school rate in rural communities of Cambodia

Project Update:

We address foundational challenges by providing necessary school supplies and uniforms, ensuring that disadvantaged children can access education. Going beyond classrooms, our initiative extends to extra classes and community happy clubs, fostering academic success and a supportive learning environment. Recognizing families' crucial role, we empower parents with tools to actively support their children's education, promoting effective communication. Additionally, we prioritize the well-being of our beneficiaries by equipping both children and families with essential skills, creating a safe space for growth and development.

Achievements:

- 170 students were assisted with school and also supported by receiving school packs.
- 31 bicycles were distributed to children who have a long distance from school.
- 360 parents were trained in parenting to encourage them to understand their role in the family.
- 69 families were visited to be encouraged to support and be more involved in their children's learning.
- 6 extra classes are offered to delayed learners and the communities in the target area.
- 20 families were trained on organic kitchen gardening, including keyhole gardens and sack gardens, using organic methods.
- 10 villages established community happy clubs for children.
- We helped the child's family repair the house's roof to ensure the safety and well-being of all family members.



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (FEP)

Empowering rural families of Cambodia for a better future

Project Update:

We are dedicated to empowering and educating women in our target areas through our training and education initiatives. We understand the importance of adapting our approach to the changing needs of the community and individuals. Our flexibility in adapting to the community's changing needs has been essential to our success. We provide training and education initiatives that focus on specific topics to women in six villages. By doing so, we aim to empower women by providing them with the necessary knowledge to help them succeed in their life. Our commitment to empowering women is unwavering, and we will continue to adapt our approach to meet their changing needs.

Achievements:

- 61 women from two villages trained on healthy lifestyles, good touch and bad touch, living safe and self-defense from domestic violence, pregnancy, anti-human trafficking, safe migration, and the power of education.
- 281 women from 4 villages received reminder lessons on healthy lifestyles and an awareness of the importance of safeguarding themselves against online sexual exploitation.
- 48 families were visited to assess their needs and challenges, and to encourage them to improve their hygiene, sanitation, and communication within their families.
- 330 girls from five primary schools received sanitary pads during our Days for Girls events. We educated them about the importance of menstrual hygiene and how to manage their periods safely and hygienically. Additionally, the girls were informed about the importance of protecting themselves from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 205 boys from two primary schools during the Days for Girls events trained on puberty, good touch and bad touch, and how to protect themselves from sexual abuse and exploitation. The training aimed to educate the boys on the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty, as well as respect others during puberty and how to recognize and report sexual abuse.
- 8 women and 4 men trained to become focal persons. The objective of the training was to develop their leadership skills and enable them to work with their own communities and encourage their members for monthly training.



HOUSEHOLD WASH PROJECT (HWP)

Improving access to hygiene and sanitation in rural communities of Cambodia.

Project Update:

In rural Cambodia, women, girls, and young children in particular face significant health risks due to insufficient hygiene practices. To address this urgent issue, we have created a comprehensive program that focuses on improving hygiene practices. Our program takes a multifaceted approach, providing rural households with the necessary tools to enhance sanitation and access to clean water. This involves constructing latrines and distributing water ceramic filters. By integrating these efforts, we aim to ensure that families have the resources they need to maintain good hygiene habits, leading to a sustainable solution. Additionally, our program empowers families to break the cycle of preventable diseases and achieve better overall health. This holistic program not only safeguards individual well-being but also strengthens the resilience of entire communities.

Achievements:

- 250 latrines were constructed.
- 250 ceramic filters were distributed to 250 families.
- 250 families were trained on basic hygiene, the importance of handwashing with soap, and the proper use of latrines for personal sanitation to help them maintain good health and hygiene habits in their everyday lives.
- 250 families were visited to provide encouragement regarding hygiene and sanitation practices.



PROJECT IMPACT

Strengthening Cambodian communities

Our project is dedicated to addressing critical issues by providing access to a range of educational opportunities. Through workshops focusing on water and sanitation, hygiene, skills development, and spiritual growth, we aim to empower individuals with knowledge, awareness, and practical skills for personal and professional growth. Moreover, we establish safe spaces for open communication, story-sharing, and bonding among participants to foster emotional healing, resilience, and empowerment.

The workshops offered through our project are designed to enhance the knowledge of participants. By providing education on topics such as water and sanitation, hygiene practices, and skills development, individuals can gain a better understanding of these crucial areas. This knowledge not only benefits the participants themselves but also has a ripple effect, positively impacting their families and communities. Through workshops on skills development, participants can acquire the skills they need to succeed in various aspects of their lives. These practical skills promote self-reliance and independence, contributing to a more empowered community.

Overall, our programs have inspired and encouraged rural communities, leading to remarkable transformations among beneficiaries. We've witnessed their enthusiasm, gratitude, and commitment firsthand. Notably, families and communities have shown more support and respect, displaying positive changes in attitudes and behaviors. These changes indicate a significant shift towards a more unified and empowered community, highlighting the effectiveness of our programs in fostering positive community change.

