



Bunong Indigenous People Association (BIPA)

Student Dorm - Higher Education for Bunong Youth



We are a grassroots organization who engages for better livelihoods for Bunong indigenous people

Who we support

The Bunong people are a poor, marginalized ethnic minority who lives in the Northeast of Cambodia. They are confronted with the loss of their fields, grazing areas and forest resources due to the rapid expansion of rubber plantations and intrusion of settlers. There will not be enough agricultural land and forest resources to provide for the next generation. Bunong children and youth are thus in urgent need of a much better education. Education enables them to find non-traditional employment opportunities and to support their kin and co-villagers in the current difficult transition phase.

Bunong indigenous students have only very limited access to good quality education in their home province Mondulhiri. Remote villages have no secondary or high school and students have to move to the provincial capital. A higher education at university or vocational school level even means moving to the Capital Phnom Penh and leaving the habitual social, cultural and emotional rural setting behind. For the families, it is very difficult to provide the necessary economic but also emotional and social support for their children far away from home.

What we do

BIPA improves access to formal education of Bunong children and youth in order to enhance their capacity to adapt to the fast changing environment.

- In 2009, BIPA set up a student dorm in the provincial capital Sean Monorom for poor Bunong children and youth from remote villages without secondary or high school.
- In 2011, BIPA established a student dorm in Phnom Penh to provide a supportive environment and enhance access to university or vocational school education to disadvantaged young Bunong.

How we work - Student Dorm Phnom Penh

A variety of internal and external activities ensures that each student receives and integrates the academic, social, spiritual, and moral dimensions of a thorough formation. The Student Dorm promotes leadership skills and offers opportunities to put them into practice for the dorm community, but also for the benefit of the Bunong indigenous people and the wider society in Cambodia.

The Student Dorm hosts eleven students in a rented facility with five bedrooms, a common room and a kitchen. Each student takes on responsibility for the common good by performing daily housework tasks; by contributing actively to team duties; and by carrying out any particular function that has been assigned.



In addition to their university studies students are encouraged to participate in workshops and seminars. BIPA provides support and counselling to enable students to apply for internships in businesses in order to gain practical experience, which prepares the students for their future.



BIPA provides the students with basic training in human rights, indigenous peoples' rights and negotiation skills and encourages them to get active, so that they are able to support their communities when needed.



How you can engage

BIPA depends on the generous support of donors and partners to continue running the Student Dorms. You can contact us to let us know which funding need you wish to support:

- Housing and food costs (rental, furniture and equipment)
- Personnel costs for running the dorm and enable the supportive environment (including job facilitation, mentoring, assistance, and counselling the students by BIPA Bunong staff)
- Studies (including university fees, extra seminars/workshops/trainings, library costs and IT equipment)
- Costs for programs to enable work experience
- Student welfare costs (including integration in society, graduate ceremonies, medical assistance and sports)

We will ensure that your contribution will be used according to your wishes. As a grassroots organization, we operate with very minimal overhead costs. This way, the donations Wdirectly impact the communities in their quest for better livelihoods.

We thank you very much for your interest in our work. For further information, please contact:

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BIPA was officially registered as a local association with the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Cambodian Government in February 2016.