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NHS target beneficiaries in Kampong Thom

and

The Result so far

2013

I. The Target Areas

After consultation with field team including our partner NGO Cambodian Organisation of Women (COWS) staff who assisted in field selection of the target group, the target selection is based on high poverty rate beyond 30% and focus on vulnerable persons such as disabled people and women-headed households and ethnic minority. However, from the list of the selected target and information from the commune statistics, we can see that disabled people are not present in high numbers in the target communes. Based on the selection criteria of the project, vulnerable people who are listed as “ultra-poor” i.e., in ID-Poor III, which is the worst form of poverty level plus vulnerability mentioned above, would be selected. ID poor is a national identification method to rate poverty and categorize levels of poverty recognized nationally and internationally as the usable indicator on poor people’s identification. It is compatible with the UNDP multidimensional poverty index (MPI):

II. Tools of Target Selection

The project uses two tools to select target beneficiaries,

- 1- ID poor list, the project follow the commune ID poor list and interview target people to determine their problem, mainly in children education
- 2- In terms of children’s education need, the project has developed and used an appraisal form (in Khmer) for the interview of the target families and children
- 3- The project also conducted cross-checks with school teachers and neighbors on the selected children to verify information
- 4- The project inform village authorities on the selection and assistance to the selected children and families
- 5- NHS Internal tool, the assessment format

So in general, there is a welcome by villagers and local authority to NHS and its project as they can see that NHS can play a unique role in supporting these marginalized people directly.

III. The Primary Target

The primary target group of NHS is the marginalized student from poor and vulnerable families living in rural areas, with Kampong Thom province the current focus. From the study of the selection processes and documents we can see that each family of the selected child is very vulnerable to food security, child malnutrition, lacking a favorable environment for children’s education, physical and psychological growth. The selected children for support are students aged from 3 to 19 years old studying at grade ranged from Kindergarten to grade 12. From the documents in the selection processes, we can see that about 10% of the selected children are from families living with disability, i.e. parents, about 30% are ethnic minority and 20% women headed household, with the rest from extreme poor families.

Chart I: Composition of the Target Group

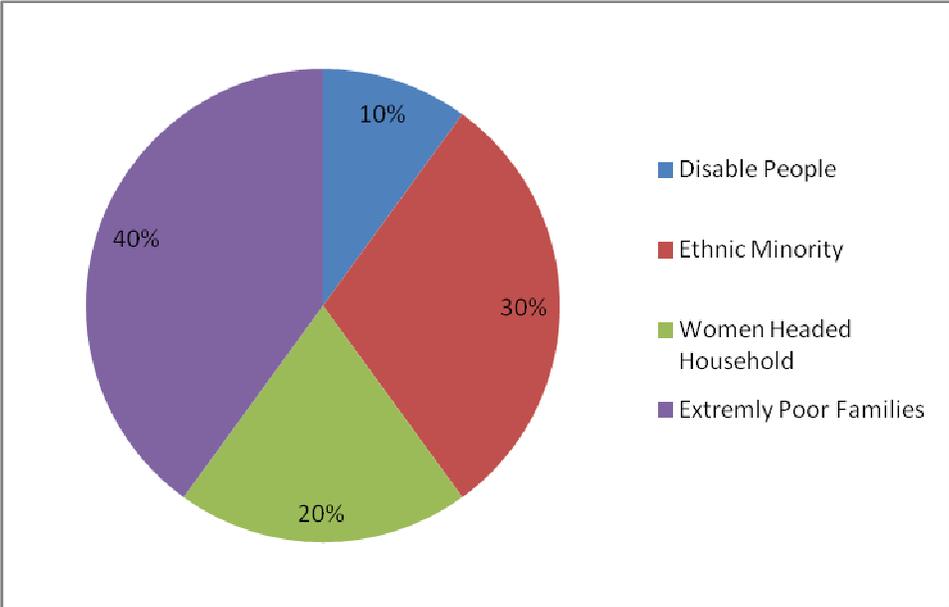


Table of Students Supported:

No.	Name of Students	Sex	Village	Commune	Type of Support	school grade
1	Koun Chanvantanak	M	Okroch	Salavisay	Education Material /uniform	
2	Phin Danith	M	Okroch	Salavisay	Bicycle	Grade III
3	Chi Sokchea	M	Okroch	Salavisay	Education Material /uniform	Grade I
4	Sin Sinath	M	Mreak	Toulkroeul	Education Material /uniform	Grade III
5	Sin Seang	M	Mreak	Toulkroeul	Education Material /uniform	II
6	Kith Chany	F	Prasat	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	5
7	Kith Keo	M	Prasat	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	3
8	Chin Chanthou	M	Prasat	Prasat	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	6
9	Sorn Sreynich	F	Prasat	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	1
10	Sorn Phearom	M	Prasat	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	Kindergarten
11	Hin Vin	M	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	1
12	Rear Chan Thor	M	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	Kindergarten
13	Cheang Choan	M	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	1
14	Cheang Tong	M	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	Kindergarten
15	Phea Phay	M	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	1
16	Phoan Theary	F	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	6
17	Phoan Theara	F	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	1
18	Hor Sreylom	F	Leav	Prasat	Education Material /uniform	5
19	Nhoeuk Siya	F	Chambak	Tang Krosang	Education Material /uniform	3
20	Hom Sophea	F	Chambak	Tang Krosang	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	6
21	Sek Sreynith	F	Chambak	Tang Krosang	Education Material /uniform	Kindergarten
22	Nam tey	F	Prey Mey	Phan Nhoem	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	11
23	Cheh Vichhay	M	Roung	Tropang Russey	Education Material /uniform	11
24	Cheh Sreynay	F	Roung	Tropang Russey	Education Material /uniform + Bicycle	9
25	Cheh Sreynin	F	Roung	Tropang Russey	Education Material /uniform	5
26	Phon Rada	M	Tram Kla	Tbeng	Bicycle	12
27	Phon Raden	M	Tram Kla	Tbeng	Education Material /uniform	11
28	Nhon Chan	M	Kampong Kor	Kampong Kor	Education Material /uniform	10
29	Nhon Srey Em	F	Kampong Kor	Kampong Kor	Bicycle	11

30	Nhon Srey Van	F	Kampong Kor	Kampong Kor	Education Material /uniform	7
31	Nhon Romchang	M	Kampong Kor	Kampong Kor	Education Material /uniform	3
32	Tat Kim Sour	M	Phat Sanday	Phat Sanday	Education Material /uniform	11

IV. The Secondary Target of Beneficiaries – the full family and people equally disadvantaged in their community.

There is logic between the selection of primary targets and secondary targets. The secondary target is parents or families of the selected children, the primary target group. The rationality of the need to support and work with secondary group is based on the fact that family is the foundation and long term support to children education, so improving living condition and income of the family will have positive impact on children's education, yet, also on children other physical well-being and mind-set well-being. The secondary targets are groups of handicraft group from ethnic minority of Kouy, Poor Fisher folks, and Traditional Palm sugar producer groups.

No	Name	Village	Commune	District	Status	Male	Female	Services Provided NHS
1	Kouy Minority Handicraft Group	Okroch	Salavisay	Prasat Balangk	Informal	5	13	-Technical support of group structure and management -By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = set of education material(bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes
2	Fish Processing Group (Prahok)	Chambak	Tangkrosang	Santuk	Informal	0	10	-Technical support of group structure and management -By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes
3	Palm Sugar Production	Prasat	Prasat	Santuk	Informal	0	11	-Technical support of group structure and management

								-By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes
4	Palm Sugar Production	Leav	Prasat	Santuk	Informal	0	13	-Technical support of group structure and management -By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes
5	Palm Sugar Production	Leav II	Prasat	Santuk	Informal	0	6	-Technical support of group structure and management -By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes
6	Palm Sugar Production	Leav III	Prasat	Santuk	Informal	0	10	-Technical support of group structure and management -By-law development supported -Children's support for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package I = bicycles • Package II = education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler) • Package III = Uniform and Shoes

V. The Support by the project

As shown briefly in the table of the primary target, the project's key methodology is founded on education. We would like to emphasise that education is both a human right and a long term investment. We can see that the government of course invests in school construction and teacher training and deployment, but the key assurance that all children can go to school relies heavily on the children's family situation, mainly economic situation. As the result from field assessment with individual family, the beneficiaries and the project agree that we shall start with the educational support services first and secondly, the project will focus on livelihood improvement and other social support to underpin the ability of the family to ensure children attend school regularly. From the project documents and pictures, we can monitor three types of support to primary target, the children:

- 1- Package one support : 28 set of education material (bags/books/pen/eraser/ruler
- 2- Package two support: 31 set of school Uniform and Shoes
- 3- Package tree support: 10 bicycles

Total supported children: 32 children (19 male / 13 female). from the project selection criteria and selection documents, it shows that the project has selected children who abandoned school, or at great risk of doing so, as suggested by teachers and village chiefs, if no such support as NHS provides, children would have stop going to school permanently .

At the same time, the project intends to provide support to children's parents or family to be able to improve their livelihood and economy so that they can support children's education on their own. From the project documents, we can monitor that the project is trying to form children parent into self-help groups with primarily economic purposes such as (1). Kouy Minority Handicraft Group (2). Fish Processing Group (Prahok) (3). Palm Sugar Production Group. There is an effort to put them into structured group with a developed by-law and regulation. Studying the by-law and regulation, which still in draft have shown that the group is trying to work together to address follow issues:

- 1- Social and economic platform for themselves to operate on to advocate for their rights and demanding services from duty bearers such as government department of social affairs, department of education and department of agriculture
- 2- Social capital mobilization, the groups are trying to work together through saving scheme, the process called self-help-group (SHG) so that they can mobilize financial resources and put into economic cycle that generate profit and interest
- 3- Knowledge sharing among themselves and demanding technical support from duty bearers such as government department of social affairs, department of education and department of agriculture in order to improve their social and economic status

However, so far, the project has not provided any specific assistance in answering to the need and purpose of the group. the project is still in need to provide its tools and methods to systematically support the group as it will require a good coordination, skill and resource mobilization among relevant stakeholders. In fact, the project is in good position to deliver in depth support to children parents and

families so that they can overcome and improve their livelihood and economy. However, from the project documents, the project is not ready to deliver those services yet.

Note: all of NHS beneficiaries were fully assessed by the NHS monitoring format tool. This is an advanced tool to show the family status including the result changed in family economic. The NHS beneficiary assessment format is recognised by former NGO LMDS, Ockenden and Nomad RSI as well as donors and evaluators. This tool and the one to assess the capacity of self-help groups is designed to be easily understood and self-participatory by families but validated by the community and staff. At this stage all Kampong Thom families and groups are “Red” with some approaching “Orange”. Experience suggests 3-5 years is needed to reach “Green” provided no major natural or personal disasters intervene.

Legend: Family Living Situation Assessment and **Self-Help Group Capacity** Participatory M & E Tools

→→→→→→	→→	→→→→→→	→→	→→→→→→→→
Red	Ultra-poor, several vulnerabilities, survival of members at risk, inability to cope with shocks. <i>New or recently-formed group; not able to run own affairs, learning new concepts, at risk.</i>			
Yellow	Extra income made; less debt, knowledge and skills acquired for better family well-being and prospects <i>Shows ability to operate on own; rules/leaders established; organizing some activities, signs of cohesion.</i>			
Green	Reaches/exceeds official poverty-level, educational/health/other key development indicators on right path. <i>Operating well on own; asks for support if needed, assists less-developed groups and federated body.</i>			

VI. The output and impact

The project so far is working to produce output level and since education is long term investment so, with in this time frame, it is too early to define impact. The key output / result is that the project has intervened successfully in supporting children in need on educational materials, uniform and bicycles, plus family counseling on keeping and encouraging their children to school. Another output is the project is able to mobilize and form those vulnerable people into self-help groups with democratic ways; by-laws and regulation agreed among the members. These groups are excluded from state social protection policy as for example, the ministry of social’s affair policy of social protection so far in practice covers only former government staffs such as former soldiers. So the project target group here should be formed into community based group and the project will try to include them into a more formal group recognized legally by the commune council and/or a line ministry so that they gain entitlement to more rights and services from relevant duty bearers. So far, the project has produced following output and soft impact as below:

No.	Output	Impact
1	32 children or students from extreme poor families are supported with education materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -children can continue to school -Parents are ware and inspired to keep their children education going -Children right are better promoted among local authority and school -Children psychological well-being such as courage, motivation, dignity are partially restored

		and healed -Parents feel obligated to keep children to school
2	63 families included disable people, ethnic minority, and other vulnerable people are formed into social and economic purpose groups. Those groups are mentioned in the table above. These groups are excluded from state social protection policy as for example, the ministry of social's affair policy of social protection cover only former government staffs such as former soldiers. so the project target group here should be formed into community based group and the project will try to include them into a more formal group that are recognize legally so that they are entitled to some right to demand services from relevant duty bearer	-Poor and vulnerable people under this project are aware of their right to group themselves legally so that they are entitled to some right to demand services from duty bearers (the government service agencies) -Social capital mobilization, the groups are trying to work together through saving scheme, the process called self-help-group (SHG) so that they can mobilize financial resources and put into economic cycle that generate profit and interest -Knowledge sharing among themselves and demanding technical support from duty bearers such as government department of social affairs, department of education and department of agriculture in order to improve their social and economic status

VII. Why we do it in our way

As mentioned above, the social safety network for vulnerable people in Cambodia is very weak. Though the government is working to develop and operate a national safety network to protect poor people, as insufficient national resources exist, this policy only covers basically former government staffs and garment workers. Extremely poor people at rural areas who are not-former government related agency's staffs or government workers are excluded from this national protection network. NHS is working to address this forgotten and excluded group of vulnerable people and to formalize their need into national agenda and influence the national policy to take action to address the need of this forgotten and excluded people.

Please see Case Study appended below.

A National Social Security Fund (NSSF) under the Ministry of Labor has recently been established to collect contributions for all employees for a welfare fund, but this is early days, and none of NHS target families are in formal employment to benefit from it.

NHS has the potential to become a strong social organization addressing the needs of forgotten and excluded vulnerable people as the government 's national safety protection policy only cover former government worker and garment workers, that so far excludes millions of vulnerable people from extreme poor family and communities who were not former government workers.

VIII. Computing/ICT Skills and other services

NHS already administers a highly successful scheme that introduces poor students to computing and information communications technology skills and careers as shown in the website. It has created “life-changing opportunities” for many students, taking families out-of-poverty in to relative prosperity.

It has also arranged rehabilitation services including attendance at Eye and Ear Clinics.

NHS should try to provide these services in Kampong Thom in its programme.

IX. The Conclusion and Recommendation

Since as mentioned in the sectioned above, that target group either primary or secondary, but they are from the same families are excluded from official social safety net. The social safety net under the ministry of social affair only cover former government worker and garment worker. It is recommended that the project shall work with these vulnerable groups that are not included by the social safety net to form them into a legal social society addressing their excluded right from social safety network and demanding other services from relevant duty bearer. Coping with the fact that NHS need to re-register itself with the government so NHS shall become a unique legal social organization working to address the right of the excluded people from social protection network, we can see the hug role of NHS in working to help these excluded vulnerable group and empower them socially and economically. So the priority of NHS is to gain the full registration as the federation of vulnerable groups.

X. Acknowledgement:

Thank to Mr Kat Bunheng for his constructive advices and consultation for producing this report that serves as an independent external evaluation of NHS in Kampong Thom. Mr Kat Bunheng agreed to be a member of trustee of NHS. Also we would like to thank Ms Chum Chan Putheavy, executive director of COWS organization for close cooperation.

We also wish to thank our donor SKN (Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland) and the school-children of the Netherlands who make this project possible in Cambodia. Every year, hundreds of thousands of children from the top grades of primary schools carry out a campaign to sell stamps for charity. Since 1924 a Dutch Royal Decree permits the issue of special stamps with a small surcharge earmarked for the benefit of disadvantaged children



Appendix – Case Study

Case Study

Phin Danith,

A 9 years old boy

Studying at grade III

A Kouy ethnic minority kid from a widow headed family is materially and psychologically supported to continue schooling by the project



Phin Danith, age 9 is from a Kouy ethnic minority family headed by a widow, Mrs.Tith Tha with three children in burden. The children are:

- 1- Phin Danith, sex: Male age: 09 Years old
- 2- Phin Sophors, sex: Female age: 06, Years old should go to school not yet registered
- 3- Phin Sambath, Sex: Female age: 03 Years old

The family is living close to their grandmother and great grand-mother who are also extremely poor. Phin Danith's school is about 4 kilometer away from home which seems very far from a no shoes, no uniform kid like Phin Danith to be able to attend the class regularly. His mother works as day laborer for a casawa plantation farm which is about 10 km from home. She would leave home early in the morning before her three kids awake and softly entrust them to their grand-mother or grand grand-mother living nearby. Mrs.Tith Tha earns about 12000 riels (about 3 USD) a day from her labor work cleaning the bushes and planting cassava but she pays for her transport and own lunch in big portion of the daily wage and left only about 6000 riels (1.5 USD) home to feed the whole family, herself and three children. Her husband has left her about 2 years ago and no idea of his whereabouts. Phin Danith before the project support went to school irregularly and almost quit school due to no travel mean, the bicycle and other necessity for his class. The project identifies him through project field interview to identify vulnerable target group. His family fit the criteria of the selection. Danith, one of the latest beneficiaries to join us, our work is about "Life-changing opportunities" or making a difference to the lives of poor families with vulnerabilities. Until last year most of our beneficiaries were Khmer and living with disability, women-headed households, etc. Our move to work in Kampong Thom has enabled us to include Indigenous Kuoy People. Danith, just aged 9 and his brother/sister will grow up in Avery different world to his widowed mother, Mrs. Tith Thea. They like, other Cambodian ethnic minorities, must adapt to the modern world; economic development and loss of land etc. Education is the key to

being able to adapt and work out-of-poverty towards prosperity. NHS is very pleased to help Danith realize his ambition to attend school. He says:

“I really want to go to school as other children because it is fun and I wish that I can become teacher if I finish school, I like uniform of teacher, everyone in the village love teacher”.

The project met with school teacher of his class and the teacher express that Phin Danith is bright student but under-focused due to his family situation and school cannot help that much materially to keep Phin Danith coming to school regularly. The school knows that Phin Danith often going to work at cassava farm with his mother. The school a few time met with the mother but cannot help to keep Phin Danith at school. the project decide to meet personally with the mother to find out how the project can be of a help to keep Phin Danith going to school. the project provide a brief information on the approach and we agree that the project will provide bicycle, school uniform, shoes and education materials and the mother agree to give him small pocket money or assure his breakfast. Now Phin Danith, since the support, is going to school regularly and from the teacher, he is class scores keep improving. I am proud of my new bicycle when I am riding it to school, He wish that we can meet Chet, the sponsor often so that He can express his feeling and words more with Chet as He could not do that much to his mother. at the same time, the project knows that his mother has basic skill weaving, the project has consulted other skilled women in the village and they decides to form into handicraft group aims at social and economic benefit. The project plans to help the group to improve their production in the long run, so that they can make extra income for their family. Handicraft can be made during their off-time from work such as in the evening. However, so far, due to time frame, the project is only able to help the handicraft producer to form into group with a draft of by-law intended to benefit members socially and economically.