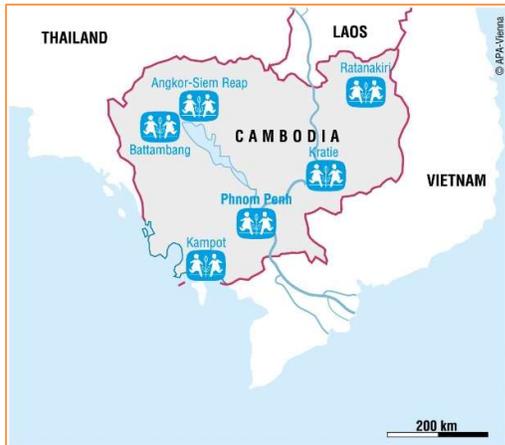




SOS Children's Villages Cambodia



Driven by industries on garment export and tourism, Cambodia has experienced a stable and rapid economic growth over the past two decades. By 2015 it has reached the lower-middle-income status. Meanwhile, the population living below the national poverty line has also rapidly decreased, from almost 50% in 2007 to 13.5% in 2014 (Worldbank, 2019). Demographically speaking, Cambodia is a very young country, with a median age at around 26. The country has a total population of 16.1 million of which 5.9 million (37%) are children (0–17 years) (Unicef, 2018).

Most children in Cambodia live with their biological parents, but way too many live without the care of their biological parents, and this percentage of children has been increasing. In 2014, 89% of children lived with at least one parent in 2014, compared to 91% in 2010 and 92% in 2005 (Unicef, 2018)³. Unicef studies have also shown that the overwhelming majority of children who live in residential care have at least one living parent⁴. Because of poverty, families are not capable to provide food, clothes and education to the children, hence place them in residential care instead. About 36 per cent of children in Cambodia are involved in child labour. Children are found working in agriculture, the fishing industry, in quarries, as domestic servants or are forced to beg and sell on the streets⁵.

Besides poverty, years of conflict, migration and the rising number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS are also some of the reasons why children can no longer live with their families. It is reported that at least 6,000 children are living with HIV, but the figure is believed to be higher and growing - one-third of all new infections are transmitted from mother to child.

SOS Children's Village Cambodia was founded in 2000. The organisation first started working with children without parental care in the capital city of Phnom Penh. Due to the high levels of poverty

³ https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/media/711/file/Cambodia_Report_Final_web_ready_HIGH.pdf%20.pdf

⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/child-protection>

⁵ <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/asia/cambodia>



and deprivation in the country, the organisation has continued to grow and now supports children, young people and families in six locations in Cambodia.

SOS Children's Village Ratanakiri

- 75 children live in 10 family homes, including 46 girls and three children under school age.

Ratanakiri is located in the northeast of the country. Most people here earn their living as farmers or as workers in the rubber and cashew plantations. The education level of the residents is low, and the plantation labourers live under very poor conditions. Their children do not have access to basic services such as health care and education; many of them are malnourished. Besides, there are many orphaned or abandoned children in need of long-term family-based care.

During 2019, all children at school age attended school, and tutoring sessions on math, literature and English were arranged for those who need extra support with studies. Educators also regularly visited the schools and discussed with teachers about their studies and behaviours. Workshops on gender equality, non-discrimination towards people with HIV and human rights were arranged for not only co-workers and children in the village, but also children from the community. Overall management in the village was also improved through strengthening monitoring routines and regulations. Football training was organized for children and youths in the village every Sunday. The first and second Sunday evening of each month, the village also invited Buddhist monk to about life and advice with children.

Social Centre (Malnutrition Programme) – Ratanakiri

- There are 327 malnourish children included 151 girls admitted to this program. After thoroughly treat and care, 320 children who regained their health were discharged from the program only 7 remaining at the end of December 2019.
- There are an outreach co-worker, a nurse and a part-time medical doctor and 6 aunties taking care for this project implementation.

The malnutrition centre, started in 2012 by SOS Children's Villages Cambodia, serves the entire province of Ratanakiri, a remote area where many indigenous people live in relatively isolated villages. SOS Children's Villages Cambodia works with local authorities to identify malnourished children under five where there is a threat to the life of the child. The children are typically 40% under their normal body weight. With the parents' agreement, children usually stay at the centre for three to six months. A nurse will perform registration and a second assessment for outlining the individualised treatment plan to each child. She will also monitor the progress of treatment results, report to the medical doctor for the final decision. Children will first be treated with deworming then be bathed and cleaned before starting their specific treatment plan with the doctor's prescription. In the meantime, SOS Children's Villages works with the parents to teach them about proper nutrition and hygiene to improve the conditions that led to the malnutrition in the first place. Having the child staying in the centre also provides a respite for the family from caring for an ill child and struggling with medical bills. When discharged from the centre, children's condition will be followed up after 6



months or a year maximum. During the discharge, life necessities such as mosquito nets, shoes, toothbrush and milk powder are provided to the families.

Testimonial:

When our outreach worker at SOS Children's Villages Cambodia first met Mealea⁶ in February 2017 in the village of Taphlen, she suffered from serious malnutrition and pneumonia. With support from the malnutrition centre, Mealea has regained her strength.

"SOS Children's Villages helped my daughter when they saw her serious illness," says the girl's mother, Mosac, 22. She looks at a photo of her daughter from that time, her arms thin, her stomach distended. "I think, without SOS, my daughter might have died."



At that time, Mealea's parents, both day labourers, could not afford to follow a local doctor's advice to bring her to a children's hospital in Phnom Pen, Cambodia's capital, an eight-hour drive away. Not knowing what to do, the family decided to carry out a local custom to sacrifice a pig to the guardian of the village, praying that their daughter is spared. By chance, the SOS field worker heard the cries of the animal and interrupted the ceremony. Seeing Mealea's condition, he offered another solution: to bring her to the hospital for immediate care and then admit her to the malnutrition centre at the nearby SOS Children's Village in Ratanakiri.

Her mother says it is a relief to see her daughter healthy again and playing with other children in the village. "I was very stressed and worried when she was very ill," she says. "Now after receiving the support from SOS, our living situation has improved. Previously I spent a lot of money on the medicine for my daughter's treatment, but now our family is better."

Many problems facing families in the village of Taphlen have improved through the support of SOS Children's Villages Cambodia over the past five years. "I can say that today it's a healthy community, not only the people but the whole environment," says Dr Chreng Daren, the national family strengthening coordinator. "The number of malnourished children since we started the programme in Taphlen has dramatically decreased, almost to zero. Before there was a lot of malnourished children." Taphlen has been called a model village by local authorities, and SOS Children's Villages Cambodia intends to replicate its work in other nearby communities, says Dr Daren.

⁶ Names of the children are changed to protect their privacy.



Youth Care - Ratanakiri

- 23 youths live in two youth homes in Ratanakiri under the supervision of two youth leaders.
- All are attending secondary schools and high schools, among whom three are attending Vocational Training. One youth is living independently outside of SOS facilities with his relative.

The youth home aims to make the transition to adulthood and an independent life smoother and easier. There the youth are supported in the different challenges this stage of life offers. In turn, this increases their capability further to start building a life of their own and become self-reliant grown-ups who can contribute to their community and society. In 2019, remedial classes of math, physics, chemistry, Khmer literature and English were arranged for youths in need of support in their studies. Educators and youth leaders also visited regularly teachers at schools to follow up on the youths' performance and progress at school. Monthly meetings were arranged with all youths to provide guidance on planning for their future and preparedness before becoming semi-independent and independent. Youth leaders also encouraged the youths to take more responsibilities for their house. The youths chose internally two youths' representation for each house every six months to assist the youth leader in house management and facilitate with other youths on minor issues happening in the house.

SOS Children's Village Prey Veng

- By the end of 2019, 13 children, including 6 girls, were brought home and have been living in the rented accommodation under the care of three mothers.

In 2019 the SOS Children's Village Prey Veng has finally started to welcome children to the family. It locates in the south part of Cambodia on the eastern banks of the Mekong. The region faces flooding regularly during the monsoon. Despite its agricultural base, the province is one of the less wealthy areas of Cambodia. Increased migration to urban areas has led to many orphans and vulnerable children in the area. The construction of village buildings finished on January 31, 2020, and was handed over to us on February 07, 2020. The village has eight family houses and the number of children in each family is maximum 8-10.

As the village was still under construction during 2019, we first brought children to temporarily stay in the rented accommodation. The first child was warmly received on 6th November 2019. Since the temporary



The new village after construction



The rented accommodation



accommodation was only five minutes' walk from the newly constructed village, the children continued to go to the same schools after moving to the village without interruption. All children at school age have been enrolled in education. Under 2019, planning and preparation were carried out to make sure of the purchase of furniture for the new village. Food, cloth and household material are supplied. Activity plans and budget were prepared, so were the individual work plans for all co-workers in the village.

Financial report

Donated by Akelius University Foundation, EUR	2018 Budget	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Construction CV Prey Veng	1 050 000	342 891	947 368	1 135 227	554 855
CV Ratanakiri, YC and Social Centre, CV Prey Veng	243 987	209 388	255 743	255 744	455 116
Total	1 293 987	552 279	1 203 112	1 390 971	1 009 971
	12 551	5 357	12 416	14 354	10 958
SEK (using exchange rate at the time of payment)	678	103	111	824	182
Average exchange rate	9,7	9,7	10,32	10,32	10,85
Total budget/actuals, all facilities above, EUR	2018 Budget	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Construction CV Prey Veng*	1 000 000	40 488	900 000	1 328 836	562 000
Investments/maintenance	9 093	7 517	7 449	9 536	11 068
Current working expenditures	196 950	158 273	202 276	179 448	278 479
Personnel expenditures	151 871	122 059	156 952	145 764	218 363
Other expenditures	14 982	11 090	13 486	12 062	22 218
Total	1 372 896	339 428	1 280 163	1 675 646	1 092 128

*The figures for the construction CV Prey Veng refers to transfers of funds