



KEY NOTES

● Bridge Construction – Solidarity can lead us

● Imagination and commitment of non-formal teachers

● Emergency assistance for vulnerable families in Battambang Province

Dear Readers!

This week world leaders from around the globe are in Rome discussing the global crises facing us. More and more people are at risk of starvation and hunger. In the wake of the Myanmar tragedy we remember that in Cambodia as long as CWS has the resources, we are encouraged, not blocked to work to bring relief. And while this is a small story of 36 families, their lives were equally in the balance. On the other side of the country CWS staff were doing that which has become our hallmark- - working together to strengthen to the new decentralization structures and pave the way for confidence building and community lead efforts to rehabilitate and develop. The CWS presence brings hope to remote areas shunned by others. And finally you will see that using the model developed in Kompong Thom and awarded recognition by the RCG, a literacy program that is already changing lives through education, empowerment and second chances begins. Congratulations to the CWS staff and funding partners. We are the change.

Josephine Barbour
Country Representative

● Bridge Construction – Solidarity can lead us

A wooden bridge – 15 meters long, 3.5 meters wide and 5 meters above the water level of Ou Aban stream in Preah Vihear province was opened on May 2 2008.

Before the bridge, farmers had to ford the stream carrying their tools as well as their small children, crossing the deep water back and forth. The rice field was their home until they finished transplanting. Away from their village, their children missed school until transplanting season is over.

To strengthen community capacity, CWS provided training on village planning, conducting and proposal preparation. The Village Development Committee (VDC) were then able to conduct a village planning meeting with 90 people to identify problems and solutions in their village. This is how and where the bridge construction started.

Inspired by CWS field staff the Village Development Committee undertook the new challenge of working together toward a common goal: building their bridge. Villagers contributed money and materials as well as labor to the construction with financial support from CWS.

District chief "I appreciate CWS abilities to mobilize people's resources to build this bridge. I gave up trying to mobilize them to build one. Villagers were reluctant to do something on their own."

Village chief "Thank you CWS for coming to do development work in my village. Learning from the success of this bridge construction even encourages me and villagers to try for another bridge in the next dry season of 2009."



The Villagers decorate the bridge for inauguration ceremony

● Imagination and commitment of non-formal teachers

In 1993, CWSC established community development projects in Kompong Thom, Svay Reing, Kandal and Battambang provinces. With the backing and commitment of our funding partner EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst), CWSC has improved their work with two Village Based Community Development Projects (VBCD) in Kompong Thom and expand to Preah Vihear in July, 2007 for a 4-year plan "To enhance the communities' capacity to define their development direction and access to their basic needs, basic social service, sustainable livelihood opportunities, and food security".

