



⊕ Well Done: Safe water in Preah Vihear

KEY NOTES

⊕ Well Done



⊕ Good Advice



Thirteen-year-old Wan Kin (right) and 8-year-old Mao Tun are overjoyed by the hand pump well CWS installed in Kouk Sralau village (Preah Vihear province). They no longer have to spend 2-3 hours each day carrying buckets of water from Smoke River, which is about 300 meters from their village, during the dry season.

Besides the long distance, the banks of the river are slippery and steep. Those whose task is collecting water from the river – mainly women and children – often suffer from sprained ankles and knees after slipping on the steep, muddy banks, as well as constant shoulder and back aches from the weight of the water-filled buckets. They have to make several trips a day during the dry season to supply water for one household.

The well was installed in May 2008 at a cost of \$379 and is shared by 20 households. Residents of the village built the cement platform, and a local private company drilled the well and installed the hand-pump.

The company also trained residents on how to repair the pump. This training came in handy on December 30 when the hand pump broke at about 1pm (see photo below). By 3pm it had been repaired by village development committee leader Toy Dom. The replacement part was bought in a market in the nearby town of Chaom Khsant for 1,500 riel (about 30 US cents).

Other wells installed in the village are not so easy to repair. One, which cost over \$1,500 to install, has been unusable for 6 months, residents say. They do not know how to repair the hand pump. An open well at the village's primary school, paid for by a well-intentioned family from Oregon, was constructed so poorly that mud leaks from the cracks into the water, making it undrinkable even for cattle.

There are four wells in the village, 2 of which are unusable. CWS plans to install 33 more wells in Preah Vihear this year. Besides the benefits mentioned above, residents receive training on the link between safe water and health as well as home gardening. Biosand filters have also been distributed to 83 households and 217 more in Preah Vihear will be distributed during fiscal year 2009.





⊕ Good Advice: Engagement is the key

CWS is well known for its strong institutional building capacity for local NGOs in Cambodia. CWS has been working with more than 40 partners in different sectors across the country since 1996. Among the three different types of partners (holistic, small grant and local institution development partners, or LID) the latter need high expertise from CWS to build their capacity.



CSF staff raising awareness about HIV/AIDs at Cambodia's annual Water festival in November 2008

The Children Support Foundation is one of our LID partners. It requested CWS put one staff member on its board of directors in mid-2008. In terms of strengthening their organization, CWS staff provided in-depth support, especially for strategic development, fund raising strategy, restructuring and project development.

One of the main focuses of CSF is to advocate for the protection for children and their families as well as the prevention of exploitation and disease through awareness raising, especially on HIV/AIDS and other health threats. CSF organizes public campaigns on special occasions, such as traditional holidays, ceremonies and other celebrations. When UNESCO and FAO called for urgent proposal submissions from NGOs to implement HIV/AIDS and Avian Influenza interventions last year, CSF approached our Partnership Program for urgent assistance to develop proposals for these issues. It proposed campaigns for the national Water Festival in November 2008 and World Aids Day, 1st December 2008.

Seeing great value in these proposals, our Partnership Program Manager put aside other work to spend two days to help facilitate and articulate CSF's ideas, put them into a coherent conceptual framework, and help write three small grant proposals to UNESCO for the HIV/AIDS Awareness Raising campaign during the Water Festival and on World AIDS Day.

CWS also assisted CSF to develop a proposal to submit to the FAO for a campaign to raise awareness for preventing Avian Influenza in November 2008. With CWS help, the Children Support Foundation received about 4,500 USD from UNESCO and 600 USD from FAO for these vital public awareness campaigns.

As soon as it received confirmation of that the budgets had been approved, CSF held a meeting with staff and stakeholders to organize the public campaigns. As a result, CSF conducted the campaigns successfully with full participation of its project team, Phnom Penh municipality, local authorities, youth volunteers, school teachers, local police and donors. Engagement is the key!