



KEY NOTES

⊕ "Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God"

⊕ "Suffer the little children..."

⊕ "I was thirsty and you gave me to drink..."

Dear Readers,

As this newsletters goes in the mail, we are in our third month of troop lined borders, tanks, heavy artery and border incursions by Thai soldiers. The village leader's "Peace Workshop" in Preah Vihear, Choam Khsant district has been postponed and food delivery for the WFP partnership for mother and child health project delayed.

We are reminded of the impermanence of life, the fragility of peace and that each day is a precious gift. Thanks you to our funding partners who continue to support to Cambodian nationals in their cutting edge approaches to accompaniment of the poor and oppressed in Cambodia. Thank you to EED who supports our continued work for peace.

On behalf of CWS and the SMT,
I remain sincerely

Josephine Barbour

⊕ "Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God"



People have place for meeting, 'Beng Community meeting hall'

Neutral Physical space is a critical tool in encouraging participation and initiating trust building withing a community.

Beng village, total population of 371 in Kompong Thom province held any meetings under the shade

of tree or under a villagers' house. CWS supported the community in planning, making proposal and mobilizing their resources which include funds, material and their labor to build a 9.4m x 6.5m meeting hall. The agency/community coverage of construction cost was 40/60 with a hundred percent of labor and materials provided by the community.

Pech Korn, a women member of the committee said that "I am really happy because before we did not have a proper place to hold our meetings. I want to thank our committee member and people who participated in this project and also CWS for guiding us and supporting our committee in the process "

CWS anticipate shifts within this village as more people are encouraged to share community space for discussion, information sharing and planning.

⊕ "Suffer the little children..."



Chub korki Primary School in delay for contruction

Chub Korki Lech and Chub Korki Koeut villages are located on Dong Rek Mountain, along the Thai-Cambodia border Oddar Meanchey Province, around 110 km to the west of Banteay Meanchey Provincial town. The villages are former Khmer Rouge controlled areas (during the civil war until the integration of Khmer Rouge troops with the Royal Government of Cambodia in 1998).

Currently Chub Korki Lech and Chub Korki Koeut are in the conflict and confrontation areas in the border problem between Thailand

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and Cambodia. The Thai authorities closed the border affecting our villagers, especially the poor and poorest, whose living depends on daily labor and exchange of household business in Thailand. It also delayed school construction organized by a CWS grassroots partner Kumnit Thmey (KNTO).

Currently a total of 190 families are living in both villages. Child education is a “main problem” according to the communities during the 2007 Participatory Rural Appraisal. The former school was unusable, so the monks allowed children to attend class in a pagoda temple until a proper building could be achieved.

To strengthen the involvement of parents in ensuring their children future, KNTO supported the formation of parent associations in both villages to repair/construct a two classroom school that served 54 children (32 girls) in grade 1 and 2. Children in these communities will have better conditions for education and learning and their future.

☺ “I was thirsty and you gave me to drink...”

Water scarcity is one the major problems facing people in Chaom Khsant Commune. “Before this hand pump my family and other people in the neighborhood went to fetch the water from the river about 300 meters away but the river water was insufficient during dry season and not as clear as the water from this hand pump”, Van Khan said her words capture the hardship of many people who do not have the reliable water sources such as well or hand pump.



In Kok Sralao village of 116 households, there is only one public hand pump (funded by government) – it does not provide sufficient water particularly during dry season and a private owned hand pump is not usually open and accessible by all people. During dry season, most people turn to the river nearby for water. In order to have clear water, they dug a hole in the bottom of the river and allow the muddy water to fill into it - a process which makes the water clear when they get into the hole. It spends long time to get that water. In rainy season, people also have problems although not as serious as the problems of dry season. Large containers are needed to collect rain water and the river water as the field water is dirty and muddy.

Kok Sralao villagers cleaning the well

To solve this problem, 12 families in Kok Sralao village submitted their proposal to CWS for hand pump construction. CWS hired constructing company to construct this hand pump. People contribute sand, stone which they find locally. While sand can be found nearby river, stone for making hand pump platform needs to be carried from about 10 kilometer from the village.

Mr. Mao Kry, 50 the head of household of 7 people said “I am happy because this hand pump is close to my house making it convenient for my family members to fetch water. Thank you for this hand pump!”

Ms. Ek Eourn, 54 year old, “ I do not know what word to use to express my thankfulness for this water. In dry season, I get up at 4 AM so that I can be the first person to fetch water from the river”

Ms. Phenh Tha , 34 years old “ I am very happy to have the hand pump near my house. My children no longer have to go to the river and I hope I can plant vegetables next dry season using water”



People are enthusiastic and thank to CWS