

# Quarterly Report

July – September 2022

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for Cambodian Children

A Community-Based Care Organisation



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### Abbreviations:

**CCWC** – Commune Committee for Women and Children

**MoSVY** – Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

**DoSVY** – Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

**MoEYS** – Ministry of Education Youth and Sport

**MoU** – Memorandum of Understanding

**BEST** – Battambang Education Support Team

**PoE** – Provincial Department of Education

**CAC** – Cambodian Advisory Committee

## MESSAGE FROM IN-COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Like Australia, the weather patterns here in Cambodia have changed and are still changing. The Khmer rainy season has started early this year and while confusing to the older generation most have just got on and accepted the weather changes.

The Government has spent millions on infrastructure, building concrete water ways with locks and dams that are used to divert water to other areas or hold water back. This new system is able to get water to what was once dry areas or to hold water back from simply running away. This project drew some negative criticism when it was first implemented. But now it has been fully utilised and tested it has been called a huge success. Take for instance the Sangke River running through Battambang which used to run dry during the hot summer months. This no longer happens because of this new integrated water system.

The Battambang Governor often invites all NGOs to meet, discuss and plan how best to deliver programs of significance. This Governor is particularly interested in offering an education to every child, no matter their own personal circumstances. At a recent meeting His Excellency, the Governor, presented 240 Certificates for Outstanding Service to the Community. HOPE was one of 240 NGO's acknowledged.

It was also announced that there are over three hundred NGO's operating across the province.

Sadly some NGO's are still not registered and some who are registered are not meeting the minimum standards. These NGO's were put on notice to become compliant or they will be closed.

Currently we have 65 kids enrolled in our Early Learning Education and Child Care Program (preschool), 32 boys and 33 girls.

296 students are attending our community English programs, 115 male and 181 female. 49 students are enrolled in our computer classes, all 49 also learn English.

Our education programs are managed by six full time teachers, two part time, one trainee teacher and two caregivers.

There are only six left in our Outreach Program.

Five teenagers learning a trade under our Skills Based Training Program.

17 students attending university under our sponsorship program. Two of these students are studying under HOPE's Memorial Scholarship Program: Anne Coplestone Memorial and the Nila Lewis Memorial. HOPE's University Support Group are on hand to offer advice, support and assistance when required. This important group are a mix of our teachers and social workers and meet quarterly with all of the students. We usually have a special guest speaker.

There are currently 25 mothers and their babies in our Prevention Mother to Child Transmission Program (PMTCT). Senior nurses from the Battambang Provincial Hospital come to our community centre once a month to run training courses to the mothers and their partners.

Subjects like hygiene, nutrition, contraception, health care are but few of their training modules.

And 50 kids are receiving different forms of assistance under our Community Child Education Development Program (CCED). Each kid's family is assessed to look at where our support is most needed. These are the kids that have graduated from our preschool and need our support to carry on into public schooling. Without our help most of these kids would never go to school.

These programs are managed by five full time social workers.

We have four full time security guards.

Two maintenance/grounds staff.

One team leader managing security and maintenance and he is also our preferred HfCCF driver.

One accountant, one administrator, one communications and sponsorship coordinator and our director. 30 Cambodian staff in total. Their salaries flow back into many local businesses which is also a silent form of community assistance.

Please feel free to contact me: hfccf@y7mail.com.

Cheers

*Peter.*

**HOPE practices all Cambodian Laws covering Child Protection and Child Safety.**

- **Number of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Outreach	03	03	06
Skill-Based Training	02	05	07
Family Preservation	01	00	01
Community Assistance	01	01	02
Group Home-Based Care	00	00	00
Prevention Mother to Child Transmission	13	13	26
Community Child Education and Development	27	21	48
Community Education	140	215	355
Early Learning Childcare and Education	32	33	65
Community Sport	35	0	35
Community Sewing	00	00	00
University Scholarship	07	15	22
<b>Total for all programs</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>567</b>

- **Percentages of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Outreach	06	1%
Skill-Based Training	07	1%
Family Preservation	01	0%
Community Assistance	02	0%
Group Home-Based Care	00	0%
Prevention Mother to Child Transmission	26	5%
Community Child Education and Development	48	8%
Community Education	355	63%
Early Learning Childcare and Education	65	11%
Community Sport	35	6%
Community Sewing	00	0%
University Scholarship	22	4%
<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 1. OUTREACH PROGRAM

There are six teenagers left under this program and all six are doing fairly well at school. All of them have completed their second semester with one of the students studying hard ready for their grade 12 final exam.

One disabled teenager who lives at the state centre and sponsored by HOPE has moved across from HOPE's Outreach Program to under our Community Assistance Program. This move has a nil effect on his care or HOPE's sponsorship. It simply best aligns with our programs.

Our social workers, teachers and Nurse Khen work closely with our partners CCWC, DoSVY and the local authorities to monitor and follow up on these teenagers. All have completed a career pathway plan with us.



## 2. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM

Currently there six young adults under this program.

One adult has just moved from our university scholarship program to skills based training after he made his own personal decision to change career paths. We are seeing a positive change in his personality since making this change.

All of the other students learning a trade are doing extremely well and are staying focused on succeeding.

### Phone Repair Skill Private Shop



### Vehicle Detailing Private Shop



### Beauty Salon at Caritas our NGO partner (CCWC, Teacher, and Staff)



### Private Shop at Boeng Chhuok market



### Sewing Skill at (Avec) our NGO partner



### Cooking Skill (Young girl with black shirt)



We recently took on a young lady who was at risk. She is now learning cooking and under our skill-based training program. We would hope she will be able to one day run her own small business.



Two cases were closed during this reporting period as they have completed their training courses.

1). After completing a food processing course - coffee, fresh fruit juices, and barbecuing, one lady has recently opened her own shop outside her husband and his family's house. She used some of her own savings and with a contribution from Hope she was able to build her own shop and stock it with supplies. Her family and HOPE are very proud of this achievement. She is now starting her new independent life. What better could we ask for?



2). One young man, in the picture below, has finished his vehicle detailing course and he has moved back to live with his grandmother in his local community and he is now looking for full time employment.



### 3. FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

There are three under this program.

We are supporting two babies with milk formula. One baby's mother passed away and the father and close family have taken on the role to bring up the baby.

The other baby's mother has mental health issues however she seems to manage the formula over breast feeding. Our social welfare staff, and Nurse Khen works extremely close with these two delicate cases. Of course HOPE does this in partnership with their local health authorities, CCWC, and DoSAVY.



This case has been one of our hardest as this young boy(now ten years old) is not only handicapped but his father who was wheelchair bound has recently passed away. The mother deserted them many years ago however the father had remarried and they have a son together. This boy attends Phare School where music and art has helped change his entire outlook on life. His father left him the land on which sits the family home. CCWC, DoSVY, and HOPE are all monitoring this situation and the boy is now living with his step mum and step brother in that house.



#### **4. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE**

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Currently we do not have any children living under this program.

#### **5. GROUP HOME-BASED CARE PROGRAM**

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Currently we do not have any children living under this program.

## 6. PREVENTION MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION PROGRAM

During this reporting period, the number of the babies under this program has increased to 25.

The moms, dads, and babies come regularly to our community centre to take the milk formula. HOPE's Nurse Khen checks on the baby's health and works closely with the senior nursing staff from the Provincial Hospital to check on the mother's health and hygiene. HOPE regularly checks that all the family understand how to hygienically clean the milk bottles and the teets. The senior nurse always gives good advice to all moms and dads about their own personal health. HOPE works closely with Battambang Department of Health.



## 7. COMMUNITY CHILD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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There are 50 kids under this program. Most of the kids under this program lack motivation in going to school. Parents care more about their living condition than the kids' education. However, our social workers, teachers and CCWC are working very hard with the parents through consulting to encourage the parents to push their child to go to school. The social workers consult with the families about how they can improve their livelihood by looking for a better jobs, doing gardening, raising chickens, etc. If they follow all of our suggestions, the families will improve day by day.



## 8. COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Currently, there are 355 students attending English classes and IT classes under this program. 95% of students passed their final exam and have continued to the next level which started on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Home visits were done to the new enrollers to make sure that they met Hope's criteria.

In the beginning of July, the Education Department organised a Speaking Contest for our community students to strengthen their learning capacity, as a result it ended up showing a great result which made us and the parents really proud. Some special guests like Mr. Puth Try, the New Norea Commune Leader, and the representative from Sangke Education office including the contestants' parents were invited.

Some top students and the most improved students were rewarded.

Hope's restricted areas around our community centre was reintroduced at the beginning of the new term for all of our community students. There are consequence for any student who breaks the rules and goes into any restricted areas. This made sure that the new students will understand and practice this rule.





## 9. EARLY-LEARNING CHILDCARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM

There are 65 kids under this program. Most of kids come to school regularly every morning and on time to show respect for the national anthem at the flagpole close to their early learning class rooms.

In Cambodia it is now the rainy season and it rains a lot and this makes it harder for the kids' parents to bring their children to Hope's school as the road in front of our centre and from their houses very muddy full of pot holes and dangerous.

A discussion between teachers and parents about the kids happens monthly. A monthly test is done with the kids and a communication book holding all of the kid's exam results is sent home to the parents so they can follow the results of their children.

Nurse Khen offered a short training for parents on the topic "How to prevent Dengue fever and Chikungunya fever".

The Hope's restricted areas around our community centre was again used as follow up training topic with these kids. Our Director played games and made this fun but informative.





## 10. COMMUNITY SPORT PROGRAM

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There are now 35 boys playing soccer under this program. We are yet to play in any outside completions. Each Sunday all 35 turn up and are very eager to learn and to play.



## 11. COMMUNITY SEWING PROGRAM

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This program will soon reopen and be closely connected with our skill-based training program.

## 12. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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There are 22 students attending university.

### Group I

- The number of students under this program is still the same to the last quarterly report which is 22.
- Students undertook their State exam and presented their proposal thesis in August. They will officially completed the bachelor degree by the end of November 2022 if everything goes to plan.
- Two students out of the four have to go on for another subject as they asked permission from their university to postpone it due to their busy working schedule and learning at teacher training school.
- Three of four students have got a good job already before they graduate.

### Group II

- These students finished their third-year examination and they have started going to school again for their first semester of year 4 which is the final year in July.
- There's good news from one of our students called Sophal, he got promoted to be a new Chief credit officer of PL Vathanak Co., Ltd. He himself was so happy because he set this goal for so long and now, he did it.
- Recently, Theara got a new job as a cashier at an ice factory located in Battambang, she works from Monday to Friday.

- For those students who still don't have a job, they will keep going to school regularly and looking for the right job for them too.
- Besides that, Chamroeun has completed his visa application process and documents for working and learning in Israel for one year. His departure date is on **05<sup>th</sup> October 2022**.
- Currently, Pisey and Danuch are still on their holiday. However, they also take time to do volunteer work and complete their projects as required from the school.

### Group III

- This group of students has started their 3<sup>rd</sup> year, semester I at their university.
- Borey has now been working very hard to complete her probation period. She passed the quarterly training (3 month as on customer service and seller at Hattha Bank which was done in Phnom Penh) in July.
- Sreynou works a volunteer at HfCCF where she hopes she gains more experiences before she applies to work elsewhere.

### Group IV

- The students in the fourth group are studying in 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at university. Most of them have taken mid-term exam for a few subjects.
- Sreynatt is still working with us as Volunteer Teacher.
- Samrech studies hard and he always attends the class at university but he missed some classes at HfCCF due to the weather and some personal reasons. He is now preparing and waiting to apply for becoming a public teacher.





### 13. SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE TEAM

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HOPE security role is to manage the safety of all HfCCF staff, its visitors and the community children. They also manage the national Governments COVID Health requirements for over 350 students as they arrive to our community centre each Monday to Friday. This also includes the security checking in of their bicycles or motorbikes. One maintenance staff to manage all repairs and one grounds staff to look after what is a very large area here at HOPE.



### 14. HOPE MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS

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- Every second Tuesday we hold our Executive Meetings. This group is made up of the In-Country Director, HfCCF Director, Senior Social Worker, Facilitator of Education, Security and Maintenance Team Leader and our Accountant.
- Staff meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month.
- Team meetings are held weekly.
- HOPE always has a staff member attend the monthly local Norea and Rattanak Commune meetings.
- Social Welfare is invited and attends the CCWC and DoSVY meetings.
- Nurse Khen attends all COVID-19 presentations, lectures, and meetings. These usually take place at the Provincial Hospital.
- Our Education Department is a member of BEST and Sothoern is on the management team at PoE.
- The Executive Team meets quarterly with CAC.
- As required, HOPE also attends meetings at City Hall or at the Governor's Office.
- Social Welfare is the member of Vulnerable Children Support Group in Battambang city and attended monthly meetings at Battambang Municipality Office.



## 15. IN CONCLUSION

This report was prepared by our HfCCF's Director, Thy Sothoern from the submissions of members of the Executive Team to give our Board Members, Ambassadors and Friends of HOPE an overview of our Cambodian activities during the last quarter. Our team members would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Stay safe and have a wonderful day.

**In Country Director**  
**Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation**

**Peter Butler**