

Quarterly Report

October – December 2022

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for Cambodian Children

A Community-Based Care Organisation



The HIRO RIDERS came for the first time after a two year break due to Covid 19. A huge thank you to the HIRO riders for a massive effort and the ongoing support of HFCCF, they are truly our heroes.

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A Community-Based Care Organisation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM IN-COUNTRY DIRECTOR	1
PIE CHART.....	1
• Number of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs	1
• Percentages of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs	2
• The distribution of milk formula by the district	3
• Total expense on Prevention Mother to Child Transmission Program.....	4
1. OUTREACH PROGRAM.....	5
2. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM	6
3. FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM	7
4. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE	8
5. GROUP HOME-BASED CARE PROGRAM.....	10
6. PREVENTION MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION PROGRAM.....	10
7. COMMUNITY CHILD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.....	11
8. COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM.....	12
9. EARLY-LEARNING CHILDCARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM.....	13
10. COMMUNITY SPORT PROGRAM.....	14
11. COMMUNITY SEWING PROGRAM.....	15
12. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	15
13. HOPE MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS	17
14. IN CONCLUSION.....	18

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

At the end of September Grahame Lewis, the Australian Chair, arrived in Battambang. This was his first visit to Battambang since October 2019.

On Sunday, the 2nd of October we held our quarterly Cambodian Advisory Committee meeting (CAC), Grahame was the VIP guest. During this meeting each CAC committee member was asked to submit their ideas and views to Grahame for a new five year plan for HOPE. The CAC were pleased to be asked and very happy to pass on their professional views.

On the 11th of October our executive made up of social welfare, education, finance and management met with Grahame to discuss and present their ideas for HOPE's new five year plan. This was a robust and productive meeting.

On Saturday the 15th of October Grahame was our special guest at our HOPE quarterly university students meeting which was held in the Family Room at our Community Centre. These meetings are an opportunity for staff and students to talk and discuss topics of interest.

The HIRO Riders arrived at our community centre on Saturday the 22nd of October. The place was a buzz with planning and practicing. This is not only their tenth anniversary riding but the first time in three years to be back riding inside Cambodia. So, a HUGE event. On the day, over 200 guests welcomed the riders through our front gates. Made up of students, parents, special local guests and staff this welcome was very loud and emotional.

Our staff did an amazing job to ensure this was an event for the riders to remember. Some HOPE staff also went to Siem Reap that night for the HIRO's Gala Dinner. All in all a successful 2022 event.

On the Monday the 24th and Tuesday the 25th Grahame chaired the Australian Board's planning days. Board members were online to listen to the presentations from the CAC and our Executive on their preferred options for the next five years. Q and A's assisted in clarifying what this meant for HOPE.

On the 26th of October the Australian Board's Annual General Meeting was held online.

Minea, our Education Facilitator, left us on the 27th of October to take up her new position working for the American Embassy.

Chiven, our Administrator, was successful with his application to replace Minea as our new Education Facilitator.

Lyna, one of our preschool teachers, was successful in her application to replace Chiven as our new Administrator.

We advertised externally for a new preschool teacher to replace our vacant teaching position. It is part of our HOPE staff policy to allow our staff to apply for vacant internal positions, especially when they have the qualifications.

During his time at our community centre Grahame did several home visits to the families under our care. He interviewed our staff and attended meetings. I think in the four weeks he was in town he only had one of two days off. Sorry to stress you out Grahame.

On Sunday the 30th of October Grahame left Cambodia and we welcomed Jenny McAuley, her daughter Annie and Annie's son, Hayden.

Public Holidays in October were:
15th, Commemoration Day of the Kings Father.
29th, Kings Coronation Day.

On Tuesday the 3rd of November I planned a special lunch for Jenny with some of the teenagers who used to live at HOPE back when it was an orphanage. Now grown adults this lunch was both emotional and exciting. It was such a success there will another one in 2023.

Jenny spent time with our social workers and also did in-home visits. Annie a well recognised doctor in speech pathology brought with her TalkiPlay a kids teaching aid which was invented by her and now selling in several countries. Annie trained our preschool teachers in TalkiPlay.

Jenny was lucky enough to be here for the mothers, bubs, and partners who came to our community centre for their health checks and the collection of their monthly formula.

Our joint Prevention Mother to Child Transmission Program is now well recognised by the health department for assisting in stopping the transmission of HIV from mother to the baby.

Joy and Tim, you had a vision and a unstoppable passion for this program– thank you for your persistence. There are many children HIV free today as a direct result of this joint program.

On the 7th of November Jenny, Annie and Hayden left Battambang and Kathie and Karen, long time volunteers of HOPE arrived. On Wednesday the 9th of October all staff along with Kathie and Karen went for a team barbeque at a popular picnic spot by a very clean safe river. It was a fun day out and very successful.

Kathie and Karen went out on several external visits. Sometimes with our social welfare staff and sometimes with our teachers conducting family assessments. This was a real eye opener to both ladies as it truly reflected the extent of severe poverty across Battambang. In fact they were both so touched by one family who were in real need that they donated the funds for HOPE and the local community to build a modest safe home for them. Thank you Kathie and Karen. Kathie and Karen left us on the 28th of November. Hope to see you again soon.

I flew back to Australia on the 20th of November.

Public Holidays in November were:
6th 7th and 8th Water Festival Ceremony
89th Independence Day.

The rear land is now being partly utilised as a sports oval. Currently community boys soccer is being played there.

Part way through December our community education programs closed for the term.

This gave our teachers time to take some annual leave and to start planing and designing the new year term curricular.

During the school break we painted classroom desks and tidied and redecorated classrooms, ready for a fresh new years start.

Applications are now being received for new kids wanting to attend our Early Learning Childcare and Education (Preschool) and for some vacancies that exist in our Community English and IT Programs. We are capping numbers at 88 and 400 respectively.

I meet on-line with Sothoern on a regular basis and he successfully leads our team in Battambang.

It has been another successful year at HOPE and we are proud to be delivering on all of our programs.

Strong working partnerships with the relevant government bodies continues to be key to our success.

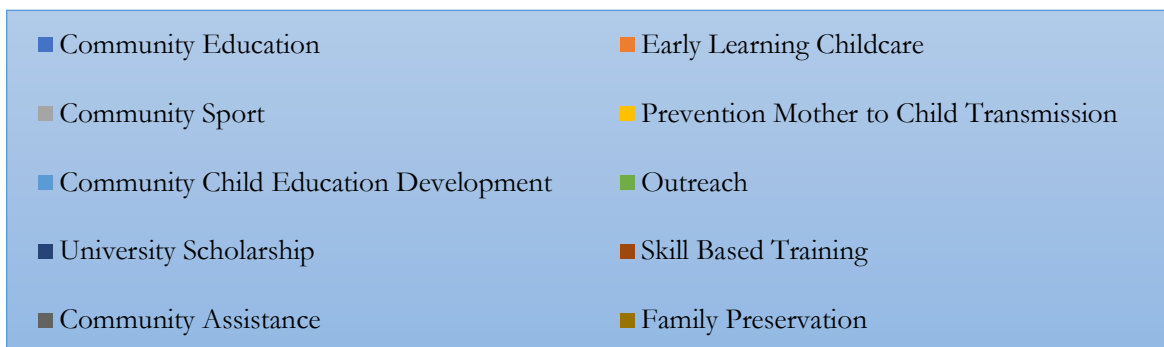
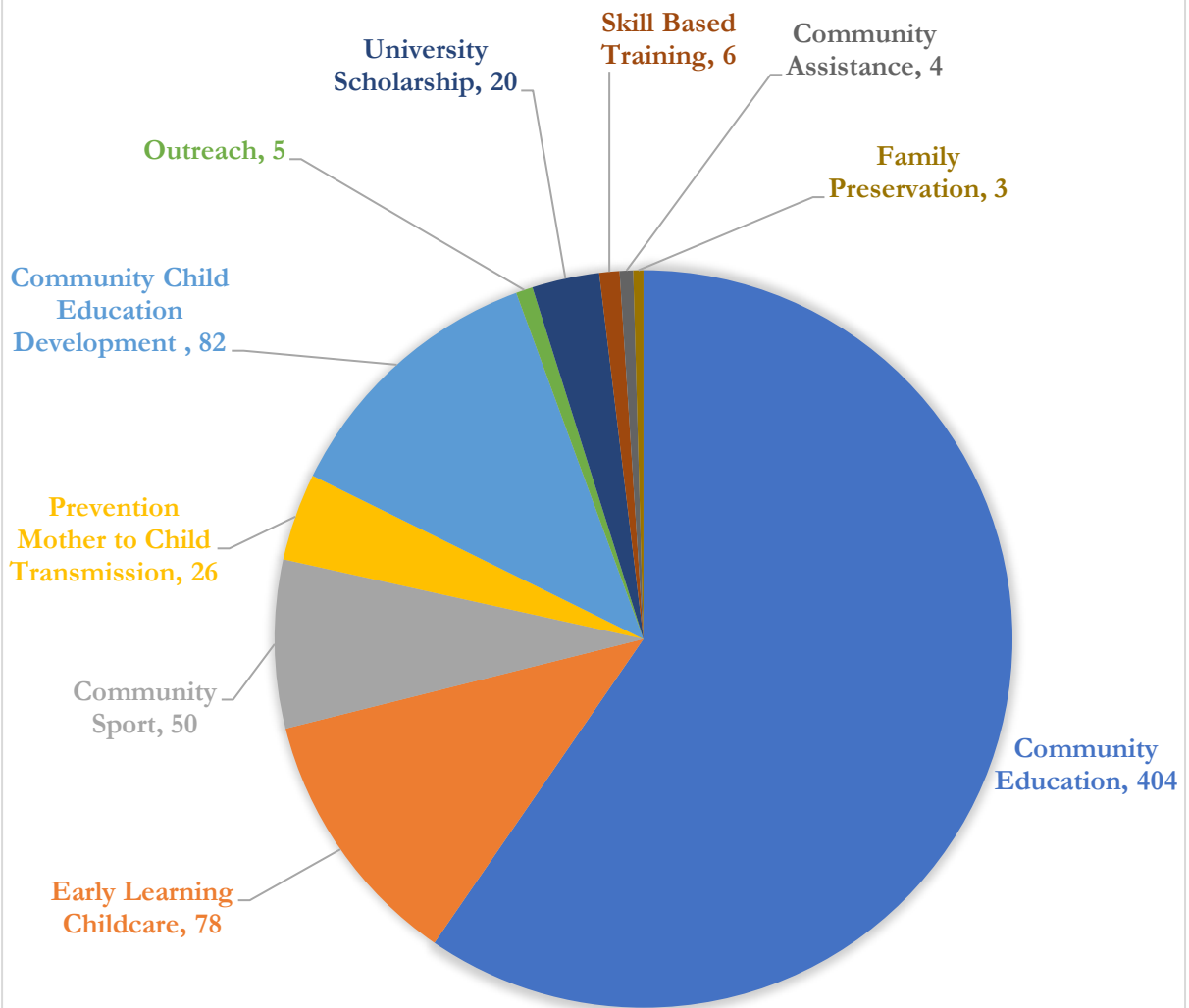
Cheers

Peter

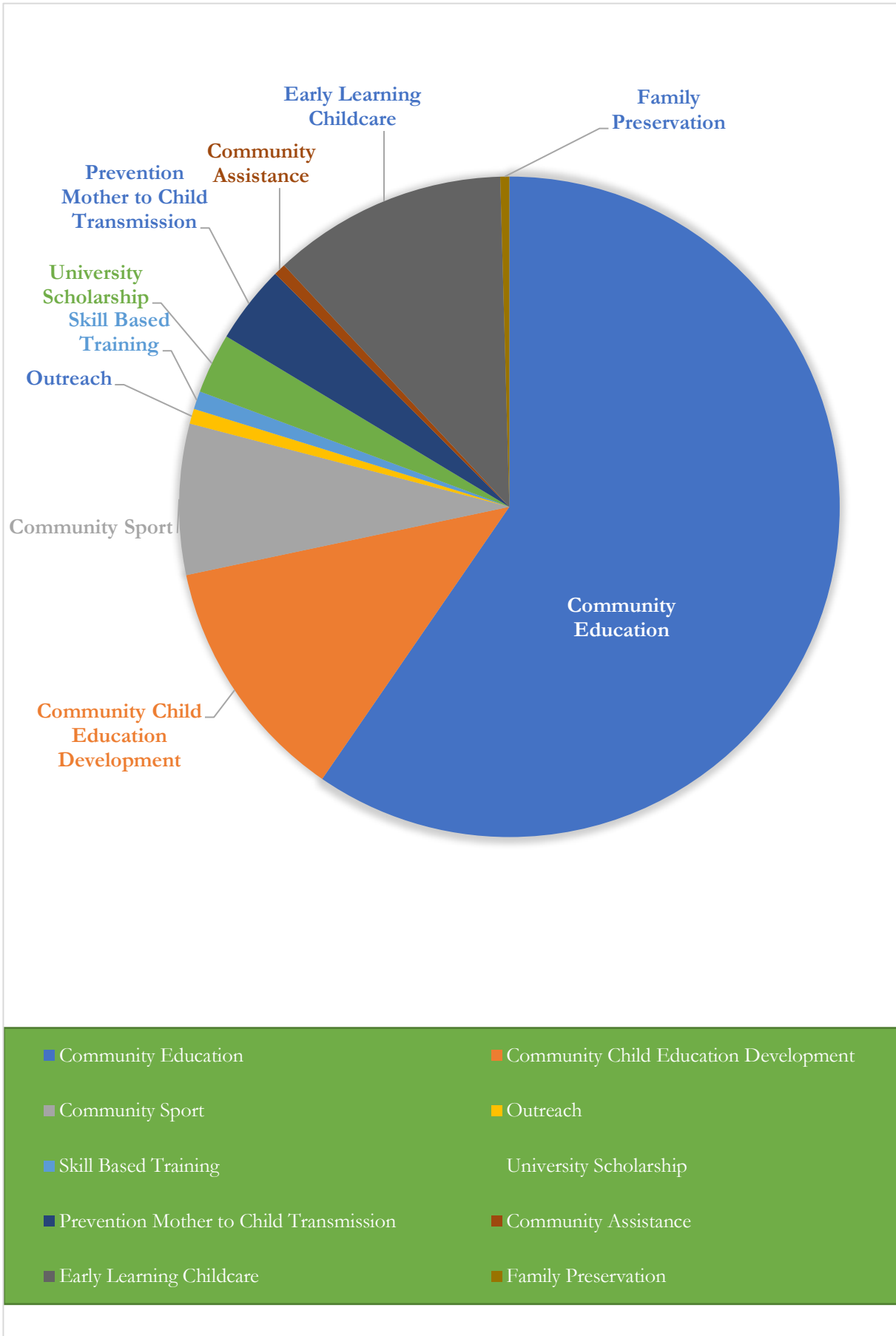
HOPE practice all Cambodian Laws covering Child Protection and Child Safety.

PIE CHART

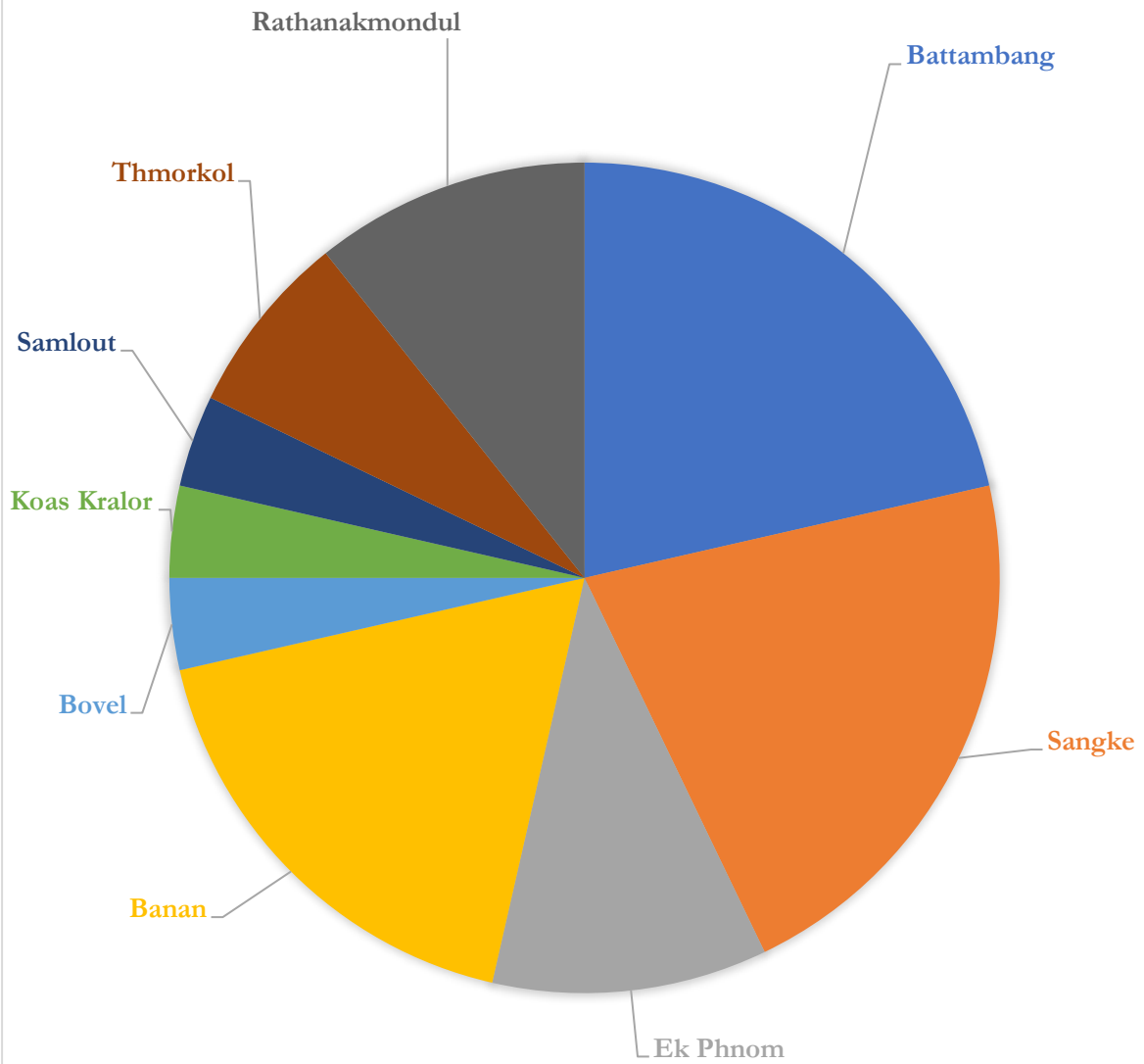
- Number of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs



- Percentages of Children attending HOPE's Community Programs



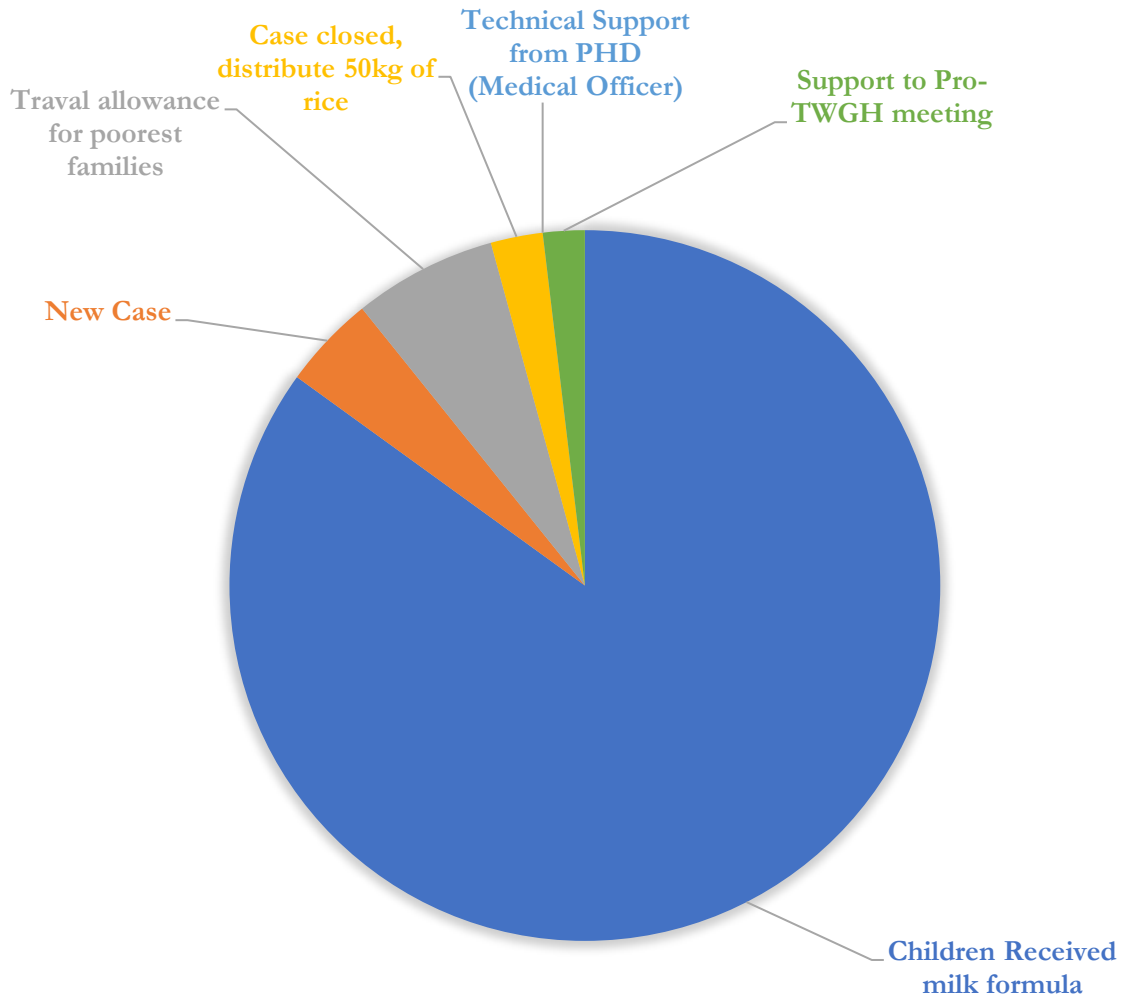
• The distribution of milk formula by the district



Total number of all districts is 26 babies, M=14, F=12



- Total expense on Prevention Mother to Child Transmission Program



- Children Received milk formula
- New Case
- Traval allowance for poorest families
- Case closed, distribute 50kg of rice
- Technical Support from PHD (Medical Officer)
- Support to Pro-TWGH meeting

1. OUTREACH PROGRAM

There are five teenagers under this program.

- Yoeurm Sreynit, 18-year-old girl is studying grade 11. She wants to be a teacher when she finishes university.
- Touk Raimeas, 18-year-old girl is studying grade 12. She wants to be a teacher when she finishes university.
- Chin Som Oeurn 16-year-old boy is studying grade 6. He want to continue to study another two years after that he want to go to Phnom Penh to study skill with his brother, Chin Som Ath.
- Born Sambath, 21-year-old just graduated grade 12.
- Khorn Nang, 14-year-old boy. He is a monk.

All five teenagers will be moving across to our family preservation program from January 2023. This move will have nil effect on their current professional care or their support from us.

The Outreach program was always going to close at some point and with reduced numbers it now suits us to do it now before the new year begins. For some of us its exciting to see outreach close. HOPE took the right step, a few years ago, to reintegrate all of the kids and teenagers from institutional care to be living back within a safe happy family situation.

At HfCCF we do not agree with institutional care.



2. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM

There are five adults, two boys and three girls under this program. This program is the pride for all young adults to be independent in the near future.

- Young adult, Male
 - **Vehicle Detailing** – One male adult is still completing his vehicle detailing training. He lives with the family who owns the business and he earns a small salary. He is doing extremely well and is well liked by his boss and his work colleagues.
 - **Phone Repairer** - There is one male adult studying under this program. Already earning a good income, he is well on his way to be successful and independent from HOPE.
- Young adult, Female
 - **Beauty Salon** -There are two adult females studying under this program. One actually studies with HOPE partner NGO called Caritas. The other one successfully completed her training and was signed out of our program in late December. HOPE purchased her a startup kit enabling her to open her own small business. Social welfare, CCWC and DoSVY will continue to monitor she and her business to ensure she becomes independent.
 - **Cooking** - This young lady is doing very well at school. She is now good at making soft drink then food. At the afternoon she asked the school to learn beauty salon at the same time she is studying cooking class.



3. FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Currently, we have three children, two boys under this program.

- Touch Chealin, 11-year-old boy is now living with his aunt after his father recently passed. He is studying at Phare Ponleu Selpark. His study at school is going well. He had a bit of an issue with remembering. When he has spare time, the school allows him learn some circus activities for example juggling.
- Chhoun Mithuna, 16 months old boy and Sambath Mariyan, 16 months old girl. HOPE supports them with milk formula each month. This case will close in February 2023.



4. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Currently we have four families under this program in this report.

- One family who is living in Norea commune received a new house built by HOPE community centre sponsored by Miss Kathie Graham and Mrs Karen Smith. This family have two young daughters who were under our Early Learning Childcare program. During the visit of Miss Kathie and Mrs Karen with the social worker, they decided to sponsor a house for them because this family was living at the rental room and that is not safe accommodation for the young children. This house built by HOPE's staff and community contractor.



- Another three families are homeless families that live close to the provincial hall. Battambang Governor approached the Department of Social Affair looking for any NGOs who are located in Battambang to help 43 homeless families in Battambang city. After receiving the request from DoSVY, the Senior Social worker discussed with HfCCF's Director and it was decided to help those families. After the decision has been made, HOPE support three homeless families.



5. GROUP HOME-BASED CARE PROGRAM

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

6. PREVENTION MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION PROGRAM

In this report, currently there are 26 babies, 14 boys and 12 girls under this program. HOPE purchased 297 cans of milk formula in the last three months. The parents come regularly to HOPE's community centre to take the milk formula. Nurse Khen worked together with the Senior Nurse checking on the baby's health to monitor how the baby increase growth from last month. HOPE still has a good partnership with the Battambang Department of Health. The Senior Nurse always trains all parents about hygiene and follow up about babies vaccination as this is usually done at their local health centre.



7. COMMUNITY CHILD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The CCWC and DoSVY requested to HOPE to support these kids because their family condition is very poor. These kids who graduated from HOPE have high education standard. After the kids graduated from the Early Learning Childcare Education Program, these kids will continue to study grade 1 at the public school. HOPE want to see these kids continue at the public school and they will be a valuable resource for Cambodia in the future.

Currently, there are 82 kids, 49 boys and 33 girls under this program. HOPE supports them according to the poverty conditions of each family. HOPE supports the children and family with foods and school materials.

HOPE worked closely with CCWC and DoSVY and where necessary support the family in a startup business program.



8. COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Currently there are 328 students (133 boys and 195 girls) who come to our community centre to study English. Also, there are 43 students (18 boys and 25 girls) join our computer classes. All of students from both the English Classes and Computer Class sat their final exams on the 22nd and 23rd of December 2022. According to our study, there are about 95% of the students who passed their final exams and will start the new term in early January 2023.

Presently, we are busy doing in home family assessments looking for suitable poor and disadvantaged kids to fill the gap from those students who have completed their studies with HOPE.



9. EARLY-LEARNING CHILDCARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM

Currently we have 65 kids in this program (35 boys and 30 girls). In November there were 35 kids who completed Level 4 of our preschool program and next year will move to primary school. Each of these children leaving HOPE was provided with a completion certificate and some primary school materials.

There were 57 kids (26 boys and 31 girls) who completed a government standard test.

The results of this test were as follows:

- There were 39 kids who received an A (18 boys and 21 girls).
- There were 9 kids who received a B (5 boys and 4 girls).
- There were 9 kids who received a C (3 boys and 6 girls).

Both HOPE, the Department of Education and the parents of these children are all very happy with these results.

The weather in Cambodia from October to December is quite cold so HOPE provided second hand winter clothing to the kids and their families.

This clothing is imported from China at a reasonable price and sold to us through a local market.

Applications for new enrolments have opened. We are seeking between 45 to 50 new children. Our teachers are very busy at the moment doing in home family assessments to ensure that successful applications meet HOPE's strict criteria that all kids are from poor and disadvantaged families.



Quarterly Report: October – December 2022

10. COMMUNITY SPORT PROGRAM

We have completed building two fullsize soccer fields on our rear land. The boys are excited playing on grass and practicing to increase their soccer skills playing on an international size fields. Two shade shelters will be built allowing players to be out of hot sun while they watch matches. The rest of the land has been cleared and looking very clean and tidy.



11. COMMUNITY SEWING PROGRAM

This program is temporarily closed.

12. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Currently there are four groups with 20 students (6 males 14 females) in this program.

➤ **Group I**

This group has 4 students who have successfully completed their four-year Bachelor degrees. Khoeur the only male among the four students is working as a public teacher in Battambang. Saley works in Microfinance in Battambang. Sodane is now a customer service officer who works at a bank in Phnom Penh and Sinory is a seller who works for BOD Co.Ltd., company at Moug Russey, Battambang.

Due to their life work plan, the three ladies will look for a position in the corporate world at a professional company related to their degree.

➤ **Group II**

There are eleven students in Group 11. They are in their 1st semester of 4th year.

- Sophal studies at Dewey International University, majoring in Software Engineering. He works as a credit officer studying on the weekends.
- Seyha studies at Dewey International University, majoring in accounting. She works as a credit officer in Battambang, and she stays in a rental house which is organised by HOPE.
- Theasa studies at Dewey International University, majoring in management. She volunteers at AMARA NGOs as community Facilitator. She has been volunteering in this position almost a year. She's still looking for full-time work.
- Veasna studies at University of Management and Economic, majoring in management. He works in a loan shop as a credit officer in Battambang. Studying on the weekends.
- Sokuntheara studies at Dewey International University, majoring in management. She works as a cashier at ice factory located in local in Battambang.
- Somphen studies at Dewey International University, majoring in management. She doesn't have any job at present but is looking for employment.
- Liza studies at Build Bright University, majoring in English. She works as an English teacher at an International School in Battambang.
- Pisey and Danouch study at Royal University of Phnom Penh, majoring in social work. They don't work, they spend most of their time to do assignments at university. Both are outstanding students.
- Chamroeun is completing his 11-month internship in Israel. He calls regularly and is loving his time in a different country, different foods and a vastly different climate. He will return to Cambodia and his studies at the end of 2023.

➤ **Group III**

The three female students in this group are now studying in 3rd year in first semester. They are preparing their lessons for midterm.

- Davy is a student at Build Bright University and attends the class regularly. She studies in accounting.
- Borey's major is marketing at Build Bright University, and she has a part-time in Battambang.
- Sreynou studies English at the National University in Battambang. Sreynou has a part time teachers aid role with us at HOPE.

➤ **Group IV**

Quarterly Report: October – December 2022

There are only two students in this group. These students have finished their first year and they will start their new courses on January 2023.

- Somrech is a student who studies Khmer literature at the Nation University of Battambang. He has a part time job as a Batista.
- Sreynatt studies on the weekend, she is volunteering as an administration assistant with us at HOPE. She works hard to get more experience in this position.



Graduation of first generation of University Students

13. HOPE MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS

- 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 representative always attends the monthly meeting at both the Norea and the Rathanak Communes.
- Social Welfare is invited and attends the CCWC and DoSVY meetings.
- HOPE's Nurse attends Provincial Technical Work Group Health (Pro-TWGH) monthly meeting, COVID-19 presentations, lectures. These usually take place at the Provincial Hospital.
- Our Education Department is a member of BEST and Sothoeurn is on the management team at PoE.
- 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 attends monthly meetings at Battambang Municipality Office.



14. IN CONCLUSION

This report was prepared by our Communication and Sponsorship Coordinator, Oum Pichponloeu 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