PKO
Puthi Komar Organization

2012 Annual Report

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Together
We Learn & Play
PKO is an independent, local non-governmental organization (LNGO) created in 2005. We provide educational and psychosocial support to vulnerable children mostly in the province of Battambang, Cambodia. Our name comes from a Sanskrit word “puthi” meaning education and a Khmer word “komar” for children. Our focus is on primary school age children, keeping them in school and ensuring they learn effectively in a safe environment.
We do not work in isolation. All of our projects involve cooperation and partnership to raise the quality of education for primary school children. We collaborate with stakeholders: children, parents, teachers, school administrators, government officials and community leaders.

Our Vision
We believe that every child in every community in Cambodia has the right to live in peace, with dignity and social and economic support.

Our Mission
We nurture intellect, wellbeing and economic growth for children and their communities.

Our People
Our staff of 59, 24 of whom are women, are committed to PKO’s vision and mission. Our Board consists of Mr. Hou Sopheap, President, Mr. Chuom Rithy, Treasurer and Mr. Filemon M. Libertad Jr. We have a volunteer base of 32 people.

Our Donors
MESSAGE

Thanks to all our donors who offer their strong support and trust. We cannot achieve our dream without your kindly support in 2012. Your generosity has allowed us to be able to provide better living conditions in the remote communities where PKO works and reach out to the vulnerable children so they can get a better quality of education, which is the basic foundation for their lives. We have achieved our objectives by supporting thousands of children in Battambang this year, but our efforts must continue as we need to assist so many more needy children in the coming years. Our team at PKO is committed to work collaboratively with our donors and partners in order to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

Mr. Lim Sophea
Our Projects

Library Construction for Better Reading

This project works in seven different village primary schools (Bospor, Keurt, Kompong Pil, Odambang I, Okcheay Chheurng, Osrolao Keurt, Osrolao Lek and Slorkram) within two communes (Odambang I and Wattamin).

Our objectives:

1- To build libraries in schools and demonstrate how they contribute to improvements in child learning development.
2- To train teachers on how to manage, use and maintain the libraries.
3- To encourage reading as a lifelong activity.

In February, May, August and November PKO provided over 100 new books as well as medicine boxes, plastic dishes for hand washing, sports equipment, art supplies and games for the libraries at these schools. Once each month three PKO staff, including the Executive Director, conducted school visits to provide teacher training on using and managing the library. They reviewed book inventory, the borrowing book history of the children and attendance levels. They also encouraged the use of painting, drawing, games and crafts to help the children with their development.

Random testing of reading skills by PKO found that out of 21 students 18 had improved reading skills over the year, while just three students continued to struggle. PKO talked with the librarians to focus on spending more time with these three children and encouraging the other students to help them too.

In February, May, October and November PKO collaborated with the District Education Office to monitor the libraries. By the second semester it was evident that the libraries were appreciated by both teachers and children. Artwork was posted on the walls, and more children were reading and enjoying the activities of the library. Teachers, as well as students, borrowed books to read at home. The libraries extended their hours by being open Monday through Saturday, except for national holidays.

Over 500 children (278 girls) per day used the seven libraries. Of this number, there were 145 (80 girls) pre-school children, 332 (182 girls) primary school children, 25 (16 girls) lower secondary school children. Besides the children, there were on average 17 (11 female) teachers and 9 (6 female) people from community who came to access and read the books in the library.

www.pkocambodia.org
Our Projects

Mobile Libraries and Classroom Libraries

This project covers five communes (Anlong Vil, Kampong Preang, Kampong Preas, Odambang 2 and Rang Kesei) in 20 schools.

Our objectives are:
1- To encourage the pleasure of reading.
2- To provide the means for installing classroom libraries in 40 target schools.
3- To improve socialization skills among the children in their community.

PKO brought the four mobile libraries to 20 target public primary schools (Andong Trach, Dambok Khpos, Kampong Koo, Kampong Preang, Kampong Preas, Kbal Tnol, Korg Keng, Kuoky, Phanha, Prey Svay, Puk Chhmar, Rang Kesei, Rang Krol, Salatrav, Sambok Ork, Sras Keo, Svay Chheat, Tuol Lweang, Tuol Snuol and Watkandal).

The mobile libraries offered many activities such as storytelling, group reading, individual reading, origami, collage, painting, outdoor games and sports. On average, 121 (62 girls) children per day participated in the library activities, and of this number 81 (43 girls) borrowed books to read at home.

Over 6,000 books were purchased by PKO for the mobile library trucks. PKO also purchased, for the four mobile library trucks, medicine boxes in the event of injuries sustained by children while playing on the school grounds. PKO also collaborated with the 20 public primary schools to start classroom library activities with the children. An average of 119 children (59 girls) participated in the classroom libraries per day. And among those 119 children who participated in the classroom libraries, there was an average of 65 children (35 girls) per day who borrowed books.

PKO staff monitored and offered technical support to the PKO librarians, volunteers, school teachers, librarians and directors based on organizing the reading competition, discussing the materials needed for the classroom and existing libraries, reviewing the activities of the librarians, checking the school library inventory and child attendance lists and discussing problems encountered and possible solutions.
From the 12th to the 23rd of March PKO organized a reading competition in all 20 target public primary schools in order to encourage the students to develop their reading habits and show their abilities and efforts as well as to improve the relationship between PKO staff, teachers and directors. More than 2,500 children participated in the competition, and all received school supplies and cakes. Teachers, parents and the children were pleased with the event and asked that it be held again next year.

PKO organized monthly meetings in order to strengthen the relationship between PKO staff and volunteers. These meetings allowed for discussion on how to organize the reading competition, how to organize the classroom and mobile libraries, what books, materials and games to purchase, how to distribute them, how to develop a monthly plan and what tools and methods will help children develop their reading and socialization skills.

Five times during the school year the Education Department came to these schools to monitor library and classroom activities, check inventory and borrowing of books by students and teachers, check attendance and conduct spot checks on the reading activity of the children. Over the course of the school year it was clear that most students were reading more often and were enjoying the activities of the library. The range of activities improved their socialization skills and developed their self-confidence. Teachers also benefitted from the libraries as their interest in reading increased, and they, too, were borrowing books to read at home.
Our Projects

Child Friendly School Project

To build safe school buildings, proper playing facilities, washrooms and libraries

To develop a comprehensive plan engaging the school, the government and the community to create a child friendly school environment.

There were two Child Friendly School Projects implemented. One took place in Poipet with four target primary schools (Poipet, Aphiwat, Brocheatham and Andong Thmor Meas).

PKO organized workshops at the City of Education office with school directors, teachers and community representatives to show the kind of work that needs to be done and grants that can be secured to help finance the work.

PKO then sat down with each of the four schools and worked with them on restructuring the school support committees, clarifying the roles and responsibility of each member. The third step was to meet with education authorities to ensure resources may be allocated by 2015 and to create a system for regular monitoring to ensure project quality.

Some of the challenges we faced were that two school directors left and were replaced by new directors who were not familiar with the project. Many of the parents did not participate in the discussions as full-time work prevented them...
Our Projects

Child Friendly School Project

from doing so. More time will need to be spent on promoting the value of this project to both teachers and parents.

The other Child Friendly Project took place in Battambang at three schools (Okcheay Tbong, Osrolao Keurt and Watcheng). The focus of this project was based on three dimensions: all children to have access to school, effective teaching and learning and the participation of children, parents and the community.

In September PKO developed a Child Friendly school development plan, along with a checklist for the three schools based on the above dimensions. School mapping was done to identify the over 1,000 families in the area, the ages of the children and what grades they were in or if they had dropped out of school. Next, PKO worked with the district education office and teachers to organize a campaign parade on child registration into the public schools. Okcheay Tbong enrolled 40 (19 female) students, Osrolao Keurt enrolled 61 (29 female) students and Watcheng enrolled 63 (37 female) students.

In October PKO worked with the three schools to define roles for student council representatives and to have an election.

In November these schools were monitored to oversee the process of teaching activities, the teaching materials, the time of teaching, methodology and work plan. The biggest weakness discovered was the lack of teaching materials. This month also was used to meet with teachers, school directors and the district education officer to promote the use of the checklist and produce study materials and class decorations. PKO also spoke with the teachers and school directors to continue to encourage students to come to class regularly.
To improve the physical, mental and social development of vulnerable children by increasing and enhancing access to quality education.

To introduce the concept of play in learning.

To discuss with children and their families the importance of respectful child care practices.

Pre-school registration brought in 230 children (105 girls).
PKO collaborated with the school directors, teachers, the Department of Education and the Provisional/Municipal Office of Education to review and develop the study curriculum and test format for the children in remedial and special classes, focusing on math and Khmer language. These sessions also provided tools to help teachers and youth workers improve their teaching techniques with these special students.
PKO provided remedial classes to 584 children (293 girls) who were registered in the four youth centres. Over 96% of these children improved their learning on Khmer language and math by year’s end. Forty-nine children passed to the next grade, seven children repeated the grade and five children quit. Slow learners were placed in different classes as teachers applied different learning techniques.

These students were two or three years behind other students the same age. Two hundred thirty-four children (84 girls) registered for this program, and of this number 135 children improved their learning.
248 new children (105 girls) registered this year for English classes. PKO offered this class three days a week, 80 minutes per day for 1,215 students. The students were divided into 40 classes (19 in the morning and 21 in the afternoon). Most improvements came in English conversation.

On the 31st of May and the 1st of June PKO organized the Child Rights International Day with the centres. There were 755 children, three teachers, nine parents, 28 staff from the youth centres, two project officers and one program manager who participated. Children gave performances and answered questions related to children’s rights.
The last half of 2011 was one of the worst periods of flooding in Cambodia in more than 20 years. Schools, homes, roads and farms were all inundated with vast amounts of dirty water. Roads were inaccessible, schools were shut down, crops were ruined, farm animals were drowned and people scrambled to find higher ground. PKO reached out to 16 villages (Ambeng Thnge, Baset, Boengtim, Chhuong Trodog, Dambok Bon, Kach Rotes, Kbal Tnol, Omany I, Omany II, Os Tuok, Por Battambang, Roka, Salatrav, Samdach, Svay Sor and Tapon) in the four communes of Anlong Vil, Kampong Preang, Roka and Tapon. This project will be an ongoing effort through the end of 2013.

In March, PKO organized 16 courses on short-term rice and vegetable production training, which was facilitated by the officers of the Sangke district agricultural office and 2 project officers of PKO. Each training session ran for three days. After the training, PKO distributed the rice seeds and agricultural materials such as sickles, hoes and baskets to the participants. Over 300 villagers participated in the training, and more than 1,500 families benefitted from the distribution of seeds.

Vegetable seeds such as corn, pumpkin, cucumber, chilli, winter melon, long bean, tomato, eggplant, morning glory and cabbages were distributed in April, May and June. The seeds were distributed according to land size and preference of the villagers. Some villagers were successful in growing sufficient amounts of food that they were able to sell their surplus.

In March and April PKO cooperated with health centre staff and the village and commune chiefs to provide 16 courses of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Time was spent on defecation mapping and the pathway of defecation flows, calculating medical expenses and organizing a village action plan. Two hundred thirty-four latrines, both ash and water, were constructed. Training for over 800 villagers was also conducted on causes of contaminated water, good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Nine schools which were damaged by the flood were repaired and then reopened for the children and teachers. These schools were Andong Py primary, Kampong Preang lower secondary, Por Battambang, Prolay Thngo primary, Samdach primary, Svay Kong primary, Svaysor primary, Tapon primary and Tapon lower secondary school.

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Our Projects

After the Flood Project

Rice Seed Distribution

Trainings

Building latrines

Safeguard
# Financial report

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