



Report on the support the Emergency assistance to the children of Rumdoul in 2021 & 2022

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Background

Mekong Plus has been a long time partner to Chayra, a fruitful cooperation both in Vietnam and in Cambodia, for more than 20 years. In view of strengthening the sustainability of the projects, Mekong Plus has localized by setting up local NGOs in Vietnam and in Cambodia more recently, with CAO. CAO and MP work very closely together, and operations are entirely managed by CAO, while MP provides support for strategy, connections with funders and organizing project visits, like with the very successful [Mekong Bike Tours](#).

Project priorities

CAO is managed by a strong highly motivated team of 10, directed by Ms.Kosal, a veterinary doctor by training, who has almost 10 years' experience with the Rumdoul project. Currently, we are working with 14 primary schools it has more than 3243 students or pupil of 32 primary, 7 secondary and 3 high schools. Some of those children were from the poor families. Their parents were identified by the authorities in two categories: Level 1 is the group of very poor or poorest in the village and level 2 is seemed a bit better than level 1. Mostly their income is less than 1\$/day/person. How is their survival? And the most problem is they have many children to cover. And some of these poor children were register to late at school and some has been decided to drop out from school because of many reasons. One of these reasons are financial and transportation. Why having scholarship and the bike are important for the children?

- ❖ Objective of the program:
 - a) To provide financial assistance to poor student
 - b) To enhance attendant of poor student at school
 - c) To encourage and motivate poor children go to school.

Access to schools

CAO, like MP before, has thus put a high priority on access to education, in 4 ways, depending on the exact needs of each child and household:

- A scholarship of 35\$/year
- A secondhand reconditioned bicycle, worth 45\$ but the household contributes 10\$
- Books (multi reading books) 10\$/each during the serious time of Covid 19 pandemic that the school has been closed
- [Library](#) (Support the multi books for general student can read).

When the school is too far, a bicycle is the people's choice. But people's participation and support is a pre-condition and an essential component for the success of the program. Support is provided to each school only after some community activity has been implemented, with a massive participation of all children, teachers and many parents. For example the [solidarity march through the villages](#), collecting donations, planting trees (together save environment), elevating the school playground etc.

Expenditure 2021 &2022

No.	Description of Expense	Expenditure (USD)	Cost shared from Chayra	Cost shared from Mekong Plus
1	Visited poor households for selection	350	350	
2	150 Bikes supported to poor students	5,724.75	3,724.75	2,000
3	150 Scholarships supported to poor students	5,395.7	2,395.70	3,000
4	Supported reading books	1,035	500	535
5	Follow-up of supported children: home visits, transportation, and staff salary	5,500	4,000	1,500
	Total	18,005.45	10970.45	7,035 USD

		USD	USD	
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Main results

The population in Rumdoul is total 15,672 families and 4,317 families are living under poverty line (27.54%). Currently, we are working with 14 primary schools it has more than 3243 students. In the academic year 2021-2022, we supported:

- [The bike](#): 150 bicycles have been supported to very poor student of primary schools. This project have the contributed from community with 1500 USD. The students and their family very happy because their child can go to school on time and regular and also their study was improved.
- [The scholarship](#): 150 scholarships have been supported to very poor student of secondary and high school. To be grateful, parents, teachers, monks and students participated to plant the trees more than 150 tree on the public land to help to cover the earth.
- [The book](#): Cambodia has protected itself vigorously against the pandemic, which resulted in relatively few cases and a few dozen deaths in Rumdoul only. Recently however the pandemic has peaked again, resulting in thousands cases and many death the price for this policy is cruel: the economic situation of the poorest has worsened, many poor peasants and daily laborers are left without any work and thus no income. CAO has run emergency operations for almost 1 year: food, masks and soap deliveries to hundreds of very poor households. The schools were closed for 16 months, very few people could afford not to drop out. CAO supported books to poor students during Covid-19 pandemic amounts 104 students for study themselves at their house.

Case support of bicycle

Raksmei is 12 years old. She is a poor student who is studying in grade 5. She is a girl who



lives in old small house with a single mother (35 years old), grandmother (64 years old), and one older brother (15 years old) is studying in grade 7. They live in Veal village, Mern Chey commune, Romdoul district, Svay Rieng province.

This family is so poor and the income is only 41cents/day/person. This family has no land for planting rice. So, the income of this

family is just from mother to do a home constructor but so sad because of health problem so she cannot



go to work regular. However the old grandmother always try to find some fish on the fields near house and planting a little bit of vegetable to make food.

After survey we saw that she doesn't have a bike for ride to school and specially we saw that she is so kind she always help her grandmother to cook rice and she really try to study hard always read books on her free times and she doesn't want to stop study. So Community Advancement Organization decided provided her a bike to make the way easier for her to school. Now she went regularly and her study has been upgrade from number 24 to top 10 in the class.

Case support of scholarship

Sika is 16 years old and studying in grade 8 at Kampong Samroung high school. Her mother's name is Un Phanny, 58 years old and she is widow. His father dead since Sika 5 months old so everything depends on her mother alone. They live in Tasork village, Kampong Ampil commune, Romdoul district, Svay Rieng province, Cambodia.

Their main income are from rice growing on 0.30ha land size, raise the duck, chicken and raise a buffalo. So the average income is 67cents/person/day.

Sika said that "I never can buy good food from market, I always caught the fish, frog, crab, cricket, vegetable around the house, and sometime I eat rice with fish source. We raise the duck and chicken but mostly for sale to market to get a little money to buy books, pen, cloth, other study material and keep a little bit for health care".

Sika is a hard person, she always helps her mother to take care of the buffalo by go far to find the grass for its food, provide the feed for duck and chicken, planting some vegetable and help to make the food also.

Her mother said "I thank you so much to CAO that support a scholarship to my daughter and promise to support my daughter to school until finish high school and continue to university. I am poor because I lack of knowledge, so I cannot keep my daughter to walk on my old ways.



Case support of reading book



Sochey is one of the poor pupils living in Rumdoul. In 2021 he studies in grade 9 and he is 17 years old he is a good student in the class. He goes to school far from home to school 7km, spend time 60 minute by bike. Now he is studying at

Samroung high school and this school. The family is poor group I (poor group I, i.e. the very poor in the village). They are farmers, have a small house, 0.80 ha of rice field and her mother is a cleaner in a hotel and her father has abandoned them. This family has 6 members, they have 3 children. The income from rice field, cleaner, factory and vegetable total 18\$/person/month, which is not enough to support the family because of more the payment for children.

Normally in the morning he get up early to help his family to do the house work and after he had breakfast with yesterday's rice and food from evening before go to school. He tries to study by himself because he hasn't money to pay teacher for study at extra classes.

Although his family is very poor but he always goes to study every day.

In the academic year 2020-21, The Ministry of Education Youth and Sport temporary closed schools due to pandemic of Covid-19; the education sector is also considered a priority, which the government is focusing on addressing by trying to provide distance education (online or television). He would study at home online but because he has no smart phone and television so how can he learn from it?



We want to support books and extra class to him and support some vegetable seed for planting to improve income the family and continue his study.

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