



Completion Report

KHM-CHO-MIC-P03, Poipet, Cambodia
Reporting Period: June – December 2018

Developing Resilient Families - Cambodia

Budget: Year 3 \$35,390 – fully funded!

The Project:

This project provided basic business training to interested members of villages around Poipet, Cambodia along the Thai border area. Our partner offered small loans to help set-up small businesses or expand existing businesses. A key component of the program has been business training and ongoing mentoring to loan recipients. The goals of this project were twofold: a) to improve the economic status of families which enables children to be sent to school and b) to present topics to parents and children such as trafficking awareness (a major problem along this border), child rights and domestic violence. This brings the 3-year life-changing project to a close.

Update:

- A further 24 families were helped with a loan for the second half of 2018. Businesses include shop keepers, motorbike repairs, clothes stores and a motor bike cleaning shop. Some only needed a start-up of \$250 so our partners were able to give extra capital to others who needed more
- Our partners were able to use repaid loans to help others in the communities
- Many fall into the trap of borrowing larger amounts from loan sharks but quickly find they are unable to make the repayments. Our partners teach that small start-up loans can be more easily controlled and businesses expanded once there is profit
- Our partners made home visits to ensure loans are being properly used and to encourage the loan recipients. They also discuss topics such as trafficking awareness, child rights, domestic violence, health and hygiene
- Self-help groups are being encouraged so that communities can help and support each other

Sot Tha cleans the motorbike to earn an income.



Project Manager Jenny Crameri visited in February and visited Sok's shop. Jenny said, "Sok has a sewing shop thanks to the loan from our partners. Her husband is disabled and became a drug addict. The situation became desperate with Sok's daughters dependent on her. She built up the courage to ask for a loan. Our partners helped Sok set up her business and she has recently bought a second sewing machine with the profits. My business is going well and my children are in school. Thank you for your help. I am so happy!"

Sot Tha is one of the participants. She said, "We tried to start a business but we didn't know how to do it and it failed. We went across the border but could only earn \$5 a day in odd jobs and it was not enough to live on. We moved back to Cambodia and opened a porridge shop but it too was unsuccessful. We heard about the loans and we asked if we could become a part of it. After training and support we opened a motorbike cleaning store and bought a speaker so that people can rent it for parties. I am so thankful. We can stay here and our children can go to a good school."

Thank you for helping people to help themselves. Some good advice, training, encouragement and a loan makes for a better life!