Guy's TRUST

Creating opportunities for young people around the world

actionaid

April 2014

Improving access to Primary Education for children in Cambodia

Tany village, Koh Kong province and Kanal village, Kampot province

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Background and rationale

Access to education in this rural district is extremely challenging. The villages are isolated and many children have to walk for up to two hours to get to school. When they reach school, classes are often overcrowded and are frequently cut short or cancelled as teachers are often absent due to poor working conditions and the distance they have to travel from home. As a result many parents feel their children's time is better spent working at home or in the fields to support their family. Children miss out in many ways. They fall behind at school with core subjects such as reading, Khmer (the local language) and maths, and are denied the opportunity to play sport and interact and build friendships with other children. All of these challenges hamper their personal development, their ability to lead a successful life and break away from the cycle of poverty.

Kanal and Tany are two villages ActionAid is working in across Kampot and Koh Kong provinces. Children in these villages struggle to access a quality, basic education due to a lack of proper school infrastructure, and teachers. With support from Guy's Trust, ActionAid will improve the quality of education children receive.

Tany village

Tany is a large village in Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong province, 271km from Phnom Penh. There are two schools in the village, a formal primary school, covering grade 1 to 6, and a basic annex school, which only provides education for grades 1 and 2, for children aged 3 and 4 years old. Children move to the formal school to complete grade 3 and onwards after they finish grade 2 at the annex school. There is a distance of 3km between the formal and annex school, and currently there are 52 children from 84 families accessing the annex school.

We will construct three classrooms and toilet facilities at the annex school. Currently the school only has one teacher, so we will approach the District Office of Education and Provincial Department of Education to provide more teachers. We will also set up a School Support Committee (SSC) to monitor the quality of teaching and the children's progress. Through the project and the improvements made, we expect to see an increased attendance at the school of at least 80 children.

The current school building in Tany village

Kanal village

Kanal village is located in Teuk Chhou district, Kampot province, 16km away from Kampot provincial town on the national road. Kanal primary school has 284 children studying in the school from grade 1 to 6. There is also a kindergarten class but it has no proper classroom available.

The school has two buildings, one concrete building with five classrooms, of which one is used as a teacher's office. The other building is a wooden structure, which has four classrooms, although only one is in use due to disrepair. We will build a new concrete school with five classrooms and a toilet block to replace the old, damaged and dangerous existing structure.

The current wooden structure in Kanal village

Key activities

- Construction of school buildings
- Provision of furniture – teachers' desks, students' tables, whiteboards and bookshelves
- Provision of educational materials - reading books, educational toys and sports equipment
- Construction of latrines for boys and girls
- Installation of clean water system - involving rain-water collection (ground water is not available within the school compound)
- Formation of Children's Action Club for ages 3 - 8 years old, mainly targeted at children aged 3 and 4.
- Building of basic playground facilities
- Clearing compound and making fences to improve security
- Fixing the road to improve access to the school
- Provision of bicycles for poorest children who complete grade 2 from this school to access to other schools to continue their studies from grade 3 - around 3km from their homes
- Establishment and strengthening of a school Support Committee (SSC)
- Training the SSC to monitor educational quality in the school, including teacher and student performance

Estimated budget

The estimated cost for both programme and overhead costs of this project covering a 12 month period is £100,000.

Implementing partners

In Koh Kong the project will be delivered by a local partner, Community Health Action and Development Association (CHADA) and in Kampot the project will be delivered by SAMAKY (Solidarity) organisation. The two partners will be supported and monitored by ActionAid Partnership Officers focusing on project monitoring and implementation.

Guy's Trust practical involvement

The Guy's Trust team will participate in building the school in Kampot.
The school in Koh Kong will be constructed by external contractors with contribution and support from the community.