

CAMBODIA NEWSLETTER 2023

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REGULAR EMAIL UPDATES





Dear Supporters,

We write to you full of joy and gratitude for your continued support. We have had a rather exciting year so far and have so much to share with you.

See enclosed in this newsletter just a small sample of the impact you are helping Edukid to make in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Cambodia. Throughout this year, we have had the privilege of watching our projects and the children within them flourish. We have also been able to set up an array of new schemes as we move into a season of much anticipated freedom, away from the constraints of social distancing and curfews that the Covid- 19 pandemic caused.

As always, it is vital for us to be able to continue our work and our goal of providing an education to children living in extreme poverty and to break down the barriers they face in accessing school. Through your continuous support, generosity and kindness, you are making this goal achievable.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOOL PACKS

The 2000 children that Edukid support across Cambodia have received their school packs which will equip them for learning throughout this academic year. Edukid school packs contain the resources that the children will need to attend school, such as a rucksack, a tailored school uniform, a pair of shoes, a lunch box, a pack of pencils and pens, a ruler, a water bottle and books to write in.

School packs are integral to our operation in Cambodia. Outside of our projects, one of the leading causes of school dropouts is a lack of basic materials to learn. The packs we provide prevents school dropout and removes the financial burden families living in extreme poverty are confronted with when sending their children to school.

One former student has expressed how the Edukid school packs have impacted them:

"Every year when I received my school pack I immediately ran home and put it somewhere safe, I wouldn't take it out of the plastic until one day before term started. Every night for the week after I received it, I slept hugging my school pack often with tears in my eyes because I was so thankful".

"Every night for the week after I received it, I slept hugging my school pack, often with tears in my eyes because I was so thankful"



ZERO HUNGER

The children we work with come from extremely poor backgrounds and are highly food insecure, often living off of one meal per day. Hunger has a detrimental effect on education and health, making the children less able to focus on lessons and more prone to serious illnesses.

Children from Oddor Meanchey village, one of the poorest areas we work in, have just been enrolled in our Milk Project. Through this project children can gain better nutrition through soya milk fortified with vitamins. This project ensures these children are receiving a balanced diet so that they can focus on their studies rather than their stomachs! Additionally, the milk is locally sourced, meaning that Edukid is supporting the community by generating income in the villages.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

THE M.A.D.E PROJECT

It is no secret that our world is becoming more and more digitally orientated and the need for computer-based skills when applying for jobs has risen dramatically. The M.A.D.E (Mobile Academy Digital Education) project trains students in using computers. Training our youth in this way is giving them the skills they need to face the modern workplace.

Computer training for youth in Kampong Speu Province is underway. These children will be taught typing in English and Khmer, Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Office. Skills like these are sought after in almost every location of the world, which means that these Cambodian children will have a wider range of opportunities available to them in their adult lives.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our projects are about supporting the holistic child, therefore we run health and wellbeing projects that have a variety of focuses from nail clipping, hand washing and hygiene to living in a clean environment and the importance of a healthy diet and exercise.

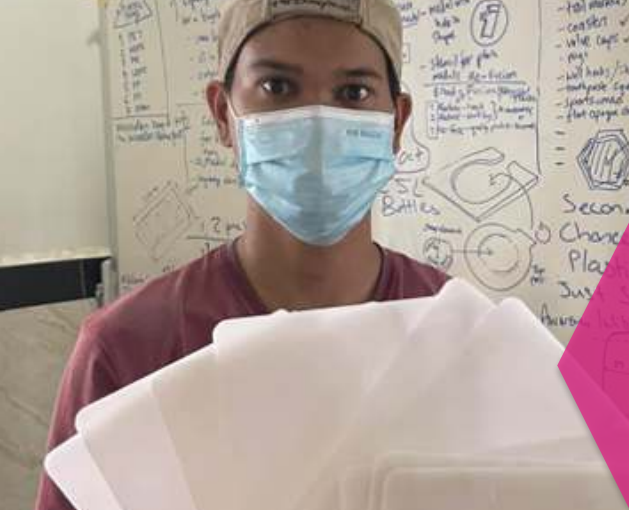
Pictured left is our weekend Bokotor (martial arts) session which is extremely popular with the youth. The sessions are great for fitness and flexibility and a fantastic way to build friendships.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

READING CLUB

Research shows that reading is highly beneficial to the development of children. Reading improves focus, memory, vocabulary and communication skills as well as serving to stimulate imagination. Therefore, as part of providing a high-quality education, Edukid are always seeking to increase the reading materials available to the children we support. See pictures of our most recent reading club in which students were able to access new story books.



Machines based on 'Precious Plastics', an organisation that provides free open source machines, tools and infrastructures to fight plastic pollution

THE PLASTIC PROJECT

The plastic project aims to alleviate poverty and improve education whilst tackling the issue of plastic pollution scattered across the streets of Cambodia. In Cambodia, over the last decades, a combination of rapid population growth and economic development has led to a surge in the volume of plastic waste. In Phnom Penh, for example, more than 3,500 tons of waste is generated every day.

Through Edukid's new plastic project, a staff member is employed to clear the villages we work in of plastic waste, creating a cleaner and safer environment to live in. The students we work with have become so passionate about this themselves, they have started a litter picking club together every Friday after school to support the project. The plastic is then cleaned and through the machines displayed (bottom left) is then shredded, melted and moulded into educational resources for use within Edukid classrooms. Through this project, we have been able to take worthless plastic pollution, recycle it and turn it into materials such as whiteboards for the students to make notes on to aid their learning. In fact, the whiteboards were included this year as part of our school packs, meaning all 2000 children we work with has a recycled whiteboard to use in lessons.

INSPIRING STUDENTS

COMMUNITY ACTION

The youth in Kandal province have recently been learning about community. After their lessons in the Edukid projects, the youth group decided to start their own community action project.

A group have been volunteering to help the elderly in their village with chores such as cutting firewood, sweeping and general housework. They also spent quality time with those who are more isolated and perhaps at times, lonely in the village.

We are so proud of our youth for generously giving their time to serve others in a meaningful way. This group provides a reminder to us that everybody, no matter their age or circumstance, is capable of impacting others positively and that even seemingly small actions can make a huge difference to the lives of others.



VATHANA

Vathana has been enrolled in Edukid's project in Phnom Penh from a young age. Throughout his childhood, Vathana had always been interested in reading literature.

Excitingly, Vathana has been awarded a university scholarship from Edukid in order to begin his studies in Khmer Literature at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Vathana is an exceptionally hard-working young man who is a role model for the next generation of children coming through our programme. We look forward to seeing how he uses his education to better his future.

INSPIRING STUDENTS

RATANA

Ratana is from Battambang Province and has been supported through education by Edukid throughout her childhood. She is a devout and resilient student who has promised to never stop studying until she achieves her dream of becoming an accountant.

In 2021 she graduated high school with a grade A and now through Edukid's university scholarship scheme, will enrol at university to make her dreams a reality. Ratana also aims to tutor our youth in mathematics after she has finished her education! This is one of the numerous examples of how one individual's education provides the opportunity to spark wider transformation, where all children are entitled to learn and to succeed.



SREYNAY

SreyNay has been awarded a grade 7 certificate for high academic performance. SreyNay is working terrifically hard to be the first in her family to get a full education.

This is a considerable achievement and is paving the way for her peers, showing them that she is refusing to let low income and poverty prevent her from achieving her dreams.

DAROEUN

Daroeun from Siem Reap came in the top 6% of the entirety of Cambodia in her Grade 12 exams. This is a remarkable result for any child, however especially when considering the physical and emotional challenges of living in a poor, rural area.

Children only need to be recognised before they can achieve things beyond their imagination.



INSPIRING TEACHERS

NOJ JOHN

Noj John, who leads our project in Preah Sihanouk province runs two separate classes: one for those of preschool age and the other for children of school age.

Noj John also teaches traditional Khmer dancing and singing which creates great youth entertainment and extracurricular activity to not only connect with their culture and heritage but also to have fun in a safe space.



FROM STUDENTS TO TEACHERS

Sen Sok village is the biggest and oldest Edukid project. Sen Sok is a resettlement village for people evicted from a city slum area in the capital city Phnom Penh. Edukid has been working in this area since 2002 when we were founded. Sokly is the project director for Sen Sok village and knows each child we support in that area well.

Due to the significant number of children and youth attending our project in Sen Sok (around 145 children and 31 youth), Sokly has engaged 5 young people, all former students from our projects, to help her to teach. The team are as follows...

- Sineourn (teaches children aged 15-18)
- Saravuth (teaches children aged 10-14)
- Pitou (teaches children aged 8-10)
- Nah Pha and Ly Makara (teaches children 8 and under)



A RECENT VISIT

FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

Edukid partners with UK schools in order to run our Global Citizenship Programme which aims to...

- 1 **Educate** pupils about global issues faced by children their own age around the world.
- 2 **Inspire** pupils to become passionate leaders and independent thinkers.
- 3 **Empower** pupils to be advocates for the change they want to see in the world.

As part of the programme, Edukid offers the opportunity for students to travel over to Cambodia with the aim of building supportive cross-continent friendships that facilitates sustainable change and enables students to learn about each other's cultures. Students from Truro High School for Girls joined an Edukid trip to Cambodia, supporting the packing and distribution of school packs and meeting with the children that their school supports in Brassatt village.

One student said on their return "The trip changed the way I feel about the life I live...This really is an opportunity I'll be forever grateful for". Another student described that "coming to Cambodia made me realise how important it is to fundraise as it can help children to have a chance to go to school. It has made me realise that I can help in small ways and make a big difference". Another student expressed that "I have learned that there are ways in which I can help others on a global scale- and that this is what I want to do with my life."

It is common for students to return from an Edukid trip and consider ways in which they can continue their involvement. Many have altered their aspirations, education and career paths. In fact, on this trip Rosie, decided to apply for an apprenticeship with Edukid and will begin a 2-year contract with us in September, working to empower other students in the same way that she has been!



MAKING THE CONNECTION

CONVERSATIONS FROM AFAR

Edukid are always seeking ways to empower students. We wish to create spaces for friendships to form from across continents and to promote global learning. One way in which we achieve this is through our online ZOOM meetings in which children from different parts of the world are able to engage in conversation with one another, asking the questions they view as important.

See here, Sen Sok village talking with students from an Edukid UK partner primary school in Exeter, Devon. The students were able to take in turns asking questions about each other's cultures, schools, language, favourite food, colours and games.

It was a truly beautiful moment and an honour for Edukid to facilitate this conversation. After the call, both sets of students were simply beaming with excitement about what they had learnt and the new friends they had made.



MEET THE TEAM

KHEMERA



DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

Our operations were started by Khemera. He retains a heart to see his country develop and for his fellow citizens to be able to care for themselves.

SREY DA



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Srey Da has been a part of our projects since she was 13. She was the driving force behind our first ever educational programme and continues to direct it today!

JONNY



DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Jonny is responsible for International Communications & Fundraising. He also holds a seat on the local Board of Directors and also on the International Trustee Board.

KIMYEE



CHILDREN'S PROJECT MANAGER

KimYee took on the role of Children's Project Leader in October 2020. She brings a great passion for seeing change and development brought to her country.

THEARA



YOUTH PROJECT MANAGER

Theara joined us in 2022 but quickly integrated due to his zest for life and good humour. Theara has a gift with relationship building which is invaluable to his role in managing youth.

THANK YOU!!

Your support ensures that the 2,000 children across Cambodia we work with receive the high- quality education that each and every one of them deserves. Additionally, the projects mentioned throughout this newsletter have only been made possible because of our loyal and generous community of supporters in the UK and elsewhere around the world.

Without your support and trust, the stories you have just read wouldn't exist in the same capacity, so from the whole Edukid team we would like to say a huge and heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

With love and gratitude,

The Edukid team X





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◀ **EDUKID**
Education for a brighter future