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CONSTRUCTED READING ROOM APPLICATION REPORT

Country: Cambodia

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NAME OF SCHOOL Wat Chi Kreng Primary School			PARTNER ORGANIZATION N/A			PROJECT ID NO. CB-CRR-07-11		
PROVINCE Siem Reap		DISTRICT Chi Kreng		COMMUNE Chi Kreng		VILLAGE Prinh		
LOCATION Wat Chi Kreng Primary School is located in Prinh Village, Chi Kreng Commune, Chi Kreng District, Siem Reap Province. The school is 5 km west of the main river, along the path leading from National Road number 6.				<p style="text-align: center;">CAMBODIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Siem Reap Province is indicated in red.</p>				
NUMBER OF STUDENTS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT		
FEMALE 309	MALE 355	TOTAL 664	FEMALE 3	MALE 9	TOTAL 12	FEMALE 0	MALE 1	TOTAL 1
GRADE LEVEL OF STUDENTS Grades 1 - 6				AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS 6 – 15 years old				

DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE

Chi Krong District is located in Siem Reap Province, and is reached by traveling southeast some 60 km from the town of Siem Reap on National Road number 6. Its eastern boundary extends from the Sout Nikum District to the Staung District of adjoining Kampong Thom Province. Chi Krong District has 12 administrative areas or communes: Russey Lork, Sang Vey, Kok Thlok Krom, Kok Thlok Leur, Kvav, Pong Ro Krom, Pong Ro Leur, Lveng Russey, Spean Tnot, Kampong Kdey, Anlong, Som Nor, and Chi Krong.

Chi Krong Commune has 14 villages including Prinh, site of the Wat Chi Krong Primary School. The area is rural and the economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture, with some villagers also fishing or working as hired labor for minimal wages. The standard of living is very low since the average annual income is only about \$1 per day. Housing is varied: some villagers live in close proximity to each other while others live in individual houses widely scattered throughout the area.

CURRENT SITUATION AND REASON FOR SUPPORT

The Wat Chi Krong Primary School in Prinh Village was founded in the Cambodian Republic in 1979. Under the direction of the Buddhist monk Keng Heng, president of the Chi Krong Pagoda, the villagers built a 4-room school that accommodated nearly 400 students in grades 1 - 4. By 1999, the building had deteriorated and was in such poor condition that Mr. Ong Bunthou, who has been the school director since 1996, together with villagers and local authorities, submitted a proposal for a new, 6-room school to the Cambodian Social Foundation. This proposal was accepted and the new school was subsequently completed in 2000. It now accommodates 664 students in grades 1 – 6 and 12 teachers. However, all of the rooms are being used as classrooms and the school has no functioning library due to lack of space. Therefore, the community has asked Room to Read for support in building a Constructed Reading Room to provide an improved environment in which children can read and do research as they pursue their education.

PROPOSED PLAN

The community of Prinh Village, together with local and district authorities, proposes to partner with Room to Read in building a separate library building to enhance the reading program for students at Wat Chi Krong Primary School. The goals of this project are to foster a culture of reading for primary school children and to promote educational development and literacy in an environment where all members of the community can participate. The village community is highly committed to this project and has agreed to contribute labor and some funding to ensure its success.

PROPOSED CHALLENGE GRANT

COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT: 10%

- Funding from the School Management committee
- Funding from the student parents association
- Volunteer labor from the community for clearing land and construction

ROOM TO READ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT: 90%

- Construction costs
- Furniture, books, and learning materials

Photos:



A view of the land set aside for the proposed new Constructed Reading Room