



World Change Starts with Educated Children.®

CONSTRUCTED READING ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Country: Cambodia

Report Writer: Reading Room Program Officer, Room to Read Cambodia

Donor: Prue Salter

NAME OF SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY Wat Chikreng Primary School			PARTNER ORGANIZATION N/A			PROJECT ID NO. CB-CRR-07-11		
PROVINCE Siem Reap		DISTRICT Chikreng		COMMUNE Chikreng		VILLAGE Pring		
LOCATION Wat Chikreng Primary School is located in a remote area of Chikreng Commune. It is 6 km west of Chikreng District and 67 km northwest of the provincial town of Siem Reap. The school is also near a famous ancient bridge.				Siem Reap Province is indicated in red. 				
NUMBER OF STUDENTS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT		
FEMALE 308	MALE 356	TOTAL 664	FEMALE 3	MALE 7	TOTAL 10	FEMALE 1	MALE 0	TOTAL 1
GRADE LEVEL OF STUDENTS Grades 1–6				AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS 6–14 years old				

DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE

Wat Chikrengi Primary School is located in Pring Village of Chikreng Commune. The Khmer people have lived in this area for a very long time, and many ancient customs are still observed. The school director reported that most of the population is uneducated, which isolates them from other communities. However, this is a very strong community, and although they are very poor, they are dedicated to providing a better education to the next generation.

Almost all of the people in this area make a living by growing rice. In fact, the local economy is completely dependant on the cultivation of rice. Farmers in this area can only cultivate rice once a year, during the rainy season. Because cultivating rice once a year does not provide enough money to sustain a family, many farmers have begun growing vegetables and fishing to supplement their income.

Even with the added crops, most people live in very poor conditions. According to the school director, 85% of the people in this community live in poor conditions, while 15% live in fair conditions.

CURRENT SITUATION AND REASON FOR SUPPORT

Despite the surrounding poverty, the District Education Office ranks this school as the number 3 school in Chikreng District. This is a testament to the community's dedication to providing a good education to their children. The school has only one building composed of 6 rooms serving 15 classes. The school is seriously lacking space for the students.

To solve this problem, school officials constructed a temporary cottage under a tree on school grounds to serve as an additional classroom for students. This school serves 8 villages, so the space issue is a huge concern for the school and community officials.

Even though this school is small and lacks enough classrooms for the students, the school is under good management. The school director has worked hard to secure support from the Ministry of Education, various NGOs, and generous community members. The local community is dedicated to making the school better. The school director, librarian, teacher, and community submitted a proposal to Room to Read for a new library building for their school. This school has had a mobile library since 2004. The mobile library was well used and well maintained, proving that the school has a good management system in place.

DETAILS OF PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION

This building was built in a traditional Khmer style. This size of the building is 7 m x 9 m and 6.6 m high. The veranda is 3 m x 3 m x 6.6 m. The building was constructed using high-quality hollow and solid bricks and ventilation blocks. The walls were plastered to prevent cracking. The roof was covered with Thai tiles. The windows and the door are made with aluminum and steel grills.

DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY ESTABLISHMENT

After completion of the Constructed Reading Room, and a thorough cleaning by school staff, the library was equipped with furniture. In addition to a new library, the librarians were invited to join a 4-day library training that promised to provide new knowledge about library activities, library management, and other activities. Books were distributed to the school through the librarian, who catalogued the books and organized the library.

The librarians established a library schedule, rules, check out policy, and management system before the library was open to the students. Students have a set schedule for visiting the library during class, but they are also allowed to visit during their free time.

CHALLENGE GRANT

COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT:

- Contribute 15% of the total budget
- Provide labor for the construction efforts
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of the building
- Contribute 98 square meters of land for the building
- Overseeing the project site during the construction period

ROOM TO READ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT:

- Contribute 85% of the total budget
- 1 dedication plaque
- 2 double shelves
- 3 single shelves
- 3 reading tables
- 1 librarian desk
- 1 librarian chair
- 700 local-language books
- 120 English book
- 14 sets of puzzles
- 4 days of librarian management and activity training for 2 teachers
- All of necessary stationery required for library operation

USAGE TO DATE

Since the library opened, more than 1,000 students have accessed the library as part of their daily school schedules. The students are so happy to have a new library, they even go during their free time.

COMMENTS

The school's principal and teachers have expressed their happiness about having a library in the school. They said that this library is very important for the school and community. They pledged to use the library and ensure that it is well maintained.

They thank the donor and Room to Read for its generous gift to the community.

Photos:



The Constructed Reading Room



The children are reading and playing with educational games in the new library



So many children use the library that they fill the tables and the floor



The children love playing with the puzzles



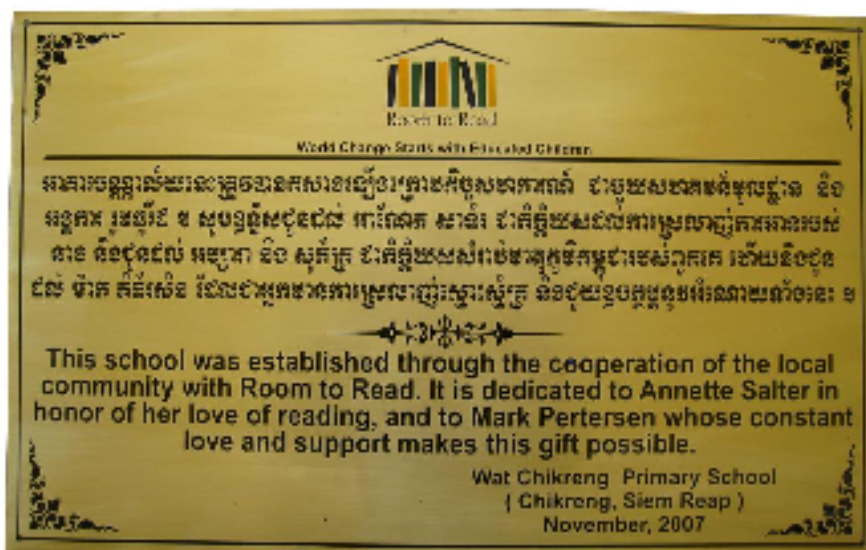
These children are playing a game they call "Study"



The children concentrate to solve the puzzles



The children love their new library filled with books!



Donor Dedication Plaque