

DONORS

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Lotus Outreach

CWCC wishes to express its deepest appreciation to our donor who believed in our mission and helped launch this pioneering organization through their generous support.

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

July – December 2007

I. BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

Founded in early 1997, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) is a local non-governmental organization based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. CWCC's mission is to eliminate all forms of violence against women ('VAW') while providing assistance to victims of gender-based abuse and their children. Specifically, CWCC works with victims of domestic violence, rape, and sex trafficking. Due to the success of the Phnom Penh office, and the overwhelming need in other provinces, an office was established in Banteay Meanchey (BMC) in 1999 and Siem Reap in 2001.

Intervention services provided by CWCC in BMC are designed to help women help themselves by providing comprehensive options to women and their children. Projects include a confidential shelter, counseling, support groups, medical assistance, legal consultation and representation, a reintegration program for survivors of violence, vocational training and job placement assistance, and specialized services for children and youth. Other basic needs of CWCC's clients are provided by referrals to legal professionals, the police, health care providers, and other crisis service providers. Based on its experiences in BMC, CWCC has revised its mission to help women and children. Previously, we provided intervention on violence against women for domestic violence, rape/sexual assault and sex trafficking cases. It became apparent however the trafficking both within the country and across borders resulted not only in sexual exploitation, but also in labor exploitation. Thus, we changed our mission from "sex trafficking" to "trafficking women and children".

Through monitoring and rescuing cases, CWCC secures critical information on the situation of VAW and how individual cases are handled in the justice system. This information bolsters our advocacy efforts, which include accompanying client to court, serving on coalitions, lobbying and campaigning for legislative reforms and enforcement of laws, releasing press statements and organizing special raising awareness events.

CWCC raises awareness and educates both men and women in the community about violence against women (VAW) in order to prevent future acts of abuse. Our efforts have included a nationwide media campaign, education sessions with villagers where a high percentage of residents are being sexually trafficked, and the distribution of posters and brochures. We also network with local and international non-governmental organizations, women's networks, groups and government bodies to educate on and how to prevent VAW. CWCC believes that raising awareness and bringing issues into the arena of public debate and policy-making are the most effective means toward making Cambodia communities safer places to live.

Goals

- To empower women to make their own decisions and take control of their lives by providing service options such as vocational training to women and their children who are survivors of physical, sexual and/or psychological violence, including battering, rape, incest, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment;
- To monitor, investigate and report on all forms of VAW occurring in the family or perpetrated or condoned by the state;

- To raise awareness about issues related to violence against women and children in Cambodia;
- To encourage government bodies to hold perpetrators accountable and to undertake all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children; and
- To promote gender equality, respect for women's and children's rights and the recognition of VAW as a violation of the fundamental human rights of women, including the right to life.

II. PURPOSES OF THE PROJECT

- 1- To identify vulnerable and victimized girls with the help of commune councils, heads of schools, women teachers, and members of the parent committee;
- 2- To supply financial support and scholarship material to 335 at-risk and victimized girls in two districts in Banteay Meanchey province over a period of year;
- 3- To monitor the academic performance of targeted at-risk girls; and
- 4- To build the education working groups as the sustainable structure of the scholarship provision project.

III- PROJECT OUTCOMES

A- ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

☒ Three Month Meetings and Follow-up Visits of Current Scholarship Recipients

We conducted a number of follow up visits, and found recipients faced similar issues.

On 3 September 2007, the scholarship supervisor and her staff and sewing trainer attended a three monthly meeting with scholarship recipients at Kondamrey cluster school and Soengh (Ochrov district). A total of 139 scholarship recipients attended including 79 recipients from Kondamrey cluster school and 60 recipients from Soengh cluster school. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss several issues such as strengthen school performances of the recipients, discuss problems occurring during the past months and recipient's needs, review about the name of donor of the project (Lotus Outreach), review on the special condition for the scholarship recipients, and types of school uniforms. The problems and challenges identified in this meeting were the lack of bicycle, damaged bicycles, lack of money for additional classes, scholarship recipient's illness, lack of school libraries, force to help domestic work during their school time, affect from domestic violence, live far from schools, and lack of food support (rice).

On 4th of September 2007, the scholarship supervisor and her staff and sewing trainer attended a three monthly meeting with scholarship recipients at Kokoh cluster school, Svaychek high school and Tapho secondary school (Svaychek district). A total of 138 scholarship recipients attended including 33 recipients from Kokoh cluster school, 34 recipients from Svaychek high school and 71 recipients from Tapho secondary school. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss several

issues such as strengthen school performances of recipients, discuss problems arise during the past months and recipient's needs, review name of donor of the project (Lotus Outreach), review special condition for scholarship recipients, and types of school uniforms. The problems and challenges identified in this meeting were the lack of bicycle, damaged bicycles, lack of money for extra classes, fund for recipient's illness, lack of school libraries, force to help domestic work during their school time, affect from domestic violence, live far from school, and lack of food support (rice).

On the 14th of September 2007, the scholarship staff went together with a member of LEWG to visit a scholarship recipient at her house in Kob village, Nimith commune, Ochrov district. The purpose of this visit was to meet directly with that recipient to ask about the reason of her dropout. The staff and LEWG's member could not meet her directly but they met with her mother. The girl herself decided to drop out of school since she needed to work in a restaurant in Banteay Meanchey to earn additional income to support her family. Her family faced extreme poverty. The staff lobbied her mother to send her daughter back to school but it was impossible.

On the 21st of September 2007, the scholarship supervisor went together with a member of LEWG to visit four scholarship recipients at their house in Tapho village, Tapho commune, Svaychek district. The purpose of this visit was to meet directly with recipients to ask about the reason that they were not enrolled at school on time. The staff and LEWG's member could meet 3 out of 4 recipients and their parents directly. Staff explained the importance of education to their parents, 2 out of 4 recipients were able to return to school.

☒ Orientation Meetings and Scholarship Packages Provision Ceremony

The scholarship packages were distributed to 334 recipients on the 25th of October and 2nd of November 2007. The scholarship supervisor, scholarship staff and project coordinator organized two orientation workshops with parents of girl recipients and provided the scholarship packages to recipients in two targeted districts of the project. The purpose of these orientation workshops was to inform the parents and the girl recipients about the components of scholarship packages, name of donor of the project (Lotus Outreach), outline the contract and general conditions of receiving scholarship packages, and discuss the importance of education for girls and effects of illiteracy. After having finished the meetings, the members of the local authorities, local education working groups (LEWGs) and the CWCC's staff members distributed the packages to all scholarship recipients in all target schools. A total of 612 participants were involved in these scholarship packages provision including, provincial officials, local authorities, NGO partners, LEWGs, scholarship recipients and their parents/guardians.

☒ Monthly Stipends

Scholarship recipients who reside at the student housing were provided with monthly stipends to pay for accommodation fees, food supplies, teachers' fees, and bike repairing fees. The amount of money was sufficient for recipients' needs, except for the increasing fees for extra classes, including chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics classes which students were required to attend in order to be prepared for their upcoming exams. Most importantly, staff visited targeted schools to monitor the academic performance of the recipients, as well as to explore the real needs of the recipients.

On 2nd and 3rd of July 2007, the scholarship supervisor and staff met with 311 scholarship recipients at targeted schools in Ochrov and Svaychek districts for distribution of monthly stipend which supported extra classes, bikes repair, meal, and rent house. The scholarship team took this opportunity to follow-up with the scholarship recipients to check their general situation, issue on

extra classes and performances at schools. The scholarship recipients were instructed on the use of monthly stipend, 10,000 riel (\$ 2.5). Furthermore, the team also provided a special monetary support to the scholarship recipients who will take an exam in the second week of July 2007 to pay for their travels and meals during their examination period.

On 8th and 12th of July 2007, the scholarship supervisor and staff met with 306 scholarship recipients at targeted schools in Ochrov and Svaychek districts for distribution of monthly stipend which supported extra classes, bikes repair, meal, and rent house. The scholarship team took this opportunity to follow-up with the scholarship recipients to check their general situation, issue on extra classes and performances at schools. The scholarship recipients at rented house were instructed on the use of their monthly stipends to pay for their meals, how to record their daily expenses, and the staff also checked on their monthly records. In addition, the program provides discussion every month about living as a group, sanitation, encouraging their commitment to study by themselves at night, securing their personal safety and etc.

On 7th and 21st of December 2007, the scholarship supervisor and staff met with 311 scholarship recipients at targeted schools in Ochrov and Svaychek districts for distribution of monthly stipend which supported extra classes, bikes repair, meal, and rent house. The scholarship team took this opportunity to follow-up with the scholarship recipients to check their general situation, issue on extra classes and performances at schools.

✧ Workshops with LEWGs, school teachers, scholarship recipients and their parents

On the 12th of December 2007, the project coordinator, scholarship officer and staff organized a workshop with members of LEWGs and school teachers, held in Svaychek high school, Svaychek district. A total of 50 people participated in the workshop including 14 members of LEWGs and 36 school teachers. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize the participants about the importance of education for girls and to identify the problems and challenges faced for girls who could not remain at schools. The results gained from the workshop will be conveyed by the school teachers for further influence to their school students.

On the 13th of December 2007, the project coordinator, scholarship staff and representative of Lotus Outreach, Miss. Var Vannaksereyreaksmey, organized a workshop with scholarship recipients and their parents/guardians, held in Soengh pagoda, Ochrov district. A total of 60 people participated in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize the participants about the importance of education for girls and to identify the problems and challenges faced by girls who could not remain in schools. The recipients' parents/guardians committed and promised to encourage their daughters to go to school to provide further awareness rising to their neighbours about the importance of education for girls.

✧ Rice Distribution

On 25th of October 2007, scholarship staff and members of LEWGs distributed rice for October 2007 to 30 primary school recipients in Ochrov district, Banteay Meanchey province. Each recipient received 15 kilograms of rice. This rice was kindly provided by World Food Programme.

On 5th and 6th of July 2007, scholarship staff and members of LEWGs distributed rice for July 2007 to 119 primary school recipients in the two targeted districts in Banteay Meanchey province. Each recipient received 15 kilograms of rice.

☒ Medical Attention

The scholarship staff and LEWGs went to visit five scholarship recipients who were ill - typhoid and common flu. The purpose of this visit was to see the real situation of them and took them to local nurse at government health center for treatment. The program is responsible for medical payment.

☒ LEWGs and DCGs Progressive Meeting

On the 17th of October 2007, the scholarship supervisor attended a meeting with 5 members of DCG in Svaychek. The specific purpose of the meeting was to discuss on Child Friendly School, situation of scholarship recipients and recipients dropped out. Each DCG member reported about the situation of scholarship recipients and the reasons of dropouts which related to extreme poverty, lack of school toilets and marriage. As a conclusion, the chief of DCG encouraged all members to continue cooperation with CWCC to jointly implement the scholarship program.

On the 22nd of October 2007, the scholarship supervisor and the project coordinator attend a meeting with members of DCG in Ochrov district at Vaing Muong primary school. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss on preparation of organizing scholarship packages provision ceremony and to share responsibilities for the ceremony. A total of 9 participants participated in the meeting included members of DCG and school directors. A draft guideline for organizing the ceremony was set as a result of this meeting.

☒ Recipient Drop-outs

During this reporting period, a total of 21 girls dropped out of school, 5 girl recipients dropped out of primary school, 12 girl recipients dropped out of secondary schools and 4 girl recipients dropped out of high school. The majority of these girls leaving school was that they were facing absolute poverty within their families. A total of 4 girls had to migrate to Thailand to work; 8 girls were required to look after their younger siblings at home; 4 girls were forced to quit and help earn income in their communities; 3 girls migrated with their families; and 2 girls dropped out of schools to get married.

☒ New Scholarships Provided and Replacement of Scholarship Recipients

During this reporting period, a total of 11 new scholarship recipients were selected through our selection criteria. These recipients were selected in September and November 2007 to replace the dropouts from the previous semester in 2007. Of the 11 new recipients, one girl is from the Ochrov district, 7 girls are from Svaychek district and 3 girls from our safe shelter.

☒ Arrange suitable accommodation for girls

Three suitable houses have been rented for girls who live more than 8 km from their schools. In a total 35 recipients live in three rented house in Ochrov district (19 recipients at rented house in Kondamrey village and 35 recipients at rented houses in Kob village) and a total of 3 recipient live in a sharing rented house in Svaychek district.

B- Networking and Cooperation

On the 9th and 10th of August 2007, the scholarship supervisor and provincial coordinator attended public forum on the topic of domestic violence issue which was organized by advocacy program of CWCC in Banteay Meanchey, held in Sophy pagoda (Ochrov district) and Svaychek pagoda (Svaychek district). A total of 122 participants participated in these fora included local authorities, commune policemen, staff of district women affairs, staff of health center, villagers, victims of domestic violence, members of LEWG and members of youth club. The purpose of this organization was to sensitize the participants about domestic violence issue and new domestic violence law. A speaker from LICADHO was invited to raise his practical experience on the issue of domestic violence and give answers to all questions asked by the participants related to the issue of domestic violence.

On the 7th of September 2007, the scholarship supervisor and provincial coordinator participated along with other CWCC staff in the commemoration of National Literacy Day, held at Taben primary school, and presided over by district governor of Svaychek. This commemoration was jointly organized by advocacy program of CWCC in Banteay Meanchey and provincial office of education, youth and sports. A total of 734 participants were invited to this commemoration including government officials, local authorities, villagers, students and NGO partners. There were welcome remarks, key speech notes, performances of youth club members of CWCC, Q&A organization.

On the 8th of September 2007, the scholarship supervisor and provincial coordinator participated along with other CWCC staff in the commemoration of National Literacy Day, held at Thmarsen pagoda, and presided over by district governor of Ochrov. This commemoration was jointly organized by advocacy program of CWCC in Banteay Meanchey and district office of education and we received material supports from Cambodian Hope Organization and Goutte D' Eau Poipet. A total of 420 participants were invited to this commemoration including government officials, local authorities, villagers, students and NGO partners. There were welcome remarks, key speech notes, performances of youth club members of CWCC, Q&A organization.

On the 29th of November to 31st of December 2007, the provincial coordinator was invited to participate in National Dialogue on Scholarship Program, held in New Beach hotel, Sihanouk Ville. This workshop was organized by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and financially supported by World Bank. A total of 69 attendees participated in the workshop who came from 24 provincial offices of education, school directors, world bank representative and representatives from non-governmental organizations (CWCC, world education, Care International, VSO and KAPE). The purpose of the workshop was to present the results of scholarship program implementation of CESSP and PAP12 (scholarship programs that are currently sponsored by the World Bank) of MoEYS and to share experiences between participants. The comments and recommendations were identified during the workshop.

On the 6th of December 2007, the scholarship supervisor and her staff participated along with other CWCC staff in the organization of 16-Day Campaign, held in Poipet commune, Ochrov district. This ceremony was organized by community organizing program of CWCC in Banteay Meanchey and financially supported by DanChurchAid and Oxfam Hong Kong. A total of 149 participants participated in this ceremony included local authorities, policemen, school teachers and students, CWCC's network volunteers, villagers, NGO partners and CWCC's staff members. The main topic of this ceremony was "We join together to eliminate violence against women and children" and the purpose was to encourage general public to stop being violent toward women and children from now on.

On the 10th of December 2007, the scholarship officer, staff and provincial coordinator participated along with other CWCC staff to commemorate the 59th of Human Rights Day, held in Kokoh cluster school, Svaychek district. This commemoration was organized by advocacy program of CWCC in Banteay Meanchey and financially supported by European Union and Dan Church Aid. A total of 1100 participants participated in this commemoration including provincial officials, local authorities, chief of district inspection police, school directors/teachers and students, members of LEWGs, NGO partner (LICADHO, Khmer Youth Association and so on), villagers and members of youth club. This commemoration commenced at 3:30pm and lasted until 11:00pm at night. There were welcome remarks, keynote speakers, performances of youth club members of CWCC, Q&A sessions and modern concert.

On the 14th of December 2007, the scholarship supervisor participated along with other CWCC staff in the organization of provincial public forum focused on the topic of domestic violence, held in the meeting room of University of Management and Economics, Banteay Meanchey. This forum was jointly organized by advocacy program of CWCC and advocacy program of Ponleu Komar. A total of 60 participants (17 are females) were invited to attend who came from five targeted districts in Banteay Meanchey including Ochrov, Malay, Svaychek, Thmar Pouk and Preah Neth Preah. The results of public fora at district level organized by CWCC and Ponleu Komar were reviewed during this forum for comments and recommendations. The results of this forum will be documented and printed for distribution of all local authorities at the targeted districts.

C- Capacity Building

To ensure sustainability, CWCC in Banteay Meanchey is committed to building staff's skills and capabilities in the Scholarship Project. Through capacity building project, CWCC aims to provide quality services to our clients.

On 20th to 22nd of June, 4th to 6th of July and 18th to 20th of July the scholarship supervisors and other program supervisors in the three regional offices of CWCC participated in a training course on Media, held at Meta House in Phnom Penh. This training was organized by CWCC with support from East West Management Institute (EWMI) and was run by a German filmmaker, Mr. Nico. The topics covered in the training course consisted of press kit development, preparation before meeting with media agencies, press release, press conference, spot production and how to maintain good relationship with media agencies. This training course was split into five sessions, two sessions were conducted in April and May and other three sessions conducted in June and July 2007.

D- Administration and Finance

The administration program is responsible for ensuring that established internal policies are respected by CWCC's staff in order to help facilitate program implementation. The finance program documents report the income and expenditures of the organization, to ensure the transparency of CWCC's financial movement in order to maintain trust within the organization and from donors. The activities of the administration and finance programs over the last six month as follows:

Monthly Staff Meeting in Phnom Penh and in Banteay Meanchey

CWCC works as a team and hold monthly meetings attended by all staff members. To ensure a democratic process of decision-making and foster leadership, the meetings are presided over by a rotating chairperson, so each staff member has the opportunity to chair a meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the strategy of our program's work, narrative reports, assessment and progress reports for the past months. In addition, the meeting provides a forum for constructive recommendations by all staff members with the goal of improving their work in accordance with CWCC policies. The minutes of the meeting were distributed to each program one week after the meeting.

Provincial Management Team Meeting

The management team includes provincial/project coordinators and all program officers. The management team is integral in helping to solve issues pertaining to the project operation in Banteay Meanchey province. The management team brings issues not solved at the provincial level to the management committee at the central office in Phnom Penh.

Logistics Reports

The administration officer updates inventory, prepares and maintains stock and controls procurement for each program through reports. Furthermore, inventory checking is conducted twice a year.

Financial Management

The financial unit finished income and operational cost reports and sent them to the financial committee in Phnom Penh for verification and approval. In accordance with recommendations from donors, CWCC has trained its staff to be familiar with the check accounting system for expenditures. Recently, CWCC has provided its entire staff ATM card issued for their salary by using payroll service of the local bank. To comply with the highest standards of transparency and accountability in the use of donor funds, three quotes are required for the purchase of equipment/material which costs over 200USD with the approval of the executive director. The purchase will be completed by two members of the purchase committee.

Annual Staff Stress Reduction

From the 20th to 22nd of November 2007, all staff members of the CWCC in Banteay Meanchey province went on an annual staff retreat in Sihanouk Ville. Staff members felt relaxed and excited to have spent time in the natural resort and beach. Staff could refresh their feelings, build relationships with other staff members and colleagues, at the same time be rejuvenated to return to work.

Visits of the Executive Director and the General Secretary

The Executive Director visits CWCC in Banteay Meanchey every six months and the General Secretary visits every three months for status and progress report on administration, program activity planning, and cooperation building with local authorities and other agencies. Following the visit of the Executive Director on 30th of August 2007 and the visit of the General Secretary on 22nd to 26th of October 2007, each of the program records were checked and verified, monitoring tools of each program were strengthened to prepare for external evaluators. Furthermore, the General

Secretary visits our scholarship recipients at rented houses in Ochrov district and visited the members of youth club in Svaychek.

IV- CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The scholarship project is not only for the prevention of trafficking of Cambodian girls for forced labor and prostitution, but it is also a special measure to improve gender equality in education in conformance with the Cambodian Millennium Development Goal (CMDG) and Education for All Policy (EFA), as well as to promote social tranquility and human dignity. Despite great success and momentum for social tranquility and human dignity, our staff members have learned the following from the project operation and empirical settings:

Extreme Poverty versus Education

Extreme poverty forced people to move around from place to place for survival. Children who belong to these families are deprived of an education. It is clear that the majority of girls' guardians/parents understand the importance of education for a bright future for their daughters however their poverty forces the girls to drop out. In this period, a total of 21 recipients were school drop outs.

Limitation in collaboration with some of LEWG members

Some of LEWG's members did not have enough time to conduct follow-up meeting with the scholarship recipients who were absent more than three days from schools since they had many core responsibilities with their government work. These members of LEWG failed to organize monthly meetings as planned.

V- PLANNING

In addition to continuing routine program operation, CWCC hopes to accomplish the following in the next six months:

- To follow up on the living conditions of recipients living in rented houses
- To monitor the monthly stipend provision and the condition of bicycles
- To monitor the work of the members of the LEWGs and of the district coordinating groups
- To hold six-month meetings with members of LEWGs and DCGs in the two target districts
- Organize workshops with recipients' guardians, teachers on the importance of education.
- To monitor the study conditions and school attendance of girl recipients
- To organize an exposure trip for members of LEWGs and DCGs
- To distribute scholarship packages to girl recipients in the second semester of the fourth year project operation
- To distribute rice to primary school girl recipients in the two target districts
- To organize a baseline survey of the project
- To organize extra classes for the scholarship recipients.

VI- GOVERNANCE

The business affairs and policies of CWCC are managed by the Board of Directors, which also defines the mandate of the executive director. The executive director is the full-time coordinator of the organization, and reports to the board on a regular basis regarding CWCC's activities and progress.

CWCC works as a team, and holds monthly meeting that are attended by all staff members. To ensure a democratic process in decision making, and to foster leadership, meetings are presided over by a rotating chairperson, with each staff members having the opportunity to chair meetings. Disciplinary proceedings, including termination of CWCC staff, are implemented by the Executive Director. All disciplinary proceedings follow the internal regulations of the organization as determined by the staff of CWCC and set out in the "Internal Rules and Regulations". A record of any disciplinary proceeding is provided to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may review disciplinary action relating to suspension or termination, and reserves the right to make the final decision.

Internal disputes not amenable to informal resolution are managed and resolved through the CWCC grievance procedures developed and adopted by the staff. The matter is referred to the Management Committee, the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. CWCC has revised its Internal Rules and Regulations. CWCC's structure and governing of assets have been amended and approved by the Board of Directors.

VII- STAFF

The scholarship project has two full-time staff members (one male and one female staff). Hiring, contracts, and discharge of staff are managed by the CWCC headquarter in Phnom Penh. Staff members are:

- 1- Ms. Kuy Mary, Scholarship Supervisor. High School Degree, Mongkul Borei high school. 14 years of experiences in working as a formal teacher at Kokoh cluster school. She was a former secretary in Local Education Working Group (LEWG) of CWCC. She was recruited by CWCC to fill vacancy position on 9th of April 2007.
- 2- Mr. Krip Sarun, Scholarship Staff. High School Degree, Site II camp. 10 years of experiences in working as a formal teacher at Ponlea Chey primary school, and a half-year of experience in working as a community development worker for Meakea Aphiwath Organization in Banteay Meanchey.

VIII- CONCLUSION

In the last six month the scholarship project has provided support to 335 girls in the target districts of Ochrov and Svaychek. We take this opportunity to thank Lotus Outreach for its assisting the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center's implement the scholarship project for at-risk and victimized girls of gender based violence. The Cambodian Women's Crisis Center would not able to run this core project without the committed funds from Lotus Outreach. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude and deepest thanks to Lotus Outreach for its generous financial support throughout the period of reference.

IX- APPENDIX (CASE STUDY AND PHOTOS)

CASE STUDY OF A POOR COMMITTED GIRL

A 16-year old Cambodian girl, Miss. Kd SM, lives with her parents in Taphok village, Changha commune, Ochrov district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her parents are farmers. She has got two siblings and she is the first child in her family.

Prior to being eligible to receive scholarship package from the project, she lived in a difficult circumstance since her family was extremely poor. Her mother was often sick and her father drank alcohol almost everyday. She decided to quit school several times due to this serious condition but she was encouraged by her teachers to retain school. She was informed by her teacher about the scholarship program of Cambodian Women's Crisis Center and she was given an application form to apply for scholarship package. Luckily, she was approved through fair selection criteria by members of local education working group (LEWG) and the CWCC's scholarship program to receive scholarship package. She is motivated through this scholarship package and she studies very hard. As a result, she was always ranked first in the class and she passed her exam to study at grade 10 at Kob high school. Now she is offered to stay at our rented house in Kob village.

While asking her about the changes in her life, she said happily that she will try to study hard to get good grade and she is committed to finishing high school in the hope to use her knowledge to better herself, her family and the society. In addition, she suggest to Lotus Outreach for continuation to support her until she finished high school as expected.

CASE STUDY OF A POOR GIRL

A 16-year old Cambodian girl, Miss. S SV lives with her parents in Reaksmeay Samaky village, Nimith commune, Ochrov district, Banteay Meanchey province. Her parents are farmers. She has got five siblings and she is the fourth child in her family.

Prior to being eligible to receive scholarship package from the project, she lived in a difficult circumstance since her family was extremely poor. Her parents had no ability to support the family, thus she was absent from school many times to earn income for her family. She was informed by her teacher about the scholarship program of Cambodian Women's Crisis Center and she was given an application form to apply for scholarship package. She was eligible to receive scholarship package. After having become a scholarship recipient, she was very happy and she got good grades in her class. Having seen this matter, her parents became aware of the importance of girls' education. Before they used to force her daughters to miss school and help them to earn money for the family. Now they have been encouraging their daughters to study hard and stay in school. Currently, Miss SV is studying in 9th grade in Nimith Secondary School.

SV is very happy and she thanks CWCC and the Lotus Outreach for supporting her. She promises that she will study hard to get good grades. In the future, she hopes to use her knowledge for the sake of herself, her family and the society.



Honorary guests, scholarship participants and youth club's performance in scholarship package providing ceremony in Ou Chrov.



District Governor is giving speech to all scholarship participants and parents in the scholarship package providing ceremony.



Honorary guests is providing scholarship package to recipients



Scholarship package providing ceremony in Svay Chek district