



# Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a

WFC Newsletter Issue 11 August 2019

Bringing clean water to thousands of families remains the prime mission of Water for Cambodia; but, WFC brings much more. In this newsletter we will highlight some of the other services provided through the efforts of the talented staff and the volunteers, donor participants, international visitors and

Vantha Hem our Programs Assistant is responsible for developing and managing the literacy class program and organizing and supporting nine village libraries. This is an important resource that has provided more than 3000 villagers with basic reading and arithmetic skills.



Vantha distributing school supplies for the teachers and students

This program is coordinated with the Siem Reap Ministry of Education to guarantee compliance with local rural education



Teachers receiving their certificates after completing the supplementary WFC

methods. *WFC* provides the teachers with additional training to ensure the highest standards are met.

The adult literacy program began in 2006, and focused on a d u l t



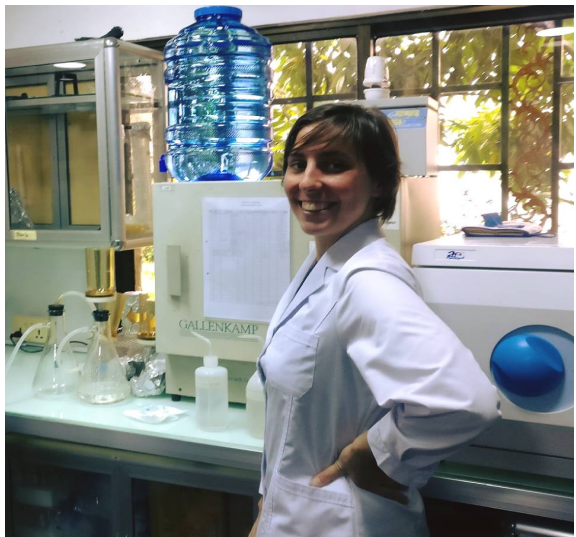
students, mostly women. This has allowed



some graduates to pursue additional training, many bringing their new skills to bear in the district markets as small shop keepers and more savvy shoppers. All have gained a better appreciate of the value of learning for themselves and their children. A true culture changing experience.

The libraries bring the wider world into the village and make a broad variety of reading material available to families, usually for the first time in their lives. The libraries have become much in demand with the village students as a place to practice their skills and get access to popular books and magazines. The libraries are operated by a local village librarian and materials are replenished and refreshed regularly.

Volunteers in groups or as individuals from Asia and across the world visit engage and contribute their skills in a variety of ways. School and volunteer groups that travel to gain cultural exposure give back in important ways beyond building and installing filters by interacting with local families at a personal level. SIF volunteers not only build and install filters, they provide a lively, colorful and critical dental hygiene program to hundreds of children while creating a unique person to person experience with village youngsters



Isabel helping to introduce food testing capability to the

who rarely if ever encounter anyone other than their neighbors.

Other individuals volunteer their time to bring new ideas, techniques and very special expertise. As an example, Isabel Moreno de Palma was instrumental in adding food testing capability and Colin Divola expanded our capability to provide unique bacterial testing. This has made our water testing laboratory a true community asset that now supports

the cost of filter testing.

The Siem Reap Water Testing Lab, locally known as the Rikreay Lab provides a broad range of testing and services beyond those devoted to supporting the primary *Water for Cambodia* mission to bring clean safe water to underserved Cambodians. The lab serves the local community in several important ways:

Colin worked with our lab tech, Southy, to develop the capability to test for Legionella





Southy and Massimo help train the Lake Clinic staff in proper water sampling

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Water samples from the field ready for analysis

working groups  
providing wells to  
remote villages. It has also conducted water

safety testing for the Siem Reap Municipal Water Authority as well as many of the local hotels, guest houses and restaurants. In 2019 the lab began offering food testing service and testing for the presence of legionella. Lab personnel are available to assist other local NGOs with training and to support our own quality monitoring team who regularly sample water from both recently installed and old installations thus ensure proper operation.



Massimo brings his expertise to help a local client maintain its

The



WFC staff member Hun samples filter output from a recent installation for lab analysis to ensure proper

WFC Laboratory Technical Advisor, Massimo, applies his technical expertise by providing maintenance services to an advanced water filtration

service belonging to a client in Siem Reap. A service otherwise not available in Cambodia.

The trending emphasis on hygiene and sanitation improvement world-wide draws attention to a new range of focus areas. One that will impact rural Cambodia in a major way is the importance of introducing latrine use. The lack of these facilities leads to the potential for food and water source contamination and disease. The UN and major donor organizations have stepped up their demand for including latrines as a component in many of their initiatives.

Water for Cambodia has been proactive in efforts to provide latrines to local schools as a way to both introduce their use to the next generation and teach personal hygiene through experience. Each project provides a functioning double latrine... boy's



room and girl's room as well as a hand washing station. The teachers and village leaders form an integral part of the plan for each school and learn to provide proper maintenance and upkeep.

Our field staff also supports selected village latrine projects by supplying expert guidance and the underground component materials that allow participating families to construct their own private latrine. *Water for Cambodia* supplies the know-how and each family supplies the labor to dig the pit and construct the enclosure. These pilot efforts provide families with the means to get their own latrine and demonstrate to the commune and village leadership the methods and benefits of latrines as well as providing examples to incentivize other families to aspire toward having one. In the past several years the country wide interest in latrine construction has taken on added importance signaling an important step in better health and economic growth.



WFC staff assisting families unload construction materials for their own household latrines

*YOU can help our team continue giving this gift of better health and education.*

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