



Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

Village libraries help complement WFC's literacy program.

When a group of village women, recently graduated from our literacy program, told us they wanted to take advantage of their new skills, WFC created several small local libraries. *Story on page 2.*

WFC is partnering with the Rotary Club of Pursat to carry out A Rotary grant.

WFC, partnering with several local clubs received a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation to install 700 filters in Pursat and Siem Reap. *Story on page 3.*

Students enjoy new enhanced literacy class

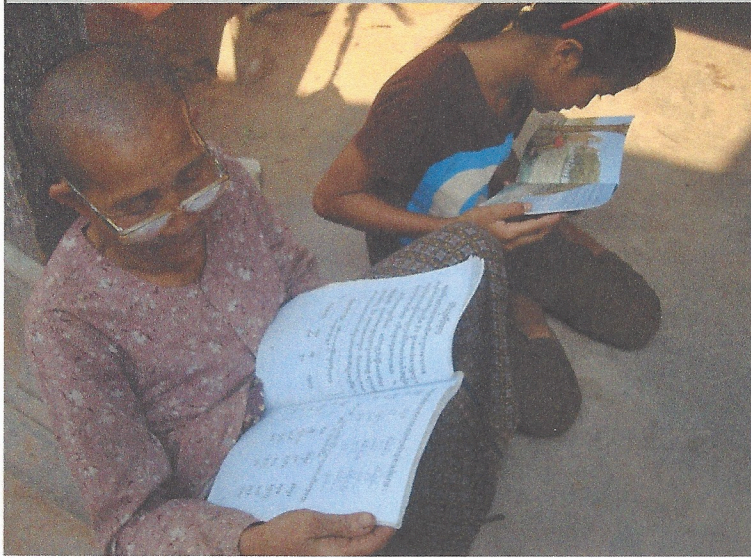
In 2015 WFC adopted the new national rural education curriculum and added even greater emphasis on family health, hygiene, community sanitation and the importance of clean water. *Story on page 4*



Water for Cambodia staff preparing to deliver and install bio-sand filters to families living in a floating village on the Tonle Sap Lake.



Libraries are truly a family activity in rural Cambodia attracting young and old and providing an added benefit to students.



One day a few years ago some members of our board were visiting with several women who had recently completed six months of classes where they learned to read and write. These new readers expressed a yearning for access to books and magazines written in Khmer. To meet this need WFC explored providing small locally run libraries with books and periodicals of interest to residents. In the rural villages served by Water for Cambodia books are virtually non-existent.



Each library was equipped with books and magazines that cover a wide range of subjects and reading levels. A local family takes responsibility for operating it and receives a modest monthly stipend. The combination of a hostile climate and constant use has taken a toll on the libraries, especially the older ones. So, recently our staff has worked to maintain and upgrade library cabinets and replace and add new books and periodicals.



Immediately these libraries became places where families gathered to read together. The library became a daily destination for students as well as adults. Often these students are seen coaching their parents who have had few chances to practice reading in their lives.

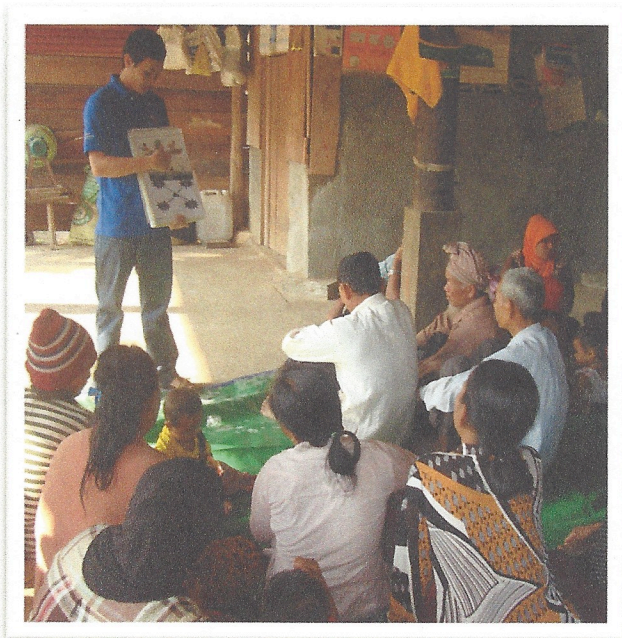
As our involvement in rural education continues we will look to bring this asset to other communities in 2016 and beyond.

YOU our valued donors, partnerships, collaborators and a dedicated staff have all worked together to make the mission of Water for Cambodia a reality... Rotary International also plays a very key role.

From the beginning Rotary International and Rotary clubs around the world have played a fundamental role in the success of Water for Cambodia. This partnership continues today through a strong program of grants whereby The Rotary Foundation matches locally raised funds thus helping to leverage these donations in an important way.

In 2015 Water for Cambodia was awarded a Rotary Foundation Global Grant to build and install at least 700 bio-sand filters. Rotary grant rules require that this work must be done in partnership with a local in country Rotary club serving as the host. Chris Van Hemelrijck, WFC board chairman, working with the Rotary Clubs of Wakefield, East Greenwich and Middletown Rhode Island has created a partnership with the Rotary Club of Pursat Cambodia to create this opportunity.

Work funded by this grant began in December 2015 and will be completed in the fall of 2016. The first 100 filters were delivered to homes in Roleab Village in Pursat Province where WFC staff conducted training for local village families and leaders. Follow-up observation and testing by our lab team will happen soon after these filters have been in use for at least three months. The balance of filters will be installed in Siem Reap Province in several villages in Don Kaev and Sam Buor Communes. When efforts supported by this grant are complete, Water for Cambodia will have provided clean water to over 105,000 people who benefit from the 18,000 bio-sand filters; **YOU** have made this possible.



For WFC bringing the gift of literacy forms a key component of the holistic concept of breaking the cycle of poverty and disease



Water for Cambodia began working with the Provincial Ministry of Education in 2006 to provide basic literacy and arithmetic learning opportunities to rural villagers in Siem Reap. In 2014 we stepped back to evaluate the results and strengthen this important program. At that time the MoE had expanded the curriculum and developed new texts. WFC collaborated to incorporate these improvements and strengthen our unique supplement focused on health, hygiene and community sanitation. We also introduced video technology allowing us to use a selection of excellent material dealing with personal hygiene, community sanitation and capacity building at the community level. The resulting 10-month program was introduced into Trei Nhor Commune, Pouk District in June 2015.



The first two classes of 25 students each, graduated on April 12th of this year. Classes met for 2 hours per evening 6 times a week. They were held in the evening to accommodate the working schedules of the adult students. Women made up 72% of the classes and 49 of the 50 students passed their final exam for a 98% graduation rate! Four additional classes began in March of this year; also in Trei Nhor Commune with a total of 98 students, 88% are women ranging from 16 to 58 years old.

Each student is given a pre-test to assess their skills and is tested regularly throughout the program before sitting for a final exam. A qualified teacher, further trained by our program director, conducts classes. All classes are periodically monitored by a MoE supervisor and our Program Director.

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www.waterforcambodia.org