



# Newsletter

*Clean water, a human right not a luxury*

WFC Newsletter Issue 23

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***Water for Cambodia*** has recently partnered with GIZ and the Apsara Authority on an exciting new water treatment initiative that will directly impact the major UNESCO Heritage temple sites across Siem Reap Province

First some clarification: **GIZ**, a German Development Agency whose goal is delivering effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions. **Apsara Authority**, is a Cambodian government authority responsible for protecting the Angkor Archaeological Park.

***Water for Cambodia*** was chosen to partner with GIZ and the Apsara Authority to build large capacity potable water stations at major temple sites and to provide periodic laboratory testing for each site. These installations which can process up to 1000 liters per day will provide clean safe drinking water to the many thousands of visitors to this vast and incredible UNESCO heritage site celebrating the rich cultural patrimony of Cambodia. **WFC** was chosen because of its recognized excellence and broad capability both as an area expert in bringing clean safe water to the people as well as its nationally recognized testing expertise.

The first systems were installed at Banteay Srei Temple. This month two more installations will be completed at Ta Prom and Angkor Thom. We are currently discussing plans for several more in the coming months including the crown jewel... Angkor Wat. This endeavor has provided a major boost to our laboratory work-load as we continue to recover from effects of the pandemic.

This project adds an environmental dimension, demonstrating the key role that water plays in society, and can serve as a model for other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) nations.

***Water for Cambodia*** and **UNICEF** share the passion and mission of implementing comprehensive and inclusive **W**ater **S**anitation and **H**ygiene learning programs throughout our areas of influence.

In May, the ***Water for Cambodia*** staff held a joint Menstrual Hygiene seminar with our partners from **Just A Drop** and **Green Lady** to discuss culturally appropriate strategies for an upcoming gender-oriented **WASH** project. **WFC** has been working for several months alongside our partners moving forward together on this important gender issue in Cambodia. This initiative may seem outside the core mission of **WFC**, however; it is a core health and cultural issue in the local traditions. **WFC** is uniquely positioned to facilitate our partners ability to reach out to the rural village communities that our staff works with every day.

This special partnership is focused on sustainability through gender-affirming training and access to appropriate menstrual products. A fundamental objective is to address the real and perceived cultural barriers. All parties are committed to a learning journey, by teaching, by documenting a tailored approach and by advocating within this health sector. Two key objectives are to achieve parental engagement from the start to mitigate potential pushback and also to foster supportive relationships with commune school teachers.



Every month girls and women have their period and each deserves to be given dignity and access to appropriate and readily available menstrual hygiene material. Menstruation should never be a cause of shame, discrimination or exclusion.

## News updates concerning an important health update and the new intern effort plus today's staff profile.



Minea remains on extended leave. He continues to heal from his road accident. He is now capable of moving about a bit by himself, although sitting for extended periods is still a challenge. Although optimistic, we're unsure about a potential return date, but we will keep you updated throughout the next months on his recovery. It is our goal to see him return to the staff in an appropriate position as soon as he is able.

Sophal has initiated a program to bring in qualified interns from the Siem Reap community to assist them in gaining practical and professionally relevant real-world experience. Focus is current for opportunities in accounting and the laboratory.

The first interns are three young university women: **CHREN Malim** is an intern assisting Muni with accounting and cash management for both **Water for Cambodia** and the **Rikreay Laboratory**. Malim is a student at Vanda Institute in Siem Reap pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance and Auditing. She plans to graduate in November 2024. Interning at **WFC** provides resume enhancing experience and welcome assistance for Muni.



**MEN Molika and VAT Sreyneng** have been assigned internships under the Rikreay Lab manager Sothy. Here they will get practical daily exposure to a full range of tests and procedures and will learn the use and maintenance of a real working lab and its equipment. Molika is studying for her BS in Bioengineering, she is specializing in Food

Technology and Microalga, studying at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. She plans on graduating in 2025.

Sreyneng will also perform a daily routine of testing, analyzing results and creating client reports on a wide range of parameters for both **Water for Cambodia** filter installations and commercial and NGO customers. She is studying for her Bachelors Degree in Chemical and Food



Engineering at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia in Phnom Penh. Sreyneng plans to graduate in 2025. Both young women call Kampong Thum home.

Water for Cambodia has hosted students from universities and colleges from around the world since its founding, however; this is the first, we expect, of many internships in the future.

**TY Pann** has been an integral part of the **Water for Cambodia** staff since 2007 and continues as one of our most experienced and skilled bio-sand filter builders



and field installers. He is 45 and married with one daughter and two sons. His family, originally Angkorean (meaning one living within Angkor Wat), lived within the Angkor Wat area until 1990, when the government relocated them to a site 5 km away.

Before joining WFC as a BSF builder, Ty worked as a cameraman at Angkor Wat temple. He speaks a little English. He is a valuable asset to the **WFC** team, demonstrating dedication and a strong work ethic. Ty is always willing to go the

extra mile to help others and is known for his teamwork and willingness to share his knowledge and expertise. He excels in explaining to volunteers how to build the filters, making him an ambassador as well as a team asset.

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