



Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

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Cambodia, a land long accustomed to hardship, today faces the challenge of armed conflict and encroachment from the military forces of its neighbor. Thailand has renewed a six-decades old border conflict that has resulted in widespread infiltration, population displacement, destruction of villages and renewed growth of population insecurity. **Water for Cambodia** has been asked to bring its special capability of installing large volume clean safe water sources to bear.

After several years of “peaceful surveillance” along the northwestern frontier, diplomatic relations have deteriorated and violence has erupted resulting in deaths and captives on both sides. A fragile truce was brokered by neighboring Malaysia in late July. Currently a tense truce/cease-fire remains in place, the impact on thousands of displaced villagers and up to a million Cambodians working in Thailand (see right) has created a humanitarian crisis. Further it has resulted in a near collapse of tourism across Cambodia. This is most notable in Siem Reap Province as it is the nexus of tourism in northern Cambodia and gateway to the contested border temple sites.





Because of our recognized capabilities, quality of service and reputation for performance, the Siem Reap Provincial Governor's office has approached **Water for Cambodia** seeking assistance in making clean safe water available to the displaced families across the border area. During the first week of August our team installed one water filter system with two refill stations and began distributing twenty liter storage bottles. An additional three large water filter systems have since

been installed in the neighboring border province of Oddar Meanchey. This will accommodate many thousands more additional refugees sheltering there close to their home. Many donor agencies are providing food support, but the most pressing need continues to be clear safe water, a commodity **Water for Cambodia** is uniquely suited to fulfill.



While addressing this compassionate refugee need, the team also continues to direct its attention to the everyday fundamental demands for clean safe water across Siem Reap Province. In partnership with the Junior Chambers International of Siem Reap and Japan, another large water filter system has been installed near the Tonle Sap Lake that directly benefits 340 families or about 1300 people.

On June 30th, **Water for Cambodia** staff proudly took part in launching the "Refill for a Plastic-Free Siem Reap" campaign. As a local adjunct of **Plastic Free Cambodia**, the endeavor aspires to minimize plastic usage while seeking a healthy and clean future. In partnership with GIZ Cambodia and in close collaboration with APSARA Authority, Angkor Enterprise, and other related departments, **Water for Cambodia** has installed 5 large capacity public water refill stations at several key destinations to provide free access to clean drinking water within the iconic Angkor district. These stations mark an important step forward in reducing single-use plastic bottles, especially in high tourism areas.

Water for Cambodia enjoys the opportunity to welcome and share experiences with volunteers from kids to octogenarians. Each comes away with new friends and a sense of joy at bringing the special gift of clean safe water to rural families.



Students and faculty from Bridgewater State University have been building filters, making friends and gaining experiences that last a lifetime for more than a decade. **WFC** is incredibly grateful for their dedication and hard work in coming together to build and install bio-sand filters for the needs of our community. This incredible year after year effort continues to have a significant positive impact on the health and well-being of hundreds of families.

The **WFC** team offers a heartfelt thank you to Smiles Salam, led by Mrs. Azlina Ahmad and her family, for their continued support and generosity. This visit marks the 5th year Smiles Salam has partnered with **Water for Cambodia**, making a meaningful difference in the lives of Cambodian families.

Smiles Salam has donated 114 bio-sand filters since 2018! These filters provide clean, safe drinking water to families in need, transforming health and well-being in the served communities.

Smile Salam's kindness doesn't stop there. They also bring smiles by sharing rice, cooking ingredients, clothing, and school supplies for children, ensuring that families have essentials to support their daily lives.



Thank you Smiles Salam Volunteer team for your dedication, compassion, and for being part of the change. You are truly bringing hope and smiles to Cambodia!

Today's staff profile introduces the newest addition to the ***Water for Cambodia*** staff, **CHOEUN Rany**.



Rany, a recent Business Administration graduate, first joined Water for Cambodia as a finance and admin intern. She joined the team as a staff member earlier this year. With her strong eagerness to learn and communication skills she has developed into an adept and valued trainer and coach. Rany immediately embraced her role as the Menstrual Hygiene Officer addressing a much-overlooked aspect of women's and girl's health education in Cambodia. This is a logical and vital evolution of **WFC's** well established **WA**ter,

Sanitation and **H**ygien (WASH) agenda. Rany has already begun taking an active role as one of **WFC's** field hygiene and sanitation training specialists

Minea: His recovery has experienced complications that have slowed his recovery. The highly reconstructed right leg hasn't healed as quickly and successfully as anticipated. He continues to experience pain when he tries to walk. His left leg continues to experience swelling and often bleeds when stressed. This greatly limits the use of his prosthetic and impedes his full recovery. We anticipate he will need several more months of convalescence. He continues to have support and encouragement from his family and compatriots at **Water for Cambodia**, both there and here in the US.

Visit us at: www.waterforcambodia.org or contribute directly at

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