



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



Svay Leu II, Cambodia CELEBRATION

Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared by FH Cambodia and FH Canada



Communities: **12**



Total Population: **16,676**



Total Households: **3,783**



Program Participants: **8,929**

10 YEARS LATER, COMMUNITIES IN CAMBODIA THRIVE BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT!

After a fruitful 10-year partnership with Food for the Hungry, families and leaders in Svay Leu II are excited to begin the next chapter of their development! While the conclusion of a partnership always comes with the sadness of saying goodbye to friends, there is much to celebrate with Svay Leu II.

Leaders who partnered with FH trainers to expand and sharpen their leadership skills have successfully tackled chronic issues in their communities like distrust and breakdowns in communication. As a result, families are now working together to overcome obstacles. Small-holder farmers who learned and applied new growing techniques have improved food security. Where once families couldn't access sufficient food all year, they now have a reliable abundance of fresh, local produce, eggs, and meat.

FH staff and local volunteers partnered to improve water and sanitation facilities in homes and schools. Parents and educators have worked hard to increase school attendance and improve the quality of educational support for kids both in the classroom and at home. Learning outcomes are trending up! And in spite of the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, families were able to continue pressing forward toward their goals. **The communities in Svay Leu II have laid a strong foundation that will sustain their progress into the future.**

Hear From Families In Svay Leu II!

Enjoy this video, highlighting the changes you've helped.



vimeo.com/fhcanada/svayleu



MEET SOKHOEURM



I have learned love!

Story collected and written by Ann Sophart
Photos by Ann Sophart

Burdens Too Big To Bear

Sokhoeurm is a confident 19-year-old, outstanding student, and active volunteer teacher. She enjoys offering her free time to tutor younger students at the local Kids Club. When asked why she volunteers, Sokhoeurm explains that she really loves working with kids and she wanted to see children improve their learning, especially in literacy and numeracy.

When Sokhoeurm is teaching, it's obvious she's in her element. She's relaxed, confident, and laughs easily. You'd never guess what a rocky start she had when she was their age.

In spite of working hard, when Sokhoeurm was little her parents struggled to earn a living. Insufficient water sources and limited



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During my journey
with FH, I have
learned love.

— Sokhoeurm

agricultural training made it difficult for them and other families in their village to create strong livelihoods through farming. As a result, toxic stress took over Sokhoeurm's home.

She explains, “My family and I were not happy because we were in a huge financial crisis which made my father and mother not get along. Daily, my parents had to deal with our poor livelihood and it was painful to see we were in such a vulnerable situation. I was so depressed. When I looked at my family situation, there was no warmth, love, or care. All I could do was cry. Sometimes I wanted to drop out of school since I couldn't enjoy it anymore. What I was concerned about the most, was how I could support my family.”

MEET SOKHOEURM

How Child Sponsorship Helped

What huge burdens for such a young child to bear! Thankfully, FH Cambodia began a partnership with Sokhoeurm's village when she was just nine years old. Child sponsorship offered parents relief from some of the stresses they were dealing with and provided access to practical skills training, financial literacy, health education, and more. Sokhoeurm's parents were able to develop a successful business growing cassava and selling breakfast in the community. Being able to stabilize their family changed the entire atmosphere at home. "I am very happy that my father and my mother changed their old habits and behaviour to live in harmony with each other," Sokhoeurm smiles.

With the support of child sponsorship, Sokhoeurm began to understand the importance of education and felt motivated to study harder at school and at home.

When she became a teenager, FH staff encouraged her to try volunteer teaching at the Kids Club. She received practical training and began to soar.

"During my journey with FH, I have learned love. I know how to deal with people, be patient and respectful with others, and be willing to share with others as much as I can. I've learned to be brave and how to build good relationships."

In the future, Sokhoeurm wants to become a full-time teacher. "I want to help all slower learners improve their reading, writing, and mathematics so that our human resources will increase in society and my country will graduate from poverty together."

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I want to help learners improve so my country will graduate from poverty.

— Sokhoeurm



10 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

**CHILDREN
ARE READING!
46.6% INCREASE**

46.6% increase in reading at home among children 7-15 years old.

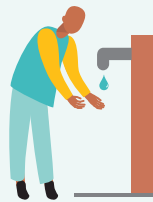


**92.5% OF
HOMES
NOW HAVE
THEIR OWN
LATRINE!**



**HOMES HAVE
CLEAN WATER!
41.6% INCREASE**

41.6% increase in household access to safe drinking water—waterborne diseases have gone down!



"I am proud to be a woman who helps my community. I am a community preschool teacher and a Cascade group leader for health... It's my passion and I am proud to see the result of my hard work."
— Thoeum, Community Preschool Teacher

**57.4% INCREASE IN
LEARNING
ACHIEVEMENTS!**

57.4% increase in achievement of learning outcomes for children aged 5 to 6 years old.



**12
SCHOOLS
ARE STOCKED!**

5,456+ children across 12 schools are benefiting from FH-supplied library materials, storybooks, bookshelves, global maps, and desks.



FOOD SECURITY INCREASED!

11.9 months of the year—99% of the time!—families have enough to eat! Households consume 10 out of the 12 recommended food types.



97.7% OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWO ARE EATING A DIVERSE DIET!



FINANCIAL SECURITY IS IMPROVING!

25 Savings and Loans groups with 520 members together saved \$318,257 CAD over 10 years, and have been borrowing and reinvesting into their farms and businesses.



589 WOMEN ARE EMPOWERED!

589 women are leading savings groups, community development committees, farmers groups, WASH committees, education groups, health groups, and more!



91.6% OF HOMES HAVE HANDWASHING SUPPLIES LIKE SOAP!



60 FAMILIES STARTED SMALL BUSINESSES!



95.2% OF FARMERS CONSISTENTLY APPLY NEW HARVEST-BOOSTING PRACTICES



"Navigating my financial instability was like treading through my maze of fears and uncertainties. Learning leadership and small business skills from FH helped me start my pig farm, boosting my family income and improving my financial situation."

— Han, Savings & Loans group cashier

WHERE TO NEXT?

NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES



Clean piped water is not available for people to access in the community



Under 9% of homes have access to water within 150 meters of their house



Girls are expected to take on a disproportionate number of domestic chores



Many families migrate for work, leaving their children at home with relatives



Children have to travel up to 11.6 kilometres to get to school

SPONSOR A CHILD IN CHONG KAL, CAMBODIA

📞 1-800-667-0605

✉ sponsorship@fhcanada.org

🖱 fhcanada.org/child



LAUNCHING CHONG KAL'S PARTNERSHIP

Chong Kal, Cambodia faces challenges similar to those that Svay Leu II struggled with a decade ago. A high percentage of children drop out of school before reaching upper primary or secondary school because of poor living conditions at home. Parents struggle to financially support their children's education and provide their basic needs. As a result, one or both parents are often forced to seek better sources of income far away. Children are left behind in the care of elderly grandparents or older siblings and are deprived of the loving care of their parents.

In spite of these challenges, the people of Chong Kal are hard working, loving individuals who want to see their children and community thrive! Would you join us as we journey with Chong Kal by sponsoring a child so that, together, we can graduate more communities out of poverty?





I am proud to be a part of changing my community by sharing lessons I learned from FH and practicing all those learnings. Even if FH leaves my community, I will continue doing my part, using all those skills to develop my community.

— Trab, WASH group leader



Thank You!

FH Canada, FH Cambodia, and the families of Svay Leu II thank you for your incredible support of their journey out of poverty!

Because of your faithful generosity, parents have stable livelihoods and can provide for their families' needs; health and education have improved; and local leaders are equipped to take their communities into a bright future. Thank you for supporting the families and children of Svay Leu II to flourish!