

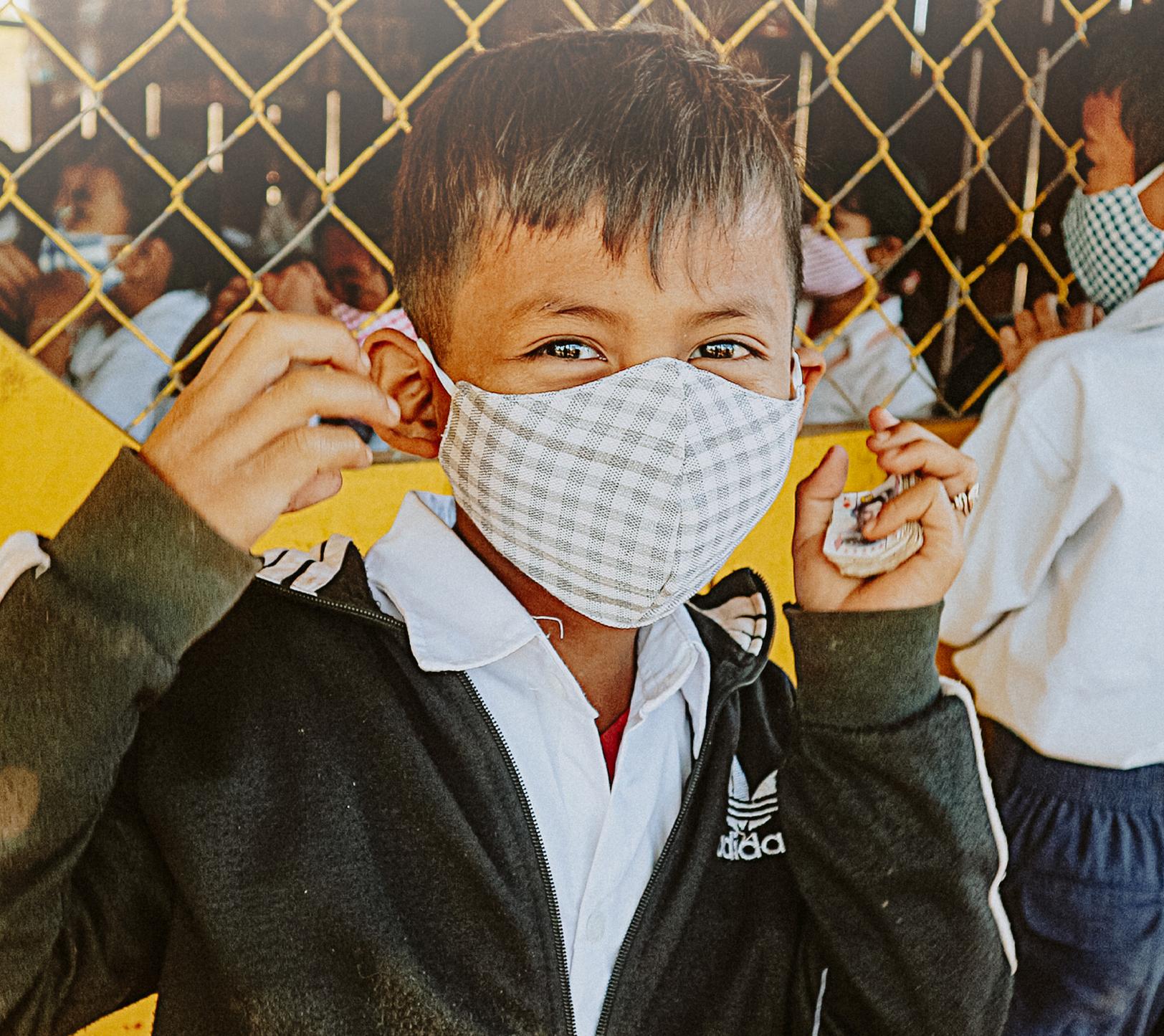


**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

CAMBODIA

MID YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

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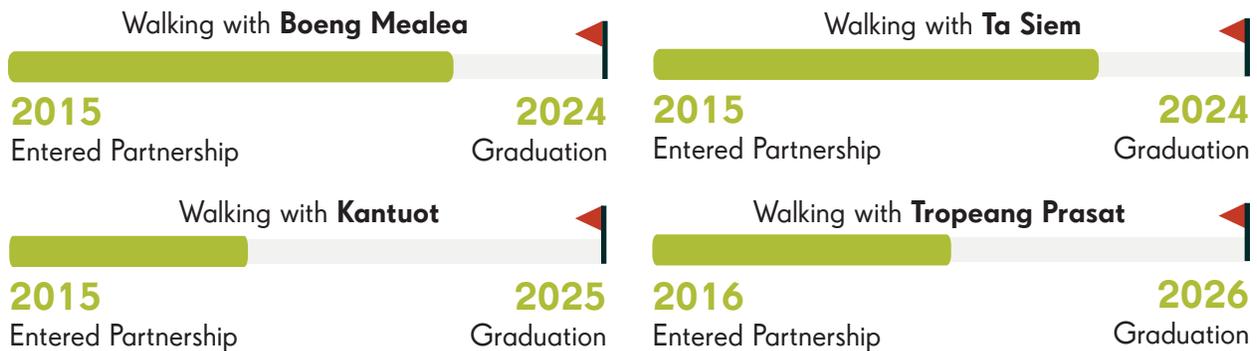
INTRODUCTION

 Communities:
**Boeng Mealea,
 Tropeang Prasat,
 Ta Siem, and Kantuot**

 Total Households:
8,614

 Total Population:
39,850

 Program Participants:
11,579



“I have been involved with the FH program. I have gained a lot of knowledge and support for my child’s study during the COVID-19 outbreak, I teach my child how to wash hands and clean the house and I also share COVID-19 lessons to my neighbours.”—Min, **Health Group Volunteer**

Food for the Hungry (FH) walks with 8,614 households in 35 Cambodian communities in the regions of Boeng Mealea, Tropeang Prasat D, Tropeang Prasat E, Ta Siem, and Kantuot. Through FH’s Child Focused Community Transformation (CFCT) program, families have already begun making positive changes in the areas of education, health, livelihoods, and leadership development. Gender equality, environmental care, and a biblical worldview are woven throughout each area of focus.

Despite the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, FH Cambodia remains committed to walk alongside partner communities and maintain the foundation of relationships built throughout the years. Moreover, as goals continue to be reached, there’s no end to learning, reflecting and discovering on how to effectively support these communities.

In order to continue thriving in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, partner communities were required to pivot and adjust their plans. By ramping up water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming, supporting at-home learning, and emphasizing the importance of agricultural and livelihood programs for food and income, communities continued to move forward in their journey out of poverty.



EDUCATION

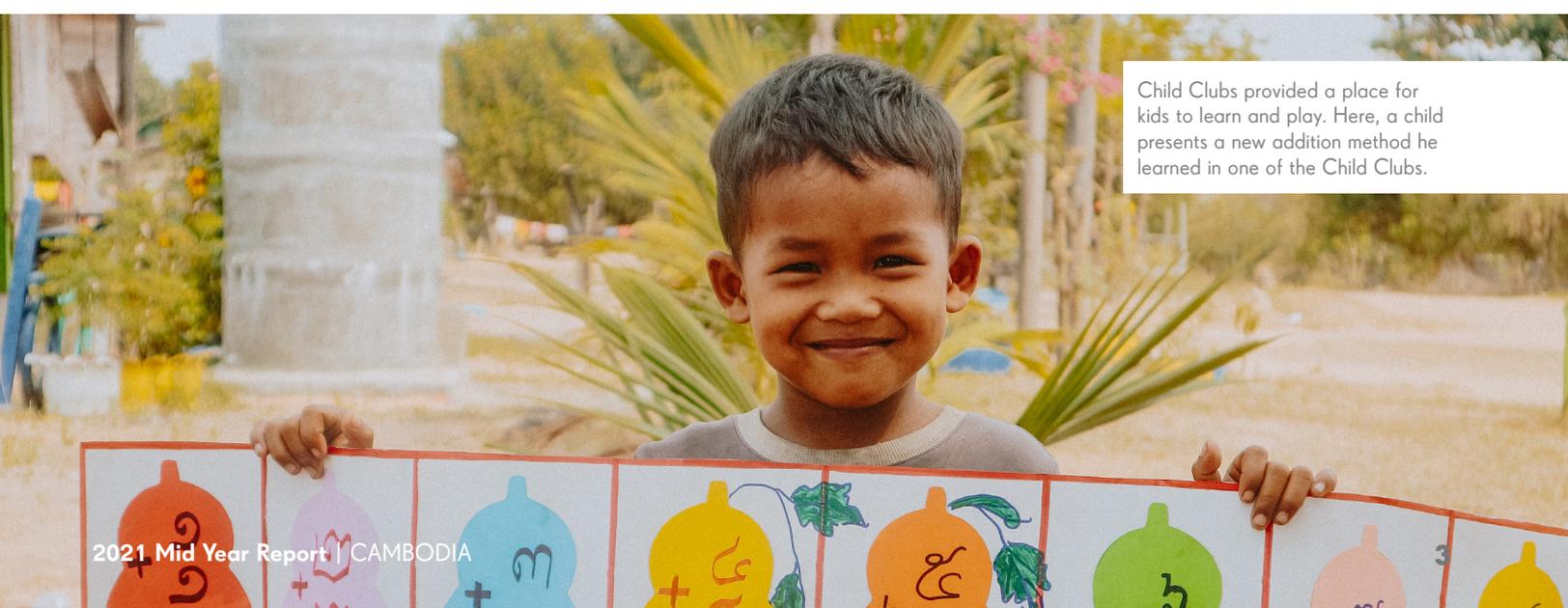
“I want to say thank you to the FH program and FH teachers who always work with my community that provide good knowledge to people in my village. I have changed my thinking and motivated my children to school and I understand the importance of studying.”

—Proeun, **Health Group Volunteer**

For FH partner communities in Cambodia, child education was inconsistent due to pandemic-induced school closures and reopenings. Caregiver volunteers supported their neighbours with tips to help children cope with pandemic related stresses by playing, gardening, and reading/writing. Youth leaders are also supporting younger children by contributing to these initiatives. To maintain progress in child learning, FH trained Caregiver volunteers to go on home visits and support parents and children with literacy and math lessons.

New data from a Cambodia Ministry of Education assessment revealed that only 77 percent of all students in Cambodia have access to at least one type of basic learning material, 44 percent have access to additional reading and reference materials, and 34 percent have access to school textbooks. When thinking about improving the learning outcomes of children, FH Cambodia had the idea of making space for community libraries in Child Clubs. FH staff discussed the idea and the impact it would have on the children with the local leaders. FH bought books and the community leaders and volunteers donated their own time and resources to construct bookshelves and beautify the area to attract more children. Today, 20 communities have set up libraries within their Child Clubs!

Data from the Ministry of Education assessment also revealed that 20 percent of children self-reported an increase in domestic violence and abuse in the home during the pandemic. In response, FH Cambodia facilitated safeguarding and capacity building training for thousands of community leaders. This training helped unify and equip the community in protecting vulnerable children by creating awareness and a process for reporting child safety issues. As well, youth participated in regular sessions to help them cope with mental health challenges.



Child Clubs provided a place for kids to learn and play. Here, a child presents a new addition method he learned in one of the Child Clubs.



EDUCATION



ACTIVITIES

30 Child Clubs hosted 1,933 children Grades 1 to 3.

578 Caregiver volunteers supported neighbours with tips to help children cope with the pandemic.

20 libraries established in Child Clubs.

7972 primary children from 36 schools received cloth face masks.

2149 community leaders, volunteers, and youth attended safeguarding and capacity building training.

106 youth leaders helped younger children cope with stress from the pandemic.



87 Caregiver volunteers trained to help build literacy and math skills at home.

101 youth trained on strategies in coping with mental health during COVID-19.



Lessons on personal hygiene have always been a priority in schools, but there's been additional emphasis this year because of the pandemic.



HEALTH

Over the course of the past year, FH Cambodia has put a stronger emphasis on personal and environmental hygiene to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases that can cause health issues and malnutrition.

When children returned to in-person learning, FH provided soap and handwashing stations to schools. Primary schools participated in WASH awareness campaigns, where staff used puppets to teach children about handwashing and sanitation, encouraging children to practice these habits. The children loved the puppets! Older children were trained on how to clean and maintain their toilet facilities with gloves, cleaners, and brushes.

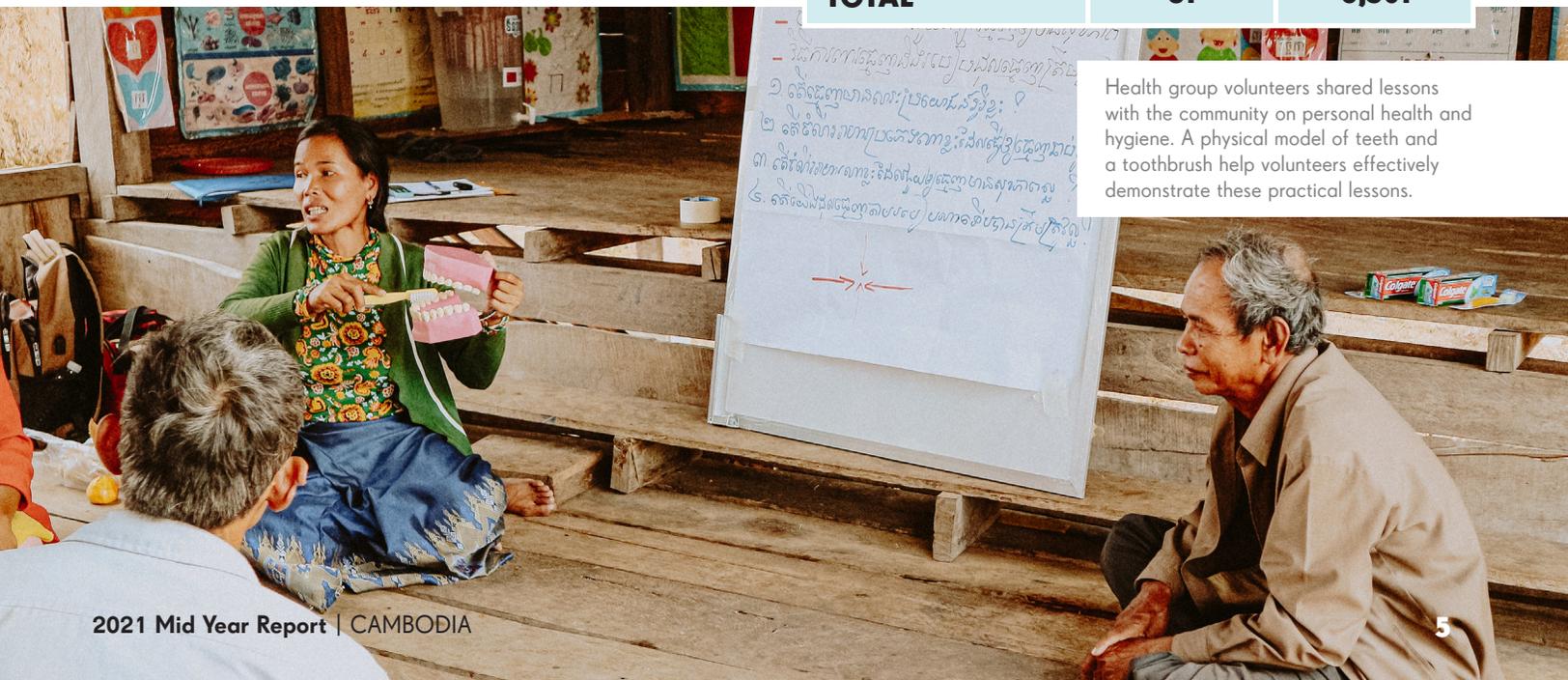
“I am glad that I am helping my community transform so our children will have a better future. I love learning and I am glad that despite the pandemic, FH staff came to train us on different practices in hygiene and sanitation so that we can improve our behavior and keep our family healthy.”

—Khounh, [Health Group Volunteer](#)

School directors and teachers were trained on implementing WASH programming using a trusted approach from United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). This approach will help the schools take ownership to ensure healthy habits are taught, practiced, and integrated into daily school routines, and that essential criteria for a healthy and productive learning environment for children is met.

WASH campaigns conducted in primary schools

Community	# of Schools	# of Students
Boeng Mealea	2	181
Ta Siem	8	1,713
Kantuot	6	1,787
Tropeang Prasat	15	2,370
TOTAL	31	6,501



Health group volunteers shared lessons with the community on personal health and hygiene. A physical model of teeth and a toothbrush help volunteers effectively demonstrate these practical lessons.



HEALTH

ACTIVITIES

1086 community members trained on personal hygiene practices and behaviors.

126 neighbourhood health volunteers trained on safe drinking water.



64 schools received handwashing soap.

126 community leaders and health volunteers trained on household environmental hygiene.

14 schools installed handwashing facilities.

170 community members attended demonstrations on wearing masks and mixing cleaning chemicals properly.

31 primary schools participated in the WASH awareness campaign.



A mother gently clips her infant's nails, something that community members have learned can help reduce the spread of disease by eliminating spaces for germs to spread or be ingested.



LIVELIHOODS

“When I started as an agriculture volunteer I got a lot of new knowledge [from] FH staff like how to do compost fertilizer, how to plant vegetables, [and] raise chicken[s]. FH staff always care for the community and visit our village all the time.”

—Sib, **Farmer**

Farmers in Cambodia continue to press on toward adopting new agricultural technologies and diversifying their crops in order to secure access to nutritious foods. To help farmers with this, FH trained the most vulnerable families on backyard farming and seed management. Hundreds of families received start-up seeds to begin planting in their household gardens.

As livestock programs have expanded in the communities, so has the need for Village Animal Health Workers. At the beginning of this project, a large group of community members went through an intensive 25 day training on how to address any animal health issues that may arise. This year they were trained on small livestock production and ways to create income generation with the animals.

Several women, youth, people living with disabilities, and Savings and Loans group members received lessons on business development practices and are now ready to implement their new business initiatives. FH will provide start-up capital to each initiative depending on its aim.

As the communities continue to face economic uncertainty, they remain hopeful and trust one another. Savings groups are a great indicator of this. Savings continue to be a source of financial support for the communities during this pandemic. Eighty-two percent of the members have accessed loans this year, primarily for crop growing, livestock raising, and small businesses. They’ve also continued to develop and grow in relationship, character, and leadership, relying on one another to get through the uncertainty of the past year.



Farmers inspect their new crops, grown from seeds provided through FH.



LIVELIHOODS



ACTIVITIES

670 community members trained on backyard gardening; 155 completed the training on seed management.

130 women, youth, people living with disabilities, and Savings groups members attended supplementary lessons on business development practices.

72 active Savings groups have saved a total of CAD \$620,906.09.

317 program participants received start-up seeds.

Active Savings Groups

Community	Active Savings groups	Total Members	Total Assets (CAD)	# of Members Taking Loans
Boeng Mealea	15	223	\$72,719	155
Ta Siem	11	277	\$82,511	206
Kantuot	9	290	\$95,197	86
Tropeang Prasat	37	918	\$370,476	665
TOTAL	72	1,708	\$620,906	1,112

87 Village Animal Health Workers trained on small livestock production and income generation.



A Savings & Loans group walks through the principles of an accountable, healthy group. Savings groups do more than save together - they learn and grow together.



LEADERSHIP

“Since FH Cambodia has [started projects] in my community, they provide us [with] more knowledge, especially on farming techniques and animal husbandry, along with agriculture, health, as well as children’s education. There are many changes happening in my community and I am happy that I can help in this process.”

—Min

Strong, humble leaders are highly needed in the midst of a pandemic. FH Cambodia is focused on developing leaders who make decisions based on the interests of the most vulnerable and step out of their comfort zones to learn from and serve people in the community. Leaders mobilized community members to help fix bridges, roads, and schools using their own resources.

Twenty-one communities have now each established their own Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC). These committees were set up to ensure that at the community level, local leaders could proactively respond to the threat of disaster. Moving forward, the group will be trained in disaster management to be able to respond in the event of a natural disaster, coordinating themselves with government agencies to prepare for the future.



COVID-19 UPDATE

This year, leaders in the committee were trained on safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to plan how to respond when a case of COVID-19 is detected in the community. Thankfully, no cases have been reported in the communities!



ACTIVITIES

21 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC) established to directly respond to disasters.

Local leaders map out where water access points will be located throughout the community, considering which places would be most beneficial for nearby families.



LEARNING YOUR VALUE

Ta Siem, Cambodia

For anyone, a chance to learn and grow can make you feel valuable. And 12-year-old Rorn Hann didn't always feel valued.

Seven years ago, Rorn didn't have many opportunities to play with kids in her community or at school. Despite how loving her parents were, they didn't see education as an important part of her future. This was not an unusual opinion in the rest of the community either. Rorn explained, "Most of them and my parents did not value the children's education at all."

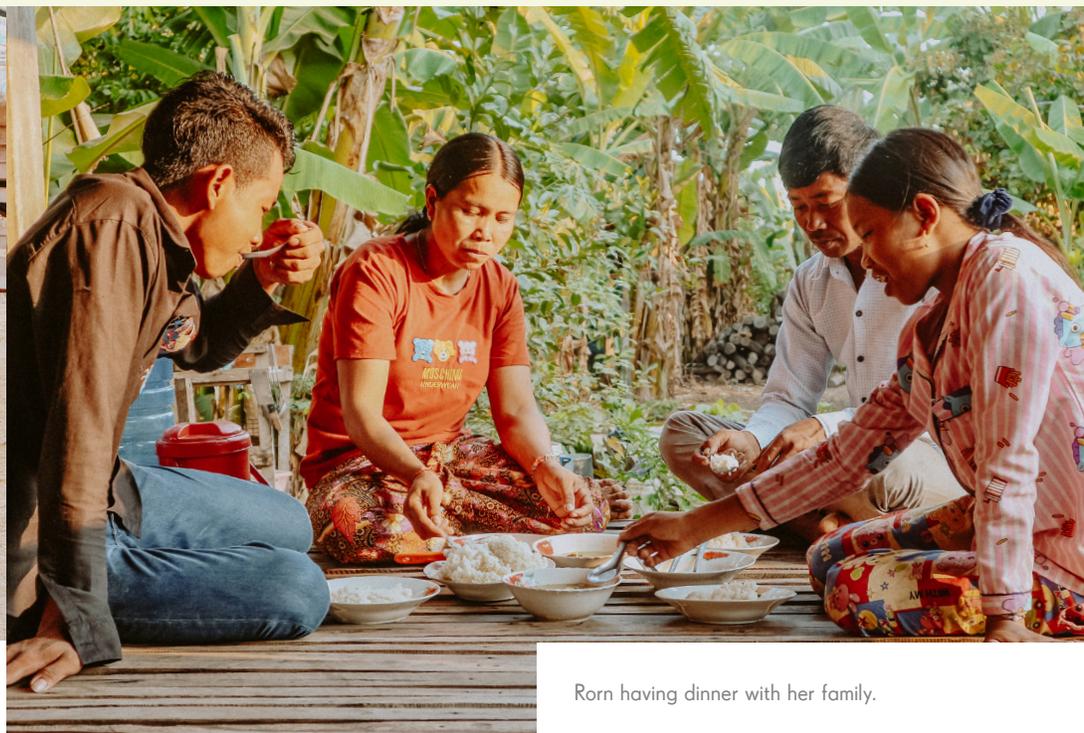
Instead of learning how to read and about math in a classroom, Rorn could be found helping her parents in the fields. She felt lonely and disconnected while her older brother went to school.

But her lack of education was just the tip of the iceberg. Within her community and her own family, people were struggling in so many other ways, especially in health and sanitation. "My family lived our lives in the old habits and behavior in the past. So, we did not have a latrine and handwashing tank. We rarely boiled or filtered the water into a water filter for drinking, only took it from our well to keep in the jar and take it to drink directly." This level of hygiene was commonplace in Ta Siem among her neighbours as well.

Many community members weren't able to save money for their future either. Instead, they took loans out consistently. "Many people loaned money from the bank, microfinance, or the rich in the village," Rorn said. This crippled their livelihoods.



Rorn dreams of having a bigger chicken farm, so that her family can increase their income and start a fish farm in the future.



Rorn having dinner with her family.

Then Food for the Hungry began walking with Ta Siem in 2014. Rorn became a sponsored child, but FH didn't just want to give Rorn a chance to discover her value through going to school. They wanted her parents and the rest of the community to learn, grow, and discover their value as well.

Over the years, new Savings and Loans groups formed where community members could pool money and provide loans to each other, instead of having to take out high interest loans from a bank. New training workshops helped the community learn about health, hygiene, and sanitation. Now, 95 percent of the community have latrines and access to clean water. New business startups are flourishing across the community thanks to the new opportunities brought forward by Savings and Loans groups. "In my community, we start seeing the Savings group formed where our people can borrow money in a limited amount for doing their farm or running their own business," said Rorn.

FH staff worked with Rorn's parents to help them see the importance of their daughter's education. Rorn began studying full-time and even joined a Child Club where she was able to connect and play with kids her age. "My parents have changed their perception, for my learning is as important as my brother's learning right now. They want me to have a good education and a bright future like my brother as well."

Rorn now feels valued. Her chance to learn and play in school has set a future before her - a future she didn't realize she could ever have. As for the rest of her community of Ta Siem, they've worked hard to take advantage of new opportunities through FH and have thrived. "I am very happy that FH Cambodia entered to develop in my village. They help to transform my family and community to be better and better."



Thank You

FH Canada and FH Cambodia, together with the families of FH partner communities, thank you for walking with them on this journey out of extreme poverty! Your generous support is helping increase child protection, grow more nutritious food, create sources of family income, and train leaders for the future. We couldn't do this without you!