

Sre Kandal Primary School Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia



Grant Category:	Education
Implementing Agency:	Child's Dream Foundation
Project Status:	Completed
Start Date:	August 2012
Completion Date:	April 2013

Project Description

The project constructed a new school building with five fully furnished classrooms, new gate and flagpole. The new school accommodates up to 300 students aged 6-12 years.

Objective

The project set out to create a positive and safe learning environment for the students, thereby encouraging them to commit to their studies to secure their futures.

Impact

Community appreciation of the importance of education led to the establishment of Sre Kandal School in 2005 using materials provided by the local community. However, due to limited resources only a roof and support beams were built.

The simple construction means students and teachers are exposed to the harsh tropical climate of extreme heat and heavy rainfall. The lack of walls between classrooms is also detrimental to the learning environment as students can hear activities in other classes.

Additionally, the school is no longer structurally sound as termites have infected the wooden beams.

Background

Its most recent assessment of Education in Cambodia acknowledges that the state of education has improved, however inequality persists and the quality of education remains a serious concern. The World Food Program survey indicates 54% of the Cambodian population have not completed primary education and illiteracy rates have not improved in the last 5 years stagnating at around 17% at the national level. Rural figures are considerably worse with rates 30% for men and 45% for women.

Oddar Meanchey is located in the remote northwest bordering Thailand where poverty rates are high due to remoteness and isolation, which limits access to basic social services such as health and education. Most of the population are subsistence farmers struggling to earn an income. Irregular rainfall over the past few years leading to poor rice crops has further exacerbated the plight of the people.