



2019

Annual Report

BSDA

Buddhism for Social Development Action

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Nearly 15 years ago, BSDA was founded by a group of seven monks. Dedicated to support the community, they worked several years without funding. Once receiving international attention and financial support, the organisation kept growing, reaching more and more people with their work. Today we continue to improve the livelihood of the community, especially of those who are the most vulnerable. Several programs focus on education of disadvantaged and vulnerable children, as we believe education is key to establishing a secure livelihood. Children of all age can find the needed support in our programs, starting from early childhood care and education, reaching up to TVET training for youths who dropped out of the education system due to different reasons. Another vulnerable group we strongly support are women, educating them on topic such as birthspacing or providing them with a loan to start a small business and become financially independent.

On behalf of the BSDA team, i would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters once more for their hard work and dedication. Thanks to you and our equally hard-working and devoted team, we can steadily and sustainably improve the livelihood of the most vulnerable people of our community.

THORN VANDONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

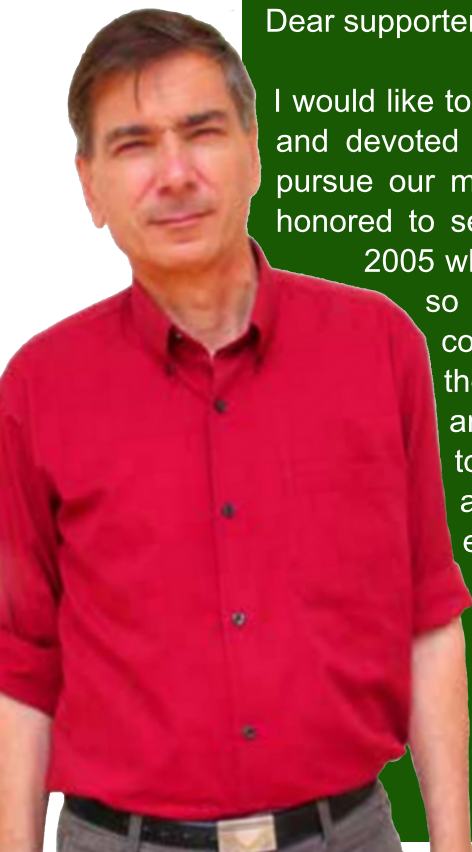


Dear supporters,

I would like to thank you for your support, your hard work coupled with a stellar staff and devoted board, is what has made BSDA the success we see today as we pursue our mission. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, we are all highly honored to serve as members of the Governing Board. BSDA's legacy began in 2005 when community leaders saw the need and opportunity to work together so that all could benefit from a coordinated effort. This consensus will contribute to the eradication of suffering that is largely avoidable. Over the last 15 years, BSDA has changed dramatically. As we have grown and changed, it has become even more important to work and plan together with common goals and united leadership. To this end, we appreciate those who have generated the success that BSDA currently enjoys. The BSDA Board will continue to give the agency direction and advice and we consider it an honor to be following in the footsteps of the founders and supporters of the agency to continue to promote its good work empowered to live independently and have livelihood security.

Sincerely,

KURT BREDENBERG, BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN





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for better public service delivery

[ABOUT BSDA]

BSDA is a Cambodian community-based NGO, founded in 2005 by seven Buddhist monks. After being criticized by the community for only teaching, but not practicing altruism, the monks came into action and founded the organization, financing it privately during the first three years. Their hard work was recognized and international donors started to support them financially. BSDA runs a broad variety of projects, all of which focus on empowering vulnerable people and on promoting compassionate engagement in social and economic development to eradicate avoidable suffering, based on the principles of Mettā. The programs include education and vocational training for OVCs, community and democratic development, work with drug users and work with PLHIV. Beneficiaries are encouraged to participate and contribute to create a peer support system, where ex-beneficiaries help the current ones. Even though, BSDA follows Buddhist principles, other religions are welcome in the organization. Staff are hired from all religious backgrounds equally and students are all treated and supported the same.

[VISION]

BSDA envisions a society where everyone is empowered to live independently and to have livelihood security.

[VALUES]

Rooted in the Buddhist teachings of Mettā practice, BSDA adheres to and promotes the following values:

- **Serving the poor:** improving the livelihoods of poor families
- **Unity:** Building trust, honesty and respect for each other as a family.
- **Democratic Approach:** Promoting collective voice from community members, stakeholders and all levels of staff and engaging them in decision-making processes.
- **Collaboration:** Working together and in partnership with others whenever possible, to maximize our impact.
- **Integrity and Accountability:** In the management and use of aid; being accountable and transparent to communities, donors, and stakeholders.

[MISSION]

BSDA's mission is to sustainably empower and enhance the quality of life of vulnerable people, especially women, children and youth, through education, health and livelihood development initiatives; in partnership with others.

[STRATEGY DIRECTION]

Develop cross-cutting programs, that contribute to livelihood security, especially for women, young people and vulnerable groups.

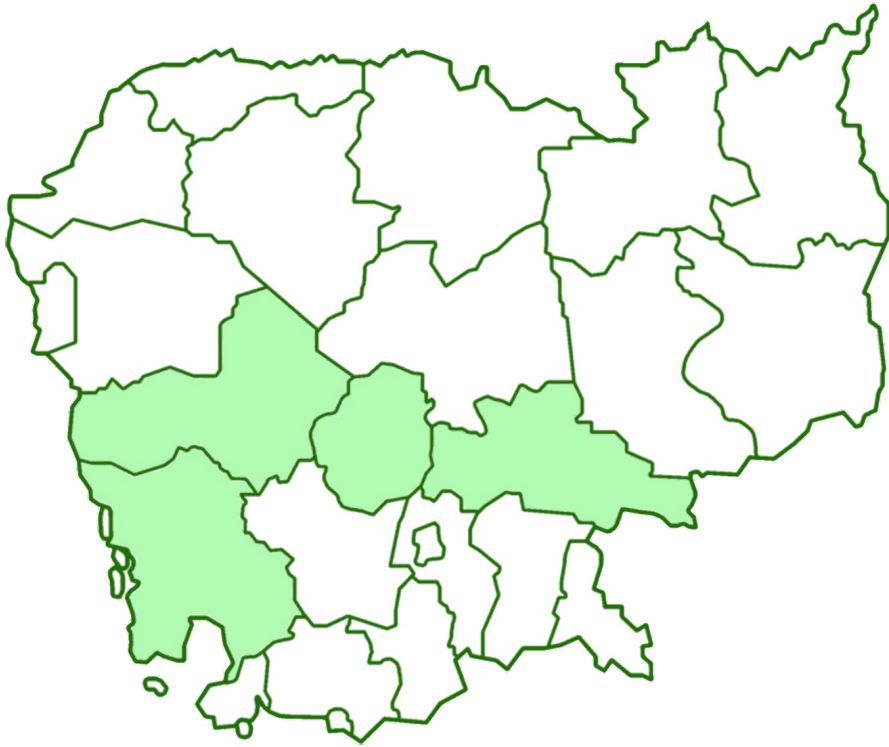
Grow social enterprise to address the needs of youth and potential migrants, and provide income to help BSDA become more sustainable.

Strengthen monitoring, evaluating and learning systems to demonstrate impact.

Develop and implement a funding strategy to support sustainable impact.

Strengthen organizational capacity to support program quality and learning.

[The Projects]



5 PROVINCES

Koh Kong

Pursat

Kampong Chhnang

Kampong Cham
+ Tboung Khmum

MORE THAN
130,000
BENEFICIARIES

education

good
governance

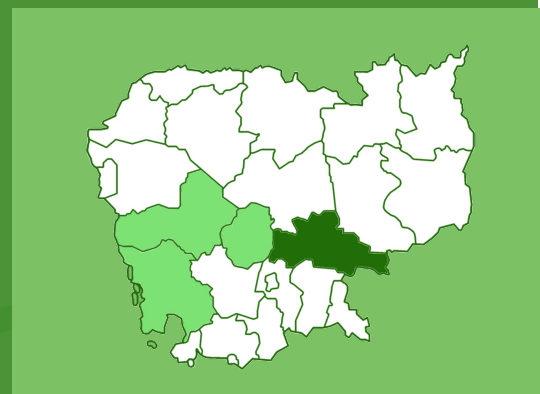
social
enterprise



[MKK]

- 1,205 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by Ecosolidar
- 204,350.00\$ of donations

Integrate and support orphans and vulnerable children, (OVC) back into mainstream Cambodian society and improve the quality of their lives through technical and vocational training and the provision of educational opportunities.



Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum

The Mekong Kampuchea Kids program focuses on orphans and vulnerable children. The main goal of the project is to improve the life of OVCs and integrate them back into mainstream Cambodian society through providing support and education.

The educational program consists of four main parts. First and foremost, basic education. 90 OVCs receive a scholarship as well as stationaries and nutritional support packages worth 15\$ every month. This allows them to attend public schools in their home towns. The scholarships are provided by EcoSolidar and Apadama. Basic education is also provided to students at the Smile Institute. Before starting their vocational training, the students revise and learn basic literacy and numeracy for 3 to 6 months. Students then get assessed on their learnings and attitude after the preparatory period. They need to show respect towards one another, show appreciation for education and show they understood the impact education will have on their future.

Secondly, technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Students in the SI receive vocational training both theoretically and practically. They can choose between different skills, e.g. hospitality, motor repair and beauty salon. BSDA works together with local enterprises and

runs their own social enterprises, where students gain practical experiences. Additionally, TVET students obtain soft skills in workshops throughout the year, some of which are led by former students.

In 2019, 72 students received vocational training. Throughout the year, only 19 students were recruited, as many OVCs do not get a chance to study due to the economic standard of their living and them needing to work.

Electronic skills:

There is a total of six students, learning electronic skills. They are taught at the Smile Institute and do their apprenticeships at different local businesses. Half of them are learning how to set-up, maintain and repair air-con units, while the other half is learning how to install security cameras.

Mechanic skills:

Five students are learning how to repair motor bikes. They are taught by Mr. Chhit at SI while doing their apprenticeships at two shops in Kampong Cham. As the number of motor bikes and cars in the country increases, the students have a high chance of future employment.

Beauty salon skills:

In 2019, four students learned make-up and beauty skills, while one more student is learning how to cut hair. Soon, one of the students will graduate and get a job in Phnom Penh.

Hospitality skills:

Another eight students are currently learning restaurant and hospitality skills. They do their apprenticeships at social enterprises run by BSDA. After training at the SI, they will first work at the Smile Restaurant and will later move on to work at the Hanchey Bamboo resort. At the end of the first semester, a former student from the 5th generation was hired as a hospitality teacher. After graduating, she has worked at the Smile Restaurant and at Moon River, gaining experience in working as a service staff, as a chef and as a general manager. She will now share her experience with the students. Furthermore, the hospitality students are taught important vocabulary and useful phrases to improve their English specifically in their future field of work.



The After-Care program provided counselling to 36 graduated students. 24 of them completed TVET and are now employed, most of them picked up work with the skills they learned during TVET. Another 12 students left the program early, as they found work with decent salary. The

After-Care has kept in touch with them and offered for them to come back and sit the final exam to graduate. Furthermore, the program has stayed in touch with former students, offering advice and support to them if needed. Some students of the 5th, 6th and 7th generation joined the re-entry program.

The third part of education is a mix of non-formal education and cultural skills. MKK runs two drop-in centers where students are provided with additional education as they attend classes at public schools only half a day. At the Apsara center, students are offered lessons of traditional dance and music, as well as English lessons. During the year, the music students were able to perform at private functions and earn some money to support their studies. The cultural classes are open for everyone to join, as BSDA believes it is important to learn about culture and traditions. At the Happy Happy center, a variety of topics is taught, including literature, mathematics, English, Khmer and sports. Students at both drop-in centers are provided with refreshments to encourage them.

Lastly, MKK runs two kindergartens, where 49 children receive early childhood care and development (ECCD). The students learn some vocabulary and numbers, as well as life skills such as how to follow rules and how to interact and play with other children. The ECCD program works closely together with the parents of the children to make sure they understand the importance of education and point out the development, their children have gone through. This will help the children in their further studies, as they are less likely to drop out due to the basic education they have received and due to the support they will receive from their families.

In addition to their education, students learn how to do organic farming. Those skills will help them to improve their nutrition and economic position in the future. Some students also taught their families, how to do organic farming at home. However, the students will not only profit in the future, even now they profit from it, as the harvested vegetables will add to their nutrition.

Students at MKK are provided with primary health care and medical, as well as hygienic counselling by a nurse. They are provided with medication if needed and receive one on one counselling on personal hygiene.

On December 13th, the Alumni Association of MKK was brought to life. There are 166 participants, including former students from generation 1 to 7, BSDA senior staff, MKK project staff, public and private partners, teachers and donor representatives. Keeping in contact with former students and creating a space for communication and exchange will benefit both, the project and the participants themselves.

MKK staff attended a number of workshops and trainings to improve their work in the project and to improve the education.

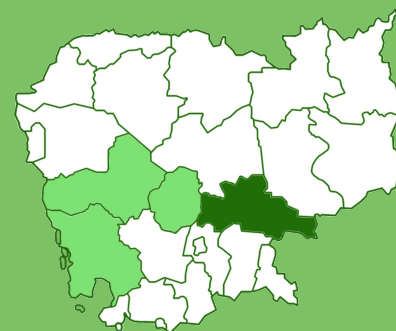




[La Maison des Enfants]

- 10 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by La Maison des Enfants
- 28,423.00\$ of donations

Support and empower orphaned children living with HIV/AIDS to become self-sufficient, educated members of the community.



Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum

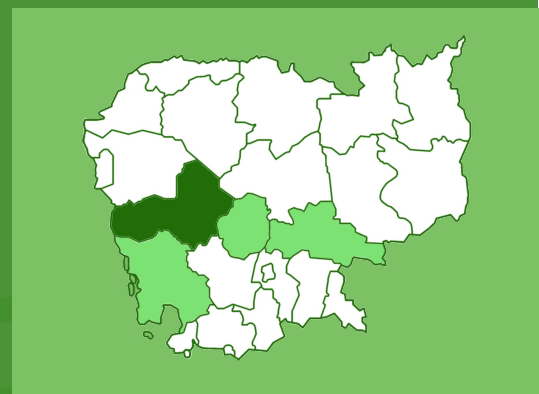
La Maison des Enfants supports children and youths living with HIV/AIDS. Currently, all 10 beneficiaries attend public schools throughout the week. They stay at the Smile Institute, where they are provided with all necessities such as food, medication, hygiene products, household materials, a bicycle to get around with and a monthly allowance. However, the students do not only receive materialistic support, but are also taken care of by the staff. They are provided with a phone to stay in contact with their relatives and talk to them on scheduled times, they are taught how to grow organic vegetables, receive counseling and participated in several workshops, as well as trainings throughout the year, teaching them morals and life skills. To ensure the students stay healthy, the project hires a nurse to stand by at the institute 3 days a week, reminds the students to take their medicine and to be wary of their personal hygiene, and takes them to see medical professionals if necessary. Therefore, all students were taken to see a dentist. As BSDA believes education is key for a secure livelihood, the staff also follows-up on the students' education regularly. Several school visits were conducted and the students were provided with the necessary support, such as extra classes, a pair of glasses for a student with vision impairment and a tuk tuk in case the students cannot get to school by bike. In addition, the aftercare program stayed in touch with Chak Kosal who graduated from the TVET program at the end of the year and now works at a private company, repairing Air-Conditioning units.



[CFE]

- 5,169 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by Rotary Club of Calgary
- 85,174.36\$ of donations

Improve learning and life-skill outcomes of children in basic education in Bakan and Phnom Kravanh districts of Pursat province.



Pursat

Child's Future Education is a sustainable project run for three years, aiming for better basic education by improving the educational system and by raising awareness in the communities. To reach the goals, CFE works closely together with local authorities, other NGOs, school staff, students and parents.

In cooperation with PoE and DoE, effective teaching, learning and school management were further improved. Therefore, the staff of 19 target schools underwent several trainings throughout the year. Trainings included e.g. database management training, fluency reading teaching, classroom management, teaching methodology, lesson planning and use of teaching materials. Furthermore, learning environments of the target schools were improved under the supervision of PoE and DoE following the examples of two model primary schools in Phoum O and Prash Mlou set up by the CFE program. This included improvement of: school environment, sanitation, classroom decoration, learning and teaching style, student council and more.

Since the beginning of the program, the percentage of grade 3 students who can read proficiently at their grade level in the target schools has doubled (12.4% to 31% in 2019). Yet, their numeracy skills barely improved (7.34% to 7.42% in 2019).

To further improve the basic education in the 19 target school, studying outside class time was promoted by setting up libraries and by training members of the student councils in peer education. The members of the student councils attended their training regularly and became strong leaders during group activities in their schools.

As part of the community work, CFE focused on giving a voice to the young generation in the target villages and on raising awareness on the problems and struggles children are faced with in their everyday life. Following a research on the challenges, children are faced with in their everyday life, run by the student councils of four target communes, commune councils provided learning materials to poor children and closed gambling places. CCs also accepted representative children to become CCWC members and join their quarterly meetings, where they raised awareness on issues such as children dropping out of school, lack of learning materials, teachers not preparing lessons, domestic violence, poverty and gambling among orphaned children and so on. Through this, their voice grew more powerful and even local authorities paid attention to the Child/Youth representatives. In September 2019 13 child/youth representatives joined a meeting for the 2020 Commune Investment Program leading to 17 child issues to be included in the CIP and therefore leading to an increase of budget of each commune from 35,000 USD to 75,000USD.

A second step in community work, was to set up School Support Committees in all 19 target schools. The SSCs are elected by parents and acknowledged by the commune council and DoE. SSCs help to solve problems in school such as developing the school infrastructure, help drop out students back to school and function as a mediator between parents and the school, e.g. proposing improvement points and complaints made by parents during school meetings.

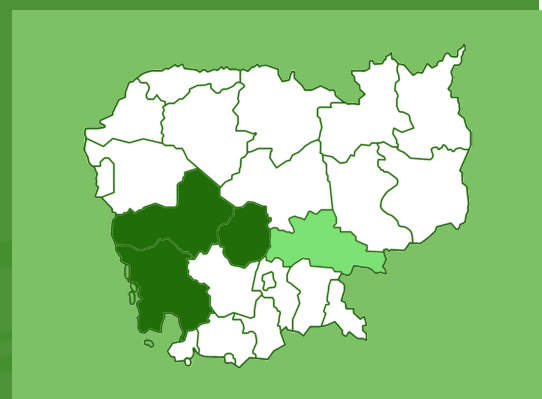




[BE]

- 7,171 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by Save the Children Norway (Norad) and Save the Children Cambodia
- 89,327.60\$ of donations

The goal is the sustainable prioritization of children in decision making at a local level, ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls, and building positive relationships with actors.



Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Koh Kong

The basic education program worked together with 21 target primary schools in Pursat, Kampong Chhnang and Koh Kong. As BE is a phase out program, it focuses on sustainably improving the schools and school management, training the staff and students. The schools will then self-school and cluster school to apply and share the obtained knowledge among their own staff as well as staff at other schools. The training was executed in cooperation with P/DoE and included literacy and numeracy, producing reading material, teaching techniques, teaching aid production, setting annual schedule, assessments, school mapping and the importance of quality leaning environment. Members of the student councils also received training in role and responsibility of Children Councils and how to influence school planning and budgeting. They successfully set up a plan to submit for the community investment plans for 2019/20 in their communities.

BE promotes inclusivity and equity in education and therefore ran trainings for teachers on how to support students with disabilities, both physical and mental. The needs of Children with

disabilities were met, as staff ensured, they have an adequate learning environment, e.g. pay extra attention to and spend more time on their learning, offer seats closer to the white board or closer to the teacher and encourage them to stay motivated. Furthermore, children living in poverty were supplied with study materials to ensure equity and set equal opportunities for their studies. Equity was also ensured between genders, as more girls and women were appointed leadership roles such as becoming a member of the student council.

In order to strengthen the school community, BE worked together with school management committees, reminding them of their roles and responsibilities. In addition, classroom committees were set up, to create higher quality learning environments. One classroom committee in Tiroumkhet primary school, for example, mobilized community resources to pay for fans, paint and land.

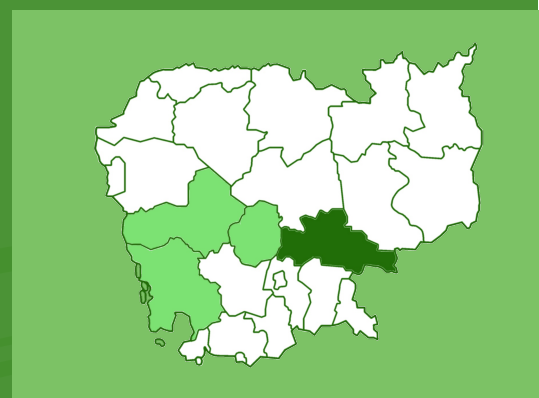




[FPP]

- 10,568 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by PSI Cambodia
- 35,117.36\$ of donations

Support young women in family planning by educating them about birth spacing methods and contraceptives, as well as making such accessible.



Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum

The family planning project aims to raise awareness on birth spacing and birth control. The project focuses on working with postnatal and post-abortion women. There are five methods promoted: IUDs, implants, injections, pills and condoms. Most women decide to use an IUD, as they are low in cost and maintenance. Throughout the year, the 9 project staffs educated 813 women about modern birth spacing methods one-on-one. In total, 10,568 women received pregnancy counseling.





[CASE STUDY]

Ms. Leng Phalla, a 24-year-old factory worker, and her husband, Khy Sovannahong, 29, work in motorbike business in Ampil Leu village, Ampil commune, Kampong Siem District, Kampong Cham province. After marriage, she has two children (two girls) that made her much busy with take care children did not have enough time to work and help husband in repairing the motorcycle to support the family. She said, presently her family is living with poor condition and after second baby she want to find birth spacing service because she was afraid of having an accidental baby (youngest children was only 2 months and half years old). She also discusses with her husband about family situation that met difficult time right now to

solve together whether should seek birth spacing services or not since she had two children and after discussed her husband was agreed with her request.

One day early morning project staff has reached out to her home for detailed counseling on all birth spacing service and pregnancy options and she was very happy to understand all of the birth spacing method which she had never received such information before. After received adequate information from the community education staff, she was very interested with birth spacing method of IUD because of its long duration, minimal side effects, low budget, no need to remember to take pills daily, especially she wanted menstruation regular at the same time, she does not really want to have children without planning. She decided go to a Sun clinic that near her house with her husband as well.

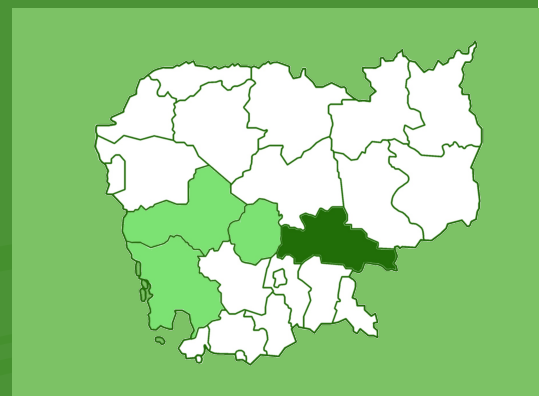
Finally, She would deeply thank to PSI donors for providing fund to support Family Planning project through Buddhism for Social Development Action (BSDA), and especially to project staff for support, and help educated her, as well as other women in the communities, to become better informed and better in family planning in the future. And she promises to promote, encourage and share the experiences to other women in the village as well as women who want to understand and change their attitudes towards to 5 modern birth spacing method as well as access to safe or well-trained health or abortion services like she has received too.



[FF + CR]

- 478 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by GlobeMed, Apsara Foundation
- 6,955.00\$ of donations

Helping beneficiaries to set up a small business, allowing them to send their children to school. Assisting PLHIV to support themselves.



Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum

The goal of financing futures is to increase the economic livelihoods of households so they can send their children to school. Therefore, loans with no interest rate are lent to the 115 (5 PLHIV) target families, allowing them to set up a small business. The families are supposed to pay back the money during the following 20 months. However, many families struggle to earn enough money and cannot pay all the money back during the set period of time. Even though, they struggle to pay back the loans, 85% of the families still send all their kids to school. To achieve sustainability, the project set up self-help groups. Beneficiaries can help each other and stay in contact, therefore needing less support from the project.

The chicken raising program supports 52 people living with HIV and 2 OVCs. Through chicken raising, the beneficiaries are able to pay for their living. PLHIV receive medication and attend health check-ups regularly. The project staff conducted refresher trainings on chicken raising, as not all beneficiaries followed the instructions given in the previous trainings. Only very few beneficiaries were able to pay back the loan during the two year period.



[CASE STUDY]

Ms Khem Sreyoun is 37 year's old, lives in Chonghuk Village, Ampil Lue Commune, Kampong Siem District, Kampong Cham province. After her husband pass away she is living with four children. Her family have met difficult time on family income and children education because her family is poor. She said, she cannot support her children go to school anymore because her husband died. But when BSDA staff and CSV have met her and were advised again about advantage of education and benefit of projects. From now on, she doesn't want all the children stop study "I don't have money to give them but I give them to get the education" she hope that in the

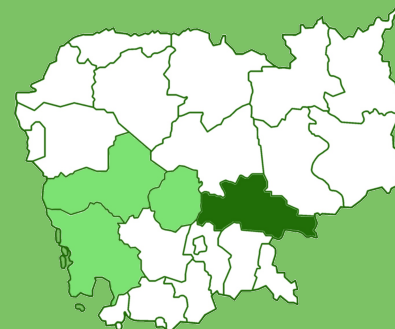
future all the children have knowledge will be supporting by themselves. All of the children in school the first children name's Sam Sophea 19 years old, she is studying fresh year at University (Saturday and Sunday). Second children name's Sam Sophorn 17 years old, she is studying grade 10 and go to school every day. Third children name's Sam Sreyleak 13 years old, she is studying grade 6 and got scholarship from MKK project. Last children name's Sam Sokheng 6 years old, he is studying grade 1 and go to school every day too. She has requested 200 USD a loan to integrate her business. BSDA staff and CSV was invited her to participate on business training course. She very interested in the course and she could learn the business concepts as how to deal with buyers, saving money, and hygiene as well. Base on visiting and observation, project staff and CSV was decided to provide USD 200 for integration her business to support family and children access schooling. Her plan use money for buy seeds, fertilizer and something for supporting vegetable grow. Before she got money from BSDA she has earned from USD 95 per month and after she got money from BSDA she has earned from USD 100 to USD 120 per month. Actually, earning from USD100 to USD 120 of her selling vegetables, she expensed on gas, food, operation on existing business. In addition, she allocated some money to support family, children education, USD10 for repay to SHG and USD 2.50 for saving with VSL group. Ms Khem Sreyoun thankful GlobeMed for support capital vegetable grow and thanks BSDA for provide capital information, training course related to business.





- 122,910 direct beneficiaries
- Supported by World Vision International
- 29,252.62\$ of donations

Improve public services, raise awareness and increase participation in public matters.



Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum

I-SAF is a project implemented by the RGC and civil society organizations. It aims to improve public services and to increasing the participation of the society in subnational politics and decision making. There are four key activities spread throughout the annual I-SAF cycle. The first trimester focuses on information and learning. I4Cs are provided and trainings on budget literacy are conducted. During the second trimester, monitoring takes place. Community members participate in producing scoreboards to collect feedback and interface meetings are held. Lastly, during the third trimester, mutually agreed actions get incorporated into CIPs. Those actions will be carried out during the second year, while further improvement is implemented. BSDA leads trainings for CAFs and helps spreading information as well as raising awareness in the communities. Furthermore, BSDA ensures, that members of vulnerable groups can participate in meetings and trainings, enabling them to share about obstacles they face in their every-day life. Those obstacles will then be considered in future planning and budgeting, improving the life situation of vulnerable community members and therefore, improving the general well-being of the community. However, in 2019, some actions had to be delayed due to the political situation.

