



READING AND LEARNING TO BUILD THE FUTURE



ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

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Sipar has been IDEAS-certified since 2023, a recognition awarded to organizations that demonstrate strong practices in governance, financial management, and the monitoring and evaluation of their programs.

Based on an independent audit process, the certification attests to the quality of the association's management and its ability to carry out its mission with transparency, effectiveness, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

True to its values of respecting cultures, sharing knowledge, and empowering communities, Sipar continues to strengthen its commitment to delivering increasingly innovative, sustainable, and locally relevant programs that respond to the needs of the communities we serves.

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAMS IN PHNOM PENH AND VERSAILLES

The year 2025 was marked by three major challenges for Sipar: the announced decrease in institutional funding, the increasingly significant shift in the priorities of public and private donors, and economic difficulties that are weakening a growing number of partners. This development comes at a time when the educational and social needs of the most vulnerable populations continue to grow.

In Cambodia, this context was further aggravated by tensions along the Thai border, which led to population displacement, disrupted the education system and increased the precariousness of the families concerned. In several affected provinces, secondary schools partnering with our “Youth Empowerment” program had to temporarily suspend their activities, impacting the implementation of the project and the young beneficiaries.

In response to this situation, Sipar had to quickly adapt its interventions. As early as July 2025, the Little Prince mobile library, supported by the FASEJ, was urgently redeployed to the displacement camps in Siem Reap Province to offer children spaces for reading, learning and support. More than ever, education serves as an essential source of stability in times of uncertainty.

Despite a particularly challenging environment and a fleet reduced to 11 mobile libraries, Sipar continued its mission with determination. More than 15,000 beneficiaries benefited from our mobile libraries. Our activities in brick factories continued to support more than 1,200 children, nearly 2,000 adults and 300 adolescents who had dropped out of school. Meanwhile, our programme dedicated to youth empowerment continued to expand by equipping 25 partner secondary schools with a Library and Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC).

The year 2025 also marked the completion of the “Education in Prison” project. Today, all 28 prisons in the country are equipped with multimedia libraries, benefiting more than 55,000 people in detention. Pilot Multimedia Educational Centers (CEM) were established in seven facilities, reaching nearly 700 beneficiaries among the prison population. The encouraging results achieved in training and reintegration are now paving the way for a new phase of the programme.

Finally, our publishing house continued its mission of disseminating books by publishing 14 new titles. Its catalogue now includes more than 320 books, while 3.6 million copies have been printed since its creation.

The challenges encountered this year illustrate the growing gap between the increasing needs on the ground and the decrease in resources available to respond to them. In this context, continuing our actions with the most vulnerable populations requires, more than ever, strong, loyal and diversified partnerships.

To all those who support us, we express our deepest gratitude. Thanks to your trust and commitment, Sipar continues to circulate books, create learning opportunities and support the most vulnerable, with the unwavering conviction that education remains one of the most powerful tools for fighting poverty and building a fairer future.

Our teams in Phnom Penh and Versailles

ABOUT SIPAR

Reading and Learning to Build the Future

Sipar, a charitable organisation recognised under the French Law of 1901, was initially established in 1982 in Versailles, France, to welcome refugees from Southeast Asia. Since 1991, Sipar has been working in the education sector in Cambodia. Sipar contributes to the fight against illiteracy and promotes reading for all through the development of a network of libraries and other reading spaces, both fixed and mobile, in primary and secondary schools, rural and remote villages, informal settlements, textile factories, brick factories, prisons and hospitals. Beyond access to books, these facilities provide spaces for learning, exchange and support that promote educational achievement, prevent school dropout, encourage youth engagement, help young people prepare for their future, and support the development and empowerment of the most vulnerable communities.

In partnership with the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), other relevant public institutions, local authorities and communities, as well as local and international organisations, Sipar continues to promote and disseminate books throughout the country by developing innovative programmes.

Aware of the situation of the publishing sector and the shortage of books in Khmer, Sipar's mission was expanded in 2000 to include a programme for publishing books in Khmer for children, young people and adults. Despite the progress made over recent decades, challenges related to access to education and reading proficiency remain significant in Cambodia. Even today, approximately one in six adults still lacks basic reading and writing skills. While 97% of children attend primary school, only 80–82% complete this cycle, and only around 40% continue on to lower secondary school.

43 years of activity
53 Cambodian employees
(30 women)

14 members
of the Board of Directors

1 national coverage
in
25 provinces & municipalities

+350 000 direct beneficiaries
654 libraries and reading places in operation

OUR VISION

An **educated and literate** Cambodian population, **empowered** to build a sustainable future for their country.

OUR MISSION

To contribute to **human development** in Cambodia, in particular that of the disadvantaged populations, by promoting reading and access to knowledge and education.

OUR VALUES

- Independence
- Transparency
- Respect for Cultural Diversity
- Transmission
- Innovation
- Empowerment



Education and Reading for All:

- 11 mobile libraries operating across 78 sites in 7 provinces: 7 mobile library vans, 2 library tuk-tuks and 2 library boats
- 28 prisons equipped with a multimedia library across all 25 provinces of Cambodia, including 7 equipped with a pilot Multimedia Educational Center
- 32 brick factories around Phnom Penh
- 86 micro-libraries established in rural areas, directly in volunteers' homes as well as in preschools and primary schools
- 1 reading corner within the Paediatric Oncology Department of Jayavarman VII Hospital in Siem Reap
- 25 Library and Education Centers in textile factories across 9 provinces, including Phnom Penh

Youth Empowerment:

- 23 Community-Based Organisations (CBO) registered in 3 provinces (Prey Veng, Kratie and Svay Rieng), with 39 micro-libraries and 46 backpack libraries active in communities and rural villages
- 23 NomadLabs (mobile digital laboratories) available within the CBO
- 25 public secondary schools equipped with a Library and Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC)
- 1 juvenile rehabilitation center equipped with a VOC
- 2 youth centers equipped with a VOC

School Sector:

- 318 school libraries throughout Cambodia's 25 provinces

Sipar Publishing:

- 3.6 million books printed since 2001
- 89 editorial training sessions organized since 2004
- 14 new titles published in 2025
- 320 titles across 23 collections 2004



OUR PRIORITY SDGS

4
QUALITY EDUCATION

10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

17
PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

OUR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

3
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5
GENDER EQUALITY

8
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

12
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

16
PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

To support the disadvantaged populations and help them develop the habit of reading, and to promote access to books, information and education that are essential for socio-economic development.



EDUCATION AND READING FOR ALL PROGRAMS



MOBILE LIBRARIES

Context: With a literacy rate of only 84%, the lowest in Southeast Asia, Cambodia still leaves many people without access to books and knowledge, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. Women remain the most affected by illiteracy. The Khmer language, whose reading and writing are particularly complex to learn, requires several years of effort before it can be mastered. For children whose schooling is interrupted at an early age, these learning processes often remain incomplete, and difficulties with reading and writing persist into adulthood, perpetuating the cycle of illiteracy. These disruptions to educational pathways particularly affect the most vulnerable populations, for whom access to quality education and reading resources remains limited.

In the face of the near-total absence of libraries and cultural infrastructure in many rural and disadvantaged areas, Sipar's mobile libraries have played an essential role for more than 20 years in promoting access to reading, education and information. They offer reading activities, book lending, educational support, as well as awareness-raising sessions on major social issues.

In 2025, the fleet consisted of 11 mobile libraries operating across 78 sites in 8 provinces (Takeo, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Ratanakiri and Pursat) and in Phnom Penh, comprising 7 mobile library vans, 2 library tuk-tuks and 2 library boats. The teams continued their activities with vulnerable communities while adapting their interventions to new needs. More than 15,000 beneficiaries (including 7,900 girls) were reached.

Tensions along the border with Thailand also had a direct impact on Sipar's activities. From December 2025, the Le Little Prince mobile library, supported by the FASEJ, was urgently redeployed to displacement camps in Siem Reap Province to work with children who had left their homes

and interrupted their schooling. The objective is to maintain access to education in a context marked by population displacement and uncertainty.

As every year, the teams continued their awareness-raising activities on key topics such as health, nutrition, road safety and the environment. In 2025, Sipar also initiated a new partnership with Graine de Culture to support the activities of the mobile library dedicated to scientific discovery through the promotion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). The vehicle travelled through different regions of Cambodia to bring scientific discoveries and hands-on experimentation closer to children with the least access to educational opportunities. From remote villages in Ratanakiri to displacement camps in Siem Reap Province, it fostered curiosity, creativity and openness to new learning opportunities.

From February 2025, the mobile library also became a weekly feature of Phnom Penh's "Walking Street", at the invitation of the municipality. Every Saturday and Sunday evening, in front of the Royal Palace, it offers a reading space and book-related activities for young children and families. This presence made it possible to reach a new audience and make reading an accessible and enjoyable activity in the heart of the capital.

Finally, Sipar expanded its network of community micro-libraries, established directly in the homes of local volunteers as well as in preschools and primary schools in rural areas. In 2025, 86 micro-libraries were active, including 11 new ones, helping to sustainably strengthen access to books and maintain reading habits within the communities served.



MOBILE LIBRARIES



HORN TRY,

11 years old, Dei Roneath



MR. PHOK MAKARA,
Grade 6 teacher at Ang
Chum Phnum Chochork
Primary School

My name is Horn Try and I live in the floating village of Dei Roneath, in Pursat Province. I am in Grade 6, but I also work to help my family. During the day, I go fishing because I became one of the people bringing money home from a very young age. So I can only attend the BEEP programme classes in the evening.

Since I started the programme, I have already completed several subjects, such as mathematics and Khmer. I enjoy learning and I think I can pass the final exam. During a visit organised in Pursat Province, I also discovered that I really like mechanics and electronics. It made me want to learn more.

I believe that the BEEP programme will help me find a better job in the future and improve my family's living conditions. I want to continue studying, even though it is not always easy.

Since Sipar's mobile library started coming to our school, I have noticed a real change in my students. The activities, and especially the STEAM experiments, impress them a lot. It is something they had never had the opportunity to discover before. After every visit, they always ask me when the truck will come back.

I also see a difference in the classroom. The students read more, are more interested in books and participate more easily.

7 
Van Libraries

 **78 locations**
served

2 

Tuk-tuks Libraries

2 

Boat Libraries

86 Micro-Libraries



15,000
Beneficiaries



MOBILE LIBRARIES FOR DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS

Contexte : Nearly 16.6% of Cambodians live below the poverty line, meaning they live on less than US\$2.15 per person per day. The majority of disadvantaged people live in the informal settlements of Phnom Penh, on and around Tonlé Sap Lake, or in remote mountainous areas, where poverty rates are the highest. To promote reading for everyone, Sipar focuses a significant part of its efforts on education and the development of reading practices among these vulnerable populations.

Ethnic minorities

Since 2013, Sipar has been working with the Tampuan and Jarai communities in Ratanakiri Province to promote reading and provide educational support to children. Using a library tuk-tuk, the team travels to 11 remote villages in Bakeo District, offering interactive reading sessions, educational games and book lending services. In 2025, 2,748 children (including 1,590 girls) benefited directly from the programme. The sessions are led by a bilingual Khmer-Tampuan librarian, who supports children in learning the Khmer language and throughout their schooling.

In the slums of Phnom Penh

In Phnom Penh, Sipar supports families living in informal settlements, where residents face extremely precarious living conditions and very limited access to education and healthcare. The year was marked by the deployment of a new library tuk-tuk, in partnership with the Magic Libraries Foundation, in the heart of these neighbourhoods to strengthen access to books and provide better support to children in the eight most vulnerable target communities.

Sipar returns to hospitals

After six years away, Sipar is once again working in hospitals. As a result of a collaboration initiated in 2025 with the Magic Libraries Foundation, this return took place in the Paediatric Oncology Department of Jayavarman VII

Hospital in Siem Reap, where an average of 15 to 20 young patients per month now benefit from reading spaces and adapted activities. Designed for children hospitalised for long periods, the project offers educational and recreational activities, carried out in close collaboration with medical teams and in coordination with parents. On the ground, these activities are supported by a dedicated volunteer, helping to prevent disruption to schooling and providing an essential moment of distraction in the face of illness and intensive treatment. In the same spirit, Sipar has also been working since November 2025 at Techo Santipheap Hospital in Phnom Penh with hospitalised children.

On the lakeside and at floating villages

Around Tonlé Sap Lake, geographical isolation continues to limit access to education for many children and adolescents. To address this, Sipar's library boats operate every week among communities in floating villages. In 2025, the Pleuv Touk library boat was transferred to Dei Roneat village, which is particularly isolated on the lake, and reached 540 beneficiaries, while the one in Phat Sandai supported more than 1,550 beneficiaries.

The year was also marked by the launch of the BEEP equivalency programme, developed with UNESCO and the MoEYS for 15 young people from floating villages who had completed primary school but did not have access to lower secondary school because it was too far away. The programme covers seven essential modules (Khmer, physics, chemistry, mathematics 1 and 2, gender and basic professional skills). It will enable learners to obtain a state-recognised lower secondary school equivalency certificate, opening up new opportunities for career guidance, vocational training and practical internships, and supporting better integration into the labour market.



EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES

Contexte : *In Cambodia, families living and working in brick factories remain among the most marginalised populations and are still largely left behind. Employed in the production of construction materials used to fuel the urban development of major cities, these families live in conditions of extreme poverty. The low payment per brick produced (between €0.0005 and €0.0007 on average) limits income to between US\$3.50 and 7 per day per worker. This piece-rate payment system, combined with debts contracted with factory owners, creates economic dependency that is sometimes passed down over several generations and encourages parents to seek their children's help with daily work. In this environment, children, out-of-school adolescents and women are particularly vulnerable, with very limited access to education, healthcare and sustainable prospects for the future.*

Since 2018, Sipar has been working in these communities to strengthen access to reading, education and social development for children and adolescents, while supporting families in sustainably improving their living conditions.

In 2025, thanks to the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) and our partners, Sipar continued its activities in 32 brick factories located approximately 30 kilometres from Phnom Penh, in Kandal Province. The educational and tutoring activities offered by four mobile libraries benefited more than 1,437 children, including 724 girls. Among them, 778 children, including 378 girls, received support with school enrolment, from preschool to secondary school, for the 2025–2026 school year. Thanks to this support, the project is achieving particularly encouraging results: nearly 100% of school-age children now attend primary school, compared with 20 to 50% before the project began, illustrating a significant improvement in children's retention in the education system.

Particular attention is given to vulnerable or out-of-school adolescents. In 2025, 603 young people, including 306 girls, strengthened their social skills through activities offered by Sipar and designed according to the needs identified among these young people.

In addition, Sipar continues to work with local schools to promote the educational inclusion of children from brick factories. In 2025, six primary school libraries and 20 micro-libraries were strengthened to ensure sustainable access to books for children from brick factories and surrounding communities.

Finally, collaboration with our local partner Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) remains essential. In 2025, 1,558 adults, including 782 women, took part in awareness-raising activities on health, hygiene, nutrition, family budget management and the prevention of domestic violence. Evaluations highlight significant changes within families, including a sharp decrease in domestic violence (estimated at between 70 and 90%), improved family budget management (62% of families reported reducing non-essential spending, compared with 23% previously), as well as greater parental involvement in education, with 94% of parents actively supporting their children's schooling.



EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES

The program's key activities

- 4 mobile libraries serve 32 brick factories, enabling reading, education and social development activities to be organised for children and adolescents.
- 1,437 children (724 girls) participate in weekly reading sessions, including 1,241 children (627 girls) who benefit from weekly tutoring sessions with the support of librarian-educators.
- 64 peer educators have been trained, including 56 women and 8 men, and are taking over from CWPD trainers in delivering key messages to the 1,558 adult beneficiaries.
- 603 out-of-school adolescents benefit from adapted socio-educational support programmes to help them return to education.
- Collaboration with schools to support the enrollment of 778 children from brick factories, with school kits distributed to promote their inclusion.
- 20 community volunteers (including 16 women) run local micro-libraries, strengthening community engagement and participation.



My name is Chan Dy and I am in Grade 5. I live with my family in a brick factory. I really enjoy reading, so whenever the Sipar mobile library comes, I always borrow books. My favourite book is called "11 Tips for Being an Effective Student". Thanks to this book, I have learned how to better organise my time, work harder and set goals for school. Since then, I have been paying more attention to my studies and always trying to improve.

Next year, I will start lower secondary school and I am a little nervous, but also very motivated. I want to continue my studies because I have a dream: to become a teacher. In the future, I would like to help the children in my community, just as Sipar's books and activities have helped me today.



CHAN DY,
10 years old



EDUCATION IN PRISONS

Contexte : Access to education in prison remains a major challenge in Cambodia, where a large proportion of people in detention have not completed their schooling. Yet education is an essential tool for supporting social reintegration, strengthening skills and reducing the risk of reoffending. For more than 13 years, Sipar has been working with the Directorate General of Prisons (DGP) to develop a national network of prison libraries, offline digital resources (NomadLab), as well as educational and reintegration programmes adapted to the needs of people in detention.

The year 2025 marked an important milestone with the completion of the “Education in Prisons” project. After several years of implementation, the project leaves behind a sustainable system: all 28 prisons in Cambodia now have libraries equipped with several thousand books and a digital laboratory with free access, providing more than 55,000 people in detention with sustainable access to reading and educational resources. This completion also marks the transition to a new phase, focused on the development of Multimedia Educational Centers (CEM) and their gradual integration into public policies.

Project completion and institutional handover

The prison libraries continue to play an essential role in the daily life of the facilities and are now managed autonomously by prison officers serving as librarians and by inmate

assistants. People in detention can read on site, borrow books to read in their cells and have free access to the digital laboratory (122 applications, 800 e-books, novels, stories and documents, and 380 educational videos downloaded). Boxes of books are made available in cells for those who cannot access the library for security reasons.

One of the highlights of the year was the organisation of the national project completion and transfer workshop, bringing together representatives from all 28 prisons, the DGP, the MoEYS, as well as technical and institutional partners.

Multimedia Educational Centers : a new step towards education

Alongside the completion of the “Education in Prisons” project, Sipar continued to develop the pilot project for Multimedia Educational Centers (CEM) in seven pilot prisons, with the support of the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID). True learning spaces, these centers combine offline digital resources through a high-performance server, educational support and certified training programmes. The objective is to strengthen the skills of people in detention and prepare them for their social and professional reintegration.

28 
libraries equipped with a
digital laboratory, reaching
55,000 beneficiaries

6,600
readers and more than
200,000
book loans

2,300
Nomad Lab
users



714
people in detention
completed a certified
training programme
(including 113 women)



EDUCATION IN PRISONS

Developed in partnership with the DGP, the MoEYS, and UNESCO, the CEM offer four complementary learning pathways:

- The Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP), enabling learners to obtain an official equivalency certificate for lower secondary education
- Basic English courses certified by Paññasatra University in Phnom Penh
- Digital literacy
- The Skills for Development Program (SDP), dedicated to developing social skills and preparing for reintegration.

Learner support also relies on a tutoring system, which is one of the strengths of the project. Prison officers, trained in managing the CEM and using the educational platforms, provide daily support throughout the training programmes. They are supported by volunteer inmates who assist their peers with their learning. At the end of the year, this system was strengthened through the involvement of students from Paññasatra University, who came to lead English and social skills mentoring sessions at the women's prison (Correctional Center 2).

Encouraging results to prepare for the next phase

The first results of the pilot project are particularly encouraging: 96% of participants reported feeling better prepared for their reintegration after completing the training. Beneficiaries are also developing more concrete professional plans.

The BEEP programme, meanwhile, reached a decisive milestone with the organisation of the first official examinations in the seven pilot prisons. By the end of the year, 75 learners, including 13 women, had obtained their official certificate, with a 100% success rate.

These results, together with the numerous discussions held throughout the year with the DGP, the MoEYS, UNESCO and other partners, have helped prepare the next stage of this innovative programme. The latter aims to progressively integrate this system into public policies and support its expansion to eight additional facilities across the country.

PANHA,

BEEP programme participant at the Women's Correctional Center CC2



Before I was incarcerated, I had to interrupt my studies to help my family work in the rice fields, and I thought I would never be able to resume them. Thanks to the BEEP programme, I finally had the opportunity to continue my education and work towards a qualification recognised by the Ministry of Education. Studying has given me back my confidence. Beyond the knowledge I have gained in Khmer, mathematics, digital skills and other subjects, this certification gives me hope and real prospects for finding a job and rebuilding my life after my release.



To support secondary school students and members of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) located in villages in remote rural areas; to improve their job prospects and help them become actors supportive of the education and social development of their communities.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Contexte : In Cambodia, people under the age of 30 represent nearly 60% of the population, a population full of potential but still too often left behind, particularly in remote rural areas where schools lack resources and vocational training opportunities are scarce. Many young people find themselves without qualifications or prospects for the future, caught in a cycle of precariousness and disengagement.

To address this challenge, Sipar, in partnership with the MoEYS and with funding from the French Development Agency (AFD), initiated in 2021 a program to help break this cycle. The "Youth Empowerment Program" aims to equip these young people with the knowledge and skills to permanently enter the workforce and become active members of their communities.

This approach responds to increasingly pressing challenges in Cambodia. A study published by UNESCO in 2025 highlights changes in the country's educational challenges: while disparities in access to primary school between girls and boys have been significantly reduced, boys are now more exposed to dropping out at secondary level. In 2024, only 57% of boys were enrolled in school, compared with 65% of girls, and 17% of boys dropped out during secondary school, compared with 13% of girls. These findings highlight the need to focus efforts on keeping all young people in the education system and supporting them towards concrete opportunities for their future.

2025: a year of large-scale deployment

The year 2025 marked a major milestone with the strengthening and expansion of the network of Library with Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC), which now comprises 28 equipped libraries. Ten new school libraries were established in partner public secondary schools, completing the deployment of the network across the 25 public secondary schools in rural and remote areas supported by the program. Equipped with digital laboratories and a variety of educational resources, these libraries provide students with an environment conducive to reading, independent learning and the development of their digital skills.

The programme also expanded its activities with the creation of three new VOC at the National Youth Center in Siem Reap, the Kandal Youth Center and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. At the latter, nearly 350 young people benefited in 2025 from access to books, digital tools and a space that supports their learning, skills development and preparation for reintegration.

Supporting young people in their future choices

Beyond infrastructure, the second phase of the project (2024–2027) strengthens support for young people in their choices of studies and careers. In partnership with the Department of Vocational Orientation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Sipar contributed to the training of 56 career guidance counsellors. Deployed in partner schools, these counsellors now support secondary school students as they consider their options after the baccalaureate,

28 Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners
set up and equipped with digital laboratories

34,000 student beneficiaries

42 Career Forums

173 Teachers trained
(53 women)



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

help them learn more about study and vocational training pathways, and support them in developing their future plans.

This support was complemented by the organisation of 42 Career and Study Forums, both in person and online. These meetings enabled students to exchange with universities, training centres and professionals from a wide range of sectors, helping them better understand the opportunities available to them and prepare for further education or entry into the workforce.

Capacity building for educational teams also continued through training for the remaining teachers and educational staff, covering library management, the use of digital resources and educational activities.

Young people engaged in their communities

The Community-Based Organisations (CBO) continued their activities in rural communities with younger people through tutoring activities, reading activities using backpack libraries, the development of community micro-libraries and awareness-raising campaigns. Training and support for members also continued throughout the year.

A year also marked by border tensions

The year 2025 was also marked by tensions along the border between Cambodia and Thailand, which had a direct impact on several partner schools in the programme.

Six public secondary schools located in the provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Preah Vihear, Pailin and Siem Reap had to temporarily close their doors, disrupting the education of more than 3,600 students. Despite this context, Sipar remained fully committed alongside its local partners, regularly monitoring the situation and remaining ready to respond to the needs of the schools and communities concerned.

DY TOUNSEREYROTH,

Grade 11 student at Chakriyavong
High School in Kep and volunteer at
a Career Forum



I chose to volunteer at the Career and Study Forum organised at my school to better understand the opportunities available to us after the baccalaureate. By helping organise the event and talking with the professionals who attended, I discovered many different study and career paths. This experience allowed me to think more concretely about my future, build my confidence and develop my study plans with greater peace of mind.



23 CBOs with
equipped with
NomadLab

511
members

(387 girls)

46 
backpack libraries
700 readers
per month

64 Little
teachers

beneficiaries
of their
tutoring

39 
micro-libraries
among members

26 AWARENESS
campaigns
with
3,070 
participants

Contributing to the education of the Cambodian population by publishing for children, teachers, educators and the general public a wide variety of quality books corresponding to their tastes and their needs.

BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM





BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

Contexte : For several years, interest in reading has been growing in Cambodia, both in schools and in homes. The growing success of the Phnom Penh National Book Fair is evidence of this enthusiasm. Held in December 2025 around the theme “Books as Intellectual Tools and Food for Thought”, its 12th edition brought together nearly 90,000 visitors and 300 exhibitors. Despite slightly lower attendance due to tensions along the border between Cambodia and Thailand, the event confirms Cambodians’ growing interest in books.

In 2025, Sipar continued its commitment to developing the Cambodian publishing landscape with the publication of 14 new titles. The year was marked by the expansion of the editorial team’s skills and the strengthening of the sales team, support for a new generation of Cambodian authors and illustrators, as well as the development of new tools to improve the distribution of publications.

A new step in the development of the publishing house

Following the developments initiated in 2024 to strengthen the publishing house’s development strategy, Sipar continued to structure its publishing activities in 2025.

The year 2025 was marked by the arrival of a new Sales and Marketing Manager for Sipar Publishing. Responsible for developing sales and strengthening commercial partnerships, he supports the development of the

publishing house and contributes to its financial recovery after two deficit years.

This dynamic was also reflected in the development of the editorial services offered by Sipar Publishing to authors, institutions and organisations wishing to publish their works. This activity demonstrates the recognition of its expertise and provides an additional source of income, contributing to the development and economic balance of the publishing house.

Sipar also developed a Khmer-language e-catalogue bringing together all of its publications. Freely accessible, it makes it easier for libraries, schools, partners and readers to discover the books, while strengthening the visibility of the catalogue.

Strengthening editorial skills

Strengthening the skills of the editorial team remains a priority in order to support the development of Cambodian publishing.

In January 2025, with the support of the Institut français du Vietnam, two members of the editorial team took part in a professional visit to France, beginning with the 52nd Angoulême International Comics Festival. This experience enabled them to discover the international rights market, exchange with French and foreign publishing houses, and explore the latest trends in contemporary comics.

The visit continued in Versailles with a week of training alongside Sipar’s editorial advisers. Focusing on edito-

14
Nouveaux Titres
publiés
en 2025

320 **23**
TITRES collections
publiés depuis 2001

3,6millions
d’EXEMPLAIRES
publiés depuis 2001

SESSIONS
de formation
depuis
2004



BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

rial planning, book development methods and promotional strategies, the training was also enriched by visits to publishing houses, specialised bookshops and French cultural institutions.

The visit continued in Versailles with a week of training alongside Sipar's editorial advisers. Focusing on editorial planning, book development methods and promotional strategies, the training was also enriched by visits to publishing houses, specialised bookshops and French cultural institutions.

THE CHAKTO PROJECT: SUPPORTING A NEW GENERATION OF COMIC BOOK AUTHORS

The year 2025 marked an important milestone for the Chakto Books project, an initiative led by the Institut français du Cambodge to support Cambodia's cultural and creative



industries. In partnership with Avatar Publishing, Sipar leads the component dedicated to the creation of original comics in Khmer and the training of new Cambodian talents.

Two training and creation workshops brought together the 15 authors and illustrators selected for the project. Led by French comic artists Simon Hureau and JeanLouis TRIPP, they enabled participants to develop their scripts, storyboards, storytelling and artistic universes. Among them were four Sipar collaborators, one illustrator and three scriptwriters, who are now continuing, alongside the other authors and illustrators, to create the six comics.

The project was also presented to the public during Chakto en fête, held on 3 October 2025 at the Institut français du Cambodge. The six comic projects were

unveiled to the public for the first time. *A Techie Family*, by KEO Piseth, published by Avatar Publishing, became the first of the six comics to be published, paving the way for the publication of the five other albums planned for 2026.

LADAVANN COMPETITION: DISCOVERING NEW TALENTS



To encourage Cambodian literary creation, Sipar launched the Ladavann writing competition, open to khmer authors around the theme "Life and Hope".

The three winners (from 12 candidates) were announced during the 12th edition of the Phnom Penh National Book Fair in December 2025. Their short stories will be published by Sipar: the first prize will be published in October 2026, the second in November 2026 and the third in 2027. Among the award-winning authors is Leng Parkrinha, the second-place winner of the competition. Already involved in the Chakto project as the illustrator of the comic adaptation of *A Sbov* by Ang Choulean, he reveals another side of his talent here as a writer. His journey illustrates Sipar's commitment to supporting Cambodian creators in developing their skills and fostering the emergence of a new generation of authors.



BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM



CHE DANY,

from Sipar reader to first-place winner of the Ladavann Competition



Moved by “Wild Orchid”, Ladavann’s story (published in Khmer by Sipar), and as an avid reader of Sipar’s books, I wanted to take part in this competition to tell my own story. “Live! Live! Live!” was born in hospital, while I was facing a serious illness and an operation that almost cost me my life. I started writing to confront fear and pain. Through this story, I want to show that even in the darkest moments, hope can still keep us going.



FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS IN 2024, RELEASED IN KHMER LANGUAGE:



A Visit to Grandfather's

Dara is not enthusiastic about visiting her grandfather. Yet, once she arrives at his home, everything changes. A tender story celebrating curiosity, discovery and intergenerational bonds.



The Firefly

Phlek Phlek is a little firefly who is very proud of the light that shines from her tail. But one morning, the light has disappeared. As she seeks help from the Sunflower, the Bat and the Sun, she learns a lesson about self-confidence and perseverance.



Bon Phum

Nisa dreams of taking part in Bon Phum, her village festival, like all her friends. But her daily household chores prevent her from doing so. A story that highlights family responsibilities while celebrating Cambodian traditions.



The Obese Giant

While taking part in Bon Phum, a giant is suddenly struck by a severe stomach ache. After desperately searching for a toilet among the villagers, he is eventually helped by a little girl named Bobo. A humorous story that raises young readers' awareness of hygiene and sanitation issues.

FEEDBACK'S FROM SIPAR CUSTOMERS

Sokha : «I really like Sipar’s books. They are short, easy to read, and the illustrations make the stories easy to understand. As I don’t always have much time to read, these are books that really make me want to open the first page.»

Foundation for Children in Rural Areas : «Sipar’s books are always of very good quality, both in terms of content and presentation. The illustrations are carefully produced, the content is clear, and the books are very appealing to children. It is always a pleasure to offer them to young readers.»

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

ILLUSTRATOR TRAINING WITH SIMON HUREAU AND LAUNCH OF THE "SKILLS FOR DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAMME AT KAMPOT PRISON

-In January 2025, Sipar welcomed French comic book author Simon Hureau to train the Cambodian illustrators involved in the Chakto project in graphic storytelling techniques.
-In the same month, Sipar launched the Skills for Development (SDP) programme at Kampot Prison, welcoming a first cohort of 14 people in detention to strengthen their social skills and support their reintegration.



FEBRUARY

SIPAR TAKES PART IN THE LAUNCH OF PHNOM PENH'S "WALKING STREET"

In February 2025, Sipar was invited by the Phnom Penh Municipality to take part in the new "Walking Street" initiative, held every Saturday and Sunday evening along the riverfront, in front of the Royal Palace. Since then, Sipar's STEAM mobile library has regularly offered reading activities and STEAM activities there, helping to promote the enjoyment of reading among families and young people in the heart of the capital.



MARCH

TRAINING WITH JEAN-LOUIS TRIPP FOR CAMBODIAN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

In March 2025, Sipar continued the Chakto project by welcoming comic book artist and scriptwriter JeanLouis TRIPP for a second training workshop for Cambodian authors and illustrators. Following the work on scripts and storyboards, this session focused on illustration techniques and the production of comic book pages, a key step before publication.



APRIL

FIRST FINAL EXAMINATION SESSION OF THE BEEP PROGRAMME AT KOH KONG PRISON

In April 2025, Sipar organised the first final examination session of the BEEP Program at Koh Kong Prison. All 11 registered candidates obtained their diploma, representing a 100% success rate and marking an important milestone in the development of education in prison.



MAY

RENEWAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH RESPEK TO SUPPORT ETHNIC MINORITIES

In May 2025, Sipar and its partner Respek renewed their collaboration for an additional three years to continue promoting reading among indigenous communities in Ratanakiri Province. This partnership, initiated more than twelve years ago, continues to improve access to books and educational activities in the most remote villages.



JUN

LAUNCH OF A MOBILE LIBRARY IN THE PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF JAYAVARMAN VII HOSPITAL

In June 2025, Sipar, with the support of the Magic Libraries Foundation, launched a reading programme within the Paediatric Oncology Department of Jayavarman VII Hospital in Siem Reap. Twice a week, a librarian trained by Sipar offers hospitalised children reading sessions, creative activities and educational support, helping them maintain a connection with learning, prevent school dropout and improve their well-being during their hospital stay.



JULY

DEPLOYMENT OF THE BEEP PROGRAMME IN THE FLOATING VILLAGES OF PURSAT AND AFD VISIT TO CORRECTIONAL CENTRE N°2

-In July 2025, Sipar, in partnership with the MoEYS and UNESCO, expanded the activities of its library boat in the floating villages of Pursat Province with the launch of the BEEP Programme, providing children, young people and adults with better access to education despite their geographical isolation.

-In the same month, a delegation from the AFD and the French Embassy in Cambodia visited Correctional Centre N°2 (CC2) to discover the pilot education and reintegration programmes led by Sipar for women in detention, supported by the FID.



AUGUST

SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN IN SIEM REAP

In August 2025, following tensions along the border between Cambodia and Thailand, Sipar intervened in several displacement camps in Siem Reap Province to organise reading sessions and educational activities for children. These activities enabled them to continue reading, learning and escaping through books despite the circumstances.



SEPTEMBER

TRAINING FOR 50 TEACHERS FROM PARTNER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In September 2025, Sipar organised a first training session bringing together 50 teachers from the 25 partner secondary schools, focusing on project-based and inquiry-based teaching methods. Organised as part of the second phase of the Youth Empowerment project, the session aimed to promote more interactive teaching approaches to strengthen students' creativity, critical thinking and engagement.



OCTOBER

LAUNCH OF A LIBRARY AND THE BEEP PROGRAMME AT THE JUVENILE REHABILITATION CENTER

In October 2025, Sipar, in partnership with the Cambodian authorities, AFD and UNESCO, inaugurated a library, a career guidance space and the BEEP Programme at the Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Kandal Stung. This system enables nearly 350 young people hosted at the centre to access educational resources, training and support to promote their reintegration.



NOVEMBER

AFD PARIS VISIT TO THE "EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES" AND "YOUTH EMPOWERMENT" PROJECTS

In November 2025, Sipar welcomed a delegation from the Paris office of the French Development Agency (AFD) for a monitoring visit to the "Education in Brick Factories" and "Youth Empowerment" projects. The visit took place in the brick factories of Kandal and then in Siem Reap, at the National Youth Center and 28 Makara High School.



DECEMBER

NATIONAL BOOK FAIR AND LADAVANN COMPETITION

In December 2025, Sipar took part in the 12th edition of the Cambodia National Book Fair, a key event for promoting reading and publishing in the country. The event also saw the announcement of the winners of the Ladavann Competition, highlighting new talents in Cambodian literature and illustration.

OUR PARTNERS

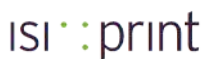
OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



OUR INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS



OUR OTHER SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

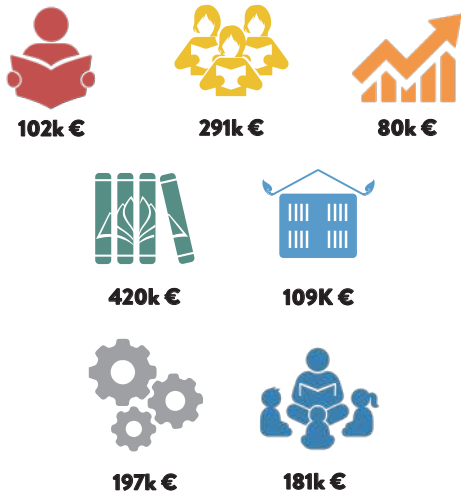
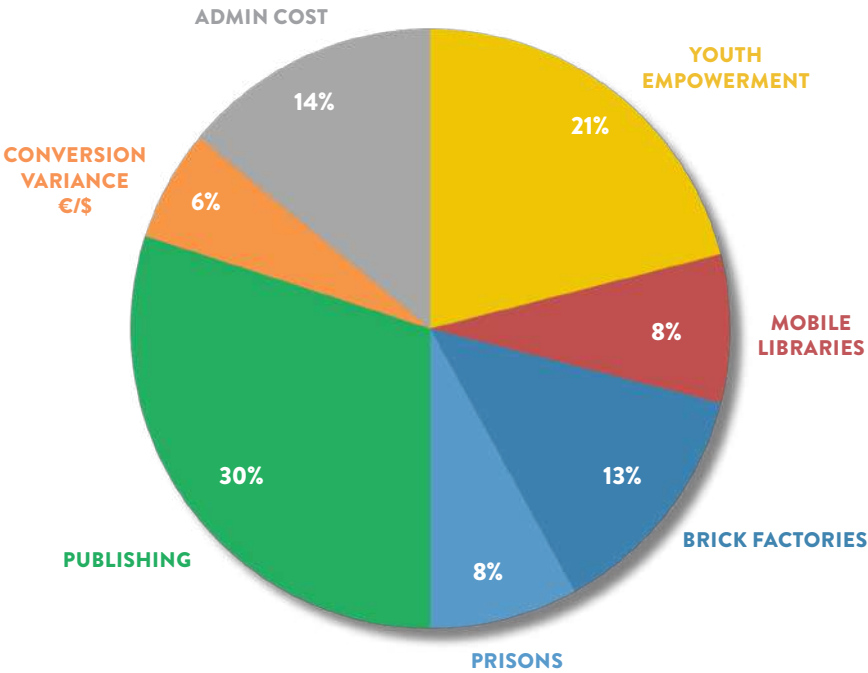


OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Asia Foundation, Cambodian Library Association, Cambodia Book Publishers Association, Cambodian Women for Peace and Development, Caritas Cambodia, Friends International, GMAC, IBBY, International Committee of the Red Cross, Krousar Thmey, Lycée Français René Descartes, Mith Samlanh, Mlop Tapang, NGO in Education Partnership, Passerelles numériques, Planète Enfants et Développement, Rabbit School, Room to Read, RTI, Save the Children, SVA, This Life Cambodia, Youth Star, EMDR, AZAHAR Foundation, Marins Sans Frontières, FACT, Graine de Culture, Sense Foundation

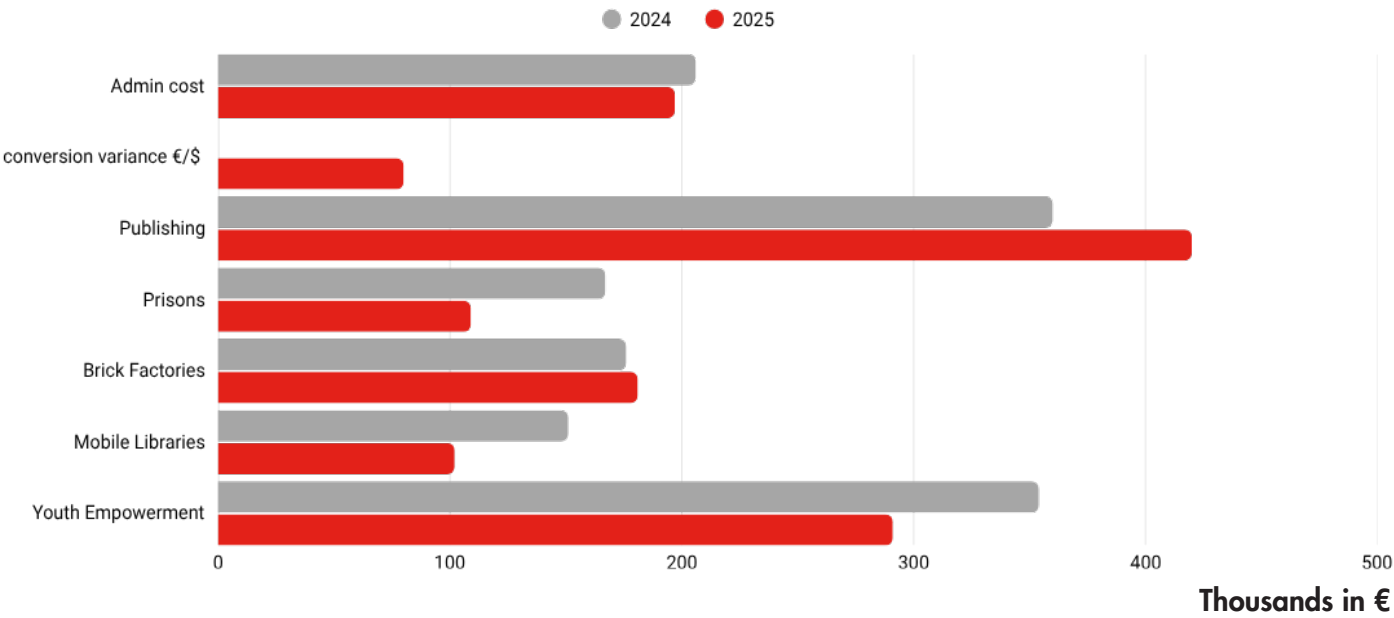
FINANCIAL REPORT

BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVITIES (EUROS)



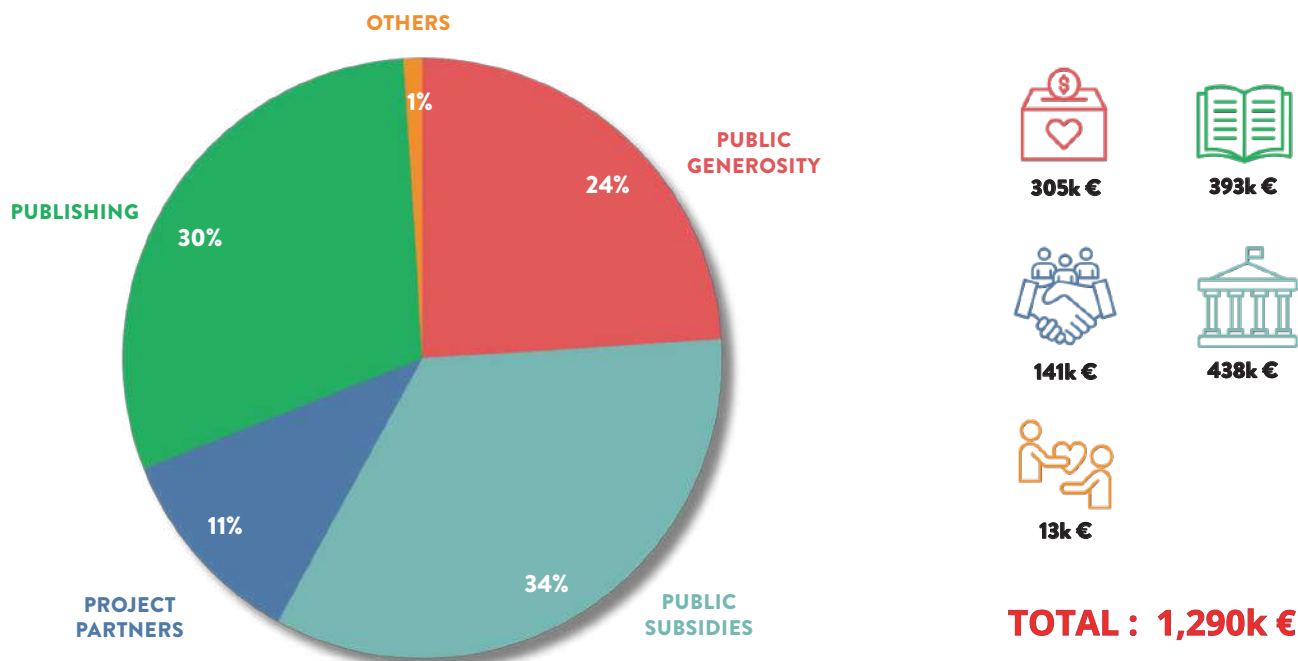
TOTAL : 1,380k €

EXPENDITURE TRENDS BY ACTIVITY 2024-2025

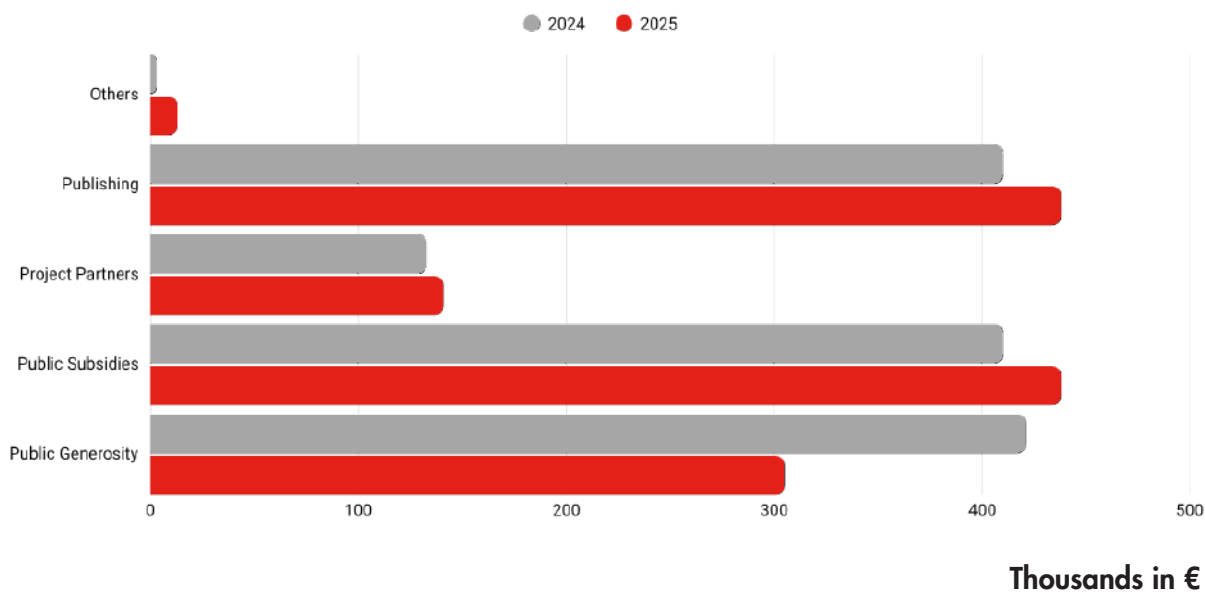


In 2025, Sipar's expenditure amounted to €1.38 million, a slight decrease compared with 2024 (-2%). This change mainly reflects the gradual transfer of the "Education in Prisons" project to prison institutions, as well as the adaptation of our activities to changes in available funding. Despite this context, expenditure on brick factories remained stable (+3%), while the "Publishing" continued to grow (+17%), confirming its central role in our mission to promote reading. Structural costs remained under control (-4%), reflecting our commitment to allocating the largest share of our resources to our field activities. Currency conversion differences between the euro and the US dollar, recorded in accordance with accounting standards, also explain part of the variations observed this year.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES IN 2025



RESOURCE TRENDS 2024-2025



In 2025, Sipar continued its strategy of diversifying its funding sources. Public grants remained our primary source of income (34%), while revenue from publishing activities continued to increase (+12%) and now represents 30% of our resources. Funding from project partners also recorded a slight increase (+6%). The decrease in public donations (-27%) mainly reflects an exceptional level of donations recorded in 2024. In a context marked by increased competition among organisations and changing donor priorities, this diversity of resources remains an essential asset for ensuring the continuity and development of our educational programmes.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2026



EDUCATION AND READING FOR ALL

Mobiles libraries:

- Continue the regular operation of all 11 mobile libraries to ensure sustainable access to reading and educational activities in partner communities.
- Extend the BEEP program to a new floating village served by the Dei Roneat boat library, in order to offer a second educational opportunity to out-of-school young people.
- Consolidate the new interventions developed in 2025 among vulnerable populations, particularly in the informal settlements of Phnom Penh, paediatric oncology departments and sites hosting displaced families.
- Develop the network of micro-libraries in new communities to strengthen local access to reading.
- Identify new financial partners to ensure the sustainability of the mobile library dedicated to road safety.

Education at brick factories:

- Continue the weekly educational activities for children in the 32 partner brick factories while strengthening support for adolescents at risk of dropping out of school.
- Consolidate Khmer and mathematics tutoring activities to promote the educational success of the most vulnerable children.
- Strengthen collaboration with CWPD and public institutions to improve the protection and development of communities.
- Prepare the second phase of the project to ensure the continuity of the actions already undertaken and gradually extend activities to eight new brick factories in Siem Reap Province.

Education in prisons:

- Prepare a new phase of the pilot Multimedia Educational Center project supported by the FID, in order to build on the achievements developed over several years and ensure the sustainability and expansion of the Multimedia Educational Centers.
- Strengthen collaboration with institutional partners, particularly the MoEYS, the DGP, UNESCO and other relevant stakeholders.
- Consolidate the integration of the educational approaches developed into national public policies in order to promote their adoption by Cambodian institutions.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Youth employment and civic engagement project in secondary schools and Community Based Organizations (CBO)

- In public secondary schools:
 - Officially launch the activities of Youth Councils in the 25 partner secondary schools in order to strengthen young people's participation in school and civic life.
 - Continue to strengthen the capacities of educational staff, particularly teachers and librarians, in order to improve the quality of support provided to students.
 - Continue to support schools in implementing Libraries with Vocational Orientation Corners and school and career guidance activities.
- In the Community Based Organizations (CBO):
 - Roll out the Climate Fresk among Youth Councils and CBO in order to strengthen young people's awareness of environmental issues.
 - Continue to develop civic engagement, leadership and the capacities of young volunteers involved in CBO.
 - Maintain technical support for CBO in order to support the implementation of their community initiatives.



PUBLISHING

- Publish four comic books in Khmer as part of the Chakto project (plus one title by Avatar Publishing), in preparation for the 2026 Francophonie Summit.
- Publish the first two winning texts from the Ladavann writing competition in order to promote young Cambodian talents.
- Produce approximately 24 new titles and 46 reprints to continue expanding the publishing catalogue.
- Develop and diversify editorial services for partners and individuals wishing to publish their own books.
- Continue developing the e-catalogue in Khmer and English, while also expanding the editorial services offered to readers.
- Continue to strengthen the skills of the Phnom Penh editorial team through training and professional exchanges.



Patrice LUCAS's final visit to the Phnom Penh teams in December 2025, as President of Sipar, after seven years of exceptional dedication. Thank you, Patrice!



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