



READING AND LEARNING TO BUILD THE FUTURE



ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

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At the beginning of 2023, Sipar was awarded the IDEAS label. It attests to our good practices in terms of governance, finance, management and evaluation.

Sipar operates according to the fundamental values of respect for cultures, transparency, empowerment of populations and transmission. In 2024, Sipar will adopt a policy of social inclusion and gender equality, a component that has always been integrated but not formalized until now.

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAMS IN PHNOM PENH AND VERSAILLES

Sipar continued to expand its scope of activities in 2023, with the work led by teams in Phnom Penh and supported by the board of directors based in France.

More than 33 years after taking its first step in Cambodia's public schools, Sipar has continued in 2023 to support the historic library network by renewing the book catalog, and renovating and building new libraries. Today, more than **300 public schools have been equipped with libraries accessible to students**. Sipar also offers each school training in library management, storytelling techniques, and awareness-raising on social and environmental themes.

In 2023, **14 mobile libraries** continued to circulate in seven Cambodian provinces and in Phnom Penh (notably in the slum areas of Phnom Penh) and to organize reading and education sessions. The education program at brick factories was extended to a total of **32 brick factories**. We also prepared to launch a **second boat library**. To ensure the sustainability of these projects, Sipar has continued to strengthen the **95 micro-libraries** set up in villages.

Libraries in the **28 prisons** are now run directly by prison officers. Sipar provides educational support. The 15 prison libraries are equipped with NomadLab, which is an offline digital laboratory, **to introduce digital education** to support detainees in their preparation for reintegration in society and personal development.

To support young Cambodians in their career guidance process and civic engagement, the «Youth Development» program has been strengthened by the creation of **16 Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners in rural secondary schools**, and support from the young volunteer members of **15 Community-Based Organizations (CBO)**. Printed and digital educational materials on career guidance and personal development for young people have been prepared and made available to complete the program.

Finally, our editorial team has been very active at promoting reading, and **19 new titles** were published in 2023, bringing the number of titles in our catalog to **289 titles**.

In 2024, in line with its strategic plan, Sipar will continue and expand its mission of promoting reading and education for all, supporting schools and the development of Cambodian youth in the most disadvantaged areas.

We **sincerely thank all our invaluable friends, partners and donors** who continue to support us so that we can contribute to the education dynamic in Cambodia.

Our teams in Phnom Penh and Versailles

ABOUT SIPAR

Reading and Learning to Build the Future

Sipar, which is a charitable organization recognized under the French law of 1901, was originally created in 1982 in Versailles, France, to welcome refugees from Southeast Asia, and has been working in the education sector in Cambodia since 1991. Sipar works to help **improve literacy rates** and to **encourage reading habits** among children and adults through an expanding network of libraries, fixed or mobile, and reading spaces in schools, rural villages and city suburbs, garment factories, brick factories, hospitals and prisons. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), as well as with the local authorities, communities, and local and international associations, Sipar promotes literature and brings books to Cambodians nationwide through innovative programs.

In addition, having seen the challenges faced by the book industry in Cambodia and the lack of books in Khmer language, Sipar launched its very own publishing department in 2000 to **produce quality books in Khmer** for children, young people and adults. With nearly 16 percent of the Cambodian population unable to read and write, Sipar **works to increase access to knowledge and education**, accompanying Cambodian people on their path to literacy.



School Sector

- 318 libraries in schools across Phnom Penh and 24 provinces

Education and Reading for All

- 14 mobile libraries operating at 126 sites in 7 provinces: 9 van libraries, 3 tuk-tuk libraries, 1 boat library, and 1 motorcycle library
- 28 prisons equipped with reading units in Phnom Penh and 24 provinces
- 25 Library Learning Centers (LLCs) in garment factories in Phnom Penh and 8 provinces
- 74 micro-libraries at volunteer houses in rural areas, kindergartens and primary schools

Youth Empowerment

- 16 Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners (LVOC) in high schools in 14 provinces
- 18 CBOs registered in 18 rural communes in 2 provinces (Kratie and Prey Veng)
- 21 micro-libraries managed by members of CBOs

Book Publishing

- 3.3 million books printed since 2001
- 19 new titles published in 2023, bringing the number of titles in our catalog to 289
- 85 training sessions held since 2004

41 years of activity

63 Cambodian employees
(30 women)

12 members
of the Board of Directors

1 national coverage
in
25 provinces & municipalities

+360 000 direct beneficiaries
630 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

Sipar's activities are organized into four main programs:



**SCHOOL
SECTOR**



**EDUCATION AND
READING FOR ALL**



**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT**



**BOOK
PUBLISHING**



We use **the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a framework to assess our achievements and the impact of our programs:

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 17 – Partnerships for our Goals

We contribute to the following SDGs, to which we respond through specific programs:

- SDG 3 – Good health and well-being: our awareness sessions on health
- SDG 5 – Gender equality: the Youth Empowerment program and awareness sessions on STEAM
- SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth: the LLCs in the garment factories' project
- SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production: our awareness sessions on the environment
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: the libraries in the project for prisons
- SDG 17 – Partnerships to help achieve the SDGs



To support the implementation of a national policy for libraries in schools at three levels: preschool, primary school and secondary school levels.

SCHOOL SECTOR PROGRAM



SCHOOL SECTOR PROGRAM

Context: Sipar launched in 1993 a school library project in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, which included three components: to **set up an extensive network of 300 libraries in primary schools**, to **reinforce school library standards**, and to **train librarians**. Since then, this program has grown, culminating in its institutionalization at the national level, and helping to support the implementation of the national school library policy for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.

Sipar supports reading in **early childhood**. Three new micro-libraries in kindergartens were created in 2023. A total of **18 micro-libraries** in kindergartens have so far been set up. They are open to local communities so that their members can read and borrow books. Teachers in community preschools and volunteer managers of micro-libraries are **trained** and **supported** by our teams of mobile librarians as to the management and animation of these micro-libraries.

Sipar is also continuing to strengthen the attractiveness of partner primary school libraries. To meet the demand

of increasingly curious young readers, Sipar has equipped each of the primary libraries with **100 new books** since 2019. Thanks to our donors, we were able to send additional books to **44 schools** in 2023. We have also set up 10 new micro-libraries, which serve village residents.

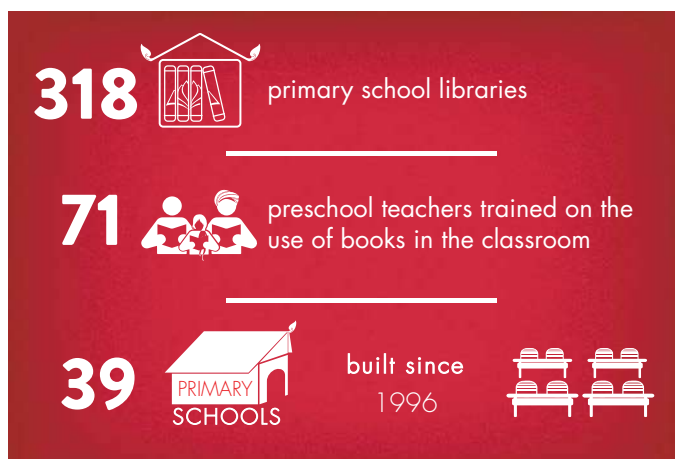
Finally, Sipar provides support to secondary schools. In July 2023, our team renovated a building and set up a new library at the Angkor Chey Middle School located in the Angkor Chey district of Kampot province. More than **1,200 books** as well as library management equipment were provided. In addition, Sipar supported the creation of a library at Chea Sim Angkor Chey High School by supplying it with more than **2,500 books** and equipment.



“Thanks to the support of Sipar, our students have remarkably started to enjoy reading books and using their library. A big thank you to Sipar for promoting reading in our schools!”

Ms. Lean Thavy,

Officer of the Secondary Education Department at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport



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: The lack of educational infrastructure, such as public libraries, deprives communities in the suburbs of Phnom Penh and neighboring provinces of access to books and knowledge. Since 2000, Sipar's mobile library program has been serving children and adults by offering activities around reading and writing, providing them with book-lending services as well as tutoring and information on crucial social issues.

Our fleet now includes **14 mobile libraries**: nine van mobile libraries, three tuk-tuk mobile libraries, one boat library, and one motorcycle mobile library. Sipar's mobile libraries circulate in the villages from Monday through Friday, serving each week **126 sites** in seven provinces, and reaching more than **16,000 beneficiaries**. A session generally starts with animation around **reading** including narration and free reading, continues with **educational and creative games**, and then concludes with **book-lending** service. Our teams have recently added **tutoring** sessions on the key school subjects **Khmer language and mathematics** for primary school students.

Our teams also organize quarterly **awareness sessions** on major themes: health and nutrition, road safety, the inclusion of people with disabilities, yoga and meditation, the environment, and STEAM, that is, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. In 2023, more than **300 sessions** were held for more than **8,000 children, adolescents and adults**.

To ensure the continuity of our actions, Sipar has set up micro-libraries in the villages in which our mobile libraries have been operating for several years, this, in close collaboration with volunteers from the local communities. A total of **74 micro-libraries** with more than **30,000 books** have been put into service and are managed by volunteers. Thanks to the autonomous micro-libraries, our mobile libraries have been able to reduce the number of trips and can therefore operate in new villages. Our teams provide technical support on a regular basis.



A friend introduced me to Sipar's mobile library, and I have been going for four years now. I've improved my level of reading and writing by practicing with the books provided by Sipar.

KEAK Sakona,
12 years old, 6th grade student

9 
mobile library
vans

3 
mobile library
tuk-tuks

1 
mobile library
boat

1 
mobile library
motorcycle

 **126 Sites**
targeted

74 Micro-libraries 


16 500
beneficiaries



MOBILE LIBRARIES FOR DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS

Context: Nearly 16.6 percent of Cambodians live below the poverty line, that is, less than US\$2.50 per day per person. The vast majority of disadvantaged Cambodians live in the slums of Phnom Penh and rural areas, mainly in the Tonle Sap Lake areas and in the mountainous areas, which are where poverty rates are the highest. To promote reading for all, Sipar focuses on supporting education and the development of reading among disadvantaged populations.

Ethnic minorities

Since 2013, Sipar has been working with the **minority population** Tampuan and Jarai in Ratanakiri province to promote reading and provide educational support to children. A **tuk-tuk mobile library** equipped with books and educational games circulates in **12 remote villages** of the Banteay Meanchey district. The reading and education sessions are led by our bilingual Khmer-Tampuan librarian who provides essential support to children and enables them to improve their learning in Khmer language.

In the Brick Factories

A first project was initiated in 2018 for the development of reading and the fight against illiteracy among the families of brick-factory workers. Each factory has an average of 40 families living there, amounting to 150 people with 50 of them under the age of 18. The workers' families live in extreme poverty with their children having little access to education. In 2023, thanks to the support of our partners and funding from the French Development Agency, Sipar was able to expand its activities with four mobile libraries visiting **32 brick factories** (see details in the in Education at the Brick Factories section).

In the slums of Phnom Penh

We support families living in very precarious situations in the slums of Phnom Penh. These inhabitants who have little access to education and health infrastructure experience a very high rate of illiteracy. To reach this population, Sipar has put in operation **two tuk-tuk mobile libraries**—one of them through a partnership with the NGO Planète Enfants et Développement—serving **14 slums**, and **two special education schools** to promote reading, provide educational support, and raise awareness of social issues.

On the lakeside and at floating villages

Among this population, one out of four children does not go to school due to the lack of transport. Sipar launched in 2019 on the Tonle Sap lake the very first **boat library** for the **inhabitants of the lake** and the **floating villages**, which tend to be at remote locations and not easy to reach. The boat library visits each week the people of the commune of Phlov Touk to support their learning and develop their reading habit. A **second library boat** has been planned for the beginning of 2024 to serve the population living along the Sen River at the mouth of the Tonle Sap, in the Phat Sanday commune, and this, thanks to funding from All Dreams Cambodia and the Brousse DELL'AQUILA, in cooperation with Marins Sans Frontières and partners in Cambodia.



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EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES

Context: Living and working conditions at the brick factories are extremely difficult. Nearly all the workers' families are heavily indebted and had to ask the brick factory owners to cover their debts. The worker and his family find themselves in a situation of dependence on the boss, sometimes over several generations. This population—particularly children, young people and women—is therefore extremely vulnerable.

Sipar started to work in brick factories in 2018 to contribute to the **socio-educational development** of workers and their children on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Thanks to the support of our partners, a first mobile library was set up for four brick factories, followed by a second for four others. In 2022, our team identified four new brick factories at which to expand our activities to new beneficiaries.

In October 2023, Sipar was able to obtain support from the French Development Agency in addition to co-funding by the Luciole Foundation and The Comgest Foundation to expand our activities to a total of **32 brick factories** with more than **1,300 families**. The project aims to formulate and propose socio-educational development action to contribute to improving the quality of life of the families and opening new perspectives for children and young people.

The project offers several activities intended for the entire population of the targeted brick factories:

- Participation of 4 mobile libraries (2 librarian-educators in each mobile library) at 32 brick factories, serving more than 1,300 children and organizing weekly non-formal education and reading activities.
- Support for the education of children aged 6 to 14 for their registration at public schools near the brick factories.
- Support for libraries in nearby primary schools and the 20 micro-libraries set up in surrounding communities.
- Establishment of a program dedicated to out-of-school adolescents aged 12 to 17 to support their socio-educational development.
- Organization of training sessions on social themes by the team of our local partner Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD), and launch of initiatives with managers and brick-factory bosses to improve the quality of life of the families.



This is the first time I have taken part in a program like this. I am very happy with the activities because the librarians help me improve my reading and writing, and I have the opportunity to read many new books. I love books and often share them with my neighbors and classmates to read together.



SOPHORS Reaksa,
13 years old, Sipar beneficiary



EDUCATION IN PRISONS

Context: Most of the detainees are young people coming from vulnerable backgrounds, with very low educational levels and socio-economic status, and without professional qualifications. Despite an increase in the services offered by the government, the educational opportunities and services to prepare the detainees for their release remain insufficient.

Sipar began working in prisons in 2011 with a pilot project in four prisons to install libraries and promote reading among the detainees. The project developed over 9 years with the support of the French Development Agency and then the Bellon Foundation. As a result, libraries have been set up in all Cambodian prisons, and educational, training and reintegration programs have been held.

National Prison Library Network Development: Each prison in Cambodia is equipped with a library using PMB software. Since 2021, the **28 libraries** are managed directly by the prisons themselves with the support of the General Department of Prisons. More than **10,000 detainees** use the libraries each month to read on-site and to borrow books to read in their cells. Sipar has supported the librarians by giving them training in library management and software use.

Literacy Classes: The Non-Formal Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has implemented national policies for literacy in prisons. Sipar supports the program by providing **pedagogical support** to trainers and teaching guards, and material support to students. By 2023, **42 literacy classes** and **eight equivalency** classes had benefited **1,050 detainees**.

Socio-professional reintegration: Sipar has collaborated with several NGO partners to set up a **socio-professional reintegration** program for detainees. In 2023, Sipar adapted its approach by building the capacity of prison officers, and facilitating communication and collaboration between the General Directorate of Prisons and the National Employment Agency. The aim is to support the inclusion of detainees as beneficiaries of the National Employment Agency programs. Job Center agents will organize training for detainees in various skills before their release, preparatory to their reintegration.

28
LIBRARIES
for **42 264**
detainees beneficiaries

10 000
readers
per month

15 libraries
equipped with a
digital laboratory
serving **15 500**
beneficiaries



1 069
beneficiaries
of the literacy
classes

2
art
workshops



EDUCATION IN PRISONS

Offline digital education: To help consolidate the learning of the detainees and support them in their preparation for reintegration, Sipar has collaborated with its NGO partner Passerelles numériques to set up an **offline digital education** program. The project has been introduced in **15 prisons**, each one equipped with a NomadLab, which is an offline digital laboratory. Up to 10 computers are supplied to each prison, along with over 800 reading files, 260 educational videos and 120 educational and creative applications accessible offline to detainees. In 2023, more than **4,000 detainees** were able to access the content developed in these offline digital laboratories. Ten NomadLab training sessions were organized for the 79 prison officers in charge. The 13 other prisons will be equipped in the same way in 2024.

Cultural and creative activities: Artistic activities in prisons encompass a wide range of creative expressions including writing, drawing and painting. Sipar introduced a first writing workshop, led by a volunteer Khmer-Swiss journalist and which was attended by seven women detainees in CC2 prison. Three of the works produced were selected and published by the publishing team and distributed to all prisons. In December 2023, Sipar partnered with Clowns Sans Frontières (CSF) and Phare Ponleu Selpak to organize a show that featured puppets, circus acts, theater and music. Around 20 women detainees were selected and trained to participate in the performance.

Innovative pilot projects in seven prisons: Since July 2023 and for a period of two years, Sipar is benefitting from technical and financial support from the Fonds d'Innovation pour le Développement (FID) to test an innovative multimedia program (digital, audiovisual, printed and tutorial) for education and preparation for socio-professional reintegration.



The NomadLab is a very useful tool for the detainees. They can explore many applications and develop their language and life skills. It also helps reduce their stress and worries. Through the use of NomadLab, many detainees have developed a more positive mindset, attitude and outlook on life.



KHIEV Vannarith,
librarian of the Kampot prison library

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



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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Context: In Cambodia, the 15-to-29-year-olds make up nearly **26.4 percent** of the population. In remote areas of the country, access to quality education is still very limited. The school dropout rate remains high among young people entering the labor market, with many of them having no skills. In 2021, Sipar launched the project “Youth Employability and Civic Engagement.” Co-financed by the French Development Agency and other sponsors, and conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the project aims to improve employment prospects and strengthen the civic engagement of these young people.

Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners

Sipar has set up **16 Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners**, equipped with the required furniture and printed documents as well as a digital laboratory (NomadLab) installed by our NGO partner Passerelles numériques. More than 800 printed documents and eight computers (Chromebooks) with more than 110 applications provide over **22,000 students** with the tools to support their learning and guidance.

Our team trained librarians, guidance counselors, school-management teams and relevant ministry executives in the management and use of the multimedia resources in the Libraries and Vocational Orientation Corners. In addition, skill exchange sessions were organized with more than **60 participants** to promote the use of libraries and student guidance.

Career Forums

To introduce students to academic and professional opportunities as well as the best way to prepare for their future after obtaining their high school diploma, Sipar, in cooperation with the management of each high school, organized **30 Career Forums**, including 15 online.

These events brought together exhibitors from all sectors including higher education institutions, public and private technical schools, and companies. The students went to meet the representatives of these learning establishments and private companies to better understand the job market and explore avenues open to them when choosing to pursue their studies.



“Thanks to the help of the Sipar project, our library has a wide range of books that students can borrow and read at home or during recess, helping them to expand their knowledge. In addition, students have fun while learning thanks to the educational games available on the NomadLab.”

Mrs. LONG Leapsocheata,
librarian of Preah Sihanouk High School

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

22 000
student
beneficiaries

30
Career
Forums

62 teachers
trained
(**19** women)



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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Youth Civic Engagement for Community Development

The project also supports the activities of 18 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) contributing to the socio-educational development of their communities. These are civil-society organizations based in municipalities to carry out educational and social activities. The members of the CBOs, who are 12 to 18 years old, come together as volunteers to carry out actions aimed at supporting schooling and education, and promoting reading:

- 4 to 5 tutoring sessions per week on Khmer language and mathematics are led by 105 “little teachers” in line with the national education program, benefiting 950 primary school children.
- 83 members lead a traveling book-lending service,

taking the backpack libraries to their communities, reaching nearly 350 villagers per month.

- 21 micro-libraries set up in some CBO members’ homes welcome nearly 350 beneficiaries every month.
- Each CBO is equipped with a digital laboratory (Nomadlab) and eight digital tablets to assist with the professional orientation of the members, digital literacy, and the tutoring of children.
- 27 awareness campaigns reached 1,700 participants through themes such as road safety, the promotion of reading, school enrolment, and digital use.

Educational materials have been created

As part of this project, Sipar has produced digital and printed educational materials to enrich the documentation made available to young people, and which include career and personal development guides as well as new interactive digital tools. Since 2021, a vast range of materials have been produced and distributed in the project’s target high schools:

- Three personal development supports: a fold out poster entitled *A path to prepare my future*, a book entitled *How to learn: 11 tips for being an effective student*, and a CBO volunteer guide developed to encourage young people to participate in CBO activities.


- Five titles for the guidance of young people: three titles of the career magazine *Are You Ready?* on careers in the renewable energy, agriculture and tourism sectors; a guide to air transport careers; and a guide to information technology careers.
- Four interactive videos have been developed and are available in the Nomadlab, addressing the issues of learning, self-awareness, job preparation and money management.


18 CBOs with
equipped with
Nomadlab

527
members

(385 girls)

83 
backpack libraries
350 readers
per month


105 Little
teachers
950 beneficiaries
of their
tutoring

21 
micro-libraries
among members

27 AWARENESS
campaigns
with
1700 
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

Context: Recently, interest in reading has started to develop in Cambodia's schools and homes. This is demonstrated by the enormous success of the national book fair, which was launched in 2010 and attracts more and more visitors each year. However, the quality of publishing in Cambodia is still insufficient, and the sector lacks professionalism and creativity.

Sipar has been working since 2001 to publish original and quality fiction and non-fiction works in Khmer language. They are distributed through reading services supported by Sipar and other NGOs, and are also available in a vast network of bookshops. In 2023, our publishing team published **19 new books** and reprinted **50 titles**. In total, **3.3 million copies** have been published and distributed since 2001!

In 2023, our publishing team translated from French to Khmer a volume of the comics series *The Monkey King* to promote reading among young adolescents. We have also published several titles aimed at youths, middle and high-school students to promote guidance and personal development. A new collection called *Guide for Youth* has been launched to support young people in their personal development.

Sipar continues to support human resource development in the publishing sector. In November 2023, Sipar collaborated with the French Institute of Cambodia to organize training for 15 participants on script writing and illustration. Two French trainers assisted the participants as they wrote and drew their stories. A story

co-written by two Sipar employees was selected and will be published in 2024.

As part of its main goal that is to foster and encourage reading, Sipar regularly takes part in various events having to do with the promotion of books and reading such as fairs, conferences, seminars, etc. Each year, Sipar actively participates in the organization of the National Book Fair to promote reading among the general public.



Thanks to the guidance from the Sipar editorial team, I gained a new understanding of children, their likes and dislikes, their personalities, their behavior, and the types of books they like to read. Writing Sophy Cooks enabled me to clearly grasp what a children's book is. I would love to publish other children's books with Sipar if the opportunity arises.



RETH Sopheak,
author of *Sophy Cooks*

19
new titles
published
in 2023

289 **21**
TITLES in collections
published since 2001

3,3 million
copies
published since 2001

85
TRAINING
sessions
since
2004



BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

Evolution of the publishing program toward a social enterprise

In 2023, Sipar transformed its publishing program into a “social enterprise” This step was taken in order to conform to the Cambodian government regulations that are now imposed on NGOs conducting business activities, and also as part of our goal that includes supporting the development of the book industry in the country. Our goal is to promote reading among as many readers as possible while maintaining our fundamental mission of educating children and young people. Sipar’s programs and book marketing serve the same objective: to promote reading through a thoughtful strategy on appropriate themes and target audiences.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN 2023:



Books for youth development: *How to Learn, Careers in Aviation, Careers in Information Technology*

To support the educational guidance of young people and their career/work choice process.



Aun Ka Goes to School

Illustrated by **Ms. Mann Malen**, the first winner of the children’s book illustration competition organized by Sipar.



Climate Change

Translated from French, this book aims to raise awareness among young Cambodian readers about the causes and effects of climate change.



Insects in Cambodia

Presentation of the various species of insects and their role in Cambodia’s ecosystem. This book was designed and published in Khmer, French and English in partnership with the Pasteur Institute in Cambodia.

Feedback from Sipar customers

Nhan Phally Sophen : «80% of my family’s books come from Sipar.»

Naphea Sok Chim : «I own all the titles because I like reading books published by Sipar.»

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CHILDREN AT BRICK FACTORIES

To encourage enrollment for the new school year, the Sipar team distributed school supplies to more than 300 children living at 12 brick factories in Kandal province. Our team also coordinated with school principals to facilitate the registration of Sipar beneficiaries.



FEBRUARY

DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Sipar distributed new books to 35 primary schools in Kampot province and Phnom Penh. Each school received new books to promote reading among students. The students also took part in environmental awareness sessions organized by Sipar librarians.



MARCH

READING CAMPAIGN ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE CBO PEAM MONTHEA

In cooperation with the Krachab Primary School, Sipar supported CBO Peam Monthea members who organized a reading campaign to encourage young people in the community to read and celebrate National Reading Day on March 11, 2023.



MARCH

SIPAR'S PARTICIPATION IN A WORKSHOP ORGANIZED IN MANILA (PHILIPPINES) ON EDUCATION IN PRISON

A workshop entitled "Read Your Way, for prison reform through libraries for the education of people in detention", which was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was held in Manila from March 13 to 16, 2023. Béatrice Montariol was invited on behalf of Sipar as a speaker, accompanied by an executive of the General Department of Prisons in Cambodia and an executive from UNODC Cambodia.



MAY

PUBLICATION OF THE TRANSLATION OF *SINOUN*

More than 50 years after the first publication of *Sinoun* in French by Odile Wertheimer, Sipar had the honor of publishing the first official translation of the book into Khmer. Unexpectedly, the real Sinoun, Pho Sinoun, aged around 60, was identified soon after.



JUNE

LAUNCH OF A NEW COLLECTION OF *GUIDE FOR YOUTH*

To provide resources for young people to explore and develop themselves, Sipar introduced a new book collection called *Guide for Youth*, which focuses on several important topics around learning, personal development, and career orientation.



JULY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH RESPEK

July 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the partnership between Sipar and RESPEK in the implementation of the mobile library program in Ratanakiri province. The objective of this collaboration is to reduce illiteracy, provide access to books for children and young people in the province, and improve their education.



AUGUST

LAUNCH OF A NEW PILOT PROJECT AS PART OF THE “PRISON EDUCATION” PROGRAM

Sipar has launched a pilot project for the development of multimedia centers in seven prisons supported by the Innovation for Development Fund, this, to promote a better socio-professional reintegration of prisoners. By providing them with suitable tools and opportunities, Sipar is confident in their potential to rebuild their lives and make a meaningful contribution to society.



OCTOBER

COORDINATION MEETING WITH MUKH KAMPUL DISTRICT WHERE THE BRICK FACTORIES ARE LOCATED

Sipar met with the stakeholders in the brick factories project to present to them a new project to take place over three years, from October 2023 through September 2026. The project aims to provide education to workers and children—a total of 1,200 families—living at 32 brick factories in Mukh Kampul district in Kandal province.



NOVEMBER

CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Ten Community-Based Organizations from three provinces organized awareness campaigns in their villages to promote education and encourage parents to enroll their children in school for the new school year. This large-scale campaign attracted more than 600 future students.



DECEMBER

CO-ORGANIZATION OF THE 10TH NATIONAL BOOK FAIR OF CAMBODIA

Having played a leading role in the organization of the Cambodia National Book Fair since its launch in 2011, the Sipar team was proud to participate in the return of this event in 2023 to raise awareness of the publishing industry in Cambodia and to promote reading among all Cambodians. The fair in 2023 attracted more than 200,000 visitors.



DECEMBER

ART PROJECT WITH THE DETAINEES OF CC2 PRISON

To promote the arts and creativity among prisoners, Sipar organized writing workshops led by a volunteer Khmer-Swiss journalist, as well as an art performance held by women detainees at CC2 prison in cooperation with Clowns Sans Frontières and Phare Ponleu Selpak.

GOING BEYOND BOOKS, RAISING AWARENESS

As an education-expert NGO in contact with the most disadvantaged, Sipar has developed **awareness campaigns** on various issues in cooperation with corporate and institutional partners. In partnership with these local institutional, private, and associative players, Sipar is delivering key messages in remote areas via its programs, and through its **mobile libraries** and its

Community-Based Youth Organizations. Each time, Sipar designs and uses books, educational tools and educational games, adapting the messages to target the most vulnerable young people and adults.

Our goal is to **achieve behavior change** and to **encourage Cambodians to become ambassadors for these issues** in their families and communities.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TOPICS

WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND HEALTH

Delivering key messages on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health among populations in disadvantaged areas, with the support of the local authorities.

Topics:

- Hand washing
- Brushing teeth
- Healthy eating
- Drinking clean water
- Proper use of latrines
- Breastfeeding
- COVID-19 personal hygiene habits



“The awareness sessions offered by the Sipar Mobile Library meet the needs of our floating community, especially the sessions on health and family planning. My family and other members of the community now live a cleaner lifestyle, and we understand the importance of contraception to improve our quality of life.”

BUN Mav
41 years old, participant in Sipar
awareness sessions

ROAD SAFETY

To contribute to people's awareness of road safety and promote safe behavior on the road.

Themes:

- Code of conduct and road signs
- Ethical driving
- Wearing a helmet
- Dangers of speeding
- Mobile-phone use while driving
- Drinking and driving
- Eye checks for good vision



“I go to school every day on bicycle, so it is important for me to understand road safety. I thank the librarians for teaching me and the other children what to do to travel safely on the roads, to respect road signs, and to pay attention to other vehicles.”

SEAK Kanha
12 years old, 6th grade student

ENVIRONMENT

To encourage people to develop good habits in terms of environmental preservation through interactive activities.

Activities:

- Videos and quizzes on the use of plastic
- Workshops on making "No Littering" signs
- Reading sessions about the environment
- Waste-recycling workshops
- Community waste Collection/ cleanups
- "Cleanest village" contest



I like the environmental awareness sessions, and especially the cleaning activities because they help us keep our village clean. I apply what I learn with the mobile librarians by keeping my home and living spaces clean, and using less plastic at home and school.

YON Seyha
9 years old, beneficiary of
the mobile library program

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)

Since 2019, Sipar has been helping children in Cambodia discover STEAM through educational games to stimulate their interest in these sectors in which there is a severe lack of human resources.

Topics:

- Biology (human body, animals, plants)
- Elements (water, air, heat)
- Mathematics (simple functions, equations, measurements)
- Physics (weights, forces, magnetism)
- Chemistry (mixing, reactions)
- Electricity (basic circuits)
- Engineering and Mechanics (wheels, bridges, towers, airplanes)
- IT (using tablets to play math games)
- Art (primary and secondary colors, painting, drawing)



I love reading science and math books. By reading them, I can connect what is written in the books with the lessons I receive in class, which helps me understand the subjects even more deeply.

SOM Rachana
14 years old, 7th grade student

YOGA and MEDITATION

The new mobile library on Yoga and Meditation introduced in 2019 is meant to help improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people by:

- Increasing their ability to focus in class
- Reducing stress and anxiety in their daily lives
- Improving their self-esteem and emotional intelligence
- Developing their flexibility, posture, and balance
- Encouraging empathy and positive attitudes toward their peers



I follow the breathing instructions carefully. When I open my eyes, I feel my mind becoming peaceful. Yoga postures also help improve my physical condition. Overall, the combined practice of yoga and meditation has improved my mental and physical well-being.

VEY Sreynean
member of the CBO Kor Khchork

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ORGANISATION
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la francophonie



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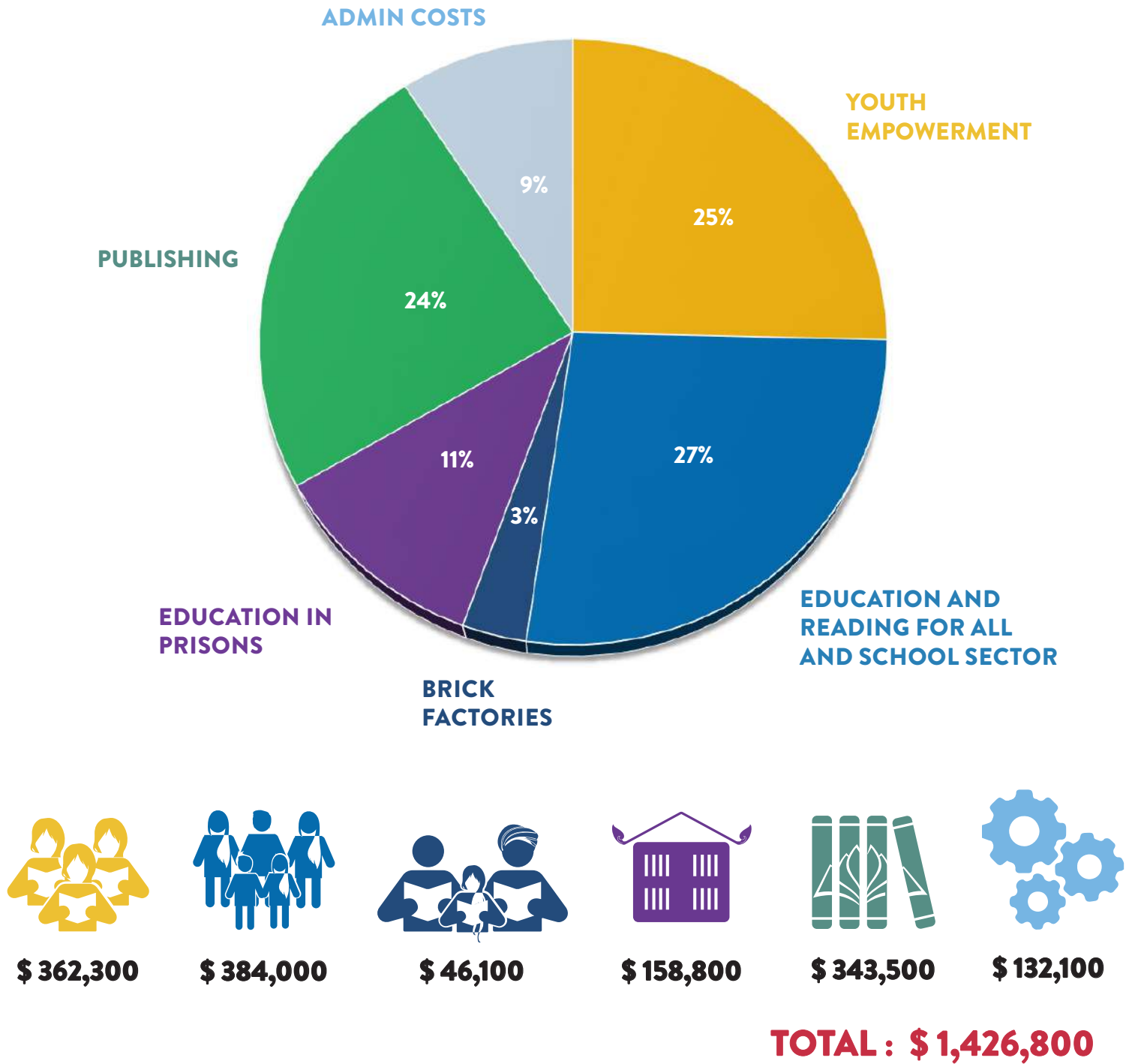


OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM (USD)



ACTION PLAN FOR 2024



SCHOOL SECTOR

To continue the collaboration with relevant departments of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport through training and promoting reading.

Kindergartens

- Continue to support the micro-libraries in the autonomous community kindergartens
- Continue the training of preschool teachers

Primary schools

- Continue to provide books to school libraries and raise awareness regarding health, hygiene, and the environment



READING FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Mobile libraries

- Continue reading sessions and develop new educational activities for the education of all, particularly the most vulnerable
- Expand our activities in a new target area in the province of Kampong Thom with the construction and launch of a second library boat in the commune of Phat Sanday
- Continue to promote awareness sessions focused on changing people's social behavior regarding the environment, STEAM, yoga/mindfulness, and road safety, and initiate new activities in these areas
- Create and strengthen micro-libraries in slums, remote villages, community kindergartens and public schools
- Continue to develop new tools for more effective monitoring of mobile library activities
- Cooperate with the Provincial Directorate of Education and NGO partners to establish synergy regarding specific projects based in the provinces

Education at Brick Factories

- Improve educational activities for children and workers living at 32 brick factories to help them learn
- Set up 10 community micro-libraries managed by volunteers and two new school libraries
- Support the education of children aged 6 to 12 living at the 32 brick factories
- Develop the socio-educational program adapted to the needs of out-of-school adolescents
- Develop new social themes for families living at 32 brick factories to improve their behavior change
- Work closely with the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Labor to protect and educate children under the age of 15
- Strengthen cooperation with brick factory managers, school directors and relevant officials to facilitate project coordination

Libraries in Prisons

- Continue and improve consultation and book lending services in the 28 prisons
- Set up two new libraries in two prisons
- Continue to organize cultural and artistic activities in prisons
- Provide educational support to literacy classes
- Coordinate cooperation between employment agencies (Job Centers) and prisons to improve the program designed to help prepare prisoners for reintegration
- Set up digital equipment and train prison officers in the management and use of NomadLab in the 13 prisons
- Continue pilot initiatives in Multimedia Education Centers in seven prisons



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Project “Youth Employability and Civic Engagement” in high schools and CBOs

- In Secondary Schools
 - Organize skill-exchange workshops between librarians, relevant staff and members of management of the 16 secondary schools
 - Ensure technical monitoring on site and online with the librarians of the 16 high schools
 - Support the organization of 30 career forums (15 physical and 15 online) in the 16 high schools
- In Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
 - Recruit and train young volunteers
 - Support the registration of five new CBOs
 - Set up digital laboratories (NomadLabs) in five CBOs and train members on their use
 - Organize training sessions for 23 CBOs on reading, tutoring, leadership and communication, event planning and fundraising, volunteering, citizenship, communication and team building, children’s rights and gender, the environment, migration, etc
- Design of Printed and Digital Tools
 - Design and print five career orientation and personal development books
 - Develop interactive videos on study and career orientation
 - Distribute printed materials to schools



BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

- Print 17 new titles and reprint 50 existing titles
- Develop and translate a series of four manga books
- Publish the two books of the winners of the Sipar 40th anniversary competition
- Edit and publish a title written by the Sipar team in the Lom Arom collection
- Develop books on personal development for young people
- Translate a Russian storybook
- Strengthen the strategy for the promotion and sale of Sipar books

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