



# READING AND LEARNING TO BUILD THE FUTURE



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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## A MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the world like a tidal wave did not leave Cambodia unscathed. Despite the government's strict measures to contain the spread of the virus, the socio-economic impact has been massive, especially amongst the most vulnerable populations - including thousands of Sipar's beneficiaries. The national school closures in March 2020 **affected over 3.2 million students across the country**, threatening the progress made in recent years in developing Cambodia's educational sector.

Throughout the pandemic, Sipar has strived to provide continuous support to the most vulnerable populations wherever possible, always in full compliance with the preventive health measures. We adapted our operations to provide a relevant response to each situation. **Our network of mobile libraries and our Youth Clubs** have been fully mobilized **to conduct curriculum-based tutoring sessions**, enabling thousands of children in 9 provinces to continue learning from home during the school closures.

Moreover, we have kept the focus on reinforcing and expanding our programs in garment factories and prisons. In 2020, the number of participating factories **increased from 23 to 30**, of which **27** successfully maintained their operations despite the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. As for the Prison Libraries program, although some operations have been partially disrupted due to COVID-19, **all 27 libraries remained open** to detainees, whilst the literacy classes continued in 9 out of 10 prisons, benefitting a total of **507 inmates**.

We are delighted and proud to have successfully launched two new mobile libraries in 2020 to serve the needs of the most vulnerable groups: in June, **the first-ever boat library** brought its services to the communities living on the Tonle Sap lake, and in November **the first tuk tuk library** reached the slums around Phnom Penh.

**Helping young people in rural areas prepare for their future** has remained one of our priorities in 2020. With this objective in mind, we have set up two **new libraries with a Vocational Orientation Corner equipped with a Nomadlab** – a mobile laboratory developed by our partner NGO *Passerelles numériques* – in two provincial high schools. We also brought the first Nomadlab to one of our Youth Clubs!

In 2021, Sipar will remain fully committed to support the continuous learning of thousands of students whose school year has been heavily disrupted. Amongst other projects, Sipar will be **converting the motorbike library in Ratanakiri** – operating since 2013 in partnership with RESPEK – **into a tuk tuk library!**

**We wish to express our sincere gratitude to our dear friends, partners and donors** who, in these unprecedented times, have continued to support our efforts to strengthen the positive momentum of the educational sector in Cambodia.

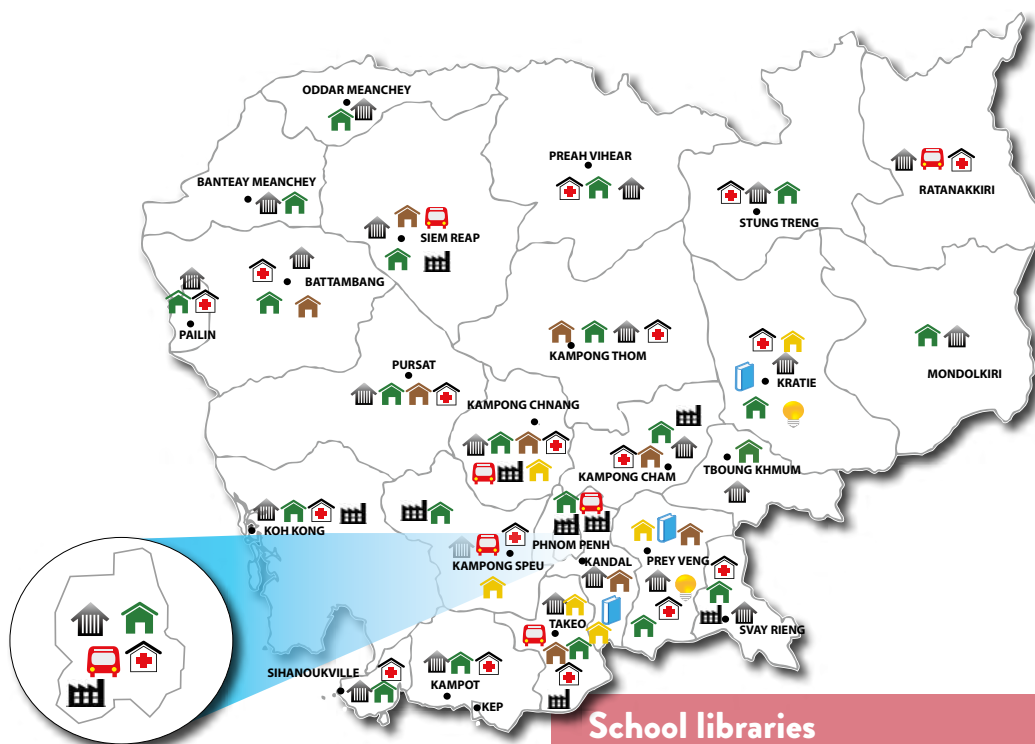
The Sipar Team

# ABOUT SIPAR






## Reading and Learning to Build the Future

Sipar is an international NGO operating in the educational sector in Cambodia since 1991. Sipar works to improve literacy rates and to encourage reading habits among children and adults through an expanding network of libraries and reading services in schools, villages, hospitals, garment factories and prisons. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sport (MoEYS), as well as local authorities and communities, Sipar promotes access to books across Cambodia through innovative programs.




In addition, conscious of the challenges faced by the book industry in Cambodia and the lack of books in Khmer language, Sipar launched its own publishing department in 2000 to **produce quality books in Khmer** for children, young people and adults. With illiteracy rates as high as 30% in Cambodia, Sipar **works to increase access to knowledge and education**, helping young people and adults on their path to literacy.




### Reading for all

-  • 12 mobile libraries reaching out to 88 villages in 7 provinces: 9 mobile library vans, 1 motorbike library, 1 tuk tuk library and 1 boat library
-  • 27 prisons equipped with reading units in 25 provinces including Phnom Penh
-  • 17 communal libraries in 3 provinces
-  • 19 hospitals equipped with a reading corner in 18 provinces including Phnom Penh
-  • 30 Library Learning Centres in garment factories in 9 provinces including Phnom Penh

### School libraries

-  • 23 reading corners in community preschools in 6 provinces
-  • 306 libraries in primary schools in the 25 provinces of Cambodia
-  • 12 libraries in secondary schools in 11 provinces

### Youth Empowerment

-  • 23 Youth Clubs in 20 communes in 2 provinces (Kratie, Prey Veng)

### Book Publishing

- 2.7 million volumes printed since 2001
- 15 new titles published in 2020, for a total of 220 titles
- More than 80 training sessions delivered since 2004



**38 YEARS**

**55** LOCAL  
Staff

**Present in all**  
**25** Provinces of  
Cambodia

**+640,000**  
**beneficiaries**  
**450** libraries and  
reading services

## 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 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 organised into 4 main programs:**



**SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PROGRAM**



**READING FOR ALL  
PROGRAM**



**YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT  
PROGRAM**



**BOOK PUBLISHING  
PROGRAM**



All our programs contribute primarily to **3 main UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

### Sipar focuses on 3 main SDGs:

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

### Other SDGs addressed by Sipar through specific programs:

- 3 – Good health and well-being (through our awareness sessions on health)
- 5 – Gender equality (across all of our programs)
- 8 – Decent work and economic growth (LLCs in garment factories project)
- 15 – Life on Land (through our awareness sessions on environment)
- 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Libraries in prisons project)



A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms sitting at a wooden table in a library. The boy on the left is holding a book with a colorful illustration of a person in a green dress. The boy on the right is holding a book with a portrait of a man. In the background, there are shelves filled with books.

To support the implementation of a national policy of libraries in pre-schools, primary and secondary schools.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19

In 2020, the national school closures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 lasted throughout most of the year and caused learning disruptions for over 3 million children, threatening the progress made in recent years in the educational sector. Despite this difficult context which has significantly impacted Sipar's programs, we have maintained our activities in primary and secondary schools throughout 2020, whenever and wherever possible, and always in full compliance with the health precautions.

# SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM





## PRE-SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### Pre-schools: reading corners and training

**Context:** Today in Cambodia, **only 23% of children aged 3 to 5 years attend pre-school**. There are very few public pre-schools. Most are community pre-schools run by the communes themselves and by the parents of the pupils. They severely lack material support and trained teachers. Early childhood education is slowly becoming a priority for Cambodia, but there is still a long way to go.

In order to introduce reading into early childhood programs, between 2012 and 2020, Sipar set up **23 reading corners**, and trained **41 teachers** in community pre-schools in 6

provinces. In 2020, we set up **3 new reading corners** in pre-schools located around the brick factories in Kandal province, and supported 2 other local pre-schools with book donations.

In the target villages of the Sipar boat library in Kampong Chhnang, launched in 2020, our teams trained 13 teachers to conduct activities around reading and distributed 'Montessori' kits (a set of handwriting books published by Sipar in 2019) to **404 children** to help them learn their first letters and numbers in Khmer!

### Primary schools: building libraries & training

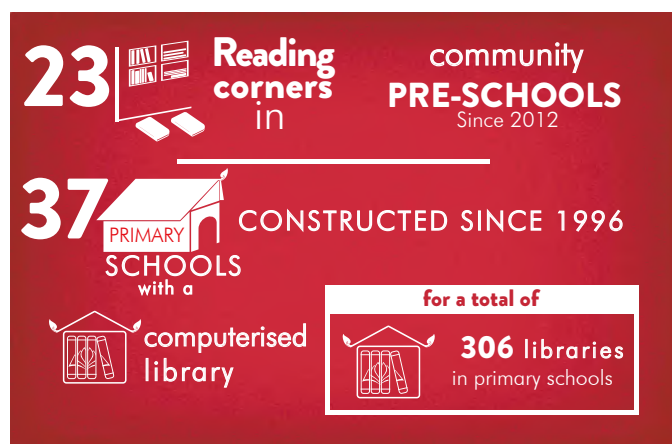
**Context:** In 1993, Sipar launched a school library project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to set up an extensive network of **300 libraries in primary schools, reinforce school library standards and train the librarians**. Over the past twenty years, this project has been extended and incorporated into the national policy on school library development.

In 2019 and 2020, in order to expand library collections and satisfy the curiosity of young readers, Sipar has planned to provide each of the 300 libraries in primary schools with 100 new books. In 2019, 76 schools in 8 provinces benefitted from book donations thanks to several donors, for a total of 191 schools restocked since 2019. The remaining 110 libraries will receive new books in 2021.

Moreover, at the request of local educational authorities, we have continued to construct schools in remote areas of Cambodia. In January 2020, Sipar inaugurated two primary schools constructed in 2019 in the provinces of

Kampot and Pursat, in the presence of our donors, and launched the construction of a new school building with five classrooms – one of which will serve as the school library – at Prey Peay primary school (Kampot province).

Between 1996 and 2020, Sipar has constructed 37 school buildings in total.





## SECONDARY SCHOOLS: VOCATIONAL ORIENTATION CORNERS IN LIBRARIES

**Context:** Few secondary schools in Cambodia know how to effectively make use of the library and its resources to support students' learning. Since 2011, in collaboration with the Department of Curriculum Development of the MoEYS, Sipar has implemented **a network of 9 referral libraries** in 9 secondary schools and trained their librarians.

In order to provide young Cambodians in rural areas with information on post-high school career and study options, in 2019 Sipar decided to set up **Vocational Orientation Corners (VOC) inside the libraries** of secondary schools. The first one was launched in March 2019 at Hun Sen Kraing Sramo Secondary School (Kampong Chhnang), with the support of the Can Sport Shoes Co. Ltd factory. Over 1,000 high school students now have access to printed and online resources **to guide them in their choice of careers and university majors**.

In 2020, we took this initiative further by setting up two new libraries equipped with a Vocational Orientation Corner: one in Chi Hé Secondary School (Kampong

Cham) with the support of Kinal Foundation and the other in Bun Rany Hun Sen Prey Pon Secodary School (Prey Veng), with Smart Axiata. In order to reduce the digital divide between rural and urban areas, we have teamed up with the NGO *Passerelles numériques* (PN) to install **a mobile digital lab (Nomadlab)** inside the Vocational Orientation Corners, giving students access to online applications to **assess their skills and learn about the demands of the job market**, helping them to choose their future career. The VOC and the Nomadlab are essential tools for young people, especially now, when, in the context of the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19, access to employment will become increasingly difficult!

To contribute to the development of human capital in Cambodia, Sipar and PN plan to roll out this project on a larger scale, with other pilots in provincial secondary schools and in Youth Clubs scheduled for 2021.



*“Opening libraries in schools not only encourages students to develop their reading habits but allows an entire generation of young people to broaden their knowledge of the world and gain understanding of social issues in order to achieve personal goals.”*

**Sim Brim**

Chief of Provincial Office of Education of Kampong Chhnang

**12** Libraries  
in  
*secondary schools*

**3** libraries  
with  
Vocational  
Orientation  
Corners  
+ 2 Nomadlabs

*secondary school students  
have access to libraries*  
**11,630** with  **3,500 borrowers  
per month**



To contribute to the development of a reading culture in Cambodia and to promote access to books and information amongst disadvantaged populations.

# READING FOR ALL PROGRAM





## MOBILE LIBRARIES

**Context:** Phnom Penh is expanding every day, but the majority of the suburban population continues to live in poverty. The lack of educational infrastructure, such as public libraries, means that most communities living in the suburbs and neighbouring provinces do not have access to books and learning facilities. Since 2020, there are now **12 mobile libraries** reaching out every week to **88 sites** in 7 provinces with sessions on reading and writing, book-lending services, and awareness campaigns on key social topics.

In 2020, the measures taken by the Cambodian government to contain the spread of COVID-19, and in particular the ban on public gatherings, have strongly impacted the mobile libraries, forcing the program to suspend its activities several times throughout the year. Despite this difficult context, all of our mobile libraries have been fully mobilized since May to **support the learning of out-of-school children in rural areas**, who have no access to digital technologies. From May to October 2020, **9 mobile library vans and the motorbike library** conducted weekly curriculum-based tutoring sessions for thousands of primary and secondary school children in key subjects – Khmer and Mathematics – in the villages around Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Ratanakiri.

Furthermore, in the most vulnerable communities in Ratanakiri

and Kampong Chhnang (where our boat library operates), our mobile librarians distributed “Montessori” kits (Sipar, 2019) to **307 students from grade 1** to help children read and write their first Khmer letters and numbers.

Also in 2020, with the support of the Association des Étudiants en pharmacie et Pharmaciens Khmers (AEPK), we have developed a new educational toolkit on health containing educational games, books and fun activities that has been used since June by the mobile libraries around Phnom Penh and neighbouring provinces to educate children on health and hygiene – and most importantly, **the health precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19**.

Finally, in 2020, we continued to conduct literacy classes for workers and their families in the brick factories where our mobile libraries have been operating since 2018. Sipar launched this pioneer initiative in 2019, offering employees 4 lessons per week on their lunch break, as well as awareness sessions on relevant topics, such as parental education, family planning, reproductive health and domestic violence. **The third literacy class** was launched in November 2020 in the Thbong Pech brick factory (Kandal province), **with 27 participants** - including 23 women!



“I love it when the mobile librarian reads a story to us. This motivates me to borrow the same book and read the story again at home. I hope the mobile library will come to our brick factory every day!”

Socheata, 13  
Phnom Meas brick factory, Kandal

9   
Mobile  
Library vans

1   
Motorbike  
Library

 **88** Target  
Villages

**23** Reading  
stocks  
in villages



  
**11,000**  
Beneficiaries





## NEW MOBILE LIBRARIES LAUNCHED IN 2020

In 2020, we are proud to have successfully launched – despite the challenging context – two new mobile libraries: **the first boat library** for the communities living on the Tonle Sap lake, and **the first tuk tuk library** in the slums of Phnom Penh!

Constructed in Siem Reap and transported to the Tonlé Sap lake, the boat library has come a long way before launching its activities in June 2020 for 1,400 people in 6 villages of Phlouv Touk commune, Kampong Chhnang. Sipar's team conducted several field missions in order to set up a steering committee for the boat library. Composed of the commune chief, parent representatives and leaders of the fishery committee, the steering committee is responsible for running the project with the support of Sipar and partner NGOs (FACT, Marins Sans Frontières). This 3-year project is implemented in collaboration with local authorities and with the support of the Blancmesnil Foundation and Ms. Astrid Bellon.

Starting its activities in November 2020, our first tuk tuk library is now reaching out to 2,590 families in 7 slums as well as to two special education schools in the suburbs of the

capital. It is operated by a former Youth Club member from Cham commune (Prey Veng) who joined Sipar as staff in 2019. Our successful collaboration with local authorities and partner NGOs working on site (such as Planète Enfants et Développement), enables us to gradually establish a connection with this new target population. Currently, children benefit from weekly reading and tutoring sessions. In 2021, we plan to launch awareness sessions on health, hygiene, nutrition and other key social topics to be conducted with the parents.

In 2021, Sipar will also strengthen its support to disadvantaged populations in areas affected by the socio-economic crisis. Thanks to our first and very successful crowdfunding campaign, we plan **to convert the motorbike library in Ratanakiri** – launched in 2013 in partnership with RESPEK – **into a tuk tuk library**. The roads of Ratanakiri now allowing the passage of medium-sized vehicles, the tuk tuk library will enable us to transport more educational materials (books, stationaries, digital tablets), to travel longer distances and to reach out to more beneficiaries!

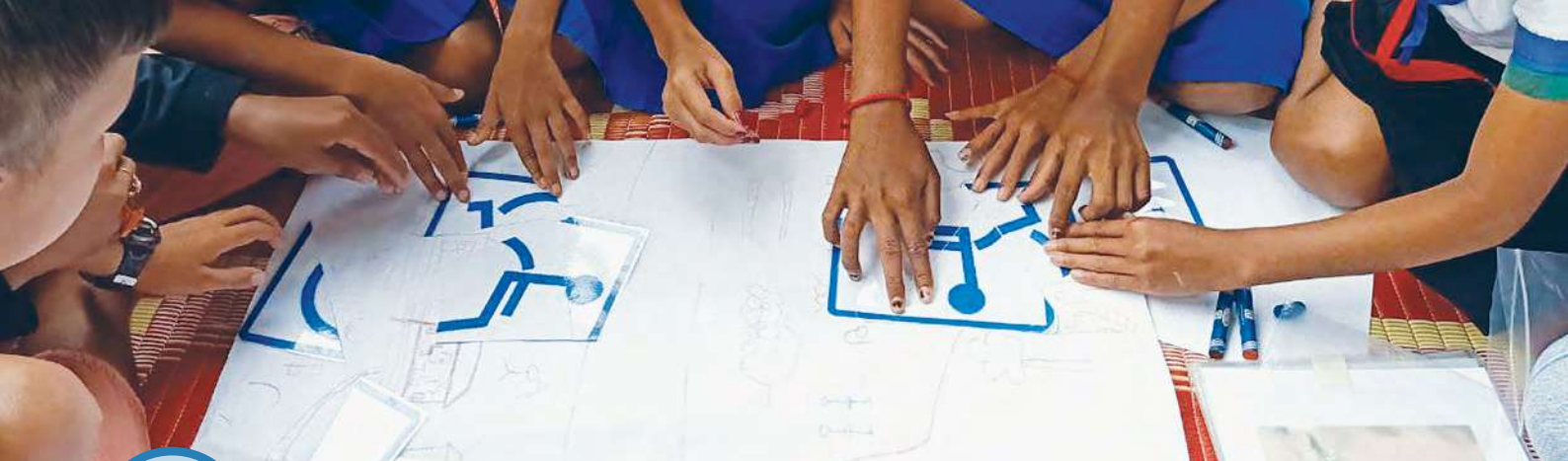


“The boat library is a totally unique project in that it is managed by the community itself, with technical and pedagogical support from Sipar.”

Mr SIN Sothea  
Library Program Coordinator at Sipar

1   
Tuk tuk  
Library

1   
Boat Library



## INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**Context:** In Cambodia, people with disabilities – whose number today is estimated to be around 700,000, including 64,000 victims of landmines from the war – continue to face systematic social exclusion and severe discrimination. There is a critical lack of educational services for children with disabilities and of learning methods adapted to their needs. Cambodia still has a long way to go to combat negative perceptions towards this population group, whilst promoting their social and economic autonomy.

In 2018, Sipar partnered up with UNICEF Cambodia to help change attitudes towards people with disabilities and to foster inclusive societies.

Between 2018 and 2020, as part of the “Awareness raising and inclusive action for children living with disabilities” project, the following actions were implemented:

- 1) **300 educational kits** were produced containing 40 games and inclusive learning materials for primary schools
  - **122 kits distributed** to public primary schools
  - **406 teachers trained** on the use of kits with children with or without disabilities in their classroom
- 2) **5 special education schools** received inclusive learning materials (educational games, books in Braille, e-books, 3D materials)

- Teachers trained on running a multimedia library for children with visual or hearing impairments

- 3) **115 awareness campaigns** on the 4 disabilities (visual, auditory, mental and physical) conducted with the children from target villages of mobile libraries and Youth Clubs

In total, through this initiative, **6,000 children and 635 adults** in 115 villages will have learned about the daily obstacles faced by people with disabilities and the solutions to promote social inclusion.



“By conducting this campaign in our Youth Club, we discovered what it really means to have a mental or physical disability. This is really important for building a relationship with children with disabilities in our communities.”

**Tam Vita, 14**  
member of Vattanak Youth Club, Kratié

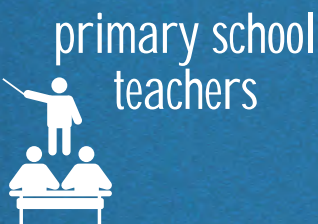
**300**



**educational kits**  
of inclusive learning  
materials produced

**406**

**trained on  
their use**



**5**

**special education schools**  
**equipped with inclusive**  
**learning materials**

**115**



**awareness campaigns**  
**on disabilities conducted**

**benefitting**  
**6,000**

**children and**  
**635 adults**







## READING CORNERS IN HOSPITALS

**Context:** In Cambodia, hospital waiting rooms are often over-crowded and patients spend hours waiting their turn. Children often travel long distances in order to benefit from healthcare and stay at the hospital for the duration of their treatment accompanied by their families and relatives. Some children who are hospitalised long term have to miss school.

Between 2009 and 2016, Sipar, in partnership with UNICEF, has set up **19 reading corners in the paediatric wards of provincial hospitals and health centres**. These reading corners are managed by facilitators and the management committee of the provincial service of health. The facilitators are either volunteers or hospital staff, under the direct supervision of the paediatric unit of each hospital.

In 2020, with the support of the *Association des Etudiants en pharmacie et Pharmaciens Khmers (AEPK)*,

we have decided to support three existing reading corners in health facilities where management and staff have been very active and enthusiastic about the project, demonstrating a real commitment:

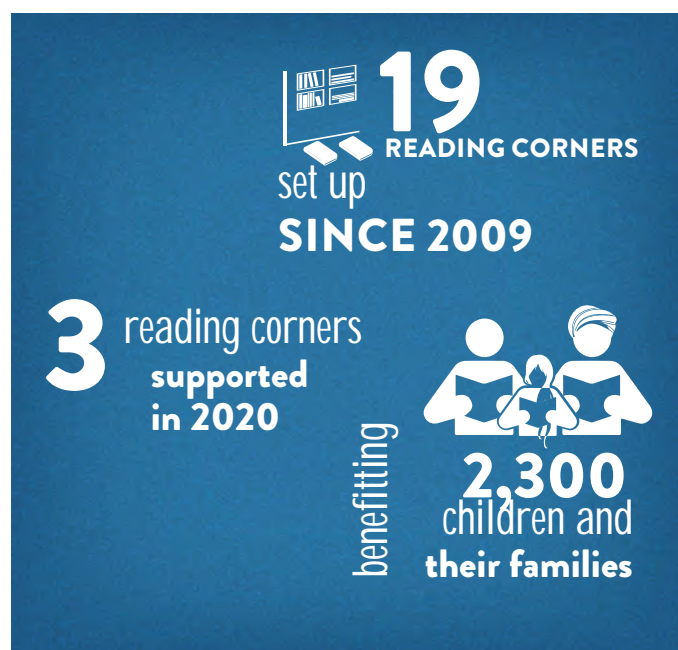
- The Referral Hospital in Kratié
- The Borkeo District Hospital in Ratanakiri
- The Sre Krasaing District Health Centre in Steung Treng

In order to ensure their sustainability, we have **donated 150 books** to each reading corner to diversify their book stocks, and organised training workshops and skills exchange sessions between the 3 health facilities on the management of reading corners and storytelling techniques for children. This project currently benefits a total of **2,300 children and their families**.



“Every day, children from our hospital and students from the local primary school come to borrow books from our reading corner. This helps them improve their performance at school and develop a reading habit, which is good for our society.”

Mrs. TUY Channy,  
Librarian in Reading  
Corner in Borkeo Hospital, Ratanakiri





## LIBRARY LEARNING CENTRES IN GARMENT FACTORIES

**Context:** Today, the garment industry in Cambodia employs over 700,000 workers, 85% of which are women, mostly under the age of 24. Coming from a disadvantaged background, around 25% of these women are illiterate, having dropped out of school before completing their primary education. In 2020, garment factory workers were one of the first economic victims of COVID-19: 110 factories closed down, leaving over 55,000 workers unemployed.

The Library Learning Centres (LLCs) implemented by Sipar in garment factories since 2013 aim to reduce the workers' vulnerability and to improve their productivity. LLCs offer workers access to reading and literacy services, as well as awareness sessions on key social issues delivered at their workplace. In 2021, the project will come to the end of its second phase (July 2018 - June 2021), co-funded by AFD, Weave Our Future Foundation (Auchan) and Fondation Pierre Bellon.

In 2020, Sipar extended the program from **23 to 30 factories**, out of which 27 were able to maintain their operations despite the economic crisis resulting from COVID-19. Throughout the year, **45,651 factory workers had access to LLCs** and to awareness sessions conducted by our partner NGO Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) and by peer educators - trained factory staff from the health and human resources departments. As for the literacy classes, they were maintained in only 3 factories, benefitting a total of 135 workers.

In addition, Sipar developed in 2020 several digital and printed tools for factory workers and peer educators in charge of conducting awareness sessions, including:

- 2 mobile applications ('Mathematics - primary level' and 'Quiz on life skills')
- 2 educational flipcharts ('Nutrition' and 'Family planning') developed by Sipar for peer educators
- The book 'Labour Law' (bilingual edition English/Khmer) published by Sipar and distributed to factories
- The book 'Careers in the Textile Industry' (Khmer) published by Sipar and distributed to factories



“I learned to read and write in the literacy classes provided in my factory. I can now help my children with their homework, after my work day. One day, I would like my children to go into higher education. I don't want them to end up like me.”

**VON Sreymach,**  
employee at Top Summit garment factory  
(video interview with VON Sreymach produced by Lotus Radio)

**30**  
**LLCs** for **83,797**  
workers



**11,000**  
workers  
use the LLC  
services regularly



**30,900**  
participants  
in awareness  
sessions



**135**  
Participants  
in literacy classes







## LIBRARY SERVICES & REINTEGRATION PROGRAM IN PRISONS

**Context:** Most of the 30,000 detainees in Cambodia come from a disadvantaged or marginalised background, with low levels of education: 30% to 40% lack basic literacy and numeracy skills and have no professional qualifications. Institutions such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour are providing more and more educational and vocational training services, but educational development opportunities and services preparing detainees for their release remain insufficient.

The Prison Library Program, launched in 2012 in collaboration with the General Department of Prisons (Ministry of Interior) with the support of the European Union and the French Development Agency (AFD), aims to **contribute to the education, preparation for release and rehabilitation of detainees** in the 27 prisons of the Kingdom. The program is currently in its third and final phase (March 2019- February 2022), co-funded by the AFD and Fondation Pierre Bellon. Its objective is to **ensure the sustainability of the network of 27 prison libraries** and to **strengthen the capacities of the General Department of Prisons** and the prisons themselves to implement and run

educational and pre-release services for detainees.

In 2020, although the prisons were largely spared by the COVID-19 epidemic, the program activities have been partially impacted. All prison libraries remained open, but the pre-release and rehabilitation workshops conducted by NGOs Mith Samlanh and M'Lop Tapang had to be suspended several times, following the ban on external visits introduced in prisons. The **literacy classes**, conducted in partnership with the Provincial Offices of Education, were **maintained in 9 out of 10 prisons**, benefitting **507 detainees**. However, no training of the future prison guards at the Police Academy of Cambodia could take place in 2020.

In February 2020, before the COVID-19 crisis erupted, Sipar organised a **national seminar on 'Life Long Learning in Prisons'** in partnership with the Department of Non-Formal Education (MoEYS) and the General Department of Prisons, in order to identify sustainability mechanisms for the educational services in prisons and to improve the collaboration between the guardian literacy teachers and guardian librarians.

### THE PRISONER OF PREAH VIHEAR: A NOVEL

Published by Sipar in August 2020, this autobiographical novel written by a former detainee of Preah Vihear delves into the daily life in prison, narrating the tumultuous journey of an impetuous young man, his crime and his punishment, as well as the chance for redemption that has been offered to him. A unique testimony of its kind, this novel will be distributed in 5,000 copies to the detainees of all 27 prisons between 2020 and 2021.

“Having a library has really helped to improve the conditions in our prison, which has a positive impact on prison security. Reading allows detainees to escape from boredom, forget their troubles, and reduces their stress levels.”

**SORN Sovuth,**  
Detainee and librarian assistant at Kandal Prison

**27** libraries  
for **37,550**  
detainees

**9 556**  
readers  
per month



**507**  
participants  
in literacy  
classes

**93**  
participants  
in pre-release  
& rehabilitation  
sessions

**205**  
participants  
in vocational  
training  
sessions





To support young people in remote rural areas to become agents of solidarity and socio-educational development in their community



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM





## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

**Context:** In remote areas of Cambodia, access to quality education is still very limited and school dropout rates amongst young people remain high. The habit of going to a library to read and borrow books remains a challenge to be promoted in rural areas. Since 2011, together with our local partner NGO Youth Star, we have been working to promote local volunteering opportunities and youth engagement in remote areas of Kratie and Prey Veng provinces.

Youth Clubs – **whose number increased from 19 to 23 in 2020** – offer book-lending services in their communities ('Backpack libraries'), conduct weekly tutoring sessions for primary students who are struggling at school, and run awareness campaigns on various topics several times per year with children and villagers.

During the school closures in 2020, our Youth Clubs as well as our mobile libraries were fully mobilised **to help reduce the risk of school dropout amongst children** in their communities. From May to September, Youth Club members conducted **curriculum-based tutoring sessions in Khmer and Mathematics** 4 to 5 times per week, always in full compliance with preventive health measures, benefitting a total of **700 primary school children**.

In July, the Youth Club of Pratheat commune (in Prey Veng) became the first to host a **Nomadlab – a mobile digital laboratory** composed of tablets with educational contents, **developed by the NGO Passerelles numériques (PN)**. The Nomadlab is designed to provide secondary school students access to interactive content to help them choose their career after graduating high school. But it also contains educational games and exercises on reading and Mathematics, used by our Little Teachers in their tutoring sessions with children.

Apart from teaching new skills, Sipar also strives to offer future prospects to young people by organising **information days on university and higher education scholarships** (AFECAP, Smart Axiata, Passerelles numériques). In 2020, **two brilliant students and volunteers** from Cheangdek and Cham Youth Clubs (in Prey Veng) **obtained a scholarship from Passerelles numériques** to study a 2-year course in computer science.

Despite all the challenges of 2020, the volunteers in Kratié and Prey Veng successfully organised **13 awareness campaigns** this year with a total of **729 participants**. The campaigns were centred around traditional topics – such as inclusion of people with disabilities and Reading Day, but also new ones – such as road safety, brought to Youth Clubs for the first time!



“Youth Clubs are very important for the educational development of our communities. During the school closures, if it weren't for the weekly tutoring classes provided by our Little Teachers, a lot of children would have dropped out of school.”

**TES Theang,**  
Youth Club Advisor in Pratheat Commune,  
Prey Veng

**23** Youth Clubs  
with **543** members  
391 girls 152 boys

 **79** backpack libraries  
**350** readers per month

**13** AWARENESS Campaigns  
with **729** participants

 **61** Little Teachers  
**711** pupils attending tutoring



To support the Cambodian publishing sector by training human resources in different professions and to offer Cambodian children, teachers, educators and the general public a wide variety of quality books corresponding to their needs and tastes.



# BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM





## BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

**Context:** Only recently has reading began to find its way into Cambodian schools and homes. This is demonstrated by the great success of the National Book Fair launched in 2010, which continues to attract an ever-growing number of visitors each year. However, the publishing sector in Cambodia remains underdeveloped, lacking professionalism and creativity, especially with regard to children's literature.

Sipar has been working since 2000 to publish original and quality fiction and non-fiction works in Khmer language, distributed in reading services supported by Sipar and other NGOs, as well as through a network of bookshops. In 2020, our publishing team has demonstrated a remarkable resilience throughout the year, managing to maintain their production rhythm and their creativity despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis. **15 new titles** were published and **91 titles reprinted** for a total of **2,7 million copies** printed and distributed since 2000!

However, due to the COVID-related restrictions on public gatherings, the 9th edition of the **National Book Fair**, which in 2019 gathered 180,000 visitors in 3 days, had to take place virtually in the form of an **Online Book Week**. Nevertheless, the pandemic has also proved to be an

opportunity for the Cambodian publishing sector and for the market of educational books. In 2020, we noticed a sharp increase in demand for recreational books – an essential tool to support children learning to read during the period of school closures.

### MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN 2020

#### The Elephant's New Shoe

(translated from English into Khmer)



This magnificent true story stars Chhouk, a Cambodian elephant calf who was found in the Monduliri forest with his foot caught in a hunter's trap. Rescued by a Wildlife Alliance ranger brigade, Chhouk became one of the first wild animals in the world to receive a prosthetic leg!

#### Exploring the National Museum of Cambodia

(Khmer, French, English)

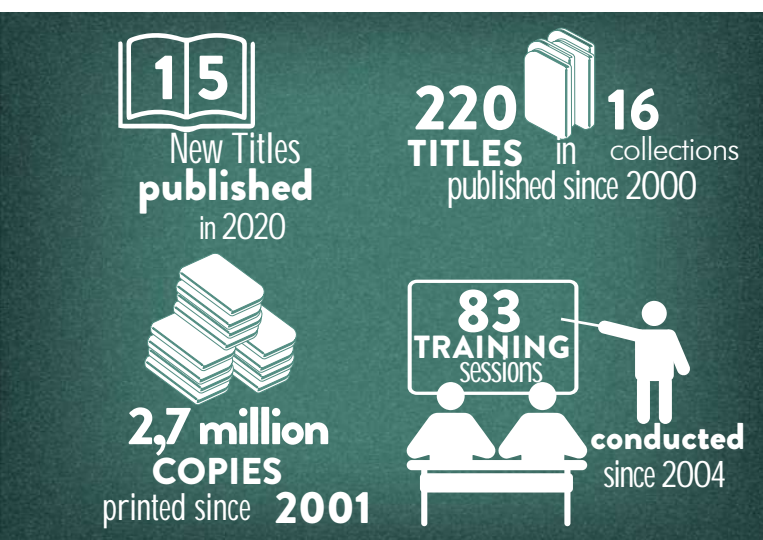
To mark the 100-year anniversary of the National Museum in Phnom Penh (inaugurated in 1920), Sipar publishes a revised edition of the Khmer text (released in 2008) alongside the French and the English translations. A perfect guide book in three languages for the visitors of the National Museum!



#### Three Flames (translated from English into Khmer)



This latest novel by astrophysicist and MIT professor Alan Lightman follows the lives of three generations of women from a Cambodian rural family between 1973 and 2015, exploring the shadows cast on modern Khmer society by Cambodia's dark past.



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

## INAUGURATION OF TWO NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sipar cuts the ribbon at the opening ceremony of two new primary schools – Moha Prum in Kampot and Domnak Thnung in Pursat – constructed with the support of our loyal donors, Mrs Sovanna LY and her friends, who attended the ceremony.



JANUARY

## VOCATIONAL ORIENTATION CORNER & NOMADLAB IN HIGH SCHOOL

Chi He Secondary School in Kampong Cham is the first to have a Vocational Orientation Corner with a *Nomadlab* set up inside its school library by Sipar in collaboration with *Passerelles numériques* and with the support of Kinal Foundation.



FEBRUARY

## NATIONAL SEMINAR LIBRARIES IN PRISONS PROGRAM

In partnership with the Department of Non-Formal Education (MoEYS) and the General Department of Prisons, Sipar organises a national seminar on life-long learning in prisons to help the authorities ensure the sustainability of quality educational services for detainees.



JUNE

## 5 SIPAR BOOKS CONVERTED INTO VIDEO ALBUMS

5 Sipar books are transformed into video albums produced in collaboration with Lotus Radio and the MoEYS, enabling children from rural areas who do not have access to books to discover these stories online during school closures.



JUNE

## FIRST BOAT LIBRARY ON THE TONLE SAP LAKE

After its launching, Sipar's first-ever boat library is now reaching out to 1,400 people living on the Tonle Sap lake, in Kampong Chhnang, through reading and non-formal educational services.



JULY

## FIRST NOMADLAB IN YOUTH CLUBS

The *Nomadlab* makes its way into Pratheat Youth Club in Prey Veng! Our volunteers can now use educational technologies to help them choose their career but also to conduct tutoring sessions with children from their communities.

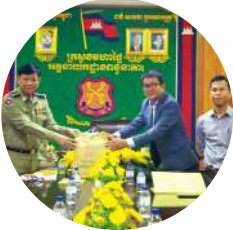




AUGUST

## READING CAMPAIGN IN GARMENT FACTORIES

Over 2,000 workers from 17 garment factories participate in a challenge to borrow 10,000 books collectively in one week, launched by Sipar in collaboration with GMAC, CWPD and three ministries (Education, Labour and Women's Affairs), and even go beyond this ambitious goal!



AUGUST

## STRENGTHENING THE COLLABORATION WITH THE GDP

Sipar's director, Mr. Sothik HOK, and his team pay a courtesy visit to the new director of the General Department of Prisons (GDP), Mr. Chhem Savuth, in order to present the project and to ensure its sustainability.



SEPTEMBER

## VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH WORKER FROM TOP SUMMIT FACTORY

Vorn Sreymach couldn't read or write until she started coming to the literacy classes in her garment factory. Today, she is helping her children with their school work at home! This touching video testimony was produced by Sipar with Lotus Radio.



OCTOBER

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ON SOCIAL INCLUSION IN YOUTH CLUBS

As part of our project with UNICEF, Youth Clubs conduct a series of awareness campaigns on the inclusion of people with disabilities with 600 children and adults in Kratie and Prey Veng.



NOVEMBER

## TUK TUK LIBRARY IN THE SLUMS OF PHNOM PENH

To reach populations living in the most inaccessible areas, Sipar launches its first tuk tuk library to serve 2,590 families living in slums as well as children in two special education schools in the suburbs of Phnom Penh.



DECEMBER

## CAMBODIAN BOOK FAIR 2020 – ONLINE EDITION

The 9th National Book Fair turns into an 'Online Book Week', the success of which confirms the fact that in 2020 – in the context of uncertainty and covid-related social restrictions – Cambodians have taken a bigger interest in reading!

# GOING BEYOND BOOKS, RAISING AWARENESS

With pedagogical expertise and experience in serving underprivileged communities, Sipar has developed **awareness campaigns** on various topics in collaboration with corporate and institutional partners. Sipar is delivering key messages to remote communities via our **network of mobile libraries, Youth Clubs** and in partnership with other organisations (e.g. Cambodian Women for Peace

and Development in garment factories). For each topic we create our own educational games and materials, adapting the message to the target audience – mostly, vulnerable young people or adults.

Our goal is to **achieve behaviour change** and to **encourage Cambodians to become ambassadors** on these topics within their families and communities.

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TOPICS:

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Delivering key messages on water, sanitation, hygiene, health and nutrition to populations in disadvantaged areas, with the support of local authorities.

#### Topics:

- Hand washing
- Brushing teeth
- Healthy eating
- Drinking clean water
- Proper use of latrines
- Breastfeeding
- **From 2020: COVID-19 personal hygiene habits**



### ROAD SAFETY

Contributing to people's awareness of road safety and promoting safe behaviour on the road.

#### Topics:

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



### ENVIRONMENT

Encouraging the population 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 on environment
- Waste recycling workshop
- Community waste collection & clean ups
- "Cleanest village" contest



“I never learned about health or hygiene but I am very happy to see my children enjoy learning about these topics from the mobile library.”

**TEAN Chrep,**  
mother, Thbong Pech  
brick factory, Kandal

“There is an urgent need to raise awareness on road safety among Cambodians, especially among the most underprivileged populations that are not always aware of the road's risks.”

**Mr. Asif Iqbal,**  
Managing Director of  
Total Cambodge

“We've been learning to sort and to recycle different types of waste and how to get rid of it properly. Now I know that plastic trash is really bad for our home and our environment.”

**Visal,**  
9 years old



## INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Raising awareness on the challenges faced by people with disabilities in their daily lives in order to develop inclusive attitudes through campaigns conducted by our mobile libraries, Youth Clubs and in primary schools.

### Activities:

- Games to help identify challenges faced by people with visual, auditory, physical or mental disabilities
- Brainstorming and illustration of solutions to be adopted in local communities
- Reading stories about the daily life of children with disabilities



“Every person, with or without disabilities, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. I will share this message with the people in my village to convince them to change their attitudes.”

**Srey Mom,**  
14 years old

## STEAM

Helping children and young people discover STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) in order to encourage their interest in this sector which is facing a lack of human resources.

### Topics:

- Biology (human body, animals, plants)
- Elements (water, air, heat)
- Mathematics (simple calculations, equations)
- Physics (weights, forces, magnetism)
- Chemistry (mixing, reactions)
- Electricity (basic circuits)
- Engineering & Mechanics (making bridges, towers, planes)
- IT (using tablets to play educational games)
- Art (painting, drawing)



“Children living in rural communities have a very limited access to the internet and to the outside world. We introduce them to technology, innovation, science and arts to widen their perspectives on possible career options in the future.”

**SAING Somethea,**  
STEAM Mobile Librarian

## YOGA & MEDITATION

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in rural communities through the daily practice of yoga and meditation.

### Topics:

- Increasing the ability to focus in class
- Reducing stress and anxiety in daily life
- Improving self-esteem and emotional management
- Developing flexibility, posture and balance
- Encouraging empathy and positive attitudes towards peers



“It was great to learn yoga and meditation with Sipar and teach these skills to children in my village. They really enjoy practising it!”

**SAK Sreytouch**  
Youth Club member in Cham Commune

# OUR PARTNERS

## OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



## OUR INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS



## OTHER SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



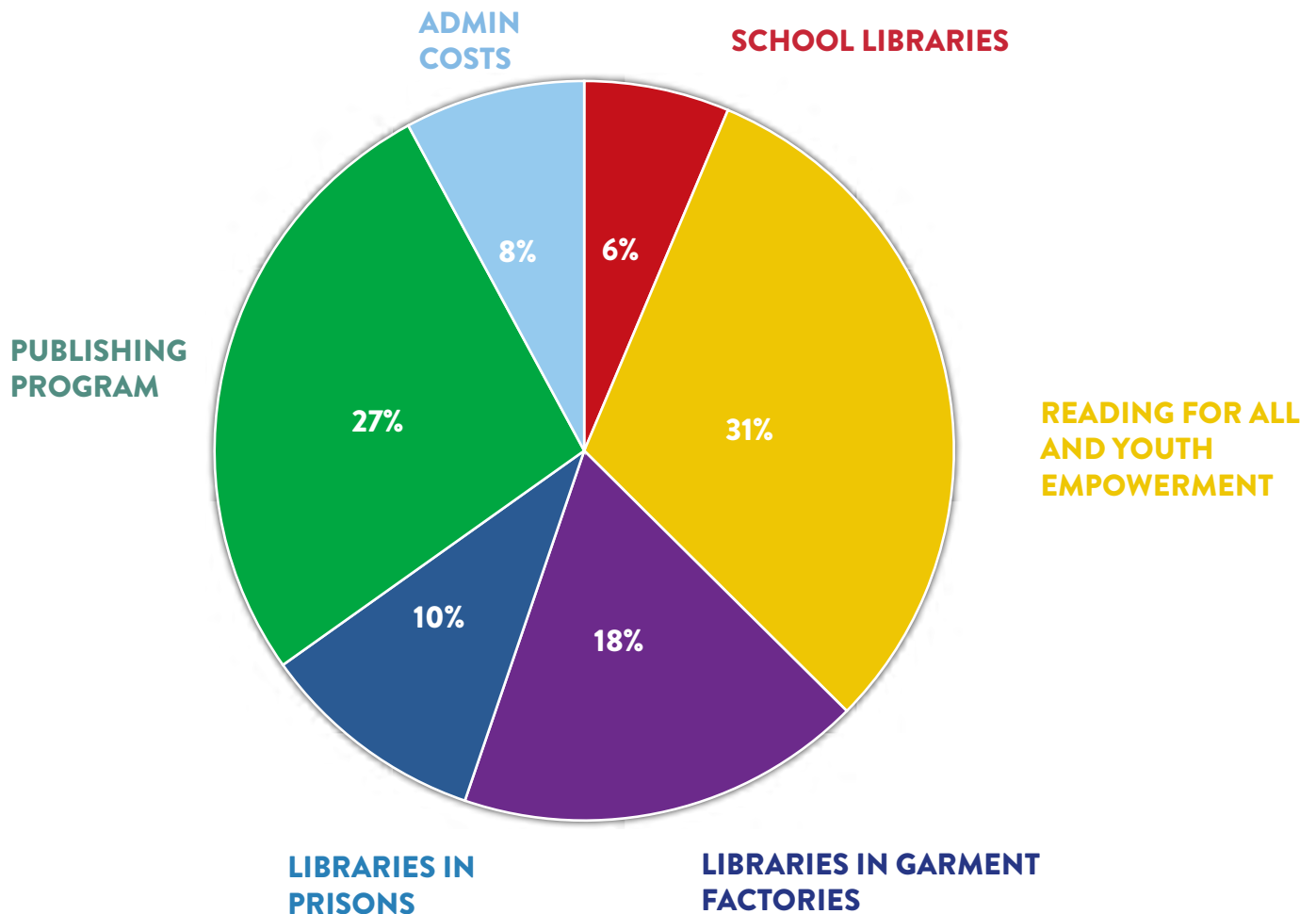
## ORGANISATIONS WE WORK WITH

Action Cambodge Handicap - Asia Foundation - Cambodian Library Association - Cambodian Women for Peace and Development - Caritas Cambodia - Friends International - GMAC - IBBY - Institut Français du Cambodge - International Committee of The Red Cross - Krousar Thmey - La Voix de l'Enfant - Lycée Français René Descartes - Mith Samlanh - Mlop Tapang - NGO in Education Partnership - Passerelles numériques - Rabbit School - Room to Read - RTI - Save the Children -SVA - This Life Cambodia - Youth Star



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## EXPENDITURE PER PROGRAM (USD)



**389,300\$**



**257,300\$**



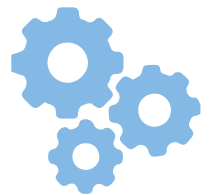
**449,000\$**



**91,900\$**



**143,600\$**



**114,100\$**

**TOTAL: 1,445,200\$**

# ACTION PLAN FOR 2021



## SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

*Continue to provide support to the MoEYS with training and with reading promotion*

- **Pre-schools**
  - Continue to support the reading corners in the 6 autonomous community pre-schools
  - Create 4 new reading corners in 4 community pre-schools
  - Continue to train pre-school teachers
- **Primary schools**
  - Provide books to 105 libraries and raise awareness on health, hygiene and environment
  - Revise the primary school library standards with the MoEYS
- **Secondary schools**
  - Support the 3 existing Vocational Orientation Corners (VOC) in school libraries
  - Implement 1 new library with a VOC in 1 new school
  - Organise career forums in 4 pilot secondary schools
  - Design secondary school library standards with the MoEYS
  - Launch the new project 'Youth Employability and Civic Engagement' (funded by AFD) in secondary schools



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

- Continue the partnership with the National Council for Youth Development
- Continue to support the 23 existing Youth Clubs in Kratie and Prey Veng
- Set up 4 new Youth Clubs in 2 communes in Kratie with Youth Star NGO
- Support the pilot digital lab (*NomadLab*) in the Youth Club of Pratheath
- Launch the new project 'Youth Employability and Civic Engagement' (funded by AFD) in communities



## BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

- Print 23 new titles and reprint 80 existing titles
- Translate and publish in Khmer works of world literature and comic books
- Develop 2 bilingual books for Jarai and Tampoun minorities in Ratanakiri
- Continue to produce e-books
- Develop a series of books for early grades (project funded by the World Bank)





## READING FOR ALL PROGRAM

### Mobile libraries

- Transform the motorbike library in Ratanakiri to a tuk tuk library
- Improve the educational services provided by all mobile libraries (reading, awareness on environment, STEAM, road safety, etc...)
- Continue providing capacity building to the mobile librarians
- Continue to improve the community volunteers' capacity to manage the boxes of books
- Strengthen the collaboration between mobile libraries and pre-schools and primary schools

### Reading Corners in Hospitals

- Continue to support the reading corners of the 3 health facilities in Ratanakiri, Steung Treng and Phnom Penh

### Library Learning Centres in Garment Factories

- Reinforce the 28 existing LLCs and support their sustainability strategies
- Publish the Guide book on Civil Status and Women's Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)
- Disseminate the lessons learned and best practices at the end of the project (Sept 2021)

### Libraries in Prisons and the Reintegration Program

- Set up a library in the new prison of Kampong Cham
- Train the new prison officers-librarians on how to manage a library, evaluate and certify prison officers and librarian detainees in 27 prisons
- Continue to follow-up and provide technical support to literacy classes in 10 prisons
- Strengthen the collaboration between the librarians-prison guards and the literacy teachers to improve the quality of educational services for detainees
- Train 10 prison guards and 3 officers from the GDP on the « Building Futures » curriculum and on reintegration of detainees
- Conduct awareness sessions with the students at the Police Academy of Cambodia on the importance of prison libraries
- Strengthen the capacity of the General Department of Prisons and the prisons themselves to implement the education and rehabilitation national policies effectively and to ensure their sustainability

### Inclusive Education

- **Inclusion of children with disabilities**
  - Produce 60 inclusive learning material kits and introduce them in primary schools in collaboration with the Special Education Department of the MoEYS
  - Support the 5 existing multimedia libraries of special schools of the National Institute for Special Education (formerly run by Krousar Thmey) and train the librarians
- **Multilingual education for ethnic minorities**
  - Produce 16 educational bilingual games (Khmer – Tampuan and Khmer – Jarai) for children from ethnic minorities in Ratanakiri
  - Publish 2 bilingual books (Khmer – Tampuan and Khmer – Jarai) to support the multilingual education programme

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