



# READING AND LEARNING TO BUILD THE FUTURE



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

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Sipar was awarded the IDEAS label in recognition for its administrative, financial, management and assessment practices.

Committed to its core values, which include the respect of cultures, transparency, the empowerment of populations and transmission, Sipar in 2024 has continued its involvement by developing a strategy of social inclusion and gender equality, and by keeping on improving its management and follow-up tools. This approach is designed to formalize a component already present in its actions but that, from now on, will be within a structured framework with optimized tools.

# MESSAGE FROM THE TEAMS IN PHNOM PENH AND VERSAILLES

The year 2024 featured a wealth of developments in our projects, the result of the work carried out by our teams in Phnom Penh and Versailles in France, the support of our board of directors in France, and this, in a difficult budgetary context due to numerous Western donors refocusing on other priorities.

For more than 34 years, Sipar has been playing a crucial role in the development of public-school libraries in Cambodia. By providing books, by setting up the required facilities, and by training staff to manage them and hold activities, Sipar has created a national network of more than 300 primary libraries. With the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport taking over management, Sipar has redirected its efforts toward new initiatives to address other critical needs.

In 2024, 14 mobile libraries have kept on touring seven Cambodian provinces and Phnom Penh—especially in the poorest neighborhoods of the capital and 32 brick factories—holding reading, tutoring and reading awareness sessions. Sipar has continued to develop and strengthen the 75 micro-libraries set up in villages. In June 2024, a new library boat was launched to serve the communities of the floating villages in Kampong Thom province. Moreover, an old library bus was replaced by a minivan set up to introduce children to arts and sciences. To summarize, we have reallocated resources to the locations with the most needs.

As we pursue our commitment to reintegration, a decisive milestone was reached: the country's 28 prison facilities are now all equipped with libraries managed by prison officers and are fitted with an offline digital lab. We have also launched the pilot project Multimedia Educational Centers in seven prison facilities, an initiative that is primordial to facilitate convicts' reintegration into society.

The first phase of the "Youth Empowerment Program" ended with very positive results: 16 high schools equipped with a Library and Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC), 23 active youth clubs, two new books published to support teenagers with their career orientation, and more than 27,000 young people reached. Driven by this dynamic, a second phase of the program was launched during the last semester of 2024 with the goal of expanding the network and achieve a greater impact among Cambodia's youth.

Finally, our editorial team rallied together to broaden the reading material available with 17 new works published in 2024, bringing our catalog to 306 publications.

In 2025, in accordance with its strategic plan, Sipar continued and expanded its mission, remaining truly vigilant regarding project transfer to the local authorities with all that a project entails: promoting reading and education for all, contributing to success in school, and supporting young Cambodians, especially in the most disadvantaged areas of the country.

Thank you so much to our friends, partners and donors: Because of your staunch commitment, we can continue to distribute, every day, books and ideas, and to expand our projects to serve Cambodia's youth with, in 2025, a focus on diversifying support, especially in Cambodia, to ensure that our mission lives on.

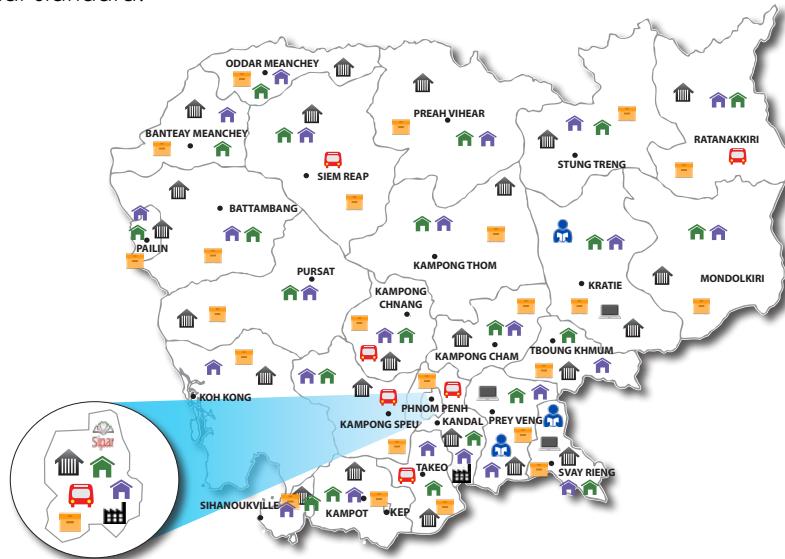
Our teams in Phnom Penh and Versailles

# ABOUT SIPAR

## Reading and Learning to Build the Future

Sipar—a recognized charitable organization according to the French Law 1901—was launched in 1982 in Versailles in France to help Southeast Asian refugees. The NGO has been involved in the education sector in Cambodia since 1991. Sipar takes part in the fight against illiteracy and the development of reading for all by extending a library network and other facilities for reading, stationery or mobile, in primary and secondary schools, villages in rural and isolated areas, chanty towns, garment factories, brickworks and prisons. In cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), the local authorities and communities, and local and international organizations, Sipar carries out book promotion and distribution throughout the country by the implementation of innovative programs.

Aware of the situation in the Khmer-language book publishing sector and the shortage of books in Khmer, Sipar has expanded its activities since 2000 to include a Khmer-language book publishing program for children, young people and adults. With nearly 16 %percent of the Cambodian population totally illiterate—that is, more than 1.5 million people over 15 years old who cannot read or write—Sipar's programs contribute to developing access to knowledge and education, and to help people young and old make progress on the path to writing. The situation is of even greater concern among teenagers: in Cambodia, only 8 % of the 15-year-old students reach the minimal required reading level according to international standard.



### Education and Reading for All

- 14 mobile libraries serving 126 locations in 7 provinces: 9 library buses, 2 tuk-tuk libraries, 2 library boats and 1 moto library
- 28 prison facilities equipped with libraries in Cambodia's 25 provinces and Phnom Penh
- 32 brick factories visited by mobile libraries around Phnom Penh
- 75 micro-libraries in rural areas, set up right at volunteers' homes as well as in pre-schools and primary schools
- 25 Libraries Education Centers in garment factories in 9 provinces and Phnom Penh.

### Youth Empowerment

- 23 Community-Based Organizations (CBO) registered in 3 provinces (Kratie, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng) with 38 micro-libraries and 46 mobile libraries
- 23 NomadLabs (mobile digital laboratories) available in the Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- 16 school libraries equipped with a Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC) with digital equipment/digital resources.

### School Sector

- 318 school libraries throughout Cambodia's 25 provinces.

### Book Publishing

- 3.3 million books printed since 2001
- 306 titles across 23 collections
- 86 editorial training sessions organized since 2004
- 17 new titles published in 2024.

**42** 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:**



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



# EDUCATION AND READING FOR ALL PROGRAMS



## MOBILE LIBRARIES

**Context:** With a literacy rate of only 84%—the lowest in Southeast Asia—Cambodia still leaves many people without access to books and knowledge, especially in the most vulnerable communities. Women remain the most affected by illiteracy with a literacy rate of only 79.8 % compared to 88.4 % for men.

In rural and underprivileged areas, where libraries and the cultural infrastructure are virtually nonexistent, Sipar's mobile libraries have been playing an essential role for more than 20 years by providing access to reading, education and information.

Due to the nearly total absence of books in rural and disadvantaged zones, Sipar's mobile library program provides essential access to reading, book lending, educational support as well as information sessions on major social issues.

In 2024, the fleet consisted of 14 mobile libraries: 9 van mobile libraries; 2 tuk-tuk libraries, one in Phnom Penh and the other in Ratanakiri province; 2 library boats, the latest one launched in June at the Phat Sandai floating village in Kampong Thom province; and one moto library.

These mobile libraries travel from Monday through Friday, and have served 126 sites across Phnom Penh and several provinces (Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Ratanakkiri, Siem Reap and Takeo provinces), serving more than 12,800 beneficiaries, that is, more than 9,800 children and 3,000 adults.

Each session starts with an activity around reading (reading aloud, free reading), followed by educational games and creative activities before ending with book lending service. Khmer language and mathematics tutoring sessions are also offered to primary school students in order to strengthen basic school learning and prevent failing at school, if not premature school leave.

As is being done each year, the teams in 2024 organized sessions to raise awareness on key issues such as health and nutrition, road safety, the environment, and also on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). These initiatives have reached more than 8,000 children, teenagers and adults during the year.

Since 2013, Sipar and TotalEnergies Marketing (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. have worked together, through a mobile library, to raise awareness among the very young on the issues of road safety. This project conducted in schools, villages and brick factories around Phnom Penh links road safety to reading and education through interactive sessions and awareness campaigns. In 2024, a total of 3,190 persons, including 1,670 girls, took part in the activities. The project reinforces reading skills as well as accident prevention by raising children's awareness from a very early age.

Since 2019, the STEAM mobile library of Sipar has been promoting sciences, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics among children of disadvantaged communities. Serving 54 villages between Phnom Penh and Kandal, Takeo and Kampong Speu provinces, the library holds practical and play workshops designed to spark curiosity and develop creativity. In 2024, 2,950 children, with 2,140 (73 %) being girls, benefited from these activities. This project contributes to reducing inequalities in the access to STEAM education and to promote equal opportunity.

Finally, Sipar has continued the development of community micro-libraries in partnership with local volunteers in villages that are provided with regular service. These small structures make it possible for the communities to benefit from independent and lasting access to books, even after the phased withdrawal of Sipar. This micro-library system makes it possible to identify new areas of



## MOBILE LIBRARIES

intervention while keeping on providing the existing libraries with regular technical support and ensuring that the habit of reading is maintained among the communities. In 2024, 75 micro-libraries were in operation, contributing to strengthening the impact and sustainability of the program.



“

*Before the mobile library started coming to our village, access to books was very limited, which was making teaching difficult and learning harder for children. With the help of Sipar, we have been able to set up a micro-library and I volunteered to manage it. What I love the most is that it is not only for children. No. It's truly for all people in the village! It's wonderful to see people come on a regular basis to borrow books. This makes them want to read, expands their knowledge and arouses their curiosity. Taking part in all this is something I'm really proud of.*

”

NORN SREY,

52-year-old

Primary school teacher and volunteer in Kandal Province



“

*My name is Srey Leap, I'm 10 years old. We are six children in my family, but only my older sister and I go to school. I really love it when the Sipar's tuk-tuk library comes. I love to listen to the stories, coloring, and borrowing books that I read with my brothers and sisters at night. In the future, I would like to become a doctor so I can treat my mother and help people in my neighborhood.*

”

SREY LEAP,

10 years old

9 library buses

126 locations served

2 tuk-tuks libraries

2 mobile library boats

75 Micro-libraries

1 mobile library motorcycle

12 700 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** Tampoun 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 Bakeo district. The reading and education sessions are led by our bilingual Khmer-Tampoun 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 brickfactory 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'AQUILLA, in cooperation with Marins Sans Frontières and partners in Cambodia.



## EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES

**Contexte :** In Cambodia, families working in the brickworks remain the most marginalized populations, still mainly left behind.

Employed for the manufacturing of construction materials, which are later sent to Phnom Penh and the major cities to build housings, hotels and luxury real estate projects meant for the country's elite and expats, these families live in extremely precarious conditions.

Most of them are heavily in debt and binded to the brickworks owners through an economic dependency system at times going back several generations.

In this environment, children, teenagers who have dropped out of school and women are especially vulnerable with very limited access to education, healthcare and sustainable future prospects.

Since 2018, Sipar has worked in these areas to improve access to reading, education, personal and social development of children and teenagers while supporting families' efforts to get out of poverty.

In 2024, through the support of the Agence Française de Développement (French development agency) and with co-funding from the Fondation Luciole and the Comgest Foundation, Sipar has been able to extend its program to a total of 32 brickworks, reaching more than 1,300 families.

Among them, more than 1,200 children (including 583 girls) take part on a regular basis in the educational activities held by the mobile libraries. The core part of the program is meant for teenagers who have dropped out of school. In 2024, 262 young people (including 120 girls) benefited from specific sessions aimed at supporting them in an educational development dynamic and to support them in their daily lives.

Moreover, Sipar works closely with local schools and their teaching teams to encourage school attendance of children living at the brickworks. This work to raise awareness and provide support aims to remove the barrier to inclusive education and reinforce the welcoming of the children at the schools. As part of this, Sipar has helped set up libraries in the six partners schools. Moreover, at the beginning of each school year, Sipar gives children of the brickworks a kit with basic school supplies and also monitors their education.

Cooperation with our partner Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) in the country is essential for this program. CWPD gets directly involved to create awareness among the parents who work on key themes: health, hygiene, nutrition, family planning, budget management, prevention of domestic violence and addictions

In 2024, this partnership made it possible to train 60 peer educators and to organize training sessions for 1,913 adults, among whom 1,350 women, aiming to improve their wellbeing and to support the efforts of the families to get out of poverty.



## EDUCATION IN BRICK FACTORIES

The program's key activities

- 4 library buses serve 32 brick factories, making it possible to organize reading and tutoring activities for more than 1,200 children (including 583 girls).
- 938 children (including 458 girls) benefit from weekly tutoring sessions with librarians teachers who provide them support with their learning.
- 262 teenagers who don't attend school take advantage of the socio-educational support programs designed for their educational reintegration.
- Cooperation with schools to support the schooling of the children from the brickworks, which includes the distribution of school kits to encourage their inclusion.
- 20 community volunteers (including 14 women) run local micro-libraries, reinforcing community commitment and participation.
- 6 new libraries have been set up in primary schools near brickworks to empower access to reading.



**“** I live in a brickworks with my family. I had almost stopped going to school because I had no book, no money and no school nearby. But since Sipar's mobile library has been coming to the brickworks, I'm continuing my studies and I've been enjoying reading again. I read every week. I borrow books and I can even read stories to my younger brothers and sisters. One day, I read a book about growing vegetables. I tried and I managed to grow cauliflower. I was so glad. And now, I want to become a farmer to help my family. **”**

VISAL,  
10 years old



## EDUCATION IN PRISONS

**Context:** Access to education in prison settings remains a major challenge in Cambodia where a large number of prisoners have not completed their schooling. And yet, education is essential for social reinsertion, the prevention of recidivism, and for human dignity. Over the last 13 years, Sipar has been working in partnership with Cambodia's Directorate General of Prisons to set up a national library network, offline library digital resources (NomadLab) as well as educational, cultural and capacity-building programs in Cambodian prisons. This program comprises two complementary projects aimed at improving access to education and to promote the social rehabilitation of the inmates in Cambodia: the project *Education in Prisons* and the pilot project *Multimedia Educational Centers*.

A structured and autonomous national library network — In 2024, there were libraries in operation in the 28 prisons of the country's 25 provinces, serving the 42,264 inmates. Each library is equipped with the multilingual software PMB—a library automation software—that facilitates document management and keeping track of the books borrowed. On average, 10,000 readers visit the libraries either to read on site or to borrow books to read in their cells.

Since 2021, these libraries have been directly managed by the prisons themselves with the technical support of the Directorate General of Prisons. Sipar provides support to the librarians, whether prison guards or inmates, through regular training in library management and the use of PMB software, conducts satisfaction surveys among readers, and evaluates inmate library assistants and issues them a certificate of competence.

Moreover, the literacy program implemented by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and supported by Sipar, made it possible in 2024 to set up 46 literacy classes, which benefitted 1,003 convicts including 98 women, and nine equivalence classes involving 182 students on their path toward an official diploma.

Expanding digital access with the digital laboratory NomadLab — In 2024, Sipar strengthened its offline digital education program in cooperation with the NGO Passerelles Numériques. NomadLab was set up in five additional prisons, bringing to 28 the number of prisons with the program. Each lab comprises 5 to 10 computers, digital projectors and offline resources including more than 800 files, 260 educational videos and 120 interactive applications. More than 56 prison guards have been trained to manage the labs.

A workshop for exchange of knowledge and skills was co-organized with the NGO Passerelles Numériques and brought together 30 prison librarians and five officials from the General Department of Prisons to discuss good practices on the use of NomadLab and library inventory management.

**28**  
LIBRARIES  
for **42,264**  
detainees beneficiaries

**10 000**  
readers  
per month

**28** libraries  
equipped with a  
digital laboratory  
serving **42,264**  
beneficiaries

  
**46**  
literacy classes  
benefiting 1,003  
inmates

**1**  
art  
workshops



## EDUCATION IN PRISONS

Cultural and creative activities: On the occasion of the International Women's Day in 2024, Sipar cooperated with the French Institute of Cambodia to hold an artistic performance featuring Cambodian women musicians at the Correctional Centre 2 (CC2). The event brought together more than 150 women inmates and 50 prison officers, providing a moment for sharing and highlighting the country's heritage.

As part of its action in support of reintegration, Sipar launched in seven prisons the Multimedia Educational Center pilot project, which was funded by the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID). The main goal is to provide inmates with self-learning opportunities in four key sectors through two programs: Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP), English language (levels 1 and 2), Microsoft Office, and life skills and reintegration support (7 modules) of the Skills for Development Program (SDP).

This project, whose pilot phase will be brought to a close in December 2025, is meant to facilitate socio-professional reintegration through multimedia educational services that are innovative and accessible (through books, computers, servers, LCD projectors, etc.). In cooperation with its partners, Sipar aims to reach 1,500 beneficiaries.

The program Skills for Development (SDP) was conceived and then tested and put in place in four prisons—CC4, Kampot, Koh Kong and Prey Veng prisons. By the end of December 2024, there were 29 inmates enrolled in these training programs and more than 200 inmates had attended the screenings of the videos of the seven reintegration-preparation modules.

In 2024, Sipar, in partnership with UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, launched the Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP) in six of the seven pilot prisons. This program enables the inmates to resume their schooling and complete their lower-secondary school (grades 7-9) studies on an online platform—offline through a server in prison facilities—accessible for free.

Set up in the libraries/multimedia centers in the prisons, the BEEP program offers a true opportunity for educational and social reintegration. The program's official launch brought together 26 stakeholders including institutional representatives, technical and financial partners, and representatives of the prison system. They all welcomed this initiative as a significant step toward equal access to education.

By the end of 2024, 55 convicts, including 16 women, were enrolled in the first session.



*The NomadLab is a very useful tool for the inmates. They can get familiar with many applications and develop language and life skills. This also helps them reduce their stress and worries. By using NomadLab, many inmates have developed a more positive state of mind, attitude and outlook on life.*

**ENG SAINGSOVANN,**  
executive assistant and librarian at the prison of Kampot

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



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

**Context:** In Cambodia, people under 30 years old represent 60% of the population, people filled with potential but still too often left behind, especially in isolated rural areas where schools lack resources and professional training is scarce. Many young people find themselves with no qualification or prospects for the future, caught in a cycle of precariousness and disengagement. In view of this challenge, Sipar, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and with funding from the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency), initiated in 2021 a program to help break this cycle. The Youth Empowerment Program aims to equip these young people with the knowledge and skills to permanently enter the workforce and become active members of their communities. The project combines apprenticeship, career guidance and civic engagement.

### Phase 1 summary: laying the foundations

Launched between 2021 and 2024 in 15 provinces, this first phase has enabled to lay a solid foundation for this innovative program comprising apprenticeships, career counselling and the strong commitment of the young people in rural areas.

In secondary schools, Sipar has helped set up 16 school libraries that include Vocational Orientation Corners (VOC) equipped with digital laboratories and varied information resources. These sections have been providing students with concrete tools to look into trades, training paths, and enable them to plan for the future. A total of 30 career fairs were organized, building bridges between the school and the labor sector.

At the same time, 23 Youth Community-Based Organizations (CBO) were singled out, assisted and structured by Sipar with the goal of directly involving young people in concrete activities to serve their communities. These civil society organizations, set up in communes and also called Youth Clubs, are overseen by teenage volunteers 12-to-18 years old dedicated to promoting education and reading. Supported by our long-term partner Youth Star Cambodia, these clubs have set up tutoring activities and, as a result, 83 young volunteer tutors have helped 730 students struggling at school.

The program has also set up 46 mobile libraries (backpack libraries) and 38 community mini-libraries, making reading materials available in remote areas. All Youth Community-Based Organizations have been equipped with mobile digital laboratories (NomadLabs) with about 10 tablets.

Moreover, 39 awareness campaigns on social issues such as road safety, environmental protection and so on, have reached more than 3,000 people.

### Phase two: aiming for a larger scale (2024–2027)

In October 2024, the program entered its second 3-year phase with reinforced objectives and extending its scope of action. This new phase aims to strengthen what has been accomplished, expand access to resources, and sustain the initiatives in the communities with the goal of directly benefitting more than 36,000 young people.

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

**27,000** student beneficiaries

**30** Career Forums

**62** Teachers trained  
(19 women)



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

### Defining objectives:

- Enhancing the academic and digital skills of students
- Offering new perspectives regarding choices of training and careers
- Creating 13 new libraries with multimedia Vocational Orientation Corners (VOC) in 10 rural high schools and 3 youth centers—one being a rehabilitation center for minors—bringing to 29 the total number of multimedia Vocational Orientation Corners (VOC)
- Setting up multimedia equipment with computers and resources for secondary school students' career guidance
- Continuing to organize career forums
- Developing new educational material in relation to career guidance, digital technology and citizenship.

### Encouraging social and civic engagement:

- Training and supporting the 23 community-based organizations and 25 student councils in the organization of out-of-school's activities: tutoring, mobile libraries, raising awareness of social and environmental issues in their communities.
- Setting up new micro-libraries managed locally.

### Strengthening institutional capacities:

- Training for headmasters and educators responsible for library management (PMB software), pedagogical assistance, vocational orientation and support for young people.

- Development of local partnerships to ensure sustainability beyond the project.

### Toward a sustainable education and involvement model:

The objective is to build a network of 25 secondary schools and three youth centers set up with libraries, digital tools and vocational orientation corners, while training a new generation of young people involved in their communities.

By focusing on education, career guidance, digital technology and civic engagement, this program prepares young Cambodians to become agents of change. This second phase of three years represents a key step toward the development of a more inclusive and long-lasting education system



“

*I first got involved in the organization to help children learn to read. But actually, I learned a great deal. I was someone rather shy, but now, I have built the self-confidence to get involved with people and I have acquired leadership skills. I'm so happy and so proud of having done all this.*

”

SUVANNATH KANCHANA,

in charge of the CBO of Trapeang Sre in Kratie Province

**23 CBOs** with  
equipped with  
NomadLab

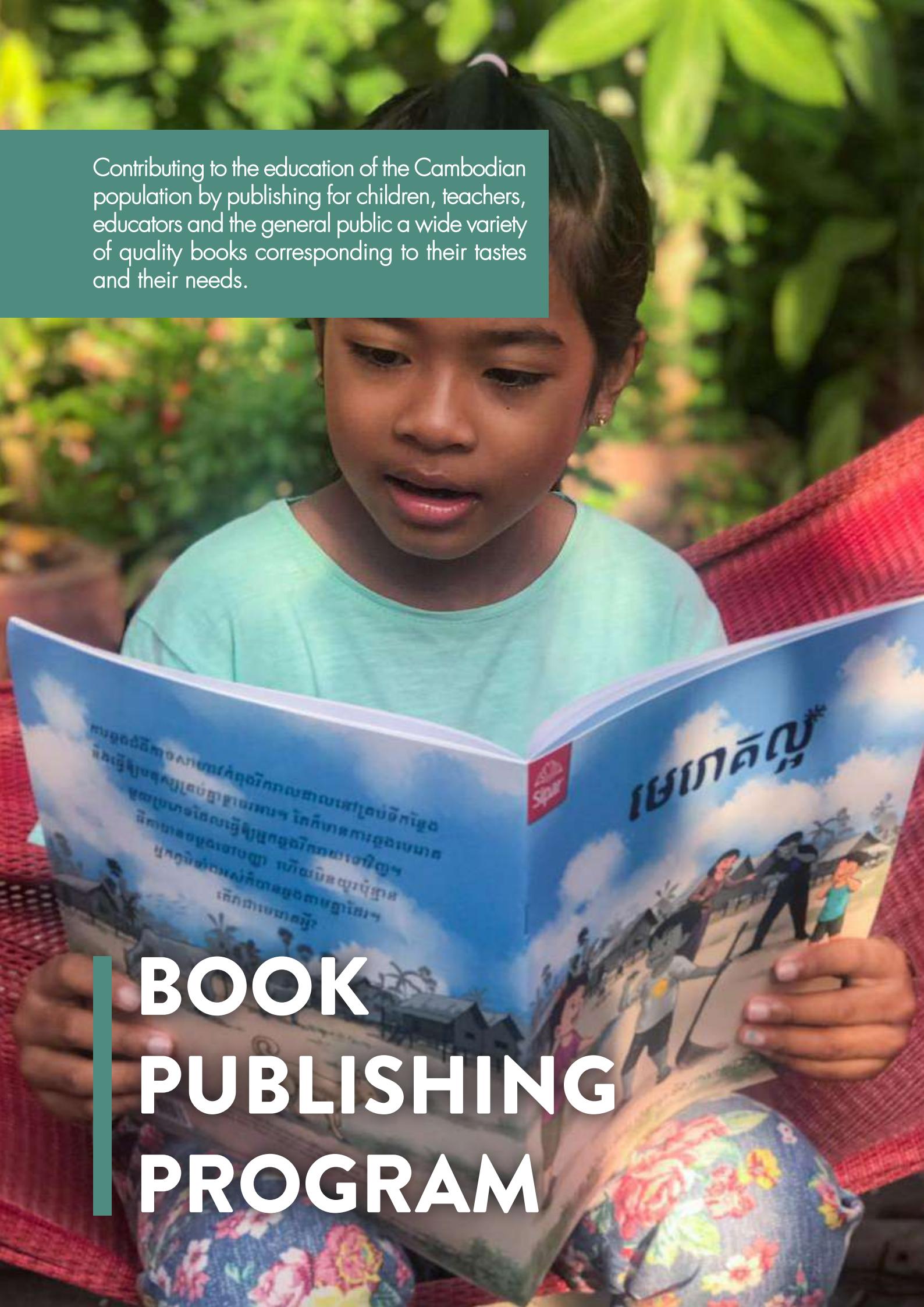
**517** members  
(387 girls)

**46** backpack libraries  
**700** readers per month

**83** Little  
teachers  
**730** beneficiaries  
of their  
tutoring

**38** micro-libraries  
among members

**39** AWARENESS  
campaigns  
with  
**3,070** participants



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

# BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM



## BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

**Contexte :** Over the last few years, the interest in reading has increased in Cambodia, in schools as well as at home. The growing success of the Cambodia Book Fair, which was launched in 2010 in Phnom Penh, is testimony to this enthusiasm as around 160,000 visitors attended the fair held for the 11th time in December 2024. This positive dynamic creates unexpected opportunities for those involved in the sector. Still, the overall quality of publishing in Cambodia remains insufficient in terms of professional standards as well as trained editors and content truly embedded in the country's culture.

In 2024, Sipar has kept on enhancing Cambodia's publishing landscape by releasing 17 new books as well as reprinting 45,900 copies of popular titles, bringing to 3.3 million the number of copies distributed since 2001. These efforts support the objective of Sipar to promote reading and to provide quality books in Khmer to reach a broad public, contributing to literary culture in Cambodia.

### Evolving toward a social enterprise model

By publishing original, accessible and quality works of fiction and non-fiction, Sipar works toward structuring and professionalizing the Cambodian publishing sector while supporting education and reading. In 2024, the program continued to evolve as a social enterprise, linking economic viability and educational mission. The objective: to have books tailored to all ages and accessible to all, advancing competencies in the sector, and reaching the largest number of readers throughout the country.

### Reinforcing Editorial Skills

To help raise the professional level in the sector, Sipar has continued its training initiatives. In May 2024, SIN Sovanrattana and LACH Ratana who are members of Sipar's editorial team went through in-depth training in France, working with Sipar's French editors advisors, members of its board of directors. This contributed to raising their expertise in youth content, publishing and author support.

### Launch of the manga "Silence:" a first in Cambodia

In 2024, Sipar marked a turning point by publishing in Khmer the first volumes of the manga "Silence," which is a post-apocalyptic work written by the French author Yoann Vornière. This project was made possible through the financial support of the Institut Français du Cambodge (French Institute of Cambodia), which facilitated the translation of this work inspired by French folklore.

The launch of these works has been a first for the still-emerging, Khmer-language manga market in the country. The official launch of volumes 1 and 2 took place on Oct. 19, 2024 at the French Institute during the Animation Film Festival. Volume 3 was published to coincide with the 11th Cambodia Book Fair in December 2024 in Phnom Penh.

**17**  
new titles  
published  
in 2024

**306**  **23**  
TITLES in collections  
published since 2001

  
**3,3 million**  
copies  
published since 2001

**86**  
TRAINING  
sessions  
  
since  
2004



## BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

### Promoting books and reading

As each year, Sipar took part in numerous literary events to help promote reading and support Cambodian authors. Key events included the Cambodia Book Fair, which was co-organized with institutional partners, as well as fairs, conferences and festivals throughout the country. Moreover, Sipar strengthened its commitment to youth publishing by signing a license agreement with Room to Read Cambodia in order to adapt and publish five books in Khmer, thus expanding the country's supply of quality books, and enhancing the quality of books available to young Cambodian readers.

### THE CHAKTO PROJET: SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF CAMBODIAN COMIC BOOKS

In September 2024, Sipar publishing house joined Chakto, an ambitious program supported by the French Embassy and the French Institute in Cambodia and whose goal is to strengthen the cultural and creative industries in partnership with Sipar and three other major NGOs in the country. The project involves helping to expand the skills of young talented Cambodians in several artistic disciplines including graphic novels, cinema, music and dance. Sipar, as a publishing house, leads the writing component with an emphasis on the creation of comic books and graphic novels entirely conceived and produced by Cambodian artists.



In 2025, training sessions were to be held to support young Cambodian comic book writers and train Cambodian illustrators to create comic strips. At the end of the program, the works produced are to be published by Sipar, which will mark a milestone in the development of comic books and graphic novels in the country.



*With Pierre-Olivier Maquart [medical entomologist at the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia] and our team, our objective was clear: to awake young Cambodians' curiosity. We selected the country's most emblematic insects to make them discover the fascinating universe of entomology. Through this book, we want to pass on not only knowledge but also a true passion for nature and an awareness of the insects' essential role in our environment.*

**DR SÉBASTIEN BOYER,**  
head of the Medical and Veterinary Entomology Unit at the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia, and co-author of the book "Insects in Cambodia."



## BOOK PUBLISHING PROGRAM

### FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS IN 2024, RELEASED IN KHMER LANGUAGE:



*Books for youth development: How to take care of one's mental health, 11 questions for teenagers*

To provide teenagers with reference points to take care of their mental health and better tackle one's transformations during adolescence.



*The Montessori book on sciences and nature, and I cannot live without water*

Books on educational activities inspired by the Montessori educational method, offering play and practical activities to help parents equip their children with the necessary tools to better understand science and explore their environment. Winner of the children's illustration contest organized by Sipar.



*A Good Virus*

Written by Maria Montello, illustrated by El Huyno and Viola Ruotsala. An inspiring story in which happiness is spreading like a virus. So, what is this mysterious virus.



*The Blue*

Chakriya faces a small blue creature that grows and causes her problems. She then tries to get rid of it. A story about anxiety written by Antiochus Omissi to help children translate their emotions into words.

### FEEDBACK FROM SIPAR'S CUSTOMERS

Cheas Sarin: "I buy Sipar's books because they always are of good quality, with clear and well-thought-of content. We learn all kinds of things easily. It's really useful!"

Srey Veasna: "I really like the way the story is divided in parts and levels. This makes reading simpler and more enjoyable, especially for those who are learning at different paces."

Sievimey Long: "I love reading and Sipar's books especially appeal to me because they are well done and well-thought-out for one to learn while enjoying oneself."

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

## IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING: NOMADLAB IN PRISON FACILITIES

NomadLab has been set up in five prisons with training on its management provided. The project has involved putting in place 31 computers, five LCD projectors and various accessories. A total of 38 participants, including two women, took part in the training, which enabled them to acquire the skills needed to efficiently use Nomadlab.



FEBRUARY

## CAREER FORUMS HELD IN FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In February 2024, a career forum was organized by Sipar for the students of five secondary schools: Kraing Sromor, Romeas Hek, Chi He, Baphnom and Kampong Thmor schools. The objective of the event was to provide young people with information and course choices on the various fields of studies and career opportunities.



MARCH

## LAUNCHING OF THE EDUCATIONAL BOOK ON INSECTS IN CAMBODIA

In March 2024, Sipar and the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia jointly launched the book "Insects in Cambodia" at the Cambodia Museum of Economy and Money (SOSORO) in Phnom Penh. This work published in three languages (English, French and Khmer) is meant to arouse the curiosity of young readers and encourage them to learn about the rich entomological biodiversity in Cambodia.



APRIL

## TRAINING OF 23 YOUNG LEADERS OF THE YOUTH CLUBS

In April 2024, Sipar organized a training session on team building for the 23 leaders of the Youth Clubs. This training was meant to help develop their leadership skills in team cohesion, communication and cooperation in order to improve the effectiveness of their actions in the field.



MAY

## VISIT OF THE MEMBERS OF SIPAR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE KAMPOT PRISON

In May 2024, members of Sipar's Board of Directors went to the prison of Kampot to better understand how the library operates and the procedures for the management of NomadLab. This visit was an opportunity to evaluate the impact of the library on the education of the persons incarcerated.



JUNE

## LAUNCH OF A LIBRARY BOAT IN PHAT SANDAI

In June 2024, Sipar, with the support of All Dreams Cambodia and in cooperation with Marins Sans Frontières (sailors without borders) and FACT, inaugurated its latest library boat meant to serve the floating villages' communities of the Phat Sandai commune in Kampong Thom province. This joint initiative is meant to facilitate access to reading and education to the populations living in isolated areas.



JULY

## ACTIONS OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS

July 2024 was marked by two campaigns organized by the Community Based Organizations (CBO) with the support of Sipar with the goal of promoting environmental protection and civil involvement:

- Training about the environment conducted by the Community Based Organizations of Peam Chor.
- Awareness campaigns on the environment and tree planting organized by the community-based organizations of Sambour district's Cham commune in Kratie province.



AUGUST

## PUBLICATION OF THE GUIDEBOOK “11 QUESTIONS FROM TEENAGERS” TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD AS PART OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This work of the “Guide for Youth” collection, which is about teenagers’ physical and mental development, the risks they might be exposed to and the possible solutions, was published to be distributed in the facilities and community-based organizations (CBO) partners of the Youth Development program, and sold to the public.



SEPTEMBER

## OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE “BEEP” PROGRAM IN PRISON FACILITIES

In September 2024, Sipar—in cooperation with the Directorate General of Prisons Cambodia (DGP); the Non-Formal and Inclusive Education Department and the Digital Transformation Programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; UNESCO; and the NGO Passerelles Numériques Cambodia—officially set up the offline Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP) in six pilot prison facilities.



OCTOBER

## TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIBRARY BUS TO PROMOTE READING AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

In October 2024, Sipar launched the library bus, which is a converted van, to replace the old library bus in order to actively promote culture and reading, and to generate children’s interest in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).



NOVEMBER

## NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “YOUTH DEVELOPMENT” AND THE LAUNCH OF THE TEACHER’S GUIDE IN KHMER FOR THE FILM “LA BEAUTÉ DU GESTE.”

In November 2024, Sipar held a national symposium to mark the end of Phase 1 and the launch of Phase 2 of the Youth Empowerment program, as well as the launch of the teaching guide accompanying the film “La Beauté du Geste” (“The Perfect Motion”) in Khmer. The event was presided by His Excellency Hang Chuon Naron, Cambodia’s deputy prime minister and minister of Education, Youth and Sport, and His Excellency Jacques Pellet, ambassador of France in Cambodia.



DECEMBER

## CO-ORGANIZATION OF THE 11TH CAMBODIA BOOK FAIR AND THE LAUNCH OF THE MANGA “SILENCE” IN KHMER

In December 2024, Sipar co-organized the 11th Cambodia Book Fair. The Sipar team was fully mobilized for this event. An event that was marked by the presentation of the first three volumes of the manga “Silence” translated in Khmer, which was a first for Sipar, and was an opportunity to meet numerous people passionate about reading and to interact with a diverse public.

# 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



**“** In brick factories, many families don't know that cooking in certain ways may make people sick. With CWPD, we show them how to prepare meals in more hygienic and healthy ways. We also explain to them the three food groups and encourage them to eat them to have a more balanced diet. Finally, we advise them to choose food rich in proteins that are both healthy and affordable.

**”**

**MOM SREY MOM,**  
volunteer educator with CWPD

### 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
- Wearing a helmet
- Good behaviors for pedestrians and cyclists



**“** I really enjoyed taking part in the activities on road safety with Sipar. I learned all kinds of new things I had never heard of in class! Now, I know how to be more careful when I go to school, especially on bicycle. I always remind myself what the librarian explained to us.

**”**

**NAT NARY,**  
12 years old

## 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

## 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)



“ Taking part in tree planting helped me better understand how crucial trees are to fight against climate change, prevent floods and protect biodiversity. That day, the whole community got involved. The school director, the commune chief, the youth club members, the students and even the monks took part in the planting because even a small action can have a big impact if we work together. A tree, it's a life. ”

CHOEN REAKSA

volunteer with a CBO, Keng Prasat village,  
Kratie province



“ At school, we don't have a big library. So when Sipar's STEAM bus arrives, it's always a moment I eagerly look forward to. I love having experiences and discovering new books. I have learned all kinds of things, like the planets and the solar system that we have been able to observe during fun activities. I also tested a waterwheel system for the first time, it was great to see how it works for real! Because of this, I better understand in class, especially sciences, and this makes me want to learn even more! ”

LEANG HENG

5th grade student at the Ang Chum Phnum Chochork primary school

## Protecting the environment: a growing priority for Sipar



Label «Living With Rivers» : a recognition for Sipar's library boat at Phat Sandai

Sipar's second boat library, which is especially serving the population of the Phat Sandai floating villages, was awarded the prestigious label "Living With Rivers."

This international recognition was meant to highlight the positive outcomes of this initiative on the population of the lake. The label is meant as a recognition and support of local initiatives that provide solutions to the major challenges facing fluvial ecosystems.

# OUR PARTNERS

## OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



## OUR INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS



## OUR OTHER SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

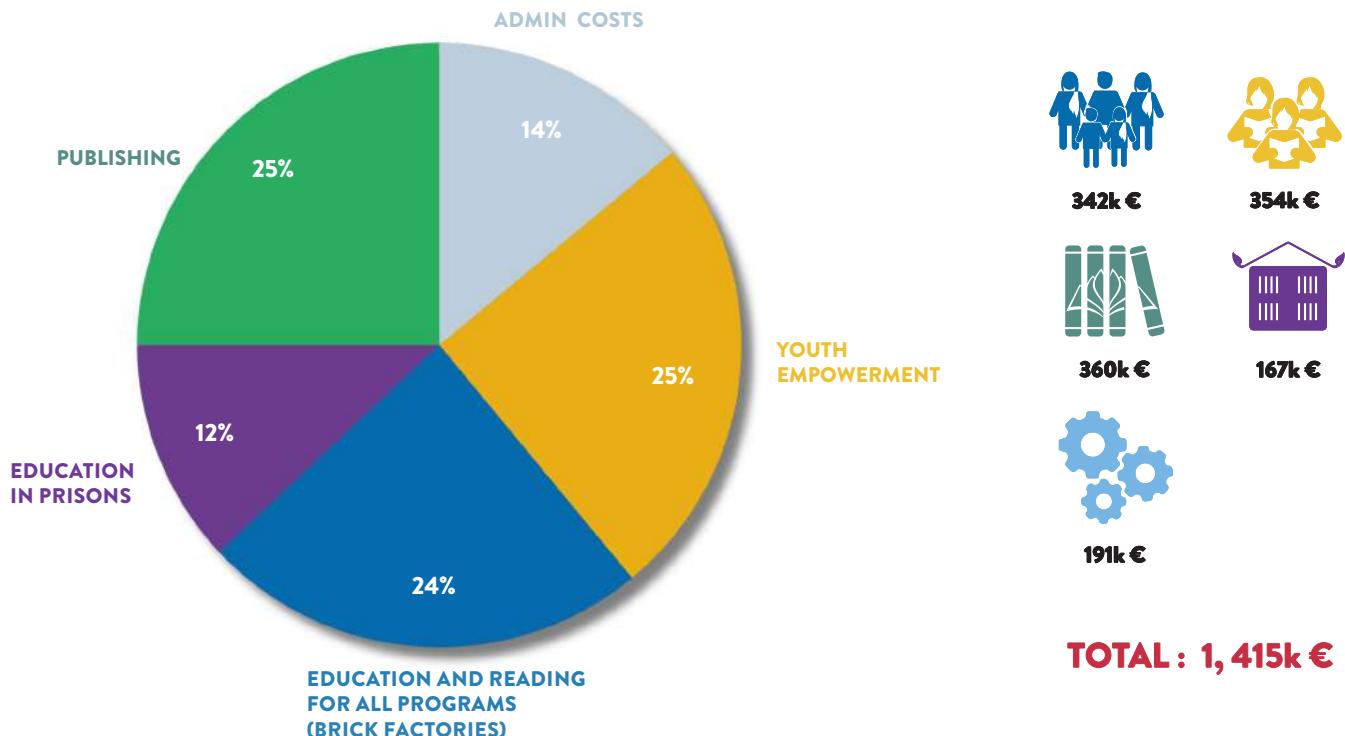


## OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

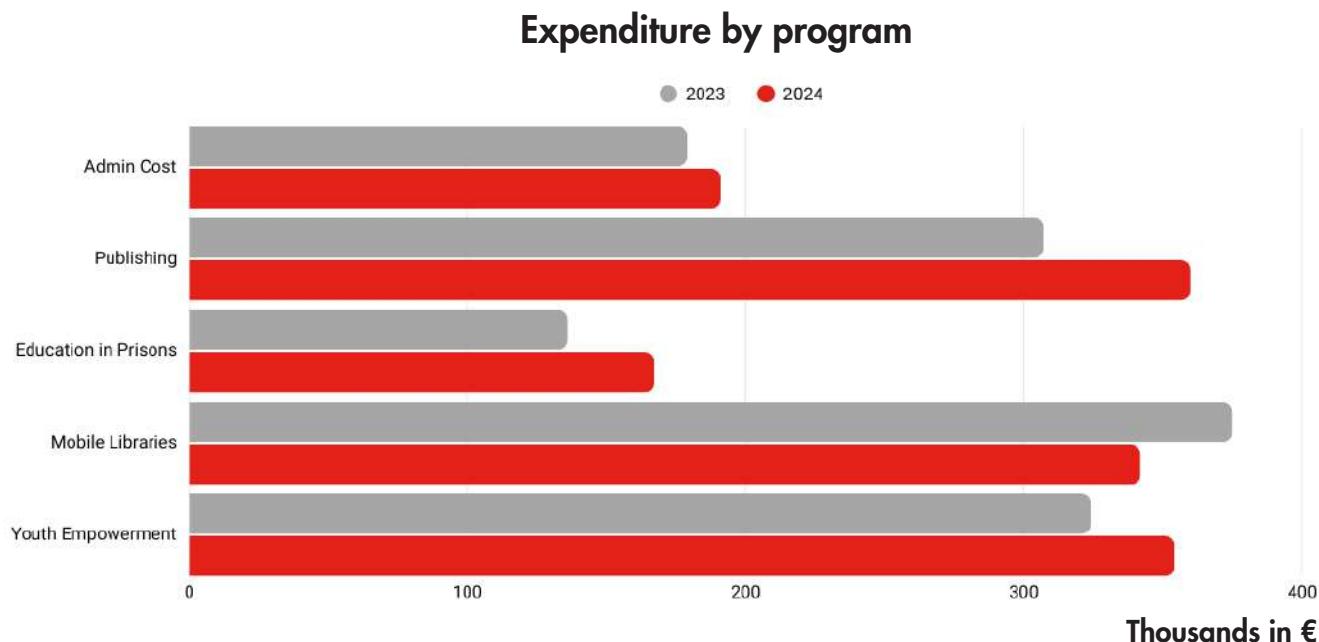
Asia Foundation, Cambodian Library Association, Cambodia Book Publishers Association, Cambodian Women for Peace and Development, Caritas Cambodia, Friends International, GMAC, IBBY, International Committee of the Red Cross, Krousar Thmey, Lycée Français René Descartes, Mith Samlanh, Mlop Tapang, NGO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

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVITIES (EUROS)



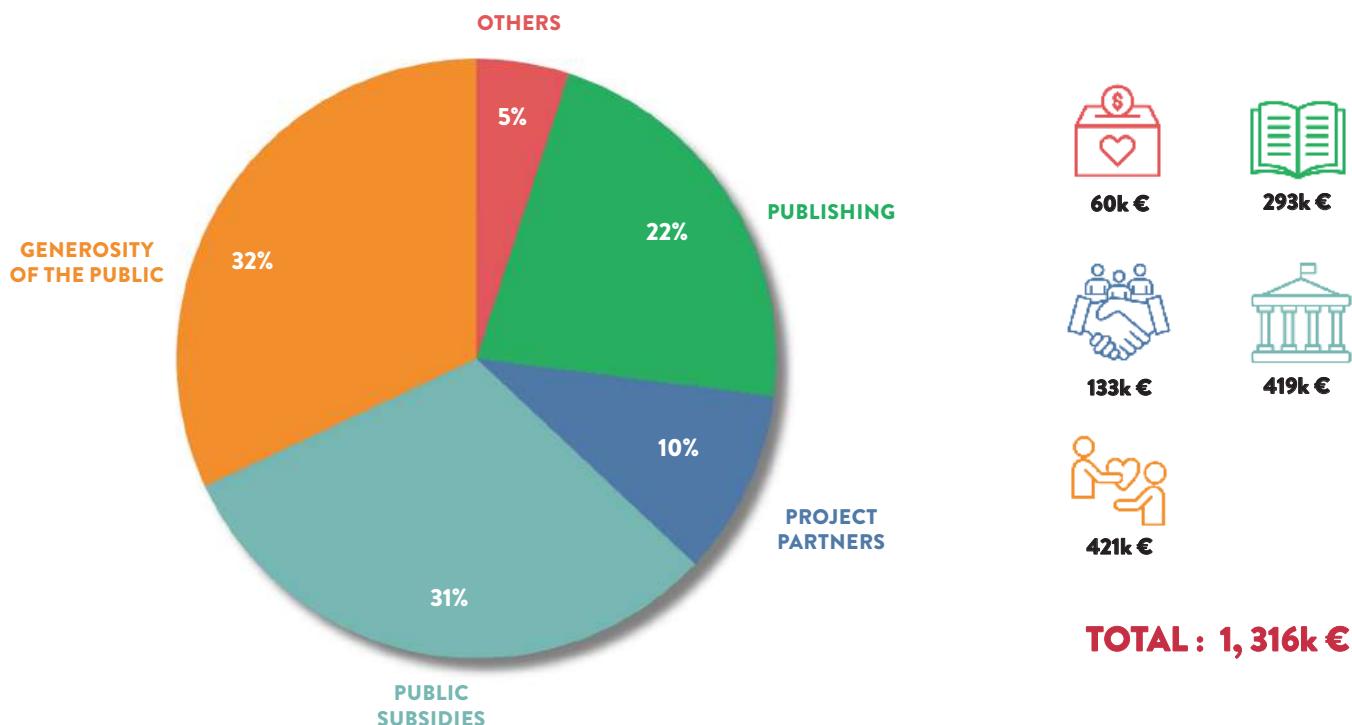
## EXPENDITURE TRENDS BY ACTIVITY 2023-2024



In 2024, Sipar's expenditures reached €1.43 million, marking an increase compared to the previous year. Publishing remained the largest budget item (25%), highlighting the central role of producing and distributing educational materials. The Youth Empowerment Program (25%) saw an increase, in line with the completion of its first phase and the launch of the second. Spending on Education and Reading For All (24%) also rose, reflecting the strengthening of our efforts to promote reading. Operational expenses (14%) remained stable, while the budget for Education in Prison (12%) continued to grow to support the development of its activities. By allocating the majority of funds to our programs, we reaffirm our commitment to maximizing the impact of our actions in the field.

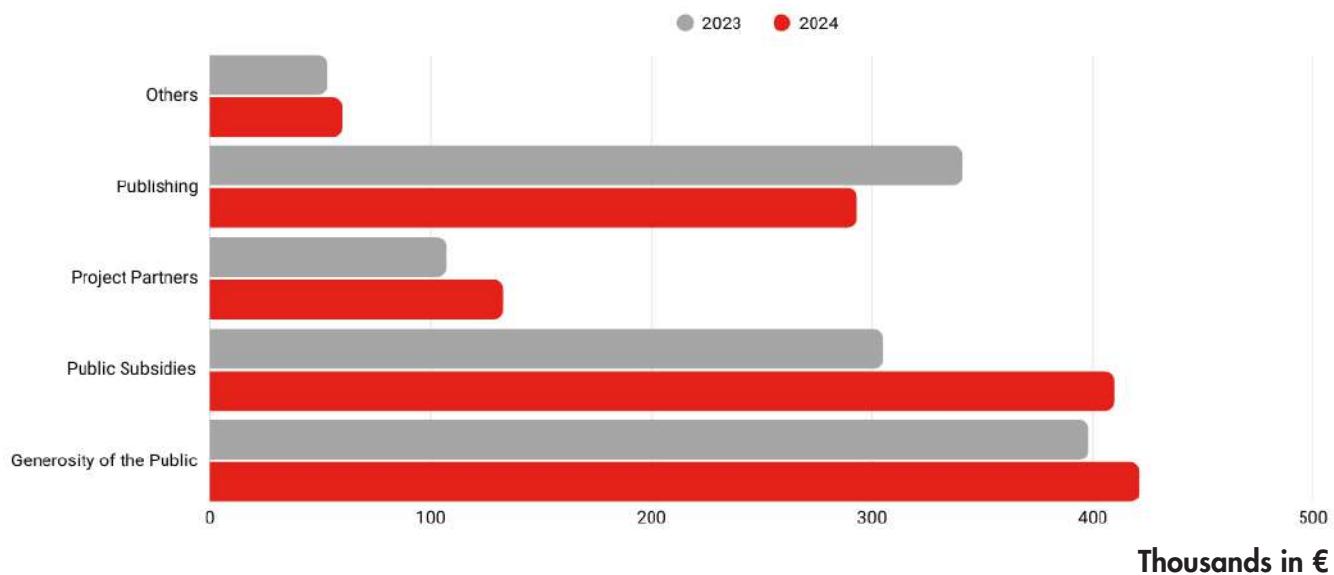
## BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES IN 2024

### Origin of Resources



## RESOURCE TRENDS 2023-2024

### Evolution of Resources



In 2024, Sipar strengthened and diversified its sources of funding. International donors remain our main support, but we recorded a notable increase in private donations and institutional backing. Although our publishing activity experienced a slight decline due to a more competitive market, our overall financial resources grew compared to 2023, in line with the expansion of our field projects. This growth reflects the renewed confidence of our partners and the impact of our work among the most vulnerable communities.

# ACTION PLAN FOR 2025



## EDUCATION AND READING FOR ALL

### **Mobiles libraries:**

- To continue ensuring the smooth functioning of all the 11 mobile libraries.
- To transfer the first library boat to the new site at Dey Roneat (Pursat province), with the development of educational activities for young people in school dropout situation, in cooperation with the local authorities and UNESCO as part of the BEEP program.
- The launch of a new partnership with the Phnom Penh tuk-tuk library, in cooperation with the Magic Libraries Foundation. The goals include serving eight underprivileged neighborhoods in the capital, and to hold reading and other activities in the pediatric oncology department at the Jayavarman VII Hospital in Siem Reap city.
- Continuation of the activities of the two library buses on themes related to road safety and sciences (STEAM).
- Setting up 33 new micro-libraries—8 in underprivileged urban areas, 25 in rural areas—and training local volunteers to ensure the libraries' continuity.
- To ensure quality follow-ups by conducting impact assessments in order to adapt activities to the needs of partners.

### **Education at brick factories:**

To continue developing activities in the 32 brickworks by:

- Holding each week reading sessions and educational activities for at least 1,200 children.
- Offering monthly educational support for Khmer language and mathematics to at least 900 children to reinforce their fundamental learning.
- Supporting the young people, 12-to-17 years old, who are out of school to help them acquire life skills and new perspectives to improve their well-being.
- Continuing the collaboration with the Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) to raise awareness among at least 1,900 parents during the community sessions on social themes in order to encourage behavioral changes.
- Strengthening access to reading through the six school libraries and 20 micro-libraries located around the brickworks.

### **Education in prisons:**

- To continue the educational activities until the end of the project "Education in Prison" in June 2025, with intensive support for the transfer to the relevant authorities, especially the Directorate General of Prisons.
- To strengthen the capacities of the prison officers for an autonomous and sustainable management of the educational libraries and associated activities.
- To improve the digital equipment (NomadLab) in order to guarantee effective access to offline learning in each partner prison.
- To continue transforming the seven pilot libraries into multimedia education centers including modules on English language, digital technology, and life skills for socio-professional reintegration.
- To reach 1,000 to 1,500 beneficiaries depending on available resources in the multimedia education centers.
- To work with the public institutions (General Department of Prisons, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport) toward an official recognition of the project and its integration into national policies.
- To develop impact evaluation tools in cooperation with the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and the National Committee for Lifelong Learning (NCLL).



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

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

- In secondary schools:
  - To continue enhancing the capacity of the education personnel through technical training for teachers and librarians, exchange workshops on extracurricular activities, and the implementation of the vocational assistance program.
  - To train members of the student councils to step up their active participation in school life and community development.
  - To finalize the installation of 13 libraries with Vocational Orientation Corner (VOC) in 10 secondary schools and 3 youth centers, bringing to 29 the number of VOCs in 24 provinces.
  - To support the holding of at least one career counseling session and one career forum in each secondary school.
- In the Community Based Organizations (CBO):
  - To continue holding thematic training on reading and tutoring, leadership, communication, fundraising, the organization of events, and climate change with the "Climate Fresk."
  - To offer targeted capacity-building training based on the needs of the Community Based Organizations (CBO), especially in computerized administration and on the use of the Magic Bag (a small toolkit with educational material on health and nutrition).
  - To support each Community Based Organization (CBO) in the organization of at least one awareness campaign on social, environmental or educational themes—road safety, food security, safe migration, reading, children's rights, reducing the use of single-use plastic, reforestation.
  - To maintain monthly technical assistance.
- Development of printed and digital tools:
  - Working in cooperation with the Ministry of Education's Vocational Orientation Department to produce five informative videos aiming to guide young people in their choices of fields of study, and facilities offering training tailored to the teaching profession from kindergarten to secondary school.
  - Develop and print a career guidance publication for young people.



## PUBLISHING

- Strengthening the skills of the editorial team members in 2025 by having them take part in the Festival international de la Bande Dessinée d'Angoulême (Angoulême International Comics Festival) in France, and taking an editorial training course alongside the Versailles teams.
- Publishing 17 new works including volumes 4 and 5 of the manga "Silence" translated in Khmer.
- Reprinting around 50 works to meet the increasing demand.
- Training young Cambodian artists in comics strip as part of the project Chakto and in cooperation with French mentors.
- Holding a writing contest for young authors with the winning work to be published.



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