

Evaluation Mission
Foundation for Water and Education, Cambodia (FWEC)
Siem Reap, Cambodia
18 November 2015

Present: Chantrea Chhuon (Founder/Director)
Graciela Andrade (Fundraising Coordinator)
Maria Hicks (Fundraising Coordinator)
Tina Etherington (Fundraising Coordinator)

Absent: Paul Grady (Executive Consultant)

Background

- Ms Graciela Andrade (Ecuador), Ms Maria Hicks (Australia) and Ms Tina Etherington (UK/Italy) visited Siem Reap in November/December to visit project recipients and to take stock of project activities. In addition, as part of her fundraising activities, Maria took part in the Siem Reap Half Marathon that took place on 6 December.

OVERVIEW

Wells¹

One of the primary aims of FWEC is to provide clean water to the poorest of the poor in the rural areas of Siem Reap.

- **To date, 300 wells had been funded².** Chantrea needs to be congratulated for this amazing result since it started as a very small initiative; in fact, the first well was donated in May 2010 by Graciela Andrade, who became the first Fundraising Coordinator for FWEC and offered encouragement and support to Chantrea as the project grew.
- **As a result, the number of people now with access to clean water is: 4800!** [300 wells x (4 families/well) x (4 persons/family)] NB Neighbouring families access the wells too)
- Visits to the beneficiaries of many of the new wells will take place over the next few days.
- Many wells have been drilled in the surrounds of Siem Reap. This has necessitated that we increase the distance from Siem Reap. In fact, we will be visiting Krouch Village – an area 65km East of Siem Reap and therefore well beyond our usual range of 25-30 km – in order to meet the families of the 20 new wells FWEC has provided, all of which have been donated by our supporters in Rome, including ten by All Saints Anglican Church.
- Medium wells are the same size as a smaller well, but with certain land configurations a different drilling method is required; for example, a small well uses a 45mm pipe (depth from 15m to 18m), whereas a medium well uses a 60mm pipe (range from 20m to 35m deep), different depths are required, a different machine is used to drill deeper to reach the water-table. Due to the situation of the land and depth requirements, the possibility to drill small wells in the surrounding areas of Siem Reap is almost exhausted; therefore, our next step will be to drill medium or large wells

¹ Wells cost \$US200

² As of end December 2015, this figure now stands at 303.

- All donated wells and their recipient families - including photos, names/ages of all family members and village/commune - can be found through the supporter page of our website at: www.fwe-cambodia.org/our-supporter.php

Bicycles³

- Many beneficiaries of our wells live in very rural area, which means that the children need to walk long distances to go to school. As part of the education programme of FWEC, we invest in these children by helping them get to school by supplying them with bicycles.
- To date, 181 bicycles have been donated (2010=15; 2011=35; .2012=32;2013=24, 2014=56 and 2015=19).
- **Families affected: 127** some families with many children are given two bicycles).
- A ceremony has been planned during our visit to hand-over the latest 16 bicycles to the schoolchildren of Krouch Village.

Sret School

1. FWEC has been supporting Sret School since 2011.
2. There is now no computer teacher at Sret. Teacher Vann has been helping out on a voluntary basis in addition to his main role as English teacher. It was decided to pay Van \$30/month to teach 1 hour/day. The headmaster is in agreement with this. The lessons will be free. Total cost: \$360/year.⁴
3. A visit to the school is being organized by Maria to present Days for Girls hygiene kits in conjunction with the Tnaisamrap Srey. It was felt that the schoolgirls would learn more from the Tnaisamrap Srey girls who are just a few years older than themselves.

Agricultural tools⁵

41 families have benefited from this initiative since it started in November 2013. A set of agricultural tools are: Small scythe, large grass knife, spade, heavy hoe and shovel.

Seeds⁶

28 families have received seed packs in the past two years (initiative started in October 2013). Seeds provided include: Morning-glory, corn, cucumber, pumpkin, eggplant and wax gourd.

Fish farms⁷

Following the success of a pilot project that supplied a fish farm in 2011 to Eurt and her family, a second fish farm was donated in 2013, this time to Noy and her family.

Unfortunately, this did not prove successful mainly because Noy's husband was not able to feed the baby fish as many times as required since in order to earn money for his large family (six sons) he hired himself out as a day labourer. In addition, the pond did not have enough shade and the area became flooded, which caused over 100kg of fish to die in the mud when they crawled into the hole of plastic which the family spread at the bottom of the pond to protect the water from leaking into the ground. Anyway, Noy used the money from selling the fish to buy

³ Bicycles cost \$45

⁴ This amount is being covered by funds raised by Maria and Graciela

⁵ The agricultural tool set cost \$16

⁶ Seed packs cost \$25

⁷ A fish farm costs \$290

two pigs to raise since they thought it would help them and save time from feeding the fish as they needed to go out to work.

Finances

1. Financial report to be ready within the next few days (it is needed by Maria for a meeting in Phnom Penh on 27 November).
2. Financial report to be posted on website. Transparency is important.
3. Well repairs: \$600 provided by Maria. Mr Lucky is going to all the wells to see what is needed. Chantrea is awaiting Mr. Lucky's report.
4. All wells up to 250 have been visited; in 2016, wells from 251 on will be visited. Chantrea's telephone number has been added to the signs of all wells so that he can be contacted should a well need repair. It was stressed though that the beneficiaries needed to take care of their wells.
5. We discussed the various ways to donate to FWEC, and none were very satisfactory
 - a. Visa card not possible
 - b. Bank transfer – but Chantrea needs to pay \$10 to receive money.
 - c. Western Union – but high fees for donors to send money.
 - d. Cash directly to Chantrea

Website

1. Chantrea is not always able to update the FWEC website in a timely way due to his commitments with his tour guide business and his new baby! It was decided, therefore, that:
 - a. Chantrea would give access codes to the website to the core team.
 - b. Maria would find a volunteer in Australia who could update the site on a regular basis with input being provided by Chantrea and the team.
 - c. Chantrea to be advised of any changes/corrections made.
2. Remove the flashing "200" wells have been donated (it's now 300)!
3. Team page/Who we are. Core team: ChantreaChhuon, Graciela Andrade, Tina Etherington, Paul Grady and Maria Hicks; remove any other names. Chantrea to arrange for Team to meet volunteer Kosal. To add: photo of Mr Lucky (well driller) and MsKakada (Community liaison). Maria to add DFG, if/when approved.
4. Remove mention of uniforms/poultry/formula. Keep only wells, bikes, seeds and agricultural tools.

Scholarships

1. Sokhann. Tina has been financially supporting Sokhann since she met her at Sret School during an English lesson she was giving to Grade 9 students. Sokhann has now moved from Sret village and lives with her sister in Siem Reap, attending 12th grade at Ankor High School. She is a hard-working top student who dreams of becoming a doctor. How do we go about finding that?
2. Scholarships are provided to students who do well in the 12th grade final exam: 100% scholarship for Grade A students, 50% for Grade B, 25% for Grade C.
3. Teav has been sponsored by Tall Poppies for some years. Unfortunately, she failed her 12th grade exam. Teav will be given another chance and she will be sponsored to repeat the year at a cost of \$310/year.

4. Tina has a friend in Rome who would like to sponsor a schoolgirl. Tina will look for possibilities during this visit.⁸

Survey results

The survey aimed to assess the health/family situation of the beneficiary families and the needs that they had. Results from 16 families were positive: their health had improved due to the cleaner water and that the vegetables they had planted had improved their diet.

Days for Girls

1. Thanks to Maria Hicks, FWEC has forged a close relationship with Days For Girls (DFG), a worldwide charity that provides reusable hygiene kits – made by volunteers - to poor girls to enable them to go to school during their monthly period (many girls skip school during this time of the month). Tina Etherington brought 48 kits with her from Italy, made by volunteers in Rome and Switzerland; these were distributed at Sret School (see above).
2. Maria to look into linking DFG with FWEC and using the DFG logo on our FWEC website.

Other

1. Graciela gave Chantrea €90 (\$95) for 2 pigs/pig food for Eurt's family on behalf of Amy and Gustavo.
2. We had a long discussion with Chantrea regarding ways to work smarter and his time commitment (a new baby, tour guide business busy in the high season). We asked whether he still wanted to carry on with FWEC. Chantrea realizes that it has become more difficult, but he still very much wants to continue, saying that he would concentrate his efforts during the low tourist season (April – September) when he would more time to dedicate himself to project activities.
3. We stressed to Chantrea the importance of replying to emails – even if it was just a short interim acknowledgment, with a fuller reply to follow. The Team is working to support Chantrea's efforts and sometimes need fast replies.
4. We discussed a helper for Chantrea – and decided to find a volunteer to help with the website (see above). Chantrea said that he had no need for an assistant.
5. Mr Lucky, the well driller, is sometimes available to help donors visit the wells when Chantrea is busy. He would volunteer his work, but since he cannot speak English an interpreter would be needed.
6. Chantrea would make every effort to be available when core team members visit. These visits usually take place in November/December in order to allow Maria to take part in the Siem Reap Marathon, her major project fund-raiser.

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Chantrea is pleased with what he is achieving with the help of the core team and felt that he was “succeeding now”.
2. We had a really good, frank discussion.
3. The meeting closed at 12.

⁸ A young girl has been identified – Nourb, who Tina has met during previous visits. Although she is 18 she is only in Grade 9 because she has been looking after her very sick mother.