

## Evaluation Mission

### Foundation for Water and Education, Cambodia (FWEC)

Siem Reap, Cambodia

22-23 November 2013



Present: Chantrea Chhuon (Founder/Director)  
Paul Grady (Executive Consultant)  
Maria Hicks (Fundraising Coordinator)  
Tina Etherington (Fundraising Coordinator)

Absent: Graciela Andrade (Fundraising Coordinator)

#### Background

- Mr Paul Grady (USA), 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 1 December. The meeting took place on two afternoons.

### OVERVIEW

#### Wells<sup>1</sup>

- 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, 190 wells had been funded<sup>2</sup>.** 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: 3040!** [190 wells x (4 families/well) x (4 persons/family)] NB Neighbouring families access the wells too.
- 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](http://www.fwe-cambodia.org/our-supporter.php)
- Visits to the beneficiaries of many of the new wells will take place over the next few days.

#### Bicycles<sup>3</sup>

- Many beneficiaries of our wells live in very rural areas, 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, 103 bicycles have been donated (2010=15; 2011=35; .2012=27; and 2014=26).
- **Families affected: 80** (some families with many children are given two bicycles).
- A small ceremony has been planned during our visit to hand-over the latest 16 bicycles to the schoolchildren.

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<sup>1</sup> Wells cost \$200

<sup>2</sup> As of end December 2013, this figure now stands at 200+.

<sup>3</sup> Bicycles cost \$45

#### Agricultural tools<sup>4</sup>

- **24 families have benefited** from this initiative since it started in November 2012

#### Seeds<sup>5</sup>

- **27 families have received** seed packs in the past two years (initiative started in October 2012). Seeds provided include: Morning-glory, corn, cucumber, pumpkin, eggplant and wax gourd.

#### Poultry<sup>6</sup>

- To date, **82 families have benefitted from our poultry pack** (2010=6; 2011=46; 2012=23; and 2013=21). The chickens are donated with the aim to increase the protein intake of the families by providing a sustainable supply of eggs and chicks.

#### Fish farms<sup>7</sup>

- A fish farm was donated in 2011 as a pilot project to provide both nutritional and economic opportunities. FWEC supplies all the necessary materials to build the fish farms, as well as fish stock (8kg) and fish food.
- A fish farm provided extra food but was labour intensive. Farmers were of the opinion that it was very difficult to farm fish and grow rice simultaneously.
- The total income was not commensurate with the cost of setting up, maintenance, replacement of fish and amount of labour required to tend the fish.
- Compared to rice, fish farming is particularly high risk. Fish are vulnerable to weather changes and flooding when the whole project is likely to be washed away.
- Despite these ups and downs, the family is still positive and wants to continue with this venture.
- A second fish farm has just been donated and will be built early 2014.

#### Sret School

FWEC has been supporting Sret School since 2011 by equipping a small computer lab, donating English language books to create a library and offering mother-tongue English lessons during visits by Maria and Tina.

### THE FUTURE

#### 1. Wells

This has been a very successful programme and is self-evidently meeting a need. We are aiming to reach 200 wells by the end of 2013.

#### 2. The seed programme

How successful has this initiative been? Chantrea was asked to ascertain:

- whether the families have enough land?
- whether the 27 families who received the seed packs have enough "heirloom" seeds for this year?
- feedback from the village chiefs.

#### 3. Education

- **English mother tongue volunteers**, Sret School. We talked about the many aspects of this (board and lodging, screening, age, monitoring, role of Chantrea). Maria would continue to look into this and put together a programme.
- **Scholarships**. It was decided to leave this to a future date.
- **School trip**, Sret School. We talked about rewarding the best students by providing them with a school trip. This would need to be investigated further.
- **Bicycles**: this has been a successful programme and needs to be continued.

#### 4. The possibility of FWEC becoming an NGO

- The need to create an NGO has been discussed at length and felt to be important not only in order to provide greater accountability to donors but also to attract larger donors.
- Paul and Chantrea have been looking into this throughout 2013 with mixed results.

<sup>4</sup> The agricultural tool set cost \$16

<sup>5</sup> Seed packs cost \$25

<sup>6</sup> 1.5 kg of poultry costs \$7

<sup>7</sup> A fish farm costs \$290

- The law on NGOs is going through its fourth draft.
- In addition, FWEC focuses on both “Water” and “Education” and so two ministries are involved.
- Eventual cost of registration is \$400. Training may be required; “Quickbooks” was mentioned.
- Concerns: Chantrea said that an NGO would need staff as per NGO rules, and salary would need to be paid. He was concerned that we would lose the present “keep it simple” of FWEC. This too is very important. FWEC has insignificant overheads because we all work on a voluntary basis.
- Conclusion: Chantrea would need to submit the applications to the ministry.

5. Upcoming costs

- Website maintenance: \$35/year, just been renewed; new contract required 11/2014
- Printer/ink/paper: \$110
- Camera (old one broken). Maria will help with this.

6. Final thoughts

- There has been an upward trend in providing wells over the past 3.5 years.
- The list of donors is growing! Chantrea will produce a “FWEC Supporter List” in order to send out a message to all. Privacy was stressed and all donor emails must be in the bcc line.
- Chantrea thanked Paul, Maria and Tina for their support and encouragement.

7. A photo with the teams

- From left to right: Ms. Maria Hicks, Mr. Paul Grady, Ms. Tina Etherington & Mr. Chantrea Chhuon

