EQUITABLE CAMBODIA'S (EC) PROGRAM UPDATE

COMMUNITY ORGANISING FOR HOUSING RIGHTS (COHR)

The Steung Meanchey Canal Children at the December 10, 2020 Meeting

MEET EC'S COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TEAM:

Hok Narin
COHR Program Manager

Sorn Lida
Program Officer

Bou Chanthorn
Community Facilitator

Sok Kimmey
Community Organizer

Eung Sambo
Senior Community Organizer

Veng Chhenghour
Community Organizer

Chrin Chhovorn
Architecture
"The purpose of the Steung Meancheey Canal Children's Group is to provide basic education and knowledge to encourage them to study, learn, build good relationships in the community, create a culture of sharing and a culture that helps one another. All of this will contribute to creating a small group of human resources that will work together to meet the development needs of our community now and in the future."
- Sorn Lida, Program Officer

"The reason we continue to work with the children is that we see them as vulnerable, they are vulnerable to drugs, alcohol and violence. More importantly, children are like brave front line soldiers who can demand and soften the authorities and [they can] come up with solutions for their community."
- Sok Kimmey, Community Organizer

THE STEUNG MEANCHEY CANAL CHILDREN GROUP

A program organised by ECs lovely CO team.

"In 2013, we started to integrate ourselves with the children from the Steung Meancheey Canal Network, but we did not plan an official meeting with them yet. In 2014, we began to have a meeting with the children from each community. We slowly brought the children together from each community so they could get to know each other and create a relationship with each other. Therefore, we decided to have a meeting once a month together as a canal network to bring them closer to each other.

The aim of creating a children group is mainly for solidarity building, it is for the children to work together, to grow together and to bond. Activities to build solidarity include group reading (focusing on health, education and environment), painting, drawing, garbage collection, and viewing educational videos about civic responsibilities."

- The CO Team
THE STEUNG MEANCHEY CANAL CHILDREN GROUP

Meeting Summary

January 17, 2021

In January’s meeting, a total of 15 (5 girls) children from the Steung Meanchey Canal network joined the monthly meeting.

The facilitator first asked questions about last month’s meeting, testing the children on what they remembered about the sanitary and preventative measures to prevent COVID-19.

After the children were given time to paint whatever they wanted to paint, some children started to draw houses, canals, lakes, the environment, landscapes, etc. The CO team began to read the book, and at the end, the meaning of the book was discussed collectively. Finally, the facilitator and the children started singing their group solidarity song together.

The meeting ended with the facilitator reminding the children to maintain good hygiene practices to combat and prevent COVID-19. He finally added that the next activity they will do together will be to pick up the trash and clean up the environment.

February 27, 2021

A total of 13 children (6 girls) attended the February monthly meeting.

First, the facilitator distributed the masks to the children and sprayed alcohol to the participants and attempted to commence the meeting while social distancing.

The children were instructed to follow the facilitator in an introductory English alphabet lesson (ABCD). However, the lesson did not last very long and the children started to read a book instead because some children did not go to school yet and found the lesson difficult.

“Children are like white paper that can be dipped in any color, human society evaluates them based on where they live, so we can not let people and society as a whole paint them based on the situation where they live. The children are entitled to their rights, to have basic welfare and social equity, which is why we come to them, gather them and teach them the value of living, leave negative thoughts on them and let them change their own living conditions in the future”.

Hok Narin
COHR Program Manager
PHOTO COLLAGE OF THE STEUNG MEANCHEY CANAL CHILDREN'S GROUP

I would like to say a huge thank you to the CO team for their amazing work. I would also like to thank them for the collaboration on this case study. For more information around this project please contact myself at cmc@equitablecambodia.org or follow us on all of our social media accounts.

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