



## ASIAN OUTREACH CAMBODIA



# Quarterly Report

July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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## SUMMARY

This quarter at AOC has been one typified by change. Internally, we have spent many hours crafting a manual to ensure accountability and good practice, submitted a large proposal to CIDA, hired a new communications facilitator and are getting ready to expand our scope into new areas of the country. In addition, we have been working on a new vision statement to reflect this growth and change in our organization. It is an exciting time here at AOC.

Our projects continue to be effective and bring about positive change to the communities we serve: HIV/AIDS-TB integration has proven to be a great success; we have determined that most of the BSF's and latrines we have built for villagers are being properly used and cared for; and nearly 3,000 people have benefitted from health education this quarter. Although we are proud of these achievements, we cannot ignore our losses. Despite our best efforts at trying to obtain sustained funding, we were not able to secure enough financial support in order to continue our school Health Education project beyond September 16th. We cannot help but be disappointed that such a successful project must be put on hold. However, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, a large proposal for Sustainable Community Health Development was submitted to CIDA. If accepted, we will be able to allocate some of those funds to start up the school Health Education project once again. We are confident that we will receive the funding, and if all goes well we anticipate restarting the project early in the New Year.



We are also very excited about the progress that has been made on the proposed Greater Mekong Subregion-Stung Treng project. It has been two years in the making, and we are eager to see the project come to fruition. A few AOC staff members and I made two separate visits to Stung Treng this quarter. During these visits we met with local government authorities as well as staff members from Community Global Action, an NGO already working in the area. Through these meetings we learned that the Thala Barivat district was identified as a area in dire need of outside help, and so it was decided we should commence our work there. During our second trip, we visited the Thala Barivat district to meet with commune and village leaders, and gained valuable information about the specific needs of the people there. According to these leaders, lack of access to clean water is a primary concern for the people in this area, with most families lacking adequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities. It was decided that we should begin with a water & sanitation project in the Sam'Ang Commune in Thala Barivat, with the intention of branching out to other sectors and communes in the future. We have since been working diligently on our initial proposal for this project; it is almost finished and will be sent out to donors shortly. We are confident that we will be able to establish an initial presence in the area as early as January 2011.

In terms of internal news, we have been working diligently on the professional development of our organization in order to promote good governance, accountability, transparency and quality in all areas of organizational and project management. To demonstrate our full commitment to achieving excellence in these areas, we have been working on two things - an internal Operations Manual, and becoming GPP certified. The purpose of the Operations Manual is to ensure that the AOC Board, Director, staff and other stakeholders have a comprehensive view of our operations. The manual includes core organizational information, governance documents, and daily operating policies and procedures. It is intended to be a living document, which means that over time it will be added to and refined as AOC grows and redefines itself. We are also working towards becoming Good Practice Partner certified by the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia. In order to ensure we are keeping in line with GPP requirements as well as being consistent with what other NGO's are doing in Cambodia, we recommend that an external evaluation of our organization be undertaken at least every five years.

The staff at AOC and I would like to extend our great appreciation for your continued support and encouragement.

Thong Romanea  
National Director  
Asian Outreach Cambodia

## WATER AND SANITATION

Information Overview	
<b>Progress</b>	Sustainable health improvement, improved water quality at the household level and improved hygiene and sanitation practices have been established amongst many families this quarter.
<b>Highlights</b>	Through monitoring all communities, we found that 93% of BSF filters were being properly used and cared for. 160 BSF's and 30 latrines were constructed this quarter. New health promotion activities including participatory games, hand washing and children's activities led to increased engagement and learning.
<b>Impact Summary</b>	Over 500 family members have now been trained in health and hygiene. Many of them demonstrate a desire to learn more & apply their knowledge to improve their families' and friends' well being. 30 families have received new latrines and are regularly using them, demonstrating improved knowledge of good sanitation practices as well as a sense of responsibility for their health and well-being.
Project Progress	
<b>Objective 1 title</b>	Form VDC Committees
<b>Outcomes</b>	3 monthly meetings were held with 37 VDC leaders and members. Male and female VDC's are effectively managing, monitoring and solving problems in all facilities in their immediate communities.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Objective 2 title</b>	VDC's train Beneficiaries
<b>Outcomes</b>	7 health promotion sessions were held, training a total of 324 community members. They are now clearly demonstrating positive behavior changes in the areas of health and sanitation.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Objective 3 title</b>	Build BSF's & Latrines
<b>Outcomes</b>	A total of 160 BSF's & 30 latrines were built this quarter and are being monitored.
<b>Variance</b>	40 BSF's were not yet installed because they have just been constructed. They will be installed next month.
Difficulties and Lessons Learnt	
<b>Risk Management</b>	Because it is the rainy season, we knew that the roads would become difficult to travel on. During this season we keep promotion meetings are shorter and schedule them only during the morning, as it often rains in the afternoon.

<b>Unforeseen Problems</b>	Children who were brought to health promotion meetings were distracting and made it difficult for AOC staff to teach, and therefore difficult for villages to learn.
<b>Revision of Objectives</b>	To address this issue, we created a separate children’s program to take place during the health promotion meetings. In this program, children learn about health and hygiene by practicing washing their hands, cutting their finger nails, etc. This has proved to be a solution to the initial problem as well as a successful program, and will continue to be used in the future.

**Story of Change: Written by Naomi Mahaffy:** Sani, a busy 48-year-old mother of eight from the village of Prek Gonriech, beams proudly as she shows off her bio sand water filter (BSF). The filter is nearly 13 years old, but it is obviously well-loved. Its surface is clean, it has been carefully maintained, and it has a place of honour under her stilt-raised home.



For Sani, providing for her large family had always been a challenge. When her seven daughters and one son were younger (now aged 13-29), caring for them was a full-time job. Her husband Hang, age 50, is a rice farmer who has to work long hours in the field. In the past, money was very tight and the couple’s young children frequently suffered from diarrhea and various skin diseases. Sani was constantly worried about her children’s health and spent much of her time and money on health centre visits and medication.

Therefore it is not surprising that Hang and Sani first became familiar with Asian Outreach Cambodia through the organization’s work with local health centres. They appreciated the work AOC did and wanted to improve their family’s well-being, so they were eager to purchase a BSF when they heard about AOC’s new water and sanitation project.

Now, nearly 15 years later, Sani continues to be very happy with her purchase. A friendly, welcoming woman, she spends less time boiling water and treating sick children and more time visiting with her neighbours. She

has noticed great improvements in her family’s health and has saved a lot of money on health care costs, enabling her to provide more for her growing children.

Demonstrating her loving heart and giving spirit, Sani shares clean, fresh water with anyone who needs it. Very few of Sani and Hang’s neighbors bought a BSF when AOC first came to their community, but they soon recognized its usefulness. When the river water becomes smelly every year, four or five other families come to Sani’s home to obtain clean drinking water. This year, many of them have signed up to purchase their own filters from AOC. Sani is thankful that they will be able to enjoy the improved health benefits and increased time and money that her own family has experienced for many years.

Sani is a wonderful, hard-working woman. As she shares water, stories, and smiles with those around her, she continues to be a blessing to her family and community.

## HIV/AIDS – TB DOTS

Information Overview	
<b>Progress</b>	The official meeting to announce and discuss the integration of the HIV/AIDS and TB C-DOTS program was a great success. Both project staff and MOH TB staff recognized the need for an incorporated program. The 2 teams attended regular monthly meetings and cooperated through field work to improve their response to the real needs of the target groups and to make the integration process work.
<b>Highlights</b>	<p>The official meeting to announce and discuss the integration of the HIV/AIDS and TB C-DOTS program was a great success. Both project staff and MOH TB staff recognized the need for an incorporated program. The 2 teams attended regular monthly meetings and cooperated through field work to improve their response to the real needs of the target groups and to make the integration process work.</p> <p>On August 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> HIV/AIDS-TB organized a Community Health Caregiver course for 23 participants (15 TB workers, 4 key church members &amp; 4 AOC project staff). The course was provided by 2 AOC staff, a Project Advisor and Kean Svay, an MOH director. It included 8 different lessons about HIV/AIDS &amp; TB, as well as how to counsel and respond to peoples emotional needs.</p>
<b>Impact Summary</b>	<p>In July, 17 people were tested for TB, and 8 of these people tested positive. In August, 14 people were tested and 7 tested positive. This shows an improvement in MOH capacity to send us at risk people from the indicated target groups.</p> <p>In August the six month report was finished and sent to the donor.</p> <p>Sim Bo, one of our HIV/AIDS patients, said: <i>"Sometime I made 20000R to 30000R in a day, and sometime I can afford a chicken for my family's meal, I can do all of these works because of homecare staff who made me have a good health and always encourage me if I don't have this program to help me I don't know my way. I'm very happy and thank you for homecare staff for helping me to help my family. I also paid back all the loan that I got from other to build my house."</i></p>
Project Progress	
<b>Objective 1 title</b>	<b><i>Test High Risk People for HIV (TB positive, pregnant women &amp; migrants)</i></b>
<b>Outcomes</b>	In this quarter, six high risk people were tested (migrants & pregnant women) of which three were HIV positive.
<b>Variance</b>	The project planned to provide HIV testing for seven high risk people per month (2010: 80 high risk people were tested & 30 new HIV positive patients). This was in accordance with the national prevalence of 0.9%, which equates to 339 PLWHA in 9 communes.
<b>Objective 2 title</b>	<b><i>Medical Care and Support PLWHA</i></b>

<b>Outcomes</b>	Provided medical care, counseling and financial support to the 51 PLWHA, of whom 44 are on ARV treatment. 85% of those on ARV health have improved, enabling them to look after their own physical health.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Objective 3 title</b>	<b><i>Family Support Program – Income Generation, Big Day Out &amp; others</i></b>
<b>Outcomes</b>	25 small businesses were under the support of the program since February this year, four of business make a lots of profit so four of them paid off their loan before the deadline. The team continues to do weekly follow up visits to oversee the small businesses by those in the program.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Objective 4 title</b>	<b><i>Community TB- DOT (for July &amp; August)</i></b>
<b>Outcomes</b>	There were 31 high risk people tested for TB, 15 positive with 37 patients, 4 completed the treatment under the care of Ministry of Health's 9 TB staff during this period.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Difficulties and Lessons Learnt</b>	
<b>Risk Management</b>	In May, just after AOC finished building a home for one of the patients in the program, the patient moved away to Phnom Penh. The team continually attempted to contact her to discuss the issue, but she often made up excuses. The team met with her commune leader for help, and it was decided that an official letter be written for her to sign indicating what the property should be used for. If she does not sign this letter within a reasonable timeframe, the house will be given to the poorest people in her community, whom will be recommended by her commune leader.
<b>Unforeseen Problems</b>	None
<b>Revision of Objectives</b>	None

**Story of Change: Written by Phin Naroeth as told by Soeun Navy:** One of my visits this month was to see Mr. Mao Vy who joined the TB-DOTS treatment program in May. Mao Vy is married with one daughter, and he lives in Bounng Krom village.

Mao Vy was coughing for almost three months before he discovered that he had TB. At first he thought it was just a cough, so he went to a private clinic in his village for some medicine to stop the cough.



Our TB C-DOTS staff in his village came to see him to encourage him to get a TB test, and informed him that TB is a treatable disease. However, no matter what the TB C-DOTS staff told him, he said that he was sure the treatment would not help and he continually refused to be tested.

One day he saw some blood come out of his mouth when he was coughing, so he finally decided to go to the Tuk Kleang Health Center for TB testing.

His test result came back positive, and he made the decision to get treatment. During the first two weeks of treatment, he had a bad reaction to the medicine; he felt very

weak and could not do any work.

Some of his neighbours did not want to go near him when they saw he was sick with TB. Two months later, his health has rapidly improved and the cough is almost gone. Moa Vy is now very happy and is able to work again. His neighbors have also changed their behavior towards him as they see he is getting better.

Mao Vy, his wife and his daughter are very happy and healthy once again. They thank the AOC TB C-DOTS staff who encouraged Mao Vy to get tested and then supported their family while he was ill

## SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION

Information Overview	
<b>Progress</b>	The Health Education project was implemented properly and all activities went as planned. The School Health Education project came to a close on September 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2010. It is predicted that the project will start up again next year once funding is secured. The Community HIV Education project continues to be a success.
<b>Highlights</b>	<p><b>School Health Education</b> – The highlights for this quarter included: facilitating teacher meetings, providing teaching materials and resources for teachers, following up and monitoring the project, and celebrating the closing day of the project on September 16<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Community HIV Education</b> – Highlights included: hosting meetings to prepare, building capacity and providing training materials/resources for Community Trainers, implementing community AIDS training, teaching youth about HIV through interactive methods such as karaoke, as well as follow up and monitoring of the project.</p>
<b>Impact Summary</b>	The Health Education project has impacted 1,876 school children in 9 communes in the Lvea Em district. A total of 24 Community HIV Trainers and 50 primary school teachers were trained to spread the message of good health and hygiene practices. The teachers and trainers come from 10 separate villages and have positively impacted women, men, and youth in their communities.

<b>Project Progress</b>	
<b>Objective 1 title</b>	Implement Quality Health Education in Primary Schools
<b>Outcomes</b>	50 primary school teachers in 14 schools were trained in good health and hygiene practices. They were also given teaching materials to take to their classes. A total of 1,876 students were beneficiaries of the Health Education project this quarter.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Objective 2 title</b>	Educate the Community about HIV/AIDS
<b>Outcomes</b>	A total of 24 Community Trainers were educated about HIV/AIDS transmission methods and facts, and were taught community facilitation skills. 22 of these trainers educated the community about HIV through information sessions, and the other 2 trainers taught youth about HIV through interactive methods such as karaoke. This quarter, a total of 958 people (863 male and female adults, 95 young people) benefitted from HIV education.
<b>Variance</b>	None
<b>Difficulties and Lessons Learnt</b>	
<b>Risk Management</b>	As a preventative plan, all activities in the community were scheduled around the Ptchum Ben festival days. This was done in order to maximize attendance as most people are busy during this holiday.
<b>Unforeseen Problems</b>	The activity schedule for this quarter was very full, and a training session for staff development was planned at the same time as AOC's project scheduled work time. Due to this fact, the project staff missed this training session.
<b>Revision of Objectives</b>	We have reviewed the activity timeframe so this will not occur again.

**Story of Change: Written by Kosal Hout**



Keat Yorng is 56 years old, and became a widow after her husband was killed in Pol Pot regime. She currently lives in Prek Kong Reach village in Prek Rey commune in the Lvea Em district with her daughter, 33 years old, and her grand daughter, 18 months old.

One day in June, an HIV/AIDS Community Trainer invited her to join an HIV/AIDS awareness training session run by the HART program of Asian Outreach Cambodia organization (AOC).

For many years Keat Yorng has been concerned about HIV/AIDS transmission; however she did not understand how it was acquired or knows any prevention methods. She said that when she heard that someone in her village was HIV positive she was very afraid

and felt scared because she knew that AIDS is a very cruel disease. She stopped bathing in the small river in front of her house because she knew that the HIV positive person had gone in this river as well, and she thought she would contract the virus this way. She also did not want to talk to or go near by this person, but at the same time rejected the idea that HIV is transmitted by unsafe sex or blood.

However, after attending a HART training session, Keat Yorng now understands about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention methods. She told AOC that she is very happy with the accelerated HIV/AIDS awareness and training. When she went back home she passed on the information to her daughter, Kong Som Ath, who had just been away from husband for around one year. Som Ath says that her husband is very spoiled; he likes having sex with other women and prostitutes and does not use condoms. Som Ath thanked her mother for educating her about HIV transmission and prevention. She will be careful with her husband if he comes back home and wants to have sex with her. She said that she will not divorce her husband, but she will not live with him any more.

For a long time, the uncertainty about how HIV is transmitted and how it can be prevented has been a major concern for most people in this village. HIV/AIDS awareness, resources and training (HART) has been an excellent educational resource to the people of Prek Kong Reach village. We hope that prevalence of HIV/AIDS in this area will decrease by more people attending sessions and spreading the information throughout their community.

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Overview Information	
<b>Progress</b>	<p>11 Sunday School Teachers and 2 AOC staffs were trained in SSTT over two days of training in eight topics.</p> <p>During this period 11 Sunday school teachers from 4 church denominations continued training using the training methodology from the Harvesting Field program (HFP). They have completed 8 lessons, and are actively teaching about 70 children at 3 churches.</p> <p>AOC built relationships with the 35 women enrolled in the women group program and with their families and church leaders.</p> <p>A Women Service Group (WSG) of 35 members was formed to be responsible for gathering the women for fellowship. Now they are starting to save money (500R per member each month) for Women Christian fellowship, because economically it is difficult for them to earn money.</p> <p>Research for income generation: a fish and chicken farm was visited in Kompong Speu to look at potential IG methods for church members. 200 Tilapia were purchased for trial at BK, Wesleyan Church.</p> <p>28-30 July, 22 church Leaders and 2 AOC staffs went on a retreat and discussed what they need and what they will do in the coming year.</p> <p>15 September, 8 Church Leaders met about the Christmas plan for 2010. And 22-23 September, 11 Sunday school teachers attended the training program, finishing well and having great fun while getting more knowledge of Bible stories, games, verses, songs, and exercises and building relationships with others in the training group.</p>

<b>Highlights</b>	(WSG) Women Service Groups had fellowship together and shared testimonies with each other. The church leaders committed to responding to the lessons by starting to pray for new places where they will plant groups later in the year. They were excited by all of the groups and eager to serve more within each denomination.
<b>Other Things of Interest</b>	From the church planning retreat, a lot of interest was shown in income generation for church members to help free them up financially for ministry and to provide sustainability for the church
<b>Impact Summary</b>	For these 3 months all the church leaders and committees have decided to make a plan for two more WSG groups. These activities can help more women join together in praise and prayer and train more in Biblical and Spiritual knowledge.
<b>Project Progress Information</b>	
<b>Objective 1 title</b>	Church Leadership Training (CLT)
<b>Outcomes</b>	After the first level of GCI training, the church leaders committed to make a new church group. They are excited to apply their lessons, and can more confidently share the gospel because they have improved their knowledge. The leaders now know who they will partner with to begin their new churches.
<b>Variance</b>	
<b>Objective 2 title</b>	Sunday School Program (SSP)
<b>Outcomes</b>	The 11 Sunday School teachers now have more confidence, and they are applying what they learned while teaching 70 children. The teachers have learned to be more creative in their lessons (e.g. games, songs, and Bible verses), so they can use their local resources to teach to the children effectively. They are creating games and songs that apply to their local setting.
<b>Variance</b>	We planned for 18 Sunday School teachers, but only 11 are still coming to training.  We planned for two days of training each month, but on September 22-23 2010 we will also have a SSTT retreat.
<b>Objective 3 title</b>	Women Service Group (WSG)

<b>Outcomes</b>	The program is still running, and we are still making relationships with the 35 women and their families. We plan to start a new group in early October 2010. The women's group is fostering strong Christian leaders in the community.
<b>Variance</b>	The women's groups are having a difficult time collecting funds from members.

### Difficulties and Lessons Learnt Information

<b>Risk Management</b>	The women service group at Boeung Krum Krom is a formal group, which started in 2004 and is far away from other groups. There is a risk that if they come to the group, they cannot earn money because it is so far away. We are urging them to learn how to save and offer money to God.
<b>Unforeseen Problems</b>	<p>We planned to have 19 teachers for SSP but only 11 teachers joined with SSP. The last 8 teachers were not able to come because sometimes roads are difficult and sometimes their communities tell them they should not go. We are praying and looking for a solution.</p> <p>Some of the 11 teachers find the concepts difficult to understand in the lessons. We will find a way to make it easier for them to understand, using pictures with Bible stories.</p>

### Story or Testimony of Chea Sokunthy (Story Written by Peiseth and Kunthea)



**Chea Sokunthy**, 48 years old, living in Boeung Krum Ler village, Boeung Krum commune, Lvea Em district, Kandal province.

He is a widower, has 3 children and is an artist. This family farms for a living and cannot earn money as well because he is physically disabled.

For now he is physically disabled, cannot work well, and finds it hard to move. He still lives alone and his children try to earn money in other provinces. He heard the gospel many times but rejected it and tried to attack all Christians around him.

AOC project had a home church visit around his village, where we sang songs of praise. At that time he got really mad with our activities but we tried to let him join us and hear the good news. It was not yet the right time for him to know about Jesus Christ. Two weeks later, we had another home church where we did the same thing and showed him love. At that time, he accepted Jesus and he is with us today.

When Brother Sokunthy accepted, he has shared his story to his neighbors and started to say to everybody that he has now been changed by believing in God. He is trying to find out all about Christian actives and get to know more about Jesus Christ. Wonderfully, he has now shared the good news to his whole family even though they live far away.

In the eye of God we are all equal, even with disabilities. As brother Sokunthy comes to know God better, please pray for him and his community.

