Water for Cambodia

Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

YOUR valuable support is enabling *Water for Cambodia* to expand on how it brings clean water to more effectively serve rural Cambodian communities and families.



Water for Cambodia began to participate in increasingly comprehensive community projects in 2013. This allowed us to leverage the impact of filter technology within the rural villages we serve by expanding our approach to bringing clean water while also strengthening the community based health, hygiene and sanitation education impact. It encompassed building and repairing wells and working with families to install latrines. This widely recognized community focused method is the next step toward giving communities access to clean safe drinking water, providing more secure protected water sources and raising public sanitation conditions.

WFC has embraced the importance of broadening our definition of providing clean safe water to villages and families. To make the use of bio-sand filters even more effective, it is imperative that the source water be secure, available in all seasons and protected from surface contamination. Our staff works with community leaders to survey village wells and identify those needing repair and where new ones are needed. Each rebuilt or new well is raised above flood level, covered and equipped with a simple to maintain pump. In addition, we deliver materials and instruct families on how to build their own latrines, helping to eliminate open defecation. This improves communal sanitation and helps to protect their water sources.

The visible components of these projects are the bio-sand filters, the wells and latrines. What is not obvious is enhanced individual family education, increased involvement by local leaders and the focus on sustaining the gains. This approach is recognized worldwide by the acronym WASH (WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene). WASH encourages long term changes in habits resulting in clean safe water, better health and increased school attendance.

Now that *Water for Cambodia* has assumed responsibility for broader more complex community based projects, it faces new construction, transportation and logistics challenges.

Since 2006, Water for Cambodia has built and installed filters for over 120,000 villagers. Members of our staff and many helpful volunteers have built and installed each filter from our facility. All other materials and tools are purchased on the local economy. Filters are then transported on locally contracted trucks to a point near each village for distribution and installation. In this way WFC provides both clean water and it supports economic growth.

As Water for Cambodia expands its services to address secure protected water supplies and combat wide spread open defecation with family latrines, a new logistics challenge emerges. Wells require concrete rings, covers as well as pumps. Latrines require rings, covers and bowls. As with filters, all materials not manufactured directly in the village are purchased from local markets.



Concrete ring molds



Pallets of cement

Transportation poses a challenge because rural roads are very poor and often washed out in the rainy season. This often makes truck transit unreliable and dangerous. This becomes especially true when moving large heavy materials like concrete components into the country side.



In process and completed rings for building wells and latrines

WFC solved this by creating adhoc "factories" near the areas where the wells and latrines are to be installed. This not only minimizes transportation but it creates employment for villagers who build, distribute and help install these key parts.

As *Water for Cambodia* assumes a larger role in community development through WASH education, protecting water sources and delivering clean safe drinking water it becomes necessary to grow our staff with individuals who bring experience and new skills.

MEAS Samley is an experienced WASH officer with nearly 20 years teaching hygiene and sanitation skills. He has proven his ability to work with and motivate local leaders and families. His talent for developing community leaders permits the villager families to maintain the gains after the project team moves on.

Samley is currently the project field leader for Getting Water Right. In this role he is responsible for supervising WASH training and construction activities and installation of bio-sand filters, wells and latrines.





LAM Veasna is a civil engineer with extensive WASH training, project planning and technical skills. Veasna is currently leading several other projects focusing on providing clean water, wells and boys and girls latrines and hand washing facilities for primary schools. His planning and leadership talents will continue to be applied to community assessment, development of new proposal and managing projects throughout Siem Reap Province.

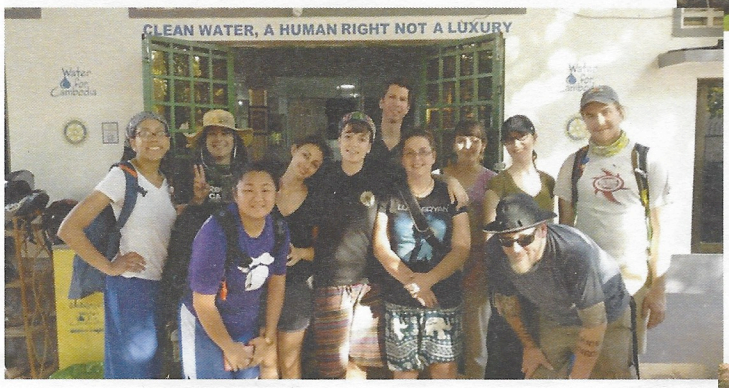
A rewarding and enjoyable experience for the *Water for Cambodia* team is meeting enthusiastic volunteers and visitors who soon become friends often joining YOU as donors. Our staff is always ready to stop and share our story with newcomers and hear of their life altering experiences in Cambodia.



Sue Walters and friends visited Cambodia and donated filters for families in Prong Ro village… Many Thanks to our new friends!!



A group of Singaporean women joined us for a volunteer week.



Another group of students from our favorite university!! This makes 10 years in a row!

GO Bridgewater State University!!



Visitors from Malaysia – Make a Difference

Water for Cambodia a Middletown Rotary Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization

Contact us: Water for Cambodia, P.O. Box 1121 , Bristol RI 02809

www.waterforcambodia.org