Water for Cambodia

Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

WFC Newsletter Issue 9 November 2018

2018 has been a special and unique year, pushing the reach and impact of *Water for Cambodia.* Our team has taken on an exciting multi-village challenge. After three years of planning and seeking donor support GETTING WATER RIGHT 1 became a reality in February.

In our last newsletter wells and latrines and a robust community based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education were introduced. This expanded and holistic view of bringing clean safe water to Cambodian families is a natural way for our mission and YOUR impact to evolve. This newsletter features the story of how this growth of capability and capacity came together in GETTING WATER RIGHT 1.



It began as the vision of Richard Cromwell a Rotarian from Bath, Maine. After several visits to Cambodia working with children in Siem Reap, Rich sought out a local partner willing to work with him and accept a uniquely demanding challenge. He imagined ending water insecurity, open defecation, attendant childhood diarrheal disease and lack of hygiene education for an entire commune of several villages in one comprehensive project. He walked in the door of *Water for Cambodia* in 2014 and found a willing partner. Over the next year a survey and selection of candidate villages in Slaeng Spean commune was done and the hunt for funding began. In 2017 an anonymous donor agreed to support a three village pilot. GETTING WATER RIGHT 1 became a reality.





The villages of Char, Kandal and Romeat located in Slaeng Spean Commune in Srea Snam District in far Northwestern Cambodia were selected. This is a remote, very poor farming area with unimproved access roads and very little infrastructure development. What made this commune a prime candidate was its strong community leadership cadre that was eager to work with Rich and the team from *Water for Cambodia.*





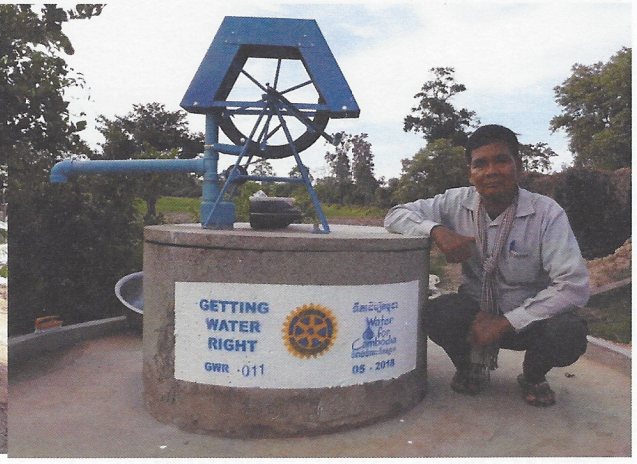
The *WFC* staff lead by Samley MEAS our WASH training leader. Samley spent days at a time in the villages meeting with the chiefs, interviewing families, inspecting well sites and getting to know the people and learning what they felt they needed. This local understanding of the family needs from their own perspective and gaining the strong support of local leaders is what has made *Water for Cambodia* successful and stand out from many other NGOs that have come and gone.

The plan that emerged as GWR 1 began with several community and school information meetings. As a result of these, 268 families requested bio-sand filters. An initial visit was made to each family desiring a filter for initial training and orientation. The filters were then distributed and installed by the *Water for Cambodia* staff members.









Assessment by WFC staff and the village chiefs determined that there was immediate need for 19 new wells distributed across the three villages. Each new public well was located to make it easy for families to access a safe and secure water source. A typical well consists of a concrete ring liner, solid protective cover and a Rovei Pump. This pump is a Cambodian designed product that can be easily repaired by villagers using locally available material. Wells are dug using locally supplied labor with support, guidance and materials supplied by GWR 1 project funds. Water from each well was analyzed by WFC to ensure it was readily treatable by filtering.



One hundred families also volunteered to work with the project to build latrines at their homes. Material, technical assistance and where necessary labor was contracted to assist as part of GWR 1. Each household was responsible to dig the latrine pit, assist with installation of all in-ground and functional latrine parts as well as construct the privacy enclosure. After completion a simple hand washing station was supplied to each family.

A year long community wide education program ending in December was the final component in the GWR 1 plan. Trained WASH (WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilitators held regular training and demonstration sessions with leaders, families and students over the course of the project year to provide and reinforce good practices for personal and family hygiene, good food preparation techniques, the importance of latrine use and maintenance. The WFC staff also provided follow up filter use and maintenance training as well as lab analysis of filter performance.

Have you ever wondered what YOUR generous support and the extraordinary staff of *Water for Cambodia* have actually accomplished over the past thirteen years?

24,000 bio-sand filters have been built and installed for families in over 400 villages across 27 districts in 13 provinces providing clean safe water to more than 140,000 men, women and children.

30 schools and community health centers have been outfitted with bio-sand filters.

25 new secure wells and 147 latrines built in just 2017 and 2018.

Working closely with the Provincial Ministry of Education, *Water for Cambodia* has provided more than 3500 students with education in reading, writing and arithmetic as well as health and hygiene education through our literacy program.

10 libraries have been created, nine in local village settings and one in an orphanage school in Siem Reap.

Since 2007 *Water for Cambodia* has operated an important testing laboratory serving the project mission as well as providing a critical regional resource for commercial testing services for hotels, guest houses, restaurants, other NGOs and the local water authority.

Currently *Water for Cambodia* is providing income to sixteen families with competitive wages and benefits while complying with all labor and tax laws of Cambodia.

YOU are the ONLY reason that over 140,000 Cambodian children and their families have safe clean water today. Please help our staff continue their mission and consider a year-end gift. Remember YOU are changing the world for them forever.

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