

Cambodia Fresh from the Field

worldrenew.net

June 2016

Kathleen Lauder
Country Consultant
 klauder@worldrenew.net

World Renew Canada
 3475 Mainway
 PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
 Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
 1-800-730-3490
 Fax: 905-336-8344

World Renew US
 1700 28th Street SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 1-800-552-7972
 Fax: 616-224-8060

worldrenew.net/cambodia
 @worldrenew_cam

Tweets by @worldrenew_cam

 World Renew Cambodia
 @worldrenew_cam
 #PraiseGod for Sam Ol and his new training
 in sustainable agriculture! bit.ly/1rNjMBI
 #PrayMonday #Pray



02 May

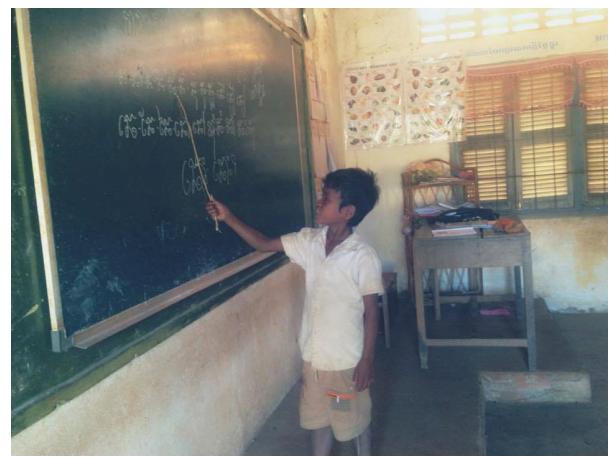
Inclusive Education Brings Hope and Transforms Lives

a Story of Transformation

Before World Renew began to work with our communities to promote inclusive education, most children with disabilities were not sent to school. Sadly, in Cambodia, people with disabilities are often viewed by their families and their communities as being inferior and even an embarrassment. At the same time, the hearts of the parents of these children ache for them. They often believe that the child is completely dependent on them and always will be so. Such, they think, is their fate. It does not occur to these parents to send their children with disabilities to school, fearing they may be subject to ridicule and believing they will not be able to benefit from the teaching.

World Renew and their partners have been working on inclusive education initiatives since 2009. We invite parents and school teachers together for a workshop. The teachers learn how to work with disabled children in the classroom. Parents are taught that sending their children to school will help to improve understanding in the community for disabled persons and lesson discrimination. They are also encouraged to understand that with the right approach, children with disabilities can learn many things and can become independent. Through these workshops in inclusive education, by the end of 2015, 16 of the 19 children with disabilities in the target area of CFT, one of World Renew's local partners, was attending school.

Vat Venn (10) is one of those children. He and his family live in Prey Ampil village, a poor community about two hours northwest of Phnom Penh. Vat was born with an intellectual disability. He never learned how to sing, count, or greet his elders. Sometimes when his parents were away for



work, Vat would follow the other children around the village and easily lose his way. Often his parents or relatives would have to search for him in the evening.

After attending training on inclusive education, Vat's parents decided to send him to the community kindergarten. With the skills from the inclusive education training provided by World Renew and CFT, the teacher was able to encourage and teach him, step by step, until he eventually learned to sing children's songs, count, and answer questions posed by the teacher.

At the beginning of this school year, Vat was interested to continue studying at primary school in order to join the other children in the village. His parents are no longer ashamed or afraid to send him to school. Being accepted by his teachers and peers has greatly improved Vat's performance and attitude. This year the teacher had the confidence to give him more responsibility and assigned him as class leader.



Prayers for Cambodia

- We are thankful for the way God has worked in the lives of all our staff. At our recent spiritual retreat for two days and nights along the beautiful Kampot River, all World Renew Cambodia and Mission Alliance Cambodia staff spent a rich time in praise and worship, enjoying teaching from Christian Reformed World Missions colleagues Gil and Justin, and engaging in fellowship and bonding. On the second night, all 26 participants engaged in a process to invite Jesus more fully into their lives. We praise God for this growth and transformation in the World Renew family.
- We lift up to God three recent personnel promotions in World Renew Cambodia. As of July 1, Sovann Neth will work alongside the country consultant in a position of deputy country consultant. He has assumed increasing responsibilities for the management and operations of our programs. Two program officers applied for Sovann's former position of NGO program manager. Both Kao Sok and Rith Chen were so good in their interviews that both have been made managers. Rith will become the NGO program manager, and Kao will be the monitoring and evaluation manager. Please join us in giving thanks for the way the capacity of our staff is growing.
- Please pray for the planning and development of our 20th-anniversary tour scheduled for November 4-14. Up to 10 participants from North America will make a special donation to mark World Renew's work in Cambodia over the past 20 years. They will also participate in an exceptional experience in Cambodia, showcasing World Renew's work, connecting with members of the rural communities in which we serve, and learning about the history and culture of Cambodia from the best guides and experts. The 10-day visit will include a prayer safari in which participants are guided in daily reflections and prayer to see how God is working in Cambodia and in their own lives.
- Please pray for a new volunteer who will be joining World Renew Cambodia in August. Kayla VandenBosch, a senior at Calvin College, will be with us for 3.5 months. She will do a study to explore how World Renew might most effectively begin to work in urban areas of Cambodia.