



Spring 2021 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—
Your donations are life changing....*



Clean water from their bio-sand water filter. Pout and her 7 month old daughter live in Khbal Krapeu Village, Roel commune, Pouk district, Siem Reap Province.

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Developing Ripples of Sustainability through Community Water Projects

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazers!

In this newsletter, you will read about all the great projects that have been done in the first quarter of the year to improve health, food security, education, and economic development opportunities for the rural Cambodian communities where we work. Also, I would like to introduce you to the Trailblazer team below.

The country of Cambodia has been largely exempt from suffering the impact of Covid-19. To reduce the burden on the Trailblazer staff, and their families, Trailblazer provided all the local staff with a Covid-19 Relief Payment equal to half a month's wages. We are happy that we could help our team in this small way. They work hard every day to make, deliver and install bio-sand water filters, drill wells, teach and monitor agriculture activities, supervise our education and economic development projects, and expand our programs with new project opportunities.



Mr. Sor Ratanak, Director



Mr. Tangkheang,
Economic Development
Program Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator



Mr. Chanto, Food Security
Program Manager



Ms. Kong Sokun, Accountant
and Admin Manager



Ms. Thlat Kimmouy,
Administrative clerk



Water Team:

Mr. Thy (L), Mr. Oun (M) and Mr. Heng (R)



Well Team:

Mr. Samnang (FL), Mr. Sen (L),
Mr. Chhai (R) and Mr. Vichet (FR)

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director (continued)

Without this dedicated team on the ground, the implementation of Trailblazer's programs wouldn't happen. We are very grateful for these staff who truly make operations run smoothly and be so successful. We want to recognize and thank them for their work and for being part of raising their own country out of poverty and bringing their countrymen into more healthy and sustainable livelihoods.

After the year we have had with the pandemic and the impacts of lost jobs and lost lives it caused, your ongoing support is more vital and valued than ever. We hope you will continue to invest in our efforts so we can continue helping rural communities in Cambodia. Feel free to send a check or process a credit card payment by using the DONATE button below. And don't forget that donations can always be sent in honor or memory of someone special!

Thank you so much for your continued interest and participation in making a difference.

With deepest gratitude,



Chris Coats

Co-Founder and Executive Director

**GIVE A GIFT IN
HONOR OR MEMORY
OF SOMEONE SPECIAL**



Chris Coats with Team

Please visit our website for more information about our staff and programs:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/our-staff>

Health Program

Basic Needs Being Met

DONATE NOW

Trailblazer is proud to report that another 30 latrines were constructed in February for rural families in Srah Khvav village, with 22 more latrines on the construction agenda for March, thanks to another generous donation from esteemed donors Colonel Dick and Dr. Patricia Sargent.

Decades of conflict destroyed much of Cambodia's water supply infrastructure. Investments since the mid-1990s have helped provide cleaner water supplies for many in Cambodia—about 35-40 percent of the country now gets its water from improved access and drinking water sources.

Unfortunately, improvements in proper sanitation systems have not kept pace. A lack of sanitation continues to present a major public health menace. About 10% of Cambodian children die before they are one year old. Many of these deaths are due to preventable, waterborne diseases or mosquito-driven ailments resulting from poor sanitation and lack of clean drinking water.

It is estimated by UNICEF that rural sanitation coverage in Cambodia is only 8%, making it the lowest in Southeast Asia and the second lowest outside of Africa. In the absence of sanitation facilities, most rural dwellers use rice paddies, banana groves, and other water sources to dispose of their own waste—thus polluting the water on which they depend.

The nation's Ministry of Rural Development, backed by international partners like Trailblazer, has attacked this problem with a rural water supply and sanitation initiative. In addition to digging new wells, hundreds of family and school-based latrines have been built within the last few years to provide safe access to sanitation for rural Cambodians.

Trailblazer also received two more grants from Rotary Club Zurich Airport. One grant provided for 17 more latrines to two villages in Ballangk commune, Prasat Bakong district, Siem Reap province. Prum Kod village, with 219 families [population 988] had requested 7 more latrines, and Kok Reusey village, with 202 families [population 737] had requested 10 more latrines.

The second grant provided for 50 bio-sand water filters to be installed for families living in Khun Ream commune, Banteay Srey district. Khun Ream commune has 1,603 families for a total population of 7,394 people. The commune chief determined the recipient families depending on the needs in the villages.



Recipients from Rotary Club Zurich Airport grant.

< Latrine

Bio-Sand Water Filter >



You can help this effort to improve the health and sanitation conditions for rural families. A donation of \$80 can supply one to three families with a bio-sand water filter. A donation of \$175 can provide a family with a latrine. A donation of \$320 can supply one to three families with a well.

Please visit our website for more information about our Health Programs:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/health-program>

Food Security Program

Ten Selected Farmers to Receive Wells

Trailblazer is working to identify ten farmers to receive a well to irrigate their homestead garden and water livestock as part of our Food Security program. These wells are made possible because of a grant from a valued donor, Dale Jankovitz. Dale has been to Cambodia and has witnessed the need for clean drinking water, access to water for personal and agriculture uses, and other ways to improve the health and food security for rural families.

Additionally, Trailblazer's 2021 agriculture goals include:

- 23 homestead garden trainings in 7 villages
- 20 soil management trainings in 4 villages
- 5 organic pesticide/fertilizer trainings in villages 2 communes
- 9 composting techniques training in 3 villages
- 18 chicken raising training courses in 5 villages

In each of these 75 trainings there is an average number of 15 participants. That adds up to 1,125 farmers who will receive new skills and techniques to better feed their families from their homestead garden. With an average family size of 5, that means a minimum of 5,625 people will benefit from these trainings.



Your \$50 donation will support the training of one farmer, which ultimately benefits the farmer's entire family.

HELP SUPPORT OUR AGRICULTURE TRAININGS

Please visit our website for more information about our Food Security Program:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/food-security-program>

Education Program

A New Primary School is Under Construction

Kok Dong Chas village students are happy to see their brand new primary school going up. This project is made possible by the very generous investment from Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy, who contributed to the last two primary schools Trailblazer built in 2018.

Kok Dong Chas village is 63km from Siem Reap city and is located in the center of Kok Dong commune, Angkor Chum district, Siem Reap province. It is the most populous village in the area with a total population of 1,195 people within the 280 families, and did not have a school building for its students. Students have had to travel to neighboring villages to go to school.

Currently there are 272 students who are of the primary school ages - under 11 years of age. With a new school it is estimated that there will be an average annual growth of 72 new students who will attend the Kok Dong Chas primary school. The project will include four toilets constructed to service the student population. The community has also requested that a proper school gate with signage, a flag pole and solar lights be installed as part of the project.

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY



Kok Dong Chas Primary School Construction

Please visit our website for more information about our Education Program:
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/education-program>

**INVALUABLE
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS**

Education Program (continued)

Other Activities in Our Education Program

To highlight other activities in our Education program:

Final numbers for 2020: 45 bicycles and 109 student uniforms were distributed to selected poor students at Beng Primary School in Beng village, Donpeng commune, Angkor Chum district.

In the first months of 2021, 400 student uniforms were distributed, thanks to funds received from GivingTuesday campaign donors and Mr. Jankovitz, along with 350 boxes of masks [50 masks per box], to students at Tasom Primary School.

Soon the students of Kok Dong will be needing uniforms or bicycles. Your donation of \$55 can provide a student with a bicycle, and a donation of \$15 provides a school uniform. Please consider giving your support to these invaluable educational needs. In 2021, we hope to distribute 100 more bicycles.

Economic Development Program

An Excited Chicken Raising Farmer

Trailblazer received another generous grant from Christ Episcopal Church's International Endowment Projects Fund to establish a chicken farm in Kok Thmey village, Donkev commune, Pouk district.

Director Ratanak and Agriculture Supervisor Chanto, along with the village chief, visited three potential chicken farmers in Kok Thmey village. In the end, one farmer was selected to be the recipient of the grant funds needed to start the Chicken Farm Project with Trailblazer: Mr. Penh and his wife Mrs. Phary. In the contract between the farmer and Trailblazer, the farmer will produce 500 chicks, divide up and give 100 chicks to 5 members in his community for free. When the member of the community succeeds s/he needs to give chicks to other community members as a step in making the community's development sustainable.

Building the chicken barn >



DONATE NOW



Incubator where the chicks start out



Chickens in finished barn

Please visit our website for more information about our Economic Development Program:
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/economic-development-prog>

Economic Development Program

An Excited Chicken Raising Farmer (continued)

DONATE NOW

Mr. Penh and his wife have all the conditions required to get the project established. They have been trained by Trailblazer on raising chickens and already had small chicken pens; however, they wished to have a bigger farm and had begun making preparations to their land for this purpose. Their property has good conditions for raising chickens. There is a large pond on their property for growing chicken food and watering the chickens. There is sufficient land size for building the chicken barn and fence, with trees around the property to protect the chickens from the heat. They were eager to join the project and promise to follow the project conditions as laid out by Trailblazer. They will keep 150 hens and 50 cocks in the farm for the next season's production toward making the project sustainable for the long-term.

This year Trailblazer will be establishing a second Farmer Community Group in Pouk Chas commune, and another chicken farm in Kok Thmey village, Donkey commune. Look for the updates on these two projects in our next newsletter!

Your donations toward our Agriculture Program will support the implementation of these important economic development projects that will grow not only the income of the farmer and his/her family, but the community it will benefit. A \$50 donation supports one farmer in any one of our training courses giving him/her techniques that will build their skills for success.

Another aspect of our work within the Economic Development program is our Village Funds [VF]. In 2021, Trailblazer staff will conduct 62 VF refresher courses, establish 7 new VFs, and introduce the VF concept to 14 villages. Village Funds provide the village community with the capital needed for setting up a micro-loan system. The capital coming from the investment Trailblazer requires of the beneficiaries of Trailblazer products.



< Village Fund refresher at Svay Chek village

New Village Fund and Saving Group established at Komprom village >



Additional News

Villagers Receive Light

Sometimes Trailblazer is blessed with donations, in the form of gifts-in-kind, that benefit villagers in ways outside our typical program activities. Near the end of 2020, Trailblazer received a donation of 60 point of use solar lights from Tag Financial Group located in Australia. This is the third time that Trailblazer has received solar lights from Tag. We and the recipients are deeply grateful.

The distribution occurred at Peung Chhat village, Khun Ream commune, Banteay Srey district, Siem Reap province on the 17th of December, 2020. The village chief said, "In the name of the solar light beneficiaries, we would like to thank the Tag financial group for helping our community to be able to have the lights for daily uses."

In the countryside of Cambodia the infrastructure is minimal. Most villages do not have electricity, and it will be years before electricity reaches them. I'm sure you can imagine how wonderful it is to have these lights which aid the villagers in the functions of daily life and provide light for their children to study after dark.

Please visit our website for ways you can support Trailblazer Foundation:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/other-ways-to-giving>



< Villagers getting their solar light

v (below) Trailblazer staff demonstrating use of solar lights



ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Your Gifts Truly Make an Impact

As a brief reminder of how your gift(s) can be life changing for a family, please see the list below. Every dollar adds up and really does make a significant impact.

- \$15 buys a school uniform
- \$50 supports a rural farmer's agriculture training course
- \$55 buys a bicycle to keep a student in school
- \$80 buys a biosand water filter for up to 3 families
- \$175 buys a latrine for a family
- \$320 buys a well for up to 3 families
- \$_____ to help out as much as possible where needed most

In case you are seeking alternative ways to give and receive great tax benefits, you can:

- donate from your Donor Advised Fund.
- donate old stock (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the market and avoid capital gains tax.
- if you are 70 ½ or older you can avoid extra income by making a gift from your IRA.
- eliminate an old or unneeded life insurance policy by gifting the cash balance.

To Donate

By Mail: PO Box 271767, Fort Collins, CO 80527

Online: <https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/donate>



Trailblazer Foundation

PO Box 271767
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527