

HUMAN AND HOPE ASSOCIATION



LIBRARY PROGRAM

FUNDING PROPOSAL



About Human & Hope Association

Human and Hope Association is a grassroots community centre based in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Established in 2011, we are run entirely by local staff and aim to alleviate poverty in our surrounding community.

Instead of giving out direct aid, we invest in education, vocational training and community support projects that have a long-term impact. These include:

Education Programs

Aimed at children aged **5-18 years old**, these programs supplement their public school education, setting them up for a brighter future. We provide the following classes in: English, living values, Khmer, preschool, art and library. We also provide ongoing programs in staff development.

Vocational Training Programs

Aimed towards all community members, many of whom were **unable to complete high school** and most of whom are illiterate. While this proves challenging at times in delivery of the program, the results are wholeheartedly worth it upon seeing improvements to their confidence. We currently have a sewing program, sewing cooperative and a home sewing business program.

Community Support Programs

The community projects at Human and Hope Association are targeted towards the most vulnerable community members who are the poorest of the poor. Whilst challenging, we believe in empowering the community with the knowledge and skills to achieve a sustainable future. They currently run workshops, outreach and opportunity scholarships, family farm programs and university scholarships.

We involve the community in our program development and take monitoring and evaluation very seriously. We are a leading NGO due to our commitment to local empowerment our ability to raise 25% of our income each year through sustainable methods.



About Cambodia



Modern-day Cambodia is the descendant of the ancient Khmer Empire, a powerful empire that stretched over much of South East Asia between the 8th Century and 15th century.

Despite its proud history, Cambodia fell into a dark period as it was drawn into conflict during the Vietnam War and then fell to the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Between this time and 1978, leader Pol Pot attempted to turn Cambodia into a purely Communist country, sending millions out into the countryside and deserting Cambodia's once energetic cities. Intellectuals and city-dwellers bore the brunt of Pol Pot's brutal regime initially, but disease, starvation and Khmer Rouge cruelty saw the **death toll rise to an estimated two million**, over a quarter of the population.

Cambodia had to build themselves up again, and it hasn't been easy. Cambodia remains the poorest ASEAN country by GNI per capita (World Bank, 2016). While its rapid economic growth saw it reach lower-middle income status in 2015, **35% of Cambodians people still live below the international poverty line** measured at US\$1.90 per person per day (UNDP, 2018). 40% of Cambodia's rural population live in multi-dimensional poverty, while 45% of Cambodians living in poverty are 19 years old or younger (UNDP, 2018). Over 8.1 million Cambodians are near-poor, meaning if they lost 30 cents of income per day they will be thrust back into the poverty bracket. Also, the unequal distribution of economic gains means many Cambodians still have poor levels of health, low levels of education, skills and employment, and **struggle to access essential services**.

Domestic violence is also a significant issue for many Cambodian women, with 21% of women reporting they have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (UN Women, 2015). 1 in 4 Cambodians over the age of 15 are illiterate. 36% of Cambodian children are involved in child labour. 40% of children in primary school do not progress beyond grade five. Only 35% of females at the appropriate age enrol in secondary school. With poverty and gender issues come other issues such as lack of hygiene, poor health, lack of family planning, domestic violence, poor school attendance, high school dropout rates, etc. We aim to change these statistics in our community.



Library Program

The children in the community surrounding Human and Hope Association don't have access to books at their homes, whilst supplies at public school are very limited. As a result, many students don't know basic Khmer and are not able to think creatively and independently. Our library provides a safe environment for children living in poverty to learn, study and play every day.

The library at Human and Hope Association is open every day to 150 children and is managed by our Education and Library Assistant. He educates the students on treating the books with respect, encourages them to share the resources and assists them with their reading. Without this library, our students wouldn't have access to new and updated information. They would also lack a safe environment to learn.

The students can often be found practising their Khmer and English using flashcards, reading storybooks, learning words from the dictionary, completing puzzles or playing their favourite games; Chess and Connect Four. On Fridays, they are provided with colouring in pages and pencils, so they can colour to their heart's desire. The English and Khmer classes at Human and Hope Association visit the library for 30 minutes a week to practice their reading skills under the guidance of their teachers.

Once a year, a creative writing competition is held, with our Education and Library Assistant running workshops for the students to promote teamwork and give them creative writing tips. The top three groups have their stories printed and placed in the library for everyone at Human and Hope Association to read. This has brought out the creative thinking in the students and increased their self-confidence and self-expression.





Benefits of the Library Program

There are numerous benefits of the library program:

- The student's behaviour increases as a result of studying under the guidance of positive Cambodian role models. This change in behaviour then spreads out into the community.
- Children are able to access the library at a young age, thus develop a love for learning. This increases the likelihood of them staying in public school.
- The students are able to join social events they otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to join, such as circus shows, the Giant Puppet Parade and film festivals. This broadens their horizons and expands their minds.
- The parents and relatives of the students benefit from this project. They are invited to join community workshops on topics such as parenting, domestic violence, health, traffic law and chemical free farming. These training workshops allow them to understand about their rights and responsibilities, the laws, and increase their knowledge, so it addresses their social issues and improves their families' well-being.





Library Program Team



Education and Library Assistant – Phat Phyrom

Phyrom was born in Pouk District, not too far from Siem Reap. He graduated with a Bachelor of Law in 2014, and studies English in his spare time. Phyrom is responsible for engaging the students in learning through teaching English, Khmer, art class and running the library.

“I like working at HHA because I want to share my knowledge to the children. I like talking with them because they are funny and give me good memories. I especially love getting smiles from them. They make me happy when I speak with them and teach them in class and in the library.”

Budget

The budget breakdown below will ensure 220 Cambodian children receive access to our library for a full year.

Education & Library Assistant Salary	\$2,340.00
Library Resources	\$258.00
TOTAL	AUD\$2,598.00

Our Commitment to Ethical Standards

At Human and Hope Association, we are committed to acting in a highly **ethical** way to build **trust** and **respect** with our community and donors. We achieve this by:

- Publishing our monthly finances on our website
- Verifying transactions and counting cash each month by Director
- Auditing of accounts every three months by our qualified Board Treasurer
- Holding a partnership agreement with Human and Hope Association Incorporated (HHA Inc.), who fundraise for our cause
- Providing monthly program updates to HHA Inc.
- Randomly verifying five of our transactions every month with the Board Treasurer of HHA Inc.
- Conducting a monitoring visit to Cambodia every year with HHA Inc
- Externally auditing HHA Inc.'s accounts every year
- Verifying and checking every month of HHA Cambodia and HHA Inc.'s bank accounts by the Director of HHA Cambodia and President of HHA Inc.
- Ensuring our staff abide by a Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy
- Implementing a strict visitor policy to ensure our community feels safe
- Requesting our staff declare any conflicts of interest



How to Donate



Donations through our fiscal sponsor, World Relief Australia, are tax-deductible and can be made by credit card or bank transfer here: <https://wra.org.au/1432hhadev>.

If tax-deductibility was not required, donations can be made straight to our bank account in Australia:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 065 124

Account: 1033 8820

Name: Human and Hope Association Incorporated

To Say Thank You

To say thank you for your generous support of our Library Program we will place your name on the sponsor's page of our website. Additionally, you will receive a personalised thank you from the Director of HHA and an e-book pack of stories written by our students.

An advocate speaker can attend a club meeting in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, or present at a meeting via Skype.

Want to Know More?

We would love for you to take the time to think about supporting our Library Program. Please feel free to contact us using the details below:

Australia: Sally Hetherington, President of HHA Inc
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