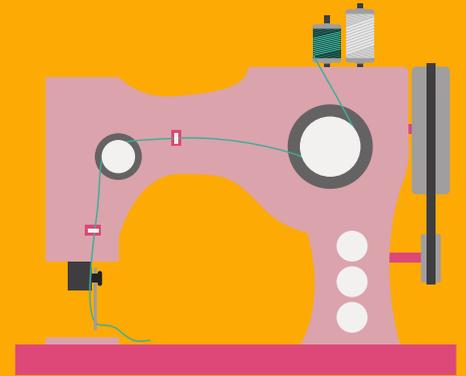


HUMAN AND HOPE ASSOCIATION



SEWING 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.

Sewing Program

Our sewing program provides women with a sustainable skill that enables them to earn income after just three months. It provides training in sewing skills to advanced level; microfinance loans to buy sewing machines, and skills to establish sustainable businesses to support the women and their families.

The program also includes life skills training on issues identified in the community such as domestic violence, child protection, goal setting, financial management, family planning and hygiene. This provides students with greater awareness and confidence to manage family life and become more involved in local community decision-making. The women also take care of the garden, learning sustainable chemical-free farming skills.

These women, aged 16 and upwards, have mostly only studied up to grade six and are housewives or builders. The project addresses Voice's themes of improving access to employment and education and reducing exploitation and abuse of women. It will make a tangible difference to the quality of life of some of the many women in rural and regional Cambodia living below the poverty line and facing exploitation, abuse and violence.

Students receive a stipend during the course to ensure their families are well-fed. Sewing program graduates are supported for six months after the program at regular follow-up workshops and surveyed as part of the program evaluation.

The expected primary outcome is for participants to earn a stable income with their skill that puts them outside of the poverty bracket. We have demonstrated our capacity to achieve this outcome by the successful graduation of 50 students from the sewing program to date. We have also shown how the sewing and life skills training has had a ripple effect, improving outcomes for whole families and entire local communities by boosting the women's confidence and turning them into role models for others.



Sewing Program Activities

The four key phases of our sewing program are as follows:

Recruitment of students – 2 months

- HHA begins recruiting students six to eight weeks before a new term
- We post announcements in the community, ask current students to spread the word and drive out to villages to find suitable applicants.
- We conduct individual assessments of potential students, to determine their suitability for our program.
- Once suitable students have been selected, they sign a contract with us and attend the graduation ceremony of the current classes to inspire them.
- We attempt to reach some of the most marginalised women through this process, including those in rural areas with poor access to education and other services.
- Subject to Voice funding, we plan to extend our reach to women in even more remote villages.
- We will target unskilled females aged 16 and over in the Sambour, Krobei Riel, Svay Dangcum and Pouk communes who are classified as poor according to our assessment survey.

Sewing program – 10 months

- Our students study in the program for three hours a day, five days a week over ten months.
- They receive rice and vegetables as a stipend for studying so we can ensure their families are well-fed.
- They learn sewing on weekdays, with the added topic of life skills every Monday to address issues we have identified in the local community.
- Students also take care of a permanent garden at HHA, learning about sustainable farming and nutrition.



- Over the course students learn everything from how to use a sewing machine to designing and sewing traditional ceremony tops.
- Each student receives their own workbook with patterns to take home.
- After the first three months, students have the opportunity to take out a microfinance loan to purchase a sewing machine.
- This gives them the opportunity to practise their lessons at home and begin fixing and making clothes for their neighbours.
- We don't ask them to start making repayments until six months after receiving the machine so that they are confident in their ability and are not pressured to pay back the loans straight away.
- Upon graduating, armed with a diverse set of skills, our students seek employment in sewing shops, run sewing businesses from their homes or are hired by us to make products for a wage.

Monthly follow-up workshops – 6 months

- We continue to support students through workshops and refresher sessions every month for six months after they graduate.

Evaluation – Monthly, ongoing

- We seek feedback from students, evaluate their learning and conduct pre and post standard of living surveys to evaluate program outcomes.
- We will upskill an existing staff member to be a part-time Monitoring and Evaluation officer, to further develop and implement our evaluation framework. This will help us to assess the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives for all women in the program and document and apply any lessons learnt in future.
- Further details of the planned evaluation are provided under 'Monitoring/Reporting'.



Benefits of the Sewing Program

Broadly, this program aims to reduce poverty and improve gender equity outcomes. Specifically, the program objectives are to achieve the following for the students of the sewing program and their families:

- A sustainable skill that enables students to earn income
- Greater self-confidence
- Improved standards of living
- Improved health, through improved nutrition and hygiene
- Improved quality of family life
- Children/siblings enrolled in education.

Since 2013, we have seen great success with this program:

- 54 microfinance loans have been distributed for sewing machines, maintaining a 100% repayment rate.
- We have increased the retention rate of students from 50% in 2013 to 92% in 2018.
- Our home sewing business has seen us create a constant income stream for sewing graduates, with the profits supporting our education programs. From January - June 2018, we made \$3,500USD profit from selling our handicrafts in Cambodia.
- 50 students have graduated from the complete sewing program to date.
- 15 sewing graduates between 2015 and mid-2017 have moved out of the poverty bracket and continued to remain out for a minimum of one year.



Sewing Program Team



Vocational Training Coordinator – Doeung Savdy

Savdy was born in Battambang province. She holds a Bachelor of Rural Development from the University of Battambang. Her passion is helping her fellow Cambodians to break the cycle of poverty, just like she did

“I’m happy with my job because I can develop myself a lot through the support from the good team, especially my Director. The colleagues are friendly and the working environment is really good for me”.



Sewing teacher – Chhoeung Chomrong

Chomrong was initially a sewing student at Human and Hope Association and graduated in 2015. She worked for us as a seamstress, making handicrafts at her home. Chomrong was promoted to be a sewing teacher in June 2016, and we are so proud to see her thrive. Chomrong enjoys working at HHA as she respects our rules, and thinks the staff are friendly and open with their knowledge. In her spare time, Chomrong sews, cleans her house and takes care of her three children, two of whom study at HHA in our education programs.



Sewing Teacher – Yorn Phalla

Phalla is one of our original sewing students. She impressed her teacher with her passion for sewing, willingness to learn and her ability to accept feedback and improve on it. Phalla was promoted from sewing assistant to sewing teacher just over two years after she started learning sewing. In her spare time, Phalla alters and makes clothes for her neighbours with the sewing machine she bought through our Microfinance Program.

Budget

The budget breakdown below will provide one Cambodian woman with 10-months of sewing, business, farming and life skills training.

Tuition	\$378.00
Sewing Resources	\$131.00
Sewing Starter Kit	\$15.00
Microfinance Loan	\$208.00
Rice, vegetable and petrol stipend	\$204.00
TOTAL	AUD\$936.00





2016



2018

Sangorb's Story

When Sangorb was young, she dreamed of a future where she had a big house and a large family living with her. Her dream was pushed into the back of her mind when at the age eight, she was forced to stop studying at public school to take care of her family's cows.

Sangorb went on to work one job after another, but as she was illiterate, none of them paid well or brought her closer to achieving her dream.

She eventually got married and lived in a bamboo shack with her husband. They struggled to survive from day to day, and with rain dripping through their palm leaf roof, she developed a painful skin condition.

One day, whilst conducting community outreach, our Director came across Sangorb. He helped Sangorb in receiving treatment for her skin condition and invited her to study at Human and Hope Association's sewing program.

Although it was difficult for her at first, Sangorb developed a love for sewing. She came top of her class and was hired by Human and Hope Association to make handicrafts at her home. She has also developed her own sewing business where she can sew and mend clothes for her neighbours.

Sangorb graduated from our sewing program in October 2016, and has built a safe and beautiful house with the income she makes from sewing. She works from home, and comes to Human and Hope Association daily, as her five-year-old daughter now studies in the Khmer language program. Her dream has become a reality, and she is so thankful to our wonderful donors who have enabled this.

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 Sewing 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 Sewing Program. Please feel free to contact us using the details below:

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