

# Newsletter

*Clean water, a human right not a luxury*

## 2017 is a year of significant milestones in the growth and story of Water for Cambodia.

First organized in January of 2005, WFC really began operations in earnest in 2007 with the construction and installation of its first 1000 filters. Now in 2017 WFC has surpassed 20,000 filters installed in 9 provinces across Cambodia bringing clean safe drinking water to 120,000 individuals. Siem Reap Water Quality Laboratory was also begun in 2007; the first and only water quality lab outside of the capital, Phnom Penh over 200 kilometers away. This allowed WFC to provide continuous water quality monitoring of filter installations as well as providing a valuable community resource to the local business and hotel industry. Finally, 2017 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of our founder Gunther Hausen. Without Gunther's foresight and belief in the "impossible" Water for Cambodia would not exist.



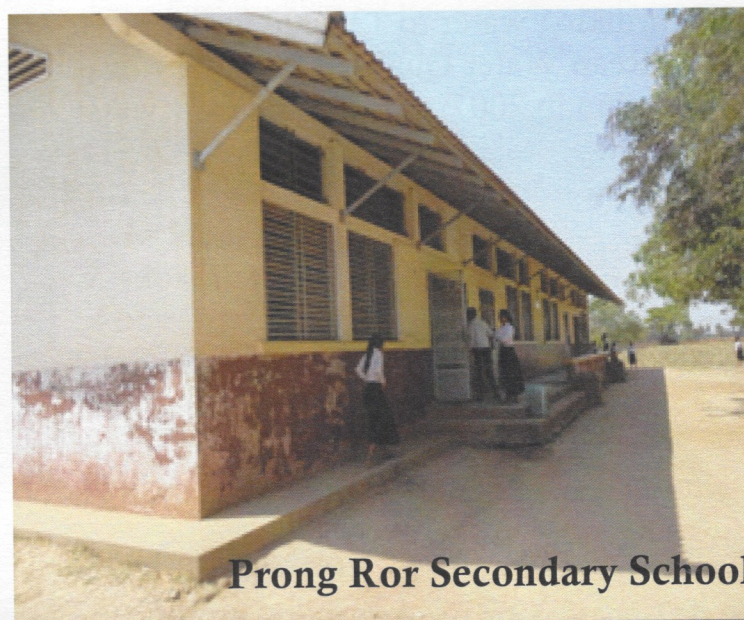
It is fitting that 2017 is also the year that Water for Cambodia expands its reach and influence toward improving the health, hygiene, sanitation and access to clean safe water for Cambodian communities. Since 2014 WFC has partnered with Malteser International to bring a comprehensive **W**ater, **S**anitation and **H**ygien (WASH) program to communities in Siem Reap Province. This encompasses community wide education, well refurbishment or construction, latrine construction support and technical assistance plus filter installation and lab testing services. Malteser has chosen to leave Cambodia. Water for Cambodia is developing the capacity and capability to step in and fill this need. This is a logical and anticipated step in the growth of WFC and in keeping with Gunther's vision of a holistic approach to bettering the lives and futures of rural families in Cambodia.



Water for Cambodia chose a modest challenge in the Chi Kraeng District to demonstrate its ability to handle a comprehensive WASH project. WFC wanted to demonstrate a high impact intervention in water supply, sanitation and hygiene and have a direct influence on students by involving the local schools.

This project is located in the villages of Pong Ror 1 and Prong Ror 2 both situated in Chi Kraeng District about 70 km from our office. Prong Ror 1 village is made up of 273 households and has 39 wells of which only 13 are functioning. Prong Ror 2 village has 189 households and has only 2 out of 38 wells functioning. WFC staff met with local authorities to determine the most suitable elements of this project to meet their most important needs. The resulting project provided a two-room latrine at the secondary school serving these villages that accommodates both genders. It also modified or repaired 3 wells servicing many families. This district will be the focus of a much greater clean water intervention project planned for 2018.

The Prong Ror Secondary School has 259 students 60% of whom are girls. It was equipped with an inadequate latrine and asked for an additional two-room latrine building to better serve both the boys and girls. Construction was a community effort. WFC provided all materials as well as guidance to community members who were responsible for the labor and the actual construction. It was completed and turned over to the students on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Prong Ror Secondary School**





## This is the story of a highly successful multi-year effort by a single donor changing the lives of villagers in Doun Kaev Commune.

Water for Cambodia received its first grant from The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation in 2014 to supply 150 bio-sand filters. This was the beginning of a partnership that has since grown to benefit more than 2700 family members. The greatest beneficiaries are the youngest and most vulnerable because their immune systems have not yet developed sufficiently and are therefore more likely to feel the effects of the contaminated water commonly available in these rural villages. To date a total of 450 families in 8 villages now enjoy the benefit of clean, safe water through the generosity of the Berger Foundation. Beyond the obvious benefits of less water borne sickness, better health allows children to attend school regularly, saves precious family resources otherwise spent on medicines and treatment and frees adults from tending sick family members.

Since its beginning, Water for Cambodia has installed more than 20,000 bio-sand filters. Most are located in Siem Reap Province. Each installation has a measurable impact on the receiving family but where WFC can work at the community level over an extended period of time supplying many families in a single village or commune the benefits are amplified. As important as healthy children are to every family, the real benefit to Cambodian socio-economic development is healthy communities of families whose children can regularly attend school and grow up to be healthy adults.

Multiple year projects like the Berger Foundation work in Doun Kaev commune allows Water for Cambodia staff to focus on community level development efforts across individual villages and to work toward the goal of every household having a bio-sand filter. When one family demonstrates the benefits others become believers and come forward. This is how a continuous year on year effort can change the village culture and in turn improve the health and basic economics of many families.





## Meet two families who have directly benefitted from the H.N. and Francis C. Berger Foundation



Mrs. Y Seab and her husband Buon Kruoch live in Tnort Chrum Village. There are 8 members in her family she, her husband, four sons, and two daughters. Her first son Buon Mot is 16 years old and left school in grade 5. Her oldest daughter Buon Son completed grade 6. Her second son Buon Mai is 12 and is studying in grade 3. Her third son Buon Suo is 10 years old and is in grade 1. The youngest boy Buon Samon is 8 years old and also in grade 1. Her youngest, a girl, Buon Sou is 5 years old and has not yet started her studies.

Before the family got their filter the family used iron contaminated well water directly for drinking and all other needs. The family, especially the youngest, was often sick and spent a lot of money paying for medicine and treatment. They are all healthier now than before having their filter.

The family draws from the filter 2-3 times per day and uses the clean filter water for drinking and food preparation

Mrs. Seb Koeurt and her husband Hib Lork live in Kouk Pnov village where they fish and farm to support their extended family. There are 7 members in her family including a daughter, son in law, 2 grandsons and a grand daughter. The oldest grandson Pum Pech is 11 and studying in grade 5. Her second grandson Pum Samnang is 7 and attends grade 1. Pum Piey, her 5 year old grand daughter is in kindergarten.

Mrs Seb requested a bio-sand filter because she wanted clean water for her family's health. She now sees that filtered water has reduced illness significantly in her family..

She uses the filter 2-3 times every day for drinking and food preparation and her grand children always bring filtered water to school.



***Water for Cambodia's mission is to provide clean water, hygiene and literacy education to rural Cambodian families, improving their health and helping to break the cycle of poverty.***

Water for Cambodia a Middletown Rotary Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

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