

UPDATE

Church Mobilization Project and Smiles in the Slums (OVC) Projects

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To: Paul Summers
GyMEA Baptist Church
Paul.summers@gymeabaptist.org.au

From: Natalie Moses
Projects Manager
Samaritan's Purse Australia
Natalie.moses@samaritanspurse.org.au

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

Church Mobilization Project (CMP)

- Funds have been allocated to project materials, plus running costs of PFH / OVC workshop
- Funding has provided for Samaritan's Purse (SP) staff to train 50 Churches to attend a 12-week Church Mobilization training. 50 Churches will be producing action plans to receive 'seed' funding from SP to then resource local Churches to engage in:
 - HIV/AIDS home visits/compassionate outreach
 - Establishing youth programs (soccer)
 - Ministry to vulnerable at risk children

Orphan and Vulnerable Children Project (OVC)

- Funds allocated to needs assessments in 40 urban locations
- Training for beneficiaries in Prey Sala
- Funds allocated to project materials, plus running costs of PFH / OVC workshop
- Training of 50 Churches in OVC in Phnom Pehn
- Developing relationship/assessment with Veal Sbov to commence Child Safe Zone

All photos: Prey Sala Slum



PROJECT UPDATE

The Church Mobilization / OVC Project has evolved through numerous changes since the submission of the proposal to Gynea Baptist Church. Some of these changes have been beyond the control of SP staff in Cambodia, and some of the changes were made by the staff to ensure that the correct needs of the community are being met and that SP Cambodia are being good stewards with the resources available. Although some of these changes have been beyond our control, and caused a dramatic change in direction, SP Cambodia's desire continues to be that we are accountable to our donors, community and the mission statement God has called us to.

One of the major changes revolves around the three child safe zones (CSZ) that had been included in the original proposal. SP Cambodia began to realize that the CSZ were not the highest need of most communities and that the best model for CSZ were to link them with a church that was willing to take on the responsibility of sustaining them. Although this was the case, Prey Sala, a slum community that was established approximately five years ago, was chosen for a CSZ as the need was so great and was deeply supported by the community. Prey Sala was established when a large developing company evicted families from their homes within Phnom Penh. Not only were the conditions in Prey Sala extremely poor, the location was far away from most work places. A CSZ in the form of a Day Care Centre (DCC) would allow parents to go to work, earn an income, while their children are being well looked after.



Twenty volunteers began to be trained in a nine week course focusing on all aspects of child care. It was the goal of SP Cambodia that the community would take complete ownership of the DCC by the end of 2010. SP Cambodia was enormously encouraged by the support of the community, and their eagerness to be trained and to take on full responsibility of the DCC. The difficulty came at the beginning of October when the company (who initially evicted the families) despite their promise to give over land to build the DCC, advised SP and the community committee that they would no longer give land for the DCC. This decision from the company has devastated both SP Cambodia and Prey Sala.

Although this is the case, we are determined to continue to assist Prey Sala and their OVCs in 2010. Their strength of character, and determination, has proven that this is a community who wants to see change, and is willing to take ownership for the change. Our plans for 2010 are to implement Parenting, Nutrition and Hygiene training and to screen all children under five for malnutrition. Children found with moderate malnutrition will become part of a supplementary feeding program, and those with severe malnutrition will be referred to the Pediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh and followed up by SP staff. The training will continue to support community mobilization and ownership.

This plan will also be implemented within another slum known as the "Fire Slum". This slum community was formed in 2008 when people were forced to leave their homes and relocate due to a fire that swept through a community within Phnom Penh. There is still a strong belief that the fire was deliberate in order to forcibly remove people from their homes and to open up the area for development. The CSZ will go ahead in the Fire Slum region, but in participation with the local Christian church who is donating the use of their church building for the program.

There is one other community that SP Cambodia believes has the need for a CSZ which is called Veal Sbov. This community was established in February by a pastor who had a vision ten years ago to start a community for those who are poor and displaced within Phnom Penh. The land is owned by the pastor and therefore the establishment of a CSZ would be secure. The community now has 82 families, and approximately 72 children, with most families earning an income through the collection and selling of rubbish. A DCC would assist the parents when they need to go away and work. The community has strong ties to the church and the pastor. **SP Cambodia has confirmed that a CSZ would be built in the community**



and construction would commence in October and will be ready for the visit in February by Gymea Baptist Church.

Although the above clearly illustrates the difficult conditions and unpredictability of working within the slums of Cambodia, where the land is owned and controlled by large developing companies, there have been many accomplishments in 2009. One of the goals for 2009 was to train, mentor and mobilize churches, in order to care for OVCs, widows and those affected by HIV/AIDS within their communities. **Fifty churches** have been trained within these areas, and training will conclude by the end of 2009. SP Cambodia has been encouraged by the passion the churches have displayed in their desire to reach out to those suffering within their communities. The second part of this project will commence in 2010, when churches will submit action plans, which will be financially supported by SP, that display how the churches will look after their communities. Action plans may come in the form of a football club for OVCs or home visits to those in the community who are suffering physically and emotionally. Through these contacts the church will be able to actively display the love of God that He desires for all Cambodians to experience.



SUMMARY OF 2010 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. CMP project: Funding will be provided to 50 Churches in Phnom Penh to implement Action Plans to minister to people living with HIV/AIDS, Sports Ministry to children, and at risk programs for OVCs and the elderly. This will also include training, monitoring and evaluation.

2. OVC project: SP staff will address the urban malnutrition in children under 5 within 2 urban locations, including screening of over 500 children, and provide a supplementary feeding program to children who are severely and moderately malnourished. SP staff will also provide training in Nutrition, Hygiene and Parenting Practices, to reduce the risks facing children within urban areas and increase the knowledge base of caregivers. A Day Care Centre will have commenced construction in late October in partnership with a local Church. Anticipated number of beneficiaries will be a total of approximately 1469 (724 vulnerable children, 435 parents, 20 Community Health Workers, 290 households).

Due to the issues relating to land ownership, construction of more than one Child Safe Zone is not possible, instead the focus will be on addressing the significant needs of children in the areas of acute malnutrition, improved hygiene and parenting skills. At the same time, the funds from Gymea will also resource the 50 urban Churches of Phnom Penh in meeting the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable in their communities.

Samaritan's Purse would like to enthusiastically thank Gymea Baptist Church for supporting these 2 projects.

