

People Improvement Organization

2014 Annual Report



Message from Phymean Noun PIO Founder, CEO & CNN Hero



2014 has been another exciting year for PIO. A year of growth and continuing demand for the quality education provided by PIO to the communities it serves. This year the schools all operated at full capacity, at Stung Mean Chey additional classrooms were built to accommodate the large number of Pre-school and Kindergarten children enrolling at PIO. The program of supporting PIO graduates at high school continues to grow. In addition, thanks to support from Maybank we have been able to re-establish a viable dressmaking class.

An exciting development this year has been the successful raising of funds for a second school at the Stung Mean Chey site. Having a new school will provide much needed space and the capacity to enroll more children from very poor families. It will provide space for vocational training, library, office and classrooms. Building will commence early in 2015.

This year we hosted large numbers of visitors and volunteers from many countries, including an increasing number of high school students from Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and the United States. It is wonderful to have such a large number of people giving of their time and making donations to help us in our work. Thank you all very much, your kindness.

I am grateful to the large number of supporters, sponsors, volunteers and donors whose generosity enables PIO to fulfill its mission of helping the children of the poor.

Thank you to the staff – teachers, administrators and support staff who provide the daily services needed to keep the school operating so that we can fulfill our mission of providing education, livelihood training and building capacity of the local staff. Working together we truly are building a brighter future for the children of Cambodia.

All the best to everyone, Phymean Noun

REGISTRATIONS AND ENROLMENTS

By the end of 2014 there were 1,325 enrolments across the three schools. Including 148 senior students (Grades 7 – 12) studying at PIO and the public high school. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, sponsors and many supporters that education has been delivered completely free of charge to all children. It includes provision of school supplies, uniform, daily meal, clean water, onsite health care and hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes and soap.

School	Enrolments December 2014
Stung Mean Chey	514 (Primary) 148 (Secondary)
Borey Keila	350
Borey Santiheap 2	313
Total	1,325

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

2014 HIGHLIGHTS FOR PIO

ACHIEVEMENT

- 90% of Grade 6 students pass the entrance examination for admission to public high school
- 97% of PIO students sitting end-of-year high school exams were successful in graduating to the next level.
- The PIO students supported to attend university passed all his exams.
- Many of the PIO students studying in their first year at high school were placed in the top 25% of their class.

SPONSORSHIP

- PIO has secured sponsorship for 65 students attending public high school..
- Sponsors have been found for an additional 7 children at the Shelter.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

- New playground at the Shelter
- Refurbishing of the “old school” to provide new vocational training rooms and nursery.
- Upgrading of the PIO shop.
- Additional classroom at Borey Keila.
- Upgrade of the dormitory and ablution facilities at the Shelter

NURSE

- An average of 400 nursing treatments per month.
- January 2014 all students at JWI supported schools assessed and treated by a team of nurses from Newcastle University (Australia)
- November 2014, all students at Borey Santepheap 2 assessed and treated by nurses from Monash University.
- February 2014 - dental assessment and treatment for all PIO students from Dr Bob and the KIDS dental scheme.

Social work

- Appointment of a new social worker in February.
- Increasing the effectiveness of the social worker with an improved visiting program and community outreach.
- An average of 20 children and their families visited each month.

Nutrition

- All children at Borey Keila and Stung Meanchey receive daily lunch.
- All children at the Shelter receive three meals per day.
- Pilot nutrition program for Grade 1 Borey Santepheap 2 sponsored by Glyph Nutrition

Library

- Refurbishing of the PIO library
- Increase in donations of both new Khmer books and second hand English books.
- Greatly increased use of the library by students during lunch break.
- Upgrading of the PIO shop.

CULTURE

- Public performances during Khmer New Year and Pchum Ben by the Apsara dancers.
- Regular Apsara dance performances for the many visitors to the school.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Increased number of visits from visiting school and tour groups. Including groups from Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and the United States.
- Increased number of visitors to the Shelter
- 174 volunteers from 22 countries

OTHER

- Appointment of JWI volunteer Aurelia (Lily) Gimenez as PIO Communications Officer
- Donation of 450 bicycles from the Asia Foundation and the Gravenhurst Rotary Club (Canada). This allows every child that needs a bicycle for getting to PIO or to high school to have a good quality, second hand bike available to them.
- Donation from the Cambodian Red Cross providing food, supplies, bus and \$50 000 donation. The donation enables work on the new school building at Stung Meanchey to commence early in 2015.



Our Governing Body

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Mr Steve Christov (Canada)
Vice-Chairman Mr Frank Carney (Australia)
Advisor Dr Benny Widyono (USA)
Member Mr Richard Teo (Malaysia)
Member Ms Qiaoling Di-Heil (Germany)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Director – Ms Phymean Noun
Deputy Director – Ms Malyda Mean
Project Supervisor – Mr John Thompson
Public Relations/Communications Officer - Ms Aurelia Gimenez (Lily)
Administration and Finance Officer – Mr Hoeun Hun



About PIO

The People Improvement Organization (PIO) was established in 2002 by Mrs Phymean Noun and was officially registered by the Ministry of the Interior the same year.

PIO is a non political, non religious, non government organization. We provide education, vocational training and support to the poorest communities in Cambodia, with a focus on girls, orphans and street children. For many of those families PIO is there only hope of obtaining a good education for their children.

PIO has outreach centers at the former city dumpsite, in the slum areas of Phnom Penh and on the outskirts of the city where the people from the slums are being relocated as the city is redeveloped.

Through education and training, we aim to equip the children and young people to access regular jobs and to become self-supporting, thereby improving their quality of life for them and their families.

Our target group

We support the poorest families and especially those who in spite of their harsh circumstances want their children to have access to education. If they can study and learn, those children will be able to access work opportunities and be empowered to support themselves and their families in the future, thus breaking the cycle of poverty.

We specifically target:

- ♦ Children who want to attend to school
- ♦ Children from poor families who can't afford school
- ♦ Children from large families
- ♦ Children who are orphans
- ♦ Children living on the street
- ♦ Children whose families are affected by AIDS/HIV
- ♦ Children who cannot go to a school near their homes

Our Outreach Schools



STUNG MEAN CHEY SCHOOL

Built in 2004 as an outreach center in close proximity to the city garbage site in order to aid child garbage pickers. It soon became well-established in the local community and continued to grow. Today the school caters to over 650 students. The school provides free access to education. Students receive uniforms, school bags and books. Bicycles and transportation are provided to those who have some distance to travel to school.

The school follows the National Curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 6, there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. This allows PIO to provide students national level education and a child that graduates from a PIO school will be able to continue studying at any government school. In addition, PIO sponsors students from grade 7 to grade 12 to study at state run schools as PIO has not yet established resources to provide higher education.

Students begin the national curriculum classes at 7:00 am and break for lunch at 11am and return to learn English at 1pm, they finish at 4:30pm. Integrated into the teaching program is library time, life skills, sport and drawing. Older students also have time for an IT class in basic computer skills and word processing. PIO students who study part time at high school receive optional instruction in English, Mathematics, Dressmaking and IT for the time of the day when they do not have high school classes.

During the year the old school building was re-modelled to provide space for the job, computer room, vocational training and nursery. The lunch area was also modified to include a stage and kindergarten room. All of this was necessitated by the need to accommodate increasing numbers of students.

At the end of 2014 funding was raised to build a second school at the Stung mean Chey site. This will allow space for more classrooms, vocational training, an office and new library. Building will commence early in 2015. PIO is very grateful to the donors who have contributed to this significant project.

BOREY KEILA OUTREACH SCHOOL

The Borey Keila School opened in 2005 and began to provide for one of the most impoverished communities in Phnom Penh city. Before the school, many children worked as shoe shiners, selling newspapers, picking garbage and beggars. Now they are part of the 350 students attending classes regularly. As with Stung Mean Chey School, Borey Keila School is supported by JWI, providing students with food, uniforms and school supplies. Rice is supplied to families in need.



BOREY SANTEPHEAP 2 OUTREACH SCHOOL



In 2007, due to land issues, families in the Borey Santepheap II who used to live in the riverside slums were forcibly displaced and relocated to an area 20km away from Phnom Penh city. This relocated area lacked any infrastructure and there was no nearby school for them to attend. Mrs. Noun Phymean was then asked by the community committee in the area to help build a school to support the children. She immediately agreed and established the Borey SantepheapII School the same year. Currently the school supports 313 students studying English in morning and afternoon sessions.



A significant development at the school is the development of a viable pre-school class. It has grown to 40 students, all of whom spend the whole day at the school. Establishing this class allows the mothers of the children to leave their young children in safe care while they travel to work in Phnom Penh to support their family.

In 2014 the school added a Grade 4 class in response to students wanting to continue studying o improve their English.

PIO SHELTER

The Shelter provides food, shelter and support for 77 students aged from 5 to 18. There are 36 boys and 41 girls. These children attend Stung Mean Chey school during the day The older children attend Chea Sam Sammaki High School. Staff provide recreational activities, social support, food and clothing for all the children. The Shelter operates under the approval of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Places at the Shelter are limited as it operates at full capacity. However there is still a strong demand for places for children who have no-one to adequately care for them . Expanding the Shelter will be done as funds permit.

PIO is very grateful to the many visitors and supporters who assist the Shelter through gifts of food, toys, educational supplies and playground equipment. The success of the Shelter very much depends on the generous support our donors.



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL WORK

PIO staff works with disadvantaged families and at-risk children. Experience has shown that effective education requires engagement with families and local communities. In February 2014 a new Social Worker was appointed. She regularly visits families in the communities served by PIO schools.

In 2014 there were an average of 20 new families visited each month. The families visited are often very poor and are struggling to keep their children at school. Many are affected by chronic health and social problems which limit their ability to provide for their children. In working with each family a negotiated action plan is put in place. A plan which states what PIO can do for the family and the action required by the family to uphold their part of the agreement.

HYGIENE PROGRAM

The hygiene program continues to be effective in teaching students the importance of maintaining cleanliness and good health. The PIO nurse is in charge of setting up the hygiene education program and updating the program regularly with learning activities

Students are taught to be food conscious, to wash their hands, use soap and to brush their teeth's after lunch Teachers have been helping to instruct students and keeping them reminded of the guidelines.

Students are regularly supplied with toothbrushes and other hygiene materials. These are provided by a number of donor including JWI, volunteer nursing groups and various individuals

MEDICAL PROGRAM

The provision of medical care is crucial in ensuring that children have ready access to professional care. Where more specialized help is needed PIO continues to pay for medical or dental treatment as needed.

The PIO nurse an average of 40 consultations each month with both staff and students. Being able to provide primary healthcare to all students ensures that students remain healthy and that any illnesses can be treated promptly.

The work of the nurse is supplemented by visiting teams of nursing students from Australian universities. In 2014 two teams of student nurses, led by their supervisors assessed and treated all PIO students. A group from Newcastle University visted Stung Mean Chey and Borey Keila in January, Monash University visited Borey Santepheap 2 in November . These visits will continue in 2015 and onwards



LIBRARY

The Stung Mean Chey library now has over 5,000 books. 90% of the books are in English, the remainder in Khmer. During the year a large number of books were donated by children from Singapore. Other donations to the library from volunteers and visitors have further increased the number of educational books available to students.

During 2014 the library at Stung Mean Chey has been extensively upgraded, providing better access to the books and improving the use of the library for other school activities. Classes have one hour per week in which they select books, primarily stories in Khmer with English translations that they read in the class. At lunchtimes there are increasing numbers of young students visiting the library to read and draw.

There are smaller collections of reading books at the other two schools. Early in 2015 all classrooms will have a set of English reading books donated by a school in Australia.

Further improvements will be made when the library is relocated to a larger space upon completion of the new building.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In September 2014 Maybank provided funding to run a dressmaking class at Stung Mean Chey. The class trains both members of the community and high school students. Computer training is also available at no cost to members of the local community. Beauty Training and Hairdressing programs will be offered when funding becomes available.



SPONSORSHIP

201 has seen an increase in the number of children sponsored. Many of the new sponsors are visitors or volunteers who have come to PIO, seen the work it does and have decided to support PIO by sponsoring a child. Maybank have continued with their sponsorship of 20 students attending Chea Sam Sammaki High School and the Smiling Gecko Foundation is sponsoring a further 25. In addition a few other students are supported in their secondary studies by individual sponsors. Consequently just over half of the PIO high school students are now sponsored. The sponsorship covers all of their costs in attending high school.

If you have questions about sponsoring a child at PIO please email PIO's Public Relations and Sponsorship Officer, Lily Giminez at sponsorship@peopleimprovement.org

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

VOLUNTEERS

VISITORS

Meeting and greeting visitors has become an almost daily occurrence. They range from planned visits by donors to school groups and interested individuals. The school groups invariably contribute either financially or through the provision of supplies for the school or Shelter. In 2014 there were school or university groups from Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, Japan, Indonesia and the United States.

Many of these groups have become regular visitors of the school and each year PIO staff look forward to renewing their friendship from these dedicated and committed supporters of PIO. These groups bring new activities to the school. Artistic, sporting and cultural activities that are greatly enjoyed by everyone and bring great happiness to the children.

Gifts from the visitors of English books, second hand clothing, school supplies, sports equipment, rice and other food supplies are a valued contribution. However the most important aspect of these visits is the building of connections between PIO students and those from other countries. This shared experience is of great benefit to all concerned.

ADD PHOTOS OF SCHOOL VISITS

Volunteers

PIO continues to benefit from the work and support of volunteers. In 2014 there were 174 volunteers from 22 different countries. Most volunteers taught English and the average stay was four weeks. Several have stayed for three months or more. There were also teams of nursing volunteers from Australia and Cambodian volunteers from Pannasastra University. The volunteer work is mostly at the Stung placed through the Mean Chey school with the some placements at Borey Keila and Borey Santepheap 2 .

Their work teaching the children and supporting the work of PIO is most valued. Volunteers are supported in their work by the Khmer teachers and by the Project Supervisor who co-ordinates volunteer activity and mentors volunteers at PIO.

Thank you to Cambodia Volunteer Foundation, Star Kampuchea, Global Volunteer Network, AIESEC and Pannasastra for choosing to send volunteers to PIO. Most volunteers are Cambodia Volunteer Foundation, AIESEC or Star Kampuchea. Other volunteers come from donor, organization and schools.

The children of PIO benefit greatly from the help they receive from volunteers. For more information about volunteering, contact John Thompson john@peopleimprovement.org

Country	Number
Australia	43
Brazil	2
Cambodia	17
Canada	17
China	21
Denmark	13
France	3
Germany	3
Hong Kong	7
Indonesia	2
Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	1
Malaysia	4
New Zealand	3
Nicaragua	1
Norway	1
Portugal	2
Singapore	1
South Africa	1
Switzerland	1
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom	6
United States	24

APSARA DANCE

Every Sunday up to 35 students living at the Shelter receive three hours instruction in Apsara dance. They are taught by a teacher with 20 years experience. The dance lessons are an important part of their education, keeping them in touch with their culture and providing a wonderful opportunity for creative expression. Recently the group has added a very popular hip hop routine which is performed at the conclusion of the traditional section of their show. The group performs on a regular basis for visitors to PIO and at special events where there are invited dignitaries from government or international organizations.

Recent performances have been given for the visit by the Khmer Japan organisation and the Deputy Minister for Information, the Canadian International School from Singapore and the Gravenhurst Rotary Club from Ontario Canada. Over Khmer New Year they gave public performances at three local venues for the public and corporate sponsors. or for PIO corporate sponsors. It included performances at :AMK Bank ; Sovanna Shopping Centre ; Wing Bank; the home of Preaek Tol; Hong Leong Bank and Dreamland .

Other performances included the PIO 12th Anniversary celebration and the visit from the Cambodian Red Cross.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CHILD SPONSORS

Cheryl and Scott MacCartney
Frank Carney
Kendra Jones
Patricia Perry
Monica Lam
Julie Sonson
Purobi Phillips
Andrew Forsyth
Jacqueline McCreath
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Robert M Keller (Michael
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Evelina Fredriksson
Dom Decressain
PS William
Lauren Dannay
Amur
Kathleen Harris
Katherine Lee
Jana Buresova & David Lagace
Jacquie McCreath
Vera Chia

DONORS

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who have contributed their time and money to supporting the children at PIO. Your efforts will ensure that the children face a better future through education

Just World International
Cambodian Red Cross
Project Hammer
Canadian International School
Smiling Gecko
Maybank
Global fund for children

PLEASE ADD NAMES OF OTHER DONORS

CONCLUSION

The 2014 / 2015 school year has commenced with every classroom full and senior students enrolled at public high school. There are also classes in Vocational Training, additional English, IT and Mathematics together with Art and Dance programs at the Shelter.

PIO continues to grow to support increasing demand from the local communities. It receives wide interest and support from many local and international visitors, volunteers, sponsors and donors. Those groups, together with established donors and sponsors provide essential support moral, practical and financial, all of which is crucial to the development of PIO.

Early in 2015 work on the new building at Stung Mean Chey will commence and PIO will enter the next exciting phase of its development in serving the needs of the children of Cambodia as it creates a brighter future for them through education.

