

# People Improvement Organization

2015 Annual Report





# Message from CEO Phymean Noun



2015 has been a truly amazing year for PIO. I have been humbled by the honors given to me this year in recognition of the work done by PIO over the past 14 years. The Medal of Honor from the Cambodian Red Cross, the Canadian Asian of the Year award in Ottawa and most significantly the World's Children's Prize. These awards have inspired me to work even harder for the rights of the poor children of Cambodia to a quality education and for the empowering of young women so that they can develop to be leaders in their community. .

The money from the World's Children's Prize has gone towards the construction of the new building at Stung Mean Chey. Building is well underway and the new facility will be in use by May 2016. The new building increases the capacity of PIO and enhances our ability to provide a quality education for our students.

We continue to have a strong demand from the community to send their children to PIO because of the good quality of the education it provides. A highlight this year was the 100% success rate of PIO Grade 6 students sitting the national examination for admission to high school. PIO now supports over 100 of its students at high school, a number that is increasing each year

It has been a wonderful year and I trust that 2016 will be of ongoing development as we help our children gain a brighter future through education.  
All the best to everyone, Phymean Noun

# REGISTRATIONS AND ENROLMENTS

By the end of 2015 there were 1,325 enrolments across the three schools. Including 94 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 2015
Stung Mean Chey	510 (Primary and pre-school) 122 (Secondary and Tertiary)
Borey Keila	352
Borey Santeheap 2	342
Total	1,326

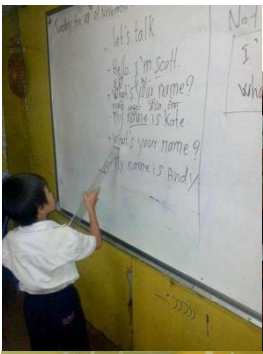
## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### 2015 HIGHLIGHTS FOR PIO ACHIEVEMENT

- Student nurses and their supervisor from Newcastle University (Australia) assess and treat all PIO students.
- Appointment of Dr Vuthy as PIO Physician
- SEAL Cambodia provide tooth sealant treatment for children at Stung Mean Chey School
- Dental treatment for all students through the One2One program at Puthisastra University.
- Partnership with One2One and Healthy Kids Cambodia to provide better health care for PIO students.
- Canadian Multicultural Council award. Phymean for her outstanding humanitarian work in Cambodia with the 2015 Special Humanitarian Award.
- Phymean receives the Medal of Honor from the Cambodian Red Cross
- Phymean wins the World's Children's Prize
- Construction of the new school building at Stung Mean Chey well underway and due for completion April / May 2016.
- JWI increase funding to 850 students.
- Two girls attend the Asian Peace Camp conference in Nepal.
- Play Around the World, Four Health Education students spend three months teaching sport and play activities to students at Stung Mean Chey and Borey Santipheap 2 schools.

- 100% of Grade 6 students pass the entrance examination for high school.
- Mathematics In English program extended and expanded to include more younger students.
- 10 Grade 7 students graduate from the Dressmaking program.
- Continued success of high school students, all but one proceed to the next level of study. Three students currently enrolled at university and supported by PIO sponsors.
- Annual visit from JWI staff and ambassadors.
- 170 volunteers, including an increased number of Cambodian university students working with PIO children.
- PIO now has 50 sponsors supporting 114 children.
- Improvements at the Shelter to the entranceway, repainting the Shelter interior.
- The new building at Stung Mean Chey is due to be completed in May 2016.
- Upgrading of the toilets at Stung Mean Chey school.
- Minor improvements at Borey Keila to strengthen floors and add support columns.
- An average of 320 nursing treatments per month.
- January 2015 all students to be assessed and treated by a team of nurses from Newcastle University (Australia)

# Financial Report



## ***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  
Communications Officer - Ms Aurelia (Lily) Gimenez  
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 500 students from Nursery to Grade 6. In addition, there is support for over 100 high school 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.

Students follow the National Curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 6, there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. In addition, PIO supports students from grade 7 to grade 12 to study at state-run schools.

Students begin the national curriculum classes at 8:00 am and break for lunch at 11 am and return to learn English at 1 pm, they finish at 4:00 pm. 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.

During 2015 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 commenced in August 2015 and will be completed early in 2016. 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, opened 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.



## BOREY SANTEPHEAP 2 OUTREACH SCHOOL

In 2007, due to land issues, families who used to live in the riverside slums were forcibly displaced and relocated to Borey Santepheap 2, some 20km away from Phnom Penh city. The 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 Santepheap II School the same year. Currently the school supports 342 students studying English in morning and afternoon sessions. There are classes from Nursery to Grade 5.

The role at the school continues to grow with increasing numbers in the Nursery and Kindergarten classes. With the support of the Global Fund for Children PIO was able to provide a lunch for children in Nursery, Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes. In addition Glyph Nutrition provided daily soy milk and corn snacks for one class.



## PIO SHELTER

The Shelter provides food, shelter and support for 80, 45 girls and 35 boys students aged 5 and above. The 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.

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. The PIO social worker regularly visits families in the communities served by PIO schools.

In 2015 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 the social worker explains to the families the importance of education and why they must keep their children in school.

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

In 2016 the program will be extended as PIO participates in the Healthy Kids Cambodia project supported by One2One.

## **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.

PIO has been fortunate to have the services of Dr Vuthy, a final year medical student specialising in pediatrics. Through his work at the three schools the quality of medical care has improved and he attends to over 300 patients (including some staff) each month.



## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

PIO has a 5 year MOU with the Ministry of Labor allowing the school to provide vocational training in a number of fields. The most popular are dressmaking and IT.

Other vocational training includes drawing classes, jewellery making and Apsara dance. Those classes are run outside of school hours, primarily for the students living at the Shelter.

Another aspect of vocational training at PIO are internship programs for high school students living at the Shelter. The students receive a small remuneration and in exchange for that carry out a range of duties around the school. Those activities include both classroom and out of classroom activities. Tasks include:

Teaching assistant	Librarian	Driver	Receptionist	IT maintenance
Kitchen assistant	Electrical repair		Maintenance	Social work visits

This work provides students with experience doing work that is important to PIO. It also assists them in making career choices and deciding on their employment options when they finish at PIO.

All of the students involved in the vocational training / work experience program are also enrolled at high school .

### **IT**

During 2015 all Grade 5 and Grade 6 attended two one hour training sessions per week. In addition a number of high school students attended computer classes. In those classes studied keyboarding (Khmer text), Microsoft Word and Excel.



### **DRESSMAKING**

In September 2014 Maybank provided funding to run a dressmaking class at Stung Mean Chey . The class trains high school students. In September 2015 all ten students graduated from the class. In September 2015 10 girls graduated from this program. The class will continue in 2016 subject to available funding. The new class will be re-located to the new school at Stung Mean Chey.



## ***SPONSORSHIP***

2015 has brought about 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 Sannaki 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](mailto:sponsorship@peopleimprovement.org)

## ***VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS***

### **VISITORS**

#### **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 2015 there were school or university groups from Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, Japan, Indonesia, Norway 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.

## Volunteers

- PIO continues to benefit from the work and support of volunteers. In 2015 there were 196 volunteers from 20 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 coordinates volunteer activity and mentors volunteers at PIO.
- Thank you to Cambodia Volunteer Foundation, Star Kampuchea, Global Volunteer Network, FUSAC and Pannasastra University for choosing to send volunteers to PIO. The children of PIO benefit greatly from the help they receive from volunteers. For more information about volunteering, contact John Thompson [john@peopleimprovement.org](mailto:john@peopleimprovement.org)

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Nation	Percent of total
Australia	26%
United States	14%
Cambodia	11%
China	11%
Canada	8%
Denmark	6%
United Kingdom	5%
New Zealand	2%
Germany	2%
Hong Kong	1%

## ***APSARA DANCE***

Up to 35 students living at the Shelter receive three hours instruction in Apsara dance. They are taught by a experienced teacher. 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. 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 the Canadian International School from Singapore other school groups that visit PIO. Over Khmer New Year they gave public performances at local venues

The highlight this year was the performance at the Maybank Carnival where the students performed a number of dances and a song for the Maybank staff and supporters. The students had worked hard preparing for the performance and produced a very polished performance that was enjoyed by all.



## ***THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS***

Ali Hindell	AMUR
Andrew Forsyth	Anthony McClean
Begg Kelso	Benjamin Grundy
Bourgeois family	Celia Langouste
Cheryl McCartney	Chia Vera
Daniel Higgins	Dianne Westall
Dom Decressain	Evelina Fredricksson
Frank Carney	Frederic Tard
Greg & Cherie Baker	Herve Louchet
Hok Winson	Jacquie and Flynn McGreath
Jennifer Lavin	Jeremy Decressain
Julie Motzfeldt	Julie Sonson
Katherine Lee	Kendra Jones
Keriann O'Rourke	Kylie Norris
Lauren Dannay	Lisa Miller
Lizzie Hunt	Marc Tep
Maybank	Melanie Grills
Michael Keller	Michelle Dabbs
Monica Lamb	Newcastle Nurses
Noi Liang	Patricia Shield
PS William	Rachel Deschenes
Raymond Heath	Richard Teo
Robert Bell	Smiling Gecko
Steve and Robin Cohn	Tara Delgado
Tomoyuki Hiragushi	

## ***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  
Project Hammer  
Wing Money  
Canadian International School  
Glyph Nutrition  
Maybank  
Global Fund for Children



## **CONCLUSION**

The 2015 / 2016 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 2016 work the new building at Stung Mean Chey will be completed 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.

