



Humanitarian Outreach for Peace on Earth
A St Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore project with the aim of alleviating poverty and creating sustainable livelihoods for Cambodians with social, economic and health disabilities.

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE

PLANS FOR 2020

At the onset of 2020, PKH had planned on carrying out the following works:

- 1) At the PKH Centres in Chbarmon and Aoral : Equipping up to 170 youths with vocational skills.
- 2) At the PKH Centre in Trang : Providing 300 Suoy children with education and before-after-school care.
- 3) At the PKH English School : Teaching English to 100 poor children including orphans, and enabling half of them to enrol in computer classes.
- 4) At Seeds of Hope Childcare : Supporting up to 30 orphans and street kids.
- 5) Refurbishing the former Industrial Skills Block at Chbarmon to accommodate more students for vocational training.
- 6) Celebrating PKH's 20th Anniversary with a Tour to Cambodia for PKH's friends and supporters to visit all 4 PKH locations, as well as a thanksgiving-event in Singapore together with a few former PKH graduates who had over the years received PKH's help to come out of poverty. Many are now married with families; they are sustained by the jobs for which they were equipped at the training centres, as well as their hope in Christ.

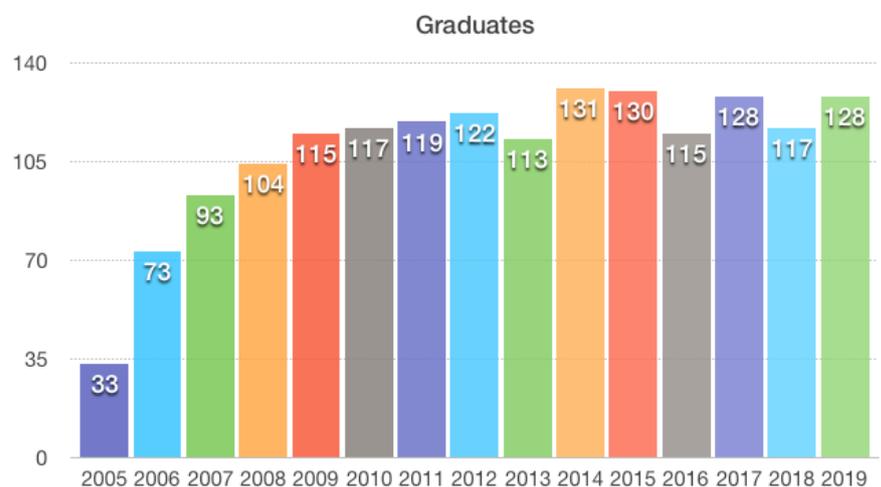
These works were very much what PKH had been doing in past years:

Helping poor youths to break out of the poverty cycle by equipping them for jobs

PKH equips youths with marketable skills by providing vocational training at 2 of its Centres in Chbarmon and Aoral. Youths are equipped with skills for the hospitality services and technical maintenance industries.

Almost all trainees of each graduating cohort obtain jobs in hotels, construction and engineering firms, and other establishments in Cambodia.

With jobs, these young people are able to support themselves and provide for their families in the provinces.



Reaching the unreached and serving among the poorest

In Kampong Speu Province, Aoral District is where the poorest of the Cambodian poor can be found. Here, PKH has the privilege of serving the tribal Suoy people, an ethnic group without an indigenous, self-propagating Christian church movement. Such a group is also known as an Unreached Peoples Group, UPG.

PKH serves this minority community located in the very remote villages of Chom Bok, Trang, Kordounthei and Tanil by providing the children with education at Chom Bok Primary School.

PKH also supplements each child with one full meal per school day, basic healthcare, tuition in English and Bible Knowledge. In 2019, this work was carried out for 300 children, before and after school, at the PKH Centre in Trang.

Supporting orphans and poor children in the community



The PKH English School located on the grounds of the government-run Kampong Speu Orphans Centre, provides English tuition for up to 100 children who are 7-18 years old. About half of the students are orphans living in the Centre while the other half are poor children from the community. There were plans in 2020, to also provide computer lessons for half of all the students.

At the Seeds of Hope Childcare Centre, adjacent to the PKH Centre in Chbarmon, PKH works with another non-governmental organisation, Full Gospel Assembly, Cambodia and it supports a third of the 80 the orphans and street kids residing at the Home.

The Covid-19 pandemic shuttered significant sectors of our work. In March, just 3 weeks into PKH's vocational training courses, per Cambodian government directive, all 3 PKH Centres and the PKH School were shut. Lessons were cancelled and residential trainees were sent home.

In the months following, a few of our national staff voluntarily went away from work, on no-pay leave, and 3 of our 4 expatriate trainers returned to Singapore. Ms Susan Goh remained in Cambodia to hold the fort with skeletal staff at each location.

During those months, special efforts were carried out to :

- spruce up all Centres, including painting and refurbishment of the premises.
- repair and renovate the roof and facilities at the Industrial Skills Block at the Chbarmon Centre.
- upgrade the training curriculum and reorganise the staff schedules.
- implement Covid safe-distancing in the dormitories, classrooms, dining halls and workshops and practise a safe-entry and safe-living protocol for all students and staff at the Centres.
- upgrade the wifi facilities at all locations to enable effective online training and meetings.

That time also came in useful for staff to bond and be engaged in learning activities - English phonics, farming, gardening and cooking.

Since September, our Centres have reopened to some degree. All local staff have returned to their work-stations. Expatriate trainers, Ms Deborah Teo and Ms Joyce Carino returned to Cambodia on 21 December to serve a 14-day quarantine in Phnom Penh, in time to serve as trainers in Trang and Chbarmon, when the Centres will be fully re-opened. We thank God for the dedication of all PKH trainers and staff.

These activities have resumed, albeit on a different scale due to the need for reduced numbers and other safety measures against Covid:

1) At the PKH Centre in Trang:

While schools remain shut, about 50 very poor children drop in daily at this Centre for meals. They are also the children who have no access to television; they come to our Centre to learn by participating in the educational programmes televised at a national level.

When all schools re-open in January 2021, we expect that many more from the previous 300 children will return.

2) At the PKH English School:

About half of the 80 students are now back in class and they have English lessons at staggered times. They are students preparing for their national Grade 9 and 12 examinations.

3) At the PKH Centre in Aoral:

Training has resumed for 27 of the 48 young men who had enrolled for it earlier in the year. This is the maximum number that we are able to safely house in the dormitories.

Here, the trainees learn English online. Lessons are taught twice weekly by expatriate volunteers located in Singapore.

4) At the PKH Centre in Chbarmon:

To date, 54 of the 88 who had earlier started on the training for Hospitality Services, will return to 2 Year 1 (English) Classes and 1 Year 2 (Hospitality) Class. Training at this Centre will begin in mid-January 2021.

Here, too, supplementary on-line English lessons will be conducted by volunteers from Singapore.

5) At the Seeds of Hope Childcare (FGAC Centre):

Due to the closing and re-opening, and then the closing again of schools, the 80 children at the Centre are frazzled from being shut in at the Home, but they are safe and they are looking forward to the resumption of school in January.

Today, there is much rejoicing at this Home as they celebrate the success of a young man who grew up in this orphanage, went to university and had just graduated as a medical doctor. (Visit the PKH website for a fuller story on Meng Hieang).

PLANS AND PRAYERS FOR 2021

Our aims :

- 1) Equip up to 90 youths with vocational skills at the PKH Centres in Chbarmon and Aoral.
- 2) Provide 300 children (mainly Suoy people) with daily meals, English tuition and Bible Knowledge at the PKH Centre in Trang.
- 3) Teach English to 80 orphans and poor children at the PKH English School and enable up to 40 of them to enrol in computer classes.
- 4) Support up to 30 orphans/street kids at the Seeds of Hope Childcare/Orphanage.

Our prayer:

We thank the Lord that through the dedication of all who serve in the country and the generosity of all who support the work from afar, PKH makes a positive difference in the lives of young Cambodians.

We seek the Lord's favour, his guidance and protection for all in PKH Cambodia, especially through this Covid pandemic.

We ask that through tangible expressions of love, PKH may be used by the Lord to bring hope and a future to the poor and needy in Cambodia.

To keep in touch with PKH

pkhcambodia.org

Visit our website for :

- more information, photos and updates
- real life stories of former students and trainees
- archive of newsletters
- opportunities to support and to serve with PKH

pkh.cambodia@cathedral.org.sg

To contact PKH, please email or phone 65-63376104.

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectKhmerH.O.P.E>

To connect with others in PKH, please join our Facebook.

Our mailing address:

PKH @ St Andrew's Cathedral
11 St Andrew's Road
Singapore 178959

