

# Narrative Report January – June 2021 Cambodia Poor Community Development Organization (Happy Home Children’s Center) in Battambang

## 1. Background

The Float Foundation has been providing fund support to Cambodia children for fifteen years through an organization, Children and Poor Community Development Organization (CPCDO). CPCDO is located in Battambang (BTT), Cambodia which has received funding support from the Float Foundation since January 2007. The funds from the Float Foundation were spent to construct three buildings to house 50 orphanages (26/boys and 24/girls), four toilets, and a small room for generator. One of the three buildings is used for a study room/dining area. In addition, the office is also located in this building. The fund was also used to construct an outdoor kitchen which is connected to the girls’ building. The Center started its full operation since April 20, 2007. From year to year, there had been improvement of children facilities.

This report is covered period from January to June 2021 which is the 15<sup>th</sup> year project, Happy Home Children’s Center, which has been funded by the Float Foundation.



*Taken in March 2021*

## 2. Personnel

There are 5 full time staffs and one-part-time staff working for the following positions:

- Executive Director (Female)
- Admin and Finance (Female)
- One Teacher (Female)
- Nanny (Female)
- Cook (Female)

A volunteer has continued working at the Happy Home Children’s Center since the third quarter 2020.

Staff had held regularly held monthly meeting to discuss: management of children, teaching and educating children on moral and rules living in the center, health care matter, security and internal order in the center, food hygiene and health and sanitation. They had discussed how to manage daily operation in safe and healthy way for children during the pandemic Covid 19. Children hygiene had been more focus to keep children healthy and safe.

**3. Children Status:**

During this reporting period, there are 31 children under guardian/poster program of CPCDO. Twenty-four children are living in the Happy Home and whose ages are from 7 years old to 18 years old. Three of them are girl. Some of children are orphan and some are from poor family. The twenty-four children are including two boys whose mother is working as nanny in the Happy Home. The two boys are under the legal guardian of their mother, however, CPCDO is sponsoring and fostering them for education and living in Happy Home.

During the first quarter, two children were integrated to community after they completed and pass the high school. The two are going to continue their studies at university. Also two children, boy, were admitted to Happy Home in the first quarter.

As of the end of second quarter, there are seven children under poster program of CPCDO after their integration to community with their families or relatives.

Summary table of children status

<b>Children status</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Total</b>
Orphan (living in Happy Home)	02	19	21
Children from poor families (living in Happy Home)	01	00	01
Child whose was abandon by their parents	0	0	0
Children living in and with supports from Happy Home but under their mother care	0	02	02
Children under fostering care living in the community	02	05	07
<b>Total</b>	05	26	31

Summary table of education of children living in Happy Home (academic 2019-2020)

<b>School level</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Total</b>
Primary school	01	12	13
Junior high school	01	08	09
High school	01	01	02
<b>Total</b>	03	21	24

During the reporting period, the schools where children attended were closed since February 20 due to the outbreak of pandemic Covid 19 and were advised by the Ministry of Education to wait for further notice on reopening. Since then children stay in the Happy Home and do their school works that were collected from schools by the staff on Monday and return the completed works to school at the end of the week day.



February 2021, getting ready to school before the school closed.

March 2021 after school closed.

Although the children did not attend school, however, they have continued their studies in the Happy Home. There are two shifts for children study: morning time from 8:15-10:45 and afternoon from 2:15 to 4:45. During their home study, children were monitored by staff. Some children were also supplemented on some subjects that they are not good at such as mathematic, chemical and physic.

As for children living in the community, two of the seven children study in university, one takes skills training, three in junior high school and one in primary school.

#### 4. Children Activity

Sport activities with the outside community and other community activities were put on hold due to the pandemic of Covid 19. For their safety purpose they all stay in. However, they had some activities in the Happy Home, basketball, football at the field behind dinning building, gardening and assisting in daily cooking.

During Khmer New Year in April, children were not permitted to visit home for their safety purpose as it was an outbreak of Covid 19 and there was a ban of traveling across between town and town. However, the children and staff at Happy Home celebrated Khmer New Year indoor by treating themselves with special foods sponsored by Mr. Brian and his family, an active member of South Suree Rotary Club. Children were permitted to visit their families in late May when the situation of Covid 19 was in a better control in the province.



Kid and staff preparing food for the celebration in early May



*Children enjoyed their food during the celebration*



*Enjoying activities game during the celebration*



*Activities during free time from study*

In addition to regular program activities of the Happy Home, children had also joined other life skills training online with partner organization.

## **5. Projects:**

There were different project activities implemented during the reporting period. Children have participated in project activities at the Happy Home Children's Center in addition to their school program.

- a. **English class** was regularly run from Monday to Friday. For safety purpose, there are only children of the Happy Home for the classes. There are 15 children. Children are divided to different levels, beginner for young children (primary school) and intermediate for Children (junior high school).
- b. **Computer class** was ongoing. Children have continued their computer skills, Microsoft Words and Excel. Only elder kids were allowed to use the computer with supervision.
- c. **Gardening** has become part of children daily life in addition to their school program. Children have planted different vegetables that they like to eat the most such as chili, morning glory, basil,

In addition to these above, Happy Home had arranged time for children to learn music instrument at the church near-by. Two children are fairly good at guitar.

## 6. Meals

It is a regular that children have three meals per day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. They have their meal together in the dining room. Before meal, they always make sure themselves to wash their hands at the washing sink nearby.

There were some special occasions that children had enjoyed different dishes such as pizza, curry, bbq, etc. Children have helped the cook to prepare food and their meal together. Elder children have also helped the cook to prepare food.

## 7. Community Outreach

There are seven children integrated to community, their family or relatives, however, they are under fostering and care of Happy Home. CPCDO in partnership with Children's Future International Organization (CFI) have continued providing supports to the children and their families and visited them once a month. We had provided them some foods and school materials. During the first quarter, a new house was completed and handed to one of the children family.

The director together with CFI staff had monthly field visited to children living in the community, Rokhakkiri, and provided them facial masks, alcohol, rice, soy sauces, fish sauces and teach them how to use internet and learn online.

During the first quarter, a seminar on how to protect, look after, and take care children with positive attitude was co-organized by CFI and CPCDO to 12 families at the Happy Home.



*Old house and new house of one of the children*

## **8. Children health and hygiene:**

Children health has been monitored by a nurse who regularly came to the center once every two weeks to check children health and he would treat children with light illness. This has been supported by AEC over the years. Particularly, during the pandemic Covid 19, nurse and staff have provided extra care to children hygiene and health.

It is part of rules of living that children have been grouped for cleaning bedroom and the bathroom, collecting garbage to cycle baskets and helping cleaning the premise. Regularly elder children help making laundry blanket, mats, and mattress twice a month. Plastic free area has been enforced.

## **9. Children Materials:**

There are 12 bicycles in fair condition and 5 new bicylces.

## **10. Children Facility:**

Children have enjoyed their upgraded facilities, bed room, bathrooms, dining tables, bed, and mattress. They have also a space to park and keep their bicylces under the selter.

They have a grass field behind the study building for their home sport activities, soccer playtime.

## **11. Library**

The small library had continued its function serving both children in the center and the community. There are 250 books in the library.

## **12. Other**

- There were visits of social affairs officers to Happy Home to observe the living of children
- A visit of UCB bank staff, Battambang branch, to Happy Home children.
- There were visits of local friends to Happy Home and they brought some food for the day visit for the children sometime pizza, etc.

## **Difficulty:**

- Difficult to find co financial support for the core operation in 2021.

## **Further Plan**

- Continue seeking for supports both in kind and finance to improve children living environment from other resources, especially local business people.
- To raise staff salary to better scale.
- Education in the system, child's health, library, the entail support Committee, hygiene, extra food for children, children's food, child participants, communication, staff policy
- Continue coaching children on how take care themselves and their belongings.

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