

Report of S.C.A.O. II School

Som Rong Village, Cambodia

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May 2014



Table of Contents

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	1
Background of Cambodia	1
Background of S.C.A.O	2
Background of Som Rong Village	3
Services and Infrastructure	4
EDUCATION	5
English Lessons	5
Gender breakdown of classes	8
Computer Classes	9
Hairdressing Programme	10
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	11
Household Surveys	12
Findings	14
Water Filter Project	24
Toilet Project	26
Healthcare Awareness	27
Rice and Clothing Distribution	28
VOLUNTEERS	29
Sustainable Approach	30
The Future of SCAO	31
The Third School	31

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



BACKGROUND OF CAMBODIA

Cambodia covers 181,035 square kilometres and is bordered by Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. It has a tropical humid climate with two seasons, the hot season from December to April, and the rainy season from May to November. Cambodia has a population of 14.86 million people that is largely Buddhist, with a small Muslim minority (around 2.5%). There is also a small Christian community.

The GNI per capita is \$880. The economy has grown at a rapid pace in recent years (up to 7% annually) due to a strong export sector, private investments, and growth in agricultural production. The main exports

include clothing, timber and rubber, while the main imports include cigarettes, petroleum products and gold.

Although Cambodia is making great improvements in many areas, corruption remains deeply rooted in the country's operations, and it is still one of the world's poorest countries. 20.5% of the population live on less than \$1 a day, 90% of which live in the countryside. Education is a key tool in lifting people out of poverty, especially in rural areas. Although the enrollment rates are remarkably high at 95.2%, completion is a major issue. Children often are unable to complete primary education due to their assistance being required mainly at home or on the farm.

The main challenges that face development in Cambodia are the lack of effective management of land and natural resources which will fast diminish without appropriate action, and poor public service delivery which stems from decades of corruption.

BACKGROUND OF S.C.A.O.

S.C.A.O. is a non-profit organization that has been running since December 2007. Education and community development are its underpinning values. Established by Mr. Sameth and his wife, it has been their passion and devotion to children that have driven them to open up an education center where children are cared for, loved, and receive an education. S.C.A.O. gives children the opportunity to live with the Sameth Family, escape from poverty and isolation and be in an environment where education is accessible. These children are taught valuable skills that will help them become independent and self-sustainable, as well as giving them the opportunity to have a brighter and more prosperous future. Since opening in 2007, S.C.A.O. has expanded and developed as an organisation. S.C.A.O. now operates two schools. The second school opened in the village of Som Rong in August 2011. This report will specifically focus on the second school called S.C.A.O. II. The SCOOP Foundation, and other partner NGOs headed the building of the school. It is accessible to all students who wish to attend, and currently has 250 students attending. A third school is also in the pipeline.



BACKGROUND OF SOM ROUNG VILLAGE



Som Rong is a village located 18km north of the Capital city Phnom Penh. It is directly off National Road 5, which gives it a good connection to the capital and to Preak Phnow market, a large market 5km away. The village is half way between Phnom Penh and Oudung, the former capital of Cambodia. The village is not included in the suburbs of Phnom Penh. It is in a more rural location. It has a population of roughly 1,559 people. The results of 159 household surveys conducted in March

2013 and July 2014 have shown that the average family size is 6 members, and the average number of children per family is 2.4. Children under the age of 5 make up 13.31% of the village's population. The main occupation in the village is working in a factory or in the construction industry. Most of the remaining families work in agriculture or as a vendor in the community. Many families live below the national poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ELECTRICITY – 81.8% of families have publically provided electricity. The remaining families use a mixture of candles, battery power and kerosene lamps as their source of lighting.

POLICE – There is one policeman who lives in the neighboring village. He is available to assist in any situations in Som Rong should he be needed.

HEALTH – In the village there is a local woman with medical school training and a small premises to treat everyday medical issues such as coughs, fevers, and diahorrea. 73% of families have experienced health issues in the past month. Two doctors also live in the village however they are usually working elsewhere. The closest hospital is 15 km away. Health care can become very expensive for families should they need to access it privately. This usually is the case if a member has an accident, or has serious lung problems or diseases. Private healthcare can easily cost \$500 in these situations. This can put a family permanently in debt for life.

EDUCATION

In the village and surrounding area there are 3 primary schools. There is also 1 secondary school that feeds 5 villages. This education is free for the most part, however in secondary school, to take addition subjects costs a small fee. Generally families pay \$13.40 a month on education. This also covers books and uniform. However, for some families this is still too much for them to afford, and often the child's presence at home is considered more important to help with minding their siblings, doing house work, or helping with



farm activities. S.C.A.O. have tried to fill this gap and provide a basic education for those children who can't access the public schools, or to supplement their public school education with free English lessons, computer classes and vocational training.

S.C.A.O IN SOM ROUNG - EDUCATION

ENGLISH LESSONS

S.C.A.O. II currently offers 10 English lessons a day that accommodate all levels of ability. The school has two classrooms to accommodate the children. The following is break down of which classes are taught and at what time.

Preschool	Introduction of the alphabet, numbers, songs, and words in a highly interactive environment to stimulate early learning.
ABC Beginners	Alphabet and pronunciation of sounds with first examples of words.
ABC Advanced	Extension of vocabulary based on topics and simple sentences. Orientated by the SOUNDS O.K. book.
New Headway Beginner	Introduction into grammar and more complicated sentences, orientated on the New Headway Beginner book.
New Headway Elementary	Complex grammar and revision of different topics, orientated on the New Headway Pre- Intermediate book.
Pre Intermediate	Advances grammar and detailed comprehensions, orientated on the Cutting Edge book.
Conversation Class	Improvement of oral skills only, concerning simple and difficult topics. Focus on role-plays, conversation and discussions among the students.

Time	Downstairs classroom	Upstairs classroom
10:30 – 11:30	Preschool	
11:30 – 12:30	ABC beginners	ABC beginners
1:00 – 2:00	ABC beginners	ABC advanced
2:00 – 3:00	New Headway beginner	New Headway beginner
4:15-5:15	Pre Intermediate	
5:00 – 6:00		New Headway elementary
5:30 – 6:30	New Headway beginners	
7:15 – 8:15 (Monday – Wednesday)		Conversation Class

PRESCHOOL



The day begins in the school with the pre school class at 10:30am. This will always insure an energetic, fun filled hour. The children are between the ages of 4-7. Although it seems like all fun and games, preschool is an essential step on the educational path. From the ages of 3-5 children absorb huge amounts of information, and begin to develop their language and social skills. Therefore providing early learning and stimulation is vital to a child's development. The preschool class sets children up for future learning environments, which means they are more likely to progress well in the future. In Cambodia there are a staggering lack of preschools especially in rural areas, S.C.A.O. is trying to combat this, and from a very young age increase children's opportunities.

ABC BEGINNERS - PRE INTERMEDIATE

ABC Beginners through to Pre Intermediate provide English lessons for all levels.

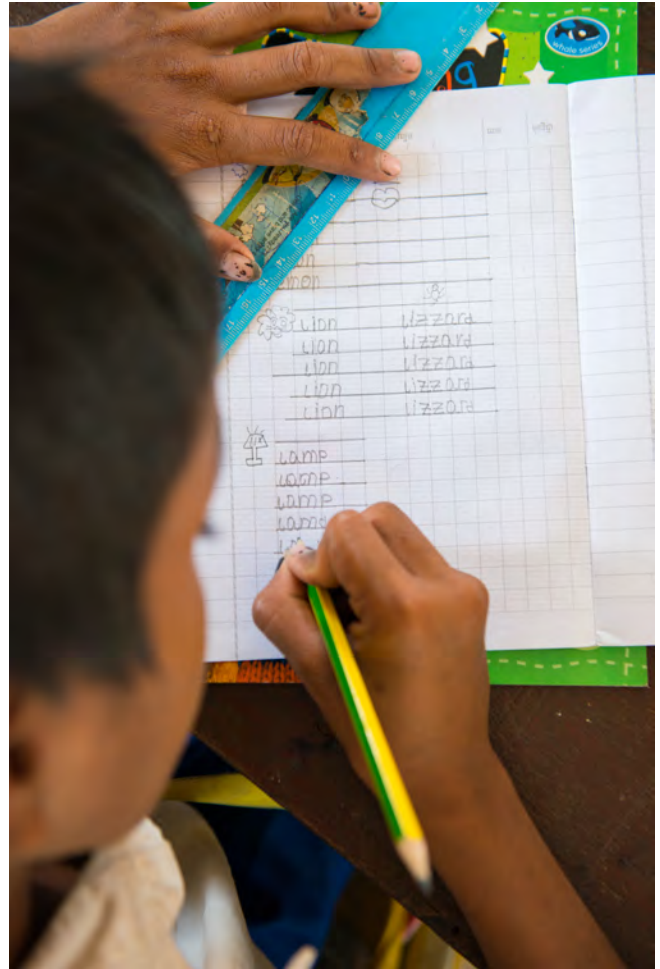
Beginning with basic letters and counting right through to advanced grammar and detailed comprehensions. As students progress their level of English they advance to the next level. Children range from the age of 9 to 18 in these classes. The timetable is constantly evolving to best fit in with the state school timetable. This allows for the maximum amount of students to attend the classes, as they won't clash times.



CONVERSAION CLASS –

The conversation class is the newest addition to the English programme. This is held in the evenings between 7:15 – 8:15 and is attended by older teens and young adults who often study in University or work during the day. This class offers an opportunity for students to expand their conversational and oral skills. There is no grammar taught in this class, instead it expands student's knowledge and vocabulary outside of school, so it can be applied faster to real life situations. The idea behind the name "conversation class"

was to let students as well as teachers interact together through discussion and exchange of information about personal interests. The class mainly consists of role-plays and introduces different topics such as “the environment”, “health”, and “aspirations”. This is a fantastic example of how people from different backgrounds can learn about new cultures and benefit from each other’s company.



GENDER BREAKDOWN OF CLASSES

CLASS	GIRLS	BOYS
Preschool	15	12
ABC Beginners		
11:30-12:30 upstairs	8	11
11:30-12:30 downstairs	12	2
1:00-2:00	9	14
ABC Advanced	10	9
New Headway Beginner		
2:00-3:00 upstairs	10	7
2:00-3:00 downstairs	12	10
5:30-6:30	25	15
New Headway Elementary	13	11
Pre Intermediate	6	4
Conversation class	3	6
TOTAL	123	101

This table illustrates the gender breakdown of each class. In total more girls than boys attend English classes in S.C.A.O. On average there are 123 girls and 101 boys in classes each day. These figures are in keeping with the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Cambodia has set its own set of MDGs called the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs). The country has already met its target of reaching gender parity in primary and lower secondary levels of education within

CMDG 3. However there are still disparities in reaching the target of significantly reducing gender disparities in upper secondary and tertiary levels of education. The lowest levels of gender parity are found in the least developed areas of the country. In general S.C.A.O II has higher numbers of girls across all classes, which is very positive, as education is especially important in the lives of girls and young women as it opens up far more opportunities to them, and gives them more choices in life.

COMPUTER CLASSES



The computer class programme began in August 2012 with. Thirteen laptops were donated to S.C.A.O I and seventeen to S.C.A.O. II. This donation has made it possible to run the computer classes, which are an amazing asset to both schools. In

these classes the students are taught essential skills including how to operate Microsoft Windows, PowerPoint, Excel, typing and composing an application. The S.C.A.O. II also received a donation of a new Acer computer projector. This allows the teacher to demonstrate instructions easily from the front of the class. On average 28 students participate in the computer programme, taken in 5 separate 2 hour classes, twice a week.

The skills gained in the computer class puts the students at a higher advantage when it comes to seeking employment. So much of today's business is based around computers and technology. Being able to type, make a slide show, or make a budget makes people much more desirable in the work environment. The computer classes have been very well received by the students, and there is a constant demand for the class. The students must pass a final computer exam, and then they are presented with a certificate to show their achievements.

3-4 Monday & Tuesday	Computer class
3-5 Thursday & Friday	Computer class
7-8:30 Monday & Tuesday	Computer class

HAIRDRESSING PROGRAMME

The hairdressing programme began in December 2012. The classes run for 3-month slots, with a final examination at the end. After one class completes the course, new students sign up. There are 2 classes that operate, with roughly 9 students in each class making up a total of 18 students. The classes run at the following times:

Class A	Thursday/Friday/Saturday	8am – 10am
Class B	Thursday/Friday/Saturday	1pm – 3am

Having a skill or trade is a very useful asset to have. It gives someone greater employment opportunities, and ultimately a greater quality of life. This is why S.C.A.O. has incorporated a vocational training element into the school. After students finish the hairdressing programme they have the skills to work in a hairdresser or beauty salon, or maybe even one day own their own salon.

It is hoped that in the future S.C.A.O. will open a hairdressing and beauty salon in the school. The salon would employ graduates from the hairdressing programme, giving them valuable experience working in a salon, and offer very affordable services for all members of the community to benefit from. Graduates would be able to earn a fair wage, and not have to worry about the expensive overheads of running their own salon. The profit made in the salon would then be invested back into the educational aspects of S.C.A.O.



S.C.A.O. IN SOM ROUNG - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



S.C.A.O. strives to have the most positive impact in the communities they are located in. The English lessons, computer classes and hairdressing programme have been established to help the children and young adults of the village to help themselves, and drive towards a better future. The opportunities being provided create huge potential for the whole community to develop.

In addition to the educational aspects of S.C.A.O., community development is another pillar of the organization. It is essential to have a strong communication network with the people who surround the school, so that we can have the most positive impact in what ever we do, and directly address the needs of families in Som ROUNG. The following are various community development projects we are involved in.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Conducting surveys in the households of the village is a continuous project, with the aim to eventually have a very comprehensive understanding of the needs and challenges of all families in the village on completion. In March 2013, the first sets of surveys were conducted. During this time 57 of the poorest families in the village were surveyed. In July 2014 a further 102 surveys were completed. All

together 159 households were surveyed. These account for the majority of houses in the village. The following map illustrates the layout of the village, and also shows where the homes of all those surveyed in July 2014 are located. The previous 57 were not mapped at the time, but are mainly located on St. 3 and St. 4 where you can see the gaps on the map.





A volunteer and a Khmer teacher conducted each survey. Together they visited the individual households and completed the survey face to face, with the Khmer teacher talking and the volunteer filling out the survey.

The survey consists of 35 questions, which ask about the number of family members, income, occupations, health information, levels of education, and challenges facing families. There is also an open-ended question at the end of the survey, which

ask for any improvements that S.C.A.O. could make. This survey covers a lot of ground and provides a very broad and rounded picture of the lives of the families. The results were analysed using the data analysis programme SPSS version. 20. The finding of these surveys has allowed S.C.A.O. to identify the main needs of the families in the village, and therefore implement the most appropriate projects. Examples of such projects include the water filter project, and the toilet-building project.

FINDINGS

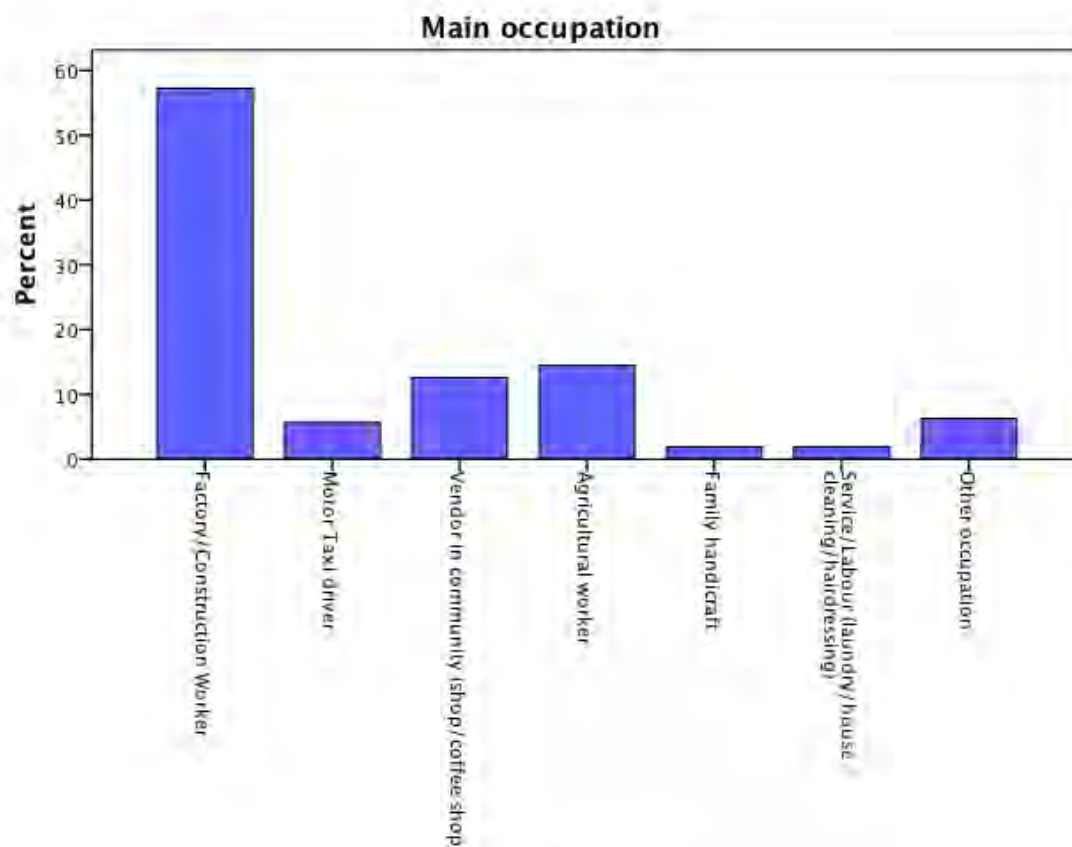
Family information

The average family size is 6.04 people, with some families having as many as 17 members living in one household. It is common to have a lot of extended family living together including grandparents, aunts, and uncles. The average number of children under the age of 18 per family is 2.4. This accounts for 39.8% of the villages population, this is slightly higher than Cambodia's average, which is 37.38% (Unicef, 2012). Children under the age of 5 make up 13.31% of the population, which is again slightly higher than Cambodia's average of 11.23% (Unicef, 2012). The woman/wife is predominantly the head of the household (50.9%), followed by the man/husband (36.5%), followed by the grandmother/grandfather (9.4%).



Income and occupation

Most families have 2 income earners. The main income earner is usually the man/husband (47.8), followed by the woman/wife (31.4%), followed by the child/children (14.6%). The following diagram illustrates people's main occupations in the village.



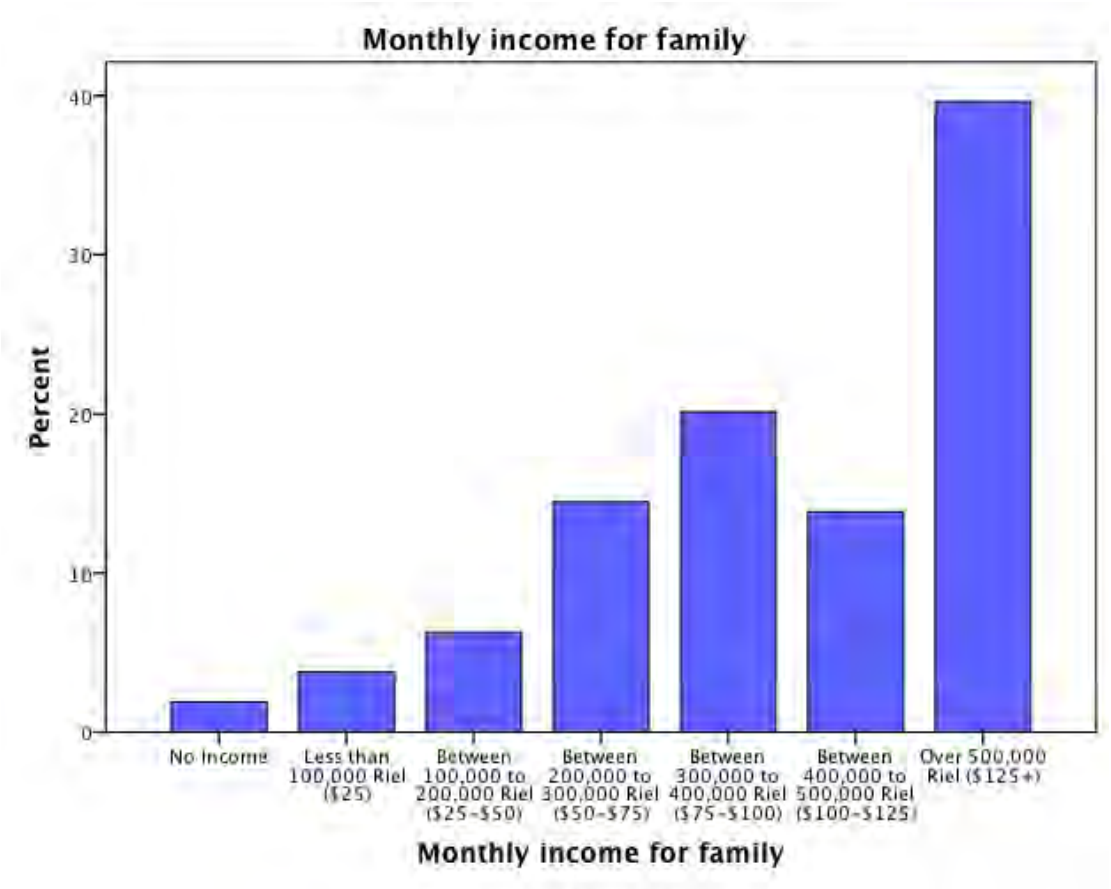
Working in a factory or as a construction worker is the most common occupation (57.2%), followed by working as an agricultural worker (14.5%), followed by working as a vendor in the community (12.6%).

Main income earner * Main occupation Crosstabulation

Count		Main occupation							Total
		Factory/Construction Worker	Motor Taxi driver	Vendor in community (shop/coffee shop)	Agricultural worker	Family handicraft	Service/Labour (laundry/house cleaning/hairdressing)	Other occupation	
Main income earner	Man/husband	34	7	5	18	2	2	8	76
	Woman/wife	29	1	13	4	0	1	2	50
	Child/children	21	0	1	1	0	0	0	23
	Grandfather/Grandmother	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Total		91	9	20	23	3	3	10	159

This table looks at the relationship between the main income earner, and main occupation. Men mostly work in construction/ in a factory, followed by as an agricultural worker. Women also mostly work in a factory/ in construction, however the second most common occupation

is to work as a vendor in the community. The children in the household also most commonly work in construction/in a factory.



The bar chart illustrates family’s monthly income. Almost 40% earn over \$125 a month, while 60% earn under \$125. Considering the average family size is 6 people, with only 2 income earners, this puts a significant number of families below the national poverty line of living on less than \$1.25 a day.

Housing

78% of families live in houses made of wood, and 18.95 live in houses made of concrete. 80.5% of families own their own house and land, 11.9% own their house, but rent the land they cultivate, and 3.1% rent their home and land.

Electricity

81.8% of families have publically provided electricity. The remaining families use a mixture of candles, battery power and kerosene lamps. The electricity in the village is more expensive than in Phnom Penh, and also is very temperamental. This was an issue that many families brought up.

Toilet Access

54.1% of families have access to a toilet while 45.9% do not.

39% of families have a toilet in or beside their house, 31.4% share with neighbours, and 29.6% use the open land

Modes Of Transport

Car	1.4%
Motorbike	36.2%
Rumak/Tricycle	0.5%
Bicycle	41.7%
None	20.2%

As this table illustrates, bicycles are the most common method of transport (41.7%), followed by motorbikes (36.2%). 20.2% don't have access to any form of transport, while less than 2% have a car.

Types of Communication/Media

TV	43.4%
Radio	12.8%
Mobile phone	29.5%
Internet	3.6%
Newspaper	0.4%
None	10.3%

43.4% of families have a television, 29.5% have a mobile phone, but only 3.6% have access to the Internet. 12.8% of families own a radio. 10.3% of families do not have access to any of these things.

Fuel Used For Cooking

Over 80% of families use firewood for cooking. The remaining families mainly use Liquid Petroleum Gas, or charcoal.

Education

Of the families who do have children in the 6 - 11 age group, 92.9% send their children to primary school; therefore 7.2% of children do not receive an education this is above the Cambodian average of between 83.4% (females) and 85.2% (males) net attendance (Unicef, 2012).

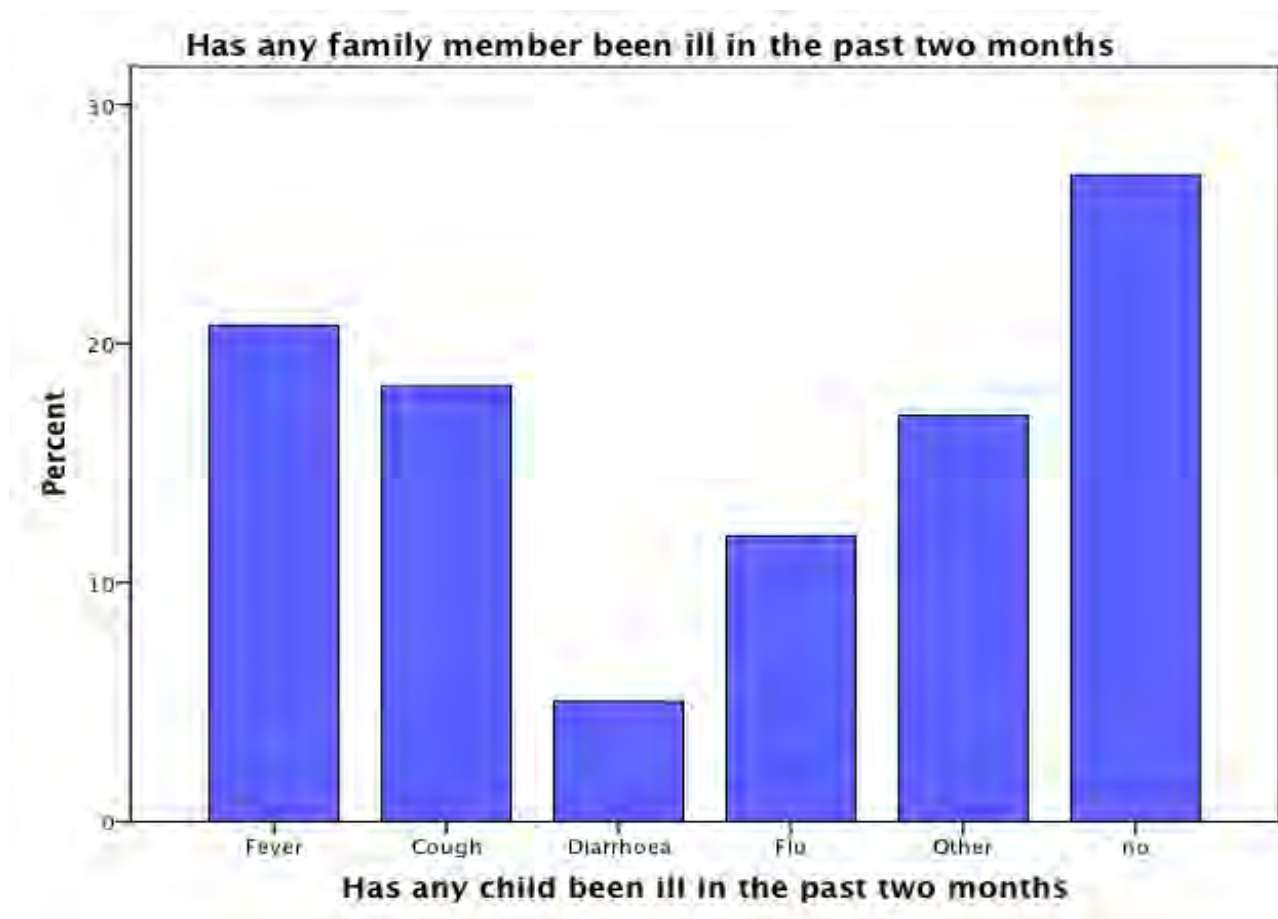
Of the families who have children in the 12 – 14 age group, 75.4% of children go to secondary school, this is also above the Cambodian average of between 44.7% (females) and 45.9% (males) net attendance (Unicef, 2012). 14% do not go to school, and 10.6% have dropped out. As children get older often they are required to assist at home, on the farm, or earn an income. This results in students dropping out before the completion of high school.

The average amount families spend on education per months in \$13.40. This can range anywhere between \$0 to \$70 depending on how many children, and their level of education.



Health

73% of families reported a child or family member being ill in the past 2 months. The most common illnesses include fever, and cough and flu. Illnesses in the “other” category include respiratory problems, dental problems, accidents, and surgeries.



86.1% of children in families have had some type of vaccination. The remaining 13.9% either have not received any vaccine, or the families don't know. The Cambodian average vaccination coverage ranges from 91% for newborns vaccinated against tetanus, to 99% coverage rate for the BCG vaccine (Unicef, 2012). This puts the village below Cambodia's average vaccination coverage, suggesting that it has poorer access to healthcare than average.

Of those who did receive vaccinations, 50.2% of children received them in the health center, 38.1% through outreach activities, 7.5% in the national hospital in Phnom Penh, and 2.2% in 'other' locations.

The average amount spent on healthcare per month is \$15. There is a trend of people spending either a very small amount on healthcare a month such as \$0.50 in the local shop for very basic medicine, or else spending hundreds of dollars when there

are more serious issues and they need to seek private healthcare. This can put people into debt for life.

78.15% of woman breastfeed their children. The average length of time women in the village breastfeed for is 1year and 4 months, although it varies from 1 month to 4

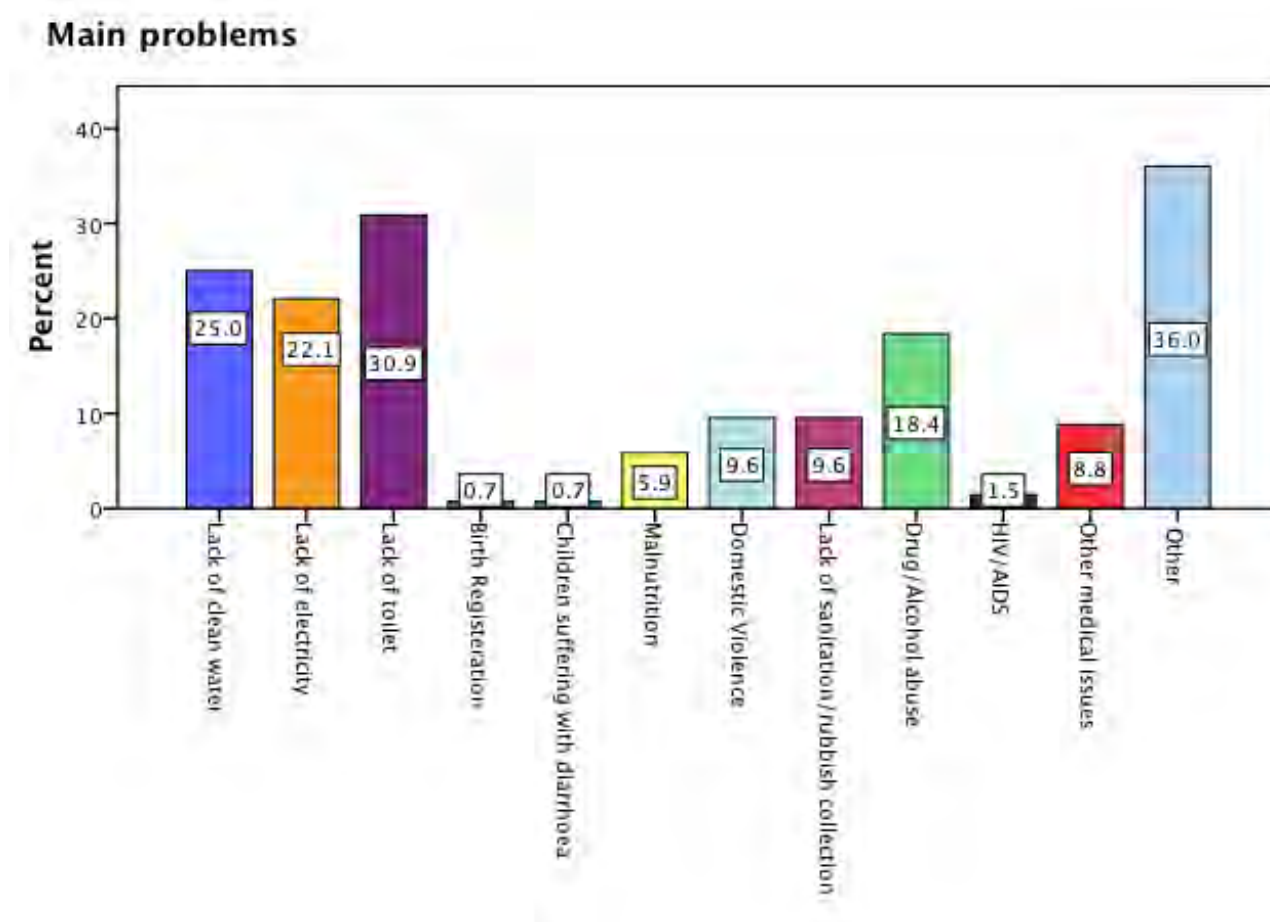
Years. This is above the Cambodian average of 73.5% of women exclusively breastfeeding for the first 6 months. Only 18.4% of women

are still breastfeeding when the child is 2 years old, this is far below Cambodia's average of 43.4% (Unicef, 2012). A limitation of this aspect of the survey is that the people being interviewed were generally older woman. This doesn't consider young mothers who are often the people who work in factories, and cannot breastfeed their children. Interviewing these women may have given different results.



Main challenges

The following diagram illustrates the main problems that families face in Som Rong.



The “other” category is the largest (36%). Problems in this category include food insecurity, a general lack of money, and a lack of quality employment. Drug and alcohol abuse is also a growing concern for families (18.4%). When asked further questions about this, most families reported an increase in young people drinking more frequently.

Some of this data was collected in 2013, before the water filter and toilet project. If we take the 57 poorest families and compare the data from 2013 and 2014 we get the following results for the main problems faced.

	2013	2014
Lack of toilet	24%	22%
Lack of clean water	22.3%	11.9%
Lack of electricity	19%	12.8%
Lack of medical care	5.8%	12.8%

This information shows some interesting trends. The 2013 survey allowed S.C.A.O. to pinpoint a lack of clean water and a lack of toilet as the biggest challenges facing families in the village. This then led to the installation of water filters and sanitary toilet facilities. They both drop in percentage in 2014. Due to the high cost of installing toilet facilities, a limited number could be installed, and as the figures show, a lack of toilet facilities is still a main challenge for families. A lack of medical care and electricity are now growing challenge in Som Rong as the challenge of clean water has been largely overcome by the water filter project.

Comments and improvements section

This is a very valuable section of the survey as it allows for discussion regarding the role S.C.A.O. is playing and how it can improve to suit the needs of the community. There are common themes that constantly recur. These include:

- Provide medicine / Healthcare services – The majority of families talked about the need to improve healthcare services. The long distance to the closest hospital is a problem for families. Also many families talked about having care for old and young people in the village, or regular doctor visits so that families can have constant health services.
- Build more toilets for families – Many families want to see a continuation of the toilet project. The first batch was very successful, however 45.9% of families still do not have access to a toilet.
- Expand the school – Families would like to see the school grow in the future so it can take on even more students. Also families would like S.C.A.O. to provide more languages such as Chinese, Khmer, and Korean.
- Distributions from the school – S.C.A.O have taken part in multiple rice, fish sauce, clothing, and mosquito net distributions. Many of the poorest families would like to see this continued, as it is very valuable to them.
- Develop business opportunities – Some families suggested the introduction of business and agricultural training. This would give families more skills and allow them to excel further with their occupations.

WATER FILTER PROJECT

The information gathered from the first set of household surveys allowed S.C.A.O. to identify a lack of clean water as being one of the biggest challenges facing families in Som ROUNG. Water is a fundamental human need. One person needs 10 – 40 litres of clean, safe water daily for drinking, cooking, washing, and personal hygiene. The impacts of having access to clean water however are even further reaching. Education can suffer hugely if a child is sick from exposure to dirty water and can't attend school. Economic opportunities can also be adversely affected due to the impacts of rampant diseases found in dirty water, or the time consuming process of collecting water.

After extensive research into the best ways to implement this project we collaborated with another Cambodian organisation called RDI Cambodia. RDI are specialists in water treatment and have been in operation in Cambodia since 2003.



HOW THE FILTERS WORK

The ceramic water filters contain a mixture of ground rice husks and clay. Together these materials create micro pores. These micro pores only allow water to pass through them, harmful parasites, amoebas, and large bacteria are not able to pass through. The clay used is a laterite clay mix. This material is high in FE oxides. The positive charges of the FE oxides remove negatively charged viruses that cause disease. On the inside there is also a coating of colloidal silver. This creates a chemical process that stops other bacteria from getting through the filter. Together this system eliminates 98% of the harmful diseases present in surface water.

The staff at S.C.A.O. attended a training demonstration at RDIC. Here they were given a tour of the factory to see how they the filters are produced. They then received training on how to use, clean, store and maintain the filters, so that they could pass this information on to families in the village. S.C.A.O. held a demonstration in the village to inform families about the filters and their benefits. It received a great response and many families showed interest. In June 2013 an order was placed for the families who wanted filters. Another presentation was made at the school to inform families on how to use, clean, maintain the filters in order to maximise their lifespan.

Our partner Pacha Youth from the United States funded the project. It was decided that families would make a financial contribution of \$2 for the filter and Pacha Youth would pay the remaining \$8. The reason behind charging the family \$2 was that it create a sense of ownership for the family; therefore they are more likely to take better care of the filter and insure it is properly maintained. To date 207 families have received water filters. This means that 1048 people now have access to safe, clean drinking water that did not have access before.



TOILET PROJECT

The household surveys also highlighted that a lack of toilet facilities was another major challenge facing families. People would often use the open land, which can lead to many health problems. In response to this S.C.A.O. have an on-going toilet-building project. S.C.A.O. has collaborated with IDE Cambodia to develop a cheap and effective way of building toilets for families in the village. Pacha Youth and The Gecko Foundation are our two partners organisations that fund this project. Families also pay a contribution of \$10 - \$20 to have the toilet.



The first two toilets were built as pilots to determine the logistics and cost of the project. These cost \$300 each to build. These were fully finished with concrete walls, a roof and a door. 13 more toilets have been built since the pilot toilets. In an effort to reduce costs, these were installed without the final finishes of concrete walls and a roof. These cost \$185, and the families then invest their own resources to finish the building. Each toilet serves 2 -3 families depending on their proximity to the toilet. This is an on-going project as there is still a high demand for toilet facilities.

HEALTHCARE AWARENESS

S.C.A.O. believe in taking an active role in informing students about healthcare and hygiene, as they may not receive this information anywhere else. In December 2012 S.C.A.O. received a volunteer from AISEC, an organization that offers internships and volunteer programmes for university students. This volunteer came from India, where she had attended hygiene and health education classes. She applied this knowledge by spending 2 weeks in the school doing health presentations. These were made up of 4 topics, which include:

- Food
- Nutrition,
- Hygiene
- Diseases

These presentations were assisted by a Khmer teacher to translate the information to the students. This information aimed to make students more health conscious, for example, how to avoid disease, and gain maximum nutrition from the food that you eat. These are concepts that students may have never come across before, and will hopefully benefit the whole family. These healthcare awareness sessions were supplemented by a donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste. There were given to each of the children as a Christmas gift in an effort to improve their dental hygiene.



RICE AND FISH SAUCE DISTRIBUTION

Khmer New Year is the biggest holiday in Cambodia. It runs for 3 days in April. This is always a time of huge celebration and enjoyment. It can also be a very expensive time for families as there are days of celebration of feasting with extended family members and friends. S.C.A.O. realise the strain this can put on families so for the past 3 years we have gathered the poorest families in the village and distributed 7kg of rice and a large bottle of fish sauce to each family. This makes an important difference to the lives of the families, and is always very well received.



This year we also distributed clothing to the families. Previous volunteers had donated a huge quantity to S.C.A.O. to be given to people in the village. The volunteers asked the families about the number of members and their ages, and distributed the clothes accordingly. This was an energetic, fun filled event as families were in high spirits coming up to New Year and joyful about their additional food and clothing.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers come from all over the world to volunteer their time and skills in the school. The SCOOP Foundation sends a constant supply of SCOOP Officers, including a Development Officer, an Education Officer, an Advocacy Officer, and new addition of a Research Intern. The German Red Cross also send a constant stream of long-term volunteers who each come for one year. There are also short and long-term volunteers who apply independently through the website. Most volunteers come from Germany and Ireland, but they also have come many different countries such as the USA, France, England, China, Israel, Holland, Australia, Malaysia and Spain.

The main job of volunteers in the school is to teach, however their roles and responsibilities go far beyond just teaching. The volunteers and officers essentially run the school. They oversee the applications of new volunteers, manage the administrative tasks, create and adapt the curriculums and timetables, write the newsletter, maintain of the webpage, promote S.C.A.O. on the Internet and social media, and keep in contact with foreign donors. Volunteers and officers also play a large role in the creation of new projects. Having many eager and creative people pass through the school allows for a constant input of new ideas and perceptions. This helps the S.C.A.O. to remain innovative.



SUSTAINABLE APPROACH



Unlike other volunteer programmes, volunteers are not required to pay a large fee to the organization so that they volunteer their time. Instead while they live at the school, they make a payment \$10 a day. This covers the cost of food, electricity, gas for cooking, and the salaries of Sovandred and Da who cook and maintain the school. There is also excess money

leftover from this payment. This money then goes directly into the running of The Centre in S.C.A.O. I, or into the various community development projects. This makes the school completely self-sustainable. It requires no outside funds to operate, and in fact makes a profit. It only requires a steady influx of volunteers. Since the school opened in 2011 the number of volunteers has steadily increased. The following illustrates how having more volunteers generates more profit.

YEAR	MONEY FROM VOLUNTEERS	COST OF RUNNING THE SCHOOL	PROFIT
2011 (Sept – Dec)	\$9,230	\$6,527	\$2,703
2012	\$14,150	\$8,311	\$5,838
2013	\$20,640	\$10,683	\$9,957

This increasing number of volunteers has been a large influencing factor in the development of a third school.

THE FUTURE OF SCAO

THE THIRD SCHOOL

S.C.A.O are currently in the process of building an Education and Community Centre (ECC), which will be named SCAO III. It will be located in the village of Prey Ponror, 25km North West of Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh. There are 16 smaller villages that surround Prey Ponror, which are accessible by bicycle. Construction of the school is underway. Through collaboration with local people in the village, SCAO has hired construction workers to begin to lay the foundations of SCAO III. The sand has been laid, on which the school will be built, a well has been dug on the site and a fence has been constructed around the border. The groundwater in the village has been tested for any harmful contaminants such as arsenic.



Fundraising for the construction of the ECC is currently underway by SCAO and its partner organisations, KiK, Gecko Foundation, Pacha Youth Foundation, SCOOP Foundation and the many friends of SCAO spread around the world.

This school will follow the same successful model as S.C.A.O. II. This has proved to be sustainable long-term, and have a very positive impact on the lives of students and families in the community. Replicating this in Prey Ponror will further enrich the lives of Cambodian people in rural areas.



As well as having native English speaking volunteers teaching in the school, SCAO will source and employ local university students from the area of Prey Ponror Village to assist in the classes. This way we are ensuring that the local community is at the centre of the operations at SCAO III.