

Update on Friendship with Cambodia's Sponsored Students during COVID-19 – July 2020

When the world-wide pandemic started in March, the Cambodian government asked people to stay at home and closed the universities. Within the next couple of months, the universities started offering online classes so the students could complete their second semester.

Almost all of our students returned to their home villages to live with their families and are currently studying from there. Most of our students are using their Smartphones (with cellular data) for their classes because it is hard to find a WIFI connection in Cambodia's rural areas. If they want to use a laptop computer, they have to travel to a city that has an internet cafe. It is more feasible to access their classes, submit their homework assignments, and take their tests from home using cellular data on their phone.



Our staff have been checking in with the students by phone. They are all doing OK. We are still giving them their monthly allowance for food, books, and their living expenses. All of our final year students are going to be able to graduate. Some are currently working on their senior thesis and some have already gotten jobs.

The Cambodian government said that they are expecting to open universities in November and resume on-site classes. The number of COVID cases in the country remain low – only 141 confirmed cases, so far. But the country is impacted by the economic fallout. The largest employer, the garment industry, has cut back drastically, and the second largest employer, the tourism industry, is essentially shut down.

Here is a wonderful new 6-minute film about our Student Sponsorship Program

Our staff in Cambodia, who work for our partner organization named Holt, made a film about our Student Sponsorship Program. At the end of the film, four of our students talk about the program. The four students are: SEAN Sela, SIER Puthy, ROM Bunna, and SOM Dem. (Family names are in CAPS.)

The film doesn't mention it but SEAN Sela has been ranked #2 in her class of 60 Electrical Engineering students two years in a row. She is the only girl in her class. We are so proud of her!!!

Here is the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7y22QJ1MNY&feature=youtu.be>

We send our deepest gratitude to you for supporting poor students in Cambodia to attend university. You are spreading kindness and making the world a better place.