

**GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES-UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PROJECT REPORT**

**PROJECT NAME:** CLEAN WATER PROJECT IN CAMBODIA

**BENEFICIARY LOCATION:** DEISOR VILLAGE, PAILIN PROVINCE

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION COVERAGE:** JULY 1- AUGUST 6, 2022

**BACKGROUND**

Clean Water Project in Cambodia under its implementation by the Community Health and Agricultural Development Program of the General Board of Global Ministries-United Methodist Church in Cambodia gave its 2<sup>nd</sup> grant for this year 2022 to Deisor Village in Pailin Province.

Pailin municipality is Cambodia's second smallest so-called province with 803 square kilometers. It's located in the West of the country surrounded by Battambang province and bordering Thailand to the West. Unlike most of Cambodia, Pailin is composed primarily of uplands where little rice is grown. This makes it very difficult for farmers to rely on subsistence agriculture. The major resources of this province are gem producing and it is a prime logging area but, their resources were exploited for the past decades, especially during war. Socio-political status, Pailin was also affected since it's a major Khmer Rouge stronghold point and resource center during the 1980s-1990s war; and generally, one of the extensively mined during the 3 decades of war and remains home to the numerous land mines and unexploded weaponry.

Currently, health, sanitation, and water supply were part of the major challenges in this province. In one article in Khmer Times on December 31, 2021, Pailin Provincial Director of Rural Water Supply, Health and Sanitation and Provincial Governor encouraged the Department of Rural Development to continue its efforts to implement activities in the field of rural water and sanitation for all to use in 2023. The discussion shows the progress of projects in the province but there is still a great need in this aspect. The Deputy Governor of Pailin Province and Director of Rural Water Supply, Health and Sanitation, said that it is very important to improve the water supply and sanitation in rural areas, and local authorities at all levels must continue to promote education. Authorities must educate people to understand the use of clean water and sanitation and participate in maintaining the achievements provided in the community. This province also experienced a high rate of Malaria. One study also stated that this location has high resistance to malaria drugs as the virus becomes stronger.

Furthermore, during the General Population Census of Cambodia in 2019 that provided detailed information regarding sources of clean drinking water for the provincial populations across the Kingdom, Pailin province is one with the highest use of bottled drinking water at 30.3 % rate and 21.5 % dependence on natural bodies of water and waterways as primary sources of their water. With this great need, our organization extended help in one of Pailin's remote communities, the Deisor Village.

According to the village committee data, they have 179 families (862 people, 450 women) and 63% are poor people. Their occupation is mostly farmer and labor worker. Also, there are 169 (75 women) migrants in their village. There are 17 old people there (7 are women) and 9 old people among 17 have no clean water to use. The river they have is 300 meters away to access and small rivers are 500 meters



away. There are 8 wells in their village. The 6 wells are already broken and 2 are still in use inside the school. Houses in the village have a distance from each other from 50 meters to 100 meters. During the dry season, 80% of the families in the village are buying water from private.

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

Starting July 1, 2022, courtesy calls, procedures for construction, finances, and logistics for implementation began. The project was successfully finished and turned over to the community last August 6, 2022. 10 motor-generated wells were provided to 10 families in Deisor Village. The project was a shared-based where 70% of the cost was provided from the project fund of the organization and 30% was contributed by the family members of the village. The beneficiaries of this project are locals from this village: 5 out of 10 are local farmers, 2 are local teachers, 2 are full-time housewives, and 1 is a small engine mechanic; there are 8 mothers, 2 widows, and 6 senior citizens or elder people in the community among beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are very happy to receive their wells. Before, all of them greatly depended on rainwater to have their water supply. They have one community tank that the government provided them but already broken 3 years ago and this is far from many families in the location. They also bought water from private companies, especially during summertime and when there is drought season. Every family has cemented jars to use when they caught rainwater. Some families dug nearby their houses as ponds and fill it with water from the nearest water source they have or from rain during the rainy season. Some also used water from this for drinking. They put water from this pond into jars and keep them for 15 days until the dirt subsides and boil it to use as drinking water. Through this project, the beneficiaries are grateful that this will help them lessen the difficulties to have clean water they can use for everyday needs. They also plan to expand their livelihood because they have now a near source of water in their house. Some plan to expand their chicken raising starts home gardening, raising pigs, goats, and cows, and others will make ponds to put local freshwater fish. Mothers among the beneficiaries are really grateful and happy because this project will help them to lessen the expenses they used on buying water and they will be more productive because they will have more time to do other things since they have secure water near their house when they need it anytime. They are grateful to all the sponsors who help them to have this clean water source in their household. The village leaders also expressed their gratitude to the organization and sponsors.

### DOCUMENTATION OF THE WORK COMPLETED

#### Well #1: Hour Phally Household



*Hour Phally is a widowed mother. She is full-time working in her house and planting in her backyard. Picture 1 is the jars she used to catch rainwater. Picture 2 is the pond dug near her house where they stock water. Pictures 3 and 4 show the new motor-generated water well near her house from the project. She is grateful that this well will help her to be more productive and have other livelihoods that she can develop nearby her house.*

### Well #2: Heng Phon Household



*Heng Phon is a widowed mother. Because she is old, it is very difficult for her to collect water from the nearest source from her house. Youth in their family usually work far away from their hometown so there is no regular family member who will help her to secure this need. Having this well near her house is a big help for her. This will also help her to avoid sickness in the future. Picture 1 is the road going to her house. Picture 2 is the cemented jar she has in her house. Picture 3, putting of plaque with the project name and donors near her well. Picture 4 is the interview time we have with her.*

### Well #3: Rith Taing Hun



*Rith Taing Hun is a full-time teacher in the elementary school in their village. To help his need, he also raised chicken for additional livelihood. He has physical disabilities in his leg that gave him difficulty walking normally. Being busy in school and with the disability he had, collecting water that he needs for everyday chores and his livelihood is really difficult for him. Having this project, he will be more productive in his livelihood and will have more time to give to his student in teaching since he will not bother too much with collecting water from far areas. Picture 1 is the road going to his well. Pictures 2, 3, and 4 are the location of where the well is located near his the house of the chickens he is raising.*

### Well #4: Buth Sarith Household



*Buth Sarith is a farmer and also raises goats as his livelihood. This project will help him expand his livelihood and lessen the expenses he spent to secure water for all his work. Pictures 1 and 2 show the cemented jars ready to catch rainwater from pipes he connected to the roof of his house. Pictures 3 and 4 are the picture of the well and the time we interview him.*

### Well #5: Sem Khon Household



*Sem Khon is an old farmer in the village. He works most of the work in their livelihood since his wife cannot help any things due to sickness. He is also taking care of their blind son living with them. He is so grateful that the project will help him to lessen the problem he had in maintaining their livelihood. In his old age, collecting water for their daily needs and livelihood is challenging. Picture 1 is the pond they dug near their house to store water that they bought or the rainwater they caught. Picture 2 is his house. Picture 3 is the time we have an interview with them. Picture 4 is the farmland that he is cultivating at the back of his house.*

### Well #6: Dy Sao Household



*Dy Sao is the Deputy Village Chieftain in their village who is also a farmer. He is so grateful that this project was granted in their village. With this help, he will be more productive and can expand their livelihood. He will not worry about his wife if she has water to use because, they have now a well near their house. Picture 1, 2, and 3 show their house and the cemented jars they have to catch the rainwater flowing from their roof. Picture 4 is the time when we have an interview with them.*

### Well #7: Chea Saray Household



*Chea Saray is a mother and full-time housewife. She planted plants around her house and this project will help her to develop a livelihood that she can manage in her household. Picture 1 shows her children enjoying the water from the well they received. Picture 2 shows the cemented jars they have to catch rainwater. Pictures 3 and 4 show the picture of the new well and the time we interview her.*

### Well #8: Chea Chakriya Household



*Chea Chakriya is a mother and full-time teacher in the elementary school in their village. Being busy in school and with her daughter, collecting water that she needs for everyday chores and her livelihood is really difficult for her. Also, her husband is working far from their village so she does not have someone who will help her with this task. Having this project, she will be more productive in her livelihood and will have more time to give to her student in teaching since she will not bother too much with collecting water from far areas. Picture 1 shows the nearest small source of water from her house. Picture 2 shows her cemented jars lined up to catch rainwater. Picture 3 is her picture with her daughter. Picture 4 is during the time we have an interview with her.*

### Well #9: Doung Mao Household



*Doung Mao is a farmer. He is so grateful that the project will help him to lessen the problem he had in maintaining their livelihood. In his old age, collecting water for their daily needs and livelihood is challenging. Picture 1 shows the pond in front of their house where they also use the water. Picture 2 is the cemented jar they have. Pictures 3 and 4 show the picture of the new well and the time we interview him and his wife.*

### Well #10: Thot Chhin Household



Thot Chhin is a small engine mechanic, fixing bikes, motors, and other small engines. Working far from his house and village made it difficult for his wife especially to secure water for their daily house chores. With the help of this project, he has no worries that his wife has water to use in their house and they can expand their livelihood in agriculture. Pictures 1, 2, and 3 show the time when we interviewed his wife in their house.

## INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT:

### WHAT WORKED:

- The drilling and installation finished last August 6. All families see this project very helpful to them in aspects of health, sanitation, and livelihood.
- The shared cost was also accepted by the members and they contributed willingly to implement this project.

### WHAT DID NOT WORK:

- Due to the rainy season, drilling became difficult for the constructor, only 1 well can finish per day which takes more days to accomplish the project.
- One well also experienced a problem because of too much water during the day they drilled. To follow up on the stability of this 1 well, the constructor will do follow-up work after a week of using it to observe the problem they will encounter. The constructor promised to fix everything once the family see any problem about it.
- One well-had problem with the taste due to one acidic content that was found in the soil in the land where the family is living and installed the well. One of the members of their local committee brought a sample of the water to test in Phnom Penh and found that this is not good to use for drinking. The constructor suggested to the family to move house and drill another well there so they can secure their drinking water.

## CONCLUSION:

Clean Water Projects successfully supported the 10 motor-generated wells in Deisor Village, Pailin Province. The community was grateful for all the help. As he explained their village situation, the Deputy Village Chief expressed their desire to extend the project to more families, most of them are old, women, and very poor people. Transporting water to their houses is very difficult and buying water increases their expenses. CHAD team learned during a community interview that the source of clean water that they are using before was already broken 3 years ago. That was provided by the government for the whole village. This added to the difficulty to have a safe source of drinking water. The Samaritan Purse also helped them to have bio-sand water filters. The organization provided these filters with the thought of the river in the village as a source of water will use in these filters. The safety of this source is not 100%. If dead animals contaminated this open source of water, this can cause any outbreak of sickness related to water contamination such as diarrhea. This is also far from the houses of the people. In 2016, an article from Phnom Penh Post shared another hazard in the water sources in the province. The cassava producers throw pollution into the rivers. According to a report from the World Health Organization, before its preparation for human consumption, cassava can contain dangerous levels of cyanide. This may also affect other sources especially when floods happen since every flowing water source is connected to one another. The deputy informed us that aside from the Samaritan Purse and GBGM, no other NGO or government organization help them in this need. For these reasons, they are requesting if the organization can support additional wells in their village.

*\*\*\*Report prepared by CHAD Team (Sok Sophal, Him Daneth, and Jay Hezeil Abayon) \_Aug. 12, 2022*

