



# Cambodia Library Completion Report

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Dear Moontrekker,

I am so pleased to share the following library completion report with you! The library at Koh Chen Primary School, which is just one of the 120 libraries we established in Cambodia in 2013, is already deeply cherished by the school's students and teachers. I wish I could bottle and send you the joy that exudes from the children whenever they open a new book or recognize a new word for the first time. They are on their way to becoming avid, independent readers, and I cannot wait to watch as class after class of students learns to read using the books and materials you have helped us provide. Thank you for supporting our efforts to promote literacy and bring this wonderful new resource to this community!

Our team has been very busy ensuring all of the libraries we established in 2013 are functioning well and educators have the skills they need to best leverage library resources. We have been working with teachers and librarians to create book checkout systems, make the libraries comfortable and welcoming for students, and organize reading materials so they are easy to access and find. We regularly visit each school to see how our libraries are doing and provide coaching and support to help school staff improve their library management and resource utilization skills.

Room to Read Cambodia and our government partners will continue to support these libraries over the next three years to ensure activities are running smoothly and provide additional assistance to educators as needed. Ongoing support for our libraries over the next three years will consist of:

- Refresher trainings for teachers and librarians
- Continued support and monitoring visits
- Delivery of materials designed to maintain student interest and build teacher and librarian capacity
- Activities to engage communities and promote library sustainability

In addition to these support efforts, we have also started work on another 80 new libraries this year. With every new library we create, and every student we reach, we get one step closer to a world where every child is guaranteed access to a quality education. I want to thank you again for believing and investing in Room to Read and our partner communities. Because of people like you, the children in our programs now have the opportunity to pursue a better future filled with all of the possibilities literacy provides. For that, I and my staff are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Kall Kann  
Country Director, Room to Read Cambodia

Prepared for: Moontrekker

With your help, Room to Read established a Constructed library in Cambodia!



### Project Details

**Project ID:** KH-CRR-13-0008

**Name:** Koh Chen Primary School

**State/Province:** Kampong Cham

**District/Zone:** Koh Sotin

**City/Village:** Koh Chen Kraom

**Grades:** 1 through 6

**Number of Students**

Female: 218

Male: 237

Total: 455

**Number of Teachers**

Female: 3

Male: 5

Total: 8

### Project Location

Koh Chen Primary School is located in Kampong Cham province of Cambodia. Located in the Mekong delta region, Kampong Cham is the most populous province in Cambodia, supporting a population of more than 1.83 million people. With a warm and wet climate, Kampong Cham has a rich agricultural industry with more than 80 percent of residents working in farming and/or rubber industries. While farmers raise livestock and grow rice and vegetables during the rainy season, they often need to leave their villages and find work in neighboring towns during the dry season, when few crops grow. In recent years, many young people have left their homes to find jobs in larger cities or even neighboring countries. A small number of people also make a living as public officers, craftsmen, or small business owners.

Despite the picturesque landscape, Kampong Cham is quickly becoming overcrowded and faces problems with homelessness, poverty, and malnutrition. Currently, 33 percent of Kampong Cham’s population lives below the nationally defined poverty-line. This forces many children to drop out of school in order to help their family financially. In 2009, only 9.6 percent of children in Kampong Cham completed secondary school. Of these graduates, less than one third were female. Additionally, while the provincial literacy rate is a promising 70 percent, only 28 percent of the literate population is female. With high school dropout rates and a clear disparity between male and female opportunities in education, this growing province stands to benefit significantly from Room to Read’s programs.

The school is approximately 154 kilometers from Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia.

## Reason for Support

Reason for supporting library, as outlined in the project application report:

*Koh Chen Primary School has three buildings with 9 classrooms. One two-room building is old, dark, and not child-friendly. The roof leaks because the tiles are old and broken. The other two-room building is in average condition. The five-room building, constructed by Room to Read in 2012, is new and in good condition. Currently, the school lacks a library, and does not have the extra space for one.*

## Library Details

In partnership with the local community, Room to Read built a single room library. The new library is 7 x 9 meters in size, with a 3 x 2 meter front veranda. The building consists of a reinforced concrete frame, brick walls, a paved concrete floor finished with tiles, and a roof made of a steel frame covered with cement tiles. The library has a wooden door and wooden windows to ensure adequate light and ventilation. It is also equipped with a display area and wall-mounted bookshelves.

## Resources Provided

The School Libraries team works hard to select the most appropriate and engaging reading materials to stock the libraries. The Room to Read Book Publishing program in Cambodia works closely with the School Libraries team to provide culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate books for our libraries in Cambodia. In addition, the Cambodia team purchases books from local language retailers and publishers in Cambodia. The books selected play a vital role in supplying students with relevant and engaging learning materials. Room to Read has provided the following books and other resources to this library:

- 3 English books
- 704 local language books published by Room to Read
- 639 non-Room to Read local language books
- Building Design; Construction Materials; Display Boards; Monitoring and Support; Shelves; Skilled Labor; Transportation of Materials

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the libraries, Room to Read aims to increase the participation of families and communities around our schools. Our goal is that by engaging families and communities, there will be increased awareness and support of literacy both in school and at home, resulting in the sustainability of our programs and program outcomes—children’s reading skills and habits.

Our strategy to engage communities involves:

- Meeting and collaborating with the local community before the library is established;
- Creating a literacy committee that coordinates community activities to promote reading such as parent meetings and literacy events;
- Developing a plan with the literacy committee to continue engaging the community and sustain the literacy program even after Room to Read’s support ends;
- Supporting the school to identify a community mobilizer to liaise between the school and community
- Providing regular support and capacity building to school principals and teachers to engage families and communities in reading
- Having the community provide: Construction Materials; Display Boards; Shelves; Skilled Labor; Transportation of Materials
- Having the community provide: Monitoring and Support; Obtain Legal Clearances and Titles; Sponsor

## Trainings

In Cambodia, all teachers and librarians involved in libraries receive eight days of trainings in the first year and three days of trainings in year two and three of Room to Read support. These trainings build on each other and serve as refresher courses and venues for working through problems that have arisen during the year.

The Cambodia School Libraries program also supports educators by providing coaching and program implementation feedback during support visits that take place an average of once per month over the three years of Room to Read support. During these visits, the School Libraries team oversees the establishment of the library, provides tailored assistance on training topics, encourages school management to involve teachers in daily library operations, and promotes family and community engagement in reading. The team also assesses library quality by using a rating tool, which evaluates the library's functionality across 19 indicators. Room to Read staff use these ratings to determine the frequency and type of support they provide to each school, and to assign extra support time for schools with greater needs.

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Length of Training</b>	<b>Training Topic*</b>
2/21/2013	2.0 days	Basic Construction Techniques; Financial Management; Project Management
9/9/2013	5.0 days	Book leveling; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities
10/30/2013	1.0 days	Building Maintenance
11/12/2013	4.0 days	Book leveling; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities

*\* Some trainings are provided for various groups of stakeholders (teachers, librarians, field facilitators, etc.) at different times. Because of this, the same training may be listed more than once.*

Koh Chen Primary School library will receive three full years of additional support from Room to Read, which will include books, additional training for the school teachers and librarians, support for family and community engagement, and regular support and monitoring visits.

## Photos



*Exterior view of the school building where the new library is located.*



*Furniture and other resources provided by Room to Read.*



*Books provided by Room to Read on display in the library.*



*A student enjoying one of the new books.*



*A teacher engaging students in a reading activity.*



*A student selecting a book to read.*



*Students reading together in the library.*



*Students reading together in the library.*



A student at the school.



A student enjoying one of the new books.



**Dedication Plaque:**

*This library was established through the cooperation of the local community, Barclays MoonTrekker, and Room to Read. It is dedicated to the children and teachers of Cambodia, in whom lie hopes for a bright future through the power of education.*