

MISSION DOVE CAMBODIA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

Like many other countries globally, Cambodia had been affected by Covid-19 pandemic, to date, Cambodia has confirmed 124 case of Covid-19. So far 122 have recovered. Cambodia government have response to this Covid-19 crisis by forming a Covid-19 committees from the national level down to commune levels in order to response and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 out break not to transmitt in to community.

No doubt, vulnerable populations who suffered from their difficult situation have doubled due to acute hunger as they lost the opportunities to earn their daily income due to lost jobs and with the economy on pause, no one knows when it will be back to normal. Many of these vulnerable people are widows, widowers, elderly, orphans, people with disabilities, and homeless. These people are known as people groups who don't have their own land and if they do, they don't have enough resources to make their land useful either. Some of them had sold their only assets for family survival, and so many are burdened by heavy debt loads. These people are mostly undeducated and don't have work skills, they rely on their two hands to work, mostly agriculture and earn their income between \$1.50 to \$2 / day / person.

DOVE would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to our partners for walking alongside us in time of this need and helping the victims of severe hunger. Based on our Covid-19 response budget, we have received \$10,000 from our partner BelPres, and \$5,000 in contribution from LifeWater International. With this we are able to do a relief food response for 604 vulnerable families in Cambodia.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- DOVE partnered with Lifewater International has worked with local authorities and Covid-19 Sub- Committees at community level to plans and take necessary actions and assist local authority and community volunteer to do awareness raising and trainings follow by government guideline for preventions.
- Foods relief response and support with sanitation materials such as rice, soaps and handwashing devices etc.

- Each vulnerable family, level 1 received between 25kg-35kg of rice and 6 bottle of fish sauces, a few pieces of soaps and a set of handwashing device. These vulnerable are so grateful and thankful to our supporters that response to their need at the right time. For many of them, the relief will help them to survive in around a month.

Get to hear some stories from some of the 604 families below:

STARVING ETHNIC MINORITY IN RATANAKIRI, NOREAST CAMBODIA



Grandma Romam Byang, with her grandson-in-law Cheat and her great-granddaughter on their motorbike back to their village after receiving 35 kg of rice.

“I would starve to death.”

“My husband passed away one year ago. I live with my four grandchildren, three are girls. They work as a laborer picking up fruits and collecting rubber and cashew nut in farms in neighborhood or neighbor province and sometime, they need to go to work in Thailand when there’s no job available here. Lately, I heard them complaining about how hard it is to find jobs. We have been so worried about what to eat and feed our little ones. I’m too old to work so I live relying on them. If they don’t feed me,

I would starve to death. And then I heard the village chef said that Angka (LifeWater and DOVE) will give me 35 kg of rice (they were ranged as the vulnerable level-1, priority, by Lifewater’s local staffs). I was extremely excited and relieved knowing that at least I can survive another month. I don’t know who exactly the giver of this gift, but this is a lifesaving and I’m grateful for it. I pray to my god for peace and prosperity for their family.” Grandma Byang said.



Tumpon minority, widow Romam Byang 85 year-old and her cottage in Loot village.



Mrs. Ting Meth 50s, Mr. Ro Meam Tven 91s,
Tompun ethnic in Ratanakiri

“We both are Tompun ethnic with the Khmer nationality. My husband is deaf and mute for a long time, we live in Tuy village, Ting Chak commune, Borkeo distict, Rattanakiri province.

We have 6 children, 3 are female, 3 in our family can't do any work to earn income due to our chronic diseases. We grow cassava on a small piece of our own land (half hectare), we never have enough to eat, so in addition we also work in the farm of others. But these last

few months, since the crisis of the Covid-19, no one invite us to work anymore. We don't know what to do, it is difficult to live a pleasant life.

Lastly, while we are worrying about how to survive, we have been asked by the local authority to go to the commune office to receive the rice, we now got 35kg of rice, it will help us to survive another month, We thankful to God for answering our prayer. We are very happy and so thankful to Lifewater and DOVE, that came to give us rice during the time of needs. On behalf of my whole family I wish to for both of the organizations to continue to help people in needs, especially homeless who don't have the shelter to live. Thank you!”



YESIC Centre in Phnom Penh



Ms. Kong Yeng receiving food relief at DOVE

“My name is Ms. Kong Yeng, and I am 43 years old. I live close to DOVE and my son is Mr. Ol Bun Sak who is 14 and is studying English, Level 2 at DOVE’s YESIC. I have 2 children but we don’t have a house or an apartment of our own. We are living with my sister’s family because we can’t afford to buy or rent a house and there are 9 of us sharing a small house. My sister doesn’t ask us to help pay the rent but we have to help with utilities. My husband and I are construction workers and our paychecks are very small and we have to find other extra jobs to supplement our construction work income. As hard as that work is, it is bearable when we know it goes to support our children to study at YESIC.”

This COVID 19 epidemic it is really hard on my family. We all worry about my family’s health and economy. Schools and many other places are closing. My children just stay home and my husband and I don’t have much work to do like before because some construction projects have ceased or have been postponed. We don’t have money to spend on what we need for our everyday sustenance. Food and other household items have skyrocketed and are much more expensive than before. It is hard for my family to make ends meet in this crisis.

I am really excited to receive the relief package that DOVE gave to my family. That is so generous of Dove! This organization has been helping my children to learn English and even helps to develop the character of my son in leadership club. Speaking for both my family and I, I would like to say thanks to Dove for helping us. This gift is very meaningful to us. It is very helpful for our family during this time. I do hope COVID 19 will go away very soon, my children can go to school again, and my husband and I can get back to full time work.



YESIC students and their parents receiving food relief at DOVE in Phnom Penh



“Greetings! My name is Mrs. Sot, and I am 71 years old. I rent a small place in a slum village in Chak Angre Leou, just south of Phnom Penh proper. I live with one daughter, one son and 2 grandchildren. My present job is to take care of my grandchildren and cook food for my both children. My daughter is a cleaner at Diamond Island (Koh Pich), but was laid off for a few months due to COVID 19, and she just now got her job back this month. My son is a security guard and I am the one who takes care of his children, as he and his wife were divorced.”

Since the arrival of Covid 19 to Cambodia and in the world, we have been rather adversely affected, especially concerning our income and finances. Expenses are many, and we have to divide our little bit of income that we pool together to pay for water, electricity, rent and daily food, so, yes, it had a big effect on my family.

So, when I received this gift, I was most excited. This gift has really helped my family in the short term, and I am so grateful and excited, especially for the rice that can feed my family for a whole month. Usually, every few days I buy a few kilos of rice, so it really helped free me up for a month and use our finances on other pressing expenses. I would like to thank the generous donors who reached out to my family and me. I am really excited and grateful to you through this organization.”

Svay Leur, Siem Reap Province



Ran Rann, 36, a widow lives in Svay Leur, Siem Reap province

Mrs. Ran Rann has had 2 children, her first child is 12 years old and his both eyes is blind, her second child is 8 years old. They live in a house size 4x4 meters, built on the ground with the roof cover with rotten zine. They earn their income to survive the family by working in the farm of other such as pulling cassava roots, rice harvests, as well as pulling and clearing bush. She can't do any crops of herself as she doesn't own any land.

The living condition in her family during the Covid-19 pandemic is twice of suffering comparing to the time before the hit of Covid-19 since there's no demand of laborer in her neighborhood. She can't leave her children to go for work anywhere else as no one look after her two children and as well as she scared of the Covid-19.

"This 25kg of rice will help her and her two children to survive for another 25 days as she will be using it 1kg/day. She continues, I'm so grateful for generous support of rice to the families in needs like me in my village, and it is good timing as we are suffering by food shortage, and some time we went starving, and have only water porridge to eat. Thank you."



Ran Rann with her blind son who is 12 year-old and her 8 year-old daughter

A Cambodian countryside in Svay Leu district of a northern province is home to Mun Prom, a 55-year-old widow who lives with three grandchildren of her own. Raising them in a wooden house built on stilts with corrugated metal and straw roof, Mun weaves straw and hay together so she can sell them for a living. As the household cannot live on one income stream, Mun is willing to work anything to ensure that her grandchildren stay going to school. When an opportunity allows, she would do odd jobs as a laborer in farming, cook assistant for any local wedding reception and ceremony and do any piecework within her neighborhood in order to supplement her family income



Distributing relief in Svay Leur, Siem Reap

ONYX Alumni in Phnom Penh

Ms. Chay LyHuy and I am 19 years old (Onyx student last year). My family has 9 members, and I am the oldest in my family. I am currently a student in my 2nd year at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. My father was a hairdresser while my mother was a hired to do laundry service and dish washing. Sometimes she sold a little fish here and there, on the side.



During the COVID 19 isolation, my family struggled with both income and getting enough work. Food prices went up and my dad was unemployed and I didn't have any income to support my family, especially my younger brothers and sisters who are still small. To make matters worse, my mother is about to give birth again in a few months.

Through these gifts are for my family, it means a lot for me. And it really helps encourage my family to get help in time of serious need“Greetings! My name is. I really want to thank the giver of these gifts and all the people who have given so much to my family, and special thanks to the Lord for sending such a blessing to my family.”

A calling for one of the Bible College student!



“My name Poun Veasna, age 23, I have one older sister, I live alone in Phnom Penh.

I work for AIM School, I study bible course at CBI started in January this year,

The reason I came to DOVE has three main reasons:

one is God planned for me, He spoke to me in the last year 2019 that He going to equip me with His Word deeper than years before,

two I prayed by my faith and suddenly my bible college has introduced me to contact Dove, and I felt this class is His plan and calling for me. And three I want to have friendship with new Christian youth.

I have changed with many things through ONYX program: with the lessons of 5 love languages helped me to identify what kind of love languages in people and myself so I can treat to them correctly and grow the appropriate relationship, I can be patient when my love language did not meet cause we don't understand about our love languages. I grow more profound friendships with my classmates I knew how their testimonies encourage me, I could build on more trust with people in sharing, motivating, encourage, and keep my team active in class.”

My Company send me to a surprise training class.



“My name is Reatrey. I'm 23. I have one brother and two sisters. I live in a renting house in Phnom Penh with four other housemates.

I'm a Christian and I work for Christian company. I emotionally struggle with something in life. For quite a while before the ONYX class. I had spent a lot of time on my phone screen and isolating myself. I had been pretty insecure and lonely. I

judge people and I always require people to do what I want them to do. I learn a

lot about the bible and God in the office, but sometimes I feel very distant in my personal relationship with God.

I came to DOVE because my company encouraged me to join ONYX and my friend told me that it's a good program and it could help me to become a good Christian leader. I also want to become emotionally and spiritually mature.

ONYX class reminds me that understanding other people's love languages is significant. More than just knowing people's love languages, but also know how to present it to them. I have changed the way I treat people. In a relationship, I have learned to give a lot more than receiving. I could able to deny myself and focus on what other people need. I have gained confidence in who I am and who God wants me to become.”



A Self Pity

“My name is Sieve Ching, I have 3 siblings, I live in Phnom Penh with my friend.

I am a person that always needs help from other people to do many things, I always make people around me laugh even inside me very sad and isolated. I always sad and not grateful for what I have

but grieve for what I don't have. I felt very lonely and isolated when no one takes care of me nor encourage me. A person with prideful by requiring praise and encouragement from others but always accuse. A person that hates my family environment and don't want to engage with them.

The reason I came to DOVE cause I got a message “ If I join ONYX class I will leave from my old life with a dark and will experience the new life that understands about myself and God Himself by stop ignore my pass by accept it and get heal.”

I have changed through ONYX from little by little and touch by my classmate's testimonies. I started to understand my love languages and other people around me. I tried to push my self from isolation and loneliness because of everyone in the class motivated me. I learned how to submit with other people rather than getting the win. Through early retreat helps me to change my thought and personal attitude.”