

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

The Community Health Education project has been cooperating with the Ministry of Health in Cambodia since 2009. The project has worked to assist Cambodian individuals and communities, particularly women and children, to improve their overall health and well-being and increase their capacity to address health-related issues.

Volunteers work at health centers selected by Ministry of Health with health center staff, Village Health Volunteers, and schools to help people address their health needs. Since the project opened in 2010, more than 208 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in the Community Health Education project.



Brian Kim takes vital signs of patient at health center.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

- ▲ **8,098** children from 6-59 months old received growth card and are weighed at least once over 3 month.
- ▲ **4,256** caretakers identified one or more actions they can take to prevent malnutrition in their family.
- ▲ **88%** of households trained by Volunteers reported increased access to fresh food 6 months after establishing a garden.
- ▲ **8,489** people were trained in child health and nutrition.
- ▲ **4,384** women can identify signs and symptoms indicating the need to seek immediate care during pregnancy.
- ▲ **8,826** women received health education messages on importance of antenatal care and post-natal checkup, immunization, family planning, and delivery services.
- ▲ **1,921** people can identify at least 2 behaviors to prevent unwanted pregnancy or prevent STIs.
- ▲ **1,625** people were educated on non-communicable disease risk related to tobacco use.
- ▲ **603** community people can demonstrate how to correctly treat water.
- ▲ **957** community people have been trained to purify and properly store drinking water.
- ▲ **5,545** community people can identify 3 or more critical times when they must wash their hands.
- ▲ **4,987** people were educated on non-communicable diseases.
- ▲ **1,974** people have been educated on harmful effects of alcohol and other substances.
- ▲ **6,258** people were educated on healthy diets.
- ▲ **537** exercise events were organized by Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts.
- ▲ **6,258** people were able to identify ways to incorporate physical activity into their daily routine.



Megan Huey weighs baby in the health center.

Sandan Open Defecation-Free Campaign

Chan Savet and PCV Ben Rost

Sandan Village, Sandan District, Kampong Thom Province

Located eighty kilometers northeast of Kampong Thom provincial town on the southern fringes of the Prey Long forest, Sandan Village is a vibrant community of some 110 households. It is home to the district seat, a health center, high school, and administrative offices – and will soon be the district's first open defecation-free (ODF) community.

Leading this effort is Chan Savet, a **Village Health Support Group member** and Sandan Village resident. Savet describes the ODF campaign as strongly rooted in the community.

“

At first, we didn't have a plan. I attended the Peace Corps training in March, and then set out to work on sanitation, vegetable gardens, and wells.

– Chan Savet

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Village-wide meetings identified sanitation as a community priority, and subsequent planning sessions led to the creation of the ODF Sandan campaign. Savet and her Peace Corps Volunteer counterpart have worked with a local builder to provide a discounted latrine design for the 32 households that currently lack adequate sanitation, and have held several education sessions around the



Savet shows the map of her community.

linkages between sanitation and health. Plaques for each house in Sandan Village will visibly demonstrate the community's commitment to maintaining its ODF status.

“Once the latrines are built, villagers will not have to defecate in the open,” Savet explains, “meaning germs will not be transmitted by flies and such. Villagers will not have to spend so much money receiving care from the health center and clinics.”

Through her role as community organizer, Savet has assumed new responsibilities within her village, and acquired new skills that she intends to continue using.

“It doesn't have to be my village,” she says. “If we do a similar project in another village, I will work with that community as well. I am able to think through projects and come up with ideas, because I have now done it once before.”



Savet meets with community members.