

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសហសង្គ្រោះកម្ពុជា
Salvation Centre Cambodia
(SCC)



Writing Up
As from April-May-June 2020

Submitted to
Firefly Mission

Project Title: Funeral Support

Location: Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siemreap provinces, Cambodia.

SCC in a Nutshell



IDENTITY

SCC is a dynamic, Cambodian faith-based organization that has played a major role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through the loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, equanimity, commitment and dedication of a team of Buddhist monks, nuns, staff, volunteers and generous supporters, SCC has been able to improve the lives of many people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly the poorest and least fortunate families, especially children, either orphans or those adversely affected by HIV/AIDS.

VISION

A Cambodian society where all Cambodian people live with good health, freedom, dignity and prosperity.

MISSION

SCC commits to develop capacity and sustainable community mechanisms through faith-based networks and other stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, and to enhance livelihood, health and children's rights to education.

GOAL

SCC's goal is to significantly contribute to achieve the national strategic plan by increasing vulnerable families' and children's equitable access to health service and education.

VALUES

SCC is guided in all its actions by its core values which are solidarity, spirituality, compassion, human rights, good governance and democracy and rule of law.

Writing Up Hard Life Stories

The funeral project is one of many projects that has been implemented by Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC) for the poorest families of deceased people in the coverage areas of Phnom Penh municipality, Battambang and Siem Reap provinces. The program is funded by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**.

The purpose of this program is to support the poorest families who recently lost a family member, are struggling financially, people living with HIV/AIDS, elderly people with disabilities, homeless people, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) who have no money to arrange the funeral event for their dead family members. We have cooperated with NGO partners, local authorities, community leaders and village chiefs as part of our networks in order to implement this program for the people in need. The main objectives of our funeral support donation are: 1) Arranging the funeral for the poorest families who lost a family member and don't have enough money to arrange the funeral event on their own. 2) Help meeting the most urgent needs of the poorest families and share condolences to relieve their suffering from money problems and their recent loss.

The process before providing the family of the deceased with financial support is the following: After we receive the information from the family, the neighbors, community leaders, NGO partners, or local authorities, SCC staff visits the family to get exact information about them and their living conditions. Then we let them fill out the form of cash request for the funeral with their signature or thumbprint (if they are illiterate). After that we get a confirmation from their village leaders or SCC's NGO partners to make sure that they are truly in need.

We work very carefully before and while providing the funeral support to the poorest families and donating money to them. The reason is that we are afraid of being scammed by people who want to exploit our organization. Funeral support is very valuable for the poorest of people in Cambodia and we provide it to all types of families in need without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, political beliefs, or religion.

Significantly, SCC would like to share three stories of the funeral support implemented in Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap provinces as from **April-May-June 2020** for your information as follows:

1. Funeral Support in Phnom Penh City

Mr. Kong Doeun, is 39 years old and lives in Deum Chan village, Sangkat Chbar Ampov Ti Pir (commune), Khan Chbar Ampov (district), Phnom Penh capital, Cambodia. His wife's name is Khuon Chanthou and they have 3 daughters. Their 3 daughters are still too young, 2 daughters attained the primary school and last one not on age to enroll the school yet. All of them are living in the small rental room and have no permanent home. Mr. Kong Doeun is a worker of drag cart of fruits and vegetables in the market when someone needed and hired him. As a worker of dragging cart of fruits and vegetables, he has to work hard all days and nights even if it's raining he doesn't want to take a break or stop because of money for preserving supplementary foods for the whole family household. He carried and pulled all kinds of things which someone ordered or asked him to do. By doing this work, he could raise the money for supporting his family consumption. Normally, he could earn approximately 75 to 100 USD in a month. To facilitate the family life, he usually wakes up around 3 AM to drag cart of fruits or vegetables until about 6-7 AM for break. About 10:30 AM, he continued his work again until 5 PM and dare not to relax because afraid of losing of income and fear all customers disappointed or angry and not hired him anymore while fruits or vegetables arrival. By doing hard work every day, Mr. Kong Doeun had sick caused by cirrhosis for one year. He cannot go to work anymore just stay at home and look after his second and youngest daughters. His wife, Mrs. Khuon Chanthou is selling some vegetables at the sidewalk in front of neighbor's house at Tuol Tompoung market with her oldest daughter when she relaxed from school. Both mother and daughter helped each other to buy vegetables from the owner plantations to resume selling it on the market. All the whole family burdens were fallen on his wife who take more responsible for it. She has been trying more hard with her daughter for selling vegetables and they could earn totally 125 USD per month. All profitable incomes, she divided it for her family welfare support, rental room, daughters' study, husband's medical treatment and others needed.

Regrettably, Mr. Kong Doeun departed from his lovely family on 6th June 2020 in the age of 39 years old. While he died, his wife has no money to prepare the funeral arrangement for him. She did not know how to do cremations for her husband while she has nothing. With low living conditions, she decided to borrow money 150 USD from the neighbors for arranging funeral ceremony for her husband. Otherwise, she had been asking for help from relatives, neighbors, village chief and local authorities for managing her husband's funeral. With sorrowfulness and loveliness of neighbors, village chief and local authorities, they helped to celebrate the funeral ceremony for his last day. At that time, Samatapheap Khnom NGO partner has contacted to SCC Phnom Penh and asked for help. SCC staff and monk team leader came to visit the deceased of family's home and offered 40 USD which supported by Firefly Mission from Singapore. The deceased of family, they feel very excited for helping them while they have shortage of money and thanks for SCC and Firefly Mission that always take more concerns with the poorest family. Additionally, neighbors, village chief, local authorities and NGO partners would like to express their thanks and gratitude to SCC and Firefly Mission for offering the most significant money to the poorest deceased of families in their communities.



2. Funeral Support in Siemreap Province

Mrs. Sin Sothy is 49 years old and she lives in Banteay Chheu village, Sangkat Tuek Vil (commune), Siem Reap municipality (district), Siem Reap province. She is a widow woman who has four members in her family, one son and two daughters. They have lived in the old small house which was built by some bricks, old zinc and some parts covered by tents and low quality woods. After her husband had passed away for a long time, she has more hard burdened to take care all of her children and gotten more responsibilities to do for her family. As a widow woman and a head of family who's living in the extremely poverty, she has only depended on subsistence farming in the rainy season and served someone works for making income. In terms of doing farm, the rice field is not enough for producing rice to eat. She also planted other crops and vegetables backyard for her family consumption and for selling it to the neighbors in her village for earning money to support other necessities needed in her home. Sometimes she and her children didn't have enough rice to cook, they just made only porridge for meal times. Even they had a hard time for living in the poor living condition, they were not hopeless in their lives, and they had tried all the best to survival with the suitable of livelihood. By being too poor and lack of nutritional supplementary foods and insufficient eating, careless of health check and controller, Mrs. Sin Sothy had fallen sick with the chronic illness of diabetes disease. Her oldest daughter, Ms. Meas Sothorn had dropped out of school for going to work as a construction worker at Siem Reap provincial town in order to earning money. Being a young woman who works as a construction worker, it's really so hard but she has tried it very hard and never give up her efforts and commitment for doing this jobs in order to get money to support her family. She could raise some money from construction works totally 120 USD in a month. It is the huge amount of money for her to feeding the whole family and also for mother medical treatment and health care center. Every day while she comes to work, her siblings looked after of the illness mother and sometimes her relatives also came to take care of her too. Even how hard she had tried both physically and mentally to take care of mother, her illness still became hard and worse.



Unfortunately, Mrs. Sin Sothy had departed from her family on 6th June 2020. It was a great shocked for her children and seriously upset of losing her. Ms. Meas Sothorn and her siblings did not have money to manage the funeral ceremony for their mother. They had asked the relatives, neighbors and village chief for helping them to manage the funeral. The villagers helped to arrange the funeral cremation for her last day. The village chief member has directly contacted SCC Siem Reap and asked for helping them. Then SCC staff, Mr. Long Saroun came to their home as you saw in this picture. He offered 40 USD to them that was donated by Firefly Mission from Singapore. Ms. Meas Sothorn, her siblings and relatives would like to express their thankfulness to SCC and Firefly Mission for helping on their mother funeral. Furthermore, SCC staff, relatives, neighbors, and village chief helped them to manage the funeral by Khmer tradition and Buddhism for Mrs. Sin Sothy and shared their condolences at the cremation. Additionally, the family of the deceased, their neighbors, village chief and local authority, are very grateful for this donation and would like to express their thankful to SCC and the Firefly Mission who always kind and generosity of helping the poorest families with their loving-kindness and compassion.

3. Funeral Support in Battambang Province

Mrs. Bot Sreymom, is 46 years old and lives in Doun Teav village, Peam Aek commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang province. Her husband's name is Phloy Bean and they have one daughter age 7 years old and she has already enrolled in the primary state school. All of them are living in the small old house which was built by some bricks, old zinc and low quality woods. Mrs. Bot Sreymom is a housewife and a farmer. She had been doing farm which only depends on the rainy season for producing rice for their family consumption. She has no life skills and knowledge on the farming sector or other jobs. By stuck in poor living condition, she decided to work as a cooker at one foods store and got monthly salary around 100 to 120 USD. This is the huge amount of money which she could earn from this job. She had worked as a cooker in the foods store around three years before she had the condition of being ill. At the first time, she had the sickness once time around one year ago and not went to the hospital for health check just only bought some medicine from clinic for using. She had try to keep it and went to work as usual. Over 4 to 5 months later, her sickness became harder and worse until she stopped working. She had no regular income and seeking for money to go hospital. While the doctors' checking her health and diagnosis of diseases, they said that she had the breast cancer. Even she knew and faced with breast cancer but she didn't have enough money to cure her sickness as doctors' instruction according to the medical procedure. She had come back home and tried to cure her illness with Khmer traditional treatment but it's not get better. Mr. Phloy Bean, who had no regularly income, he was seeking for many jobs to do as much as he could for fulfill his responsibilities for family. He is a worker of the lifter and carrier all kinds of the agricultural crops but it's not a steady job. Sometimes he was hired to lift the boxes of cassava, corns, fruits, rice and vegetables according to the plantation harvest and the owners needed him. By doing this works, he could get 5 USD per day. He raised this money for family welfare support, wife's medical treatment and daughter's study. While he went to work, the youngest daughter was responsible for taking care of her illness mother. Even both of them had tried all their best to take care of her, but the breast cancer was still incurable and not helpable because it reached to the last ending of disease.



Sadly, Mrs. Bot Sreymom was very depressed and worried about her daughter, no one take care of her and she will become an orphan child. She maybe knew herself completely that she will leave this world soon. As a mother even she had the last breathe of life, she still thoughtful on daughter. She asked her husband and relatives that **“please help to take care of my youngest daughter after I’m gone”**. This is the last word of her which caused everyone shocked and cried. She departed from her family on 2nd June 2020, in the age of 46 years old. While she passed away, her husband Mr. Phloy Bean has no money to manage his wife's funeral. He had asking for help from his relatives, neighbors and village chief to arrange the funeral. According to his real hard situations he faced, all villagers came to participate and helped him for celebrating the cremation and also shared their condolence for her last day. The commune local authority, Mr. Chhom Piseth has contacted to SCC asking for help and our staff Mr. Khun Bunluom came to visit their home. We provided 40 USD to the deceased of family which was donated by the Firefly Mission from Singapore. Moreover, the family of decease, village chief, and local authorities expressed their thankfulness to SCC and Firefly Mission who always help the poorest families in their village.

To sum up all the beneficiaries and needed people of SCC in target area, they always feel very satisfy and content for SCC and Firefly Mission who always concerning and involving with the poorest families of deceased with mostly understanding of their heart, their feelings of what they needed the most or what they feel of being hungry and serve honestly to the poorest people kindly with loving-kindness and compassion.

We should observe within "death can come at any time. We do not have an agreement with death that it should come only when we are ready. We are ready whenever it comes. This is not an ordinary technique. It is a priceless gem that can liberate us from the cycle of birth and death and can improve not only this life but also future lives ultimately leading to full liberation. "But we do not have time. We have too much work." We squander an invaluable jewel by making these excuses. Whenever there is sorrow or despair or dullness in daily life due to any reason, this technique will help us. Just understand, "At this moment there is sorrow or despair or dullness in my mind," and start observing breath or sensations. The external reason is not important". (S N Goenka)

Finally, all Cambodian people in the coverage areas (Phnom Penh municipality, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces), village chiefs, communities' leaders, local authorities, the poorest families, still suggest SCC and Firefly Mission from Singapore please keep on pursuing assist and help Cambodian people in needed. The last but not least, we would like to express our profound thanks and gratefully to **Firefly Mission and all members from Singapore** who always have the loving-kindness (Metta), compassion (Karuna), sympathetic joy (Mudita), and equanimity (Upekkha) to all of Cambodian people with your generous sponsorship our funeral support. We can't tell you how much all of us at SCC and all the Cambodian people appreciate your contribution to our cause. Furthermore, thanks to your donation, we will be able to have funding support to run our funeral support program continuously. May you be filled with loving kindness; May you be safe from inner and outer dangers; May you be well in body and mind; May you all be healthy and safe; May you be at ease and happy, May the triple gem bless you all; and May you live peacefully in life.

Thank you very much for your enormous help!