

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសហសង្គ្រោះកម្ពុជា
Salvation Centre Cambodia
(SCC)



Writing Up
As from July-August-September 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 **July-August-September 2020** for your information as follows:

1. Funeral Support in Phnom Penh City

Grandfather Trai Cheasophal, is 84 years old and lives in Phum 5 village, Sangkat Srah Chak (commune), Khan Doun Penh (district), Phnom Penh capital, Cambodia. His wife had passed away for a long time, he has two daughters and one son. All his daughters and son, they had got married and they have lived with their new families' home except his oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who have lived with him in the small old house.

Grandfather Trai Cheasophal is the poor man who doesn't have any properties or wealths to share or provide it to his daughters and son. He just completed his duties as the father by prepared all of them to have a wife and husband according to Khmer tradition. As an old man and had the chronic illness, he could not do anything just stay at home. Mr. Khuon Khemra who is the son-in-law and his wife were responsible for the whole family. He and his wife have more responsibilities to do for their poor family by taking a part of doing different jobs. His wife is the house keeper and works as the small seller of ingredients at home for helping to improve their living condition. She has tried all her best to earn income but it still not enough for their family's daily payment. Mr. Khuon Khemra has no skills or permanent jobs. He worked as the construction worker at one private sector for earning income to preserve the whole family household. His work is mostly unregulated, low paid, often dangerous, no safety equipment at the site where he worked for protection the construction workers off risky for life but all of these because of money. Sometime, he works in fear and needs to concerns more about substandard safety regulations where most of works have few legal protections. He has worked so hard on this job for raising money to support everyone in his family. By doing this job, he could earn a bit of cash to get by approximately 150 USD per month. It is the huge amount of money that he could earn monthly to support supplementary foods for family consumption, others needed in home, their children's study and father's medical treatment and hospital care.



The family of deceased received fund SCC Monk Team Leader

Regrettably, grandfather Trai Cheasophal had departed from his family on Monday 7th September 2020 by old age. While he died, all his daughters and son had shared their little amount of money to prepare the funeral ceremony arrangement for him. By knowing and seeing their hard living situation and hard consequences on their father's deceased, the village chief of Phum 5 village, Mr. San Bona and the commune committee for women and children of Sangkat Srah Chak, Mrs. Ti Saron have contacted

SCC asking for help. At that moment, SCC staff and monk team leader came to visit the deceased's home and offered 40 USD that supported by Firefly Mission from Singapore. On the other hand, Samdech Preah Odom Chakriya Dr. Chheng Bun Chhea, the member of national assembly senior priest of Cambodia helped to manage their father's funeral by providing the cremation cost and casket inside the coffin for arranging funeral ceremony. Otherwise, villagers, relatives and local authorities helped to celebrate the funeral ceremony arrangement for grandfather for his last day. Additionally, the village chief, local authorities and deceased of family would like to express their thankfulness and gratitude to SCC and Firefly Mission for offering the most significant money to deceased of the poorest families in their communities.

2. Funeral Support in Siemreap Province

Mrs. Sang Mao is 48 years old. She and her husband have lived in the rural area at Trapeang Ses village, Sangkat Kok Chak (commune), Siem Reap municipality (district), Siem Reap province. They have five children, one son and four daughters. Their oldest daughter, Mrs. Lor Sokh had married and she had one young baby daughter but because of her had the chronic illness, her husband had divorced and left her alone. She comes to live with her parents and others siblings. They helped to take care of her and her baby. They have lived in the old small house which was built by the low quality woods and the roof covered by the palm tree leaves.

Mrs. Sang Mao and her husband are the poor farmers who doing farm followed by the permaculture on their little soils for making agriculture and it's not enough for their family consumptions. For solving their hard living condition, Mrs. Sang Mao and her husband have shared their responsibilities for finding different jobs for making income to support their family. She has worked as the dishes washer from someone's home to home on their special event, foods store and restaurants in front of Angkor Wat temple. By the pitifulness of the neighbors and the owners of food stores, they have helped to hired her. Recently, she could earn money around 3.75 USD in day. Otherwise, her husband also has no jobs and it's real so hard for him to seeking for it because he is an illiterate person. He has worked as the collector of recycling trashes for selling it to get fund to raise family. Every day, he has been walking everywhere without clear direction to find and pick up trash, scrap metal, plastic bottles, cans and others valuable old materials which is available for sale. Some days, it was raining and he cannot go to collect the garbage. His life is very stressful but needs to take it for responsible his family. At the same time, picking trash is becoming more difficult to collect due to the relocation of some household waste. He could earn with unstable small amount of income around 2.50 USD in day. Furthermore, both of them have tried so hard to earning money for feeding their whole family especially for medical treatment and hospital care to Mrs. Lor Sokh who had the chronic illness with convulsion disease for many years.



The family of deceased received fund from SCC staff

Unfortunately, Mrs. Lor Sokh had departed from her family on 3rd September 2020 in the age of 23 years old. It caused so hard sorrowfulness and seriously upset for the whole family. Mrs. Sang Mao and her husband had no money to manage the funeral ceremony arrangement for their daughter. They had asked the relatives, neighbors and village chief for helping them to manage the funeral. By seeing their poor living condition, the senior monk helped them to celebrate funeral cremation at the monastery. The village chief has contacted SCC Siem Reap and our staff, Mrs. Nuon Sokh Khin came to visit and offered 40 USD to the family of deceased. She said that **“I’m so happy for this useful offering and I will take this money to celebrate my daughter’s funeral and dedicate the merit to her soul”**. I would like to say thank you so much for SCC and Firefly Mission from Singapore who always have the loving-kindness and generous helping to the deceased of the poorest families.

3. Funeral Support in Battambang Province

Mrs. Ton Tan, is 36 years old and lives in Kouk Doung village, Peam Aek commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang province. Her husband's name is Chheang Sary and they have two daughters in their family. One daughter is 15 years old and last one is 13 years old. They have lived in the small old house that was built by some old zincs and low quality woods. Their daughters are still studying at the secondary state school but now according to the Coronavirus outbreak all schools in Cambodia were closed for a while in order to protect and prevent it's spreading to students and both of their daughters got relax at home.

Mrs. Ton Tan and her husband are the poor farmers and lacked of knowledge on vegetables farming, growing rice and do not have enough soils for making any agriculture. They are doing farms followed by the permaculture for producing rice for their family and besides doing farm, Mrs. Ton Tan has worked as the small seller of some ingredients in her village for making some incomes to support her family daily consumption and her daughters' studies. Otherwise, her daughters have also helped their mother to work in and outside home for reducing their mother's burdens, and to improve their living condition. At the moment, Mrs. Ton Tan has worked very hard to earn income for supporting her daughters' studies and husband sickness. Indeed, she expressed that since the coronavirus outbreak, this bad situation has caused deterioration of her living status. Her husband, Mr. Chheang Sary had the chronic illness with the high blood pressure disease for a long times and he fell down on the ground while he was working. It caused him to get stroke and sick in bed around three years. It was the hard time for his wife and daughters to hold on, get more responsibilities and needed to carry on their family. She has faced very hard situation in earning money for supporting her family and her husband medical treatment and hospital care. She and her daughters had faced and stuck in their poor living conditions which complicated for them to solve because they didn't have jobs and no money. But even they had nothing in hand, they never hopeless for their lives, they have tried all the best to earn income by selling some ingredients. As the poor farmers in the rural area, they need jobs as much as they could for making profits and they have to reduce some unnecessary expend for saving money to support their family, supplementary foods, others needed in home, father's sickness medical and hospital care.



The family of deceased received fund from SCC

Sadly, Mr. Chheang Sary had departed from his wife and daughters on 2nd September 2020, in age 56 years old. It was a seriously shocked for his wife and daughters who lost their beloved. After he died, his wife and daughters had no money for funeral ceremony arrangement for him. Mrs. Ton Tan sadly said that **“my husband died, I am jobless, I lost my property, my children are too young, I had lots of problems coming and I didn't know what to do with my husband's deceased”**. They had asked the relatives, neighbors and village chief

for helping them to manage the funeral. According to their real hard situations they faced, all villagers came to participate and helped them for celebrating the funeral for his last day. The commune counselling, Mr. Bo Kan has contacted to SCC and asking for help. Our staff, Mr. Khun Bunluom came to visit their home and offered 40 USD to the deceased of the poorest family which was donated by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**. Moreover, the deceased of the poorest family expressed their gratitude and thankful to SCC and Firefly Mission who always help the poorest families with the kindness and pure heart.

Right now, funeral support activity has been disseminated to everywhere in Phnom Penh city, Siem Reap, and Battambang provinces. The advantages of funeral support is very much helpful for the deceased of the poorest families. They took this donation to buy caskets, something for funeral services and helped to reduce their poverty for the moment. The members of deceased of the poorest families are excited for helping them during they have a shortage of money for arranging funeral event. They always said that, “**They feel very excited with this useful donation and it is very helpful for supporting their funeral ceremony**”. Furthermore, the deceased of the poorest families, village chief, communities’ leaders, NGO partners and local authorities want SCC and Firefly Mission to keep helping the poorest families in their villages and all Cambodian people.

As the result of this funeral writing up, we realized that not only living things but also all human beings will die one day. The most important thing is our spiritual lives. Our spiritual life is more important than our body. The body is more important than our properties, our life is in our hand for doing good deeds to the human beings and serve it in peaceful ways because nothing left behind after we died. 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 help the poorest families of deceased with the mostly understanding of their heart, their feelings of what they needed the most, what they feel of being hungry and serve honestly to the poorest people kindly with loving-kindness and compassion.

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!

With Metta,

Prepared by: Ven. Sovat Ann

SCC, Monk Team Leader

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