

បង្គោលសេចក្តីសង្គ្រោះកម្ពុជា
Salvation Centre Cambodia
(SCC)



Writing Up
From January-February-March 2021

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.

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.

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.

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 from **January-February-March 2021** for your information as follows:

1. Funeral Support in Phnom Penh City

Mr. Khuth Channara is a father 60-years-old, currently lives at Prek Takong I Village, Chak Angrae Leu district, Meanchey Commune, Phnom Penh City. He had 4 children, there were 3 boys and a girl. They all got married and lived in different places. Separately, Mr. Chan Pheakdey was the first child in the family, he got married to Mrs. So Kunthea, but did not get any children, because both of them were affected HIV/AIDS.

Residing in a small house that was built on the lake by some old zincs, and low-quality woods, with five members in a family. Channara described that his son has been living with the couple affected by HIV/AIDS for more than 10 years but sadly Chan Pheakdey's wife passed away five years ago. Differently, Mr. Chan Pheakdey infected with HIV, and fortunately with the help of the **New Life Foundation (NGO)** helped to refer and pay for a trip to check and to get medicine every month at the Health Centre, otherwise, he still has simple health until today. Due to his son was infected with HIV and could not work, being a father have to responsible for the whole family, sometimes he works hard from morning till evening to earn money for the everyday expenses. Now a day he gets older, his strength was collapsed, moreover, there was no time to get rest, he tries to grow vegetable in the lake near the house to harvest and sold in the market. The profit he got around 5 USD per day to solve daily needed.

In addition, when the vegetable harvest and solve out of stock he tries to work as a construction worker. According to his old age and does not have enough strength to carry construction materials. He can work one day, for the other day take rest depending on his strength and health. As seeing the difficult life of Mr. Channara on such a daily basis, the New Life Foundation called him to work as a security guard at the organization's headquarter in Phnom Penh city to help him get a better job as well as to resolve an old age life.



The family of diseased received fund from SCC Monk Team Leader

Mr. Chan Pheakdey passed away on 21 February 2021 at the age of 36 by infected HIV/AIDS disease. His body was prepared for a funeral follows the traditional ceremony at his home for 1 night and was cremated at Chak Angrae Leu pagoda. Indeed the participation of the Buddhist monks at Chak Angrae Leu pagoda who preached the Dhamma and guiding his family to know more about the four noble truths of suffering follow the teaching of the Buddha. However, Buddhist monks helped to arrange the cremation in the temple.

After the cremation completed, the New Life Foundation partner contacted SCC staff and monk team leader Venerable **Sombo Panhna** to visit the deceased's home and shared condolence with the member who has just passed away. Moreover, venerable brought the teaching of the Buddha to educate them to live in a righteous way. Besides, our staff brought the donate 40 USD sponsored by **Firefly Mission** from Singapore. After receiving the donation, he immediately very excited for helping them while they have a shortage of money, the amount of 40 USD is uncountable to those who's the poorest, and he will take the donated to use to cover the funeral expenses. Mr. Khuth Chanara would like to express their deep gratitude for this gift and thanks to **SCC**. Especially **Firefly Mission** who always kind and generous assistance to help the poorest families with their loving-kindness and compassion.

2. Funeral Support in Siem Reap Province

Miss. Mao Dyna lives in the municipality at Prama village, Krabei Riel commune, Siem Reap district, Siem Reap province. She was lived with four members in a family, a mother, a younger brother, and a younger sister. She was an orphaned father at 10 years old, because a father divorced with her mother and leaving three children in an orphan. Unfortunately, Miss. Mao Dyna passed away at a young age because of a heart attack.

Living in a difficult situation, and have a small house built of low quality-wood, the roof was covered with old zinc, almost crumbling and for every rainy season there is no place to store luggage and sleep. Mrs. Phon Se was a mother and living as a widow described that, after she divorced the whole family became to her responses. Due to a lack of education and no land for farming, in which she works as a construction worker at the province municipality to earn some money to support the whole family. According to a women's strength, she could not carry heavy construction materials, so she earns only \$ 5 per day. The money she earns to support her family and in part pay fees for children's education. At present time, the situation of Covid-19 has been pandemic to the community, all work was suspended, while she works as a construction worker, and the income is not enough to consume in the family.

Living in a family that lacks the man power to earn income for the family, Mrs. Phon Se family is in dire straits, unable to build a new house to live. Nowadays relying on the income of a single person is not enough to buy food every day, not to mention to build a new house. While Mao Dyna was a life, she helped the housework instead of her mother to take care of all the housework, cooking, washing clothes of the young brother and sister.



SCC staff visited Mao Dyna's mother at her house

Unluckily, Miss Mao Dyna passed away at the age of 15 years old on 16 March 2021 without saying any word to family, relatives, and neighbors. Her death made the family and all relatives very sad because she was a good child, and a good student, she always grateful for a good pattern in family and school. On the other hand, she has a gentle demeanor that is respected by close friends and relatives. Throughout the time of Miss. Mao Dyna died, her mother had no money to buy a coffin and

funeral ceremony arrangement, in that too with the kindness people surrounding, relatives and neighbors came to helped and managed the ceremony follow the Cambodian traditional. Mrs. Phon Se suffered said that **“It is unbelievable that my daughter died at the youngest age without any disease, it is the biggest loss for the family, while I am living a widow and my children too young nobody takes care of them when I go out to work”**. At the time funeral ceremony, she had asked the relatives and neighbors to help and borrow some money to purchase the material for arranging the funeral of her daughter.

To facilitate and share the condolences to the families who lost their daughter, the chief village contacted SCC staff and ask for help because they know the SCC always supports the poorest families whose members have died. Our SCC staff came to their home to see the real situation of the deceased family. In that too, we 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.

3. Funeral Support in Battambang Province

Mrs. Tup To was the wife of Mr. Eong Ho currently lives in Preaek Snao village, Preaek Khpob commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang province. They had four children, there were two boys and two girls, all of them had married and live in different places. Now a day, the elderly couple living with a third daughter and three grandchildren in a family, while the three young grandchildren still study primary school in the state school at Battambang province. Unfortunately, Mrs. Tup To was a grandmother passed away because of chronic diseases.

Living in a difficult situation life and having a dilapidated house. Mr. Eong Ho 77 years-old was a husband have been living together for many years described that he was lived in the year of 1975 the time Cambodia collapsed with the genocide civil war period more than three years, there were no schools and did not get an education. After the country got peace, all the people lived with liberty, he and his family went to live in Battambang province.

Nowadays, his family has a little land behind the house for farming, they do not know the farming techniques, and sometimes the weather always change, it was less water irrigation mostly depend on rainfall, some years the crops harvested are not profitable they have to borrow money from the bank to bought fertilizes and seeds to do a farm. Because of in debt to the bank, his children were forced to migrate to Thailand to work as construction worker to earn some money to pay off their debt. When the children went away, they have to leave their young children at home to be cared by the grandparents. On the other hand, it is the habit of the Cambodian people when they having a small child always bring them to their grandparents to take care of, so they have time to go to work together. Now a day, with the Covid-19 pandemic into communities, some factories, companies and shops were closed and it is difficult for his family to earn money while his wife living with chronic diseases, and have no money refer to the hospital for treatment.



SCC staff donated money to Mr. Eong Ho at his house

Regrettably, Mrs. Tup To passed away on 8th March 2021 at the age of 66 years by chronic disease, she departed from his family forever never back again. It was a seriously shocked for her husband and children who lost their beloved one. Throughout the time of Mrs. Tup To died, her husband and children had no enough money to buy a coffin and funeral ceremony arrangement, in that too, with the kindness people surrounding, relatives and neighbors came to helped and managed the ceremony follows the Cambodian

traditional. Mr. Eong Ho sadly said that **“My wife died is the biggest loss for the family, while she was alive helping to take care of the little grandchildren instead of the children who went to work far away and could not take the children with them”**. At the time funeral ceremony, he had asked the relatives and neighbors to help and borrow some money to purchase the material for arranging the funeral of his wife.

According to their real difficult situations faced, the villagers, local authority supported rice 100 kilograms. In that too, the relative who participated have told Mr. Eong Ho to contact SCC Battambang asking for help. Our staff, Mr. Phin Sophon came to visit her home to share condolences and offered 40 USD to the suffered from the poorest family which was donated by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**. Moreover, the suffered from the poorest family heartfelt

expressed their gratitude and thankful to **SCC** and **Firefly Mission** who always help the poorest families regardless of any compensations.

All human beings are dead, whether are rich or poor, young or old they all die the same. The only difference is that wealthy people organize a solemn ceremony, many relatives, friends, neighbors participated. On the contrary, the poorest people even the coffin to cover the body have no money to buy at the time of death, not to mention the money spent on organizing the ceremony for many nights. According to Buddhism causes of suffering are: cause of fear, cause of hunger, cause of debt, cause of sickness and the greatest is the sorrow of death desolation of this planet. Because when we are about to die, all the organs in the body stop working due to their function, stop operating due to the commands of the mind. At that time, the eyes no longer seeing, the ears become congested, the nose no longer smells, the tongue stops tasting, the body stops receiving hot and cold elements all of which make the body suffer terribly for nothing. Therefore, human being should try to do meritorious indeed from now onward.

To sum up, the activities that SCC has done in the past and is continuing to do almost have the support of all quarters and are being disseminated in all areas in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces. The advantage of sponsoring at a funeral for the poorest families are important and helpful for the deceased who has passed away. They take these donate to organize the funeral and settle some of their livelihoods as well. Members of the family who had died are very satisfied with the activities of the SCC and Firefly Mission are doing. Most people said that, they are excited about this precious donation and it is very useful for supporting their funeral.

In addition, the poorest families, village chiefs, community leaders, NGOs partner, and local authorities want **Firefly Mission** to continue to help the poorest families in their villages and all poorest people in Cambodia.

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 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 all be free from suffering.

May the triple gem Buddha, Dharma, Sangha bless you all.

With Metta,

Prepared by: Ven. Sombo Panhna

SCC, Monk Team Leader

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