INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR DEAF OR BLIND IN CAMBODIA

Zero Project conference
Vienna, 10-12 February 2015

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Disability prevalence: 2.06%

Among People With Disabilities:
- Visual disability: 34.83%
- Movement disability: 33.42%
- Hearing disability: 9.04%

*Cambodia Inter-censal Population Survey, 2013*
KROUSAR THMEY OVERVIEW

Born in 1991, in the refugee camps of Site II (Thailand), Krousar Thmey (“New Family” in Khmer) is an apolitical and non-confessional NGO run by Cambodians and for Cambodians.

**Identity**

**Vision:** A world in which all children are empowered to grow into independent and responsible adults.

**Mission:** To enable the integration of Cambodian children through education, appropriate support and the arts in accordance with their traditions and beliefs.

**Values:** identity – integration – dignity

**Key figures**

- 3 programmes
  - Child welfare
  - Education for deaf or blind children
  - Artistic and Cultural development

- 2600 children supported in 14 provinces

- 260 Cambodian employees

- Budget 2015: 1.7 Million US$
2014: first deaf students graduated from university

2010: first visually impaired students graduated from university

2009: first deaf students finished high school and entered into universities

2006: first visually impaired students finished high school and entered into universities

1997: 1st school for the Deaf
1994: 1st school for the Blind

Before 90s
No voice about education for blind or deaf children
Krousar Thmey is the only organization in Cambodia to offer a comprehensive educational programme for deaf or blind children.

Until today:

- 5 special schools
  - 198 Blind (62 girls)
  - 509 deaf (202 girls)

- 159 blind or deaf children in public schools through 6 integrated classes and 93 inclusive classes

- 53 blind or deaf young adults in vocational training institutions and/or university
FOR AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Since the beginning, our ultimate goal is to handover the schools to the local authorities.

Krousar Thmey works hand in hand with the Ministry of Education in order to provide a **qualitative and adapted education** to deaf or blind children throughout Cambodia.

Programs setup in accordance with the national school curriculum:

- **1994**
- **2000**
- **2011**
- **2014**
- **2016**
- **2020**

- **1994** Programs setup in accordance with the national school curriculum.
- **2000** Agreement with the Ministry of Education: students have access to public schools.
- **2011** Civil Servants Status
- **2014** Ministry funds Braille Workshop & Sign Language Committee
- **2016** MoU on Transfer Process
- **2020** Full transfer to the Ministry of Education

A unique mix between Inclusive and Special Education:

FOR AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM
ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS

For BLIND

- Creation of the Braille Khmer 1993-1997
- Setup of a Braille Workshop in 1994
  - The only place to produce Braille books for visually impaired students in the country
  - Setup of adapted material in 3D
  - Setup of a Khmer reader program
    (still to be developed further by an IT team)
- To be continued: creation of audio-books

For DEAF

- Creation of a Sign Language Committee & use of an adapted version of American Sign Language in 1997
- Publication of complementary text books with Sign Language since 2000
- First Sign Language Dictionary in 2011
- Joint Sign Language Committee in 2013 to establish the Khmer Sign Language
  Created with another NGO (Deaf Development Program)
- Creation of visual documents

Appropriate equipment for low-vision children (magnifiers, spectacles, large print books, etc.) and for blind (stylus, slate, abacus)

Hearing devices and speech therapy when possible
For all teachers, training on:
- Teaching methodology
- Differentiated pedagogy
- Classroom management
- Psychology
- Sign Language/Braille reading

For other staff:
- Speech therapy
- Audiometry
- Producing ear mold
- Fitting hearing aid

Thanks to Partners

WITH SKILLED TEACHERS & STAFF
People have still to understand that blind and deaf can study as well as others and deserves the same place in Cambodian society.

**OPENSED TO THE WORLD**

**STUDENTS**
- Interact with non-disabled peers
- Know the culture of their country
- Keep up with ICT progresses
- Same access to the same lessons
- Do sport for self confidence and self-esteem, being able to compete with everybody (disabled and non-disabled alike)
- Full access to knowledge, through books but also news (TV interpreters for deaf)
- Be a citizen of the world with English lessons

**AWARENESS**
- Art representation
- Workshops/Seminars
- TV and Radio Spots
- TV news with Sign Language
- Awards
OUR COMING CHALLENGES

- Increasing expectation of parents, create role models for children and youth
- Screening and early school enrolment
- Increase equal access at universities and vocational training institutions
- Increasing all kind of resources in public schools & universities
- Ensuring the transfer: legal framework, specific diploma, special status for teachers, adapted curriculum
- Increase employment opportunities for blind or deaf people