



Empowering families and children to effect lasting change... community by community

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## A Great Change in a Rural Community!

Dear Supporters,

Thank you to our supporters from around the world, including our Rotarian friends from Sustainable Cambodia Australia and Rotarians from all over the globe. Thank you ALL! Everything the village families are doing to improve their quality of life is made possible by YOU.



*With grandchildren in their home garden from SCA*

In this Cambodia Update, we're sharing a story about one of the many families who have been touched by your generous support. Read below to discover more...

**To help the children of these families with education:**  
**[Click here to sponsor a child today!](#)**

*Sustainable Cambodia is a nonprofit organization working to help the residents of Cambodian villages create a sustainable quality of life. We do not simply give aid to the villagers. Instead, we help them build wells, irrigation systems and schools, and train them in agriculture and vocations, empowering and enabling them to create positive and measurable change in their villages. Sustainable Cambodia is registered in Cambodia as a Non-Governmental Organization with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the United States as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. TIN# 20-0175973  
Please visit our website at [www.SustainableCambodia.org](http://www.SustainableCambodia.org)*



## Welcome to their new lives!

Grandfather Ouch Phem is a farmer in Ampouch community, Bakan district, Pursat province. He is 76 years old, the same age as his wife, Grandmother Chhen Phan.



*Ouch Phem in his home garden*

Ampouch community is about 80 km from Pursat town. It is difficult to reach because of the poor condition of the road to the village. No one lived in the mountainous region until 2000, when Phem's family and other families moved there to start new lives. The villagers had many challenges, including no access to clean water, no education for their children, and no resources to make a proper living.

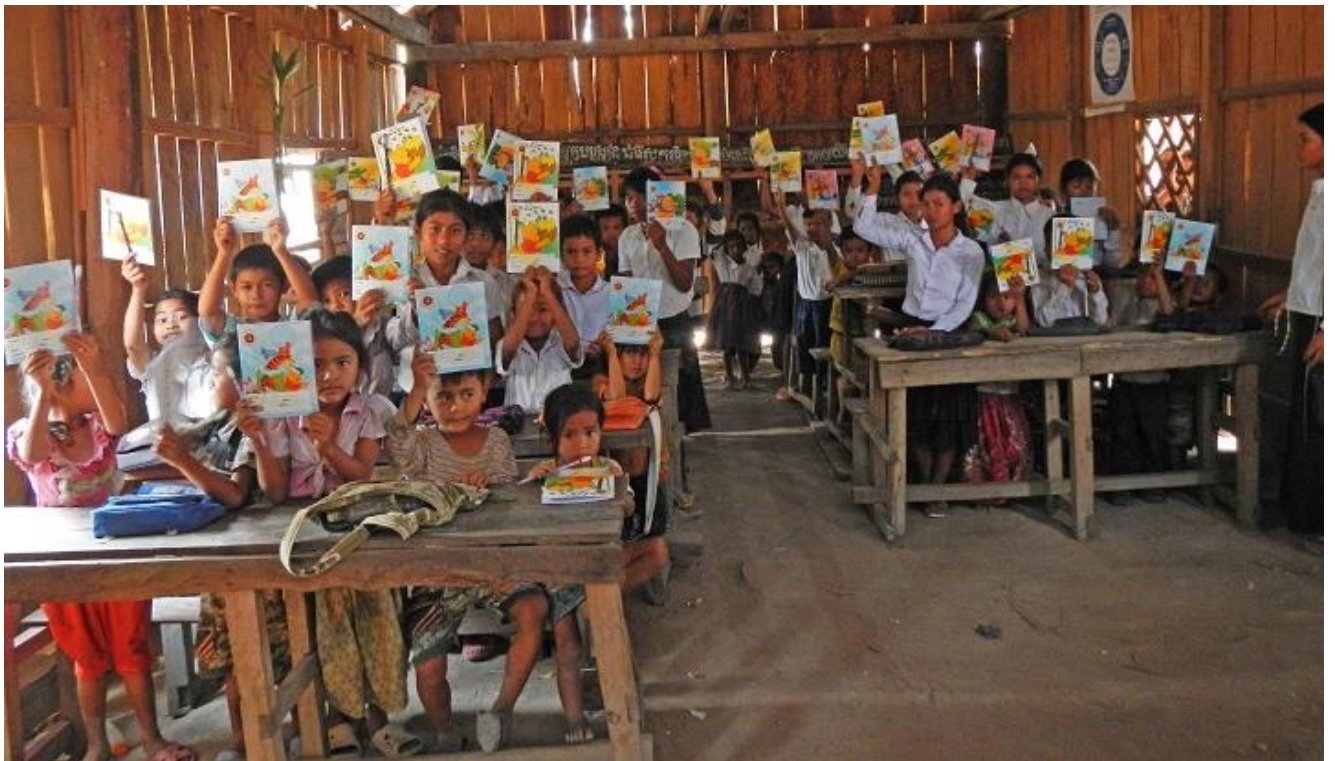
Grandfather Phem said: "When we first came to live in this village, it was just forest. There was nothing else, no water source, no school. It was almost impossible for us to live here. We spent long hours looking for water and it took us the whole morning to buy food from the closest market. However, we did not give up. We named this community as Ampouch, the name of a small natural lake that was the only water source we could have during the rainy season."



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*Ouch Phem and his wife in their vegetable garden*



*4 of Phem's great grandchildren are in the SCA Ampouch preschool*



**[To see a video of Ouch Phem being interviewed, click here.](#)**



*Ouch Phem with a pig from the SCA pass-on project*

Everything has changed in his community since SC partnered with Sustainable Cambodia Australia - a program of Rotary of Western Australia - to extend the SC projects into Apouch in 2009. Through SCA, his community has received wells, latrines and bio-sand filters from our clean water project, pigs, cows, ducks, chickens and fish ponds from our animal pass-on project, vegetable seeds, agricultural tools and training from our home gardening project, and a community preschool with food supplementation for the children.

In his interview, Phem said, "We had been waiting for SCA, like family from a foreign country. They are our hope! Our community is now improving a lot. We have clean water, latrines, and other support to make a better living. We are so happy that we can produce enough food for the whole year. We can also earn money from our vegetable gardening, animal raising, and agricultural products to support our daily life. With the community preschool, our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are very hopeful and will have a bright future with education."



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*Ouch Phem and his wife in their vegetable garden*



*Ouch Phem and his family*



He continued, "We would like to express our deepest thanks to Sustainable Cambodia Australia, and Rotary of Australia, and to all of SC for helping our family and everyone in our community. To thank you, we all are doing our best to maintain all the projects you helped us start, and make the best use of them. We want to help others in the community with more wells, community ponds and other support to improve the lives of the community."

## Thanks to **Supporters!**

Many thanks to all of our supporters!



Special thanks to Sustainable Cambodia Australia, to TC Swartz and Starquest Expeditions, to Rotary and Rotarians throughout the world, and to our wonderful child sponsors and University Scholarship Sponsors from all over the world. Without all of you, none of this would be possible!

**Sustainable Cambodia (SC) is an internationally supported grass-roots not-for-profit organization, led by dedicated Cambodian staff with help from international volunteers, and with support from child sponsors and Rotary Clubs from all over the world.**

SC works with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Sustainable Cambodia was co-founded by Rotarians, and active Rotarians make up a majority of Sustainable Cambodia's governing Board of Directors. SC aligns its values with those of Rotary International, including RI's ideals of empowerment, peace through understanding, world service and community service. We apply Rotary's effective "Four-Way Test" to ethical issues. Our model is unique in several ways:

- Only native Cambodians are employed as paid staff, and all international officers, directors and consultants are unpaid volunteers, ensuring that 100% of funding goes directly into the rural village programs.
- We are an empowerment organization rather than an "Aid" organization. We provide resources, assistance, training and education to the community, empowering families to revitalize their community and economy.
- Our approach is broad-based, including schooling for children, safe village drinking water, irrigation systems, alternative agriculture, vocational education, micro-business and healthcare.
- In return for the assistance, each family commits to helping surrounding villages: We not only "teach them how to fish," but teach them to teach others how to fish.

While we currently work in central Cambodia, our vision is for this empowerment model to spread across Cambodia, and ultimately to grow into other countries.