



Progress Report

Project: Human and Hope Association Sewing Program

Project Reporting Dates: From: April 2017

To: August 2017

Project Leader: San Thai, Director

Summarize Project

Our sewing program trains marginalised women over the course of 10 months. With their skill, they either set up businesses at their homes, work for sewing shops or make products for our organisation.

We aim for our sewing students to be making a minimum of \$60USD/month profit within one year of graduating from the program, and a minimum of \$90USD/month profit within three years of graduating from the program. This enables them to support their families, particularly the education of their children so that they have better opportunities for their futures.

Our deliverables are daily sewing training, weekly life skills classes, ad hoc workshops and microfinance loans three months into the beginner class.



Our sewing teacher, Chomrong, helping a student make a traditional ceremony top

Progress

Our sewing program continues to progress. Some key achievements are:

- Eleven women have joined in our sewing program; six in our beginner class and five in our advanced class.

- Their learning has been progressing well. They are not only learning the sewing lessons, but they also learn life skills lessons, which are important to develop their mindset.
- Our Director held OPERACY workshops for the sewing students, concentrating on goal setting and personal empowerment and leadership.
- Five students were sent to learn “Parents Talk” at the Women’s Resource Center, an NGO in Siem Reap.
- Ten students took out our sewing microfinance loans, so they begin to earn the money by using their skills by fixing or making clothes for their villagers and shops.
- Our microfinance program has maintained a 100% repayment rate.
- We have continued developing our handicraft business, and have a new wholesale buyer. We also have two new stores who sell our handicrafts on consignment.

We have had a couple of setbacks with our program:

- A student in our beginner sewing class will stop studying, as she is pregnant. Our team worked with her to reach an agreement that she would take one semester off, then join the advanced class after her baby is born.
- An English school nearby has decided to open a sewing school, despite our program operating just 500 meters from them. Our Director spoke to the Director of the English School and encouraged him to start a different project, however he declined. To ensure our community isn’t negatively impacted by this sewing school, our Director is sharing knowledge with the new school to ensure they address the full needs of their students.
- We wish to expand the program into a further rural community, around 10km from Human and Hope Association. To do this, we will need to provide transport for the students, as it is too far to ride their bicycles each day. We need to source funding for this, around \$1,000USD a semester. Although pricey, we will be able to reach villagers who have no other support networks or training opportunities.

Staffing

We have two Sewing Teachers and a Vocational Training Coordinator. Our former Vocational Training Manager moved to Australia in January, and was replaced by a Coordinator in March. The former Vocational Training Manager still acts as an Adviser to Human and Hope Association, having regular phone and email conversations with the teachers; Coordinator and Director have the support they need. The following biographies are of the key staff members involved in the sewing program:



Savdy Doeung | Vocational Training Coordinator

Coming from a poor family, Savdy is passionate about the ensuring NGO's have a positive impact on their community members. Savdy recruits students, trains the teachers, develops the curriculum, conducts outreach, develops handicrafts and builds relationships with clients in Cambodia to ensure the sustainability of HHA. Savdy holds a Bachelor of Rural Development from the University of Battambang.



Chomrong Cherng | Sewing Teacher

Chomrong graduated from the sewing program in February 2015. She came from a very poor background, and was only able to study until grade eight in school. Chomrong experienced domestic violence at the hand of her husband, however since she was hired as a seamstress, and most recently, a sewing teacher, she has reported that the violence and arguments have stopped. Chomrong has three young children, two of whom study at HHA. She teaches the afternoon sewing class, weekly life skills lessons, plans the harvesting of the sewing student farm, makes sample products for businesses and mentors the students so they can reach their ability.



Phalla Yorn | Sewing Teacher

Phalla was just 17 years old when she joined the very first semester of HHA's sewing program in April 2013. At the time she was earning \$50 a month as a waitress, having dropped out of school in grade seven due to poverty in her family. Phalla was promoted to be a sewing assistant upon graduation, and was trained up by Seyla for two years before she was promoted to sewing teacher in 2015. Phalla teaches the morning sewing class, weekly life skills lessons, plans the harvesting of the sewing student farm, makes sample products for businesses and mentors the students so they can reach their ability.



Seyla Thoeun | Sewing Advisor

Seyla is the former Vocational Training Manager at Human and Hope Association. Now living in Australia, he continues to support the sewing program by offering advice to the team and helping them develop new products for sale in Australia. He also volunteers with Human and Hope Association Incorporated, selling HHA's handicrafts at market stalls.

- We have decided to hire sewing graduates to recruit new students into our program, as they are role models in the community. To achieve this, we require an additional \$200USD a year for staffing costs from 2018.



A beginner sewing student, her husband and son with the sewing machine she purchased through our microfinance program.

Budget

The fund has been used to pay for three staff members' salaries, a Vocational Training Coordinator and two Sewing Teachers. The salaries are differences from months to months due to petrol allowances, staff saving scheme, over time salaries and salaries increases for July.

Positions	April	May	June	July
Vocational Training Coordinator	\$317.80	\$318.25	\$345.575	\$359
Morning sewing teacher	\$138.95	\$140.15	\$140.15	\$148.70
Afternoon sewing teacher	\$113.35	\$4113.95	\$113.95	\$126.40

Total Grants provided: \$5,000

Total Expenses: \$2,376.225

Balance: \$2,623.775

Copy of original budget: *see attached invoices*

Other Funding

We received a grant from the Rotary Club of Toronto to pay for class materials and student stipends. We have an ongoing grant from the Sumar Lakhani Foundation for sewing machine microfinance loans. Our funding for operating the sewing program in 2017 is secure.



Savdy, our Vocational Training Coordinator trained our sewing teachers about teaching methodology.

Current Milestones

Regards to our annual project goal 2017, we have achieved the following action items:

- We have updated the sewing lessons and life skill books.
- We have recruited enough students to join our sewing class.
- We have done some training for our sewing teachers to improve their quality of teaching.
- We can maintain good relationships with our custom orders and consignment shops. This has allowed our seamstresses to earn regular wages.
- We have conducted some important training to our sewing students such as OPERACY, focused on personal goal and personal empowerment and leadership; family planning; family happiness; marketing; business management etc. to ensure that our students will use this skill to earn money, improving their standard of living.
- We aim to have all students' husbands to join our first family happiness workshop, however there was only one husband who joined, so we will try to invite the others to join our second workshop again.

Future Milestones

- To create business and increase income for our graduated students who work at homes, we have set up a sewing business collaboration which all of them are invited to join the team. Savdy, our Vocational Training Coordinator and the Team Leaders are responsible for seeking customers from outside.
- We have been recruiting new students for our beginner class, which will be starting in September 2017.
- We are working to encourage our students to work outside after they graduate, so they can earn a good income.
- We wish to expand the program into a further rural community, around 10km from Human and Hope Association. To do this, we will need to provide transport for the students, as it is too far to ride their bicycles each day. We need to source funding for this, around \$1,000USD a semester. Although pricey, we will be able to reach villagers who have no other support networks or training opportunities.
- We have decided to hire sewing graduates to recruit new students into our program, as they are role models in the community. To achieve this, we require an additional \$200USD a year for staffing costs from 2018.



Our students learned life skill lessons.

Opinion

Our sewing program has been progressing well over the past four months. We can maintain all students and their learning has been well. We have achieved most of the objectives we have set for this year. However, we have had some issues we list above, but we are committed to challenge them and ensure that our students are receiving the best interest after they graduate.

Our first semester will be graduated in September this year. Our final report will be submitted at the end of January 2018.

Sewing Students' Biography



Tot Choy – Advanced student

Choy lives with her grandmother since she was young because her parents got divorce and they went away from her. She stopped studying in grade 10 because her grandmother couldn't afford her. She decided to learn sewing because she wants to have a skill to earn money.

"After graduation, I want to work outside at the sewing shop. My big dream is to have a shop in the city and become a famous seamstress."

Cheat Solin - Advanced student

Lin was looked after by her father because her mother died since she was young. She stopped studying in grade 6 because her family couldn't afford her. She started to work as a construction builder. She then married at the age of 23 and has two sons now.

"After graduation, I want to work outside at the sewing shop. My dream is to set up a big shop and become a famous tailor."





La Salat – Advanced student

Salat came from a very poor family. She stopped studying in grade 4 because her family couldn't support her. She worked as a construction builder since she was 15. At the age of 25 she got married and has a daughter now. Salat's husband drinks alcohol a lot and he could not earn money well.

After graduation, I want to work at the sewing shop, so I can earn money to support my family. In the future, I want to set up my own sewing shop and become a famous seamstress."

Sat Soeury – Advanced student

Soeury is the oldest child in her family. Her father died since she was young, so she lived with her mother and 5 of siblings. When she was in grade 7 she forced to stop studying to look after her sisters. She got married when she was 17 and has a daughter now.

"As a woman, this sewing skill is very important for me. I can use this skill in my whole life to earn some money to support my family. After graduation, I will set up a sewing shop at home and in the future, when I have money I will set up a grocery shop as well".



**Tom Chenda – Advanced student**

She was born in a very poor and big family. She stopped studying in grade 7 because her family couldn't support her. She worked as a waitress in a restaurant when she was 15 years old. At the age of 23 she got married. She has three children now. She has set up a sewing business at home when she first got the machine from us.

"I want to improve my current business and I will try to find more customers at the hotels and restaurants."

Tin Brech – Beginner student

Brech is the oldest sister in her family. She stopped studying in grade 3 in order to help her family's work. She worked as a construction builder. She got married when she was 28 and She has 2 sons now.

"After graduation, I will sew the clothes for my villagers and other customers. I want to become a famous seamstress in the future."



**Hal Sann – Beginner student**

Sann was born in a big family consist of 9 members. She forced to stop studying in grade 5 in order to help her family to earn money as her father got a serious illness. She started working as a construction builder. When she was 24, she got marriage with a man in her village and moved to live with her husband's family. She has 2 daughters now. She decided to learn sewing skill because she dreams to be a seamstress since she was young.

"After graduation, I will set up a sewing shop at home and in the future I want to become a skillful seamstress."

Tin SreyThom – Beginner student

Thom is very happy to learn sewing with us, as she likes this skill for a long time ago. She stopped studying in grade 7 to help to earn money to support her family as her father was really sick. She started her first job as a cleaner. She got married when she was 22 and she has a son and a daughter now.

"I will set up a sewing shop after graduation and I dream is to become a famous tailor in my commune".





Hun Kert – Beginner student

Kert was born in a poor family. She was taken care by her father because her mother died since she was really young. She stopped studying in grade 7 due to her father couldn't afford her. At the age of 16 she started to work as a builder. She married when she was 22 years old and she has a four years old son now. She really likes sewing skill, so she decided to join this program with us.

"After graduation, I want to work in a sewing shop and in the future I want to become a sewing shop owner."

***Kanha – Beginner student**

Kanha was born in a poor family. Her mother died since she was young. She stays with her father and four of her siblings. She couldn't catch up the lesson well, so she decided to stop studying in grade 6. Then she worked as a construction builder. She decided to learn sewing as she wants to have a skill to earn money.

"After graduation, I want to work as a seamstress in the shop and I want to become a famous seamstress in the future."

**Kanha is not her real name due to our child protection*





***Sokha – Beginner student**

Sokha is a third child in her family. She is 17 years old and stopped studying in grade 8 because she couldn't catch up the lessons well and also, she wanted to have her own skill. She likes sewing skill, so she decided joins this program.

"I dream to become a famous seamstress and I want to set up a sewing shop after graduation."

****Sokha is not her real name due to our child protection policy.***