

## **Reading and education development for the workers & their children in 8 brick factories around Phnom Penh (2018 - 2020)**

WFDSA Short report of the activity led since January 2018



*Sipar team is very grateful to the WFDSA for its support towards its activities in brick factories and is pleased to share the last updates on the project, pictures and testimonials.*

## Introduction

Since January 2018, Sipar has been conducting activities in brick factories in order **to develop reading and to contribute to the education** of the families working and living in 8 brick factories around Phnom Penh. The project includes 3 main activities:

- 1) **Reading & educational activities** conducted every week by Sipar mobile librarians (one librarian and two assistants), borrowing books, with specific/targeted literacy program for youth & adults that are illiterate
- 2) **Support school enrolment** of out of school children aged 6 to 12, **with tutoring activity** to improve learning of children in order to prevent from school failure & drop out and to improve basic skills in Math & Khmer
- 3) **Monthly awareness sessions** for children, youth and adults on social topics such as nutrition, health, hygiene, environment...

## Activities done & results between January & July 2018

Since January 2018, different activities have been implemented by Sipar, in 4 brick factories.

Every week, Sipar team intervenes 2 days in each of the fourth villages with the mobile library van. The new second-hand van was purchased and fully redesigned to meet WFDSA guidelines, showing children from different origins connecting, reading and playing together.





### Schedule of the villages and beneficiaries

VILLAGES	Thbong Pich Brick Factory	Kim Seang Brick Factory	Ponleu Preah Atet Brick Factory	Ta Swet
<b>MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS</b>	Every Wednesday 9.00 – 10.30 am	Every Wednesday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Every Thursday 9.00 – 10.30am	Every Thursday 2.00 – 3.30pm
<b>Number of families, people</b>	28 families – 96 people	40 families – 180 people	56 families – 168 people	24 families – 96 people
<b>Number of children that participate to the weekly activities</b>	27 children (among them 21 never schooled)	35 children participate (11 never schooled, 24 are drop out)	58 children (54 out of school)	41 children (only 9 at school ; 32 out of school)

=> In total, in the **4 brick factories**, Sipar team is intervening among **148 families gathering 540 people**. **161 children participate to the weekly sessions** and among them, **142 are not going to school (70%)**.

### **Activities already done**

- The weekly reading & educational activities are conducted since January 2018
- One session on nutrition (to learn three groups of food) was conducted in 3 brick factories with the participation of parents (during their break time, 11.00 AM until 12.00).
- Sipar team visited the two primary schools in the neighborhood: one has a library but not the second school.



## Reading activities in brick factories



Storytelling



Educational game to learn how to count



Books borrowing system



Reading in small groups



Free reading





### **Awareness sessions on health in brick factories**



Presentation of the basics of nutrition



Games on nutrition



Questions & answers

### **Intermediary assessment**

The living conditions, the level of education, sanitation and environment are very low in brick factories. Through our weekly intervention, we are strengthening close relationships with brick factories' owners as well as beneficiaries that appreciate the activities conducted by Sipar.

As the majority of the people living there are illiterate, the weekly visits enable to foster habits of reading and learning, though books, storytelling and games.

In terms of awareness on health and nutrition, Sipar activity is very helpful to the people since most of the parents don't provide enough food to their children because of their lack of knowledge in nutrition. Furthermore, they are not aware of the way of cleaning the water to make it drinkable. Among these issues, there are a lot of domestic violence, no garbage management, no family planning... hence other awareness sessions on key social topics would be very useful as well.

Sipar team designed a questionnaire and conducted a baseline survey on education & social issues for families and for children in order to assess the needs and real situation, to identify the children to be enrolled at school and youth and adults who want to be literate. This evaluation will enable Sipar team to implement appropriate activities.

### Next activities planned

- 1- Sipar team will identify the 4 new brick factories: two factories will be selected in August and the activities will start hereafter. Two other factories will be selected in September, then activities will start in October
- 2- Awareness sessions will be scheduled once a month for the 1<sup>st</sup> year on the following topics: Water, body hygiene, environment (garbage management), nutrition
- 3- Sipar team will contact the District Office of Education to present the project and to discuss about literacy classes and recruit literacy teachers for youth and adults. Then, a literacy program for youth and adults will be set up.
- 4- Sipar team will contact primary schools in the neighborhoods for free enrolment of children from brick factories in October for the new school year that starts in November
- 5- Concerning the Reading and educational materials, Sipar team will make a selection of books adapted to the population with low level of education (picture books, alphabet books, easy to read books) and provide special learning material, games and educational materials and stationeries
- 6- One Sipar staff will start teaching activities in small groups for the children in need using white board and educational games



### Pictures

Please find a selection of pictures in: <https://we.tl/W1YY1ZsYCc>

## TESTIMONIES

### Mr. Ouk Sim, the Angkrong Village Chief

***“I think that Sipar has a good program for the children. In my village most of the children do not understand the importance of reading. Moreover, some children studied in Secondary school but they can’t read well”*** he said.

Mr. Sim is 50 years old and has 6 children. Sok Kunthy, one of his daughters, is one of Sipar’s beneficiaries ***“I borrowed a book from Sipar. I want to read the book and my sister will also listen to it”***.



Mr. Sim joined Sipar during the national reading day celebrated on 8 March, 2018 at Sethei Primary School. He was very interested in Sipar that promotes reading among the children. He said ***“Parents are the key stakeholders to encourage children to read. I also want Sipar to create some activities with parents to introduce them the importance of reading and health”***.

### Phom Sokhim, a beneficiary

**Phom Sokhim** is 36 years old and comes from Kampong cham province, she has been working in Thbong Pich brick factory since 2005. ***“I feel so happy, I want to learn about health every week. I really want to attend literacy class because I can’t read. Unfortunately, I don’t have enough time due to my very busy work and I have to cook for my child and husband”***. She mentioned that Sipar has a very good impact on her child and the other children in the brick factory since they are able to learn a lot. She did not send her child to school because she fears traffic accidents and she had no enough time to bring her child to school.



Sokhim is playing a game during health awareness session in the brick factory.



## Eth Sopheap, a beneficiary



**Eth Sopheap** is 36 years old, she has been working in Thbong Pich factory since more than 10 years. Three of her children can't read because they have no time to attend to school. **"I am so happy and I really want my children to learn with Sipar. Today I enjoy learning about the 3 kinds of meals with Sipar. I hope Sipar will organize another awareness session on birth spacing for example. I really want Sipar to set up a literacy class to help mothers who can't read"**.

## Tea Chrep, a beneficiary

**"I have never learned about health. I can't read, but I am very happy to see my small child enjoying learning"**. Tea Chrep is 22 years old and works as a brick worker at Kim Seang brick factory. **"I enjoy learning about health and I want to learn more on other topics, especially about birth spacing. The Literacy class will help me and others to read and write"**. She wants Sipar to come and teach her kids every week because she has not the possibility to send her kids to school.



Chrep (Yellow T-shirt) enjoy learning on health education, she was volunteered to play game in front of other mother care givers.

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