



## Education & Training in Cambodia

Thank you for your generous contribution to 'making life fair everywhere' through supporting Union Aid Abroad's projects that deliver skills training to women in Cambodia.

This last financial year, your regular donations have educated Cambodian women, giving them the skills that can help them earn a living. Just teaching one person can make a difference not only in their lives but also for their families.

Here is some information about what your money is doing to 'make life fair'.

### Cambodia

Cambodia's economic situation has improved in recent years. Relative political stability since the final Khmer Rouge defections in 1998 has provided an environment more conducive to economic development. Despite this economic improvement however, 36 percent of Cambodians still live on less than 50 cents a day, and many more are not far above that 'poverty line'.

The rural poor account for approximately 90 percent of Cambodia's poor. Cambodia's rural poor live with low income and consumption, poor nutritional status, low levels of education, less access to public services including schools and health services, and less access to economic opportunities. HIV/AIDS remains a serious concern as the prevalence rate continues to be high.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA works in partnership with government agencies, local non-government organisations and trade unions addressing these issues. Together we work to develop opportunities for the unemployed, poor farmers and workers to gain the education and skills needed to improve low living standards.

### Education & Training in Cambodia

Textiles & Design is a very popular training area with Cambodian women. Weddings are a particular area where women can use their skills – wedding celebrations can go for three or four days and entail wearing many different garments.

Union Aid Abroad has upgraded teaching in Textiles and Design skills and introduced the same competency-based curriculum and assessment methods used in similar TAFE courses in Australia.

The women involved learnt elementary sewing skills and then went on to learn pattern making principles, planning and construction of men's suits and bridal wear, financial management and then a practical teaching segment.

### Learning for life in Cambodia – Keat Sarim's Story

My name is Keat Sarim, I'm 27 years old, and I live in Samroang village in Kampot province. Three years ago, on the local radio, I heard about a vocational program in Textiles & Design at Kampot Women in Development Centre (WIDC). The program was supported by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA.

I finished the six month training and then did six months' work experience. Last year the Kampot WIDC asked me to do an entry test for the Textiles & Design Teacher Training Program being organised by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA in Phnom Penh. I passed the entry test and was accepted into the program.

The three-month Teacher Training Program taught us a competency-based curriculum and was very good. It was really interesting and I learned a lot about garment design and construction and also about business management. Now that I have finished the program, I would like to teach back at the Women in Development Centre in Kampot.

I am very excited about the future. I really want to be a teacher, and my mum really wants me to be a teacher too!



*The multiplier effect - Keat Sarim has been a participant in a Textiles & Design program run by Union Aid Abroad at Kampot Women in Development Centre. Not only has Keat developed skills in sewing, pattern making and business management but she has become a trainer with Union Aid Abroad. Here Keat Sarim is teaching other participants in the course.*

## KANG Chantha

### Local Technical Adviser for Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA Textiles & Design Program

My name is Kang Chantha, and I have been working on Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA since 1997. I teach Textiles & Design courses for rural women in the vocational education program conducted in co-operation with the Thmar Kul district WIDC. This program provides training to poor women who would otherwise have no opportunity, as they do not have money to pay for training.

Throughout these 10 years, Union Aid Abroad has provided me with a lot of expert training. In 1997 I was trained in practical skills teaching methodology with Union Aid Abroad technical adviser Graeme Hooper. Since 2001 I have participated in a number of capacity building programs, with a local partner Shamsa Sadik who introduced us to competency based curriculum, teaching and assessment, and increased our technical skills to international standards. Through the basic and advanced Textiles & Design teacher training program, we were able to improve our basic sewing and pattern-making skills, and design and make complicated items such as men's suits, bridalwear and handicraft items.

My teaching practice and curriculum I use have been transformed. I know now how to keep students attention so that they try hard, how to prepare lesson plans, evaluate student learning outcomes, and manage vocational education programs.

The technical adviser, Shamsa Sadik, recommended me last year as Union Aid Abroad's local technical adviser and resource person. In this role I train other teachers and monitor their programs, and I keep all the Textiles & Design materials donated by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA at my Centre for loan to other teachers.

A Textiles & Design Teacher Training program was conducted in seven provincial centres and the capital, Phnom Penh. Union Aid Abroad worked with three partner organisations in Cambodia - Women in Development Centres (WIDCs), Provincial Training Centres and Cambodian Women for Peace and Development. Thirteen new teacher trainees participated in the teacher training program in the capital Phnom Penh, from May to September 2006. The training program was conducted by Union Aid Abroad technical adviser Shamsa Sadik and her local counterpart Kang Chantha.

All the women in the group are now considered to be trained teachers and are soon to be awarded certificates by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training.

You can appreciate the multiplier effect that training has when skills can be passed on. From June 2007 each trainee will be undertaking a 3-month practicum. The women will use their new skills back in their home areas, each trainee teaching a group of 10 local women. These women then have the opportunity to develop the same skills to generate income to improve their lives.



*Kang Chantha (right) with Shamsa Sadik (Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA's technical adviser) and another teacher trainee at the graduation ceremony from the basic and advanced Textiles & Design training program held in Phnom Penh in last year.*

Thank you for your continued donations as a Global Justice Partner to Union Aid Abroad's Women and Development projects.

We at Union Aid Abroad hope this report highlights some of the ways your contribution is making a difference to the people and communities with which we work.

Thank you.