

# INVESTMENT FOR LIFE

Progress Report | H2 2021

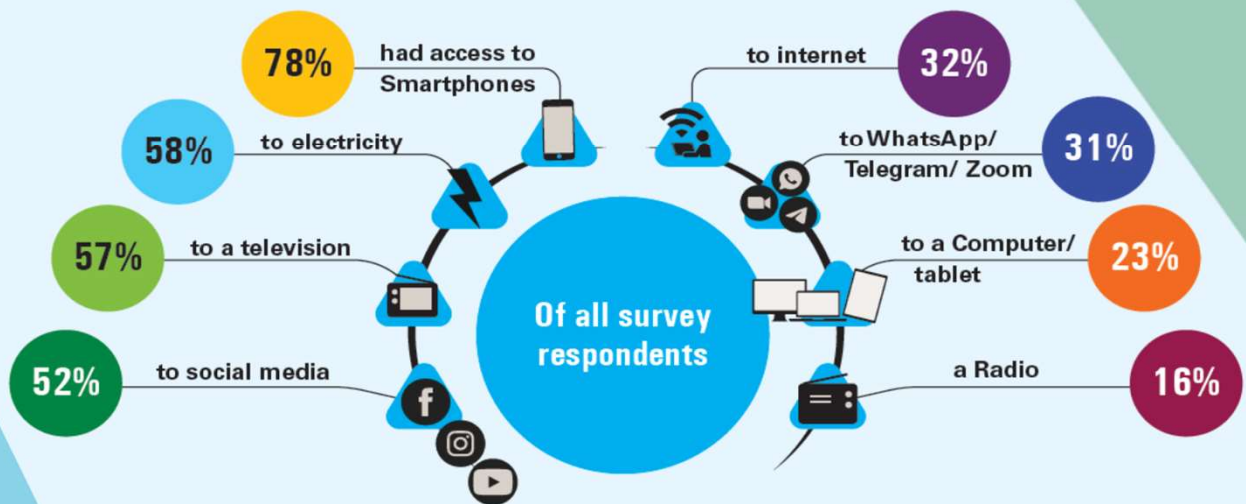


# OVERVIEW

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) took the difficult decision to close all education institutions, including public and private schools completely as a preventative measure against the spread of COVID-19 again in February 2021. The school closures resulted in disruption of learning in all of Cambodia's 13,482 schools, affecting 3.2 million students. In response, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), together with development partners and stakeholders, made significant efforts to provide continuous distance learning opportunities for all students in Cambodia. Helping children to learn at home online was particularly challenging, as most families don't own computers, and many parents have limited IT skills. However, Facebook is commonly used on smartphones even in rural households.

## Distance Learning During School Closures

### Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Infrastructure at home:



The preventative measure against the spread of COVID-19 of RGC has negatively and severely impacted the start of the project implementation of IFL in Cambodia, but it did not stop our project team from moving the project forward. We started the selection and assessment of new schools despite the limitation of having meetings and gatherings. We persuaded the Department of Education (DoE), School Management Committee (SMC), school principals and teachers to start implementation of the IT classrooms despite their schools being closed and their students doing online learning and studying. As soon as the schools would be re-opened, the computer classes would be ready for them to learn, practice and graduate. In the meantime, the project team worked very closely with the principals and teachers to ensure that IT literacy, soft and life skills were provided to the students online. The project team encouraged the principals and teachers to invite the online students for IT literacy, soft and life skills to come to the IT class in schools within the areas of less infection adhering to restrictions of the Ministry of Health including heat testing, social distance, putting on mask and spraying alcohol.

Cambodia among first countries to receive COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX facility approved by WHO. With the special effort of RGC, more and more doses arrived in the country every now and then through either donations and purchasing. With the success of vaccination, the RGC announced to re-open the schools on November 1, 2021, for grade 9 and 12 as the students had to be ready for their final exam. However, RGC announced to fully finish the lockdown strategy in December 2021 despite the new virus, Omicron, that is coming in the country through international flights.

Without any delay, the project team organized a consultative and planning workshop with the school principals and teachers from the four schools to refresh the understanding of the project agreement and discuss how we could help bring the online students of IT literacy, Soft and Life skills into the class for their final completion and graduation.



As result of the perseverance of the project team and the strong support of the school stakeholders, we have seen 525 students graduate, of which 160 graduated from both IT Literacy and Soft- and life skills. Due to strong cost control, limited travelling and graduation cost we will be able to add one more school to our program in Q1 2022. Moreover, we expect to start the entrepreneurship course that is currently being developed together with our donor Bluefield Finance.



# CHILDREN’S VOICES

The students experienced a challenging year during which they helped to install the computer rooms but were not able to attend the training. However, our project team together with the school teachers have been able to provide lessons on-line and the schools opened the computer rooms only to practice considering strict Covid restrictions. After the opening of the schools in December the project team and all stakeholders made an enormous effort to arrange for additional lessons, exams and graduations resulting in 667 certificates rewarded. The team has conducted a satisfaction survey, which received very positive feedback from many students.

**Sreyphuong** - 17-year-old 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Kampong Leav High School, Prey Veng



*“I am very delighted to attend the computer class provided to my school by Bethel Mission and IFL. It was my desire to learn computer skills, but I did not have any opportunity to do so. It is very important for me to learn the computer knowledge to respond to the social technology development, especially for my university. I love the course; it is a free training course. Even the disturbance from the pandemics since I started in 2019, but I tried to study online and my focus on my final exam from high school, but I gave my priority to the course as it the knowledge to build up my capacity.*

*The course did help me with ability to work after school. I would like to thank Bethel Mission and IFL to open this course for me and my friends. I would ask Bethel Mission and IFL to add more computers and give any opportunity of scholarship to Netherlands so that we help build up our human resources in the country.”*

**Sreyka** - 15-year-old 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Borset High School, Kampong Speu



*“I did not have any phone and computer to learn online when the school closed after a series of the pandemics. It was very difficult for me to get the documents from my teachers. I had never studied the computer. I did not to know anything about the computer and its benefit until the computer room for my school was opened. I am very excited I can study the computer. I like to learn computer because it is good for education and job opportunities. I found it easy to study online and research for information. It helps me for my Architecture study in the future.”*

*Sreyka added that “I need to learn to be strong, especially in physics and mathematics because it is a key for my architectural skills. I will do my best to my dream successful in the future. I would like to express my thanks to Bethel Mission and IFL to support my high School with the computer class”, told her impression in front the distinguished guests and more than a hundred of students in her school.*

**Dararaksmeay** - 16-year-old 10<sup>th</sup> grade student in graveyard slum community



*“I learned this computer for two months and changed me from a non-computer person. I learned about integrating text and being able to use Microsoft word 2016 well. Not finished yet, as I am learning more with Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel and internet in coming months.*

*Of course, this computer class does not only help me, but many other students lack professionalism and gives them the opportunity to learn and move the dreams towards. He expressed that “At the present time, knowledge and skills of computer are really important in learning and employment. I do thank Bethel Mission so much for having the computer class in my computer so that everyone could come and learn for free.*

“ Voeun Sokny - 18-year-old 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Sla Ku high school, Takeo



*She read her impression to the graduation ceremony: Today, I am very happy to express my interest after studying life skills with two big points; first, the skills of general communication, if we live in a society without communication with each other, the environment around us, we will live in loneliness without happiness. It is like the world is alone, but if we are in contact with those around us, we will get the attention, respect and love of the people around us.*

*For example, as in a classroom, if each student is not in contact, they will not be able to have peace, knowledge and communication between classmates as a whole. Second, communication in the field of work is necessary to use close communication with each other so that the work goes smoothly quickly. I would like to thank Bethel Mission so much for working with IFL to support my school so that many students could learn the course.”*

“ Try Vantan - 18-year-old 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Borset high school, Kampong Speu



*“It’s really nice to learn that soft and life skills. I gained a lot of knowledge, experience and skills from the course after studying for a short time. I realized the rules of setting goals and expectations and life plans clearly. I clearly understood that having the plan and purpose in life will help us to have a strong commitment to do what we want to do in the future. The course can also help with my further education and career in the future. I would like to thank Bethel Mission and IFL for their support in launching the Soft and Life skills in my school so that I could learn.”*



# PROJECT DASHBOARD



Select school: All schools

### Student Gender Distribution

210 Males trained	315 Females trained	40% Male/Female ratio
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### Asset (Maintenance)

70 Computers used at all schools	15 Computers undergone maintenance at all schools	16 Computers replaced at all schools
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### Student Age Distribution

17.6 Average Student Age	3 14-year-old students	16 15-year-old students
69 16-year-old students	167 17-year-old students	147 18-year-old students

### Student Enrolment Status

323 Students enrolled in IT-literacy training	323 Students finished the IT-literacy training	323 Students graduated from IT-literacy training
362 Students enrolled in Soft-and life skills training	362 Students finished the Soft-and life skills training	362 Students graduated from Soft-and life skills training

### Student Grade Distribution

1 Grade 10 students	138 Grade 11 Students	370 Grade 12 Students
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### Additional training

0 Students enrolled in Business skills training	0 Students finished the Business skills training	0 Students graduated from Business skills training
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### Number of cohorts

7  
Number of cohorts at all schools

### Teachers trained

14  
Teachers trained

### Student Satisfaction Rate

4.4  
Student Satisfaction Rate




### Visits per school




51  
Visits per school



## GOAL

To improve Cambodia youth’s capacity and provide them with opportunity to develop their potential in education and employment.

<p><b>Target</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b> high schools selected for IT Literacy and Skill for Life project.</p>	<p><b>2,160</b> Students enrolled in three years time</p>	<p><b>ToT</b> Set-up train-the-trainer program</p>	<p><b>3</b> computer locations in slumps available to all ages</p>	<p><b>120</b> Residents enable to follow program</p>
<p><b>Progress</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b> Computer rooms at four high schools fully operational where 14 trainers have completed the Train-the-Trainer (ToT) program. 15 computers in Prey Veng have received maintenance</p>	<p><b>1</b> Additional school will be selected and installed in Q1 2022</p>	<p><b>3</b> Slum locations (Boeung Chhouk, Boeung Trabek and Graveyard) have been installed.</p>	<p><b>525 students (315 girls)</b> enrolled and are receiving IT Literacy training both online and partially in classroom.</p>	<p><b>685 certificates</b> During graduation ceremony of which 323 IT literacy and 362 Soft- and Life skills</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> 	<p>Build sustainable infrastructure and program in close cooperation with the government and relevant NGOs. Important will be to train-the-trainers and support online learning to enable continuation beyond the 3 years support from IFL.</p>				

<p><b>Target</b></p> 	<p><b>2,160</b> Students complete IT Literacy program</p>	<p><b>1,080</b> Students complete Soft- and life skills and entrepreneurship program</p>	<p><b>85%</b> Students complete each course with certificate</p>
<p><b>Progress</b></p> 	<p><b>IT Literacy</b> Program has been further improved and made available online.  45%, 138 of 305 students of IT Literacy responded that they could share their knowledge and skill to other students after the class.</p> <p><b>100%</b> Of all students completed the course and received certificate. Many expressed enhanced career ambitions</p>	<p><b>Soft and life skills</b> Program has been developed with support of DDD and in close cooperation with the government.  50%, 181 of 362 students graduated from Soft and Life Skill replied that they could share their knowledge and skill to other students after the classes</p> <p><b>Satisfaction 4.4/5</b> After the graduation, the team performed a satisfaction survey that received a 4.4 score (out of 5)</p>	<p><b>Entrepreneurial skills</b> Bluefield Finance is developing the training in close cooperation with the local team.  The team expects the first pilot project to start in February</p> <p><b>Career</b> After graduation our team will track career development to monitor outcome</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> 	<p>Develop and teach program to develop their potential and enable students to achieve career opportunities and give back to their community.</p>		

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES

After the lock-down was ended, the project conducted a Consultative and Planning workshop with the four selected high schools with 17 participants including 3 school principals and 16 teachers, 1 female, of IT, Soft and Life Skills. The purpose of the workshop is to build relationship, consult about the plan and discuss on Soft and Life Skills curriculum. The workshop went well with active participation from all participants where they learned and reflected from one another by sharing experiences.

With his excitement, Mr. Bros, the principal of Slaku, school#3, expressed to the participants that “I am much delighted to have the IT, Soft and Life Skills project in my school. It is my best achievement in 2021. I am proud of having the project in my school which make our students happy and want to come and learn. I do hope my school will increase the number of the students for the new academic year because of the project.”



After the workshop, the participants committed to bring the students in classes and planned to graduate as many as they could select from their online students and the students who started since the early installment. Within the year, they committed to develop six courses of Soft and Life Skills where one school responsible for two courses. They will keep on reviewing, providing feedback and comments in the online group to further improve the success of the program. The project and the schools appreciated that IFL, Mr. Rikkert, was present online during the graduation of all four schools. It really motivated and encouraged the 667 students and other distinguished guests present during their Graduation Ceremony. All participants appreciated for the kind support from IFL to make the change in the lives of hundreds of the students in Cambodia. The students and distinguished guests were delighted and satisfied with the questions and answers from Mr. Rikkert. Within the event, the teachers and the students also asked IFL, Mr. Rikkert to add more computers into each school for the coming years based on the bigger need of IT Literacy in the schools.



# MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

The project worked in close partnership with the principals and teachers to monitor and follow up the progress after each installment despite the pandemic. The project team met and discussed about the plans the possibilities of opening the classes with 50% cut down or less in number of the students. The project learnt from the monitoring that the computer classes installed were beneficial for every school to use for the training to the teachers beyond teaching the students. Everyone was excited to have the project in their individual schools. In total the team has been able to conduct 51 visits.



In addition, the project team set up a network by IT, Soft and Life Skill so that the meeting, learning, reflection and support could be done both online and offline. More importantly, both principals, teachers and the project team learnt from one another about the project as it is very new and first time for the schools to implement such a project. From the monitoring and follow-up, the project team could see the positive changes made within the schools relevant to the program. The schools did not have clear roles and responsibility for IT, Soft and Life Skill. After the regular meeting, the principals assigned the specific roles and responsibility for the project even they were not sure what to do yet.

Mr. Sarin, the deputy school principal, school#4, told the project team, other principals and teachers during the Consultative Meeting and Planning workshop that “At first glance to the criteria and agreement, our school management committee decided not to accept the project because it would be too demanding that we thought we could not do it. Later on, we acknowledged that if Bethel Mission did not set the very strict agreement and plan the project would not be successful. Now, we appreciate the plan and support to make the project successful. Based on the good result, a few NGOs promised to add more computer lab into our school.”

Furthermore, the project observed both principals and teachers worked hard and are excited to achieve the first graduations as planned despite the Covid situation. As a result of their commitment, 667 high school students graduated making their schools the first in history of giving certificates to hundreds of student for the knowledge and skills of IT literacy, Soft and Life Skill.

The project would also like to appreciate the contribution of ACE, as Chean Toing (JC) led his team to provide motivating session to more than 100 students to be ready for their final high school exam and share the successful experience from the outstanding students of ACE. JC and his team encouraged the students in computer classes to keep on learning for their future goal. Beyond those classes, more than 100 graduated students received specific advice on their ambitions after their high school.



# ACTORS / STAKEHOLDERS

In total 44 stakeholders were involved to support the project from the four selected high schools including teachers, secretaries of the schools, school management committees, directors of department of education, school principals and deputies, commune and village chiefs. Everyone appreciated the project to support their schools that made the students see the goal in life and focus on learning more.



**“ Mr Vanna - School Principal, Sampov Poun High School, Kandal** .....  
*spoke to the more than two hundred student and distinguished guests during the Graduation Ceremony that “I would like to confess that we had very little experience at the beginning, but we thought that it was really important for the students if we had the project in our school so that we could help meet the needs of the students for their labor market with the necessity of IT program. Especially the students could pursue higher education and seek employment through the most advanced digital justice technology (4.0).” He added that “I really want to see the more successful result next year. I would again appreciate for the kind donation and support from Bethel Mission and IFL so that our school can have computers not only for the students, but also teachers.”*



**“ Mr Chheng - School Management, Sampov Poun High School, Kandal** .....  
*expressed to the graduates that “We are getting 2 diamonds, the first diamond is computer skills, because those who do not know computer are blind and they cannot fight within the job market, both domestic and foreign and the second diamond is soft and life skills., No matter how much you know the outside skills, there is no better way than the inside skills, so students must take two diamonds to improve their lives and move towards the goal in life. Thank you and be grateful for the team of Bethel Mission. We will grow faster if there are organizations like Bethel and IFL. And also thank IFL again for the love to the Cambodian people.”*

# FINANCIAL MATTERS



According to the monthly cash flow below the project received the total fund of \$53,860.43 and spent \$49,298.59 which results in a cash balance of \$4,561.48 to be carried forward to year 2022.

With the comparison of annual budget of \$54,927 to the actual expenses of \$49,298.59 it showed that the project underspent of \$5,628.41 that contributed from:

- IT literacy training: The underspending of \$3,876.06 resulted from delay of field trips during the pandemics, less number in graduation, and less cost from the installment of computer owing to the maximize the use of project team and not hiring external company.
- Soft- and Life skills training: The underspending of \$1,677.28 for Soft and Life Skills resulted from the delay of field trip during the pandemics.
- Staff benefit: The overspending of \$750 resulted from an end of year increase approved by IFL as sign of appreciation of the achieved results despite the challenging Covid situation
- M&E and financial audit: The underspending of \$962.36 resulted from delay of trips for BMO and ACE during the pandemics.

Together with IFL and Wilde Ganzen it has been decided to carry forward the underspending to add one more school to the current program in Q1 2022 to a get to a total of 5 schools. The additional budget in 2022 to set-up and run one additional school is \$6,378.41

## Monthly Cash Flow Report (\$)

Income sources		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Income from donor		17,207.53	23,782.00	\$-	12,870.90	53,860.43
Bank Interest Income						
Total income		17,207.53	23,782.00	\$-	12,870.90	53,860.43
Program expenses						
1.1	Project Assessment	696.52	637.82	753.71	-	2,088.05
1.2	IT Literacy Training – Purchase Computers	6,223.33	7,509.15	5,005.39	3,179.07	21,916.94
1.3	Soft-and Life Skills Training		1,000.00	242.20	3,067.52	4,309.72
1.4	Personnel	1,400.00	2,835.78	2,100.01	2,100.05	8,435.84
1.5	Staff Benefit	252.04	433.88	494.89	1,713.59	2,894.40
1.6	M&E and Financial Audit	17.21	323.78	300.00	1,600.65	2,241.64
1.7	Overhead Cost	2,273.00	2,268.00	1,757.00	1,114.00	7,412.00
Total expense		10,862.10	15,008.41	10,653.20	12,774.88	49,298.59
Net Cash Flow		6,345.43	8,773.59	(10,653.20)	96.02	4,561.84
Cash/Bank Balance forward		-	6,345.43	8,773.59	(10,653.20)	
Balance remaining		6,345.43	15,119.02	(1,879.61)	(10,557.18)	4,561.84

# LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE



The team had to work under challenging conditions, which has further increased their learning experience. Especially setting-up online training has been successful.

Bunlai- Project Coordinator, IT of Investment for Life Project, Bethel Mission



“It’s really great that I could work in a situation where everyone had their hard time in fighting Covid-19. We worked hard but worked together and we could cope with problems and got better results. So far, I have gained a lot of knowledge, skills and experience through the challenges, especially with the help of the management. I also have the ability to speak publicly during the meeting, the events, the workshops and lectures to the hundreds of the students. Furthermore, I got motivated from our team even the challenges faced during the course of the project. I felt very pleased to see the teachers and the students had better understanding, developed and benefited from the project.” He added “I would like to express my deep gratitude to IFL, especially Mr. Rikkert, who worked hard to raise the support and his dedication to help the youth in Cambodia with IT Literacy, Soft and Life Skills.”

Arun - Project Coordinator for Skills Training of IFL, Bethel Mission



“I would much appreciate for the great opportunity for me to learn and grow within the job even challenges of curriculum development with teachers during the pandemics. I gained knowledge and experience to share the Soft and Life Skills to the students and help them to improve their goal and capacity before moving to a college. I felt very privileged to meet the principals and teachers from different schools at the Consultative and Planning workshop and we were able to make plans for the trainings. It was also the great time that the participants could share their thought and commitment to build their individual schools with a better Soft and Life Skill for the students”

The project team had the regular weekly and monthly meeting to plan, reflect, learn and strategize regularly to make sure that the level of cooperation with schools and department of education made and met. In addition, the project team got motivated and encouraged from IFL, Rikkert on the regular basis to catch up the plan and progress. Furthermore, the team will work intensely with Bluefield Finance, a Dutch financial advisory firm and donor to the program, to further develop the entrepreneurship course in the coming quarter.

## ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cambodia is topping the list in Asia for the country with the highest percentage of fully-vaccinated individuals in its population. The country’s 16 million-plus population has seen around 82% receiving at least 2 doses of a Covid-19 vaccine since November 3, 2021, according to ourworldindata.org. Reuters Coronavirus Tracker, however, says Cambodia’s vaccination rate is even higher than that of ourworldindata.org. Reuters says Cambodia has actually fully-vaccinated 84.4% of its population. Now, as the Kingdom rolls out vaccines to children aged 3 and 4 in the near future, the government’s plan of having 91% of the country fully-inoculated against Covid-19, is well on its way to materializing.

Age	Vaccination % of target	Target	Percentage of total population (16 million people)
>18	101.46%	10 million adults	89.08%
12-17	99.08%	1,827,348 children	
06-11	105.15%	1,897,382 children	
5	99.02%	304,317 children	

Cambodia among first countries to receive COVID-19 vaccines from COVAX Facility confirmed by WHO. With the special effort of RGC, more and more doses arrived in the country every now and then through either donations and purchasing. With the success of vaccination, the RGC announced to re-open the schools on November 1, 2021, for grade 9 and 12 as the students had to be ready for their final exam. However, RGC announced to fully finish the lockdown strategy in December 2021 even with the new virus, Omicron, coming in the country through international flights.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## 1. Kampong Leav High School, School#1



Discussing about Soft and Life Skills.



Checking and repairing the non-functioned computers with school management.



Soft and Life Skills training conducted to than 100 students to orient and discuss about the “Time Management” in life, school and work.



Everyone is very happy to receive their first certificate from the school this year. Mr. Bun, principal, said he is delighted to see this.



## 2. Borset High School, Kampong Speu, School#2



Meeting and discussion about target and plan.



The computer class used to design online teaching.



Soft and Life Skills training to students.



IT Literacy in class learning from the teacher and the students started to help one another and shared their knowledge.



The graduation of IT literacy, Soft and Life skills was chaired by Mr. Hach, the deputy director of the department of education with more than 100 students attended. He expressed that “I feel happy to see the progress our partnership and the result today proved it. There are very few high schools that can graduate the students in Cambodia. I much appreciate the strong support from Bethel Mission, JC and IFL, Mr. Rikkert and the whole team and our principal and teachers for making this opportunity possible for the students.”



The students came and impressed their exciting feeling to receive the certificates before their leaving their high school. They are delighted.

### 3. Sla Ku High School, Takeo, School#3



Group discussion about their Soft and Life skill. The students came in small group during the pandemics and monitored by the principal for their progress. Mr. Bros, the principal is very excited to have computer class and always comes and talks to the students about their learning.



Every graduation ceremony was motivated and encouraged by IFL, Mr. Rikkert for their cooperation to make the events happened even the pandemics. The students and teachers were able to ask the questions during the event and they got the satisfied answers and inspired.



Mr. Yong, the deputy director of the department of education received the gift from Mr. Rikkert during the graduation before he took the group photo with the outstanding students for IT, Soft and Life skills.



Both the distinguished guests and students are very delighted and excited with the event as Mr. Bros said “It is my luckiest year from the last 25 years that my school has never been supported like this. It gives me a good credit in helping develop the human resources in my school.

**4- Sampov Poun High school, School#4**



After the installment completed, the handover celebration of the new start of the computer class is performed within Sampov Poun high school.



The project team discussed the curriculum of IT literacy, Soft and Life skills with school before the teacher started teaching to the students.



239 students graduated including 96 students for IT literacy and 143 students for Soft and Life Skill. There were many questions from the students about the scholarship in Netherlands and with great encouragement from Mr. Rikkert and School Management Committee.



# PLANS FOR NEXT 6 MONTHS

The project team has the following plans:

- Continue working with the principals and teachers to execute the plan according to the project agreement with the schools and department of education.
- Select Slaku high school to apply the new entrepreneurship course as a pilot project after the course will be finalized together with Bluefield Finance.
- Select and implement one additional school
- Write a proposal to IFL to expand the current project with more high schools within the next three years and to extent the project to provide support to their future educational and working career.



# Contact



## Investment For Life Foundation

Straatweg 216  
3621 BZ Breukelen  
The Netherlands

Rikkert Beerekamp (project owner)  
+31646610264  
[r.r.beerekamp@gmail.com](mailto:r.r.beerekamp@gmail.com)  
[www.investmentforlife.org](http://www.investmentforlife.org)



## Bethel Mission Organisation

#3B, Road 44 BT, Sangkat Boeng  
Tumpun 2, Khan Meanchey, Phnom  
Penh, Cambodia

Sirivuth Ann (project manager)  
(855) 12 530085  
[sirivuth\\_ann@bethelgraceministry.org](mailto:sirivuth_ann@bethelgraceministry.org)  
[www.bethelgraceministry.org](http://www.bethelgraceministry.org)

