

INVESTMENT FOR LIFE

Progress Report | H1 2022



OVERVIEW

Unicef has recently assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the learning capabilities of youth in emerging countries on several skill dimensions: Secondary level, Transferable, Digital, Job-specific and Entrepreneurial. In general, COVID-19 has disrupted education on all dimensions and increased the inequality as on-line teaching is only available to a limited group of privileged children. Cambodia scores low on all dimensions, which provides further substantiation for the existence of our program that supports the dimensions of Digital=IT, Transferable=Soft- and Life skills and Entrepreneurial=Business skills. Moreover, our IT class rooms have played an important role in providing on-line teaching ability to the schools and improved the digital skills of the teachers.

Despite COVID-19 our team has been able to fully execute the envisaged program and conduct the first graduation ceremony end of 2021. In 2022 the team added one additional school from the budget surplus carried forward from 2021 and additionally set-up a maintenance program, developed a business skills course together with Bluefield and designed a parent engagement program.

The additional school was selected out of a pre-selection of three schools in cooperation with the Department of Education (DoE) in Kampot province. It was great that the new opening of the new location was chaired by the district governor and our special guest, Mr. Rikkert Beerekamp, the founder of IFL. The principal, the teachers, community representatives and more than 100 students present were excited to get such a great program in their school and they expect to improve their capacity for their further education and employment. Everyone took photos and started using the computers as soon as the opening ended.



OPENING AND HANDING OVER CEREMONY
IT LITERACY, SOFT AND LIFE SKILLS 2022-2025

BORIVAS HIGH SCHOOL, KAMPOT
MARCH 28, 2022

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The program now contains 5 school- and 3 slum locations with 85 computers. All locations are monitored on a frequent basis to maintain high quality education. After lifting of the lock-down in March this year the program is running at full capacity and is even exceeding the target number of students to enrol. In June 884 students graduated in either IT and/or Soft & Life skills, which has received great excitement from all stakeholders: students, teachers, principals, community leaders, government officials and parents.

There were more than 20 parents participating and observing the graduation. The parents smiled and were excited to see their children come up one by one to receive the certificates. Mr. Khom told that “It is my first time to be invited and joined. I am moved to see the strong encouragement from the graduation. It helps me to be confident that my children are much cared at school. I am pleased to see my daughter receive certificate.”

Mr. Bros, the principal of Slaku high school said that “All the caregivers who came here saw the achievements in implementing the project with computer, soft and life skills. This is just the first step in learning, but I would encourage you to continue and help your children to apply in their daily life.” He also added that “All the caregivers should continue to encourage your children to finish college after high school.”



Despite the success of our program, it also became apparent during the recent visit of our donor, that there is still a significant gap from high school graduation towards a meaningful job, especially when moving from the province to Phnom Penh. There are many challenges in finding secure/shared housing and part-time job, financial and time planning, selection of relevant courses, preparing for job search, many other. These challenges are unknown even to the most ambitious students, which results in very high dropout rate during their studies and even after completion. Our team is already engaging with the parents on a frequent basis to make them aware of the potential pitfalls. In the future we are planning to bridge this gap by setting up a career development center to coach the students until they find a meaningful job. These plans will be presented to our donors in the second half of 2022.

CHILDREN'S VOICES

Now that our program is fully operational, we see the incredible impact our project is making at scale. To date we have provided training to 1,409 students, of which 884 in June 2022. In numbers we are overachieving our ambition of 2,106 in three years. However, our impact goes beyond the numbers, as you can read in the children's testimonies. Our decision to combine IT and Soft&Life skills turned out to be a crucial factor. It remains astonishing how our small investment increases the confidence and expands the horizon of these students.

“ Tang Kim - 17-year-old 12th grade student at Sampov Poun



“I feel very confident to tell you about my experience of the Soft and Life Skills class. Before I took this course, I was a girl who lacked courage and was not very creative. I did not dare to make decisions and did not know myself well. I did not learn and expand my knowledge. I became less confident and not open for new experiences. I could not set a clear goal in life and even wanted to give up my dream. Moreover, I was not very good at communicating and exchanging ideas with others. I did not understand the value of a career because I used to live comfortably provided by my parents. But since I took the courses of Soft and Life Skills, I have noticed my significant increase in knowledge. I have discovered my strengths and weaknesses and also recognized my existing knowledge, passion and abilities. In addition, Soft and Life Skills lessons have given me and my friends a better understanding of how to live in an external social environment by interacting with people around us with honesty, valuable friendships and teamwork.”

“ Siev Chen - 16-year-old 11th grade student at Borset High School, Kampong Speu



I am very happy to receive the certificate today. I would like to thank to the donor and Bethel Mission who brought this course in my school. I had never learned about computer before, but I am excited that I could study it in my school. I can use Ms Word, Ms Excel, Ms Power Point, Email and Internet. I love computer as it is good for me to go to university and work in the future. Now, I am able to help my friends with the computer knowledge. I am really pleased to learn and develop my skills.

“ Youhour - 18-year-old 12th grade student at Slaku High School



He is the class leader and one of the outstanding students of the near 100 students who received both certificates of IT Literacy, Soft and Life Skills, said “I am very happy that I am able to receive both certificates of computer and life skills at the same time. It is amazing for me to see the results of my studies.” Youhour presented his certificates to his parents and his mother, Chenda, 56, said “I am very happy that you are always doing good at study. I want to see you succeed in the future.” His father, Yuan, 58, added “You have good certificates today, but you have to keep trying to get better results.” Many students also praised Youhour for his hard work even the principal said that “Youhour is a smart student and works hard to his study. I know Youhour wants to be a good businessman that is why he needs to learn more skills.”

Kadaka - 16-year-old 12th grade student at Kampong Leav High School



“My classmates and I learned Time Management, Goal and Expectation, Identity and Background and SWOT lessons. All it made us know ourselves better, know our strengths and weaknesses, know our mistakes and more that we have learned.”

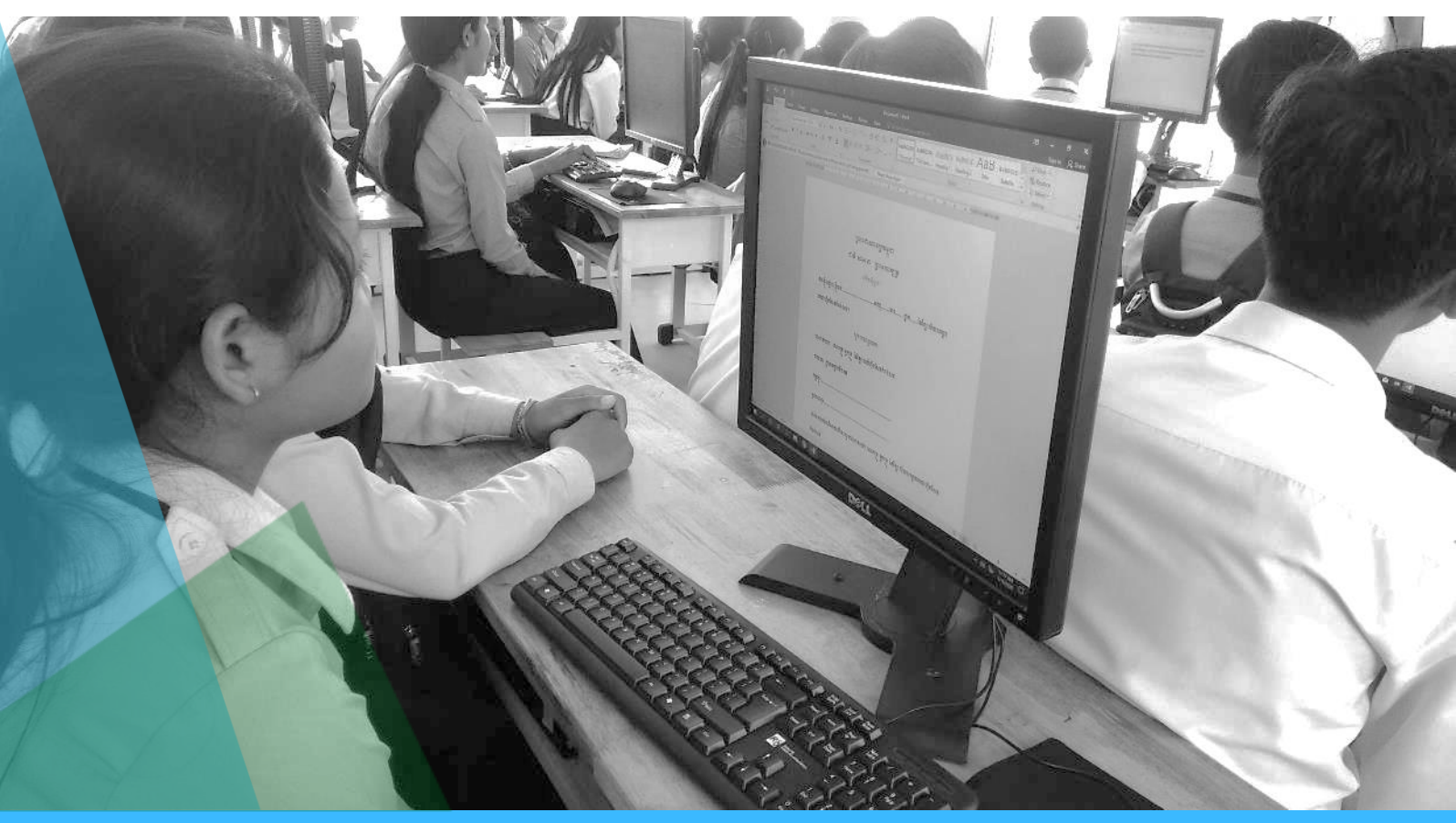
He asked for more support to his school that “I would like Bethel Mission (BMO) and Investment For Life (IFL) to continue to support my school because the next generation still needs more Soft and Life Skills to use it more widely.”

Mrs. Ratana, the teacher of Soft and Life Skills, said “Kakada has changed a lot of his mindset after he learned many lessons of Soft and Life Skills.”

Chantea - 14-year-old 10th grade student at Graveyard slum



She said “I attend computer class at graveyard. I had never learned computer before. I only learn the theory from school. I can practice and use the computer. It is good for my research and work on assignments with the computer. I appreciate my teacher who patiently and carefully teach me and my friend with strict regulation. My friend and I made the very special efforts to learn from typing to Ms Word, Ms Excell, Ms Power Point, Internet and creating email. I would like thank Bethel Mission and the donor who provided the computer courses for us.”



PROJECT DASHBOARD

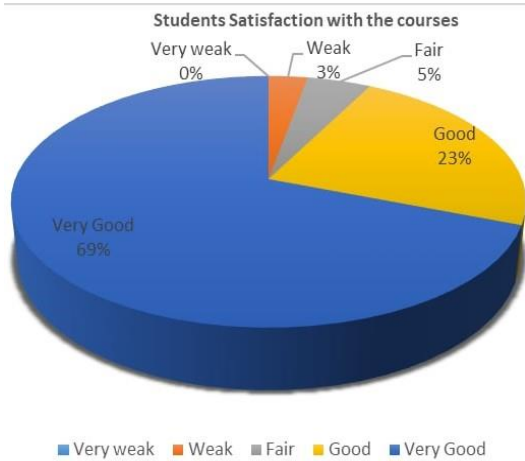


On all KPIs the project scores exceed or meet expectations. As a result of proper cost control we have been able to add one school to our program which will also help to exceed our original expectations. We are already at 65% of our target of 2,160 with only 50% of the number of cohorts, which is the result of more students in each cohort. Also worthwhile to mention is that we trained already 31 teachers, which is important for the sustainability of the program. Our team works hard to maintain our success and high standards as they have already conducted 98 visits, which includes the train-the-trainer program and graduations.

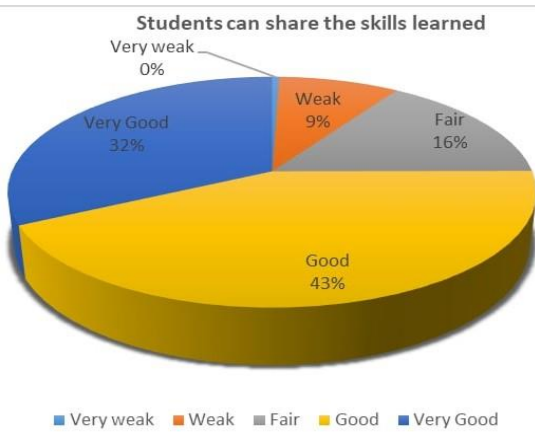
Select school:		All schools					
Overall KPIs							
5/4 125% Number of Schools	3/3 100% Number of Slums	1409 / 2160 65% Number of students	\$70,5K / \$133K 53% Total Income	\$69,2K / \$118,5K 58% Total Expenses	\$69.2K / \$78.1K 88% Expenses vs Budget to Date		
School KPIs							
Student Gender Distribution			Computers				
583 Males trained	826 Females Trained	59% Female/Male Ratio	85 # installed at All schools	9 # maintained at All schools	0 # replaced at All schools		
Student Age Distribution			Student Enrolment Status				
17,4 Average Student Age	7 14 Year	43 15 Year	793 # enrolled in IT-literacy training	793 # finished IT-literacy training	793 # graduated from IT-literacy training		
262 16 Year	490 17 Year	374 18 Year	925 # enrolled in Soft-and life skills training	925 # finished Soft-and life skills training	925 # graduated from Soft-and life skills training		
Student Grade Distribution			Additional Training				
11 Grade 10	426 Grade 11	956 Grade 12	0 # enrolled in Business skills training	0 # finished Business skills training	0 # graduated from Business skills training		
Number of cohorts		Teachers Trained		Student Satisfaction Rate		Monitoring	
13 Number of cohorts at All schools		31 Teachers Trained		4,6 Student Satisfaction Rate		98 # of visits All schools	

PROJECT SURVEY

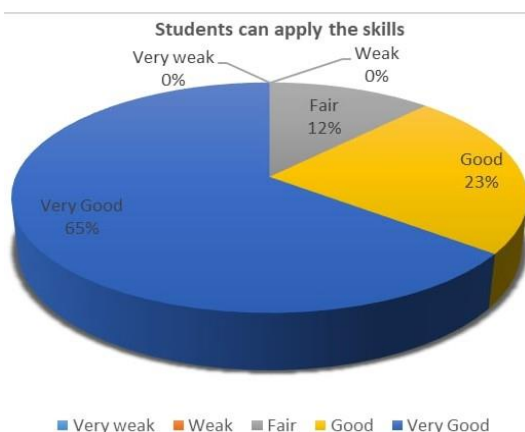
Our team also cooperated with the school teachers to monitor the results of the students after the courses. The schools appreciated the quality training from the teachers and the participation from the students in the project. A survey has been conducted to which 377 students responded. 97% of the students were satisfied with the project. They appreciated the classes of IT Literacy, Soft and Life Skills, as it was the first time in their life to use a computer and study these skills.



Furthermore, 91% were able to share their knowledge and skills to other students after the training. During a quarterly visit, the team noticed that Kimheng, a boy student from Sampov Poun high school, took the lead and shared his knowledge with his friends in the class.



The students were excited to receive the training IT Literacy, Soft and Life Skills to support the dreams for their future. They worked hard and focused. According to the survey 88% of the students claimed with strong confidence that they could apply the trained skills.

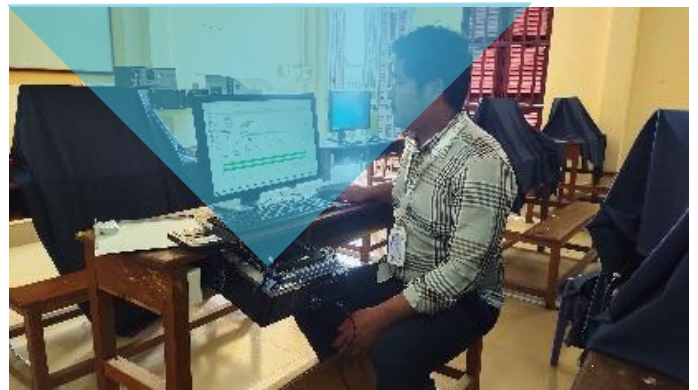


MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

The project team conducted the regular monitor and follow up to the schools to ensure that schoolteachers have their teaching and learning schedule available, lessons prepared and give the final test and learning evaluation to the students. As result of the close follow-up, the team also has good data on hand including the number of students enrolled, student information, especially the results after the exam. The team also responded to the maintenance in time, some computers found errors and needed upgrading and maintaining.

According to our KPI dashboard, the team conducted 47 visits from the assessment, monitoring and follow up to the graduation in 2022. The monitoring and follow up helps the team to build a strong relationship with the teachers and principals.

By working together, the school teachers gained more capacity and accountability to their own IT Literacy, Soft and Life skills. They are committed more to their job for the benefit of the students



ACTORS / STAKEHOLDERS

In total 84 stakeholders have been involved to support the project including teachers, secretaries of the schools, school management committees, directors of department of education (DoE), school principals and deputies, parents, and 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. Especially the engagement of the parents will be crucial for the future success of these students.



“ Mr Sothy – Director of DoE, Prey Veng

“I would like to give my high appreciation for the strong support to Kampong Leav high school since 2019.” Upon hearing about the new initiative to support the graduates from high school, Mr. Sothy told that “the government has hundreds of scholarship every year, but it does not meet the need of the thousands of the students. It will be great if the project can add on what the government is doing.” The project started working with Mr. Sothy since he was the deputy director of the DoE in the province in 2019.



“ Mr Tharin – Director of DoE, Kampong Speu

“I hope the project will expand the support to other high schools within the province which we need for the students in the digital era.” During the fellowship meeting, Mr. Tharin also said that “There are 25 high schools within the province, only a few high schools have the computers, but have never had good curriculum, monitor, follow-up and graduation like Borset supported by the project. I would request the project to help more schools in my province. I am very positive that other high schools will be supported by the project in the coming years.”



“ Mr Virith – Director of DoE, Takeo

“I would like to profoundly thank the donor for such a great support to our Slaku high school. We do not have any NGO supporting such a project” Mr. Virith worked very close to monitor and follow up with the school principal to ensure the project was implemented according to the plan as agreed with the project team.



“ Mr Sam Ol – Director of DoE, Kandal

“It is the right start for the project to support IT as this will boost our students to learn technology in the digital era.” Mr. Sam Ol thanked the donor and project team for the technical and financial help to set up the lab for the benefits of the students to study.” Mr. Sam Ol shared that “The government is decentralizing the schools to be under the management and support by the community where this will be more sustainable than depending on money from the ministry and department.” This is much aligned to the new project initiative to the caregiver engagement.



Mr Hab – Director of DoE, Kampot

“I am very happy to get support from the NGO in my province. I strongly welcome and support the presence of the project to my school. There are 26 high schools in my province, but only a few school where the students can access to the computer. However, the schools do not have any clear plan to graduation. This is good for us to have the project.” Mr. Hab also asked the project to help to other schools to go with the good curriculum, technical support and graduation.



Ms Chanty – female teacher Soft & Like skills, Sampov High

“I am new to the topic even though I taught the students in grade 12 since 2007. I am happy to receive the training of the trainer from the project before I can teach my students.” During the graduation, Mrs. Chanty told that “I am very honoured and excited that I can join and speak at the closing ceremony. I would give more advice to the graduates that they must be thoughtful, creative, communicative, good at decision-making, self-respecting and self-confident, no matter what the circumstances.” She encouraged the students that “Be honest people, know how to struggle in life and set clear goals. I hope that you all will use this skill as capital in their life journey to overcome the difficulties in order to have a happy life



Mr Bunjam – IT Teacher, Sampov High

“This is the great opportunity for me to work in partnership with IFL and implement the project to help the students in my school. It is really hard for me to work because I am still studying, but the good thing for me is I have a chance to train the students and received more experiences from my teaching and some technical support from the project.”



Mr Sokhom – Father of graduate, Slaku High

“I am excited to see my daughter receive the certificate. I am happy that my child has a clear skill in life. I would thank the donor that kindly supported to the school. The project does not only help my daughter, but many students in Cambodia. I do hope the donor will continue to partner with the school so that more and more students will be impacted.”



Mr Mon – Principal, Slaku High

“I am happy to get fully supported by the team. This is the second year. With the help, hundreds of my students received the certificates and everyone is excited. The computer class does not support the students, but also my teachers. They learned and improved their skills in IT.”

FINANCIAL MATTERS



According to the monthly cash flow the project started with a surplus of USD4,561.84 from year 2021 and received income in April 2022 of USD7,798.32 and in May 2022 of USD8,863.41. The total cash in amounted to USD21,223.57 as of June 2022. From January to June 2022 the project spent a total amount of USD19,905.62, which results in a cash balance of USD1,317.95 in line with the agreed budget.

There are no specific observations on the individual cost items.

Income sources	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Income carried forward 2021	4,561.84				4,561.84
Income from donor		16,661.73			16,661.73
Total income	4,561.84	16,661.73			21,223.57
Program expenses					
1.1 Project Assessment	443,64				443,64
1.2 IT Literacy Training – Purchase Computers	5,514.98	1,292.36			6,807.34
1.3 Soft-and Life Skills Training	409,68	1,370.60			1,780.88
1.4 Personnel	1,466.77	2,246.74			4,413.48
1.5 Staff Benefit	125.16	1,290.24			1,415.40
1.6 M&E and Financial Audit	1,614.02	576.77			2,190.79
1.7 Overhead Cost	1,659.90	1,194.19			2,854.09
Total expense	11,934.72	7,970.90			19,905.62
Net Cash Flow	(7,372.88)	8,690.93			
Cash/Bank Balance forward	-	(7,372.88)			
Balance remaining	(7,372.88)	1,317.95			

LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

The project received strong appreciation from the teachers and the students as well as the community people as they have never received such a great support. Every student was excited with their certificates after their hard work on training. The project is strongly supported by the DoE and school principals to ensure the project agreement is implemented according to plan.

Furthermore, the project team keeps reflecting on the designed approaches in order to ensure continued strong support and active involvement from the schools. The project team and the schoolteachers learned from one another during the project implementation.

In addition, the project worked to design a parent and student engagement approach so that the graduates are able to participate and benefit from the Career Development Centre, the new initiative of expanding the base.

The capacity building is focused on developing the knowledge and skills of the project team. The project sought both free and fee training courses for the team to be equipped toward to improve the project implementation. From the last six months, the project joined some training with relevant NGOs and government:

- Safety of using internet in Cambodia
- Orientation on Local fund raising by API, Change the Game
- Tax Obligation Training by the government
- Financial Report Training by the government

“ Bunlai – Project Coordinator IT, IFL



“I learnt and experienced from the successful project implementation that the project was developed based on a strategic approach and plan to make it the standardized project from the assessment, ToT training to schoolteachers, students' enrolment, training to the students, monitoring and follow up, coaching, final exam and graduation. I also experienced that the project has the strong relationship and support from the school including the computer classes setup. Both the teachers and students actively participated and collaborated to the instalment. This showed the strong partnership between the school and the team.”

“ Arun – Project Coordinator Skills Training, IFL



“the work helped me grow my capacity in working with the schools. I always join in team meetings and reflections to ensure that the project progresses according to plan. I usually receive direction and orientation in order to work with school principals and schoolteachers. I faced challenges, but I can continuously improve with the help from the team. I have improved my positive attitude, behaviour and mindset during the project. I am inspired to work with students. Through the project I also have learnt about school management, where different schools have different types of management. One of the most powerful leaders is Mr. Bun, the school principal of Kampong Leav High School who I think is role model for my future too”

Business Skills Course

Together with Bluefield, a Dutch financial consultancy firm and donor, the team has developed a business skill course with the purpose to provide our students with an understanding of how a business works and provide them with business skills to work in a business (e.g. team work, presentation skill, business case). The program has been fully designed and will now be tested during a first pilot project at one of the schools.

Flyer used to promote the business skills course to the schools:

Investment for Life Business Skills course

“Learn, improve and build professional skills as a preparation for students’ future career. This is an investment for life.”



We like to inspire you to pursue a career within a company or start a company yourself. With this course, we provide you with an understanding of **how a business works** and provide you with **business skills** to work in a business.

Lesson	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
Topic	Introduction + Business Model Canvas	Company structure	Marketing strategy & sales	Finance	Recap	Final assignment & ceremony
Skills	Teamwork skills	Personal Development	Presentation skills	Business Case Skills	Test of knowledge	Test of all skills

The **purpose** of the course is to show you:

- Why entrepreneurship is important
- The business cycle and the elements that are the main drivers behind a business
- Organizational structures, important skills and career opportunities
- Practice IT- and presentation skills

Students that pass this course will be rewarded with a well-deserved Bluefield certificate of participation.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Visit donor

The project hosted the visitation from Mr. Rikkert Beerekamp, the founder of IFL, to all 5 schools that got supported both IT literacy, Soft and Life Skills. It was the great moment for the school principals, teachers and students to receive the foreign donor to their school. Both donor and the schools built close and strong relationship. They had good fellowship during their meeting. The visit was warmly welcomed by the governor.



COVID-19

Cambodia has one of the highest vaccination rates in Southeast Asia with 15 million vaccinated against COVID-19 so far out of a total population of 16 million or 94%. "We vaccinate people not only to save lives but to save the economy and society. Reopening of the economy and society is necessary," Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the launch of the programme. As a result there have been limited cases to date:

- Confirmed: 136,296
- Infected: 136,262
- Deaths: 3,056

The government is encouraging people to receive the next doses, #4 and #5, every day. The lockdown was entirely lifted in March 2022 to all government, private sectors and restrictions at the airport.



PLANS FOR NEXT 6 MONTHS

The project team has the following plans:

- Implement Parent and Student Engagement Approach
- Launch household visit with parents by villages to prepare for the advanced education
- Cohort 2 Graduation preparation: Enrollment, Attendance, Timeline, Topics/Sections IT literacy, Soft and Life Skills
- Start Business Skill Course to 30 students in a school as a pilot before role out to all schools
- Start preparing set-up of career development center



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