PEPY Dream Management Project
Empowering Cambodian youth to pursue their dreams
Overview

Established in 2004, PEPY (Protect the Earth, Protect Yourself) was originally created to raise money for educational programmes in Cambodia, which led to the building of a new school. When it became clear that a lack of teachers was keeping students from attending the new school, PEPY shifted their focus to investing in Cambodia’s youth. PEPY created the Dream Management Project in 2012 to enhance employment capabilities of high school graduates.

There are currently no career preparatory programmes or guidance sessions available to high school students in the majority of Cambodian schools. Students have limited or no access to information about the job market and are unaware of many career paths that might interest them. As a result, students are ill-informed of which direction to take at the completion of high school and remain under-skilled and unprepared for the labour market. In addition, many high school graduates are unable to consider higher education due to financial constraints and parents are uninterested in advancing their children's education.

The Dream Management Project seeks to address this issue by hosting weekly guidance sessions, networking events, exposure visits, and job fairs, and by developing relationships with parents to raise awareness of the value of education.
How It Works

With the programme operating annually from early September to August the following year, PEPY aims to provide students in grades 10 - 12 with educational activities to help them shape their identities, investigate career paths, and broaden their limited career prospects. The programme is run in Siem Reap at Kralanh High School, Sen Sok High School, and 28 Makara High School. The activities include:

• Weekly group workshop sessions with a focus on soft skills such as problem-solving, communication, and confidence building. Sessions for grade 12 students include topics closely related to future employment. The sessions are led in a participatory fashion and use active learning methods. Students are encouraged to discuss session topics in groups and present the group’s ideas to the class. These sessions provide students with a forum to identify and discuss their ambitions for the future, and any challenges they may need to overcome. The sessions last for two hours per week.

• Exposure trips to Siem Reap are organized to allow students to experience life outside their classrooms and home area and visit vocational training schools and universities.
How It Works

- Interactive seminars and workshops where guest speakers, usually successful Cambodian professionals, are invited to share with the students their career experiences and inspirational stories of successes in school, work, and life.

- Career fairs with the participation of various companies, NGOs, universities, and vocational training schools, which are particularly beneficial for grade 12 students. The fairs serve as opportunities for students to collect information on new career paths, job opportunities, and how to fulfill skill requirements, and to network with potential employers.

PEPY also builds relationships with parents to encourage them to invest more time or resources towards their children’s education. Regular home visits are conducted, during which student performance is shared. Parents are assisted in determining the emotional needs of their children and are motivated to be more participative in their children's progress.
Beneficiaries

Cambodian high school students in grades 10-12 with a strong motivation to advance their employment capabilities who are interested in registering, and members of their families, who stand to benefit from income generated through future employment of the students. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Dream Management Project had 454 students registered in the program.

Objectives

- Assist high school students to pursue their dreams by developing self-confidence
- Provide high school students with information needed to explore higher education and career opportunities
- Increase the percentage of students that continue to higher education
- Lower the school dropout rate to less than 10% per year
- Increase parent participation in their children’s school activities.
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall costs is approx. **USD 50,000** for academic year 2019-2020 across the 3 target schools.

Transfers from Child’s Dream to PEPY are made in four instalments (quarterly) during the financial year.

Monitoring & Reporting

Payment is proceeded quarterly at reception of narrative and photo reports as well as monthly financial reports. Feedback is also obtained directly during regular visits by our local team.

We report to donor(s) on a semester basis. Donor visits can be easily organised.