



PEPY Learning Centre Programme

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR RURAL YOUTH TO SUCCEED

OVERVIEW – THE SITUATION

Siem Reap, despite being a major tourist hub in Cambodia, is still one of the poorest provinces in the country. Most families depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and wages are increasingly insufficient. Consequently, children are often needed to support their parents with farming work, and as a result, children are frequently kept home from school. Also, difficulties producing adequate incomes leads to high numbers of high school dropouts and graduates illegally migrating to Thailand, where wages for jobs, such as those in unskilled construction labour, are higher than in their own communities. In these jobs, Cambodian youth are frequently exposed to high risks and exploitation, especially as they are usually undocumented. Moreover, there is a lack of understanding in rural areas about the value of education; many parents do not see the long-term benefits of education and instead focus on dangerous short-term gains brought through immediate income sources.

While the Cambodian government has shifted efforts to support tertiary education and recognise the need for developing a skilled labour force as a key priority for Cambodia, employers' standards are still not being met. A survey conducted by the National Employment Agency in 2017 found that there was a chronic skills shortage among high school and university graduates in English language, technology, and soft skills.

OVERVIEW – PEPY LEARNING CENTRE PROGRAMME

Established in 2004, PEPY (Protect the Earth, Protect Yourself) Empowering Youth is a non-profit organisation providing personal and professional skills development training to young people from rural areas in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. PEPY focuses their efforts on communities that need to increase the number of young people moving onto higher education and accessing skilled employment.

Many young people from rural communities struggle to secure a skilled job due to the lack of exposure and opportunities to gain competitive skills. To address this issue, the Learning Centre Programme was launched in 2013 to serve as a career preparatory training centre for approximately 60 young people a year (comprised of PEPY university scholarship and non-scholarship students) focused on English language, Information and communications technology (ICT), youth empowerment and soft skills development.

59

STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM THE
LEARNING CENTRE PROGRAMME
IN 2022



30% OF THOSE STUDENTS WERE
ABLE TO OBTAIN SKILLED
EMPLOYMENT WITHIN 2 WEEKS
AFTER GRADUATION

Upon graduation from the Learning Centre Programme, students are equipped with necessary skills for their community engagement and career development. The programme also facilitates mentorship and networking opportunities that enable young people to become future leaders and change makers, collectively uplifting rural communities and inspiring other students in their pursuit of higher education and a skilled career.

HOW IT WORKS

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Participants of PEPY Learning Centre Programme attend classes from Monday to Friday, and take part in various extracurricular activities and field trips.

- > Classes focus on English language, information and communications technology, youth empowerment and soft skills
- > Job preparation sessions (CV, and cover letter writing, interview tips)
- > Sharing talks from guests, speakers, trainers, and volunteers on their experiences, professional successes and challenges
- > Skills fairs where students can connect with potential employers and learn about available job opportunities
- > Exchange programmes, and internships and volunteering opportunity referrals for students to gain work experience and develop confidence
- > Youth civic engagement projects implemented by the students to address challenges faced by their communities and facilitate initiatives to resolve them
- > Counselling for students who need to improve their academic performances

OBJECTIVES

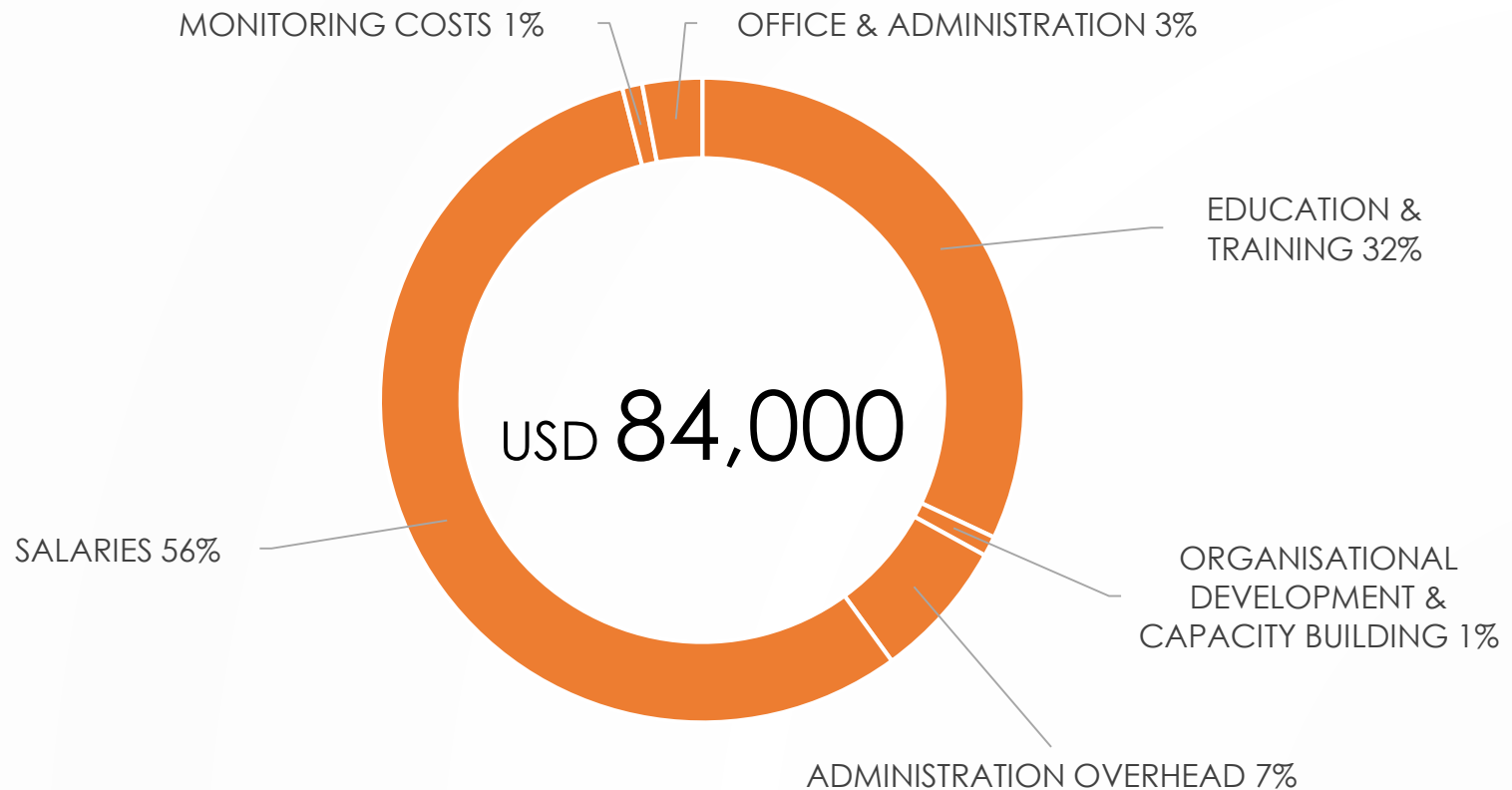
- > To increase soft skills competency and enhance students' capacity to compete in local and global labour markets, obtain skilled employment and pursue advanced studies
- > To empower students to realise their own personal strengths, weaknesses, and take actions to reach their full potential
- > To facilitate youth driven community development projects in rural communities
- > To build and strengthen youth collaboration and networking between one another through exposure to community work and exchange activities

BENEFICIARIES

- > Participants of PEPY Scholarship Programme, students who take the national exam in grade 12 or students in their first year of university/institute in Siem Reap, Cambodia with a strong commitment to the programme
- > Young people in the communities who attend and benefit from workshops and panels facilitated by the Learning Centre Programme

BUDGET

The annual budget from January to December 2023 to operate this programme is **USD 84,000**. Transfers from Child's Dream are made in four quarterly instalments during the financial year.



MONITORING AND REPORTING



We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports.



Feedback is collected directly during regular site visits by our local team.



Visits can easily be arranged throughout the year.



We report to donors on a semester basis.



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