



PEPY Dream Management Programme

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR RURAL YOUTH TO SUCCEED

OVERVIEW – THE SITUATION

Siem Reap, despite being a major tourist hub in Cambodia, remains 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 risk of exploitation, especially if they are 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) 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. 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 labor market.

To address this issue, the PEPY Dream Management Programme was established to provide valuable skillsets useful to career and educational development such as: English language learning, information and communications technology skills (ICT), youth empowerment, and soft skill development. This will ensure graduated Dream Management students have the necessary skills to be employed into well-paying and skilled employment or to enroll in University or vocational training in order to access decent work in the future.

1,505

STUDENTS SUPPORTED FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2023-2024



STUDENTS FROM TWELVE
DIFFERENT TARGET SCHOOLS
ATTEND DREAM MANAGEMENT
CLASSES

Upon graduation from the PEPY Dream Management Programme, students are equipped with necessary skills for community engagement and career development. The programme also facilitates career guidance sessions 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 Dream Management 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

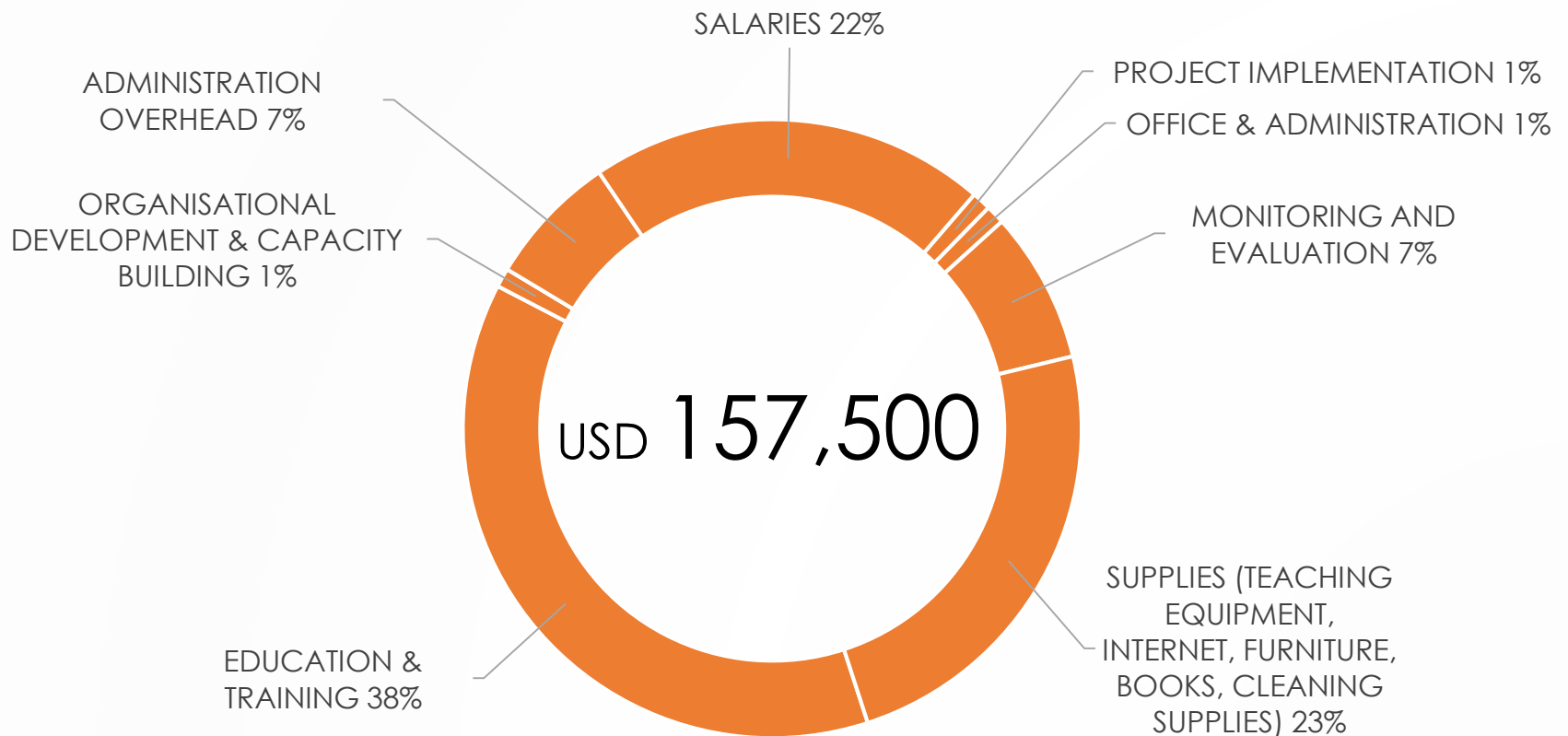
- > To increase soft skills competency and enhance students' capacity to compete in local and global labour markets, obtain skilled employment and pursue advanced studies
- > To empower students to realise their own personal strengths, weaknesses, and take actions to reach their full potential
- > To 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

- > Cambodian high school students in grades 10-12, who are enrolled in the Dream Management Programme in 6 districts within Siem Reap: Kralanh, Srei Snam, Varin, Taing Kork, Prasat Bakong, Chikreng, and Kompong Leaeng
- > Students' families, who receive home visits and encouragement in motivating their children to complete their education, and who stand to benefit from income generated through future employment of the students
- > Teachers at partner schools, who receive training from PEPY staff

BUDGET

The annual budget from September 2023 to September 2024 to operate this programme is **USD 157,500**. 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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