



## Build Your Future Today Newsletter January - December 2020

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### Message From Sedtha Long

Dear Friends of BFT Locally and Around the Globe, I send my sincere wish for a happy 2021! BFT has been greatly affected by COVID throughout 2020, struggling against the many challenges the pandemic has brought. Yet, in the face of many funding problems, we achieved great success with our significant projects; particularly the improvements to clean water and sanitation access made possible by the Global Grant we received from Rotary.

In addition to our continued work on existing projects in the 5 main focus areas, we have been helping disadvantaged people in rural villages, devoting significant time and resources to delivering COVID education and supplies. Our work was only possible with the generosity of our compassionate friends and supporters in Australia, Germany, the UK, Singapore, the US and others.

I can't give enough praise to the tremendous BFT Team who continued to make huge efforts to maintain the support provided to our Villagers, making big personal sacrifices by accepting big wage cuts to allow BFT to keep going in the face of financial difficulties. Their dedication is awe-inspiring! Our local and expat volunteers and supporters also kindly donated time, energy and funds to help fight the impact of COVID and hunger in the rural areas BFT supports.

As there is no sign that the scourge of the pandemic will ease soon, 2021 will continue to be challenging and I appeal for ongoing support from our friends and donors all over the world. Without your help, BFT would not be able to keep operating.

Please continue to stay safe and well in 2021. May the New Year bring all people the hope of Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Peaceful lives! We look forward to being able to see and work with you all again in the near future!

**Founder & Director, Prof. Long Sedtha**



### Message From Jo Reynolds

I was shocked and like many around the world felt completely powerless when I saw the effects of the deadly virus which has brought our planet to a standstill. At home in the UK, I saw the WHO warn of dire food shortages, especially among our poorer communities.

I realised that no-one could predict how long this would last, and that the usual fund-raising projects which would normally support the on-going projects of BFT may really struggle to find funds.

It was a "light bulb" moment, and our "Trees of Love" project was kick-started.

Sedtha had created a farm when I was living in Siem Reap, and happily volunteering with BFT. He was growing fruit tree seedlings, among other crops. It all fell together so perfectly, we can ask folk to buy a sapling, and they can decide the wording for their own tag / label.

BFT plant these fruit-trees sapling in villages in the poorest parts of Cambodia. As they grow it will enable these villagers to be more self-sufficient. It will give those precious fruit to eat and surplus to sell – as well as providing precious wood to build shelters and furniture. The branches of these trees will provide shade, and the leaves will eventually drop and put nutrients back into the soil.

I love that I can volunteer from the UK, and collaborate with the team at BFT. The project is on-going and supports the other work of BFT. So, whilst I miss the beautiful hearts of Cambodia every day, I'm connected in such a rewarding way. Why not sponsor a fruit tree for someone you love, or have lost. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/552478478137031> . With love and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy 2021, and we know that things change, and in time this will be a memory.

**BFT PR & Fund Raiser Consultant (volunteer), Jo Reynolds**





## Rotary Global Grant —Clean Water & Sanitation Project for Three Villages in Svay Lue

Big thank you to Rotary Club of upper Northern beaches, Rotary Club of Chadstone—East Malvern, Rotary Club of Paddington, Foundation of Rotary International and FoBFT Australia. The three villages in Svay Lue District in Siem Reap province received the grant from Rotary Global Grant. The project provided safe drinking water for all three villages such as Sre Robong, Kromom Bol and Doan Ok Spean Khmeng.

### Water Filter System

There were 3 water-filter Systems and school water irrigation systems installed in schools and in villages for students, teachers and all community members for clean and safe water to drink and cooking.



### Giant Bore Wells

The 28 bore wells providing a year round water source to approximately 420 families with around two thousands more people receiving the direct benefit from these bore wells.

### Hygiene and Sanitation

The BFT WASH team also provided training sessions on Water and Sanitation presentations to the schools and villagers in these 3 villages.



### School Demonstration Garden

The 3 school demonstration gardens were also setup for these three schools



### Community Toilets

The 25 household toilets were also built for 25 families consisting with 125 people having access to proper toilets for their families.



## Wells and water irrigation donated by Bob & Indu Shah through Polio Children charity-UK

Villages and school children are so excited and happy for the people especially the pre school and school children at Tmar Dob in Monkoulborey, Preysangha, Banteaychmar and Sen Chey in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap Provinces.

The 8 giant bore wells, water storage tank and hand wash sink have already been completed successfully and now providing sources of clean and safe water for more than 110 families and many hundreds of school children and teachers from these villages.

A big thank you to Bob and Indu Shah, their family and everyone at Polio Children in Need Charity in UK for more donations to support these villages.

A special thanks to all of them for additional donation to support the BFT operations and staff for three more months.

The donations were important & helpful to support BFT to help others during the terrible period of Covid-19 outbreaks.



## Emergency food and hygiene supplies supported by Singaporean partners and friends

Hundreds of poor families from 30 different villages included Battrong, Omal, Omal East, Onloun Sar, Kampream and Taom. A total number of 2000 people were given supplies to use and so help prevent the spread of the virus in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey Provinces. There were around 4130 soaps, 775 hand sanitizers, 2610 face masks and 200 emergency food packages delivered to these community people. They also received education on how to practice their safety procedures to prevent the possible spread of the COVID19 Virus.



On behalf of the impoverished people especially children from these villages we would like to extend our most appreciation and gratitude to all supporters and donors from Project Taom, Project Battrong, Lion Clubs and others individual for their kind and continued fund raising to help these disadvantaged people in the remote rural areas even though they have been also challenged with the Virus outbreaks at their home as well. Their compassionate commitment and contributions helped saving thousands of lives of the poor people



## Project Singha Sponsored by FoBFT Hong Kong

We would like to THANK YOU to the Megan's family and all supporters at FoBFT Hong Kong for continuing support our feeding programs, school demonstration gardens and the teaching material for the distance leaning programs during the global pandemic around the World including Cambodia.





## BFT Child Support and Learning Center

### - ENGLISH PROGRAMS

Every evening from Monday to Friday more than 150 students from a different villages come to get free English classes and Computer training sessions. The classes start from 4 pm to 7 pm. There are six classes with three rooms and there are 15 to 25 students in each of our classes.



During the virus outbreaks the classes have been slow and/or suspended due to community virus outbreaks, However the teaching programs have continued for BFT staff on teaching methodologies and management skills.



### - FOOTBALL PROGRAM

The football training program partnered with Happy Football Cambodia

Australia (HFCA) were on and off based on the conditions of virus spread in Cambodia. The plan for the Homeless World Cup tournament in Finland was cancelled due to the Covid.



### FoBFT Germany

A big thank you to our donors in Germany for their continued support for the children's education, family adoption, community live skill training. The children and the villagers are so grateful for their compassionate commitment and contributions to

making changing their lives. Even though Germany has also been challenged by the Pandemic.





## Chicken farm for food security and income generation

During the difficult time of Covid-19 spread in Cambodia, BFT worked enthusiastically to promote the homemade food production and income generation. The chicken farms have provided emergency food with nutrition to many hundreds poor families in the rural areas to combat the hunger. The villagers especially the children were so grateful for the assistance



Cambodian government announced to the schools that children can gather in small groups to continue their lessons according to their original scheduled programs.

Currently BFT has been working to support the teachers in all schools and villages by providing teaching supplies based on the real, identified need. The school teachers along with village school committees have been scheduling and sending the teachers to attend different locations in the village to get all students in small groups and teach them based on the grades and lessons. Teaching at home is currently conducted 5 days a week from Monday to Friday.

Thank you so much to all friends and supporters around the global for your support in fund raising and supporting the distance learning during this difficult time.



## Community Peace Building Project

While combating the community hunger and the Covid-19 outbreaks BFT and village volunteers (monks, village key people) worked very hard to reduce the families crisis, through helping them to be understand how to work together to resolve all the problems happening in their families and community including encourage and empowering women, especially mothers ( through the mother's clubs ) to play their important role in resolving all problems with a peaceful solution.

## New Teaching System Affect in Cambodia during Covid-19

Because of the fear of the spread of Covid-19, the Cambodian Government had ordered all public and private schools in Cambodia to close the schools so the children were no longer able to attend their daily classes. However, in March 2020, the



## Conduct workshop on COVID-19 awareness for all villages

15 school teachers from Oroong and nearby schools were invited to Oroong School to join the workshop on Covid-19 awareness and prevention. After the workshop all the principles of the schools were provided facemasks, gels and soaps as well as poster materials to bring back to their schools and villages.

These materials will be use in workshops by the students and people in those areas.



## High School building donated by Bob and Indu Shan through Polio & Children In Need Charity from UK

High school building in Oroong school was successfully completed in early 2020. The teachers and the students are so excited for having this opportunities to access higher education. Currently there are 86 students coming to this newly high school compound with 57 high school students in grade 7 and 29 students in grade 8.

This has been a very good result from this project. We believed that there will be more opportunities for these young people to seek higher education and improve their chances of getting a job when they graduate.

A big thanks you to our Compassionate donors, Bob and Indu Shah supported by the Polio Children in Needs Charity in UK for their kind commitments and contributions to make a big difference



## Project in La'ak Village sponsored by FoBFT Australia

In early 2020 Paul Rake and his team visited BFT from Rotary Chadstone East Malvern and World of Difference returning to La'ak Village and worked to install another water storage system, piping clean water through filters from La'ak school to allow the families in this areas access to safe drinking water. The group also sponsored a big solar panel as well as fans for all the classrooms. Today there is a sustainable power being supplied from this solar system , safe drinking water for the school children and their families. A big thanks you to everyone !!



## Combat COVID-19 in Cambodia Fundraising by FoBFT Australia

To all valued friends & donors around the world, everyone at Build Your Future Today Center (BFT Center) would like to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to all compassionate friends and donors near and far for supporting our recent Crowd fundraising through Chuffed campaign. Your generosity with high commitments and contributions full of loving care and sympathy allows us to combat the Covid19 Virus Pandemic to help over 20,000 villagers from 20 different villages in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces preventing and saving lives of disadvantaged people especially the children in the remote rural areas in Cambodia.

sufficient. It will give those precious fruit to eat and surplus to sell – as well as providing precious wood to build shelters and furniture. The branches of these trees will provide shade, and the leaves will eventually drop and put nutrients back into the soil.



As we are planting saplings we must be guided by nature, and the BFT team lets us know when the plantings take place (it may be based around the rainy season) but we'll let you know on the group page when your tree is planted.

We also create a photo album on the group page for each tree planting which identifies the personalised tags and the precise location of the tree so you can see exactly where 'your' tree is using a program such as Google Earth.



### How to Pay

For all currencies please use this link- <https://www.buildyourfuturetoday.org/donate-once-off/>

- 1) Select your currency of choice,
- 2) Take a screen shot of your payment
- 3) Send the screen shot by PM to Jo Reynolds

<https://www.facebook.com/SamuiJoReynolds> together with your TAG message

For all currencies please use this link- <https://www.buildyourfuturetoday.org/donate-once-off/>

Each fruit tree sapling costs £10 pounds / \$10 USD / \$14 AUS or the equivalent.

To find out more about our other worthwhile projects, and how you might help please check out: Our website: <https://www.buildyourfuturetoday.org/>

Follow and share: <https://www.facebook.com/BFTCenter.Cambodia/>  
All of the monies raised are sent to BFT, we are grateful for your support, funding and volunteers.



## Build Friends Travel Cambodia (BFTC Tour)

Book your tours with us now for a unique experience with the local community.

Here are our available tours:

- Half and full day village tours
- Half day monastery experience tour
- Overnight stay with villagers in the rural remote areas
- Educational tours
- Echoes tours
- Crossing other parts of Cambodia
- Other tailor-made tours

Please book your tours now at: ["booking@buildfriendstravel.com"](mailto:booking@buildfriendstravel.com) or [www.buildfriendstravel.com](http://www.buildfriendstravel.com)



## Tree of Love: Tree planting project in Cambodia

Welcome to our group set up to support the on-going projects of Build Your Future Today Center NGO in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

### Sponsoring a Sapling

Sponsoring a tree is very simple. Your personalized gift of a sapling such as mango or jackfruit costs \$10 USD or £10 pounds. You let us know what message you'd like on the tag (a name or a dedication) and this will be hand-written onto the label and attached to the tree.

### The Benefits of Growing Fruit Trees.

The saplings are planted in villages in the poorest parts of Cambodia. As they grow it will enable these villagers to be more self-

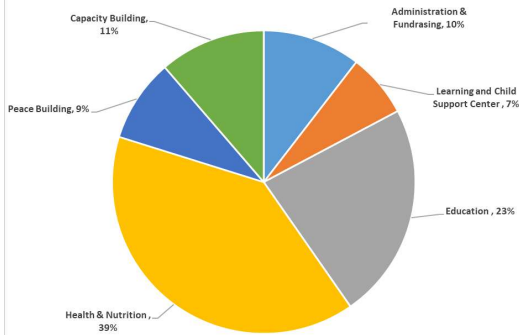




# Financials and Recognition

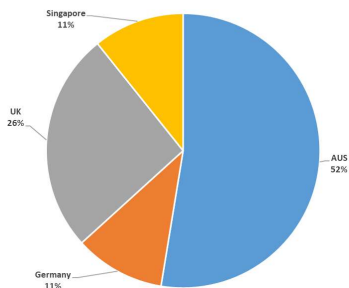
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BFT Expenditure  
1 Jan - 31 DEC 20  
(Total US\$120,703.23)



BFT Donations  
1 Jan - 31 DEC 2020  
(Total US\$112,199.27)

Note: Amounts shown by country are from official support organisations



With an income of \$112,199.27, and expenditures of \$120,703.23, we had a slight surplus for the year. The overall income was, however, significantly lower than the previous year and, while we are able to deliver services to support villagers, expanding to new villages will require additional donations; something many of our supporters are actively working to secure.

It should be noted that, while the graph shows that 10% of expenditure was on Administration and Project Management, a significant portion of this was for costs of project work in the villages that is general in nature and difficult to allocate.



## International BFT Friends

BFT Friends from Australia, America, Germany, Singapore, Norway, England, France, Denmark, Hong Kong & Dubai

Special thanks to our valued local private sector, local and International volunteers and individual supporters from around the globe.

## Our Donors and Partners



**Omhealth**



**Allianz**



BFT would like to thank all our other friends who have donated over the last six months and all BFT Friends around the world who are working tirelessly to raise awareness and funds to support our valued mission. We are very grateful for all your support and passion. It is amazing to see so many people and organizations committed to the BFT cause. We are humbled and grateful to see—people from Cambodia and people from all over the world—engaging in a network to improve the quality of life and opportunities for the Cambodian people who need our help most.