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Providing Clean Water in **Cambodia**

Lech Boeng is a remote village that is located to the southeast direction of Kampong Speu Province, about 45 kilometers from the town. Large numbers of the local population live below the poverty line where most of them are living without clean water and electricity. The villagers generate their income from planting rice, raising animals and from crop subsistence agriculture. The local infrastructures are out of date and have caused many hardships for them to transport their cultivated products to sell in the town.

Sambath Udom Primary School is built in the middle of the village and is conveniently located for the village children and other surrounding villages. The school has two hand-pump wells, however one no longer works. Many people in the village come to collect water from the single well.

Local people hope that in the near future, their village will have access to a clean water supply so their daily living could be improved. Through the combined efforts of VF and Planet Water Foundation, World Water Day will be that day when change arrives.



LECH BOENG

Sambath Udom Primary School

Number of Students: 347

GPS Coordinates: 11.366345, 104.688413

Village Population: 478

Number of Households: 100

PROJECT
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"Our students here are not healthy because they are from poor families and we do not have any clean water treatment facilities in our school and we can not afford to buy them. I always make aware to all students to boil water before drinking, but we are not able to control what they are doing because they still drink untreated water. It would be appreciated if someone could bring clean water into our school for the sake of the students and the villagers here."

- Mr. Pen Navuth, School Principal

Drinking from Ponds and Contaminated Wells

Untreated Water Sources

Local villagers have no access to clean water or proper sanitation facilities; however, improving their existing sanitation facilities is a big challenge as most of the villagers are poor and are only able to use their income on food. Many households in the village drink untreated water directly from wells and ponds without pre-treatment. Some of the water sources are polluted by human and animal waste in addition to much of the people's trash being disposed of in the village streets.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“Living here is not so easy without water supply and electricity. For many years, until now, we have faced many difficulties such as no access to clean water, water sources run out during the dry season, etc. I feel so sad living here.”
- Mrs. Keo Sreitouch, Village Resident

Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years. Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform around the world’s critical need to solve water poverty since its inception in 2015.



“The school has no budget to buy bottled water for the students or any water treatment facilities, so everyone has to bring water to the school by themselves. However, the water they drink is not proven safe because it has caused them to suffer from diarrhea and abdominal pain which has impacted our school attendance.”
- Mr. Khun Sam At, Grade 4 Teacher



“I walk every day to collect water from the pond, about 80 meters away from my house and I have to be rushed to get to my school after that. I have very little time to study at home or play with my friends because I have to help my parents work in the field.”
- Sun Nita, Grade 3 Student

