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AllKids Newsletter

VOLUME 17
JAN - MAR 2025



Supporting Transition to Local Management

When AllKids commenced operations in **April 2012**, our original charter was to enable all children living in the coastal Commune of Ream, Southern Cambodia, to access education. This remains unchanged. In January 2023, AllKids opened our fourth centre at Prek Trabaek achieving the goals of our primary charter.

What is AllKids role in providing a balanced education for the most disadvantaged children in the Ream Community?

AllKids Learning Centres are not substitutes for government operated public schools. AllKids plays an important role in getting disadvantaged children enrolled into public schools through liaison between families, public school administrators and commune officials ensuring that these kids can access mainstream formal education.

However, the public schools in rural Cambodia are often poorly resourced and offer a limited curriculum. AllKids Learning Centres offer programs not included in the public schools including IT, English, art, performance and sports. We also provide remedial Khmer literacy and Math's tuition to help disadvantaged children, particularly late starters, reach their appropriate age/skills standard.



By December 2024, AllKids had over 1400 individual child beneficiaries and 42 full time staff across four centres.

We are proud of the gains in child education and development as evident from the following key performance indicators:

-  **Increased child participation in educational programs**
-  **Marked improvements in the educational progress of students at all levels**
 -  **Increased school retention rates**
-  **Increased numbers of students completing primary school and entering secondary school**
 -  **Increased numbers of students completing year 12**
 -  **Increasing numbers of graduates gaining sustainable employment post AllKids**
-  **Increased numbers of year 12 graduates moving into tertiary education**
-  **Significant performance improvements and “upskilling” of AllKids local teachers, management and social work staff.**

The Transition to the Local Community:

The local community has come a long way since AllKids commenced operations in 2012 and the time is now right to commence a gradual transition of AllKids educational services to local community management. This will strengthen the capacity of the local community to manage their own affairs. The indefinite continuation of the AllKids project is likely to entrench reliance on external support and increase a welfare mentality.

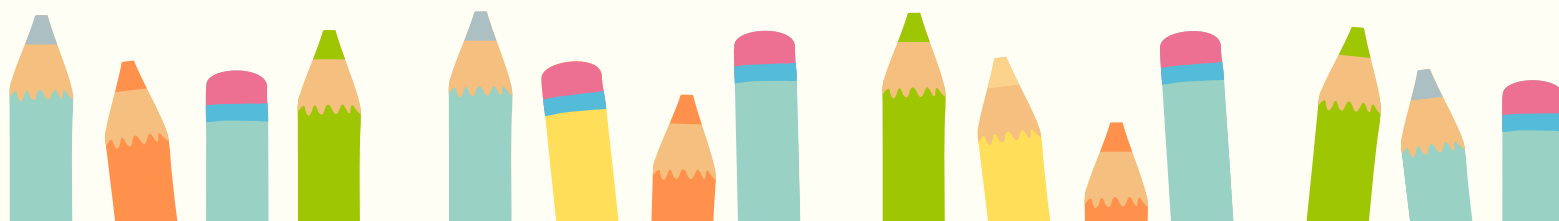


Most importantly, the locals are keen to take control.

Whilst this transition will take place over the next five years, the handover of much of our educational services will begin in July 2025 when we cease operations at the Smach Deng Learning Centre and children will relocate to one of five newly established local private schools that hold AllKids accreditation (including the adoption of AllKids very thorough Child Safety Policy).

AllKids will ensure that disadvantaged children will continue to attend public school and receive additional tuition at the private schools through the provision of scholarships. Most of the teachers from the AllKids Smach Deng Learning Centre have secured positions in one of the five private schools, whilst others will relocate to our outlying K'Bal Hong and Prek Trabaek centres.

I am very impressed with the way the locals have grasped the opportunity to take over educational programs. The five new private schools are of a very high standard and boast excellent programs and facilities. Everyone in the community is working together to build a quality, sustainable education system for their children.



Sponsor a Child

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- 4 Health, medical and dental support
- 5 Access to AllKids Day Care to look after younger siblings while your sponsor child attends school

With your continued support, AllKids will gradually pass the management of our educational services over to the local community whilst ensuring that the most disadvantaged children continue to receive the support they need to build a bright and sustainable future.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SPONSORSHIP](#)





AllKids' Scholarship Day

Following the announcement of the closure of AllKids Learning Centre in Smach Deng in May 2025, AllKids held an event offering scholarships to the 511 Kids To School students and other children in the community to continue their extra classes including English, IT, and Chinese at the five accredited schools in Ream. The scholarships were offered to the children with the most disadvantaged backgrounds whose families cannot afford extra tuition.

During the event, Paul gave a speech to over 800 students and their families, and each of the private school principals gave a presentation with information about their school and programs.



VIP Visitors

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming some very important guests here in Cambodia! John and Marg George, huge supporters of the AllKids programs since the very beginning, visited in February. John is the Chairman of the MGA Whittles Group of Companies who sponsor many of our projects, so it was great to show him the impact his generous support is making for the children in Ream.

We also had AllKids Chairman, Kym Bache, and his wife Keryn (AllKids Child Sponsorship Coordinator) visit in January. Spending more than a week visiting all the centres, we loved showing Kym and Keryn our most recent developments.



PVI's Annual Check

In February, David Findlater from Project Vietnam Incorporated in Australia spent the day working with the AllKids maintenance team carrying out their annual service of solar powered water supply systems in the Ream public schools. The systems have been installed over the past ten years, providing a reliable water supply in four public schools and the AllKids Prek Trabaek Centre. Our sincere thanks go to David and the team from PVI for their great support over the years.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS](#)



Lunch Boxes for Daycare Kids at School

Ream Primary School recently adopted a longer school day, with children beginning at 7.30am and finishing at 3.30pm, meaning they can no longer come for lunch at AllKids K'Bal Hong Centre. Most of these students are in our most vulnerable "RED" category and we have worked hard over many years to build up their health and didn't want to see them going backwards. The staff at the K'Bal Hong Centre now pack 38 lunch boxes which they deliver to the children each school day. The kids feel very special!



Sophal Completes his MBA!

HUGE congratulations to AllKids General Manager Sophal for attaining his MBA – Master's degree in Business Administration. Sophal started working for AllKids in 2016 as community support staff and sponsor liason officer. In 2018 he was promoted to “Kids to School” team leader and from 2019, Sophal was promoted to General Manager, leading AllKids operations until today. We are so proud of your accomplishment!



January - March 2025

Lindsay & Catherine Volunteer

Australian artist, Lindsay Hutton, and his wife Catherine, came to volunteer at AllKids!

Lindsay and Catherine have been loyal supporters for years, donating several fantastic paintings to raise funds for AllKids, but recently spent 2 weeks in Cambodia, giving wonderful art classes to the students. Thank you Lindsay!

After familiarising herself with the programs, Catherine has now become AllKids Australian Administrator. If you need any support please feel free to contact her at catherine@allkids.org.au – welcome to the team, Catherine!



END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

Your generosity in donating \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, or \$500 will play a vital role in sustaining the crucial services that empower Cambodian children to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Your donation, made before June 30th 2025, will not only make an immediate impact on the lives of these children but will also be tax deductible within the 2024/2025 financial year. Together, let's ensure that every child has the opportunity to build a brighter future. Join us in making a difference today.

paul@allkids.org.au

PAUL OTTO
ALLKIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR

WWW.ALLKIDS.ORG.AU/TAX-DEDUCTIBLE-DONATION





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Ream Community Health and Medical System

AllKids, in collaboration with Ream Commune and local healthcare providers, has launched the Ream Community Health and Medical System, a coordinated response to improve medical support for the most vulnerable families.

Ream Commune have their own government funded community health center to provide basic health and medical care. In the case of an emergency, patients are referred to the Sihanoukville Referral Hospital where most treatment is free for poor families and reasonably priced for others. However, sometimes a patient's family will send their child to a private clinic where the quality of service is dubious, and families are often left with poor outcomes and substantial debts following treatment.

Coordinated by the Ream Commune, the Ream Community Health and Medical System includes an emergency hotline, trained operators, and a medical referral committee including AllKids staff, the Ream Commune Chief, and trusted healthcare providers. The responders assess each situation and determine the best treatment path, whether it's basic first aid at the local health centre or urgent transport to the Sihanoukville Referral Hospital.

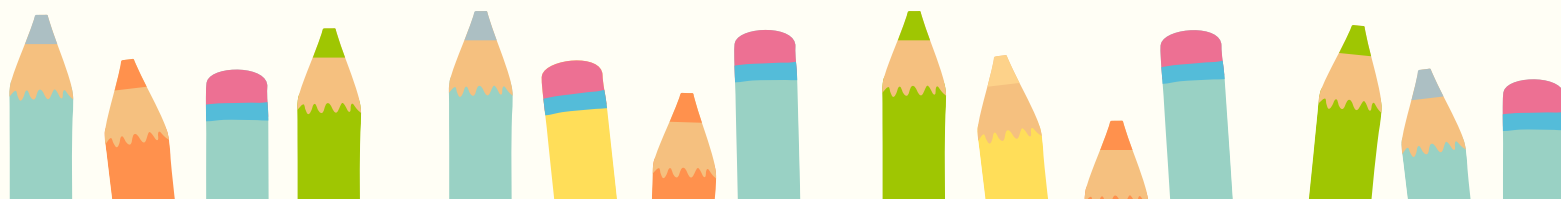
We've worked hard to educate families about the system, so they know exactly who to contact and what to expect. Our priority is always to connect the community with reliable care and not the unsafe, high-cost options that too often leave families in debt. Follow-up care, logistics, and financial planning are all coordinated by the committee, giving families peace of mind that they won't be left alone in a crisis



Songkran Fun Across AllKids Centres!

Khmer New Year, also known as Choul Chnam Thmey, is Cambodia's biggest national holiday. It marks the end of the harvest season and the start of the new year in the traditional Khmer calendar. Celebrated over three days, it's a time for families to reunite, pay respect to elders, visit temples, and have fun with traditional games, dancing, and water! To celebrate, our learning centres were filled with joy as students and staff came together to celebrate this loved holiday. At the Smach Deng Learning Centre, the festivities began with a graceful Khmer Blessing Dance, followed by the presentation of certificates to some of our outstanding students. Then the games began, with laughter echoing through the classrooms and courtyards.

At Prek Trabaek, the kids were treated to not one but two cakes (kindly sponsored by **Barossa Vets**!) giving them a sweet treat before jumping into traditional Khmer games with their teachers and friends. It was a day full of cultural pride, community spirit, and fun, and a reminder of how important it is to celebrate tradition alongside education.



A Big Change in Smach Deng, a Bigger Step Toward Community Leadership

On Friday 13th June, the AllKids Smach Deng Learning Centre officially closed its doors but for the children of Ream, but the journey continues stronger than ever. It marks an important step in AllKids' long-term plan to transition educational services to local management.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

AllKids is beginning a five-year handover strategy to empower the Ream community to take full ownership of their children's education. The closure of the Smach Deng centre is part of this process, with students now enrolled in one of four accredited local private learning centres. These schools meet AllKids standards and are adopting our robust Child Safety Policy. Thanks to generous sponsors, 281 of the most disadvantaged students are continuing their extracurricular studies, English, IT, and much much more, on AllKids scholarships.

But this transition only works with your continued support. Sponsoring a child for AU\$30 a month provides tuition support, uniforms, schoolbooks, healthcare, and even daycare for younger siblings – ensuring children stay in school. Follow this link to learn more: **www.allkids.org.au/sponsor-a-child/**



Farewell AKLC!

From a small hut in 2012 to a vibrant learning centre by 2014, the Smach Deng Learning Centre holds a special place in AllKids' history. It began with 300 students, the first proper AllKids Learning Centre, marking the moment our educational mission truly took flight in Ream. Here's some memories of AKLC:



A Full Day of Learning at Prek Trabaek

With the closure of our Smach Deng Learning Centre, our most senior teachers have now joined the AllKids Prek Trabaek Learning Centre, where a significant change is underway. Because these students don't attend a public school, AllKids has introduced a full school day program, breaking the typical Cambodian half-day model.

New daily schedules and enriched academic programs have been introduced to ensure Prek Trabaek's children get the best possible education. In addition, our Junior Programs Supervisor, S'doeung, has rolled out a full kindergarten curriculum, providing pre-school education to the youngest in this remote community.



Unexpected Passengers at K'Bal Hong Bus Stop!

Local chickens making use of AllKids bus stop! Our school bus network is a lifeline for students in Ream, helping them travel safely from home to one of the AllKids learning centres. Every morning and afternoon, trained drivers follow multiple routes to pick up and drop off children. These buses, contracted locally, ensure about 350 students have reliable transport, even over long distances, at no cost to their families. This service is a key part of our KidstoSchool initiative, essential to reducing dropouts and helping families access education without worrying about transport or costs.



Lunch on Two Wheels

Ever wonder how 38 lunch boxes make it from K'Bal Hong to Ream Primary school every day? Meet our motorbike-powered lunch express, delivering hot, nutritious meals to our most vulnerable kids who now attend school all day.

As Ream Primary extended its school hours, our team adapted quickly. Every lunch is lovingly packed at the K'Bal Hong Centre and delivered on time, rain or shine.



Sponsor a Child's Education

A note for Child Sponsors: Sarun is busy preparing the annual sponsor child updates which will be ready in August!

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Chamkapich Centre Opens Its Doors!

AllKids proudly opened the Chamkapich Centre just as Cambodia's school year ended — perfect timing to keep children learning during the holidays. On the first day, 60 children attended, quickly growing to 70 as word spread. Many were returning “dump kids” from the landfill community, joined by new faces from the Chamkapich Valley. The centre offers a safe, engaging space for study, play, and connection, ensuring children remain supported year-round. This strong start reflects both community need and trust in AllKids' mission to make education accessible for every child in Ream.



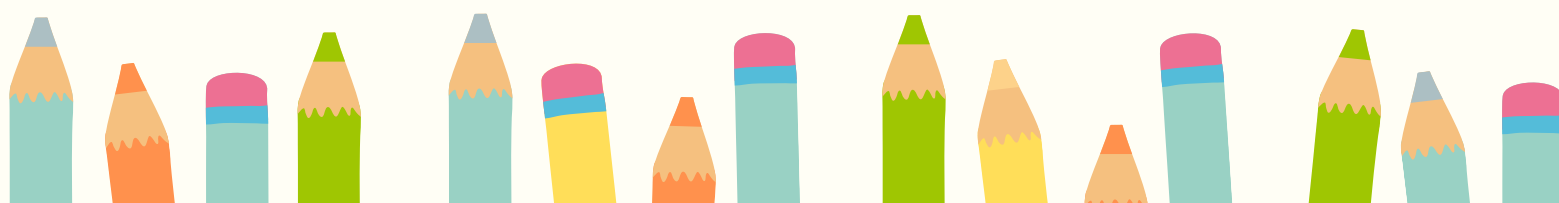
From Classroom to Career: Chi's Journey

Former Kids to School student Chi has recently achieved an important milestone — opening his own motorbike repair business in Smach Deng!

Chi completed his education with AllKids in 2022 and went on to vocational training in motorbike repair. After gaining 18 months of work experience in Sihanoukville City, he returned home to establish his own small business, providing valuable services within his community.

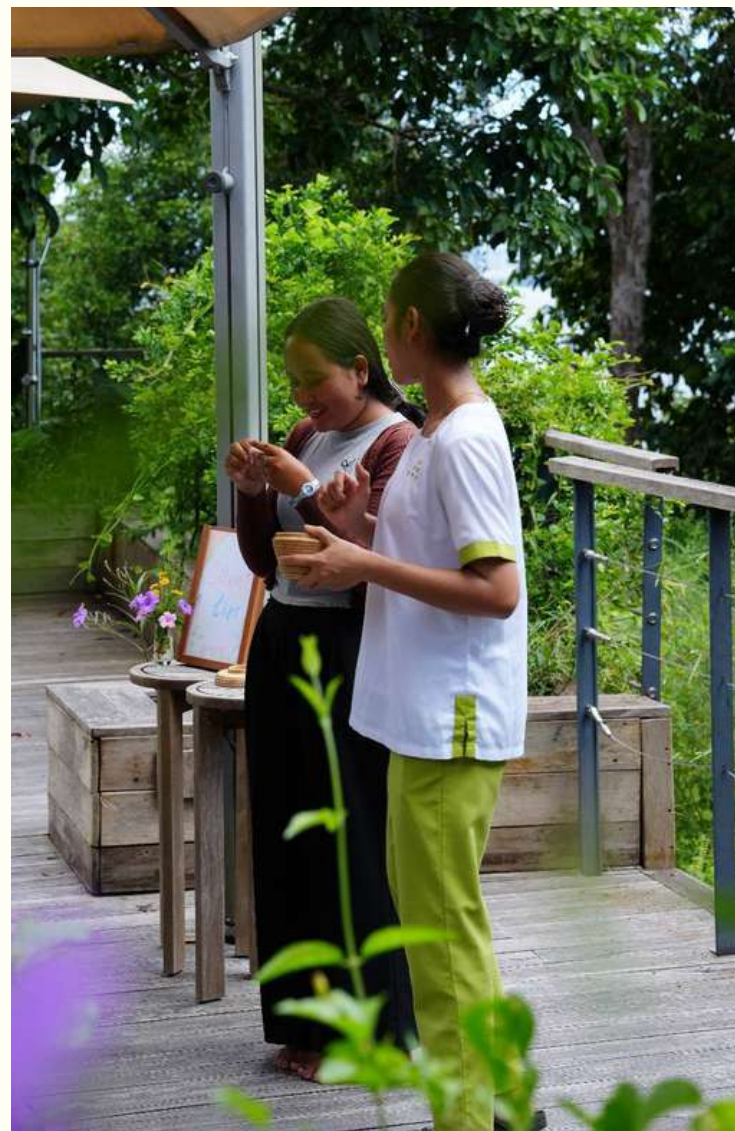
Chi's progress highlights the lasting impact of the Kids to School program, which supports disadvantaged children to stay in school, complete their studies, and pursue meaningful careers. Thanks to our child sponsors, students like Chi are not only overcoming barriers to education but also contributing to stronger, more self-reliant communities.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE
INFORMATION ON SPONSORING A CHILD'S EDUCATION](#)



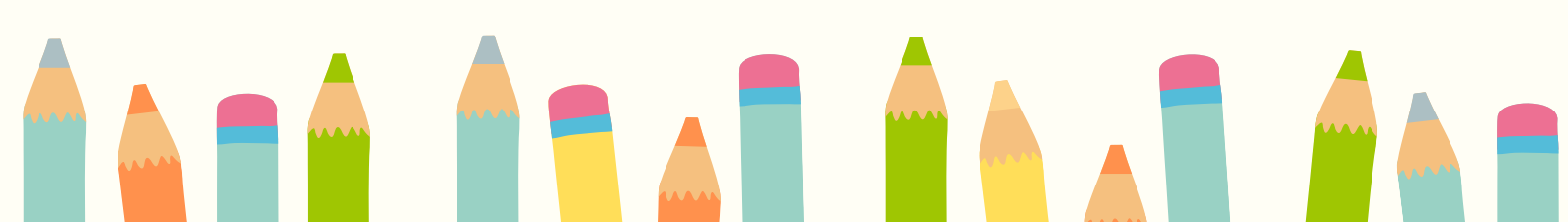
AllKids Students Explore Careers at Six Senses Krabey Island

In September, twenty AllKids students visited Six Senses Krabey Island for a two-day Career Training Program introducing them to hospitality and tourism. Students explored departments including Sustainability, Housekeeping, and Human Resources, toured the resort, and learned directly from staff about teamwork and professional service. For many, it was their first time visiting an island or interacting with resort professionals—an inspiring, confidence-building experience. AllKids sincerely thank Six Senses for welcoming our students and sharing their knowledge. Experiences like this help young people in Ream imagine brighter futures and discover the many career paths open to them.



Supporting Families During Pchum Ben

In Cambodia, families recently celebrated Pchum Ben, a 15-day festival honoring ancestors through offerings and prayers at pagodas. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and connection for communities across the country. During the holiday, AllKids centres and public schools closed, meaning many children temporarily lost access to their daily school meals. To ensure our most vulnerable students were still supported, the AllKids team delivered fresh food directly to families in need. This effort helped children stay nourished and healthy throughout the holiday, reflecting AllKids' continued commitment to caring for every child.



Keeping Kids Safe and Engaged During the Holidays

During the recent holiday, AllKids ran its Holiday Program to keep children safe, engaged, and learning while public schools were closed. At the Chamkapich Centre, students explored creativity through writing proverbs, crocheting, designing logos, and making bracelets— activities that encouraged imagination and teamwork. Meanwhile, at Prek Trabaek, teacher Sophat introduced an exciting new class, "Introduction to Electricity", where students learned about AC and DC currents through hands-on demonstrations. By providing a fun, structured environment, AllKids helps ensure children aren't left home alone.



Building Strong Foundations for Early Learning

As AllKids transitions educational services to local management, developing strong teaching practices across our partner schools remains a top priority. Recently Sdoeung, AllKids Chamkapich Centre Manager, and Sokunthy, K'Bal Hong Centre Manager, took part in a professional development training workshop at Bright Sparks International School – one of AllKids affiliated private schools now educating AllKids Smach Deng students.

The workshop focused on enhancing Kindergarten programs, with an emphasis on play-based learning, child-centered teaching, and early literacy development. Both staff gained valuable insights that will help strengthen AllKids' early learning initiatives and support partner teachers in implementing engaging, age-appropriate lessons.



July - September 2025

Celebrating World Wellness Day with Six Senses

To celebrate World Wellness Day, a group of AllKids students spent a morning at Six Senses exploring activities designed to nurture focus, confidence, and curiosity — qualities that support their learning and personal growth. Through a fun blindfolded taste and smell challenge and the soothing tones of a singing bowl, students discovered new ways to connect with their senses and emotions.

Beyond a memorable experience, this event reflects our ongoing partnership with Six Senses, whose staff regularly share their time, skills, and opportunities with our students. From offering internships and employment, Six Senses continues to show how strong community connections can open doors and inspire our students to dream bigger about their futures.



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AllKids Christmas Celebration!

AllKids students and staff celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas beach party. Students from across our centres enjoyed a day filled with performances, games, shared meals and time in the water. A highlight of the celebration was a traditional Harvest Dance performed by students from the Prek Trabaek Learning Centre. The dance reflects Cambodian rural life and gives thanks for a successful harvest, symbolising cooperation, gratitude and community. Students from K'bal Hong Learning Centre also performed Angkor Wat Soart, a traditional song celebrating Cambodia's cultural heritage. The day provided a joyful opportunity for children and staff to come together and celebrate another year of learning.



First Aid Training



AllKids recently hosted a First Aid Training session delivered by the experienced team from M'lop Tapang. The training was attended by six AllKids staff members, along with participants from the Ream Commune and Smach Deng Village. The session strengthened participants' ability to respond quickly and confidently in emergency situations, helping to keep children and communities safe. By including both staff and community members, the training also reinforced shared responsibility for child wellbeing and safety across the areas where AllKids operates.



MMR Vaccination and Health Support

AllKids students recently received MMR vaccinations (Measles and Rubella) administered by nurses from the Ministry of Health. In addition to vaccinations, students were also given Vitamin A drops and deworming tablets, helping to strengthen immunity and overall health. Access to routine healthcare is essential for children's wellbeing and their ability to attend school consistently. This initiative reflects AllKids' commitment to supporting not only education, but also the health and long-term development of the children in our care.



Student-Created Khmer Flashcards

Grade 5 and Grade 6 students at AllKids recently worked together to create Khmer language flashcards as part of their learning activities. The project supported reading and grammar skills, while also helping students understand opposite words in Khmer. By creating their own learning materials, students strengthened comprehension, collaboration, and confidence. Activities like to encourage active learning and allow students to take ownership of their education, reinforcing foundational literacy skills that are essential for success in school.



Baseline Khmer Assessments

AllKids recently conducted a baseline assessment in Khmer for students attending the Chamkapich Centre. A total of 61 students were assessed to better understand their current reading and language skills. The results will help teachers tailor lessons, track progress, and provide targeted support where it is most needed. Establishing a clear learning baseline is an important step in ensuring students receive effective instruction and continue to develop strong literacy foundations.



Art and Craft at Krabey Island

Phary facilitated an art and craft session at Six Senses Krabey Island resort. The session provided an opportunity to showcase the creative learning activities used at AllKids centres while engaging with resort guests in an informal and welcoming setting. Through hands-on craft activities, Phary was able to share information about AllKids' programs, the children we support, and the importance of community-based education in the Ream Commune. This engagement helped raise awareness of AllKids' work among an international audience and encouraged conversation around how visitors and partners can support education initiatives for disadvantaged children in Cambodia.



Improved Access Through Road Repairs

With support from landfill management, repairs were made to the internal road inside the landfill area, allowing AllKids to safely operate its school bus route through the site. This improvement enables children living at the dump to travel directly to Romduol Chamkapich Primary School and the AllKids Chamkapich Centre, reducing their daily journey by approximately six kilometres. Shorter, safer travel means improved attendance and better access to education for some of the most vulnerable children in the community.



Strengthening Child Protection Practices

AllKids staff recently completed a Child Protection Training workshop to reinforce safeguarding practices across all centres. The course covered key areas including child protection procedures, implementation principles, and children's rights—such as the right to safety, participation, non-discrimination, and family-based care. Staff also learned about reporting procedures, case management, case conferencing, and child protection planning. The training highlighted types of children requiring care and the support mechanisms available to them. This ongoing commitment ensures AllKids maintains safe, respectful, and child-centred environments where every child's wellbeing is the top priority.



Community Support for AllKids Day Care

AllKids is grateful to the Ream Commune for donating 150 kilograms of rice to support our Day Care program. This generous contribution helps ensure that young children receive nutritious meals while attending AllKids centres. Reliable access to food plays a vital role in children's health, concentration, and development—particularly for families facing economic hardship. Community partnerships like this demonstrate shared commitment to supporting vulnerable children and strengthening local safety nets for families in need.



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