



## Project Report

### **IMPROVING RURAL EDUCATION Building a Community Education Center**

in Boron Village, Treng Commune, Rattanak Mondul District,  
Battambang Province, Cambodia



Funded by  
Robinson, Smith, Mulgrew, and Hemsley families  
from Perth, Australia

Report by Dr. Samnang ENG, June 2025



Cambodia Family Support is a Rotary Australia World Community Service project  
sponsored by the Rotary Club of Perth, supported by West Australian Rotary Clubs

# Introduction

The Boron Community Education Center is the 13<sup>th</sup> literacy school (Community Education Centre) established by Cambodia Family Support (CFS). Nine of these centers were funded by a generous group of families from Perth, Australia—specifically the Smith, Robinson, Mulgrew, and Hemsley families. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them for their continued support and commitment to rural education in Cambodia.

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## Background

The connection between CFS and the Australian families began in October 2016, when David and Rosalind Smith joined a Rotary Club group from Perth to visit CFS projects. During their visit, Dr. Samnang, Director of CFS, guided them through various CFS initiatives, including rural schools and underprivileged families.

The visitors were moved by the living conditions and limited access to education faced by many children. Common barriers included:

- Government schools located far from villages
  - Lack of transportation
  - Shortage of school supplies
  - Children caring for siblings or elderly grandparents
  - Families relying on child labor for income
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## Ongoing Support

Inspired by their visit the Smiths arranged for a few friends - Peter and Anne Robinson, Alan and Cheryl Mulgrew and Warwick Hemsley - to begin supporting CFS's rural education efforts. United by a shared belief in education, their support has grown year by year.

CFS Director Dr. Samnang regularly discussed new projects with the group, requesting annual funding for school construction. These efforts have gone beyond just building schools; CFS also works with communities and families to ensure long-term sustainability by improving their livelihoods, so they can continue supporting their children's education. All funding for CFS made through Rotary Australia World Community Service as a project of Rotary Club of Perth.

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## Nine Education Centres Built (2017–2025)

1. Lomphat Community Education Center – June 2017, Kamrieng District
2. Prey Sanhtah Community Education Center – May 2018, Pailin
3. Samaki Community Education Center – October 2019, Kamrieng District
4. Okoki Community Education Center – May 2020, Kamrieng District
5. Prey Monkul Community Education Center – April 2021, Pailin
6. Okanteangva Community Education Center – April 2022, CFS-owned land, Pailin
7. Chipang Community Education Center – October 2023, Rattanak Mondul District
8. Dangkot Community Education Center – June 2024, Rattanak Mondul District
9. Boron Community Education Center – June 2025, Rattanak Mondul District

*Note: Each school is named after the village in which it was built.*

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# Project Description: Boron Community Education Center

## Why This Project?

While CFS has made meaningful progress, the number of families supported remains small compared to those still in need. Many children in Boron Village lack access to education due to poverty. Education is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, which is why we proposed building a school in Boron Village, near the border with Pailin Province.

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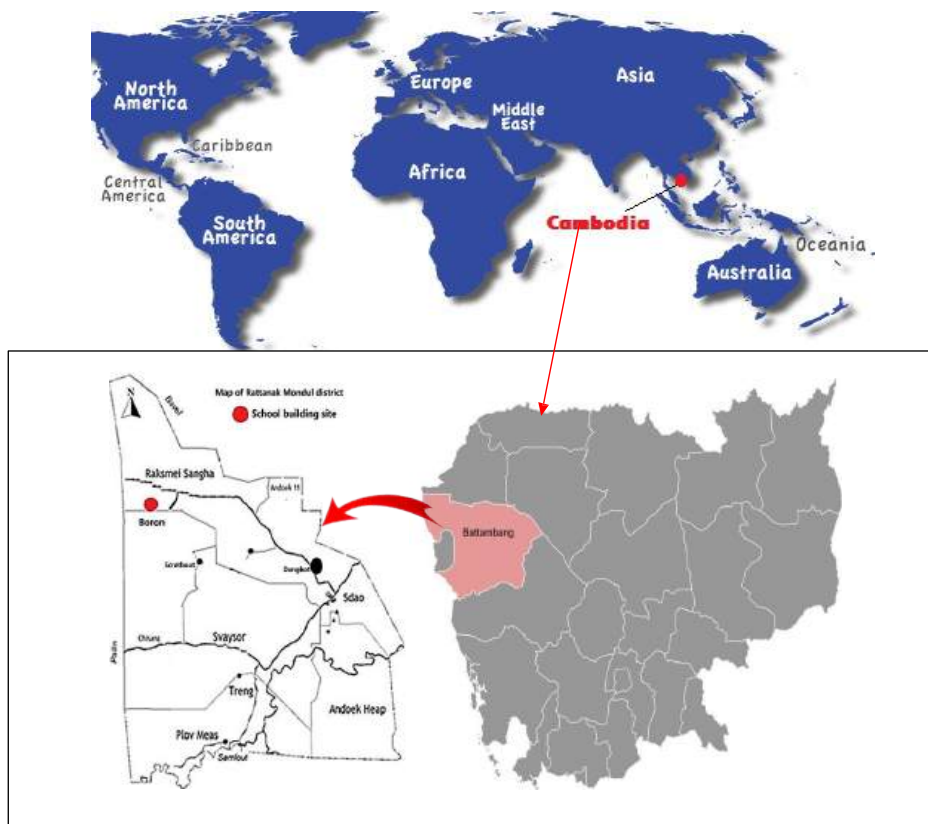
## Project Objective

To provide marginalized rural children with access to quality education.

## Expected Results

- By June 2025, the school will be completed and fully operational
- At least 50 children—previously unenrolled or dropouts—will attend regularly

## Project Location



## Government Collaboration & Site Selection

In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, the Cambodian Ministry of Education called for renewed efforts in rural education. Local authorities submitted proposals to CFS for school construction in Rattanak Mondul and Salakrao Districts.

CFS Director Dr. Samnang Eng worked with board members to evaluate the proposals. The Australian families once again agreed to support the Boron Village project, though funding limitations allowed for only one school.

As usual Dr Samnang visited the location and conducted risk assessment. This assessment was also to make sure that local government can identify a teacher. Teacher salary and school maintenance will not be CFS responsibility.

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## Construction Process

- An initial site near a pond was rejected by the board due to safety concerns.
  - Villagers agreed to fill in the pond to make the site suitable.
  - A traditional Khmer blessing ceremony was conducted before construction began.
  - CFS staff, led by Dr. Samnang, regularly monitored progress to ensure quality and compliance.
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## Project Completion & Impact

Construction is now complete. The Rattanak Mondul District Governor, along with teachers and parents, expressed their deep appreciation during the school inauguration ceremony. An official letter of appreciation was presented to CFS.

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## Conclusion

Thanks to the ongoing support of our family partners from Australia and the Rotary Club of Perth and Rotary Australia World Community Service, the Boron Community Education Center now offers a new chance for dozens of children to receive an education. CFS will continue to support families in a wholistic way, ensuring that children not only attend school, but thrive.

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## The Project in Photos



Dr Samnang checks out the proposed building site (with Dr Vincent and Helen Keane)



The village head had proposed a location for this school building. At the south of the site was a steep-sided, small quarry-like gully with water in the base (not used as a water-source). We considered this an unacceptable hazard. Dr. Samnang met with the village chief and villagers to discuss options. The village agreed to eliminate the hazard by filling it with soil.







Gully is filled, site ready for building



Small traditional ceremony for the site and building process





Dr. Samnang and CFS staff regularly monitored building progress, including checking the quality of materials.













Rattanak Mondul District Governor, teachers and parents attended the opening ceremony.



The District Governor delivered an appreciation letter to CFS.



First day of school

**On behalf of Boron Village children and their families, thank you for your generosity!**