

Project Battambang

EST. 2010



2026 MAY RECCE POST-TRIP REPORT

Exploring future directions through partnership, reflection, and groundwork



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Introduction



Our work in Poipet

For over a decade, Project Battambang has worked with communities in Poipet through free health screenings, health education, school engagement, local partnerships, and education support initiatives such as the Light-A-Dream Scholarship.

Through these efforts, the project has sought not only to provide short-term support, but also to strengthen local systems and empower communities to take ownership of their health and education.



Exploring new directions

While Poipet remains deeply important to Project Battambang, current safety concerns have required the team to reconsider where and how the project can continue responsibly. The decision to explore new sites was not made lightly. It reflects a commitment to safeguarding our members, respecting institutional guidance, and ensuring that our work remains sustainable and appropriate.

The May trip therefore marked a period of transition: one defined not by immediate intervention, but by careful listening, honest assessment, and partnership-building.

Vision

We envision an independent community where everyone has the liberty and means to hope for and achieve a better future together.



We resolve to improve the provision of healthcare and education through partnerships and supporting the local systems, and to empower youth to effect greater social awareness and responsibility within the community.

Mission

OUR VALUES

Love — Loving the people we serve and our team members

Integrity — Being consistent and truthful

Beneficence — For the benefit of community

Respect — Our beneficiaries as equal partners

Accountability — Staying accountable to our beneficiaries and partners

Sustainability — Consider long-term benefits



At its core, Project Battambang tries to empower the community through the following various ways:

Supporting Local Systems



Project Battambang collaborates with local healthcare and educational institutions to make it more accessible to its people. This includes provision of primary healthcare to its people and resources to schools to make the learning environment safer and more conducive.

The project focuses on building enduring partnerships with local organisations and community leaders. By fostering strong relationships, Project Battambang ensures that its interventions are sustainable and have a lasting impact.

Sustainable Partnerships

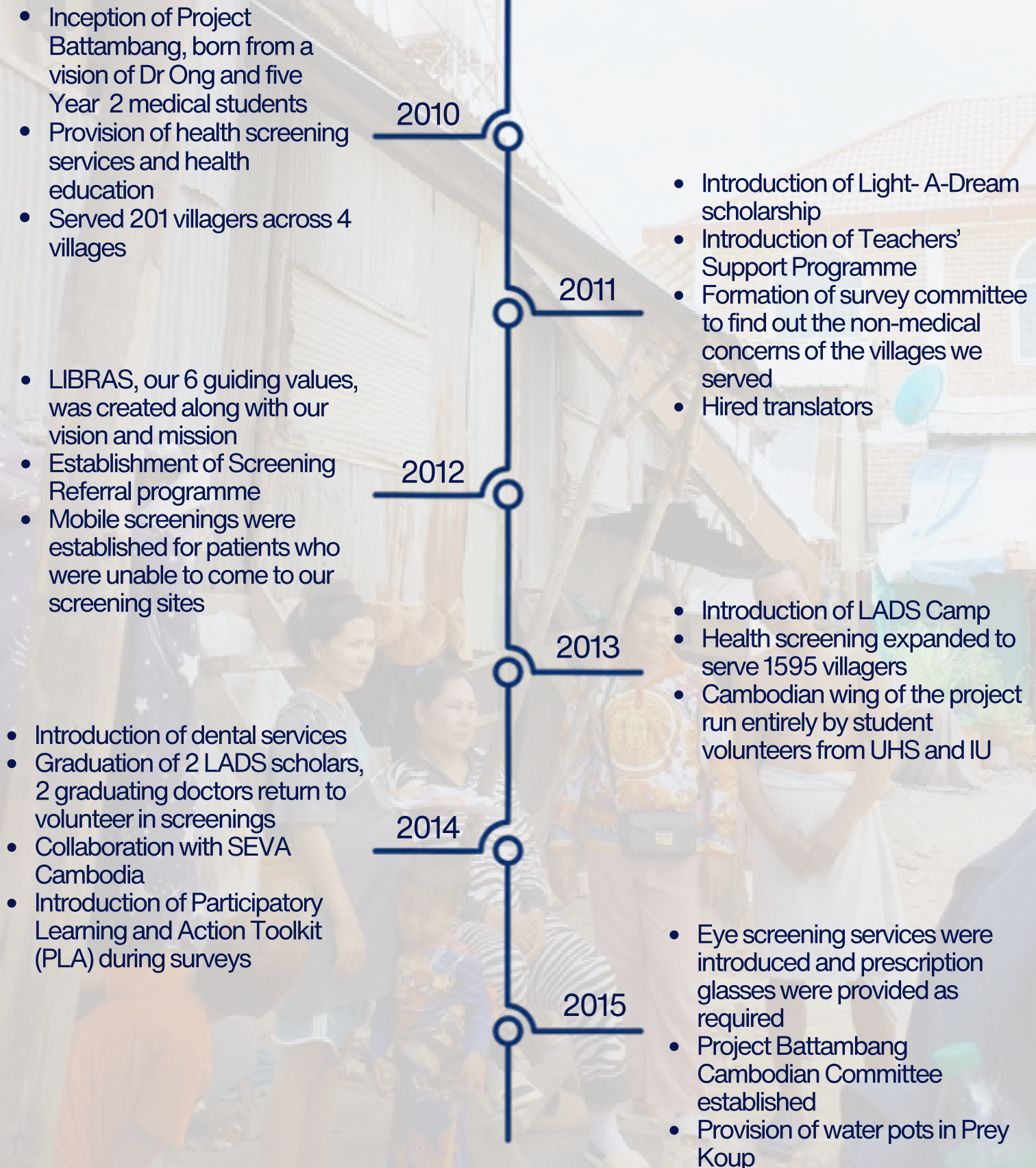


Youth Empowerment



In the pursuit of social change, Project Battambang persists in its belief in the potential of youth. Anchored in the provision of educational opportunities and active engagement in community development initiatives, the project envisions young individuals as vital agents for positive change in Cambodia.

Timeline:



Timeline:

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IU, formally outlining Singaporean and Cambodian committees' support for Project Battambang
- Provision of supplemental waterpots

2016

- Expansion of dental screenings; established partnerships with two local dental clinics
- Established partnership with local optic shop, Heng Optic
- Implementation of SSP - funding the construction of a well and a toilet in Santipheap school
- Introduction of buddy system with LADS scholars

2018

- Rise of COVID-19
- Unable to travel to Cambodia
- Maintained contact with our Cambodian Committee
- Fund-raising efforts

2020

2017

- Teacher's Support Programme (TSP) replaced by School Support Programme (SSP)
- Health Education Day established
- More robust chronic disease management system; Telehealth and prescription cards
- Introduction of Door-To-Door Groundwork methodology during surveys

2019

- Expansion into new villages for health screenings
- Door-to-door Needs Assessment surveys using Magpi app
- Restructuring of survey committee into development committee
- Development of health education syllabus

2021

- With COVID-19 travel restrictions persisting, we continued our support remotely through our COVID relief support programme and engaged with LADS scholars over Zoom
- Continued local fund-raising efforts

Timeline:

- Resumption of Cambodia trips
- Health screenings
- Door-to-door surveys and groundwork to find out what has changed over the years

2022

- Expansion of screening stations and referrals, and into 2 new villages
- Pioneering Teachers' Training across different schools
- Soap-making programme and installation of a water pump at Love Without Boundaries (LWB)
- A human-centric approach to Door-to-door surveys via the Stories of Poipet Initiative
- Pilot usage of VEASNA, and facial ID scanners for screening
- Computer Lab and Sports Programme at Tum Nub Kor V School

2024

2023

- Collaboration with Love Without Boundaries (LWB) to organise health screenings for both of their schools
- Battambus mobile screening at Dong Aranh Village, including a team that travelled door-to-door
- Re-establishment of a permanent Cambodian Committee

2025:

- May recce trip to Poipet to better understand the villages served and guide long-term planning
- Door-to-door surveys across Phum Prachea Thoam Lech, Orussey and Tum Nup Kor 5, focusing on healthcare access, clean water and education needs
- Piloting of water filter programme in Orussey Village
- LADS Camp with Project A Better Cambodia, where scholars developed local initiative proposals
- Teacher's Training and pilot Career Fair at Love Without Boundaries School
- Unable to return to Poipet in December due to the Thai-Cambodia border conflict and safety concerns

Why May 2026 Was Different

Safety Concerns

The May 2026 trip took place during a period of transition for Project Battambang. Due to the ongoing **Thai-Cambodia border conflict** and the increasing uncertainty surrounding the safety situation in Poipet, the committee sought guidance from our advisors, doctors and seniors regarding the direction of the trip. Through these discussions, it became clear that continuing on-ground operations in Poipet in the immediate future would not be feasible.

A Transitional Trip

As such, the May 2026 trip was redesigned as a recce and relationship-building trip based in Phnom Penh. Rather than carrying out a full-scale initiative, the trip focused on understanding the healthcare, educational and community landscape of potential new areas. Through consultation with the Cambodian Committee, **Stung Meanchey and Koh Dach Island** were identified as communities for exploration. These sites were selected as they allowed the team to assess different community settings, engage local stakeholders and consider where Project Battambang could contribute in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The finalised itinerary was therefore structured around several key objectives: strengthening relationships with the Cambodian Committee, conducting door-to-door groundwork, engaging local NGOs, schools, hospitals and pharmacies, reconnecting with LADS scholars, and identifying possible long-term partners. Each component of the trip was planned to maximise opportunities for listening, observation and consolidation before any future initiatives are proposed.

Clarification on Project Direction

Project Battambang's decision to shift its current operations towards Phnom Penh does not represent a permanent withdrawal from Poipet. Rather, it is a temporary and responsible response to the current safety concerns and logistical constraints surrounding on-ground operations in the area. Project Battambang remains deeply committed to maintaining ties with our existing stakeholders in Poipet, including Bong Bondol, Sister Gomi and our current LADS scholars.

At the same time, Project Battambang **does not take a political position** on the Thai-Cambodia border conflict, nor does this transition reflect support for either side. Our priority remains the safety of our members, respect for the communities we serve, and the continuation of our project's mission in a responsible manner. As a student-led community service project, our role is not to comment on political matters, but to serve with humility, care and accountability wherever our efforts can be appropriate and useful.

Moving forward, decisions on whether Project Battambang returns fully to Poipet, remains in Phnom Penh, or operates across both regions will be left to future batches. These decisions should be guided by safety, local need, partner input and a clear understanding of where Project Battambang can best contribute.

Finalised May Recce Trip Objectives

Focus

Reason

University Visits

To build institutional ties and understand Phnom Penh's medical education landscape

Door-to-door surveys

To hear directly from residents and better understand community needs, priorities and health-seeking behaviours before planning future initiatives.

SG X Cambodian Committee discussions

To align expectations and strengthen collaboration

LADS scholars interviews

To maintain responsibility to our existing Poipet scholars despite the shift

NGO, hospital, school and pharmacy visits

To understand local systems, referral pathways and potential partners

Areas We Explored

Stung Meanchey

Located within Phnom Penh, the area has long been associated with urban poverty and vulnerable communities, particularly due to its historical links to landfill-adjacent settlements.

As Project Battambang considered possible new directions, Stung Meanchey was identified as a site where there may be existing gaps in healthcare, education and social support. The team thus sought to better understand the lived realities of residents and assess whether our project could meaningfully complement the work already being done on the ground.

Koh Dach

Situated within Phnom Penh and accessible by ferry, the island presented a different set of healthcare, education and logistical considerations.

During the May recce trip, the team engaged local stakeholders to better understand residents' needs, health-seeking behaviours and openness towards future initiatives. Koh Dach's island geography also allowed the team to assess practical considerations such as transport, access to food, local leadership structures and possible partner support..



DEVELOPMENT





Overview:

The Development team focuses on understanding the needs of the communities we serve. Our role involves conducting groundwork, analysing community findings, and using these insights to guide the project's strategic direction. Through needs-based and asset-based assessments, we seek to identify not only the challenges faced by each community, but also the existing strengths, resources and support systems that can be built upon.

In May 2026, the Development team led primary data collection in Stung Meanchey and Koh Dach Island through door-to-door surveys, village chief meetings, school visits and engagements with NGOs that had prior experience in the area. These efforts aimed to assess community demographics, health profiles, educational needs, daily challenges and local priorities. They also helped the team evaluate the potential impact and feasibility of future screening or education initiatives.

Beyond data collection, Development also played a role in shaping the overall structure of the recce. This year, the subcommittee introduced a cross-committee schedule that integrated surveys, school visits and NGO engagements. This allowed different committees to contribute to the groundwork process while reducing survey fatigue and improving team morale. It also helped streamline operations and maximise productivity during the limited duration of the trip.

Door-To-Door Surveys

The Development Subcommittee conducted door-to-door surveys over two days in Stung Meanchey and Koh Dach Island. In collaboration with other subcommittees, we developed survey questions covering health demographics, interest in screening, and educational status to ensure each subcommittee could identify needs relevant to its work. As this was our first engagement in these villages, we prioritised collecting quantitative data to keep surveys concise, increase the number of households reached, and obtain more representative and actionable insights.

Our subcommittee employed field-based convenience sampling to conduct surveys within the villages. While this approach introduced limitations such as selection bias for households of poorer living conditions as well as an overrepresentation of residents who were available at home during weekdays, it was chosen for its practicality and efficiency. As an initial assessment of these communities, convenience sampling enabled rapid data collection without requiring prior knowledge of the area, while also capturing the demographic most likely to attend future screening programmes.



Community Findings

Our team collected over 100 responses from residents in Stung Meanchey, providing a meaningful preliminary dataset for understanding the community's needs and priorities.

Stung Meanchey

Education

Education was highly valued within the community, with many residents expressing aspirations for higher levels of study. However, financial constraints remained a major barrier to continued education. This revealed a gap between educational aspirations and the resources needed to achieve them. These findings suggest that future education-related initiatives could focus on improving awareness of educational opportunities, reducing barriers to continued learning and supporting students in navigating available pathways.

Screening

Residents demonstrated strong interest in health screening programmes and follow-up care. However, willingness to participate appeared closely tied to accessibility and affordability. Many residents preferred screening locations close to home, while a significant proportion lacked healthcare subsidy coverage. These findings suggest that community-based screening programmes may receive strong uptake if they are conducted in accessible locations. Clear follow-up pathways would also be important to ensure that screening translates into meaningful care.

Health

Most households reported relying on bottled water provided by the government, suggesting that water procurement may not be a major concern for many residents. However, the community still faced a notable burden of acute illnesses, non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, and ongoing risks from mosquito-borne diseases. These findings point towards the need for both health screening and preventive health education. Future initiatives could focus on common community health concerns, including chronic disease awareness, mosquito-borne disease prevention and health-seeking behaviour.

Implications



Stung Meanchey presents clear areas of need, particularly in health education, preventive care and education support. However, future involvement should be carefully considered in relation to existing organisations already working in the area. Project Battambang should only pursue initiatives that complement current support systems and address gaps that local partners identify as meaningful.



Community Findings

We conducted 50 surveys on Koh Dach Island, providing useful preliminary insight into the island's demographics, challenges and potential areas for future engagement.

Koh Dach Island

Education

Over half of surveyed households had school-going children, and many residents expressed aspirations for university-level education. This reflects strong community support for education. However, economic constraints remained a significant barrier to educational attainment. These findings suggest that education-related initiatives may be relevant on Koh Dach, particularly those that improve awareness, access and opportunities for continued learning. School-based engagement may also be a feasible avenue for future collaboration.

Screening

Residents demonstrated a highly positive attitude towards health screening and follow-up care. This suggests that future screening programmes may achieve strong participation and community engagement. While most respondents were willing to travel reasonable distances for screening, concerns regarding treatment costs, transportation and limited healthcare subsidy coverage remain important considerations. These findings highlight the need for accessible screening locations, clear referral pathways and practical follow-up plans.

Health

The community reported a burden of both acute and chronic health conditions. Common concerns included musculoskeletal pain, hypertension and diabetes. Drinking water sources were also raised as an area of concern. These findings suggest potential value in targeted health screening and education initiatives. Future programmes could focus on non-communicable diseases, preventive healthcare, musculoskeletal health, water safety and general health literacy.

Implications



Koh Dach Island appears to present potential for future Project Battambang initiatives, particularly if supported by local partners and community leaders. The positive attitude towards screening and follow-up care suggests possible community receptiveness. However, future plans must account for transport limitations, treatment costs, subsidy coverage and referral pathways. Any initiative should be designed with local stakeholders to ensure that it is accessible, sustainable and responsive to actual community needs.



Stakeholder Engagement

Apart from conducting door-to-door surveys, the Development Subcommittee also prioritised engaging with village chiefs. These visits were invaluable in providing deeper insights into community needs and establishing relationships that may facilitate future collaborations.

While we were unable to meet the village chief of Stung Meanchey, our team met with two village chiefs on Koh Dach Island, gaining a better understanding of the challenges they face in leading their communities and the forms of support they consider most beneficial.

Our surveys and village chief visits would not have been possible without the support of our Cambodian counterparts. Their assistance was instrumental in connecting us with residents, facilitating data collection, and helping our team navigate the complex relationships between community members, village chiefs, and local organisations.





Consolidations

The door-to-door surveys provided valuable insights into the differing needs of Stung Meanchey Village and Koh Dach Island. In Stung Meanchey, many of the most pressing challenges related to basic necessities such as food security, housing, infrastructure, and financial support. As these needs fall largely outside Project Battambang's scope and are already being addressed by established NGOs and governmental agencies, the committee concluded that our resources would be better directed towards communities where we can provide greater value through our health and educational initiatives.

Consequently, we identified Koh Dach Island as a more suitable site for further exploration and potential future initiatives. Survey findings demonstrated strong community interest in health screening, a positive attitude towards preventive healthcare, and willingness to engage in follow-up care. These findings, together with insights gained from village chief visits and engagements with local organisations, reinforced our confidence that our initiatives would be both well-received and impactful. Furthermore, the relationships established with community stakeholders provide a strong foundation for sustainable collaboration and future programme implementation on Koh Dach Island.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, the development subcommittee's directive will be anchored on 3 main aspects: **Enhance, Engage and Explore**

Enhance

After rounds of discussions and reflections, we identified several areas for operational improvement. This includes more flexible route planning based on local recommendations, refinement of questionnaire design, and earlier involvement of Cambodian counterparts in survey development. Hence, our team plans to enhance the operations of our existing initiatives using the feedback we have collected from the committee, and tapping on various technologies through collaborations with the project's VEASNA team. From the perspective of data collection, our team endeavours to achieve a more representative analysis of villages by employing random sampling methods, limiting confounding factors and focussing efforts into a more specific study area.

Engage

The development subcommittee also plans to engage more broadly and deeply with various stakeholders. Internally, we strive to further improve communication and collaboration with our Cambodian counterparts as this would greatly enhance idea generation and enable us to broaden our perspectives towards approaching challenges. Externally, the development subcommittee will work with the sponsorships subcommittee to facilitate conversations with our NGO partners, to maintain a close relationship with them and ensure alignment of interests of both parties.

Explore

Our team is also committed to the continued exploration of the needs of the community. This ensures that the project is kept abreast of societal shifts that may alter needs of the villagers, thereby setting the stage for other subcommittees to adapt to the dynamic environment we are operating in. We hope that this exploration will culminate in the identification of a specific challenge that is realistic for the project to tackle, to streamline the focus of the project, anchored on evidence based need analysis.



SCREENING



Overview:

The Screening Committee is responsible for planning and developing Project Battambang's health screening initiatives, with the aim of making healthcare more accessible, affordable and sustainable even in our absence for the communities we serve.

This May 2026 trip was a pivotal one for the committee. As Project Battambang shifted towards Phnom Penh, many of the healthcare partnerships built over the years in Poipet could no longer be relied on in the same way. This brought new uncertainties, particularly in relation to referral pathways, medication sourcing and the feasibility of conducting future screenings in a new setting.

As such, the focus of this trip was not to carry out health screenings, but to lay the groundwork for future ones. The committee sought to form new connections with hospitals, pharmacies and local partners within Phnom Penh. These relationships are essential in ensuring that future screenings are not only well-supported on the ground, but also linked to appropriate follow-up care. Through these efforts, the Screening Committee hopes to better understand the local healthcare landscape and plan future initiatives that are practical, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the communities in Phnom Penh.

Rebuilding Connections

Hospital Visits

As Project Battambang shifted towards Phnom Penh, the Screening Committee had to reassess how future health screenings could be planned in a new setting. In Poipet, many of our screening processes were supported by long-standing relationships with hospitals, pharmacies and local partners. Moving to a new location meant that these foundations had to be rebuilt before any future screening could be carried out safely and effectively.

A key focus of the May trip was therefore to understand the local healthcare landscape in Phnom Penh. Thus, the team visited **Preah Ang Duong Hospital** and held discussions with the Chief of General Surgery. This allowed us to better understand the hospital's specialisations, facilities, patient load and possible capacity to receive referrals from future Project Battambang screenings. The visit also helped clarify the importance of having a reliable referral pathway, especially for patients whose needs extend beyond what can be managed during screening.

Pharmacy Visits

Alongside hospital visits, **Screening** and **Logistics** Committees also visited multiple local pharmacies to explore possible medication sources for future trips in order to continue providing free medication to the locals that we screen. These discussions helped the team understand what medications may be available locally, how they can be procured, and what support may be needed to continue providing basic medications during future screenings.



Future Plans

Overall, this May trip was a period of exploration and recalibration for the Screening Committee. It reminded the team that initiatives planned in Singapore may not always translate directly to the Cambodian context. Listening to the Cambodian Committee and understanding local healthcare systems will therefore be essential in shaping future screening processes.

Moving forward, the Screening Committee hopes to build stronger partnerships with local hospitals, pharmacies and Cambodian counterparts. These relationships will help guide future screening plans, including possible modalities such as vaccinations, dental consults and chronic disease screening. Any future initiative should be planned with clear referral pathways, reliable medication access and a strong understanding of local needs.



EDUCATION





Overview:

The Education Committee supports Project Battambang's long-term commitment to education as a means of community empowerment. Our work focuses on understanding educational needs, building relationships with schools, and sustaining the Light-A-Dream Scholarship programme.

As we moved beyond our longstanding school partnerships in Poipet, it became necessary to establish new connections with schools in Stung Meanchey and Koh Dach during this May Trip. Rather than implementing established programmes, the trip centred on listening, assessing and reconnecting. We sought to understand the educational landscape of the communities visited, while continuing to uphold our responsibility to existing LADS scholars by strengthening follow-up efforts with them. This served not only as a means of keeping in touch with our scholarship recipients, but also as an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and long-term impact of the programme.

This balance between exploration and continuity guided the committee's work throughout the trip. By engaging both new stakeholders and long-standing beneficiaries, the Education Committee aimed to ensure that future initiatives remain relevant, locally informed and aligned with the evolving direction of Project Battambang.

School Visits

During the May 2026 trip, the Education Committee engaged several schools to better understand their needs and identify areas where Project Battambang could complement existing programmes. As the project explored a new direction beyond Poipet, these visits were important in helping the team assess the educational landscape in Stung Meanchey and Koh Dach. They also allowed us to consider how future initiatives could support students and teachers in practical areas such as health, hygiene, first aid and fitness education.



Schools visited in Stung Meanchey:

- 1. Green Bethel School**
- 2. People's Improvement High School**



Schools visited on Koh Dach Island:

- 1. Roneah Primary School**
- 2. Hun Neang L'vae.**

Findings

Across multiple schools, limited first-aid knowledge among both staff and students was identified as a recurring concern. Schools also shared challenges relating to shortages of basic educational resources, including writing supplies. In addition, gaps in handwashing and sanitation facilities were highlighted as areas where future health education initiatives could be useful.

While Green Bethel School provided valuable insight into the educational landscape in Stung Meanchey, the team has decided not to pursue a formal collaboration with the school for future trips. Through our conversation, we learnt that Green Bethel School is already supported by several NGOs and external partners. Their current priorities are also centred on long-term financial and developmental support, which would require a level of sustained engagement beyond what Project Battambang can provide through biannual trips.

As such, the team felt that our efforts would be better directed towards schools whose needs align more closely with our capacity as a student-led project. People's Improvement High School, Roneah Primary School and Hun Neang L'vae School may present more suitable opportunities for future education initiatives. Building on the insights gathered during the May trip, the Education Committee hopes to plan targeted school-based programmes for the upcoming December trip.

LADS: Introduction

The **Light-A-Dream Scholarship**, or LADS, is one of Project Battambang's longest-running education initiatives. Established in 2014, the programme supports students in Poipet by helping to fund their education. For many scholars, this financial support reduces one of the major barriers to continuing school and allows them to pursue their studies with greater stability.

Previously:

Over the years, LADS has been closely supported by Project Battambang's local partners in Poipet. Mother of Peace Kindergarten, also known as MOPK, and Veng Bondol, whom the team often refers to as Bong Bondol, have played important roles in identifying students who may benefit from the scholarship. Sister Gomi, from MOPK, has also been involved in managing the funds and helping to coordinate payment to the relevant schools. These local partners have been essential because they understand the students, families and community context far better than the Singapore committee can from afar.

Under the previous system, LADS scholars were mainly selected by our local partners in Poipet while Project Battambang's role was largely to provide the necessary funding. Donations were usually placed into the project's general committee funds, after which a portion would be used to support the LADS scholars allocated to us for that year. The funds were then transferred to the Sisters, who helped manage payment to the schools based on each scholar's tuition fees.



When we were able to return to Poipet, our engagement with the LADS scholars extended beyond financial support. Through **LADS Camp**, scholars came together to learn, bond and grow as young leaders within their community. Past camps focused on themes such as healthcare, leadership and community involvement, with activities ranging from health education sessions to games, skits and door-to-door visits. Scholars were encouraged not only to receive knowledge, but also to share what they had learnt with villagers around them. These initiatives helped strengthen their confidence, deepen their connection with one another and nurture their role as future changemakers in their own communities.

A group of young people, identified as LADS scholars, are posed for a group photo. Some are wearing black t-shirts with the 'PROJECT BATTAMBANG EST 2010' logo. They are standing in front of a modern building with large windows.

LADS: Scholars Engagement

As we were unable to return to Poipet this year, the Education Committee arranged a meet with our LADS scholars currently studying in Phnom Penh. In collaboration with the Sponsorship Committee, the Education Committee worked on producing a documentary featuring our current LADS scholars. Beyond giving a face to the scholars whom Project Battambang supports, the documentary also served as an important platform for follow-up. This is an area the Education Committee has recognised as a gap within the current scholarship structure.

1 Reconnecting with our scholars

Through both on-camera and off-camera conversations, we learnt more about our scholars' current educational paths, living conditions and future aspirations. These conversations helped us see them not only as recipients of the scholarship, but as individuals with their own hopes, responsibilities and personal journeys.

2 Connecting donors to impact

The documentary serves as a way to show donors the real people behind the programme. By sharing our scholars' stories, we hope to provide a clearer picture of how the LADS Scholarship has supported their education and growth over time.

3 Reflecting on the future of LADS

Nonetheless, these conversations also highlighted areas for improvement. As the scholarship programme continues to grow and adapt to changing funding structures, stronger systems for transparency, follow-up and communication are needed. Moving forward, the Education Committee hopes to strengthen regular check-ins with scholars, improve documentation of their progress, and create clearer channels for donors to understand the impact of their contributions.

Scholar Spotlight: Rady



Among the scholars we reconnected with during the May trip, Rady's story left a deep impression on the team. Now a Year 4 Electrical Engineering student, Rady shared with us not only his academic journey, but also his hopes for the community that shaped him.

Despite the demands of his final year, Rady continues to balance his studies with a part-time job to support his living expenses and travel costs. His schedule is tiring, but he spoke with a quiet sense of purpose that stayed with us. What stood out most was his desire to give back to Poipet. In his own capacity, he has started providing free Mathematics tuition for students at Mother of Peace Kindergarten, supporting younger students who are walking a path similar to his own.

Rady's story reflects the deeper purpose of the LADS Scholarship. The programme is not only about helping scholars complete their education, but also about empowering them to grow into individuals who can uplift their communities in their own ways. His journey reminded us that the impact of education often extends beyond the individual. When scholars are supported, they may one day become sources of support for others.

LADS: Limitations

The old system allowed the scholarship to continue for many years. However, as the programme grew, several limitations became clearer. Below are the **limitations** established by the Education Committee during this May Trip:

First, the Singapore committee had **limited visibility** over the scholar selection process. While local partners remained central to identifying students in need, the lack of a standardised selection structure made it difficult for Project Battambang to understand how scholars were chosen each year.

Second, the **funding system** became increasingly difficult to sustain. As LADS funds were drawn from the general committee pool, it was harder to track how much money was specifically donated for scholarships. It also meant that LADS relied heavily on broader project funds. With changes in fundraising patterns and donor support, this raised concerns about whether the programme could continue supporting scholars at the same scale in the long run.

Third, **follow-up** with scholars became more challenging. In the past, LADS Camp provided a regular opportunity for Project Battambang to reconnect with scholars, understand their progress and maintain a relationship with them. However, with current safety concerns preventing regular trips back to Poipet, the team recognised the need for a new system of engagement. Without stronger follow-up, there is a risk that the link between scholars, sponsors and Project Battambang may weaken over time.



LADS: Future Plans

In light of these limitations, the Education Committee thus worked on revamping the LADS system. The proposed framework seeks to strengthen the scholarship programme by **improving transparency, accountability and long-term engagement**.



A key change is the establishment of a formal interview and selection panel for prospective LADS scholars. This panel will include key stakeholders from both Singapore and Cambodia, such as the Education Committee Head, Project Battambang's mentors and Bong Bondol. Through this panel, Project Battambang hopes to take on a more active role in the selection and development of the LADS programme, while continuing to respect the local knowledge and experience of our Cambodian partners.

To improve consistency and objectivity, scholars will be assessed using a set of predetermined criteria. Standardised information will also be collected from each selected scholar, including their background, school and grade level, financial needs, interests and aspirations. These details will be compiled into individual student profiles, allowing donors to better understand the students they are supporting.

The new system also aims to strengthen donor engagement. Where possible, donors will be matched to specific scholars and may receive biannual updates on their sponsored student's educational journey and personal development. These updates may include academic progress, personal achievements, future goals and short messages from the scholar. By creating clearer channels of communication between donors and scholars, the revised LADS system hopes to foster stronger relationships, improve transparency and ensure that the scholarship remains sustainable for future batches.



Consolidations

One key takeaway for the Education Committee was the importance of flexibility when building school partnerships. While pre-trip planning gave us a starting point, our conversations on the ground showed that each school had different priorities, limitations and expectations. This reminded us that education initiatives cannot be planned in isolation. They must be shaped through continued dialogue with the schools we hope to support.

The trip also strengthened our appreciation of the Cambodian Committee's role. Beyond translation, they provided important cultural context, local knowledge and guidance on how to communicate with schools more effectively. Their involvement helped us better understand the communities we were engaging with and highlighted the need for earlier collaboration in future planning.

At the same time, the trip reminded us that ideas developed in Singapore may not always work in the local context. Certain plans had to be adjusted once we better understood the realities on the ground. Moving forward, the Education Committee hopes to approach future initiatives with greater adaptability, stronger Cambodian Committee involvement and a clearer understanding of each school's needs.



LOGISTICS



Overview:

The Logistics Committee plays a central role in ensuring the smooth execution of Project Battambang's activities by supporting the operational needs of all subcommittees. For the May 2026 recce trip, this involved coordinating key arrangements such as transport, accommodation, meals, safety protocols and on-the-ground movement between various sites in Phnom Penh. The committee also ensured that schedules were aligned across different teams, allowing activities to proceed in a timely and organised manner.

As this trip marked Project Battambang's transition into a new working context, Logistics had to adapt quickly to unfamiliar locations, changing plans and the needs of different committees. The committee worked closely with the Cambodian Committee and local partners to ensure that school visits, stakeholder engagements, door-to-door surveys and other recce activities could be carried out safely and efficiently. This required clear communication, flexibility in planning and close coordination with external stakeholders to manage uncertainties on the ground.

In addition to supporting daily operations, the committee ensured that resources were allocated appropriately and that contingency measures were in place to address potential disruptions. Through these efforts, Logistics enabled the various subcommittees to carry out their respective objectives effectively during the recce trip.

Initiatives

Operational Coordination

As the May 2026 trip took place amid Project Battambang's shift away from Poipet, the Logistics Committee played a key role in ensuring that daily operations could run safely and smoothly in a new setting. This included supporting emergency protocols, coordinating with local contacts, managing transport arrangements, and overseeing accommodation and meal planning. As flights had initially been booked to Siem Reap before the pivot to Phnom Penh, the committee also had to adapt quickly by arranging onward transport to Phnom Penh. Throughout the trip, location-sharing measures and regular parent updates helped strengthen communication and provide reassurance to both the team and external stakeholders.

Screening Logistics

Although no full health screening was conducted during the May trip, the Logistics Committee worked closely with the Screening Committee to assess the feasibility of future screening operations in Phnom Penh. This included visiting local pharmacies and hospitals to explore possible medication sources and identifying potential partners who could support future drug procurement. The committee also considered how existing drugs and screening logistics stored in Poipet could be managed moving forward. This required balancing practical considerations, such as cost and storage, with sensitivity towards Project Battambang's long-standing relationships in Poipet.

Koh Dach Operational Planning

The May recce trip provided valuable insight into the logistical considerations of operating on Koh Dach. Transport within the island was more limited than expected, as Grab and other private-hire services were not readily available. Food availability also posed difficulties during door-to-door surveys, with several restaurants either closed or requiring prior orders. The heat further affected the team's ability to continue fieldwork comfortably. These observations highlighted the need for future Koh Dach activities to include advance planning for transport, meals, rest points and possible storage spaces with the support of local partners.

Future Plans

Moving forward, the Logistics Committee hopes to refine its processes to better support Project Battambang's transition into Phnom Penh. Future batches should prioritise earlier booking of flights, ideally directly to Phnom Penh, to reduce unnecessary travel time and improve cost efficiency. Transport plans should also be developed with greater attention to site-specific needs, especially for Koh Dach, where movement within the island requires advance coordination. Food and accommodation arrangements should continue to be planned with safety, accessibility and team welfare in mind. For days involving intensive fieldwork, catered meals should be arranged in advance to avoid delays and ensure that committee members are adequately supported. Where possible, accommodation with breakfast should also be prioritised, as this reduces morning logistical stress and allows the team to begin each day more smoothly.

In relation to future screenings, Logistics should continue working with the Screening Committee and Cambodian counterparts to identify reliable pharmacy partners, medication sources and storage options in Phnom Penh. The management of existing supplies in Poipet should be handled with care, ensuring that Project Battambang remains respectful of its long-standing relationships while preparing for future operations.

Lastly, collaboration with the Cambodian Logistics Committee should be strengthened through regular discussions before future trips. By involving the Cambodian team earlier in planning, Project Battambang can better anticipate local constraints, make more practical arrangements and build a more sustainable operational foundation for future batches.





PUBLICITY





Overview:

The Publicity Committee is responsible for sharing Project Battambang's work with the wider community and strengthening the project's visibility, outreach and support. Through social media, visual storytelling, fundraising publicity and sponsor engagement, the committee communicates the heart behind our initiatives while maintaining connections with supporters, sponsors and the school community.

During the May 2026 recce trip, Publicity also supported Project Battambang's transition into a new working context. Beyond documenting the trip, the committee contributed to outreach and partnership-building by helping identify local organisations, NGOs and community partners who could support our entry into new areas. These connections were important in allowing the team to better understand existing support systems and engage new communities with greater trust, context and guidance.

Throughout the trip, the committee shared Project Battambang's journey through social media updates, curated posts, reels and visual materials. Publicity also supported fundraising, sponsor engagement and the LADS documentary initiative with Education. Through these efforts, the committee helped strengthen the link between donors, beneficiaries and the project, while supporting both the visibility and sustainability of Project Battambang's work.

Social Media

During the May 2026 recce trip, our social media efforts centred on documenting Project Battambang's journey as we explored a new working context beyond Poipet. Through Instagram stories, carousel posts and reels, we shared real-time updates from the ground, including door-to-door surveys, NGO visits, school engagements, stakeholder discussions and team reflections. These updates allowed our supporters to remain connected to the trip from afar, while providing a clearer picture of the groundwork involved in entering new communities responsibly.

A highlight of this trip was the involvement of our Cambodian Committee members, Pech and Soleka, who prepared daily vlogs capturing the trip from their own perspectives. Their contributions added depth and authenticity to our documentation, reminding us that Project Battambang's story should be told through both Singaporean and Cambodian voices. Moving forward, we hope to continue co-creating content with the Cambodian Committee so that our publicity efforts better reflect the partnership at the heart of our project.

Beyond daily updates, our post-trip content served as an online archive of the May recce trip. By consolidating key moments, reflections and lessons, Publicity sought to honour the people we met, remain accountable to our supporters and sponsors, and communicate the heart behind Project Battambang's evolving direction.



LADS: Documentary

In collaboration with the Education Committee, Publicity also supported the filming of a short documentary featuring our LADS scholars and Bong Bondol. Even as Project Battambang explored a new base of operations in Phnom Penh, this initiative allowed us to remain connected to the communities we have long served in Poipet.



Through candid interviews, LADS scholars shared their educational journeys, aspirations and reflections on how the scholarship has shaped their lives. Bong Bondol, a graduated LADS scholar and long-standing ground contact, also shared his experience of returning to serve his community after completing nursing school. His story reflects the deeper purpose of LADS: that education can empower individuals not only to improve their own lives, but also to give back to the communities that raised them.

More than a publicity effort, the documentary serves as a **bridge** between donors, scholars and Project Battambang. By sharing these stories, we hope to close the loop between support and impact, reminding our community that behind every scholarship and every dollar raised are real people with real journeys worth telling.

NGO Visits



During the May 2026 recce trip, NGO visits played an important role in helping Project Battambang explore its future direction beyond Poipet. As the project considered entering new communities, it was essential for us to first understand the existing support systems, community needs and local organisations already working on the ground.

The Publicity Committee supported this process by identifying suitable NGOs to engage, reaching out to them before the trip, and helping to plan the visits. During the engagements, Publicity worked closely with the Development Committee to speak with the organisations and better understand their work, target communities and areas of need. These conversations helped the team identify potential partners and connections who could guide Project Battambang's entry into new areas with greater context, trust and cultural sensitivity.

Through these visits, the team gained a deeper appreciation of the complexity of community work in Cambodia. We also learnt the importance of complementing, rather than duplicating, existing efforts. In some instances, the team recognised that a formal collaboration may not be appropriate if our involvement would not add value to the community. Overall, these NGO visits shaped our understanding of sustainable partnership-building and reminded us of the importance of humility, intentionality and respect for local expertise as Project Battambang enters its next chapter.

Fundraising & Sponsorships

To raise financial support and awareness for Project Battambang's initiatives, the Publicity Committee organised several fundraisers throughout the school year. Beyond contributing to the project's funds, the fundraisers also served as opportunities to engage the wider school community and share more about Project Battambang's work. The process of planning and carrying out the fundraiser also strengthened teamwork within the committee, helping members work more closely together in preparation for the May and December trips.



In addition to fundraising, the committee reached out to a range of potential sponsors and companies to seek item donations for the communities we serve. These sponsored items were intended to support our school visits, door-to-door engagements and future community initiatives, in line with Project Battambang's focus on healthcare, hygiene and education. Many of the items distributed during the May trip had originally been sourced for the December 2025 trip, which could not proceed due to safety concerns.

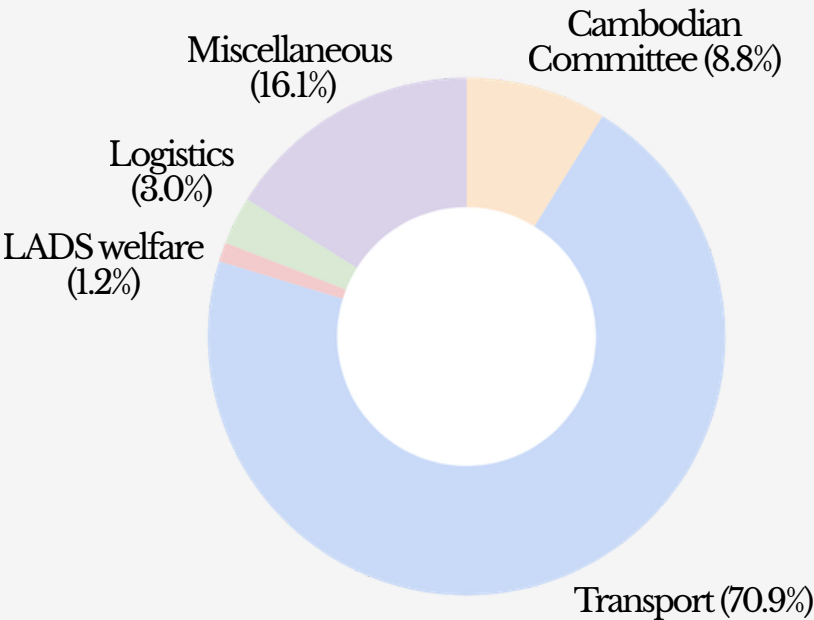
Following the collection and distribution of sponsored items, the committee also sent emails of gratitude to our sponsors. These follow-ups were important in maintaining strong relationships with our partners and expressing appreciation for their continued support. Through these fundraising and sponsorship efforts, the committee helped secure both financial and material resources for Project Battambang's ongoing work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

*All figures are in SGD

For Project Battambang’s 2026 May Trip, our **total expenditure** has amounted to:

\$2,573.90



A breakdown of our expenses is seen below:

Category	Details	Expenditure
Our Cambodian Committee	Purchase of food and welfare for our Cambodian committee members.	\$226.58
Transport	Transportation of personnel of both the Singaporean and Cambodian committee members, as well as logistics required. This includes bus hires and private transfer.	\$1824.64
LADS welfare	Expenditure for food and treats for Light-A-Dream Scholars during Documentary filming.	\$30.94
Logistics	Purchase of first aid materials, printing of flyers and publicity logistics.	\$76.84
Miscellaneous	Purchase of stakeholder gifts.	\$414.90

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Singaporean Committee

Benedict Ling Hann Qi
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Chew Yun Hui
Chloe Chong Fang Ning
Choo Yi Ming
Damian Chia Yi Zhi
Dao Huyen Chinh

Henrietta Tjan Shii Ern
Karthikeya Vetsa
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Shannen Chew

Cambodian Committee

Den Chaoyuth
Eav Bunleng
Kea sokheang
Koh sunreaksa
Lai Leakhena
LENG Sahrahpech

Ly Chhengcheav
NHOEL Chanchina
Pen Seakheng
Phou Monineath
SOEUN Veasna
TAING Soleka
Tieng Samnang

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LADs Scholars

Thit Sing

Thet Rady

Vann Peakdey

Sok An

Nat Vesna

Lorn Savorn

Chheang Kimsoun

Thit Pheng

Sna Meyna

Meas Sreymey

Keo Sila

Soav Laisim

Sivly

Shina

Porn Srey Khouonch

Sey Sonia

Lim Vuthy

Thit Phow

Leng sovandara

Lim Vutha

Khan Sreyneang

Theang Lisa

Pich Srey Nich

Bich Sombath

Bich Kanha

Leng Sovanareach

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Special Mentions

Dr Ellie Choi

Dr Lin Zhimin

Donors

Mr Billie Yang Kwong Ming

Dr Peter Chua

Mdm Michelle Wong Sow Le

Sponsors

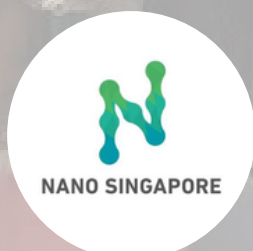
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Cloversoft



Nano Singapore



UUcare



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Sponsor

Medication

Medical supplies and equipment

Donate

**Funds and contribute towards our
LADS scholarship**

Volunteer

Doctors

Healthcare workers

Students