



Situation Update

Unfortunately, Siem Reap is struggling with more and more cases every day. The daily number of cases has jumped from single digits to occasional days of 100 plus cases. Many migrant workers are returning from Thailand, which is adding to the influx of cases. Inter-provincial travel is now allowed, and the curfew in Siem Reap has changed from 8 pm to 10 pm.

Rather than locking down entire communes, the government is now closing individual households and sometimes villages. In brighter news, the vaccination drive has been completed in Phnom Penh and has just begun in Siem Reap. It will take some time for everyone to get vaccinated and reach max immunity, but there is a sense of hope that perhaps schools can open in the near future.



Saoyin vaccination, one of our teachers

Moving from Food Relief to Cash Transfers

It is without a doubt that the situation in Cambodia has not significantly improved in 2021. After much consideration, we have transitioned into a cash transfer relief program. Why have we done this? It empowers our families to decide how to meet their own needs using local resources. Not convinced? Here are some more reasons why we made this change.



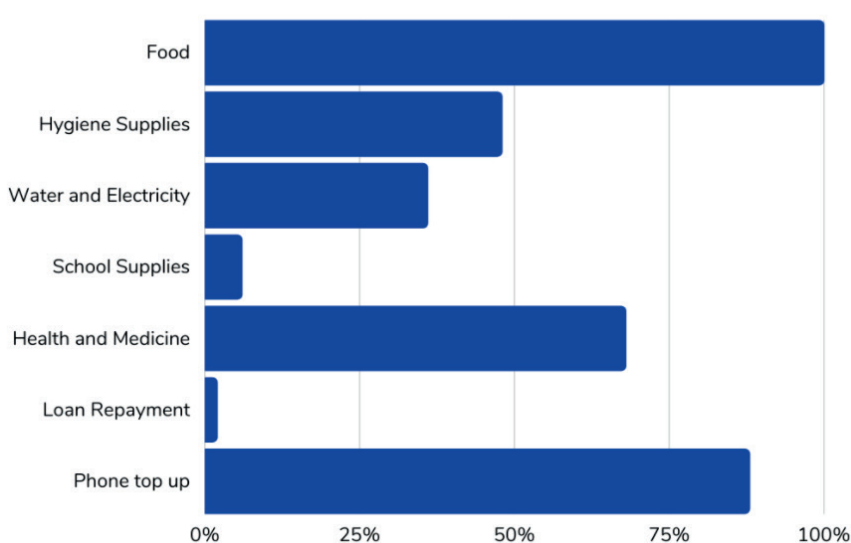
Why we are doing it

- Cash gives families autonomy to spend the money according to their individual needs and priorities
- Rather than buying from a single supplier, cash transfers have a local knock-on effect as families go to their local sellers to buy the food or supplies they need
- Decreases waste. Unwanted items can be left for waste or resold at a lower price, which ultimately reduces the impact of the donor.
- Can be done without face-to-face contact. In the case Cambodia faces long-term lockdowns, cash transfers can be done via online applications to reduce the contact between the beneficiaries and provider.

The Result

The cash transfer program started at the end of May. Anjali House provided 50 families with \$30 (the equivalent of what we were spending on food relief). At the end of June, we followed up with these families. All 50 families reported spending at least some of the money on food, 88% reported spending some funds on phone top-up cards, which allows students to study online. Other items included water and electricity payments, and health and hygiene materials.

How Families Used Cash Transfer



A System of Trust and Communication

We maintain a close relationship with our families, and many have worked with us for several years. We have built a system of trust and communication with our families. Before cash transfers are distributed, our team meets with the family or has an in-depth phone call to discuss their situation. We trust the parents and caretakers to make financial decisions that best support their families. A growing number of studies also show that the concerns cash transfers will be used on goods such as alcohol or tobacco are unfounded (World Bank, 2014)

Special thanks to [HE Space Children's Foundation](#) and Robert and Robin Craig for helping Anjali House provide cash transfers for 50 families a month through the end of the year. We cannot thank you enough for providing the financial support we need to help our families through these times.

In case you missed it...



June Blog - «In 5 years» PEPEY



Anjali in Action, June



July Blog - Elora's review