

September 2008

Dear friends and partners,

It is an honour to present to you our 14th Annual report.

Our goals for this year were to reach out to 36,786 families – we completed the year with 36,189 families involving 289,512 dependents. In this process, we were saddened to have to close down our Siem Reap project. Part of the reason for this closure was that the poverty immediately surrounding the town of Siem Reap had decreased significantly with the poorest of the poor being in areas at some distance from the town. This resulted in several staff members unwilling to travel these far distances and beginning to submit untrue and falsified reports. For our families who were benefiting from our projects, it was a very difficult and sad time, for our families who were being used to falsify reports, it was a relief.

The benefit to Tabitha Cambodia was enormous as it enabled the staff to fully appreciate the task involved in managing all projects. Siem Reap became the catalyst for a maturing process that enabled the staff to understand evaluation and to take action in appropriate manner. It became their problem and their solutions.

Our budgets were met through miraculous ways - savings increased phenomenally this year to \$1,501,662.33 – from this our 36,786 families made 140,835 purchases changing their lives for the better. The value of these purchases was an astonishing \$8,142,592.00 worth. Families that received wells increased their incomes to an average of \$3.00 per day – a remarkable increase. For some of our families, in addition to their daily income, an annual increase of income through pigs, fish, and large vegetables fields of \$2000.00 per annum was achieved. For this miracle, we are so very thankful.

We were privileged to open up a new project in Battambang this year. It was a remarkable year – we went from strength to strength – a year of consolidation of vision and of our implementation of that vision. Each one of you stood beside us – each one of you was an integral part of it all. On behalf of the families we worked with, the staff and myself. Thank you.

I praise my God for His grace and for His mercy in the year that is past. I look forward to serving all of you in the year that lies ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Janne Ritskes,
Director/Founder
Tabitha Cambodia

ANNUAL REPORT
September 2007 until August 2008

FAMILY ACHIEVEMENTS THRU SAVINGS

Our community development through savings program had several goals.

1. The total number of desired purchases and achievements of our families was 99,948 units.
The actual units achieved by our families were 140,835 units.

2. Our goal for family savings was \$ 1, 331,060.00
The actual savings was \$ 1,501,662.33

1. Our goal for number of families to be reached was 36,786 families with 288,608 people.
The actual number of families was 36,189 families with 289,512 people

2. Our goal for number of houses to be built was 600 houses.
The actual number of houses built by volunteers was 888 houses.

3. Our goal for number of wells was 1204 wells affecting 3,612 families.
The actual number of wells dug was 1045 affecting 4,421 families with 35,368 dependents and 6 reservoirs affecting 689 families with 5,512 dependents.

Notes:

4. This program year we closed down our Siem Reap Project due to a failure in program delivery. The impact of closing Siem Reap was very hurtful not only to staff but to a number of families in the project. The lessons learned are immeasurable and has enabled all of us to do extensive evaluations that truly reflect the impact of what we do.

5. We also opened a new project in Battambang province. This project is becoming stronger each week and we are pleased with the progress.

6. The number of houses built by volunteer house builders way exceeded our expectations. We are very grateful for the compassion of all who came and built and of all those who so kindly donated to this program.

7. Our wells were less than expected in one way – a number of villages do not have water so instead we have worked with these communities to dig and build reservoirs. The impact of field wells is only beginning to be understood – an impact that promises poverty alleviation if done properly.

Cottage Industry Report

It was an exciting year for us in Cottage Industry – our sales exceeded our plans – something that delights me no end.

We are very grateful to Tabitha Singapore. This past year Tabitha Singapore has continued to help us to sell and develop new products. What has been a blessing is that Tabitha Singapore has enabled us to expand our stock through the remittance of sales profits. It is a gift that enables us to continue to strengthen and develop this program.

Our Objectives:

1. From September 2007 until August 2008, TABITHA-Cottage Industry will increase the income of 594 families with 4352 dependents from a monthly income of 0-\$10 a month to an income of \$50-60\$ a month through income earned from piece rate.

Our actual number of families working in Cottage Industry was **594 families**. **549** families earned an average of **\$200.00 per month**. **The decrease in number of workers is due to the decrease in silk weavers from 400 to 350 regular weavers. The silk weavers also earn income from selling at the local markets.**

2. Our goal for sales was to sell \$639,950.00 worth of goods.

Our actual sales were **\$704,447.15**

The increase in sales is due to adding customers, increase in sales in Singapore and an increase in sales locally. Its been a good year – our next challenge is to find appropriate space for growth.

A vision that is developing is to find space big enough to promote growth in cottage industry and to showcase the ever increasing skills of Cambodians. By doing so, we hope to provide increased and long term income for a larger number of families.

WELLS and PONDS

Specific Objective:

1. To provide potable water for **3,612 families with 28,896 dependents** with the installation of **1204 wells in 10 project areas**. Each well will serve 3 families.

Actual Result:

1. **1045 wells were dug for 4,421 families with 35,368 dependents.**
The reason the wells were not completed is because that a number of our villages have no water in the ground. In these areas **6 ponds** were dug, affecting **689 families with 5,512 dependents**.

The total cost of the wells was \$102,906.00

**Wells installed to date by Tabitha Cambodia is 4372
28 Reservoirs have been installed to date by Tabitha Cambodia**

HOUSEBUILDING REPORT

Our specific objective this program year was to build **600 houses in our 10 project areas**.

We exceeded our goal this year and built **888 houses with 79 teams and 2370 volunteers**.

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|--------------|------------|
| Kandal: | 162 houses |
| Prey Veng: | 44 houses |
| Siem Reap: | 08 houses |
| Takeo | 125 houses |
| Kompong Som | 94 houses |
| Kampot | 156 houses |
| Kompong Speu | 169 houses |
| Svay Rieng | 70 houses |
| Kompong Thom | 60 houses |

Total 888 houses

The number of families who built strong and sturdy homes was **433 families**. Another **347 families** built thatch homes during this past year.

2370 Volunteers Built 888 Houses

**3161 houses have been built to date by volunteers.
4983 houses have been built to date by our families.**

School Project – September 2007 until August 2008-09-26

History:

In 2007, a group called PACE originating out of UWCSEA – one of our first partners – requested Tabitha Cambodia to become their partner in repairing and or building schools in Cambodia. Tabitha, at first rejected that request as Tabitha felt that Schools would take away from what we do best, Community Development through Savings.

It became clear in our discussions that PACE, a mothers support group at UWCSEA did not want to be part of the existing partnerships between the school and Tabitha Cambodia for fear of taking away responsibility for the Prey Veng Project from the students, teachers and parents involved. We decided to do a trial run.

It was decided to repair a school in Prey Veng – 6 classrooms were built – the result was that the student groups involved in housebuilding became involved in supplying and delivering supplies for the school itself – it has become a project that is incorporated into the total partnership of UWCSEA with Tabitha Cambodia.

Results:

6 Classrooms were completed in this program year enabling the school in **Prey Ankun, Prey Veng** to be able to teach an additional **380 children to their current 641 children**. These classrooms were also outfitted with student desks and blackboards. The cost of the project was **\$38,935.98**