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Alcohol Awareness Activities Have Transformed Sambath

by **Chuob Doeun (partner staff), Kimsear Hong (World Renew staff), Sovann Neth (World Renew staff), & Carol Van Klompenburg (volunteer)**

Sambath Harsh is a farmer. He lives with his wife, Sarom Sam, and four children in Svay Taplor, a remote village about three hours' drive southeast of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

In the past Sambath was an alcoholic. He was a burden to his wife and children. Sarom told us, "From 2004 until 2015, my husband drank alcohol every day and did not help with any work in the family. I was the only one who took responsibility for looking after the family and working on our farm to earn an income." She continued, "Sometimes when my husband was drunk, he beat me and the children." Sambath admitted to what his wife said and added, "I always forced my wife to give me money for alcohol, drinking, and gambling. I did not take care of my family, especially my children's education. Because of my neglect, two of my children had to drop out of school."

Sambath has successfully stopped drinking alcohol after joining alcohol awareness activities organized by Khmer Angkar for Development of Rural Areas (KADRA), a World Renew partner organization, in 2015. He saw how alcohol was destroying his health and impoverishing his family. The most significant impact for Sambath was the shame he felt for the suffering that he was imposing on his family through his addiction to alcohol.

Now, after completing the alcohol awareness program, Sambath has managed to stop drinking alcohol. He has started helping his family and working on his farm. He sometimes also works outside the village to earn extra income for his family.

Sambath's new behavior has transformed his family. All of his family members are living in harmony together. One of his children who had dropped out of school has gone back, and the other one has a job in a garment factory.

With the help of World Renew's partner KADRA, the life of all his family members has improved.



After taking the alcohol awareness training offered by World Renew's partner, Sambath has stopped drinking. He can support his family and the family lives in harmony.

Prayer Requests

- We give thanks for the way God is working to develop our staff. Our new management team, with two new managers, Rith and Kao, is functioning well. Both are making wonderful progress in filling their new management roles.
- All our work in communities seeks to achieve shalom. A World Renew volunteer, Courtney Smith, wondered about how the Khmer people understand this concept. With support from academics and with participation from relevant people in Cambodia, Courtney conducted a study of this concept in nine of our target communities. We give thanks for the way this study has enriched our understanding of the people we serve and the work we do.
- We pray for God's guidance in our work with churches. The Christian church in Cambodia is young and vulnerable. We work with 34 churches and Christian organizations through the Christian Learning Circle for Development Association (CLCDA) network. We have eight church partners who have been doing community organizing in 32 communities. In February we conducted a "discovery process" to reflect back on this work over the past 14 years and to look ahead at how we can make this work more relevant, effective, and sustainable in the rapidly changing context of Cambodia. We give thanks for over 100 people who met with us and shared their ideas through this process. Pray that, as we implement the recommendations, churches and the communities they serve will be strengthened and empowered.
- Pray for our work with youth. With 50 percent of the Cambodian population under the age of 24, youth are key to the development of Cambodia. We give thanks for the good research on Cambodian youth conducted by our team. We give thanks for the new youth clubs that are being formed by our partners in their target communities. Pray for four youth camps that we will be facilitating in March, April, and May. We pray that these camps will inspire over 200 young people to become leaders in their communities. Please pray also that these camps will give our youth the skills and motivation to contribute to development and governance in their communities and in their nation.



*Chen Dechorith (Rith)
Program Manager*



*Sok Kao
Monitoring & Evaluation Manager*



Bopha and his family proudly show the evaluation team the good results they have produced when they applied agriculture techniques that World Renew taught them

World Renew youth camps and clubs are a powerful development tool.

