



PROPOSAL FOR ST. PAULS CASTLE HILL

# Clean Water Program in Cambodia



**worldshare**   
Transforming Lives through Jesus' Love



## Cambodia

Between 1975-1979 the Khmer Rouge systematically persecuted and killed around 2 million people – one quarter of Cambodia's population at the time. They particularly targeted highly educated people and intellectuals.

Almost 50 years later, the country is still recovering.

**Today, Cambodia is one of the world's poorest countries (ranking 148/193 on the 2024 Human Development Index<sup>1</sup>), and around 20% of Cambodians are living below the poverty line<sup>2</sup>.**

In addition to the 'common' challenges of poverty, Cambodia struggles with high rates of domestic violence, child labour and a lack of education (55% of children dropout before finishing high school<sup>3</sup>).

**20** %<sup>2</sup>  
of Cambodians are living below the poverty line

**55** %<sup>3</sup>  
of children dropout before finishing high school

**0.3** %<sup>4</sup>  
of Cambodians identify as Christian



## About our ministry partner

At WorldShare we partner exclusively with local, grassroots, Christian organisations and our goal is to combine best-practice aid and development with passionate Christian faith.

Our partner in Cambodia has been sharing God's love in the region for over 25 years. During this time, they have been supporting vulnerable children and providing access to quality education; working with parents and teachers to ensure children have safe, supportive environments at home and school; and supporting local village churches to share God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ.

## About the need

For kids in Cambodia, a lack of education is one of the biggest barriers to them breaking the cycle of poverty and living life like God intended.

Across the country 55% of children dropout before finishing high school and these rates are even higher in the rural provinces where we serve.

## Our solution

We give vulnerable children a chance to go to school by providing school fees, uniforms and supplies.

We also support struggling local schools to improve facilities, including:

- sanitation blocks and water filters to help children stay healthy,
- playgrounds to promote play,
- libraries to develop good literacy, and
- teacher training on subjects like children's rights.

We also work extensively with parents and care givers to empower and equip them to tackle big issues like domestic violence and family financial management.

By providing them with access to education, along with safe and supportive environments at home and school, WorldShare is giving these children their best chance to break the

intergenerational cycle of poverty and have hope for a brighter future.

## How St. Pauls Castle Hill can help Cambodian kids flourish – Clean water and hygiene

For kids in rural Cambodia, a lack of safe drinking water and poor hygiene are significant barriers to their ability to get an education.

Waterborne illnesses and gastrointestinal diseases are common in these communities and regularly keep kids from attending school.

These illnesses are preventable by providing safe drinking water or can be dramatically reduced (by around 50%) by proper handwashing with soap.

Sadly, more than 1/5 schools in Cambodia do not have access to safe drinking water or handwashing facilities.



This is especially true for the schools we support. Our School Development Program focusses on working with schools that have failed to meet the country's Safe School standards and aims to improve their school environments.

We are addressing these challenges by:

- Installing large-scale water filtration tanks in schools, so that students and teachers (and the surrounding community) can enjoy clean drinking water, better health and make it to class more often.
- Installing handwashing stations at schools and helping students (around 120 per school) learn about safe water and good hygiene. These kids can then take this knowledge and these practices home and share them with their families.

We've seen great success with this initiative at three schools so far, and your support would enable us to expand this into another one of the schools (and communities) we serve that urgently needs these facilities.

## SUPPORT OPTIONS

## FUNDING REQUIRED

1. Installing large-scale water filtration tanks to provide an entire school with safe drinking water.

**\$6,400**

2. Installing handwashing stations at one of these schools to help around 120 students learn about safe water and good hygiene at school.

**\$1,600**

3. Provide safe drinking water and hygiene facilities for an entire school! This would reduce school absenteeism, help empower kids to get an education, and give families a better chance to protect themselves from illness and live fuller lives.

**\$8,000**

## THANK YOU!

Please contact us for any questions or enquiries you have regarding this proposal.

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<sup>1</sup>. Human Development Reports 2024, *Human Development Index, Cambodia*, United Nations Development Programme, 14 May 2024, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/KHM> <sup>2</sup>. The World Bank 2022, *Pandemic Checks Cambodia's Progress on Poverty*, 14 May 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/11/28/pandemic-checks-cambodia-s-progress-on-poverty>. <sup>3</sup>. Unicef 2024, *Education - For every child, quality education and life skills*, 14 May 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/education>. <sup>4</sup>. National Institute of Statistics Ministry of planning October 2020, *General Population census of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2019*, National Report on Final Census Results, p.52.

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Published by WorldShare  
(ABN 16001441103) and  
WorldShare Christian Mission  
Trust (ABN 68290166501)

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