



CATHOLIC
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
PHNOM PENH

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PROJECT



Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, Cambodia



CATHOLIC SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” (Mt 14,16)

VISION

To integrate the poor people in the society.

VALUES

Compassion and Competence
Charity and Excellence

MISSION

‘We are not simply talking about ensuring nourishment or a “dignified sustenance” for all people, but also their “general temporal welfare and prosperity”. This means education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free, creative, participatory and mutually supportive labour that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives.’ (Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium, n.192)

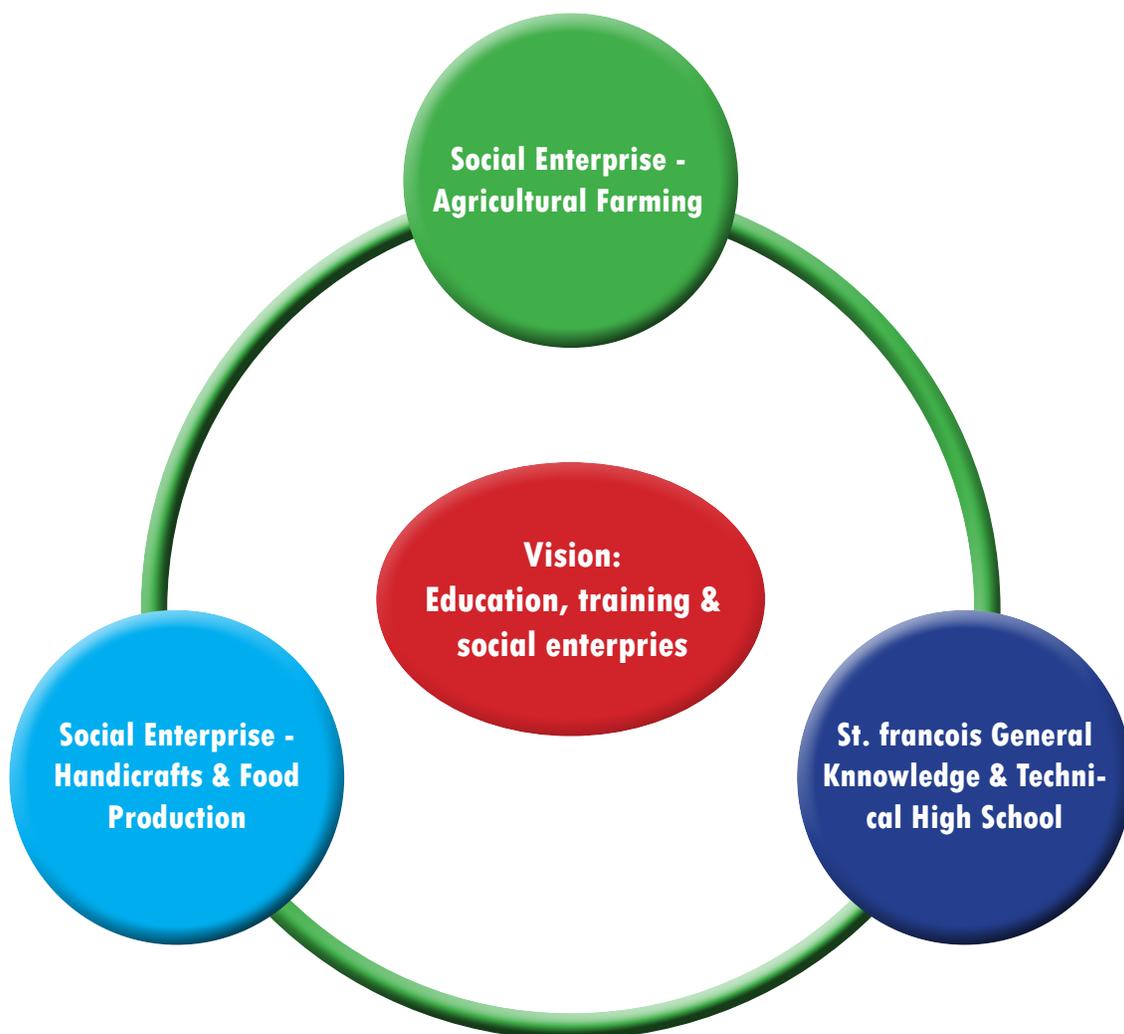
The benefits will help the children with disabilities at Peace Village and students at Saint Francois Technical High School.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

This is a significant infrastructure and development project that aims specifically at providing the communities of the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh with access to skill-based education that can be practically applied to secure employment along with self-sustaining and income generating social enterprise. The project also aims at offering holistic care for families marginalized by HIV/AIDS and disability. It is a project with an expansive vision that will enable communities to be better educated, self-sufficient and experts in their field.

Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler is the overall manager of the projects, and he is well supported by others experienced in education, social enterprise and agriculture.





PROJECT LOCATION

The three projects are located in the southwest of Cambodia, in Takeo Province, which lies two hours south of the nation's capital Phnom Penh. The southern boundary of the province forms part of Cambodia's border with Vietnam. The province has a population of over 840,000 people, but is one of the smaller by area. It often referred to as the ' cradle of Khmer civilization '.

BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Cambodia remains a country struggling to overcome a history of violence and poverty, particularly in rural areas. From 1969 until 1998 Cambodia was gripped by civil war that left almost no infrastructure in place and a legacy of devastating consequences for generations of its people, including the largest number of people with disabilities per capita in the world. Subsequent governments have struggled to redevelop the country politically, economically, and socially.

Under French influence from the 15th century until independence in 1953, Cambodia enjoyed a reputation of being an educational leader in its region. This highly developed education system was completely destroyed during the brutal 1975-1975 reign of the Khmer Rouge. The educated were executed and school were repurposed or destroyed. By the time the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) seized power in 1979, nearly all socials and intellectual capital was destroyed.

The survival rate of education professionals tells a grim tale:

- 2,717 of 21,311 primary teachers;
- 207 of 2,300 secondary teachers;
- 50 of 725 university professors¹





Buyer



Cocunut Candy



Corn

Rebuilding the education system was an enormous task for the PRK considering the limited human and material resources available, a lack of economic experience, and the continued violent war with the Khmer Rouge and other resistant movements active in the country. Consequently, anyone with any level of education who was not serving in the army was called on to be a teacher.

The PRK also set limits to the number of students who could enter upper secondary school and university. These restrictions generated widespread corruption, favoritism and nepotism within an already fragile system. Compounded by the relatively low skill of the educators, the education system advanced slowly during the 1980s.

Decades of civil war and foreign occupation officially ended with the signing of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, but it was not until 1998 that armed insurgency groups were finally eliminated from the country. During this time, successive governments struggled to develop an effective and widely available education system.

In recent years, the National Government has tried to ensure the increase of educational opportunities to students of all ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, geographical locations, genders, and abilities by implementing a long term Education for All National Plan 2003-2015. Despite this intention, educational opportunities remain difficult to access and are very much a privilege of the wealthy. Dropout rates are high, and there is a high rate of repetition and an abundance of over-aged students. Although



FORMATION

ST FRANÇOIS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

“Each student is unique. Each student is a treasure that we have received and we are helping to grow into a balanced adult in our society of tomorrow”
- Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler, Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh



Students from St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School

HISTORY OF ST FRANCOIS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

In 2002, Bishop Olivier, first parish of Chamkar Tieng Catholic Church, launched a school, which operated at night time so as to build up and strengthen knowledge and capacities of grade 11 and 12 students at Ang Roneap in order that they could pass high school examination as well as in order to reduce their educational spending. Moreover, he attentively monitored student’s high school examination outcomes. He then found



some students who passed high school examination didn't have sufficient capacities to find jobs and could not afford higher education and vocational training school in the city, since they had poor living conditions. With a feeling of pity, loving, generosity, sympathy and mercy and desire to help poor students so that they could have a specific skill, find jobs and develop their families after high school examination, Bishop Olivier established a private high school dubbed St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School that provides general educational and vocational training, based in Chamka Tieng Village, Kush Commune, Tramkak district, Takeo Province, in order to enable them to learn both general knowledge and technical skills.

dated 26th December 2003 issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Though the school is privately – owned and under the supervision by the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, The Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh doesn't force students to believe in Christianity and in 2008 we also have secondary school. By motivation from school committee, good teaching from teachers with many year experiences and students respect the school regulation have been making the grade 12 students since 2009-2013 passed the exam 100% and grade 9 in academic year 2010-2016 passed 100%.



Students from St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School



First-generation St Francois General Knowledge & Technical students with Bishop Guh, Singapore and Bishop Olivier

The new Minister of Education, Youth, Sport, His Excellency CHORN NARON, by looking the situation of Cambodia, is pushing now to have a technical high school in order to have good human resources in main economic sectors as agriculture, tourism or industry. St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School applied to get permission to open technical high school. On September 2015, we got permission to have a technical high school in 2 majors subjects: AGRICULTURE and TOURISM. This new technical high school started with the first promotion of 29 students in November 2015 in Agriculture which they study period is 3 years (grade 10-11-12) with 22h/week of technical formation including practice and 14h/week of general knowledge. We plan to welcome the first promotion for tourism in November 2017. The final exam will be give chance to continue to study associate degree or bachelor degree and find a work in agriculture or tourism sector as a qualified technical.

St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School will be a pioneer in Cambodia, the first programmed for tourism and the fourth programme for agriculture (but the biggest one in term of land). It will help poor rural students to acquire real work skills for developing family incomes as well as Cambodian society. These are important keys for reducing poverty. A new modern building at St Francois will guarantee the best formation, and in order to welcome students from other provinces, we will also build a hotel at the school with a capacity of 120 students.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The main activities of this project at St Francois General Knowledge & Technical High School will be:

1. Curriculum development – Development of a three-year agriculture and tourism curriculum, within the parameters of the Ministry of Education and the Vocational Orientation Department.
2. Professional learning for teachers – Each year teachers will attend professional learning workshops to build experience, maintain information currency and build relevant relationships with NGOs, industry and private companies.
3. Placements for students – Including internships in year two of the program, workshops and study tours in both the agriculture and tourism programs, and potential exchange programs and field trips. Currently there are students gaining work experience in a hotel in the Bokor Mountain Range, a resort in the beach town of Kep and in Phnom Penh. There is also an agreement that students will be placed in a working farm in Phnom Voah.
4. Partnerships – Initial focus will be on growing local partnership such as Mong Rethy Agricultural Group, The Ministry of Education that enhance internship and work experience opportunities for students and lead of possible employment.





FORMATION SAINT PAUL INSTITUTE



HISTORY OF SAINT PAUL INSTITUTE

The Saint Paul Institute is the only Catholic Higher Education Institution in Cambodia, founded in 2009 by Bishop Olivier Schmitthaesler under the support of a Singaporean lady Ms. Peggy Goh.

The St Paul Institute has used integral Catholic education pedagogy to educate students carefully, providing hard and soft skills, along with moral values, in order to shape the students into good citizens and help them to achieve their life goals.



Seminar

Over its seven-year history, St Paul Institute has developed quickly. The number of students is increasing every year; more than 85% of recent graduating students have been employed with appropriate salaries; and more than 300 poor students have been offered full scholarships. Currently St Paul Institute trains educational specialists in Information Technology, Agronomy (Agriculture), Tourism, English Literature, and Social Work.

The academic year 2015-2016 began with the enrollment of 304 students studying for Bachelor's Degree in Software Engineering, Telecommunication and Networking, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, English for Communication, Tourism Management, Social Work, and Agronomy.

In the next academic year, 2016-2017 St Paul Institute will begin associate degree programs in Software De-





velopment, Systems and Network Administration, Fruit and Vegetable Crop Production, Veterinary Medicine, English Language, and Hotel and Hospitality Service. These programs will provide opportunity for students who have failed their Grade 12 examinations.





Non-formal book reading

children must start school when they reach the age of five, late enrolment is a particular issue in rural areas.

In areas where school is available, limited resources mean that the subjects taught are often limited to formal Khmer language, mathematics, chemistry, and physics. Subjects such as English, agriculture and information technology are rarely taught, even though their long term benefit to students and their communities would be enormous.

Agriculture and tourism are the most important sectors of the Cambodian economy, with around 58% of the population relying on agriculture for their livelihood (rice being the principal crop). In past years, garments and construction have played an important economic role, but the recent economic crisis has deeply affected these sectors.



STUDENT OF ST FRANÇOIS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The population in Takeo Province, where the projects are located, consists mainly of subsistence farmers or seasonal workers with unreliable incomes. As their employment is unpredictable, families have little if any savings, generally living from day to day. In recent years many have left their families and sought work in nearby Thailand. Until the recent economic crisis, tourism, textile manufacturing and construction were becoming significant sectors of the economy.

The three projects Bishop Olivier is proposing in Takeo Province are crucial because they each directly target community need. They are integrated so that different members of the communities will be able to improve their life opportunities through education, skill development and social enterprise.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES HANDICRAFTS AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat”. (Mt 14,16)



The silk scarves woven by women, ready for sale



The broom handmade by mothers of children in Peace Village Centre



The woman silk scarves in Peace Village Center



CATHOLIC SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PHNOM PENH CHART



PROJECT SUMMARY

In January 2011, Bishop Olivier started the Peace Village Centre (PVC). The PVC's mission statement is "to improve the dignity of the lives of children with disabilities, HIV/AIDS families and other vulnerable groups so they will be hopeful, lovely and have happiness full in their lives". The PVC is a special place that welcomes those usually marginalized in their community. It is home to several families and includes among its many initiatives day care centre that offers phys-



iotherapy, education and care to children with severe disabilities. The mothers of these children are employed in the various social enterprise activities on site.

Over time, PVC has grown to include many opportunities for skills training and social enterprise, providing gainful employment and income to many, particularly women. Empowering women with opportunities to learn new and useful skills that will assist them in employment is a key part of this project. Some of these women care for children with disabilities, while others live with their own disabilities. The potential of these programs in affecting and retaining positive outcomes is extraordinary.



Today families who were not accepted in their communities have found a safe place that offers them an alternative to a subsistence life so that they are better able to care for themselves and their families. These initiatives have been designed to meet local needs, and include:

- Manufacturing silk handicrafts
- Production of soya milk and cookies
- Cotton weaving
- Tailoring
- Production of wooden toys
- Souvenir shop
- Production of brooms and soap



PROJECT LOCATION

This project is located in Chamka Tieng Village, Kush Commune, Tramkok District, Takeo Province, Cambodia.

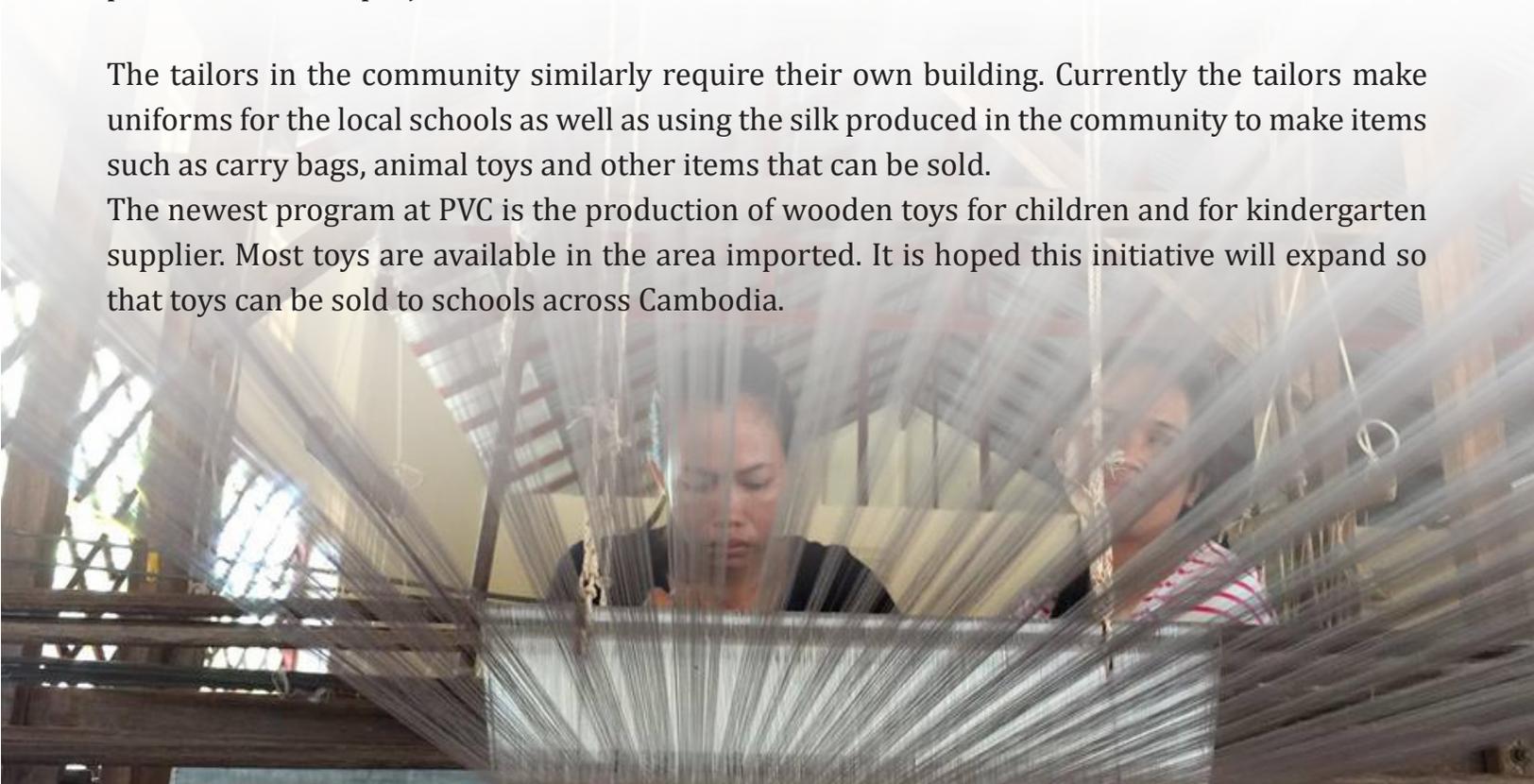
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Takeo was once the largest silk producer among all Cambodian districts. In recent years, four other silk-producing districts have gained external assistance and rapidly developed their production. It is hoped the same results can be achieved in Takeo. In 2003, the Takeo silk production community started a silk weaving program to assist women to gain skills and employment. The work has now outgrown the parish where the 20 looms are, a new building in the PVC is being sought to allow this work to continue.

The production of soya milk and cookies began as a way for mothers of children with disabilities attending the day care centre to be productive during the day. Their children attend the on-site day care centre five days a week from 8am until 3pm and there are four physiotherapists working onsite to provide ongoing therapy to children with disabilities. This income-generating program will provide some employment and income through the sale of its products. The soya beans for this enterprise are grown in Phnom Voah Agricultural Farm, which forms a significant part of the overall project.

The tailors in the community similarly require their own building. Currently the tailors make uniforms for the local schools as well as using the silk produced in the community to make items such as carry bags, animal toys and other items that can be sold.

The newest program at PVC is the production of wooden toys for children and for kindergarten supplier. Most toys are available in the area imported. It is hoped this initiative will expand so that toys can be sold to schools across Cambodia.





PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The ongoing sustainability of the community remains a fundamental goal throughout the development and implementation of this project. Given Cambodia's history and the poverty and isolation it continues to experience, empowering the community is fundamental and essential in keeping this project on track to meet its goals. This also includes assisting the community to seek external funding from other sources.

As the project is still in its infancy, the necessary steps to achieve this goal of complete sustainability in the future are constantly being considered and evaluated. For example, silk production and tailoring has yielded a substantial profit from the sale of scarves.





SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS



Photo of the Vicariate of Phnom Penh Priests' councils visit to Phnom Voah Farm

PROJECT SUMMARY

Phnom Voah is an area renowned for its agricultural production. However, for many reasons, those living on it remain poor and unsuccessful in land cultivation. Cambodia's past has left most of the population without up-to-date skills and knowledge, meaning that agricultural technicians are scarce. Much of the land is owned by wealthy families living in Phnom Penh, and as a result the community are unable to access it.



Realizing that these conditions hinder success, Bishop Olivier, with the support of the Vicariate of Phnom Penh, started Phnom Voah Agricultural Farm in 2008. The farm belongs to the Vicariate of Phnom Penh and is managed by the “Our Lady of the Smile” Parish in Chamka Tieng. The farm is divided across three properties of 70 hectares, each of which offer skills training to local villagers in farming and the cultivation of land.

Today the farms breed animals such as cows, goats and pigs; while cultivating vegetables such as corn, rice, lemongrass, and pepper; and fruit such as mango, jackfruit and dragon fruit.

The corn that is produced is converted into pig feed, contributing to the project’s overall sustainability.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

The produce from the three farms will directly benefit the four disadvantaged families currently living on the farms. They will learn new sustainable agricultural practices and be provided with a small plot of land to grow their own vegetables.

This project will also enable agriculture students from St Paul’s Institute to gain practical training and experience to complement their theoretical knowledge. Students from St Francois General Knowledge and Technical High School will also be able to use the property as part of their practical experience course work in agriculture. The farms will be a source of production for the Vicariate’s food processing enterprise, such as the pre-existing coconut candy factory and proposed jam factory.

PROJECT LOCATION

This project is located in Phnom Voah, Dobsrolav Commune, Tek Chhou District, Kampot Province. Kampot Province is in southern Cambodia, approximately 144.6km from Phnom Penh. It takes two and a half hours to reach by car.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

This project has three main components;

Agriculture:

In the first year of operation, the farm’s focus will be on planting fruit trees, corn and rice. During this time training will be provided to the families who will be responsible for the fruit trees, with the agricultural students from the two schools participating in the planting and training. The planting of fruit trees, corn and rice is vital in enabling the farm to become sustainable, as the animals can eat excess agricultural wastage, thereby cutting the costs of buying feed for animals. Bishop Olivier has applied for a hygiene certificate from the government and, once approved, it will increase the price of livestock.



Animal Raising:

The families and students will be trained in the proper way of rearing animals. They will learn how to feed the animals and monitor their health to ensure they do not contract any diseases. These animals will then be sold, with the income going back into the farm usage.

Jam Production:

A small factory will be constructed at the farm for jam production. As the price of fruits is decreasing nationwide, the Vicariate believes producing and selling jam products through local church networks will create a sustainable social enterprise. Local women will be trained in jam production.



Cow farm



Pig farm



Corn farm



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