



Project location:
Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia

Project start date:
1 October 2009

Funding source:
AusAID 48%, Bright Hope Institute 52%

Total grant funds approved:
A\$199,300

Updated December 2012

Bright Hope Institute – Rural Education In Cambodia

ABOUT BRIGHT HOPE INSTITUTE

Bright Hope Institute has been providing tertiary education services to rural Cambodians in Kampong Chhnang Province since 2006. Bright Hope is the primary tertiary institute in the province and offers practical degree courses in Rural Development, General Management, Accounting and Economics.

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKED

Bright Hope used an ECF grant to construct 12 new classrooms and four dormitories, and upgraded existing infrastructure such as computers and curriculum materials. With improved facilities, Bright Hope can accept up to 800 students by 2012 and provide part scholarships for up to 100 students per year to those who would not have the opportunity to receive higher education.

The funding support also allows the institute to offer partial scholarships to vulnerable youth per year in eight rural districts. The key benefits included -

- increased employment in the institute to 39 staff
- scholarships for up to 100 disadvantaged students per year who would not otherwise have the opportunity to undertake a degree or diploma
- secure dormitory accommodation for 40–50 female and male students annually, to increase their opportunities
- improved education opportunities for up to 400 full-time students by September 2012.

Bright Hope's expanded operations were expected to have a positive impact on overall development of Kampong Chhnang province by increasing the pool of qualified young people.

THE RESULTS

- Bright Hope has upgraded facilities and constructed 12 new classrooms and four dormitories.
- The school has now received full accreditation for its foundation year course from the Accreditation Committee for Cambodia and received approval from the Ministry of Education and Sport to open a new Faculty of Education

Science. The improved facilities and equipment allowed accreditation and the new faculty. They would not have been possible without the ECF grant.

- In 2012, 166 rural youth had received partial scholarships to study at the institute and 45 students were living in the newly constructed dormitories.
- In 2012, Bright Hope Institute had 787 enrolled students studying full and part time – an increase of almost 400% since the ECF grant – and was generating profits. In 2011, 145 students graduated with a degree in Rural Development or General Management.
- The Institute actively follows up how many students get jobs after graduation. In 2011, 122 of 160 graduates had employment within 6 months of graduation. Graduate students indicated that their income was US\$150 per month, US\$50 per month higher because of the degree.
- Bright Hope has strong relationships with the Cambodian Ministry of Education and Sport, local authorities, international and non-government organizations and other development agencies to achieve the results for Rural Education Development and Youth Empowerment.
- With ECF support, the Bright Hope Management Team established a development committee and implemented many projects such as Water Purification Project, Emergency Support and Livelihood Recovery, Cow bank project, Climate Change Adaptation. These projects allow students involving to practice their knowledge and build their skills and experiences.
- The ECF / Bright Hope project has linked higher education with Rural Development, Investment rural human resource, Youth Empowerment and involve in rural poverty reduction
- Bright Hope Institute continues to support rural youth to access higher education.

HOW ECF FUNDS WERE USED

ECF funds were used for the construction of 12 classrooms and dormitories plus equipment upgrades and 100 scholarships annually in the initial stage of the project. Bright Hope funds all operational expenses, teachers and staff, maintenance and administration costs.