



Ponheary Ly Foundation



## Annual Report 2021-2022



This report covers the period October 1, 2021 - 30 September 2022.  
Public Schools reopened in mid-January 2022 after a two-year closure during Covid.



## ABOUT US

The Ponheary Ly Foundation (PLF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that creates pathways to education for disadvantaged children and youth in northern Cambodia.

### REGISTERED IN:

Cambodia

USA (EIN 20-4277315)

Canada (84158-3313-RR0001)

### OTHER FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS (Umbrellas)

Switzerland (Eyes-Open)

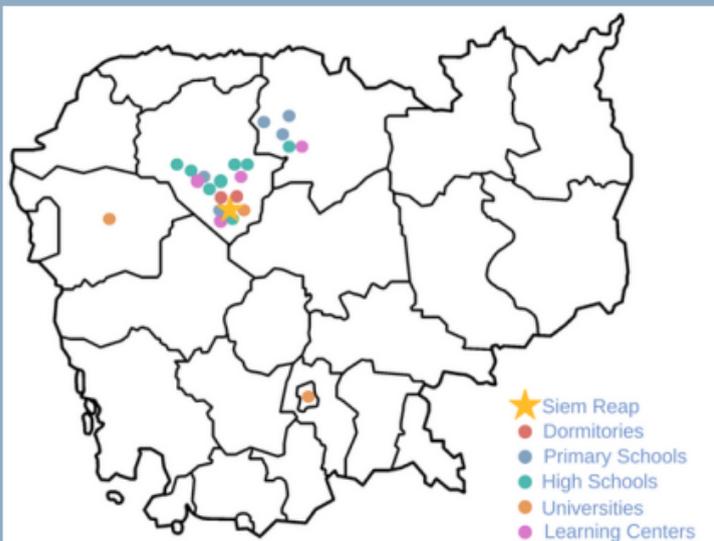
EU (CEDE)

UK (GLOBALTEER)

# MISSION & WORK

Our mission is to break down the many barriers to education that rural kids face, and ensure they have the same opportunities for advancement as those from richer backgrounds.

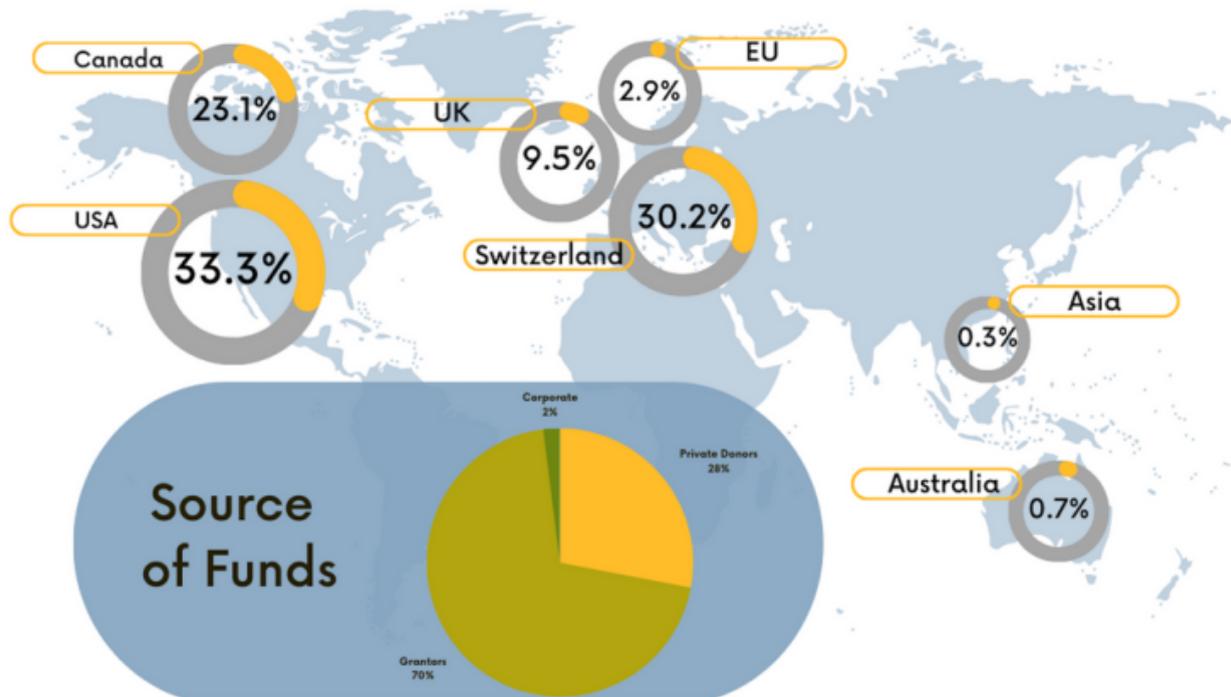
Our work originated in the remote, disenfranchised areas of Cambodia's two poorest provinces, where whole communities lived in poverty and had forgotten the value of education through decades of war. In response to low literacy rates, marginal school attendance and poorly-resourced government schools in rural villages, we set about increasing access to formal schooling, supporting school infrastructure and teaching staff, and strengthening the quality of educational and everyday life for disadvantaged students. Our work stems from the premise that access to schooling is a basic human right, crucial in the fight against poverty and inequality, and fundamental for the rebuilding of the country's civil society. With access to the right opportunities, students can, and do, help to lift their families out of poverty and re-shape their communities.



Primarily situated in Siem Reap Province and western Preah Vihear Province, these are all of the locations where we support students, including those who attend universities through PLF scholarships.

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Donors from all over the world stand together in solidarity and provide the resources necessary for us to serve our students. Many of our donors have remained steadfast for more than a decade, some for almost two. For them, we are especially grateful because they help us feel like family.



# PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION



We support just over 2800 students across the pathways, offering up opportunities that they otherwise would not encounter. While all the communities where we work grapple with poverty, different pathways have varied levels of public school effectiveness producing additional and diverse challenges for students. Therefore each pathway has a carefully curated 'menu' of programs that can be scaled up, scaled down, and adjusted as needed over time.



Once a student enters a PLF Pathway, we accompany them every step of the way as far as that student will go, until the realisation of their individual potential – whether that be meaningful and dignified employment, vocational training or a university scholarship.

# THE YEAR IN STORIES

## Casting the Net Farther & Wider

Woven in response to strict lockdowns, the Community Food Net throws a lifeline to families living in the direst food insecurity around Siem Reap.

## Uni Scholarships Scale Up

So many students proved their determination and courage in getting through G12 during Covid. It's time for another record number of awards!

## Getting 'Centered' at Chey

Strategy development that was begun in 2016 finds its missing piece; and our transition to the Learning Center model is complete.

## Mentorship Momentum

Mentorship absolutely grew legs during Covid. This initiative is a pandemic silver lining that continues to go from strength to strength.

OCT  
2021

NOV  
2021

FEB  
2022

MAR  
2022

APR  
2022

MAY  
2022

JUL  
2022

SEP  
2022

## Rubber Meets the Road for G12

How to properly assess students' performance during Covid closures, when government policy was to automatically pass students from one grade to the next?

## G12 Scholarships: A Bumper Intake

When students suffer unfair disruption to their studies through no fault of their own, unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures.

## Our Urban Program Gets Real!

The opening of our new Learning Center brings to urban students what their rural counterparts have had for some time. It also represents our biggest tech lift ever.

## SLC - Fully Open Two Years On

Transitioning from dorm to Learning Center in 2020, our project at Srayang had a bit of a bumpy ride in its inaugural year. Now its doors are finally open.

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



**2736 K-12 students**

**113 active university students**

**80 university graduates**



**4 primary schools**

**4 learning centers**

**42 teachers in the field**



**145,338 bowls of food**

**390 food bank recipients**



**113 student mentors**

**1616 workshop attendees**



**320 bicycles awarded**



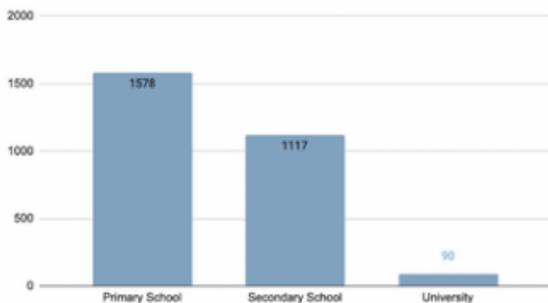
**366 MS Office certificates**



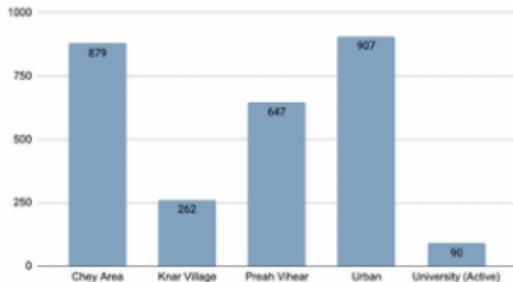
**21,960 library books borrowed**

# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

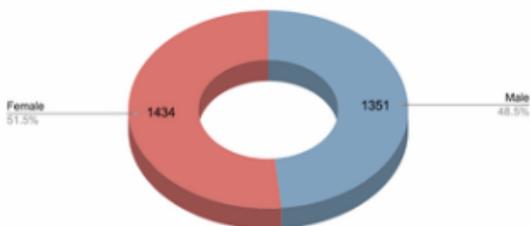
## Student Mix



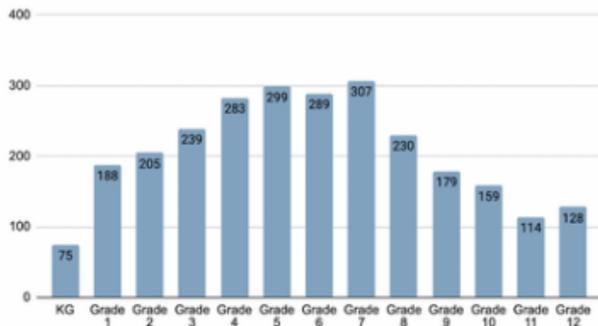
## Student Count by Location



## Female vs. Male

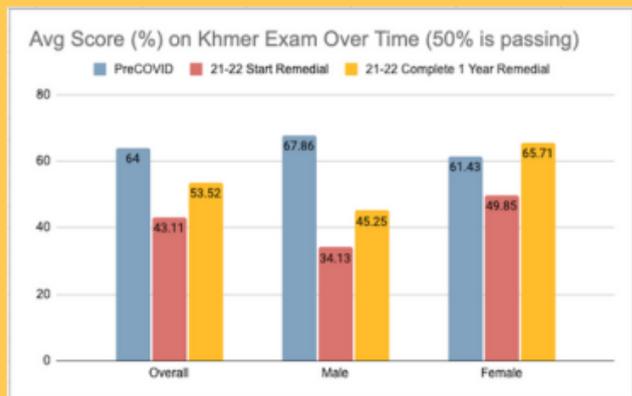


## Number of students by Grade, All Locations



# 2021-22 STRATEGY

As 2021 drew to a close, Covid began to loosen its grip on Cambodia. After nearly two years of closures, schools finally re-opened in January 2022, and we could begin to heal the wounds. Being light on our feet was something Covid taught us, so in 2022 we adapted much of our programming to meet the needs of students who were two years behind in their schoolwork, specifically at Primary school. This involved pausing extra-curricular activities at Learning Centers in favor of **REMEDIAL CLASSES** in Khmer Language and Math.



We had hoped that one year of remedial classes would get everyone caught up but, while it definitely helped, we didn't quite hit the mark. We are considering continuing these classes in the year ahead. A recent government report shows that students all over the country suffered very similarly, as reported in the Khmer Times in December 2022:

*"According to the indicator for the academic year 2021-2022 from the Ministry of Education, 36.3% pupils grade 6 and lower are unable to read, 53.9% are unable to write the Khmer language and 74.3% are unable to do arithmetic."*

The **eLEARNING** initiative that was already in development when Covid hit threw a lifeline to students during the closures, and was so well attended that we continued it even when they reopened. We hope to see eLearning become a permanent fixture in the years ahead as it delivers something much needed in the Cambodian school system: self-directed learning.



We awarded a record number of **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**, since we had not been able to properly assess students' eligibility due to the absence of valid exam results. All students had suffered from the same interruptions to their studies; therefore all 66 who applied received a scholarship - more than double the number in a 'normal' year. Combined with dorm and English scholarships, the total came to 75. And it paid off, with a higher pass rate by nearly 13% amongst this cohort compared to the national average.

In response to the drastic lockdowns that threatened so many low-income families in and around Siem Reap with the direst food insecurity, the **COMMUNITY FOOD NET** was created with our community partners, Treeline Urban Resort. As post-Covid additions to Cambodia's poor list continue to rise, so does the need for this essential food relief, with recipients increasing from 102 family members to 390.



We are passionate about our communities and over the years have developed many **COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS** with partners who share the same values and heart as us. With Covid knocking on everyone's door, these collaborations took on even greater significance, as we worked together to protect and support beneficiaries, and each other. Because united we can do so much more.



Our **WORKSHOP** program is one of the most important things we do to prepare kids for a successful life ahead; whether they continue to uni or head to work, student surveys regularly show how much they value these sessions. Being able to finally do them in person, and in larger groups at the new ULC space, meant we could mix cohorts and help students create new networks with their peers and mentors.

**MENTORSHIP** took on a whole new life during this period, swelling to 113 highly-engaged and active students. Mentors had been essential in rolling out eLearning to high school students cut off during closures, maintaining contact via social media and zoom sessions. In the post-Covid recovery they prepared monthly meetings, continuing to expand essential life skills, networks and motivation for their younger peers.



# WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

What I remember is preparing myself for university because I can find out the information before I go. This is good learning because it is important that we need to think really clear and go with open eyes.

I have joined workshops more often, and I have learned a lot, like goal setting, trying to understand myself, and learning what I can do, and all of this is shared with positive ideas. I want to see this workshop event happen more often in the future because it is the best way to help get more clear thinking and growth mindset, as well as teach us about how to achieve our goals.

What I learn is how to set goal before going to University, how to make me strong, how to prepare for my goal, learn more about my strengths and weaknesses, how to prepare my personal information before going to university, all of this I learn a lot. I also learned who to ask if we want to know the correct information.

What I remember is to do what we are not good at - to do it again and again until we succeed never give up when you fail.

To know yourself is trying to understand your weak point and strong point and what point you are going to improve and how.

I learned a lot from the workshop, especially goal setting that is good for me, and I really love to have more because that topic I did not learn from the school, and I see it helps me to get more knowledge to improve myself.

# WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING

With the **opening of ULC** and finding the missing piece at **Chey**, we're nearing completion of the transition to **LEARNING CENTER** model.



Two years in the making, we launched a new tech class, **EXPLORE**.

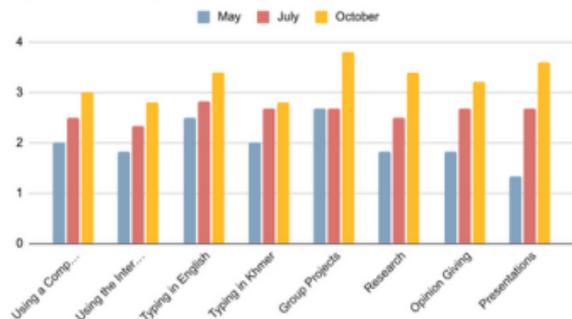


We piloted the class from May to October 2022 with a small group of Grade 7 students. The pilot showed exciting potential to greatly improve retention through middle school, while gently pushing students toward the STEM side of their capabilities.

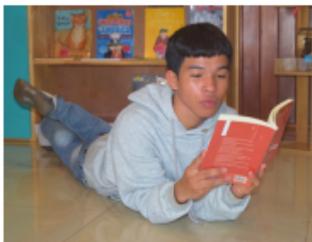
Learning computers is so useful in life, but especially for school subjects also.

I would definitely recommend Explore class to other students!

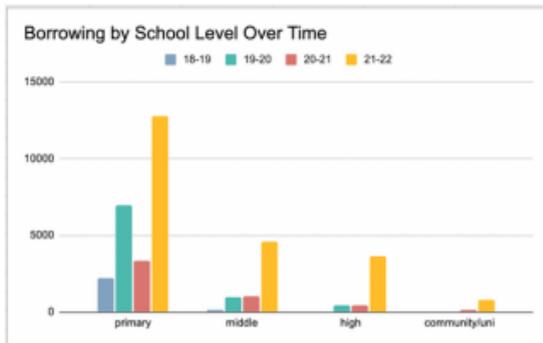
Explore Pilot May 22 - Oct 22, Rate Your Skill Out of 5



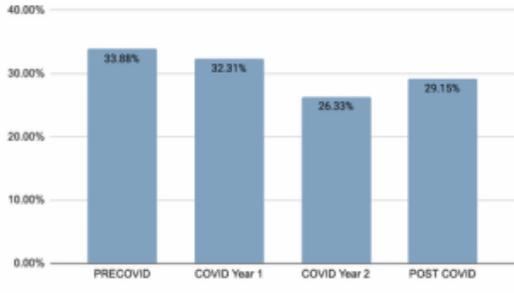
With the opening of more **LIBRARIES** and outreach to older students, families and community members, library membership and borrowing is skyrocketing.



Because of the library, I'm doing so much better in my classes everyday.



% Books Borrowed by Boys, All Locations



We first started focussing on boys & books in December 2021 as we emerged from school closures which had disproportionately impacted boys' engagement and literacy. We researched strategies such as peer feedback, top reader awards, and Drop Everything & Read time built into classes - all aimed at increasing a LOVE of reading. We clearly still have a ways to go, but we're excited to see boys returning to the Library.

Building on the **MENTORSHIP** silver lining formed during the school closures, our mentors developed a highly impactful program at a much higher level of engagement than before.

This army of 113 prepared workshops and trainings, transmitted to +400 younger students via Facebook and in-person sessions. They also embarked on a roadshow to motivate and answer questions with a focus on middle school students.



See you guys soon ❤️❤️  
Don't travel actively without knowing where you are going! Start setting your goals and dreams today!

[See original](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



Subjects include the importance of developing good study habits and setting goals; tips on getting the most out of group projects & eLearning; the requirements for specific majors; how to prepare for life at uni ... the list goes on.

For many kids who may be the first in their family to push through barriers to higher education, meeting these role models is invaluable.

As one student stated:

*"Now I know clearly. If they can do it, so can I."*

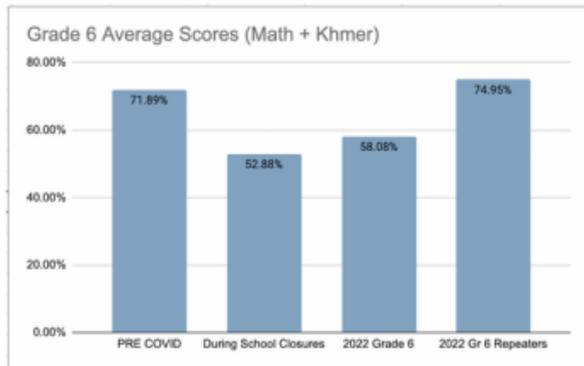
## WHAT WE'RE STILL MONITORING CLOSELY AFTER THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Our primary focus now is **middle schoolers and addressing retention in Grades 7 - 9**. There is still a significant percentage of students in those grades not coming to workshops, and the mentorship team is working on this - going out to meet these students and make sure they not only know about the workshops but are attending, joining them up to social media student groups and engaging them in eLearning. The Tech team is also rolling out a new offering in the Computer Labs for students in middle school. These younger high school students are not fully aware of what is available to them, but we hope the Mentorship team will help us close that loop.



**eLearning:** Since upper secondary students have pulled back on eLearning in some locations, we're refocusing it on middle schoolers where it seems to have more impact, although we are in the early stages of evaluation. If this resource continues to connect with middle schoolers, it will be yet another way for us to work on retention in Grades 7-9.

**Post-Covid Remedial and Grade 6 Repeaters classes** make up a significant portion of our recovery strategy. With the government automatically passing students from one grade to the next, we needed to make sure they are not missing out on foundational knowledge. This is especially crucial in Grade 6, as kids were leaving primary school without the required level of learning. We strongly advised that these kids needed to repeat Grade 6 - some accepted, but others moved on to Grade 7, which resulted in struggles and drop outs later.

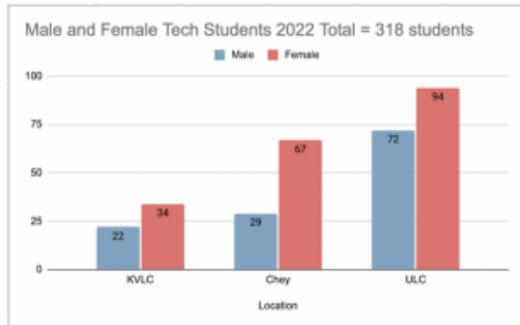
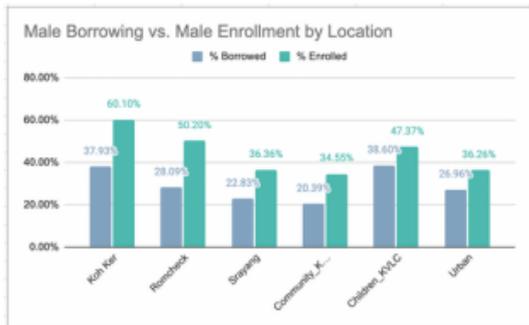


This has been especially evident in Preah Vihear, and we are closely **monitoring new intake at Srayang** - since our position is to stay on mission and not facilitate the advancement of students who cannot pass secondary school. It has been very challenging to convince students to take Grade 6 again - but those who accepted our repeaters class subsequently did very well.

**The 'Boy Problem':** lower engagement and higher dropout rates were only exacerbated by Covid. There are a few key areas we're monitoring and looking for improvement:

**Participation in IT classes:** girls continue to overwhelm boys taking IT courses. This is directly related to the requirement that PLF students applying for University cannot be successful if they do not hold these certificates. Currently 64% of our University students are young women.

**Engagement with Libraries:** we are employing strategies around reading to encourage a love of these wondrous things called books! This involves Reading Day activities such as Top Reader awards and book sharing sessions, as well as bringing in a wider range of titles to our libraries.



**Viability of the Scholars' Dorms in Siem Reap:** now that students in the far north can stay in their home villages and complete high school, we will be assessing the need for the dorms. At the end of 2022, the first Srayang G12 graduate successfully secured a place at university in Phnom Penh, showing that the level of teaching is now high enough to prep students for academia. We hope many more will follow in his footsteps!

This was a bumpy year but full of learning, both for our students and our team. During Covid and early recovery, we made a strong focus on curriculum development, capacity building and mastering M&E (monitoring & Evaluation). Tracking the movements, engagements and academic achievements of +2800 students is daunting, but we're now able to monitor our students more closely, watching for trends as we tinker around with programs. This gives us greater flexibility and adaptability, which has been key in making it through the last two years, while continuing to serve our students to the best of our capabilities and resources.

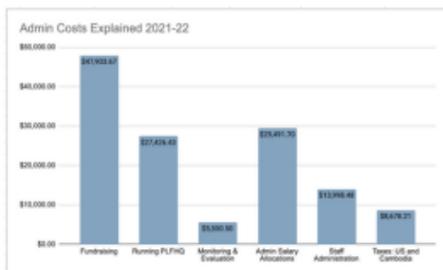
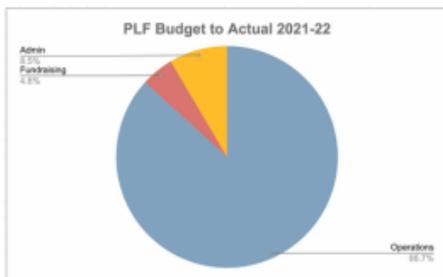
As ever, we couldn't do any of that without our extended family of PLF partners and supporters, for whom we are eternally grateful!



# FINANCIALS - BUDGET TO ACTUAL

## INCOME

|                                        | BUDGET              | ACTUAL                |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Income                                 |                     |                       |
| Total Donations                        | \$845,700.00        | \$910,960.52          |
| <b>Balance carried over from 20/21</b> | <b>\$124,441.00</b> | <b>\$124,441.00</b>   |
| Interest Income                        | \$10,000.00         | \$4,835.68            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    | <b>\$980,141.00</b> | <b>\$1,040,237.20</b> |

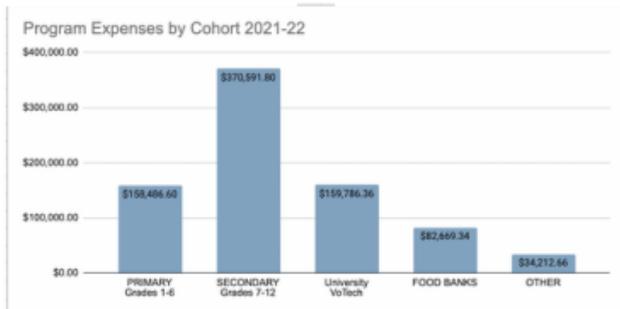


## ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

| ADMINISTRATION                    | BUDGET              | ACTUAL              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Admin fees for donations          | \$1,500.00          | \$1,077.67          |
| Bank Charges                      | \$2,500.00          | \$1,099.26          |
| Marketing & Fundraising           | \$40,450.00         | \$38,679.81         |
| Monitoring & Evaluation           | \$3,780.00          | \$5,550.50          |
| Office Expenses                   | \$3,000.00          | \$3,288.19          |
| Post & Ship                       | \$700.00            | \$604.00            |
| Professional Fees                 | \$7,960.00          | \$9,200.51          |
| Rent & Electricity                | \$12,640.00         | \$10,826.10         |
| <b>STAFF ADMINISTRATION</b>       |                     |                     |
| Admin Allocation                  | \$25,557.50         | \$29,491.70         |
| Total Medical; Staff              | \$9,400.00          | \$8,138.83          |
| NSSF Cambodia                     | \$3,840.00          | \$4,108.56          |
| Staff Bonus                       | \$4,000.00          | \$1,400.00          |
| Staff Training                    | \$1,500.00          | \$351.09            |
| Tax Salary Cambodia               | \$0.00              | \$141.41            |
| <b>Total STAFF ADMINISTRATION</b> | <b>\$44,297.50</b>  | <b>\$43,631.59</b>  |
| Tax IRS US employees              | \$6,360.00          | \$4,946.14          |
| Tax Other Cambodia (WH)           | \$3,600.00          | \$3,590.66          |
| Telephone & Internet              | \$3,000.00          | \$1,330.70          |
| Total Travel                      | \$12,600.00         | \$9,223.86          |
| <b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>       | <b>\$142,387.50</b> | <b>\$133,048.99</b> |

# OPERATING EXPENSES

| OPERATING EXPENSES                     | BUDGET       | ACTUAL       |                                           |                     |                       |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Bikes                            | \$17,436.00  | \$15,212.06  | Secondary Students Scholarships           | \$34,153.00         | \$29,022.56           |
| Contingency Account                    | \$10,000.00  | \$11,974.00  | Special Projects: Remedial & Site Visit   | \$22,814.00         | \$14,622.11           |
| Total English Program                  | \$19,050.00  | \$18,130.15  | Sports Art Music Science                  | \$5,920.00          | \$6,129.53            |
| Events                                 | \$19,687.50  | \$22,418.09  | Supplies & Uniforms                       | \$50,605.00         | \$48,222.86           |
| Facility Non-Residential               |              |              | Teachers                                  |                     |                       |
| High Schools                           | \$500.00     | \$235.00     | Education No Univ                         | \$2,100.00          | \$1,094.62            |
| Koh Ker                                | \$200.00     | \$2,230.04   | Government Teachers Stipends              | \$6,960.00          | \$9,672.12            |
| KVLC                                   | \$53,200.00  | \$42,770.43  | Teachers Supplies                         |                     |                       |
| Romchek                                | \$200.00     | \$5,753.04   | Koh Ker                                   | \$620.00            | \$553.37              |
| Srayang Learning Center                | \$64,715.00  | \$76,830.44  | Romchek                                   | \$620.00            | \$589.63              |
| Tchey Learning Centre TLC              | \$10,000.00  | \$138.00     | Tchey                                     | \$500.00            | \$353.63              |
| Urban Learning Center ULC (start       | \$60,000.00  | \$83,486.62  | Teachers Supplies - Other                 | \$0.00              | \$1,253.39            |
| Tchey Primary                          | \$0.00       | \$1,056.75   | Total Teachers Supplies                   | \$1,740.00          | \$2,750.02            |
| Wat Bo Primary                         | \$1,250.00   | \$1,250.00   | Total Teachers (Government)               | \$10,800.00         | \$13,516.76           |
| Facility Non-Residential - Other       | \$5,350.00   | \$4,880.73   | Technology                                | \$46,575.00         | \$33,235.05           |
| Total Facility Non-Residential         | \$185,415.00 | \$218,493.05 | Telephone                                 | \$2,304.00          | \$2,224.00            |
| Facility Residential                   |              |              | University Scholarships/Laptops           | \$177,076.50        | \$159,786.36          |
| Total PLF Boys' Dorm                   | \$34,353.00  | \$21,410.92  | Volunteers/Visitors/Interns               | \$3,500.00          | \$1,353.67            |
| Total PLF Girls' Dorm                  | \$38,415.00  | \$24,432.57  | Wellness                                  | \$14,035.00         | \$16,040.02           |
| Facility Residential - Other           | \$200.00     | \$200.04     | Workshops & Mentorship                    | \$17,850.00         | \$10,998.50           |
| Food (all food banks and COVID relief) | \$106,637.00 | \$82,669.34  | Total OPERATING EXPENSES                  | \$842,361.00        | \$868,922.44          |
| Grants to Other Orgs                   | \$0.00       | \$0.00       | <b>Total Expense (Admin + Operations)</b> | <b>\$984,748.50</b> | <b>\$1,001,971.43</b> |
| Libraries                              | \$10,935.00  | \$10,011.70  | <b>Total Funds Raised</b>                 |                     | <b>\$1,040,237.20</b> |
| Total Transport                        | \$4,600.00   | \$31,988.66  | <b>Total carry forward to 2022-23</b>     |                     | <b>\$38,265.77</b>    |



# BALANCE SHEET (As of 30 September 2022)

|                                       | <u>September 30, 22</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                         |                         |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                 |                         |
| Checking/Savings                      |                         |
| ABA Bank                              | \$60,828.98             |
| ACLEDA_Cambodia                       | \$4,572.60              |
| Edward Jones                          | \$682,315.51            |
| Edward Jones CD's                     | \$600,000.00            |
| JPMorgan Chase Checking               | \$143,509.36            |
| Radius Bank                           | \$8,741.76              |
| Petty Cash KH                         | \$5,510.11              |
| <a href="#">Petty Cash US</a>         | \$12,960.39             |
| Wells Fargo Checking                  | \$236,196.71            |
| Total Checking/Savings                | <u>\$1,754,635.42</u>   |
| Other Current Assets                  |                         |
| Assets Loans                          | \$252.00                |
| Total Other Current Assets            | <u>\$252.00</u>         |
| Total Current Assets                  | <u>\$1,754,887.42</u>   |
| <b>Other Assets</b>                   |                         |
| Srayang House 1 & Land                | \$9,210.00              |
| Srayang House 2                       | \$13,386.74             |
| Srayang Unesco House 3                | \$21,399.33             |
| Total Other Assets                    | <u>\$43,996.07</u>      |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <u>\$1,798,883.49</u>   |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>       |                         |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>            |                         |
| Accrued Expenses                      | \$0.00                  |
| RESTRICTED BOARD FUND                 | \$351,320.00            |
| RESTRICTED DONOR FUND                 | \$12,000.00             |
| RESTRICTED UNIVERSITY                 | \$390,000.00            |
| Total Current Liabilities             | <u>\$753,320.00</u>     |
| Equity                                |                         |
| Retained Earnings                     | \$1,054,144.63          |
| Net Income                            | -\$8,581.14             |
| Total Equity                          | <u>\$1,045,563.49</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <u>\$1,798,883.49</u>   |

PLF has a strong commitment to protecting the investment of our supporters by remaining fully functioning no matter what the calamity. We have not only survived the hardships caused by the pandemic but were able to keep our operations running at a very high level of efficiency and impact during a time when we saw other charities falling down and unable to serve their constituents in the time when they needed it most. This is what a strong balance sheet brings.

Responsible stewardship of the funds we receive is as important to us as intelligent spending of those funds. You have our promise.

**We welcome conversations about our financials, so if you have any questions, or would like to see our latest filings with the IRS, please be in touch!**  
**[hello@theplf.org](mailto:hello@theplf.org)**



Lori Carlson, Co-Founder & President