



John Givonetti Giving
A Charitable Organization
Fourth Quarter Report
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020

This report for JGG’s fourth quarter of 2020 will be a little different than past quarterly reports. We will take this opportunity to summarize the year’s events related to the overall Covid-19 situation in Cambodia and to recap how JGG’s staff worked to maintain its focus despite the twists and turns of state mandated rules and related requirements.

It has been a challenging year.

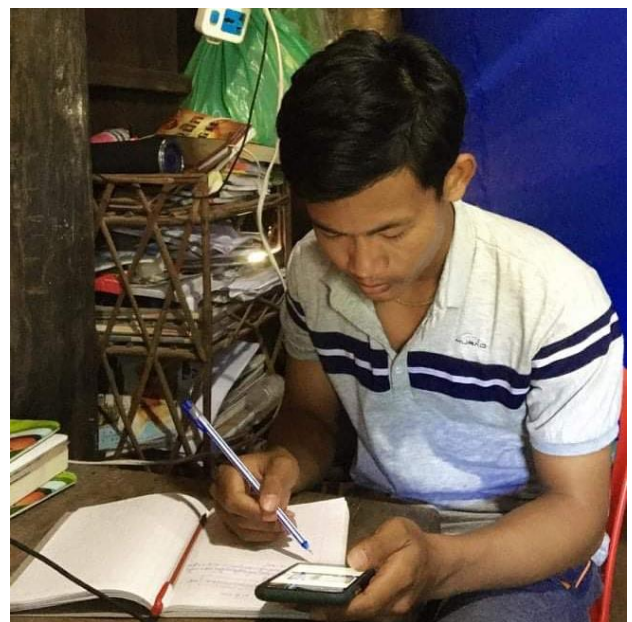
OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 IN CAMBODIA DURING 2020

Medically speaking Covid-19 has not had a serious impact on Cambodia’s 16 million citizens. In total there have been 387 cases of the virus and no deaths. Nevertheless, there were many governmental policies to prevent the spread which dramatically changed day to day life in the Kingdom.

In April, all Cambodian public schools and universities were closed. Teaching gradually shifted to the internet as programs were developed.

Schools were slowly opened again in September starting with the 9th and 12th grades. This was eventually expanded to include all grades by early October.

In December there was an outbreak of the virus in Phnom Penh and the government closed all schools and universities again. By the end of December, two months later than



Student Teacher learning online using a phone

normal, all public-school students were moved to their next grade. Twelfth graders also graduated in December, five months behind schedule.

The 12th grade exam (the comprehensive exam for all graduating 12th graders) normally given last August was initially delayed and then entirely cancelled in December. All students received automatic passing grades.

It is unclear how long the new school term which started in January 2021 will last. Normally, the school year runs November until August.

The Cambodian economy has been hard hit by the virus, especially in the vital tourist industry. As an example, the number of tourists at the Angkor Archeology Park is down almost 80% from 2019. The World Bank believes that Cambodia will recover quickly once

Covid-19 is controlled. It forecasts 4% economic growth in 2021, down from a pre-Covid-19 forecast of over 7%. Longer term, Cambodia is expected to have one of the fastest growing economies in S.E. Asia.

HOW JGG RESPONDED

JGG relies on the schools to be open and students to be coming to school in order to operate its English language program. With the schools closed it had no choice but to suspend the program in April. The program opened slightly in September/October as students returned to school, but in December the program again closed.



12th Graders' Computer training when allowed

It was not possible for JGG Student Teachers to conduct their classes online for a multitude of reasons. So, JGG focused on supporting its 28 Student Teachers. Instruction was given to them mostly online. During the periods when the JGG Learning Centers (located on school grounds) were allowed to open Student Teachers received instruction in person.

Instruction given to the Student Teachers focused on three areas.

1. JGG provided oversight of the online learning for all subjects given by the public school system. In that regard, the JGG staff monitored the Student Teachers' performance and homework assignments.

2. JGG continued to provide English Instruction to the Student Teachers. Computer training was conducted only when JGG's Learning Centers were open.

3. When the Learning Centers were available, Student Teachers in the 12th grade were taught by professional teachers provided by JGG in the areas of chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, and English in preparation for the eventually cancelled 12th grade exam. These students were also given instruction in the preparation of CV's (resumes) and how to interview for a job. Finally, they were instructed on how to choose a university major, and other aspects of starting their college career. Unfortunately, visits to universities were not possible.



12th Grade Student Teachers were trained by Professional Teachers in person when allowed



Food Support for Alumni by Charleys Kids foundation helped ease their difficulties during Covid-19

Student Teacher Alumni (former Student Teachers) who were in university and staying at JGG's dormitories in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap also shifted to online learning. Adding to their difficulties was the cut back by employers due to the economic slowdown. Most of JGG's Alumni either lost their jobs or had hours and salaries severely cut. The most affected were those Alumni in the Siem Reap dormitory, since Siem Reap is the tourist center of Cambodia. Generally, Alumni work full-time while at university to help pay their study costs and support their parents and siblings still in

public school.

JGG, with the help of Charleys Kids foundation, provided additional support to the Alumni at the dormitories.

As in earlier quarters, during the 4th quarter JGG continued training Student Teachers adjusting its schedule and methods to comply with changing governmental restrictions.



Student Teachers' English Training was in person when allowed

Getting through this difficult year would not have been possible without the

dedication of the JGG staff and the support of **Wings of Hope, Charleys Kids, Bret Heinrich, Alan and Sarah Keathley, Benay Leff, and Thomas and Barbara Gustainis.**

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