



# 2017 Rural & Economic Development Annual Report

Opportunity. Dignity. Hope.





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Many impoverished communities around the world are abundant with natural resources, but lack the knowledge or opportunity necessary to form a market and delivery system to gain profit from their goods. Working at both the grassroots and global trading levels, World Hope International (WHI) helps to lay the groundwork for business in developing countries and empowers communities to succeed.

## Mobile Power for Off-Grid Communities

### *Sierra Leone*

WHI and Mobile Power Ltd., a small UK start-up, are partnering to provide clean and affordable energy to the off-grid population in Sierra Leone. Mobile Power has designed a portable battery system, powered by solar energy, to deliver clean energy to customers' homes at an affordable price. This smart-battery rental system, available at local shops, provides users with sufficient, clean energy to charge mobile phones and power bright LED lights.

In December 2016, WHI and Mobile Power Ltd. launched the first Mobile Power Sierra Leone site in Pate Bana, a village heavily impacted by the recent Ebola outbreak. After one year, the results show that phone usage increased by 25%. Community members saved time, as they did not have to go to a larger town to charge their cell phones. With electricity to power LED lights, children were able to read and study at night. Mobile Power Ltd. and WHI plan to expand to more sites, and will be seeking grant funding and investments with the aim of starting a separate private enterprise.



# Village Partnerships

## Sierra Leone

WHI's Village Partnerships connect US-based churches, schools or organizations with a specific village to address multiple needs and act as a comprehensive response to end the cycle of poverty. Through Village Partnerships, WHI trains and empowers community leaders, focusing on supporting activities that result in economic stability and enhanced livelihoods. Spiritual growth, food security, education, agribusiness and community health are addressed in a coordinated way to bring lasting improvement. In 2017, WHI worked with ten villages in Sierra Leone.

WHI helps villages form committees to oversee management and ensure ownership of all the interventions. Training is conducted to allow community leaders to reflect on, reinforce and practice their values as well as to build their knowledge and resources to improve their community. Each Committee meets every month to find solutions to any issues affecting the community. In 2017, 60 individuals participated in the leadership training.

Agricultural workers make up a large portion of the population of Sierra Leone. Subsistence farming is the main source of employment, livelihood and income for smallholder farmers. Twenty farmers took the WHI training and learned through participatory approaches and new tools. The farmers enjoyed sharing knowledge with each other as to what has worked to solve their problems (e.g. weeds, pests, rodents, etc.). A full 110 bushels of groundnut seed and rice were distributed to 55 farmers. Increased yields from quality seeds brought income for families and enabled them to pay school fees for their children and to address other economic problems. 130 goats WHI distributed to farmers increased their income and were an important source of nutrition for their families.

A community center was constructed in a village, which has become a symbol of unity and dignity among the people. The structure serves as a venue for the promotion and development of youth activities as well as a central place to hold a variety of meetings. Additionally, a church was constructed, and The Jesus Film was presented in 10 villages as a method to share the gospel.



## Cambodia

As part of WHI's Village Partnership program, in 2017, WHI worked with two villages—Agay and Batotitik in the Philippines.

In October 2016, Typhoon Haima (Lawin) made landfall in northern Philippines bringing damaging winds and flooding rainfall. About ten houses were completely destroyed and others left with major damages. Farm land and footbridges were also affected. A year after Typhoon Haima, the community of Agay is gradually recovering from the devastation. About 15 families rebuilt their homes with corrugated iron and bamboo. The cultivation of banana, corn (50 kg) and rice (20 kg) has begun, and the community hopes to harvest 200-300 sacks of corn and 100 sacks of rice in 2018. To help rebuild the community, an animal multiplication project was initiated. Ten pigs were provided to ten families (100 pigs total) to use the meat to improve their family's health or to sell at the market place. The offspring will be provided to other families to benefit from the program. Other offspring can be sold to pay for food, healthcare, school fees and other needs.



## Haiti

WHI partners with local churches and schools to bring knowledge and resources that foster empowerment. This allows villages to take responsibility and ownership of the transformation process, advocating for changes that best address their individual community's needs. In 2017, WHI worked with three schools in Cité Soleil, Percin, and Terre Rouge.

In 2017, WHI supported 38 teachers and administrative staff who help shape the lives of young children on a regular basis. Teachers are encouraged to be creative in their teaching techniques in order to reach each student's level of learning. Some of the techniques include teaching the same subject using a different language or using more hands-on activities with younger children, while older students learn through reading and writing. In addition, one classroom was renovated and two new classrooms were built.

WHI organized special events for the children during and after school such as Vacation Bible School (VBS), choirs, trivia contests, soccer tournaments, and field trips. Children in Cité Soleil rarely leave their town to visit other areas. Sixty-eight students were selected to go to the beach and see different parts of their country. Field trips give opportunities for students to get out of the classroom and experience something new.



In Percin, students in grades four to eight participated in a hands-on training on starting a garden from seed to harvest. The objective of the training was to build and nurture sustainable communities by creating positive relationships with the environment and understanding where food comes from. A demonstration garden was created in the school yard. Nurseries often require the purchase of plastic bags to grow plants for distribution purposes. Since the school and the students have limited resources, they found a solution by using the resources that they already have around them. A local organization provided training on how to use thrown out water bags found on the streets as recycled products to help improve agriculture practices in the inner-city areas. The students learned and practiced how to cut the top of the water bag, poke small holes in the bag, and fill with dirt and compost to grow the plants.

## Sisters Rural Development Program

### *Cambodia*

The 2017 International Women's Day campaign theme was #BeBoldforChange. Across the world, even in Cambodia, women are making positive changes to close the gender parity gap. Gender parity refers to the equal contribution of women and men to every dimension of life. WHI's Sisters program focuses on advancing Cambodian communities through the empowerment of women with economic development opportunities, education and health care. Through this program, women and men are collaborating and taking bold actions to support their families. Mushroom cultivation continues to be a big part of the Sisters project. Mushrooms are grown on agricultural waste from rice and mung beans.

In 2017, 51 families invested in the mushroom business with 80 mushroom houses currently in production. The business is providing consistent cash income with profits estimated at \$150 per month. The Siem District group now averages over 200 kg mushrooms per day for the Phnom Penh market. The mushroom project requires physical labor, and men and women work together to help each other in constructing the houses where the plants are grown. The whole family—including children and grandmothers—help harvest and clean the mushrooms.

Previously, the Women Savings Group (WSG) was formed for members to receive loans to start a small livelihood activity, such as creating vegetable gardens,



raising pigs, buying farm inputs for rice, cassava or cashew, setting up a small shop or assisting with emergency needs (e.g. sickness, death, etc.). However, with the success of the mushroom business, the purpose of the group has changed, as each member has enough finances to continue their livelihood activities. Members come together to learn from each other on how to improve the quality of their mushrooms and to work together in groups to plan their cropping system to increase their production.

Changes are evident in the communities. Husbands are not migrating to look for new work outside the village and most families have shown improved household income and standard of living. At the end of 2017, other agricultural cash crops were being explored.

## Mondulkiri Development Program

### *Cambodia*

Using a participatory process to collect information, WHI's team, working with Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania), is active in community planning, implementing activities, and raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and collective ownership and protection of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. WHI, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (CWS) Cambodia and KSWs



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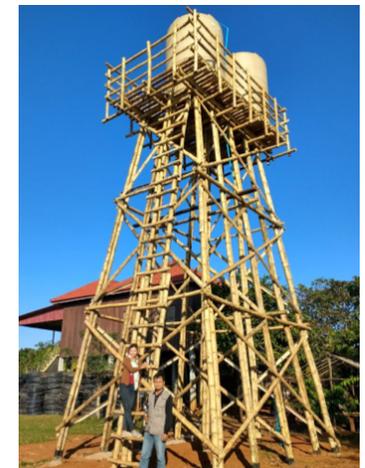
**Som** is a mother of four, married to Seng. Previously, the family depended on income from rice farming and construction work, and it was not enough to support the needs of the family. They were trying to pay off a loan of \$3,000 through a microfinance program. Sometimes, the family did not have any food to eat, and the children were not able to continue their education. Additional tension was brought on, as Seng was abusing alcohol.

With the support from WHI, when the family joined the mushroom project, their lives were transformed. To date, they have been able to pay off half of their loan. Som is able to buy raw materials for growing mushrooms and purchased a truck for the family. Additionally, with Seng drinking less, their family has less conflict. Now, the family plans to expand their mushroom house in order to fulfill Som's dream to buy a new motorcycle and purchase land. Som and her family are grateful to the WHI community for their support.

REDD+ Project, developed the Bunong Indigenous People's Group Development Program. Under the KSWs REDD+ Project, a large portion of the revenue from selling carbon credits generated by reduced emissions is shared with the local community living within the project area. This process rewards support from communities in reducing deforestation, and supports their village development. (The KSWs REDD+ Project is led by the Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Environment, with technical support from WCS Cambodia. For more information, Visit <https://cambodia.wcs.org/>.)

A piped-water system is being installed as part of the benefit-sharing from the KSWs REDD+ Project, expected to assist more than 100 households with clean, piped water, sourced from wells up to 200m deep. Clean water supplies have been identified as a key priority by community members in many of the villages in and around KSWs. Three boreholes were installed and three large bamboo water towers were completed for each village. Pipework to each tank has also been completed, and in 2018 WHI will begin digging trenches and laying the main pipework with PVC pipe connections to houses in the villages.

In addition, WHI also supported the Eco-Tourism project managed by the Bunong community, Jahoo (Gibbon) Camp in Andoung Kraleoing by renovating their camp accommodations and providing water and toilets to the camp. This Eco-Tourism project generated an annual income in 2017 of \$6,500, and benefited 152 families, including 343 children.





World Hope International is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.