



## Community Centre of Grace House Organization

### Project Funding Proposal

Grace House Community Centre works with 3 villages in a community between Siem Reap and Tonle Sap, Cambodia. We were founded in 2008 by Globalteer, a UK charity, after it was identified that there were a number of children who were not accessing an adequate level of education, partly due to the family's needs to have as many people in the household working to earn enough money to get by, and also the Government schools who were unable to provide a full enough education to provide students the opportunities they needed to work towards breaking out of the cycle of poverty. Grace House has since grown and developed and has been able to make a difference in areas such as early years' education, an education and therapy program for children with disabilities and special educational needs, enhancing the quality of life for families by providing them access to clean water, home repairs, rice donation and giving bicycles to enable children to get to school. We have also had various social enterprise projects in the past, including electrician training and employment of local weavers to create products to sell. At Grace House Community Centre we strongly believe education and inclusion will improve the livelihoods of this generation and the next.

At the beginning of March 2020, the Government ordered all schools in Cambodia to close as a preventative measure from the spread of Covid 19. This has meant that the school of Grace House has had to remain shut, and the Government has yet to publish a date or plan for the reopening of schools. Despite Grace House not being able to run education classes, the staff have still been working to ensure the needs of the community are met, including family visits, food distribution, provision of masks and soap alongside educating the families about handwashing and hygiene measures to minimise the risk of catching Covid-19. Some staff have been regularly going into the centre to maintain the grounds and thoroughly clean and sanitise areas. The teachers have also been providing the students with worksheets weekly, marking the returned work and giving feedback to make sure students are still engaged with education. The staff working with the students with special needs have been liaising with the families, suggesting activities and going through therapy programs which can be carried out at home, and also loaning out toys for those who do not have any at home, to provide the students with stimulation.

Since Grace House school has been closed, the children have been supplied with worksheets weekly, photocopied from the school text books but they would also benefit from having some exercise workbooks. These workbooks would have a variety of educational activities and games to keep them engaged and maintain their knowledge while they are unable to attend school full time. The workbooks cost \$2 each, so for 170 students we would need a total of \$340 to provide each student with an exercise workbook.

The teachers would set tasks each week from the workbook when the students come into school, and the teacher would then mark and give feedback on the tasks the next week. As this strategy has been started in the last 2 months, the students have shown overall a 70-80% engagement rate in completing work, and we hope to maintain and improve on this with continuing to provide worksheets and tasks to complete at home. Supporting the students to learn at home will also build important skills of self-study which will be essential for working towards further education which is more based on independent study. When students succeed in learning new things themselves, this increases their self-esteem.

By Grace House providing this service to its students, we aim to keep the students interested and engaged in learning and progressing their knowledge while they are unable to attend school, and without this it could have a detrimental effect on their future if they start to disengage with education.