

## IMC & CFC Health & Dental Trip November 2014

Last month saw another highly successful collaboration between International Medical Clinic and Caring For Cambodia. Four volunteers travelled to Siem Reap: Debby Nelson, Shellen Fun, Donnalea Barber and Helen Ford.



Over a 3-day period we worked with our CFC colleagues to carry out growth and vision screening for 741 students from Grades 7, 9 and 11 at Bakong Middle and High Schools.

22 students with sight problems were identified and have been referred for formal vision assessment.



Students with particularly low body mass index will be followed up by the School Health Care Team to determine whether any further intervention is necessary – around 130 of the screened students appear to fall into this category.

We envisage that such malnourishment will become less prevalent as students will have access to Food for Thought throughout their critical growing years.



We were excited to see recent upgrades to the Food for Thought kitchens – besides new porridge pots, the concrete stoves with chimneys and repaired kitchen roofs have created a less smoky atmosphere for both the students and cooks.

Spanning 9000 miles and several time zones, pre-trip collaboration between teams from Siem Reap, Singapore and Lehigh University, Pennsylvania ensured that we were able to use the new CFC database to enter screening results quickly and easily on site.



We were especially grateful to Eric Seguin, who recently joined CFC in Siem Reap as a long-term volunteer to develop IT resources across all the CFC schools. He joined us daily to help with data entry and troubleshoot any technical issues. The flow of students being screened with real-time entry of their data was very smooth.

Two words sum up this trip .... **teamwork & friendship!**

A sense of camaraderie was palpable throughout and it was wonderful to strengthen bonds of friendship and working relationships with our Siem Reap nurse colleagues Uom Im and Lina Chat and to meet the new team members Christin Spoolstra, Deputy Country Manager and Sotherith Chhim, Health Educator.

On our final day, we met with Christin and Uom to review and update priorities related to the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program – the aim being to guide Donnalea and the Grants Committee to focus attention and funding on specific projects in need of urgent attention.

#### **The IMC/CFC Team – November 2014**



**Back:**

Vanthai Than (Trip Co-ordinator), Uom Im (Health Programme Manager), Sotherith Chhim (Health Educator), Eric Seguin (IT Development) and Song Chea (CFC)

**Front:**

Donnalea Barber (CFC Grants Committee), Helen Ford (previous IMC), Shellen Fun (IMC), Debby Nelson (IMC) and Lina Chat (Health Educator)