

SeeBeyond|Borders



September 2023

**Dear Ambassador Whyatt,**

I hope you are well. I am sure you are looking forward to celebrating your one-year anniversary as Ambassador to Cambodia in November.

The Australian NGO which I lead, SeeBeyondBorders, works to improve educational standards in primary schools in Cambodia. We train, mentor and support teachers in public schools in Siem Reap and Battambang provinces, and disseminate our successes to the education sector across government and CSOs.

Since 2017 SeeBeyondBorders has received valuable funding through the ANCP Program, and we currently hold base-level accreditation. This has provided a sound financial foundation for our organisation and enhanced the impact we are able to make in schools and the broader education sector. Meeting the high standards demanded by ANCP acts as a benchmark across our whole organisation, and this has guided us in a very positive way.

SeeBeyondBorders is currently on a journey towards localisation, and as we pursue this transition to locally led development our engagement with the Australian Government and the Australian public becomes ever more important. We were heartened to see the recent publication of Australia's new International Development Policy and to learn of the recent increase in funding for base-level accredited organisations.

Every one of us at SeeBeyondBorders greatly values the opportunity to welcome Australian Government representatives to our organisation, to showcase our work and to demonstrate how the ANCP funding is used. We hosted Ambassador Kang in Battambang in 2021, and virtually, to celebrate Book Week, in 2022. More recently we were pleased to have an ANCP M&E visit from Paul Jenkins, and to demonstrate the impact Australian Government funds are making for public school children in early grades. While you would be familiar with our organisation from a meeting with my colleague Sally Miles (Chief Executive Australia) in Sydney prior to taking up your post, we would be delighted if you were able to visit our work on-site here in Cambodia.

With heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support and best wishes for your second year in-country.

Yours Sincerely,

*Colm Byrne*



# About SeeBeyondBorders

Since 2009, SeeBeyondBorders has been improving the quality of education in Cambodian government primary schools through evidence-based programs, research and policy input into teacher development. Our work aligns directly with the SDG 4 Quality Education and SDG 17 Partnership for Goals.

SeeBeyondBorders provides training and mentoring to teachers in areas where they need the most support - maths, literacy, and classroom management. We engage parents and other community members to build an understanding of the value of educating their children; and we work with local and national government entities to foster a commitment to improving the country's education system.

SeeBeyondBorders has been accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), which manages the Australian Government's aid program, since 2017, and we receive invaluable support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). To ensure children can access the quality education they deserve, we also work in partnership with local communities to improve the status of teachers, enhance the social and physical environment of schools, and to encourage children to attend school and value education.



## Our Vision

A generation of Cambodian school children empowered by education.

## Our Mission

SeeBeyondBorders provides access to quality teaching and learning at school.

## Our Values



Courage



Competency



Changemaker



Integrity



Respect

# ANCP Funded Projects

## Literacy Project

The goal of SeeBeyondBorders' Literacy Project is to improve the professional knowledge, practice and engagement of literacy teaching. We aim to help children reach at least the minimum proficiency levels in literacy appropriate to their grades. Every year, our Literacy Project Manager and Technical Education Manager facilitate eight workshops to build teachers' knowledge. In order to monitor teaching capacity, a skill scale is used twice a year to assess teachers and provide support. Ongoing mentoring from SeeBeyondBorders' Teaching Development Officers regularly takes place to ensure that teaching, evaluation, literacy knowledge, and classroom management skills are developed using observation and constructive feedback.



## Educational Technology Project

In February 2021, we launched the new Educational Technology Project at Rohal Sounng Lech, a rural primary school on the outskirts of Ek Phnom District in Battambang. After a successful pilot project, we increased the number of participants in the Educational Technology Project to 22 teachers. The project is designed to build teaching capacity through the use of educational technology and digital resources. We enhance learning by bringing educational technology to rural Cambodian primary schools. Teachers are provided with tablets that house our quality, contextually-appropriate educational resources for teaching maths and literacy, mentoring, and continuous professional development. Through training and ongoing support, teachers can effectively use technology to improve classroom engagement and improve learning outcomes.



# ANCP Funded Projects

## Educational Changemaker Project

The Educational Changemaker Project began in 2021 in Battambang Province and is designed to reduce the barriers to women becoming leaders in the education sector in Cambodia. This project not only enables participants to develop a toolkit to become a future Changemaker, but also provides opportunities for Changemakers to pursue their dreams of making a difference through education within a supportive community where the intrinsic value of women in leadership is recognised.



Our second cohort of Changemakers, 2023-2025

# Timeline of Engagement with Australian



**September 2023**

SBBA CEO chairs DFAT and ACFID consultation in Sydney



**February 2023**

ANCP Monitoring & Engagement visit in Battambang



**2022**

SeeBeyondBorders renews ANCP base accreditation



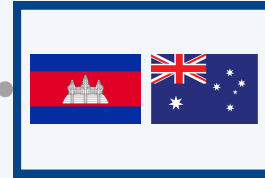
**2020**

Ambassador Kang visits our work in Battambang



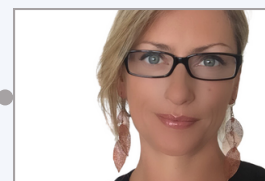
**2017**

SeeBeyondBorders secures ANCP accreditation



**June 2023**

Engagement meeting with DFAT as part of our locally led development



**2022**

Sally meets Ambassador Whyatt in Sydney



**2021**

Ambassador Kang and SBB celebrate book week together



**2018**

ANCP Funding transforms SBB capability and capacity

“ All of us at SeeBeyondBorders are profoundly appreciative of the unwavering support of DFAT through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program. Not only has this partnership been a driving force in our quest to elevate education in rural Cambodia in line with SDG4, but it has also been instrumental in our evolution towards a more localised, community-driven approach to development. ”



**Sally Miles**  
**Chief Executive (Australia)**

**SBB** SeeBeyondBorders  
 @SeeBeyondBorder

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**SBB** SeeBeyondBorders  
 @SeeBeyondBorder

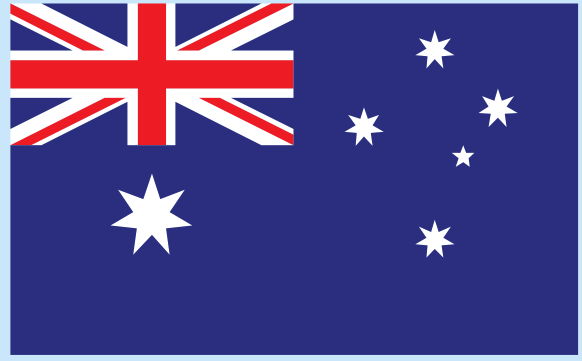
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It's wonderful to see changemakers, funded by @dfat learning from one another through the maths demonstrations. This encourages them to take on feedback for improvement and perform better when they teach students in class. #ANCP



We are delighted that 83 parents joined a Community Meeting in Ek Phnom recently. It is so great to see more parents joining meetings to learn more about our Literacy Project supported by @dfat and become more involved in their children's education. #ANCP





# Thank you!

