

# IMPACT UPDATE '24

HELP THE CAMBODIAN CHILDREN  
AND THE BOMNONG L'OR CENTRE  
UK CHARITY NUMBER 1101594



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## Thank you so much for your continued support!

The year has once again flown by. We are filled with **immense gratitude** for your **ongoing support** of our centre and its programs.

2024 has presented its share of challenges, but thanks to **your generosity**, we've been able to weather the storms.

Despite the hurdles, we are pleased to share that our main centre continues to thrive, and that the Otres-based *Shine* charity, has now come under our wing, **expanding our reach and impact** in the community.

We have seen a lot of changes this year. The **integration of two centres**, along with staff, and resources, has required a great deal of adjustment. However, we are proud to say that our students and teachers have handled these changes amazingly.

We apologize for the slower updates over the past few months – it's been a **busy time of growth and change!** Rest assured, every step has been taken with the future of our students in mind.

Once again, thank you for sticking with us, your continued support makes all of this possible!



# COMBINING RESOURCES

In December of 2023 *Help the Cambodian Children* (HTCC) began the employment of our new Programme Manager, **Mr Chan Sarith**. While perfect timing for our centre, *Sarith* was joining us with a heavy heart, as the charity he had been working for previously (*Shine*) was being forced to close due to lack of funding.

The services *Shine* provided were very similar to ours, and more importantly, their core values are ones we shared. A few of their staunch supporters were determined that some of the services could be saved and launched a funding push.

**We decided that by integrating the centres, with our management, admin and outreach team splitting their time between the 2 locations, we could keep them both running.** In the long run, sharing these staff members should also **reduce overall costs** for both centres. While this means a bit more work for the team, it was a challenge we were all willing to take on. We truly believe in the value of these charities to the communities they serve. We are determined to keep them going!

This merge began in January. Since then our *Bomnong L'or* (Goodwill) centre continues to run its full programmes (detailed below), while core services at the *Shine* centre have continued.

**All money received from regular donors continues to be earmarked for the *Bomnong L'or* centres programmes only,** with *Shine* funding coming from separate sources. This will continue until such time funding is secured, in a permanent way, for each centre.



# WHAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED?

## THE BOMNONG L'OR (GOODWILL) CENTRE

With **over 100 students** coming through the centre everyday we continue to provide a **safe haven** for all those in need. We have worked very hard on teacher training and development to improve our curriculum, and to ensure our students are getting the best possible start.

We made the difficult decision to cut our teen/adult evening classes this year. While valuable, we decided that our limited funds were better spent on community support, as people continue to struggle in the economic climate of Sihanoukville (see page 5).

**All of our grade 6 students passed their state school exams** and will now be able to proceed into full time education. We are delighted for them. The centre continues to be a hub of the community, filled with joy and a place where staff and students alike love to be!



**41**  
**Pre-school students inspired by the power of creative education!**



**67**  
**Primary and Junior students empowered with English and Khmer education!**



**108**  
**Children provided with a safe space to play and grow!**





# THE SHINE CENTRE

The *Shine* centres core services have been continued with limited students being provided **English lessons** and a **Lunch Club**. Malnutrition is still a big problem here, and for many of these children their **lunch club is their only nutritious meal of the day**.

We have been very lucky in gaining the **support of a local company** who have constructed a **new classroom** for us. This gives us the space to get the remaining **50 students** (currently on a waiting list since the closure of the *Shine* charity) back into the centre. However this will only happen when we manage to **find the money for a new teachers salary**. 20 of those students on the waiting list would also join the lunch club.

We are so pleased **we have managed to keep the *Shine* centre open**. There is nothing else like it in the area, so having a **safe space** for their children to be in the daytime is a huge relief for the families in the community.



**56**  
**Children benefit  
from daily  
English lessons!**



**38**  
**Children enjoy a  
nutritious lunch  
every day!**



**1**  
**New  
Classroom!**





# SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES; NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT, HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We are so pleased we have been able to take on a **new full time social worker**, splitting their time between the 2 centres, supporting our students families in each area. This enables us to carry out **welfare checks on over 150 families**.

We have been lucky this year with large donations of rice and tinned goods. This has enabled us to **increase our food drop provisions** (in both areas). We are delighted we have been able to do this as many of **our families really depend on this help to ensure their families are fed**, and it was one of the services we had to cut back on last year.

Currently we provided **over 30 families emergency food packages of rice and fish each month**, with extra available for any families in crisis.

This increase in community support has had a dramatic impact. Our **social worker** is able to carry out **counselling with students and families** helping them to address any issues the family is having, monitor their progress and refer them to the relevant authorities/local facilities when needed.

**A basic triage service** is still available at the centre and help with the costs of medications or hospital treatments can be provided when needed.

**We continue to operate as a safe and supportive space for our students to come to and gain a sense of stability.**





# CHALLENGES OF 24'



No surprises here, but as always, **funding is our biggest concern!** However we are optimistic that our recent decision to merge the two charities and **share staff and resources**, will help to reduce costs. Splitting salaries between two pools of funders (the dedicated *Shine* funders now helping with *Bomnong L'or* admin/salary costs) should bring some financial relief. However, as can be seen from the earlier closure of *Shine*, funding is so precarious we must be cautious.

We have been lucky in gaining **support from local businesses** again, this often constitutes donations in the form of supplies, helping to cut our costs. However this support is often sporadic, so makes planning ahead difficult. We will aim to develop these relations further in the coming year.

This year, we unfortunately lost two of our students in two tragic accidents, a heart-breaking reminder of the precarious conditions many of our students face. These accidents, unfortunately, are made more likely due to the challenging living environments that many in our community endure. **This loss highlights the critical need for the support and services we provide**, and it strengthens our commitment to ensuring that **every student has the best possible chance for success.**

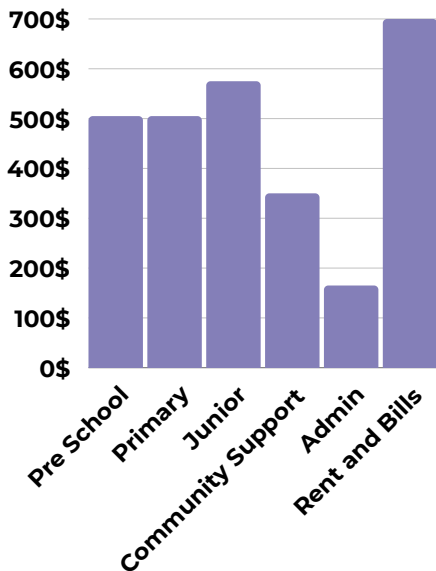
In brighter news, while aligning the charities has been time consuming, including updated training on child-safe policies and employee practice, to name a few, it has also been rejuvenating for us all. **Increasing our team numbers** and getting a chance to **share new ideas** has been wonderful and a real energy boost for the whole team. We are excited to see what next year can bring.



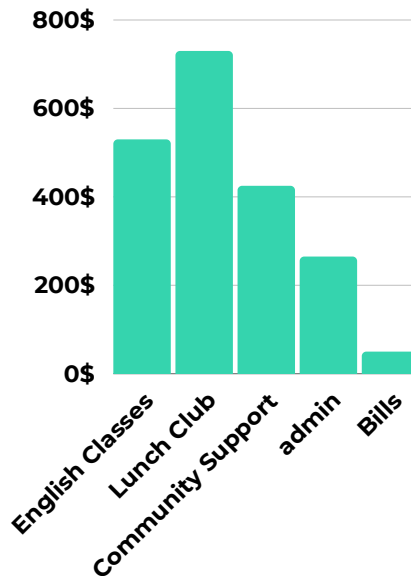
# WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO

## AVERAGE MONTHLY COSTS IN USD \$

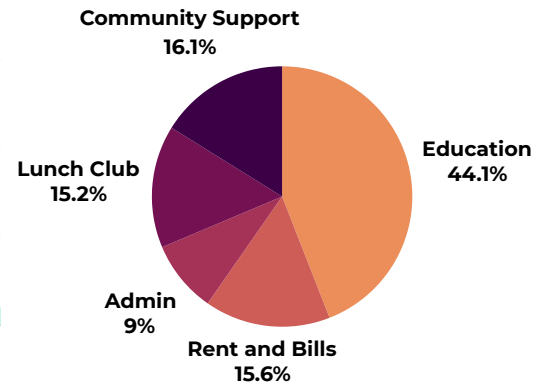
Bomnong L'or Centre



Shine Centre



As a percentage of programmes



## OUR SPENDING

The above charts are based on average monthly spending at each centre; *Bomnong L'or* ~\$2800, and *Shine* ~\$2000

It includes all rent, bills, maintenance, supplies, and salaries. **All money donated to HTCC comes directly to Cambodia** and is spent here, in country. Bank fees in the UK and internet hosting is covered privately.

Very luckily the *Shine* centre is built on land belonging to the Otres Pagoda, meaning there is no rent to pay. We are very fortunate as this is a great money saver! Our community **outreach costs also decreased** due to the donations of rice from private (local) companies. While we hope this continues we can not guarantee it.

We have found that having combined with *Shine*, *Bomnong L'or* has been able to **save roughly \$500 per month**. We have also **cut Shine's pre-closure costs**. Although this amount may seem small, on our very tight budgets it has **made a big difference**.

While this is positive, by no means are we in the clear, We are still **desperate to find the money to open a new daytime class at the Shine centre**. This will cost approximately \$530 a month, for 50 students who are on a waiting list to join. After this we will also aim to **restart our evening classes at the Bomnong L'or centre**, costing \$80 per month for a class of 20 students.

While there is still a long way to go, we are cautiously optimistic!





**We are immensely proud of all we have achieved this year. We have made a big impact on the lives of those in the communities we serve and students we support.**

**We could not achieve this without you!  
So once again, we would like to say a huge**

***THANK YOU!***

