

Emergency Response to the January 2020 Fire in Youth School Community

DONOR REPORT: MARCH 19, 2020

Background:

On January 6, 2020, a fire broke out in the community surrounding Empowering Youth in Cambodia's (EYC) Youth School. Fortunately, Youth School was spared; however, 150 homes were lost, leaving 175 families (approximately 850 people) homeless. Among those affected were 29 EYC families who had a total of 39 children attending Youth School.

This community was already marginalized, and there were no social safety nets in place. While the Red Cross provided some basic assistance, and a women's NGO was involved in offering support to sex workers impacted, EYC was the primary support system for the community during this tragedy.



EYC's Immediate Response & Approach:



The fire occurred in the middle of the night. As soon as the EYC team became aware, they evacuated the school (some students/staff live at the school) and moved computers out of the classroom. That morning, EYC began providing emergency relief support, including rice and drinking water, to anyone in the community who was impacted. EYC also allowed families that had nowhere to go to shelter in the school for multiple nights.

EYC is a development organization that doesn't typically provide emergency humanitarian response. However, with the support of our donor community, we were able to quickly mobilize and determine how to best support

the families of EYC students, along with the most vulnerable members of the community who had no other family support (mainly elderly and pregnant).

As students are often forced to drop out of school to help support their families during such a tragedy, our main objective was to keep EYC students in school during this challenge. In addition, such a shock takes time to recover from, and enabling kids to pursue their studies is a stabilizing factor for them. Our team focused on getting the impacted students back into school and into some sense of normalcy.





Another objective was to ensure that EYC's good intentions did no harm or create unintended negative consequences. With that in mind, we worked to ensure that we provided support to all community members in a transparent way and that the funding was used for the intended purposes.

Our team immediately began surveying impacted EYC families and those most vulnerable. The purpose of this needs-assessment was to understand the most critical needs and where we could have the most impact. The EYC team then set up a control system to manage incoming donations. They also conducted multiple follow-up visits to ensure that the funds were deployed appropriately.

In addition, EYC facilitated in-kind donations from other EYC schools, donors, and local businesses, examples of which are highlighted below.

- EYC Team Leaders organized fundraisers and clothing/food drives in the other EYC communities. Many of our students, who have little to spare, made donations, and contributed to the drives. The supplies collected were then distributed throughout the entire Youth School community.
- EYC worked as a liaison with the Thai conglomerate Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group's subsidiaries CPF, and Makro provided in-kind donations to the all families affected by the fire. The CP Group is Thailand's largest private company and one of world's largest conglomerates. It consists of three core businesses that operate in agribusiness and food, retail and distribution, and the telecommunications industries with investments in over 30 countries, employing over 300,000 people. These organizations provided the following to each of the families who lost their homes in the fire: 5kg of rice, 30 packs of noodles, 6 cans of canned fish, 24 bottles (500ml) of drinking water, seasoning sauce, shampoo, a blanket, toothpaste, bath soap, and a basket. They also distributed fried chicken and hot dogs during the event where the supplies were distributed.

Deployment of Donations to Impacted Families:

EYC initially determined that one month of support to the most vulnerable families (predominately EYC families) would be the most impactful way of helping them through this challenging time.

The support provided included: rent, food, school needs (uniforms, study materials, school fees), kitchen supplies, bedroom items and toiletries (fans, blankets, hygiene supplies, etc.) EYC also provided some families with baby products, bikes, and small amounts of monetary support to restart businesses lost to the fire.

This support was provided to 31 families:

- Ten families had two children who were EYC students
- 19 had one child in an EYC school



- Two families had no EYC children but received support due to extreme need.

The support impacted a total of **39 EYC students**, however, a larger population was affected due to siblings, parents, and extended families. The aid impacted **146 people** in total.

Funds were distributed to each family based on the items they (in conjunction with EYC) identified as most critical. After distributing the funds, EYC team members regularly visited the families to ensure the agreed-upon items were purchased and to check-in on how they were coping. The formalization of EYC’s Social Work program over the past few years proved to be instrumental to the success of this effort.



Month 1 - Area of Support	Amount	# of EYC Students Impacted
Food	\$5,720	39
House Rental	\$1,400	34
School Uniforms	\$634	34
Study Materials	\$705	29
Kitchen Supplies	\$1,578	38
Bedroom Items	\$1,119	41
Toiletries	\$655	41
Baby Products	\$246	6
Bike	\$100	3
Restart Business	\$500	4
Total	\$12,667	39

After one month, EYC found that while situations were still challenging, most of the families had been able to “return to their previous lives.” They were back to some sort of stability: they lived in a decent and safe rented space, they had enough food and basic supplies, most adults were back at work, and all students were at school.

Following the initial month of support, only three families needed additional money for rent, food, and urgent medical help.

Month 2 - Area of Support	Amount	# of EYC Students Impacted
Food	\$360	2
House Rental	\$160	2
Critical Medical	\$108	n/a
Total	\$628	

Additional costs not outlined above were:

- \$118 for food and water for all community members in the immediate aftermath of the fire
- \$64 for transportation

The total spent (not including in-kind donations) to support the community following the fire was: **\$13,477**.

Recognizing that the response effort was only possible due to EYC staff time (Community Engagement Manager, Social Workers, Youth School Program Manager, and the EYC leadership), an additional \$1,200 was allocated to cover the personnel costs.

With the inclusion of staff time, the total amount deployed to respond to the fire and its aftermath was **\$14,677**.

The total amount received from EYC’s Humanitarian Response Fundraising Campaign was **\$23,228**. Multiple donors indicated that their contributions could also go towards EYC operational expenses – we

are in the process of contacting them to let them know this will be the case. We thank all of our donors and appreciate the outpouring of support and trust in the team's ability to allocate and manage the funds for the most impact.

Within a very short time, the EYC team was able to launch a well-thought-out plan to address not only the emergency needs but also the longer-term ramifications of the fire. Most importantly, the plan was done in a way that would ensure that this tragedy would not set the families even further back.

Detailed Expenses:

Total Expense for Supporting Families from the Community Fire at Youth School															
1st month (Jan 2020)															
No	Sex	Age	How long with EYC	Expense										Total	
				Food	School Uniform	Study Materials	House Rental	Kitchen supplies	Bedroom Items	Toiletry	Baby Products	Bike	Restart Business		other
1	M	12	2 Years	\$ 150.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 31.27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 378.27
2	F	12	1 Year	\$ 225.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 87.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 529.96
3	F	10	1 Year	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 55.80	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 335.80
4	F	14	2 Years	\$ 150.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 470.00
5	M	13	3 Years	\$ 225.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455.00
6	M	12	3 Years	\$ 150.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 365.00
7	M	8	3 Years	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 340.00
8	M	14	4 Years	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 320.00
9	F	15	2 Years	\$ 300.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 561.00
10	M	12	2 days	\$ 225.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455.00
11	M	17	9 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 330.00
12	F	15	2 years	\$ 225.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 705.00
13	F	14	2 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550.00
14	F	12	1 year	\$ 150.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420.00
15	F	10	2 years	\$ 375.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 665.00
16	M	10	2 years	\$ 210.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420.00
17	M	11	2 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 365.00
18	M	12	2 years	\$ 300.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 540.00
19	M	11	2 years	\$ 300.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 57.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547.00
20	M	9	1 Year	\$ 150.00			\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 292.00
21	F	Pregnant woman		\$ 225.00	\$ 26.00		\$ 45.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 48.50	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420.50
22	M	17	3 years	\$ 225.00	\$ 20.00			\$ 85.50	\$ 57.50	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 403.00
23	M	22	2 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 260.00
24	F	15	2 years	\$ 150.00			\$ 50.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 330.00
25	M	12	1 year	\$ 150.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 39.50	\$ 13.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.50
26	M	10	1 Year	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 393.00
27	F	13	2 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 383.00
28	M	10	1 Year	\$ 195.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420.00
29	M	12	2 years	\$ 150.00	\$ 32.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 402.00
30	M	16	2 years	\$ 90.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114.00
31	F	9	2 years	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19.50	\$ 12.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81.79
32	F	85	n/a	\$ 5,720.00	\$ 634.00	\$ 705.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,577.50	\$ 1,118.80	\$ 655.29	\$ 246.23	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00	Total	\$ 12,666.82
				41	36	31	35	39	41	41	7	3	4		
2nd month (Feb 2020)															
No	Sex	Age	How long with EYC	Expense										Total	
				Food	School Uniform	Study Material	House renting	Kitchen	Bedroom Item	Toiletry	Baby Product	Bike	Restart Business		other
1	M	12	2 Years	\$ 150.00			\$ 50.00								\$ 200.00
2	M	14	4 Years	\$ 150.00			\$ 60.00								\$ 210.00
3	F	Pregnant woman		\$ 60.00			\$ 50.00							107.92	\$ 217.92
				\$ 360.00			\$ 160.00							Total	\$ 627.92
														1st month help	\$ 12,666.82
														2nd month help	\$ 627.92
														Transportation	\$ 64.42
														Food for emergency need	\$ 118.17
														Staff Costs	\$ 1,000.00
														Total	\$ 14,477.33