



### Challenging Life during COVID-19

Mediator name: **Rabbit Schools**

Country: **Cambodia**

Name of Children: **Vong Dara, Sex (Male)**

Disability: **Autistic**

Mother's name: **Suos Botrey**

Vong Dara is 14 years olds. He is a boy with autistic and epilepsy. He lives with his divorced mother and sister. Dara grows up in a very poor family. He lives with his mother in a small room who sometimes works part-time as a dishwasher at a restaurant which earns around 70\$ per month.

Dara was a very strong, aggressive child and have a speech disability. Before coming to Rabbit School, He couldn't recognize his body, vegetables, fruits, and animals. He liked shouting and spitting on his peer and the people around him. He used to pull his hair and walk around in the classroom.



After attending school, Dara's behavior has changed as he reduced his strong, aggressive style. He stopped spitting, biting, pulling his friend's hair and stop walking around. Dara has improved a lot with his communication. He is a very

friendly child in the class. He can sit longer and play with his peer outside and inside the classroom.

Right now, Dara's family is facing challenges. After the government has taken serious measure to fight COVID-19 Pandemic, the mother is unable to earn her living anymore because of the closure of the restaurants and KTVs. "I am very frustrated now. Before I brought my child to school and then went out to work and earn some money for our daily living, but now I cannot do anything. COVID-19 is a severe disease. Everyone cannot do anything; we need to stay home and being safe. I have never seen anything like this before", she said.



Dara stays home all day which she cannot go out to find a job. She added, "I need to stay home with him. if I go somewhere I need to bring him along". To cope up with this COVID-19 situation, she asked supports from her daughter to offer some money to support her and her autistic son. In addition, she tries to help her neighbor cutting some cotton clothes to get money for daily food. Normally, she received 1.50\$ to 2.50\$ per-day depends on the quantity.

Thank to Aids et Action (AeA) for sharing our challenges through Rabbit school, She received support like caring from teacher and rice, sauces, soap, learning material as well as from local authority.

She hopes that the government will remove the bans for the public places (KTVs and restaurants) and they can start their business again, so she could work for their living.