



Challenging Life during COVID-19

Mediator name: **Rabbit Schools**
Country: **Cambodia**
Name of Children: **Som Samnang, Sex (Male)**
Disability: **Cerebral Palsy**
Mother's name: Lao Yim

Samnang is 9 years old. He is a boy with Cerebral palsy and clubfoot. He lives with his adopted mother. He was abandoned in the trash bin when he was a little baby. Samnang grows up in a very poor family. He lives with his mother in a small cottage with palm leave roof. The mother is doing rubbish collector to earn for living day by day.



His life is so difficult. Before come to school, he always stays home alone. Some time, he went to pick the rubbish with his mother. Because of living with poor and disability, He did not have a chance to play with his friends around and received discrimination in his community.



After the Rabbit School set up the classroom for children with disability at the school nearby, Samnang have opportunity to attend school. He is much more improvement now. First, He can socialize with his peer in the school. Discrimination have been reduced, he enjoyed with his peer at school and on the way back home. He has learned a lot from the school. He is able to write a letter, reading some letter, name of animal and vegetables.

Like other low income family in Cambodia, Samnang '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 COVID-19 restriction measure. People have closed of the restaurants and KTVs and people cannot travel freely as usual. "I am very frustrated now. Before I can sell rubbish five dollar per day, but now I can earn only 1.25 to 2.5 per day to support our daily living. 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.

To cope up with this COVID-19 situation, the government has provided the COVID 1-19 relief fund to low income family. Through this program, She have received some support from local authority around forty dollar and supplement support from the organization.

Thank to Research Center for Inclusion for sharing our challenges through Rabbit school, she received support like caring from teacher and rice, sauces, soap, learning material as well as to her family.



She hopes that the government will remove the bans for the public places (KTVs and restaurants) and they can earn more rubbish for sell, so she could earn more money for their living.