

# Visit of the British Ambassador to SeeBeyondBorders



# Messages from our Team to Ambassador Williams

*Dear Dominic,*

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to visit our work in Battambang. We appreciate you taking the time to do so. Thanks also to you and Nilma for the kindness you have offered me since we first met. I enjoyed attending the King's Birthday and St Patrick's Day celebrations, visiting the embassy, and of course our meal in Tevy's. It is refreshing to meet with somebody in high office who listens well, speaks the language and understands the complexities involved in international development.

Like you, I have a great affection for Cambodia and its people. It is the place I now call home. Many of us who come from the Global North can learn much from Cambodia and its people. The country has one of the youngest populations globally and so much potential. However, the educational challenges are immense. [Of all 81 countries that completed the recent PISA Assessment, Cambodia came 81st](#). A child in Vietnam is five times more likely to reach minimum learning levels compared with a child in Cambodia.

Despite these stark realities opportunity awaits. [International evidence](#) and our own ['Raising the Bar'](#) Report indicate that meaningful change is possible. When teachers are supported and empowered to develop their skillsets and mindsets, children's learning is transformed. When locally-led development is done with qualified local people at the forefront it can and does create impact.

The support and expertise we receive from the UK is and has been a cornerstone of our success as an organisation. See [Beyond Borders UK](#) was established in 2012 to mobilise UK support for Cambodian education. Funding from [the UK Government was achieved in 2021](#) and this milestone enabled us to deliver our Embedding Mentoring Project in the District you are visiting today.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled group of volunteer trustees in the UK who are the bedrock on which our success can be expanded. I attended a UK trustees meeting in London last week where we discussed our upcoming Big Give Campaign, engagement with the Cambodian community in the UK, and of course your visit. My colleagues there will be following your visit from afar.

Our ambition as an organisation is to grow our presence in Cambodia and to establish Teacher Development Centres in Battambang, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey Provinces. To do that we must secure the necessary financial support from the UK and from UK companies operating in Cambodia. The UK for us is a key market which we want and need to grow.

It is our wish that your time with us today will mark the beginning of a collaborative journey in support of locally-led educational improvement here in Cambodia. Your time investment matters.

Respectfully and with my ongoing thanks,

***Colm Byrne***

*CEO International Operations*



*Dear Ambassador Williams,*

On behalf of SeeBeyondBorders Cambodia, we extend our warm welcome to you. Our team and educational changemakers are delighted to learn and share their work experiences with you. After meeting you in the British Embassy in February I found that both the UK and Cambodia are highly interested in enhancing quality education and achieving gender equality.

For our NGO, your visit to our Educational Technology and Educational Changemakers projects in Battambang provides a significant opportunity to witness and see how positive change is possible. We are very grateful for all the support we received from UK donors

[Support from the UK Government via the](#) FCDO funding enabled us to enhance the education system and improve the lives of thousands of Cambodian children through the implementation of our Embedding Mentoring Project. We are proud to witness the continuity of the interactive teaching practice.

***Phan Sreyphet***

*Provincial Manager Battambang*

*Dear Ambassador Williams,*

A highlight of my professional journey was my visit to England in 2017. This was my first time in a western country. I spent time in Oxford and London and even visited Orrell Holgate Primary School in Manchester. The school amazed me. Teachers and children had such a sense of autonomy. As a teacher myself it left me with much to reflect on when I returned to my home in Siem Reap.

Since becoming Managing Director of SeeBeyondBorders I had the pleasure of meeting you in the British Embassy. We received UK Government support for our work in Battambang and I was glad to have had the chance to thank you for this. It was also kind of you to introduce the Minister of Education to Colm and I when we attended the King's Birthday in Phnom Penh.

Your visit to our programmes means a lot to the teachers we work with and to our entire staff. Thank you.

***Pheung Pov***

*Managing Director*



**Pheung Pov**



**Phan Sreyphet**



**Colm Byrne**

*Dear Ambassador,*

As Chair of the Board of Trustees (UK) I would like pass on our appreciation of your interest in the work of See Beyond Borders. As one who has worked in British schools for 40 years, 20 as a Headteacher, I am passionate about education and the power it holds. On my own visits to schools in Battambang and Siem Reap, I am inspired by the innovation, commitment and passion I see from the teachers and SBB staff working together for the benefit of the communities they serve. Whilst the results in terms of pupil attainment speak for themselves, it is in seeing the change in the individual children that catches one's throat and demonstrates to me that something really special is happening.

We understand you must be extremely busy and therefore are doubly appreciative of your time. I plan to come again to Cambodia later in the autumn. If there was ever an opportunity to connect with you or anyone in your team I would be delighted to do so. Similarly, if there were an opportunity to meet in the UK that would be wonderful.

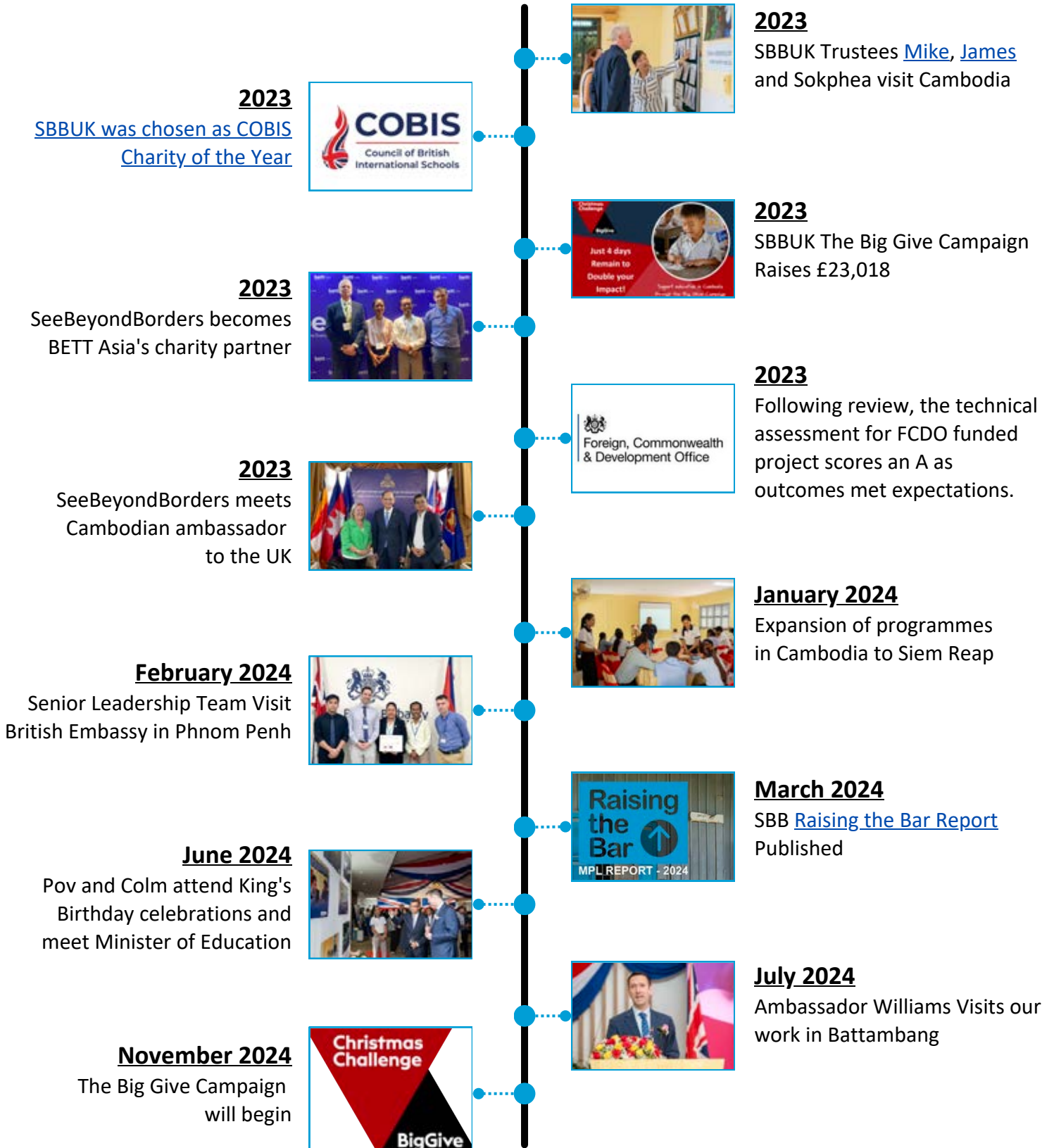
Thank-you for all the work that you do, not just on behalf of the UK, but also for young people in Cambodia who have too often been left behind. On behalf of UK trustees, we wish you an enjoyable and informative visit.

**Mike Walton**

*Chair of the Board of Trustees (UK)*



# Building Bridges Between The UK and Cambodia





# About SeeBeyondBorders

Since 2009, SeeBeyondBorders has been improving the quality of education in government primary schools through evidence-based programmes, 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 school 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 work with the local and national government to foster a commitment to improving the education system nationally. A child in an SBB-supported school is 1.8 times more likely to reach minimum levels compared with a child in control schools.

To ensure children can access the quality education they deserve, we also work in partnership with local communities to improve school facilities, and to encourage children to attend school and value education.

# About SeeBeyondBorders UK

SeeBeyondBorders UK is an independent development charity. It has charitable registration in England and Wales (1146044). Together with SeeBeyondBorders Australia and SeeBeyondBorders Ireland, it supports SeeBeyondBorders Cambodia to work in partnership with Cambodian educators and improve learning outcomes for Cambodian children.

# Before Your Visit

We ensure all appropriate steps are taken to ensure the safety of children within the communities we work with. We therefore ask all visitors, to read and agree to some key policies before visiting schools. Please use the links below to review the policies that we will ask you to sign in order to visit programme locations.

- [1. Child and Vulnerable People Protection Policy](#)
- [2. Code of Conduct](#)
- [3. Risk Management Policy](#)
- [4. Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [5. Development Policy](#)
- [6. Inclusion Policy](#)

# Who You Will Meet



## **Pheung Pov - Managing Director**

With over 15 years in Education, Pov joined SeeBeyondBorders in 2013. He became Country Manager in 2017 and recently was appointed as Managing Director, after returning from completing his Master of Education at Mary Immaculate College in Ireland.



## **Lok Taing Im - General Manager Shared Services**

As General Manager Shared Services, Taing Im oversees Human Resources, Engagement, IT and Compliance. She is also responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding at SeeBeyondBorders.



## **Colm Byrne - CEO International Operations**

Colm has been living in Cambodia since 2014 and is a qualified teacher. He joined SeeBeyondBorders in 2017. Earlier this month he spent time in the UK meeting with trustees and supporters.



## **Phan Sreyphet - Provincial Manager**

Sreyphet joined SeeBeyondBorders in February 2021 with over 10 years experience in Education. She facilitates the changemakers project as well as implementing and monitoring the PIKT research collaboration.



## **Kang Sambor - Teaching Development Coordinator**

Sambor brings almost 10 years experience in the education sector to SeeBeyondBorders. She is currently a Teaching Development Coordinator focusing on facilitating workshops for continuous professional development.



## **Lula Belinfante - Possibilities Lead**

Originally from Westborough, Lincolnshire Lula has been fundraising for NGOs in Cambodia since 2018. She joined SeeBeyondBorders in early 2021, and lives in Siem Reap.

# Our Impact this Year

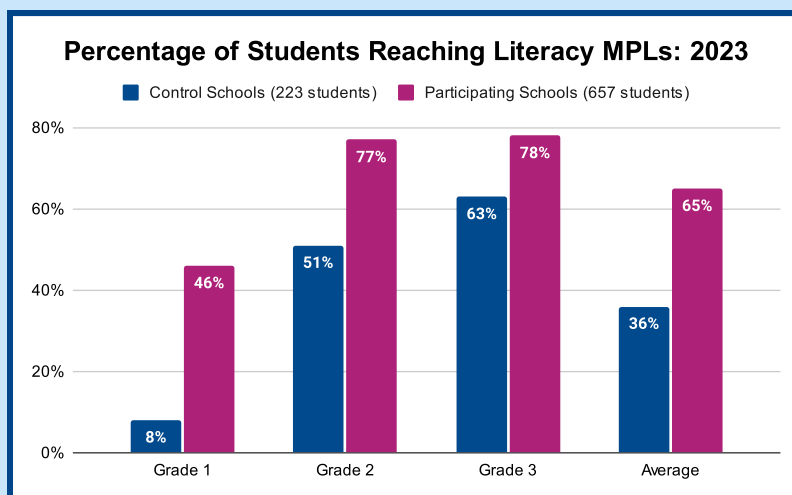


## Measuring our Impact on Learning

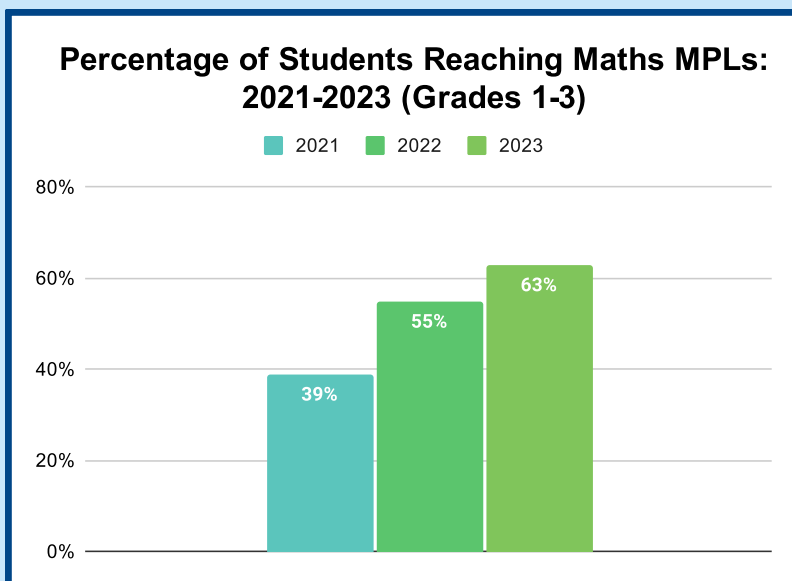
### BETTER TEACHING BRINGS BETTER LEARNING

**Improved teacher effectiveness increases the likelihood that students achieve MPLs.**

*In Battambang, 65% of students achieve MPLs for literacy in SBB-supported schools compared to only 36% of students in control schools.*



### CUMULATIVE IMPACT



**The impact of SeeBeyondBorders' interventions is cumulative.**

*2021 to 2023 assessments show that increasing numbers of students in SBB-supported schools are achieving MPLs for maths.*





## About Prek Krouch School



*Roy Ryna, Prek Krouch School Principal*

Prek Krouch Primary School is located in Ek Phnom District in Battambang Province. For over 4 years, SeeBeyondBorders has been working with Prek Krouch as part of Literacy, Educational Technology and Educational Changemaker Projects.

Roy Ryna, has been principal of Prek Krouch since 2019 and has been instrumental in the effective implementation of SeeBeyondBorders' projects in this school.

## Itinerary in Battambang

8:00 am	Arrive at Prek Krouch Primary School (in Ek Phnom District) about 20 minutes from the Battambang town
8:10 am	Introduction to the school principal and then visit two classrooms where Educational Technology will be used for teaching Khmer Literacy or Maths
9:00 am	With the Ambassador's consent, record an interview with the Ambassador at the school about the visit
9:30 am	Travel to SBB Battambang Office
9:50 am	Ambassador Williams, SBB staff, changemakers and community members participate in a panel discussion on 'Partnerships in Education. Experiences in Cambodia and the UK' This will be facilitated by Sreyphet.
11:30 am	End of the visit

# Projects in Ek Phnom

The Quality Teaching programme has been running in Battambang province since 2017. This financial year, two key projects are integrated here: Educational Technology and Educational Changemakers. You will also see the legacy impact of both Literacy and Embedding Mentoring (FCDO Funded) projects.

## Quality Teaching

The Quality Teaching programme develops confident and competent communities of teachers committed to quality teaching and ongoing professional development. Our team works with Cambodian teachers developing best practice teaching methodologies. In order to improve their skills however, teachers need more than just workshops. They need ongoing support to ensure that they are putting their learning into practice.

To achieve this, SeeBeyondBorders trains existing teachers to become mentors, so that they can guide fellow teachers to improve their performance. Under the Quality Teaching Programme, there are three projects: Literacy, Educational Technology, and Educational Changemakers.

## Literacy

The goal of SeeBeyondBorders' Literacy Project is to improve the professional knowledge, practice and engagement of literacy teaching. We aim to help children reach minimum proficiency levels in literacy, appropriate to their grades. Every year, our Literacy Project Manager and Technical Education Manager facilitate multiple 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

In February 2021, we launched the new Educational Technology Project at Rohal Soun Lech, a rural primary school on the outskirts of Ek Phnom District in Battambang. After a successful pilot project, we have progressively developed and expanded this project to now include 52 teachers across 11 schools. The project aims 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, contextual 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.

## Educational Changemakers

The Educational Changemaker Project began in 2021 in Battambang Province and aims to reduce the barriers to women becoming leaders in the education sector in Cambodia. This project not only develops a toolkit to become a future Changemaker, but also gives opportunities for Changemakers to pursue their dreams of making a difference in education within a supportive community that recognises the intrinsic value of women in leadership.



*"Women play a significant role in community development where women support each other to grow. I am honoured to have a chance to facilitate the Educational Changemakers Project which transforms young female leaders to develop their Educational Leadership skills."*

**Phan Sreyphet, Provincial Manager**



### **Yarn Somphors - Educational Changemaker, Cohort 2**

Somphors is one of ten Educational Changemakers taking part in Cohort 2 of the project. She is from Kralanh District and worked in the education sector prior to being selected for the Educational Changemaker project.



### **Kimhuo Vothna - Educational Changemaker, Cohort 2**

Vothna is from Kampong Cham Province, first in the family with six siblings. She studied Biology at Chea Sim Kamchay Mear University, then Information Technology at Siem Reap School. She used to work in sales, hotel service, photo editing and as a Frontend Developer and Teacher at GoGlobal School.

*"I want to develop the ability and teaching techniques to effectively educate students and lead the next generation to a better education."*





For more information regarding our organisation and programmes, you can visit our website here: <https://www.seebeyondborders.org>