

### Quarter Overview

During this quarter, we faced mounting challenges from COVID-19, intense flooding, and rain storms in our communities limiting our ability to reach our youth participants and engage with them. Despite this, we took the monsoon season in stride putting together positive online activities, events, and workshops regularly to keep our community engaged. This allowed us to expand our program reach to the entire country this year and **increase our number of youth beneficiaries by over 600!** This quarter also marks our first international fundraising event. PEPY's 'Our Story' International Benefit Concert was held on June 26th **bringing together the talents of artists from 7 countries and we raised \$7100!** If you missed out on the event- let us know! Samples of our artists' performances are available on our YouTube event playlist and the full concert is available for viewing with a donation.

Lastly, we spent this quarter making improvements to our program and admin applications through our summer partnership with Nutanix!



*4 of the 17 Artists from our 'Our Story' International Benefit Concert*

### PEPY Program Updates



#### Community Student Outreach Program

##### Dream Management Project

This quarter, the Dream team and partner teachers made many efforts to support the high school students remotely and provide them with workshops and well as scholarship opportunities for next year. By the end of the course, **346 students remained and got to take part in 3+ Dream Talks with scholars and leaders** from their community encouraging them to pursue higher education.

Before becoming a PEPY scholar in 2020, Bunchhern attended Dream class in Kralanh High School. Now, he is studying for a Bachelors of Engineering Degree at Build Bright University, but, at first he was not sure of his future. He is the eldest of 3 siblings and grew up in poverty, with his parents moving to Thailand to do construction work when he was in Grade 7. He was responsible for taking care of his sisters with the support of his uncle. Reflecting on his experience he shared, "I started learning to cook, wash clothes, look after the house, continue my study, and the same time I need to take care of sisters."



Dream class helped him manage his time, realize his potential, and to work toward a career that will sustainably support his family. Now, he is a Dream Talks presenter encouraging youth to follow their dreams and apply what they learn in Dream Class to their lives.

##### Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

The recruitment for the 2021 scholars is moving along quickly this quarter! Despite lockdowns and outbreaks preventing the scholarship recruitment process, the team was successfully able to complete the school interviews and the social investigations in 2 out of the 3 target districts in Siem Reap Province. The team will have to wait until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to go to Srei Snam and complete their work before making final decisions on the new scholars.



*Figure 1: 2019 Scholars' employment status*

This quarter, despite the lockdowns **the employment rate of our scholars and alumni increased by 2% from 127 employed last quarter to 136 this quarter.** We are continuing to support unemployed youths and their families financially through stipe-ends with funds we have received from DAK Foundation. We hope to identify more job opportunities for youth by expanding our search across Cambodia and providing more intensive skills development to our youth.

## PEPY Program Updates



### Learning Center Program

The Learning Center projects have had another great year of partnership with USAID Cambodia's PACT Cambodia's We Act Project. The classes and work that the students have participated in have culminated in them identifying key community development issues to research in groups. **Across all the programs, attendance has averaged over 90%**, with the team successfully engaging and supporting the students' projects. **The staff and students have been participating in learning exchanges with groups in the United States and Ireland** virtually this quarter building and maintaining friendships abroad! In the United States, the team has been working with volunteers from Nutanix through our partnership with Team4Tech and in Ireland, we are continuing our annual tradition of working with DPETNS teachers.



### English Learning Project (ELP)

The ELP had fun with long time PEPY friend Michael, a teacher partner from Ireland, with a virtual exchange this quarter. Michael covered various tenants of Irish culture with the students like sports, music, language, and food. In addition he also taught the students about geography and they really enjoyed interacting with a new teacher and learning about a new place in the world. The team was very surprised and excited to see that **average attendance during this quarter had increased to 97%** which is a steady increase from Quarter II, which was 90%. In addition, the **average English exam score increased by 6% from 64% to 70%**.

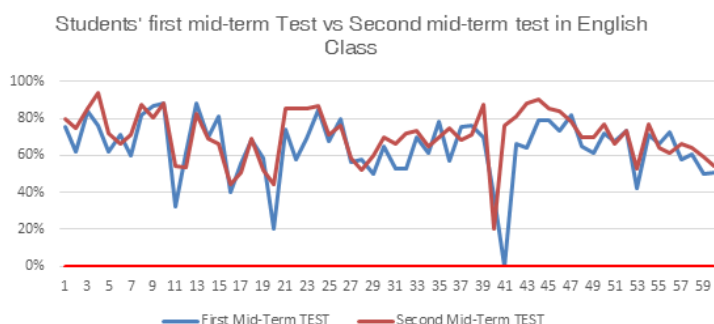


Figure 2: Students' average scores in the first and second midterm.

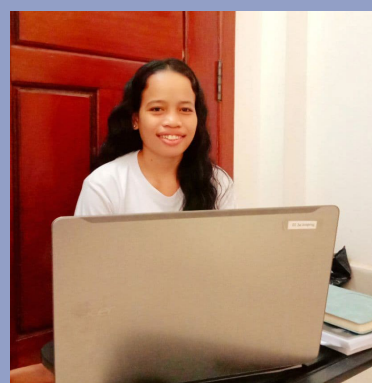
### Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

Students in the ICT Project were engaged in advanced Microsoft Word and Excel tools as well as Google Drive, email, and calendar applications this quarter. Our ICT Teacher has continued to go above and beyond supporting the students' studies and, as a result, the students' **average mid term exam score has increased by 10% this quarter to 86%**! This average

score exceeds our expectations for goals for in person classes, so achieving this score through teaching through only online applications is a great achievement and we are so proud of the students' hard work.

### >> Future is Bright Lab and Library

Over this quarter, PEPY's ICT Teacher worked closely with volunteers from the Nutanix team to develop a library application to track the youth who are renting our IT from our office efficiently and for us to collect data on how to make our library as effective for our community as possible. Nutanix volunteers were assigned to our team for various projects through our partnership with Team4Tech. **Currently 22 students and alumni are renting from the library** to support their studies and career development. **16 additional students still need access to a computer** to rent but we could not reach them yet due to COVID-19 lockdowns.



Lack of access to technology is currently one of Siem Reap youths' greatest barriers to education. By providing an affordable way for youth to use computers, our youths' grades and performance in the Learning Center and at their universities are improving significantly. Phon Pha, an alumni who has been utilizing the library said, "Future is Bright Computer Lab & Club, this project, is very good and helpful to students who did not have ability to buy electronic material for learning because all the students can borrow smartphone, computer, Ipad, and external hard drive for use [for] self-learning or research. I would like PEPY [to] continue do this project and [to] continue [to] support students. I have [been] borrowing a computer for research and learning."

### Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

The students in the YE Project reached a major milestone this quarter by completing their community development research in 11 groups. The **students presented to approximately 45 people** each including the Ministry and Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sport, Provincial Department of Post and Telecommunications, NGOs, principals, teachers, university students, and high school students. Our team also was able to complete our Socio Economic Rights (SER) Training virtually which enabled us to reach **349 high school students across the province**.



### Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program

#### Social Enterprise Development Course

Our pilot project ended on a high **reaching 353 new youth participants across the country** through our monthly WeBusiness Talks. The PEPY team brought in key business founders and leaders across the country to share their lessons learned and stories with aspiring entrepreneurs. The Incubator Course is also wrapping up with the participants preparing to make a mock business pitch to a panel of

[pepyempoweringyouth.org](http://pepyempoweringyouth.org)

## PEPY Program Updates

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experienced business founders and business owners for feedback. **We have recruited 12 mentors** to support the participants as they work on their business plan and resiliency strategies and are so excited to give youth the opportunity to pitch to investors in September.

### IT For Business Course

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**31 participants completed the IT course** this quarter, and the team was proud to maintain high attendance rates despite having to hold all of the class sessions remotely. By the end of the year, there was only one dropout and **100% of participants had improved comprehension and digital literacy skills** in their progress exams. During the quarter, participants focusing on branding and marketing for their business in the class covering web development, videography, ecommerce, and logo designs.