Quarter Overview
During this quarter, we have made a lot of progress on PEPY projects’ data collection and management. Our Monitoring and Evaluation Officer has been working with our Data Quality Assurance Volunteer from the United Kingdom, to put together a clear, organized, and effective database system that all staff members are currently being trained on. We are so happy to have both of them on our team, to ensure that we are tracking our projects properly and providing insightful information to our supporters.

PEPY Program Updates
Community Student Outreach Programs

Dream Management Project
In our target high schools, 25 Dream Class topics, 12 Dream Talks, and 3 sharing events have been provided to the students this quarter. Through these activities and events, students are connecting to professionals from the cities, PEPY scholar role models, and inspirational career and education speakers. In one Dream Class in January at 28 Makara School, Phnom Penh professionals trained 37 students in developing their debate skills and ability to think on their feet. This session had a great impact on students’ creative process and strategies to find solutions to a posed problem.

Dream Officers have visited 20 homes of students whose families have encouraged them to drop out of school in order to work. Through these efforts, officers attempt to explain to families how education can lead to career opportunities with sustainable financial success and show them how invested their child is in continuing school.

After introducing the PEPY scholarship opportunity to the students, among 6 other scholarship programs, 248 students from Varin, Kralanh, and Srei Snam Districts have applied so far. Last year, PEPY received 126 applicants, so interest has greatly increased!

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project
Our 40 first year scholarship students are not just finding success in PEPY’s Learning Center, but are settling into life in Siem Reap and on their career aspirations. The students have selected 12 different majors or focuses and are either in the process of enrolling in or have started attending their respective university or vocational institution.

This year, 2 students have been accepted into the Provincial Teacher Training College (PTTC), 3 students have been accepted into the Battambang Teacher Training College (BTTC), and 1 student has been invited to the School of Active Military in Phnom Penh. This is very exciting for PEPY and the selected students because these institutions are extremely competitive. For Ompy, the female student going to the School of Active Military, attending the institution has been a lifelong dream.
This quarter, ICT class covered Microsoft Powerpoint, Excel, and Word, along with email basics and Internet Security. In an effort to keep students engaged and to understand their interests, programs team gave the students preference surveys and found that ICT is valued as an important course, and that 41% of male students prefer to study Excel, while 39% of female students prefer to study PowerPoint. Besides the female students who study accounting who selected Excel as their preferred program, PowerPoint is their most popular application because it allows them to put together creative/art presentations. Male students overwhelmingly prefer Excel as they believe it is the most beneficial application to use professionally.

Phalla, who is one of PEPY Learning Center’s most recent graduates, has joined the Learning Center team as a Volunteer Teaching Assistant, primarily to support the English Learning Project. Phalla supports the project and other staff members by developing class content, occasionally teaching, and recording class scores and data.

English Learning Project (ELP)

Since 57 students were placed in 1 of 3 English classes based off of their writing, listening and speaking abilities, they have been focusing on building their vocabulary and grammar skills. The 5-day Writing Through Workshop was the highlight of the quarter where the workshop facilitators and 4 PEPY staff worked together to enhance students’ skills in writing, reading, and creative thinking in English through poetry writing. In addition to Phalla supporting the course, volunteer teacher Natalie from the UK also supports the English Project.

Student Standouts:

Once a student who did not enjoy going to school, Port looks forward to PEPY’s English Class everyday. This quarter, Port worked hard at improving his English and was ranked #1 in the middle level classes. Port shared, “Before I think that Education is not important for my life. I went to school because I did not want to stay home to help my grandparent’s housework. But when I study at PEPY, I have changed my mind. I become a new person that loves study”.

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

The 57 YE Class students were very busy this quarter! YE includes PEPY’s Business Class which met twice this quarter, Library Class which had 6 sessions, along with outside activities. Students participated in 2 company tours, 1 music education tour in Angkor Wat, held 18 Yoga/Sporting activities, in addition to 4 YE critical thinking and development sessions. Students expressed that they are most interested in the outdoor visits like company and education institution tours because it allows them to feel the most prepared for their futures.