



## **BANKING ON THE FUTURE 2017 PARTNERSHIP**

### **Children's Financial Literacy in Cambodia**

#### ***The partnership***

The Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd partnership with international aid agency CUFA each year changes the lives of 10,000 students and 200 teachers in 500 classroom lessons through Children's Financial Literacy education. Now in its second year, the partnership continues to improve the lives of thousands in rural Cambodia.

#### ***About financial literacy***

Financial literacy is about being smart with money, making wise decisions about spending, savings, managing personal debt and planning for our future. For many children across the Asia-Pacific region, these valuable lessons are not taught, thus contributing to the cycle of poverty. Early intervention is the most effective way to create sustainable futures for economically disadvantaged children and their families.

#### ***About The Program***

The CUFA Children's Financial Literacy program provides the opportunity for children living in poverty to create a brighter future for themselves and their families. Since its inception, the Program has expanded its geographical and participant inclusion and now, thanks largely to support from Teachers Mutual Bank, has broadened its reach to approximately 10,000 Cambodian children each year, aged 6 -12, and their families in poor regions of Cambodia.

The program takes a holistic approach to teaching children, including classroom lessons for students aged 6-12, training and support for teachers, and at-home visits to parents and families. It includes printed and digital support materials for the children to learn the basics of financial literacy and create sustainable futures for themselves.

The program is delivered by trained project field officers, who bring educational materials including interactive games into the classroom to help the children engage with financial concepts. The aims are to:

- Build the level of understanding about the value of saving and teach basic financial literacy skills to children.
- Link children to their local savings banks.
- Encourage the children to increase their savings either at home or with their local village savings bank.

#### ***Impact***

The Children's Financial Literacy program has been running since 2008 and has had enormous impact on the lives of young people and their families. Evaluations of the program highlighted the

impact of good savings habits, and 72% of participants continue to save two years after program completion.

CUFA’s social return on investment evaluation showed that for every dollar invested in the Children’s Financial Literacy program, \$2.60 of social value is generated, meaning that the impact of the Bank’s investment is almost tripled.

The Bank’s investment extend the reach of the CFL Programme.

**Teachers Mutual Bank’s impact**

	2016	2017	Total
TMBL investment	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Children educated	10,000	10,000	20,000
Teachers engaged	500	500	1,000
Financial literacy lessons	200	200	400
Social return on investment (SROI) generated	\$156,000	\$156,000	\$312,000
Total TMBL impact	\$216,000	\$216,000	\$432,000

**Other partnerships**

CPA Australia is a funding associate on the Children’s Financial Literacy program. With CPA Australia’s support, digital interactive games have been developed to further deepen the students’ learning and build technology into the program. The combined support of Teachers Mutual Bank and CPA Australia enables the Children’s Financial Literacy to have maximum impact in the fight against poverty in Cambodia’s poorest communities.

Support is also provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Australian Aid Programme.

*“CUFA is proud of its ongoing partnership with Teachers Mutual Bank, which has enabled thousands of children to understand how money works and the importance of saving. Ultimately, Teachers Mutual Bank has actively helped children reimagine a life without poverty and empowered them participate in a changing world. The impact of this is immense.”*

Rebecca MacFarling, Deputy CEO, CUFA

**The Village Entrepreneur micro-enterprise initiative**

CUFA’s Village Entrepreneur program operates in Cambodia and Timor-Leste. It provides the poorest of the poor with the skills and resources to help them build and develop sustainable micro-businesses such as bicycle repair shops, grocery stalls, chicken raising and hair dressing.

Through the generosity of individual donors, the Village Entrepreneurs receive business investment and financial support, as well as business vocational skills training each quarter. The aim is for their business to grow and to become a sustainable source of income for themselves and their family within three years.

72% of Village Entrepreneurs are women and 10% have a disability. Through the support of Community Investors and quarterly training, Village Entrepreneurs are on average increasing profits by 1305% after three years on the program. Business profits help Village Entrepreneurs to support their families with improved health care, educational opportunities as well as community infrastructure such as roads and water and sanitation facilities.

The Teachers Mutual Bank staff support three Village Entrepreneurs via their charity fundraising

- Ngouy Ung raises pigs and grows rice in Takeo province.
- Rom Khut is a chicken farmer from Prey Veng province.
- Khom Srors is a chicken raiser and basket maker in Kampong Chhnang province, who looks after her grandchildren at home.

### ***Teachers Mutual Bank Staff study tour to Cambodia***

Teachers Mutual Bank staff will again visit Cambodia in March 2017 to witness the outcomes and impact of the partnership first hand. A group of six leaders from across the business will travel for one week across Cambodia, including Svay Rieng, Kampong Chhnang and Takeo provinces.

The group will visit three rural schools and witness the Children's Financial Literacy program in the classroom, and meet the teachers and principals who work tirelessly with the children. The group will have the opportunity to meet the Village Entrepreneurs supported by Teachers Mutual Bank staff.

The staff will also visit the committee of a local credit union and have the chance to compare challenges and successes in running member-owned banks. They will be welcomed to the CUFA office in Phnom Penh and briefed on CUFA's work across Cambodia by field staff.

### **About CUFA**

CUFA is an international development agency dedicated to combating poverty across the Asia-Pacific region. CUFA's core programs focus on economic, education, enterprise and employment activities, all of which enable people to lift themselves out of poverty and strengthen their communities. Instead of giving hand-outs, CUFA works to provide the skills, knowledge and resources required for people to break out of poverty while offering ongoing support.

CUFA facilitates the creation of community banks, new micro-enterprises, employment placement programs and financial literacy education. Its work helps individuals, families and communities create sustainable livelihoods and participate in their local economies, and it empowers people to imagine brighter futures for themselves.

CUFA is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian Aid program, and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development's Code of Conduct.

### **About Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd**

For over fifty years Teachers Mutual Bank has provided key financial services to Australian educators. Now, Teachers Mutual Bank Limited is one of Australia's largest mutual banks, comprising three brands: the original Teachers Mutual Bank, UniBank, and Firefighters Mutual Bank. With over 186,000 members and more than \$6 billion in assets, Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd is one of Australia's largest mutual banks. Teachers Mutual Bank continues to be passionate about assisting members secure their financial futures through superior member support and banking products.

Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd is a market leader in member advocacy in the Australian banking sector, and is also committed to strong standards of corporate responsibility through community investment and ethical business as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies\*.

\*World's Most Ethical Companies' Award, from Ethisphere Institute. (Awarded, 2016, 2015, 2014)The Ethisphere Institute is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practice. The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based upon the Ethisphere Institute's Ethics Quotient (EQ) framework and honours superior achievements in transparency, integrity, ethics and compliance More information at:<http://ethisphere.com>The 2016 award includes Unibank. UniBank is a division of Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd, a 2016 World's Most Ethical Company.

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