

35 YEARS

OF LOCALIZATION



**Invest in local talents and communities
to create sustainable changes**

**THROUGH 35 YEARS OF
LOCALIZATION**





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Letter from the Executive Director

As we reflect on 2023, a year defined by inner strength and resilience, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for our achievements. Over the past year, our commitment to **Creating Sustainable Change** has brought about transformative impacts across Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

By empowering local talents and strengthening community foundations, we have witnessed remarkable progress driven by people from within their own communities. This approach has not only deepened a sense of ownership and pride among community members but also ensured that our initiatives are more sustainable and responsive to local needs.

Our journey in 2023 has been one of collaboration and innovation. From training local leaders and professionals to launching community-driven projects, the power of local expertise and the resilience of the human spirit have been evident. These successes would not have been possible without the untiring support of our partners, donors, and community members. Your belief in our mission and your generous contributions have been the foundation of our successes.

As we look to the future, our commitment to building sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities remains strong. Key priorities for the coming years include:

1

Empowering Local Leaders

Continuing to invest in the growth of local leaders within our organization and among our partners, equipping them with the skills and resources necessary to create lasting change.

2

Enhancing community resilience

Building on local strengths to prepare communities to face challenges such as climate change, economic instability, and social inequality.

3

Fostering Inclusivity & Equity

Further integrating strategies that promote gender equality, disability rights, and inclusive growth to ensure that everyone benefits from our initiatives.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Together, we are making a lasting difference.

With deep gratitude and warm regards,



Thuy Ngo

Executive Director



35

YEARS IN REVIEW

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of East Meets West Foundation (EMW), we reflect on a journey marked by unwavering commitment and transformative impacts. Since 1988, EMW has bridged gaps and fostered sustainable development across Southeast Asia, focusing on Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

Operating as East Meets West Foundation (EMWF) in the program countries, we've pioneered innovative, evidence-based programs in infrastructure, WASH, education, healthcare, economic empowerment, gender equity, and resilient cities and community development. Localization remains central to our approach, driving transformative impacts and sustainable solutions that improve lives in Southeast Asia.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS IN NUMBERS:



HEALTH

161 K
children treated



EDUCATION

64 K
scholarships provided



WASH

325 K
families supported
with a hygienic latrine

1.6 M
people supported
with clean water

1.3 M
people with
improved sanitation
and hygiene



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

506
schools provided with
safe drinking water

574
homes constructed

350
schools built

250
community water
systems constructed

6
hospital campuses

6
universities campuses





CAMBODIA

2023 Achievements and Impact

In 2023, the Community-Led Inclusive Climate-Resilient (CLICR) WASH project significantly improved the quality of life in high-risk, climate-impacted areas of Cambodia. By focusing on community-led, climate-resilient WASH initiatives in six rural provinces, we invested in local talents and communities, enhancing climate resilience and improving WASH systems.

CLICR WASH Cambodia operates in Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Tboung Khmum, and Kratie. Our efforts have empowered communities to become more resilient and self-sufficient, showcasing the power of local people and leaders.

2,251



households educated on safe drinking water, hygienic latrine, and practice proper handwashing

2,251



girls and women trained on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), with a focus on resilience to climate impacts

913



households learned and implemented water safety improvement actions to address climate impacts

382



climate-resilient latrines upgraded

CAMBODIA

Success in localizing WASH Initiatives



KIM HOR
Country Director/
WASH Program manager

The **Community-led Inclusive Climate Resilient (CLICR) WASH** project is a prime example of how EMW's localized approach can create lasting change. By building local capacities and fostering community-led initiatives, EMW engaged government bodies from the provincial to commune level, private sector partners, suppliers, and community groups. This collaboration ensured that households gained access to clean water and sanitation, while also integrating climate change adaptation knowledge and practical actions.

The project's success was rooted in strong procedures and structures, focusing on empowering both our staff and the communities we serve. **Active participation and financial contributions from various stakeholders, including government and private sectors**, were vital in connecting households to essential WASH services. This engagement highlighted the profound impact of a localized approach in achieving sustainable development goals, demonstrating how empowering communities leads to long-term, meaningful change.

Kakrona's journey with EMW began as a dedicated volunteer in the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) department, where her innovative approaches and commitment quickly earned her recognition. In 2023, she stepped into a crucial role in the M&E section of the CLICR WASH project, taking on responsibilities that extended far beyond her primary duties.

Kakrona actively supported project activities and participated in field visits, where she experienced the profound impact of her work—witnessing communities gain essential knowledge and access to clean water and sanitation. One of her most rewarding experiences was leading community training sessions, particularly on **menstrual hygiene management (MHH)**, where she addressed significant gaps in local understanding.

Kakrona's work truly embodies the power of a localized approach, seamlessly bridging the gap between project implementation and community engagement and fostering sustainable development from within. Her dedication serves as an inspiration, demonstrating how empowering local leaders can create meaningful and lasting change.



SDOEUNG KAKRONA
M&E Officer

In addition to providing clean water access, the WOBA project also organized school hygiene training for primary students and delivered education on hygiene behavior change (HBC), gender equality, and the rights of people living with disabilities.

27,877



people connected to piped water systems

1,301



primary students accessed to clean water, hygienic latrines and trainings at schools

7,965



people in 36 villages had increased knowledge on hygiene behavior change, gender equality and People Living with Disability Rights



LAOS

2023 Achievements and Impact

In 2023, EMWF Laos successfully completed phase 3 of our Women-led Output Based Aid (WOBA) project, handing over four water supply systems in Luang Prabang, Xayabury, Luang Namtha provinces, and Vientiane Capital. Through the implementation of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and a focus on women-led initiatives, we empowered local communities to make critical choices about using clean water and practicing good hygiene for better health. This approach not only strengthened the capacity of private water suppliers and local authorities but also created sustainable impacts, significantly improving the quality of life for the community.

LAOS

Apply Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for sustainable impact

In 2023, Khouankeo Ardphasouk, the Country Director and WASH Program Manager of EMW Laos, directed a transformative shift towards localization within the East Meets West Foundation. He believed that by prioritizing the empowerment of local talents and investing in community resilience, the foundation achieved significant strides in creating sustainable impacts.

One of the standout success stories came from Luang Prabang province, where local authorities at the provincial, district, and commune levels led a water sanitation campaign that greatly improved the community's access to clean water. Their deep understanding of local customs and language facilitated stronger community participation, making the project a resounding success. This initiative not only enhanced the community health but also empowered local employees to take on greater responsibilities, demonstrating the strength of localized leadership.



KHOUANKEO ARDPHASOUK
Laos Country Director

"Investing in local talents has been key to our success. Their passion and understanding of the community's needs drive our projects forward."



PHONESAVANH PANTHALA
M&E Officer Cum A&F Officer

"Adapting, integrating, and making the community understand the project is key to helping them engage with the project."

Phonesavanh Panthala, known as Touk, is a vital member of EMW Laos. As the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Accounting and Finance (A&F) Officer, Touk has shown exceptional dedication and talent in her work.

In 2023, Touk and her team successfully completed phase 3 of the WOBA project in Laos, particularly the Chomphet water supply station in Luang Prabang Province. Through EMW, she gained essential skills in English, communication, accounting, and finance, while also developing a deep understanding of multicultural environments.

Touk's approach, rooted in cultural sensitivity and local knowledge in Laos, fostered trust and active participation from the community in clean water project activities. Beyond office work, Touk and her team engaged the local community, empowering local women to take on leadership roles within their communities.



VIETNAM

2023 Achievements and Impact

In 2023, EMWF efforts in Vietnam centered on empowering local talents and communities. As a valued stakeholder in the Asia Young Leaders Program, EMWF hosted two study tours in Hoa Binh province and a final forum in Hanoi for 25 participants. These events engaged donors and local partners, providing profound experiential learning opportunities by sharing expertise and insights into neonatal care in Vietnam.



EMWF also engaged in the Vietnam Youth Development Project, collaborating with donors to design and execute the program. Participants, including 30 high-potential students, shared the same experiences, contributing significantly to the program's functioning. This project aimed to empower these students by improving their leadership capabilities, enabling them to drive positive changes in their communities.

VIETNAM

Nurturing Future Leaders

In 2023, Mr. Hiep Nguyen, EMW Vietnam Representative and Deputy Country Director, placed a strong emphasis on nurturing future leaders through the Asia Young Leaders Program and the Vietnam Youth Development Project. Leveraging EMW's extensive experience in areas such as WASH, building healthy cities, and fostering resilient communities, we have established a reputation that has earned the trust of donors and stakeholders. This credibility helped us form valuable partnerships for both the Asia Young Leaders Program and the Vietnam Youth Development Project.

These initiatives aimed to empower high-potential students by enhancing their leadership capabilities, enabling them to drive positive change within their communities. Participants gained insightful experiential learning opportunities, including shared expertise in areas like neonatal care. The success of these 2023 projects demonstrated that investing in local talents not only cultivates future leadership but also fosters sustainable community development for the long term.



HIEP NGUYEN
EMW Representative cum
Deputy Country Director

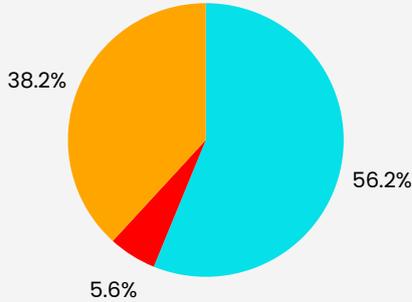


TRANG DAO
Senior Accountant

Trang Dao, a senior accountant at EMWF Vietnam, brings years of experience in administrative and financial projects. In 2023, under the guidance of the leadership team, Trang expanded her role by participating in the Young Leadership Program. As part of this project, Trang attended various courses designed to cultivate future leaders among high-potential students. Her firsthand experience and local perspective proved invaluable in crafting relevant training content and mentoring aspiring leaders. For Trang, the most rewarding aspect of 2023 has been witnessing young leaders make a tangible difference in their communities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2023

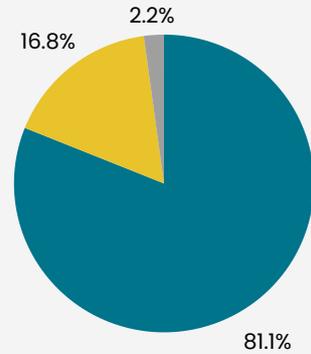


REVENUE

■ Grants	\$1,696,741
■ Contributions	\$169,952
■ Carry over revenue from previous years	\$1,154,422
Total Revenue	\$3,021,115

EXPENSES

■ Program Services	\$1,520,904
■ Management and General	\$314,180
■ Fundraising	\$40,483
Total Expenses	\$1,875,567



LEADERSHIP

Board of Director

- Melinda Griffith** | Board Chair | Chief Operating Officer; Chief Counsel, CZ Bio Hub
- Matt Kursh** | Board Treasurer | Chief Executive Officer, Oji Life Lab
- Peter de Castro** | Secretary, Managing Director, Royal Bank of Canada
- Carrie Eglinton Manner** | President & CEO, OraSure Technologies
- Gil Kemp** | Founder & President, Home Decorators Collection, Retired
- Joan Morse** | Board Member
- Paul Rubens** | Managing Member, Tamarack Investment Partners, LLC
- Peter A. Singer, M.D.** | Board Chair Emeritus | Chief, Clinical Endocrinology Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
- Jin Zidell** | Founder, Blue Planet Network (deceased)
- Lynn Foden** | Global Program Director, Thrive Networks

Senior Staff

- Thuy Ngo** | Executive Director, USA
- Amy Tien** | Controller, USA
- Lynn Foden** | Global Program Director, USA
- Hiep Nguyen** | Chief Representative cum Deputy Country Director, Vietnam
- Khouankeo Ardphasouk** | Country Director, Lao, PDR
- Kim Hor** | Country Director, Cambodia

OUR PARTNERS

PROGRAM PARTNERS

GHD Australia Pty Ltd
 JICA- Japanese International Cooperation Agency
 Global Development Group
 University of Technology Sydney - Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTS-ISF)
 The Spellbrook Foundation

VIETNAM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM)
 National and Provincial Centres for Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS)
 Vietnam Women's Union (VWU)
 Vietnam Red Cross Society
 Provincial People Committee and WUs of Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Ben Tre
 Hue People's Committee
 Tra Vinh Red Cross
 Quang Nam Study Promotion Association
 Thang Binh People's Committee and Study Promotion Association
 UNICEF Vietnam
 GIFT South East Asia
 VUFO NGO-RC
 University of Danang
 Da Nang Village of Hope

CAMBODIA

Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO)
 Cambodian Water Supply Association (CWA)
 Women Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing (WOMEN)
 Commune Councils (CCs)/
 Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWCs)
 District Administrations
 Female Water Operators
 Local Latrine Suppliers
 Ministry of Planning (MOP)
 Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)
 Provincial Departments of Rural Development (PDRDs)
 Provincial Working Groups (PWGs)
 Provincial Working Group Secretariats (PWGSs)
 District Working Groups (DWGs)

LAOS

The Department of Water Supply (DWS) under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
 The Department of Public Works and Transport, Xayabury Province
 The Department of Public Works and Transport, Luang Prabang Province
 The Department of Public Works and Transport, Luang Namtha Province
 The Department of Public Works and Transport, Vientiane Capital
 Water Supply State Enterprise of Xayabury, Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha Provinces, and Vientiane Capital
 The Public Works and Transport Office at District level
 Lao Women's Union (LWU) at District level
 The Education Office at District level

OUR DONORS

\$100,000 AND OVER

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade (DFAT)
Charity: water

\$25,000-\$99,000

Gil Kemp
Melinda Griffith
Spellbrook Foundation
The Boeing Company

\$10,000-\$24,999

Czech Republic - Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Carrie Eglinton Manner
Jin Zidell
Joan Morse
Peter de Castro
Anonymous
University of Technology, Sydney

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jerome Falk
McKinsey & Company
Pact

\$1,000-\$4,999

Benjamin Schachter
Dorianne Boudreau
Gary Polk
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC
Kiennam Electricity- Construction
Ltd., Company
Lawrence Weissberg Foundation
Lien Cibulka
Ma Fund
Martin Kinselbaum
Stephen Craxton
Townsend Walker



35 YEARS

OF LOCALIZATION

THRIVE
NETWORKS

East Meets West Cambodia

East Meets West Laos

East Meets West Vietnam



GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

**180 Steuart Street #191226
San Francisco, CA 94105
United States of America**

ASIA HEADQUARTERS

**7th Floor, B Building
41 Le Duan Street, Hai Chau District,
Da Nang, Viet Nam**

CAMBODIA

**#54, St. 1, (Borey Piphub Thmey, Oknha
Mong Riththy Street), Sangkat Phnom Penh
Thmey, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia**

LAOS

**No.059, Unit 05, Thatluang Tai,
Saysettha, Vientiane, Lao PDR**



<https://thrivenetworks.org>