



Developing ripples of sustainability through community water projects

April 13, 2017

Dear Trailblazer Supporter,

When I co-founded Trailblazer Foundation fourteen years ago, I never dreamed Trailblazer would evolve into the organization it is now. We started with water projects because water is the basis for everything else. Providing access to clean, healthy water remains the core of what we do to move rural communities from mere survival to more sustainable livelihoods.

Once our partner villagers have access to water and clean water, the next step in Trailblazer's comprehensive rural community development strategy is to help Cambodian villagers establish food security. Stated another way, if (when) the rural villagers don't have enough to eat, they won't have enough energy to work their way out of poverty.

Food security is "the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food." The United Nations World Food Program believes people are food secure when they have "availability and adequate access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life." Food security is something you likely take for granted. However, that is not the case for our rural village partners in Cambodia.

The main focus of [Trailblazer's Food Security program](#) is to provide agricultural trainings to rural villagers, so they can grow a greater diversity of food more successfully. These trainings cover: Composting, Organic Pesticide & Fertilizer, Horticulture and Soil Management. And this is the time of year when we host the majority of our agriculture trainings.



I am writing you in hopes that you will help support these trainings. Your contribution now will help Trailblazer reach our goal of providing 110 people with one of our agricultural trainings this spring.



During the recent annual needs assessment that each Cambodian village goes through, which occurs in November and informs Trailblazer's work plan for the following year, more farmers asked for more agricultural training. To meet that need, Trailblazer wants to host eleven workshops this spring, with ten attendees at each training. These two-and-a-half day trainings cost \$50 USD per trainee. **Thus, we have a goal of raising \$5,500 USD.**

With a \$50 USD donation, you will give a farmer the ability to attend one of these agriculture trainings, and provide his/her family with increased food security. Given the average rural family size of five people, a \$50 donation will provide greater food security for five people – not just this year, but for years, even generations, to come.

Lesser-sized contributions will add up too. And, if you can make a gift of more than \$50 USD, then you'll be helping more rural Cambodians in their quest to move from survival to sustainability.

You can make a donation by going to [our website](#) and selecting the [DONATE button](#). Or if you prefer you can mail your donation to our address below.

I hope you will help Trailblazer help our rural village partners improve the quantity and quality of food they eat. Your support will give these villagers the knowledge and skills they need to better feed themselves, a critical step toward alleviating hunger and poverty.

Cheers.

Chris Coats
Co-Founder and Executive Director