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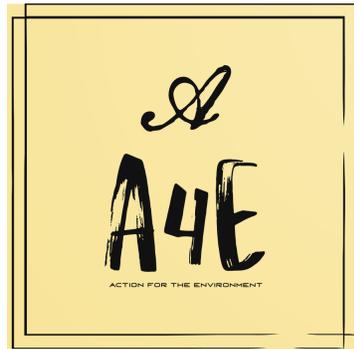
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I am most passionate about plastic pollution and believe small actions create a big impact. A few months ago, my school, in terms of plastic waste, was having a hard time dealing with it. Most students and staff use single-use plastic every single day whenever they buy something. The issue triggered my thought, and I told myself that action must be taken for this issue. Therefore, I went to talk to my school country director detailing our school environment and the issue we were facing. I brought up to him that our school was generating a great amount of single-use plastic, especially plastic bags, plastic cups, plastic straws, and styrofoams. I also proposed to him the ideas of banning a certain type of single-use plastic that we can substitute with other alternatives products. Those were plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic cups, and styrofoams. I informed him that we can use fabric bags, metal straws or bamboo straws, reusable lunch boxes or containers, and reusable cups and water bottles. Not long after my school country director and I discussed the issues and potential solutions, he decreed to ban the four types of single-use plastic items listed above, and bought students and staff each alternatives products. After the establishment, I have noticed that students and staff in my school started to change their daily behavior and my school now became a no single-use plastic campus

Since I have already proposed and established solutions to my school, I want to expand this impact to other government schools around Cambodia. Below is the proposal for the project!

### Instagram Post:





# SET UP YOUR PLASTIC REDUCTION SYSTEM



## **INTRODUCTION**

My name is Kimhor Bun. I am a grade 12 student from the [Liger Leadership Academy](#). Liger Leadership Academy is an organization that provides a 100% residential scholarship program for economically disadvantaged students from across Cambodia. Liger educates young, promising students to become change agents through innovations, STEM-based, and entrepreneurial curriculum. Liger believes that investing in the right few students will change and impact a multitude of lives.

I am the founder of A4E ( Action for the Environment ). A4E is a program that designs a plastic reduction system for government schools in Cambodia.

## **VISION**

A4E envisions empowering Cambodians to be environmental stewards, raising awareness of the fast-growing issues related to waste management and plastic pollution, and positively influencing their communities by implementing sustainable systems to end single-use plastic.

## **MISSION**

A4E aims to design a sustainable plastic reduction system and to set the system for every single government school to be a no single-use plastic campus.

## **PROJECT INSPIRATION**

Back in late 2021, I studied about marine debris. Surprisingly, the majority of marine debris is not generated by the ocean source itself, in fact, approximately 80% of marine debris is generated by waste on the mainland and most of the debris is plastic. The improper management of this waste and the overloaded use of plastic continues to threaten marine life and humans which results in a negative impact on our ecosystem. In addition, according to Our World in Data organization, roughly 381 million tons of plastic are being used annually. An estimated 50 million tons of plastic are burned every year, and not only it pollutes the environment but also affects our human health.

## **PROJECT INTENDED GOALS**

My intended goal for this project is to raise \$100 000 funds to set up the systems in 25 government schools across every province/city in Cambodia. The purpose of the \$100 000 funds is to purchase alternative supplies such as metal straws, metal lunch boxes, fabric bags, and reusable cups to provide to 180 000 students across the 25 government schools to be used instead of plastic. The 25 government schools will be selected based on the school's commitment in terms of monitoring the system and what actions they have taken to end single-use plastic in their school.

I desire to provide government school students with these alternatives because as government school students in Cambodia, they need to use plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic cups, and styrofoams every day. This use of plastic materials leads to a negative impact on our environment and our health. Therefore, by providing them with alternative supplies, they can use them every day instead of plastic as well as it helps to reduce plastic usage which will bring benefits to our planet and our health.

Beyond that, I am hoping that this impact is a driving factor in shaping people's perspective toward using plastic as well as becoming change agents in reducing single-use plastic materials. Additionally, my project will be a role model in encouraging and motivating changes in our communities.

Certainly, I alone cannot change our planet to be healthy, and our planet can only be helped unless there is active collaboration with all of us in altering our daily habits of using single-use plastic. Although this might not be seen immediately, our next generation will be grateful for the result we will bring for them.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

After setting up the plastic reduction system in government schools, I will document all activities related to the system launching into project reports. I will use the reports as a supplement to my proposal that I write the request to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport and the Ministry of Environment to implement the plastic reduction system in all government schools in Cambodia. I will work with these two respective ministries and related organizations to roll out the system.

## **BUDGET**

To launch the plastic reduction system in one government school with approximately 1000 students, it would cost around \$6100. The cost would be spent on the following.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Estimate Unit Price</b>	<b>Remark</b>
Metal Lunch Box	1000	\$3.15	\$3150
Metal Straw	1000	\$.07	\$70
Metal Straw Cleaner	1000	\$0.06	\$60
Fabric Bag	1000	\$1	\$1000
Reusable cup	1000	\$0.24	\$240
Shipping+Delivery	1	\$1000	\$1000

Travel + Other Expense	1	\$580	\$580
<b>Total</b>			\$6100

## MAJOR TIMELINE

### November

- Launch the plastic reduction system at Veal Vong primary school (Early Nov)
- Visit school in Kratie for possible collaboration
- School recruitment registry open on 1st

### December

- Phrase 1 & 2 start on 1st
- Launch the plastic reduction system at a small population school
- Phrase 2 deadline on 15th
- Phrase 3 begin on 20th
- Check up with Veal Vong primary school

### January

- Visit school around the province to check up with their phrase 3
- Check up with school that has launched the system
- Research out of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport and Ministry of Environment
  - Discuss for possible collaboration with them

### February

- Phase 4 begin on 1st
- Host workshop with students about plastic management
- Check up with Veal Vong primary school on

### March

- Selected school from phase 4 will continue to phase 5
- Phase 5 begin 15th
- Late March
  - Final school selection

### April

- Launch the system with selected school
- Plan & Document the launching events

### May

- Check up with launched school
- Document final reports
- Purpose to Ministry of Education Youth and Sport to carry on the impact

## 5 PHASES OF SELECTION

### Phase 1: Self-Assessment

For the self-assessment phase, school directors are required to self-assess their school campus in terms of using plastic. These include what their students and teachers use to put their meals, snacks, and drinks. What action have the schools taken to deal with the issues? Is it successful or does it still need more improvement? If it is successful, what part of it is successful. If it needs more improvement, what area still needs to be improved and what would the schools change?  
The schools will need to rate themselves on a scale of 1-10 with a reflection of why.

### **Phase 2: Policies & Regulations**

For the policies & regulations phase, school directors need to write their own policies and regulations for their schools. This includes potential actions that they will take in their and regulations for students and teachers to adhere to. Moreover, school directors will also need to include the consequences that students and staff will bear.

### **Phase 3: Action**

For the action phase, school directors are required to implement their policies & regulations they have written down from phase 2, and to take real actions in their schools. School directors will also need to write a report 2 weeks after they establish their policies & regulations.

### **Phase 4: Inspection**

My team will visit the schools that turn in their reports. Our purpose is to evaluate the actual reality of the school's environment versus their report. The evaluation will be based on the quality of the enforcement of the school's policies & regulations as well as students' and teachers' behavior toward plastic.

### **Phase 5: Signing Agreement**

For the signing agreement phase, schools that are at the top leaderboard score will be selected to sign agreements. Agreement is a contract between the selected school and A4E teams to ensure that the schools are committed to their policies and regulations, and make changes for improvement. The agreement is also for the school to acknowledge the consequences if they cannot hold up to the agreements. Once the schools consent to sign the required agreement, they will receive support for the alternatives products to use instead of plastic from A4E.

## **FUTURE GOALS**

In the future, after I set up the plastic reduction system in the selected schools, I will document and write reports about set up and changes in behaviors of the students and teachers before and after they have the system. Then, I will write a proposal to the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport and Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to ban the four types of single-use plastic among all government schools across the country, and to other sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative products instead.

