



# Carpets for Communities

*Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Poi Pet Commune, Cambodia*



# The Challenge

## ■ Cambodia:

- 36% of the population live below the national poverty line (2000)<sup>1</sup>
- 35% of children age 6-14 do not attend school (1999)<sup>2</sup>
- 49% of children who start school drop out before finishing grade 6 (2001)<sup>2</sup>

## ■ Poi Pet Commune:

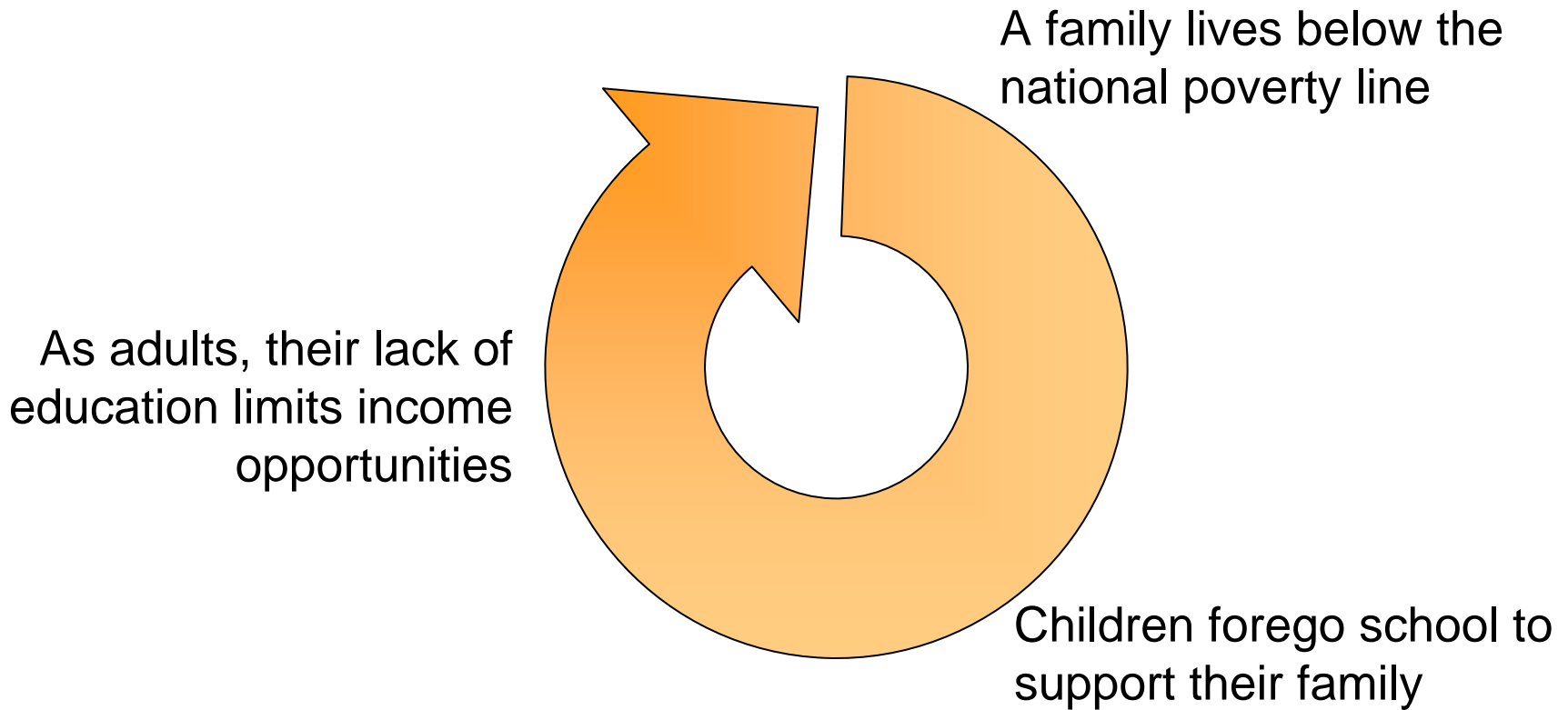
- Cambodians flock to Poi Pet, the only land border-crossing with Thailand, in search of work
- Poverty forces children to work at home or work on the border instead of going to school



<sup>1</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2003

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Planning CMDG Report 2003

# Poverty Cycle



# Carpets for Communities

- **Objective:**

- Improve the livelihoods of the poor in Poi Pet Commune
  - Provide secure sources of income to parents
  - Enable children to complete school

- **Target Group:**

- Families with children not going to school or with children at-risk of dropping out of school

- **Strategy:**

- Provide poor families with carpet-making training, supplies and a sales channel for finished products
- Assist children out of school to return
- Monitor school attendance of participants' children



# Partner Organizations

## ■ World Youth Peace Summit (WYPS)

- Bangkok-based NGO established in 2004
- **Objective:** Create worldwide network of youth leaders working for peace
- **CfC Role:** overall project management, product design, marketing and distribution



## ■ Cambodian Hope Organization (CHO)

- Poi Pet-based NGO founded in 2002
- **Objective:** Enhance child protection, food security, health, livelihoods and spiritual welfare of targeted children and adults to an acceptable level
- **CfC Role:** participant selection, case management, production management



# Proud Participants

Name: Samon Ren

Age: 42

- Mother of 6 children, including 1-month old boy
- Cannot work in the fields; must look after young children
- CfC provides opportunity for Samon to generate income from home and keep her children in school



Name: Chanhorn Ry

Age: 18

- Father is dead and mother is hospitalized with tuberculosis, leaving her to support 8 younger brothers and sisters
- CfC allows Chanhorn to send her siblings to school - not by giving her money, but by giving her work

# Hand-Hooked Product Samples

## Wool



Wool



Carpet Backing

# Hand-Hooked Product Samples

## Silk & Silk-Wool



Silk

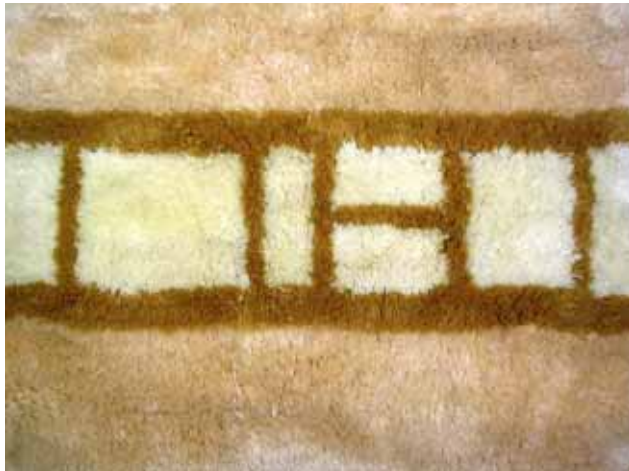


Silk-Wool



# Hand-Hooked Product Samples

## Acrylic Designs



# Hand-Hooked Product Samples

## Olefin



Olefin - Knotted



Olefin - Looped

# Hand-Hooked Product Samples

## Cotton



# Ways you can help

- Donate supplies, such as: wool, acrylic, t-shirt material, or any other fabric. Thick and strong material is the most efficient to use.
- Make a donation for the long-term establishment of Carpets for Communities
- Provide a sales channel for the hand-tufted carpets
- Order a carpet (prices vary – please enquire)

Please e-mail [carpets@wyps.org](mailto:carpets@wyps.org) for more information.



Thankyou for your support. A-Kun.