

Over the past few weeks, student volunteers from Royal University of Phnom Penh travelled to Kandal Province in order to learn more about life in the province

We spoke to Kimsay, one of the many student volunteers, who went and surveyed many families about how clean water has affected them. Lien AID wanted to know about Kimsay's own personal outlook from his experience.

1/ Are you originally from Phnom Penh or did you grow up in a surrounding province?

I was born and raised in Phnom Penh

2/ What were some of the differences between life in the provinces and life in the city?

The biggest difference is job availability. There are more job opportunities of different skill sets in Phnom Penh, whereas in the province, people might only be able to do one certain job. Also, the obvious difference in lifestyles/water clarity. In PP, there is more technology, making clean water more accessible where people in the province do not have access to the same resources that are in the city.

3/ What inspired you to want to volunteer with Lien AID's program?

I am close to graduating and wanted more experience in the work that I was studying in at university. I am studying engineering and thought it would be a good way to get exposure to water treatment technology. I also wanted to make a difference on people's lives and be involved in something so important.

4/ How would you describe the water condition when you first arrived?

The water was obviously not safe to drink, but people drank it anyways because it was their only source of water and many are unaware about the causes consuming dirty water has. Many people believed their health problems were not a result of consuming dirty water.

5/ What was it like speaking to the beneficiaries? Did you learn anything new from their stories?

Lots of people talked about how little resources were available for them to be able to change their conditions prior to Lien AID's help.

6/ Do you have a favorite moment or anything memorable that you would like to share?

I thought it was very admirable how people were able to find joy in the little things around them despite their living conditions. The families I spoke to lived very simple lives and valued their family very much.

Thank you Kimsay for taking the time to speak with us and thank you to all of the volunteers who participated with our program in Kandal Province.