

Future Skills Case Study – Friends-International (FI)

Friends-International – Cambodia

Primary programs

Job readiness & soft skills training, career counselling, vocational training, internship/job placement, business incubation and training for disadvantaged young people (referred to as the “FUTURES” project).

Beneficiaries

Young people aged 15–25 years old and marginalized caregivers who can access the opportunities they need to support their own children, keep them in school and build their futures.

Quote from Sakun, FI trainee

“Mith Samlanh (MS), Friends-International program in Cambodia, changed my life. When I first went to MS vocational training school, I was surprised because I made a lot of new friends. That day started a new chapter in my life. MS has been like family to me, building my skills in life and my hopes for the future.”



Picture of Sakun (in the middle)



Story of Sakun, FI trainee

Sakun¹ is 20 years old and was born in Kandal Province. He dropped out of secondary school (grade 9) in 2016 to get a job that could help support his family. His father worked alone as a construction worker and his family was suffering from poverty on a daily basis. FI workers met the family in 2019 and informed them about the vocational training programs available at the Mith Samlanh (MS), FI program in Cambodia. His parents encouraged him to resign from his construction job to join the MS training program.

When he joined the MS electricity and air-conditioning program, he participated in many activities and started sharing his opinions as well as accepting the rules and obligations related to the training. He learned a broad range of skills including electricity and air-conditioning repair skills, life skills, self-development and teamwork. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 outbreak forced MS educational activities to close completely in February 2021. Sakun could not attend in-person training but learned to study virtually by using Zoom. He could practice at home and share his progress through the messaging group.

He graduated from the MS program in September 2021 and started a new job as an air-conditioning maintenance technician at Vattanak Golden Resort. On his first day of employment, he set out his goals for the future. His efforts paid off very quickly as he was awarded with a certificate for being the best employee, which helped boost his salary. It was a huge accomplishment for him and he now plans to run his own business (an air-conditioning repair shop) to earn more money, thus improving his family living conditions and in turn providing job opportunities for MS students. He reported that the MS and FUTURES team had helped him so much and that without that help, he would have been forced to work as an unskilled laborer. He now wants to inspire other young people to have decent jobs and improve their employability and dignity.

¹ Name changed to protect privacy.