

Annual Report

2013



united world schools
A Different School of Thought



What Does \$1 Buy You?

3000+ unreached children given their first opportunity to attend school, from **1100** different families across remote post conflict regions, regularly attending one of the **13** UWS Cambodia schools where **28** locally based teachers are employed and receive regular training, supported by **20** volunteer teachers from **11** different countries around the world, and it all costs around **1 dollar** per child per week.

When I became Chairman of UWS a year ago I believed that its highly effective work and the sustainable, low cost business model had the potential to be rolled out across the globe. After my first year, I'm even more convinced of this.

I am very proud of the organisation's achievements to-date, bringing opportunity to those who would otherwise have none! Our efforts are part of a global mission to educate the unreached children in remote, often post-conflict regions of the world.

Nowhere was this more evident than in Cambodia, where we have built 13 schools with more planned. Over three thousand children afflicted by poverty, displacement and conflict have been reached and are now benefiting from attending UWS community schools. The basic reading, writing and counting skills we bring them can transform their lives.

I believe we are in a strong position to build on a productive year and I take this opportunity on behalf of the UWS Board of Directors to pay tribute to the remarkable work of our staff and supporters around the world.

Although relatively young, UWS is an outstanding charity and able to rise to the opportunity ahead. That is why we are seeking to implement ambitious long-term development programmes in three new regions in 2013.

With the right support we hope to build another 20-30 schools in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal over the next two years. Other countries will follow as funds permit. Given that we can build a community school for less than \$20,000 there is a huge opportunity to do more!

I am sure that UWS will continue to earn the support, respect and loyalty of our donors by delivering outstanding work and making a tangible impact on the lives of the thousands of children and the many communities that we support.



Chris Outram
Chairman

“
There is a huge opportunity to do more
”



Vision - What we Do

Our vision is to teach the unreached by providing education in post-conflict and developing countries to over 100,000 children per year who, for whatever reason, have been denied access to education.



Mission - Education First

Our global mission is to help reach the 61 million children of school age (32 million of which are girls) that the United Nations estimates still do not receive even the most basic education.



UWS

A Sustainable Model

United World Schools is an international charity dedicated to improving educational opportunities for the world's poor and marginalised children. We have a sustainable model that focuses on educating children in post-conflict developing countries whilst stimulating cultural exchange and understanding.

UWS is at a pivotal stage of its development and has ambitious plans to grow and extend its impact on young people worldwide. The UWS pilot phase (2009-11), working with indigenous people in remote north-east Cambodia, has demonstrated the viability, affordability and strength of its model.

Working with the local community we can build a school for \$20,000 and run it for \$5,000 per annum. Partnering the new UWS community schools in poor remote regions with affluent OECD schools is the nucleus of our success and provides sustainability.

UWS now has the opportunity to grow rapidly and provide educational opportunities for tens of thousands of children over the coming years. The UWS 2020 expansion aspiration is to increase our network of community schools to over 500 across more than 15 developing countries, with an intermediate milestone of 50-75 schools by the end of 2015.

How is UWS governed?

UWS is a charity and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. As such it is governed by a Board of Trustees that set out our strategic direction, help raise funds and ensure records are kept as required by legislation. The Board, which is made up of unpaid volunteers, provide UWS with a breadth of experience and expertise. Visit our website and meet them and the rest of the UWS team, including the Executive, in-country managers and advisors.

This is my first year as Chief Executive with UWS and it has certainly been one of significant change and progress.

Over the past year, UWS has pushed forward on all fronts, reaching more children and working to encourage and inspire large-scale and sustainable change in how we reach and teach the marginalised children of post-conflict regions.

I believe we've taken significant steps towards achieving our mission. Our challenge ahead is raising sufficient funding to provide more children with a fair chance of being educated, arguably the most important thing we can do in the world.

UWS receives no Government aid or institutional funding, and therefore relies entirely on the generosity of our school and corporate partners as well as wider public support from individuals to fund its work. We remain incredibly grateful for every penny we receive.

By 2015 we are committing ourselves to creating a UWS network of up to 50-75 community schools and I believe that we can make even more progress towards this goal in the year ahead. I know that with your help, no matter what the challenges, we will keep delivering this ambition.

I would personally like to thank everyone who makes this vital work possible: our volunteers, supporters, donors, advisors, friends and family for their help in driving forward our cause in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, Hong Kong, Germany and Norway.

UWS in-the-field staff and volunteers are committed, knowledgeable, and passionate. I would like to praise them, and the Board of Trustees for their on-going commitment and hard work.

I would also like to thank my colleagues that make up the executive team, Tim Howarth (COO), Michael J Nelson (Financial Director) and David Granger (Social Media Manager) who continue to do an outstanding job, not to mention our founder, Chris Howarth.

It is a personal privilege to lead UWS at this challenging time. The educational deprivation of millions of children around the world means that the principled and expert work of an organisation like ours is needed now more than ever.



Daniel Charles Mouawad
Chief Executive

'When we put education first, we can reduce poverty and hunger, end wasted potential and look forward to stronger and better societies for all'
Ban Ki-moon,
UN Secretary General



Education First

In harmony with the UN Education First initiative, United World Schools delivers free basic primary schooling to children and young people who otherwise have no access to education.

United World Schools believes universal basic primary education improves the future wealth and health of individuals and communities; therefore we believe in making sure every dollar, pound or euro donated has an impact. Generational cycles of poverty can be broken as education enables more people to support the development of their communities.

When UWS asks parents in remote villages what they want for their children, they all give the same answer: education. Education empowers people and develops economies. If all students in low-income countries acquire basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

In addition, we must close the gender gap at all education levels. Evidence suggests that girls who complete a primary education and attend secondary school have smaller families, improved health outcomes and earn significantly higher wages.

What happens in a UWS classroom?

Lessons focus on essential learning tools (such as literacy, oral expression, numeracy and problem solving) and basic learning content (such as knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes) required by young people to succeed in the communities in which they live.



UWS Educational Model in Practice

UWS's education programmes seek to enable children, particularly girls and those from marginalised groups, to gain access to education by:

- 🌐 building community-based primary schools to provide education for poor and destitute children in developing and war-torn regions of the world.
- 🌐 providing a flexible education model that is simple yet effective in the most remote regions where there is no provision of education for children.

It is not enough to get children into school, they need to learn and thrive there. To assist this, we focus on improving the quality of school management systems and classroom teaching by:

- 🌐 working in full partnership with local community leaders—seeking the support of district authorities and the agreement of national governments.
- 🌐 ensuring that the grass-root educational programmes are locally anchored, protecting indigenous languages, cultures and customs.

Our aim is to make sure that children are taught relevant skills in engaging ways, and that schools reflect and respect the communities they serve by:

- 🌐 developing schools that teach the national curriculum of the country in addition to introducing appropriate vocational skills so that children can 'give back' to their communities.
- 🌐 training teachers from within the community. UWS is committed to the continual education and mentoring of local UWS teachers and local management teams.

Another strand of our education work is ensuring sustainable development and global citizenship by:

- 🌐 pairing schools in developed countries to build partnerships with UWS community schools ensuring long term sustainability.
- 🌐 empowering young people with a sense of global responsibility and understanding of the lives of children elsewhere in the world.

UWS does all of this through the active commitment, dedication and support of partners and volunteers across the globe.



End Game

The long-term goal is for our community schools to become fully integrated into the education system of the country, no longer requiring the support of UWS. In 2012 we have seen success with some of our local school management committees taking increasing control and ownership and becoming more self-sufficient. These are the first steps on a longer journey to leave each school economically sustainable and educationally effective.

Tim Howarth, UWS COO

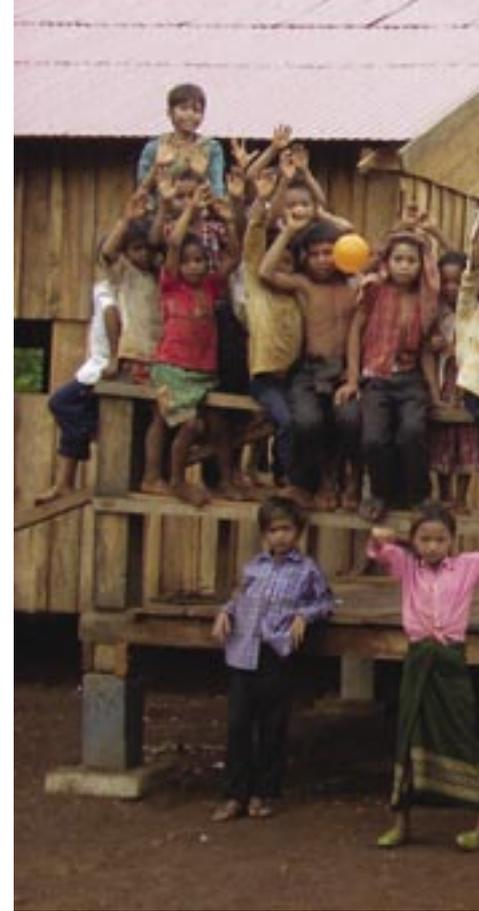


UWS - A Humble Beginning

Chris Howarth, an international career educationalist, went to work in Cambodia as a voluntary adviser to the Khmer government in 2006. He recognised there was a need to support the hugely under-resourced local education authority of Ratanakiri, North-East Cambodia.

The marginalised ethnic minority children of the area had little educational opportunity of any kind. To build community trust and rapport, educational projects with the children, parents and their villages were instigated. Using funds donated through the Howarth family, Chris paid for the first school, Kong Nork, to be built in 2008, and employed two local teachers.

Today UWS Kong Nork educates around 150 ethnic minority students daily, providing a passport to opportunity for the young people of the village. The catalyst for the development of the United World Schools movement had been started! Since gaining charitable status in 2008, UWS has certainly come a long way.



8

Cambodia

Cambodia has suffered from more than 30 years of civil war and turmoil during which over 20% of the population died from starvation, disease or execution. This has left a nation that is traumatised and desperately poor with some of the worst human development indicators in the world.



Chris Howarth



A healthy disregard for the impossible is necessary in everyone's life





Our ultimate goal is to help improve the education sector in Cambodia, increasing school enrolment and primary completion rates for deprived children in remote and neglected areas

Chris Howarth, UWS Founder & Cambodia Country Director



Katcham Village in Lumphat District is isolated by rough terrain, jungle and total lack of infra-structure. When UWS first ‘found’ the village in December 2012 the chief declared that Chris was the first ‘barang’ or foreigner ever to visit them. The poverty is intense and, to us seems beyond boundaries of humanity for 2013. We were drawn to a family gathering in the shade under a simple house.

The attraction was a new born baby. Here the two day old infant suckled the young mother with an audience that included buffalo, goats, chickens and all other village animals. The scene was almost biblical, reminiscent of a child born in a stable. To give birth, the mother, aged 15 years, needed to reach the nearest medical centre, 25 kms away. She did this on the back of a motorbike.

Having no money for any drugs, she gave birth with limited medical assistance and needed to return to the village immediately, as again her care was hampered by a lack of finance. We sat with her and despite being in pain, her happiness was complete. She smiled and said that now we are in the village her son will be able to go to school. UWS has agreed with the village elders and district authorities that we will build the school during 2013.

Touching Lives

Sokha was born with a disability. He has a problem with his right leg and could only walk with the use of a homemade wooden crutch. His future was bleak. He is of the Phnong tribe and lives in the remote village of Takok Phnong in Ratanakiri, NE Cambodia. Despite abject poverty and the stigma of being different, he was taught to read and write by an ex-soldier from the same village, who had fought against the Khmer Rouge.

UWS first visited the village in 2009 and noticed Sokha trying to teach a group of children in the shaded area under the meeting house. Sokha's enthusiasm to teach and the determination of the children to learn inspired UWS into building a school. This was completed in 2010. Sokha is now a salaried teacher, trained by UWS, and is a highly respected member of the village. UWS Takok Phnong is our 2nd four class-roomed school (our standard pattern being of three teaching rooms) and now serves over 300 children.

Sokha's classes are always full as he is able to speak the same ethnic language as the children and has good teaching skills. He is now the proud owner of a set of adjustable aluminium elbow crutches brought out from the UK by UWS.



Tipoul never dreamt that she would learn to read and write. Whereas her brothers left the village of Kak to stay with relations and attend school further afield, she always considered that her role was to look after her younger brother and support her parents. At 6 years of age she carried the babe on her back while she worked in the rice fields. Her only future was to marry and have children of her own.

In 2011 UWS Kak was built, giving the opportunity for Tipoul, and many girls in a similar position, to attend school and still look after their younger siblings. She was an able pupil but, like many other Khmer girls, she lacked confidence. However her real talent is in a local form of high jump which involves leaping in the air and catching an elastic string with the trail foot. She proved outstanding and soon found confidence and self-esteem. School became a place of fun and success. Her infectious enthusiasm affected other girls, and many of them are now learning to read and write.



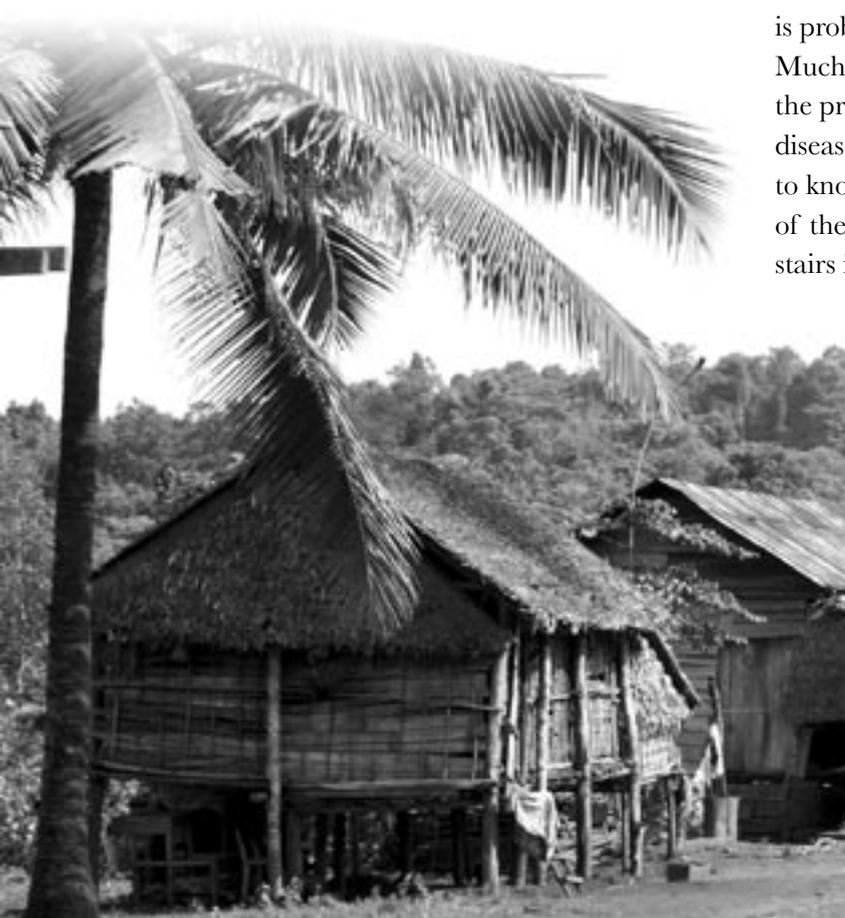
For more remarkable stories including how a girl called Manin started her life on the Phnom Penh rubbish dump but was recognised as a child with exceptional ability and has now progressed to university to train to be a qualified Doctor, visit our website www.unitedworldschools.org



At age 9, **Pros** had never been to school and spoke his own tribal language. Living on the banks of the Se San River, his family responsibility is to look after his younger brothers and sisters and tend the water buffalo. UWS completed a school in his village in 2009. Pros is now an active learner and can already read and write in Khmer. He is bi-lingual, continues to look after the buffalo and takes his younger siblings to school with him.

Vera Pluemer, UWS volunteer teacher writes:

‘I came to UWS Ratanakiri for a grass-root experience of education and development. After my first three weeks of teaching in remote rural communities, I can look back on many inspiring sessions of music, drama, Khmer (the national language), art and logic. It is rewarding to see my own work being fruitful and directly effective towards UWS’ goal: to provide education for the underprivileged and discriminated communities in impoverished isolated areas in the world. UWS’ dedicated staff have demonstrated to me how intercultural learning, conflict resolution and poverty reduction can be applied. I’m proud to be partaking of this adventure. As I’m writing these lines, sitting on the school stairs of UWS Jong, I watch the sunrise. This school is probably the most remote in the whole of Cambodia. Much more action and consideration is needed to solve the problems of this beautiful tribal village, threatened by disease and deforestation, but it fills me with pride and joy to know that UWS is making a critical difference in the lives of the one hundred children who will excitedly run up these stairs in a moment.’



Become a Partner School

Partnering a UWS community school encourages global citizenship and enriches the curriculum of the OECD partner school. Join existing partnership schools including Red Maids’, PGS and RGS Guildford as together we can empower students to establish and sustain educational opportunity as well as be part of something truly special.

UWS Finance

A Tough Year: UWS faced a tough fundraising environment in 2012 and had to work hard to protect and expand its educational programmes.

Even investing in solar panelling for lighting at some schools to support post-sunset classes proved challenging!

'UWS works in partnership with companies around the world to harness their expertise, people and funds, all of which are essential components in delivering our global mission. Consider working with UWS to create a mutually beneficial partnership that integrates your organisation's objectives and stakeholder interests with corporate social responsibilities.'

Michael Nelson, UWS Finance Director

In 2012, for every £1 spent, we matched that with £5 in kind and all to provide one of the lowest cost education provision models available: 65 pence (\$1) per child per week!

With the executive team now in place we are taking further steps to find creative new ways of partnering with a range of individuals, corporations, foundations, governments and the media to reach and teach more children.

Income & Expenditure Summary 2012

Whilst the vast majority of our operation is based on dedicated volunteers and in-kind support, it is our partnership schools, principle corporate sponsors and private donors that continue to account for all UWS cash income. In 2012 this amounted to £86,954

In 2012 UWS spent approximately £70,000 in cash and £380,000 in 'in-kind' contributions. The vast majority of this was spent in the field, building schools and training teachers.

A&N Media, a leading multi-channel media company encompassing some much-loved brands including the Daily Mail, MailOnline and Metro, have been working with UWS for over a year providing IT Technical support, design and knowhow to launch our new UWS website and monthly electronic newsletter. Money raised by A&N Media staff has also funded a school in the Ratanakiri province of Cambodia. 'Our work with UWS has given our team a sense of purpose'

David Henderson, Chief Information Officer

Funding Future Growth

UWS remains a relatively small charity with large ambitions and a successful 5 year track record sustainably supporting our existing network of 13 schools through the generosity of donors and our unique school partnership programme.

Our challenge for 2013-14 is to secure the necessary funds to accelerate the reach and impact of our work by **giving a further 5,000 children per year access to primary schooling**. We plan to do this by **building a further 12 schools** and enlarging our existing provision.

To fund the new school infrastructure and our sustainable operating model for the entire year and prepare for even more activity in 2014, **UWS needs to raise £350,000**. This will cover the human, material, financial and communication resources needed to operate effectively and reach a further 5,000 marginalised children.

Drop us a line if you believe you can support us in our work.

Breakdown of 2012 cash and in-kind income and expenditure	
Cash	
Total Income	£86,954
Cash Expenditure	£70,476
In kind	
In the field	£219,000
Corporate	£91,900
Secretariat	£69,000
Total in Kind	£379,900
Key:	
In the field: Country Directors, 28 local teachers, 20 international volunteer teachers	
Corporate: Technical Support, IT & Design, Website, Office Space, Legal & Admin	
Secretariat: CEO, COO, Finance Manager, Social Media Manager & Partnership Manager	

UWS 2013-14 Growth Plan

UWS' guiding principle is that geographical location of birth should not reduce the opportunity for educational advancement. We work to support the equality of opportunity for deprived children and their communities in post conflict regions. We believe that educating children is key to ensuring a country's long-term development, prosperity and independence.

UWS plays a critical role in helping teach children who do not receive even the most basic education and **in addition to our ongoing commitment in Cambodia (see Touching Lives on page 8)** our efforts this year will also be focused on some other significant regions in need:

🌐 **Sri Lanka** has suffered both a gruelling civil war and a tsunami that have left the island with areas of deprivation, alongside issues of remoteness and neglect. Through the power of education, UWS has already started to offer support. Our aim is to build, or in some cases transform, six schools in the coming year: three in the Jaffna peninsula and three in the remote rural areas of the southern province.

🌐 **Myanmar** has been badly scarred by widespread political repression and ethnic conflict and remains one of the world's poorest countries. In a region containing some of the fastest growing economies in the world, a quarter of the population of Myanmar do not have enough money to meet their basic food and living needs and less is spent on education than in almost any other nation in the world. UWS plans to start our educational programme there by building three schools.

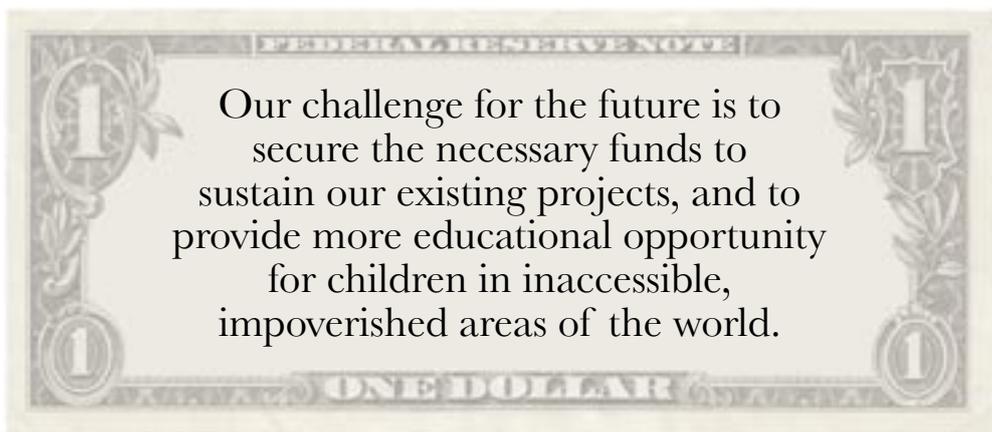
🌐 **Nepal** has fairly recently emerged from a 10-year civil war and suffers chronic deep-seated poverty with over half the population surviving on less than \$1.25 a day. Its literacy rate is among the lowest in the world, and only a minority of girls receive any schooling. Our aim is to build three schools in the coming year, providing both boys and girls with secure educational opportunities and helping to close the educational gender gap.



Be Part of our Global Community

By promoting peace, tolerance and respect for diversity across cultures through education and school partnerships, UWS cultivates a sense of global community and active participation across developing and developed countries.

Together, we can achieve our potential



Our challenge for the future is to secure the necessary funds to sustain our existing projects, and to provide more educational opportunity for children in inaccessible, impoverished areas of the world.

www.unitedworldschools.org

Dedicated to providing and improving educational opportunity in the
developing world and in areas of conflict resolution.

United World Schools is a Registered Charity – No 1129537



facebook.com/UnitedWorldSchools



[@teamUWS](https://twitter.com/teamUWS)



info@unitedworldschools.org