Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another. It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

**All for One in Cambodia**

Residents from the communities of Leap and Ta Trav continue their empowerment journeys, step by step. Spread out at a safe distance in shady spots throughout their respective communities, Outreach field staff facilitates the discussions that will form the framework of the collaborations to come.

As community members deepen trust with one another through their dialogue, voicing the issues they face and finding commonalities with their neighbors, Outreach staff keeps notes on what was discussed to maintain momentum through further consideration in future meetings.

The goal of these meetings is to ultimately develop both communities into their own formalized, organized teams. Beyond finding shared causes and establishing roles for each community member within their teams, being recognized as an independent Community-Based Organization, or CBO, puts the power squarely in each community’s hands. A community who reaches the point where they can be recognized as a CBO is one that epitomizes self-sufficiency. Building on the experience and confidence from earlier projects, CBOs are able to access resource networks like government offices and submit grant proposals directly, without Outreach facilitation, to help achieve their goals.

These meetings are a family affair. Kids tag along with their parents and sit in on meetings. One of the wonderful things about Outreach’s community-based approach to sustainably addressing issues of poverty is that even witnessing it is empowering. What begins as just another errand they have to attend with their parents, over time, becomes an ongoing masterclass in developing critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies as children watch the adults in their community work together, committing to providing opportunities for future generations through their efforts.

Check out these snapshots from a community meeting in Leap - this is what empowerment looks like!