Siem Reap is ranked as the sixth largest Province in Cambodia, the largest portion of the Province is demarcated by the Tonle Sap Lake. The Province is best known for the site of Angkor Wat temple ruins that are preserved by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, which attracts more than 5 million tourists who visit annually. The Province is located in the western part of the country, which has a total population of 1,007,000 and is divided into 12 sub-districts.

The livelihoods of local residents depend on rice planting, animal raising, crop subsidiary plantation, and in the fishery domain, but the Province still remains one of the poorest Provinces in the country. Thirty eight percent of the population lives under the poverty line - largely in the rural areas where they earn approximately 3,200 Riel per day (roughly equivalent to $0.80 USD). Presently, only about 58 percent of households have access to electricity, and only 55 percent of households have access to clean water - mainly in the town.

Most of the rural communities in this Province still live in poor hygienic and unsanitary situations, which has led to many waterborne diseases from generation to generation. Many rural areas are in need of health care and hygiene education. The Commune Health Care Center and Prevalent Public Health Sector are not yet available in all communes. Seventy percent of rural schools do not have access to clean water and students drink untreated water if they feel it looks clear enough. Diarrhea and other waterborne illnesses are threatening the learning progress of the rural students and have negatively affected school attendance. Having access to clean water is the biggest challenge in the daily lives for the children and community members living in the rural areas of Siem Reap.
Prey Rogneang Primary School
Ludacka Wealth Partners provides rural Cambodia school clean water system that will change lives - forever

“Our village has no piped water supply and 85 percent of the village households do not have access to electricity grid either. The lack of clean and safe water in the village has caused many issues and it is becoming more of a challenge because we have no choice because the government does not have budget to sort this out.”
- Mr. Klim Sophoan, Village Leader
Ending water collection from contaminated ponds and wells will set school children on the path to a healthy future

Prey Rongeang is the local primary school located in Prey Rongeang Village of Snuol Commune within Kralanh District of Siem Reap Province. Like many of the small rural villages surrounding Siem Reap, income depends on rice planting, crop subsidiary plantation, and raising farm animals. Some villagers are migrating away to work as laborers in the city of Siem Reap, while others commute to neighboring countries. The school and village both face health and economic challenges from lack of access to clean, safe water and electricity. Bottled water is too expensive, so villagers and students are forced to use untreated water from the nearby contaminated wells and ponds.

Community members and children drink untreated water, making waterborne illnesses among the top health risk concerns. Mr. Ros Chanda, school principal, explained that the school is located in the rural area, where it is far away from the medical center. Students are frequently absent from their classes due to waterborne illnesses, requiring families to care for them and spend money for medical care. The principal wishes for clean water for the village and the school, in hopes of alleviating waterborne diseases and reducing health care costs for the community. Improving school attendance is his primary concern for long term success for the community.

Number of Students: 274
GPS Coordinates: 13.650448, 103.557515
Village Population: 2,153
Number of Households: 265
Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform the focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“The lack of clean drinking water access in our school has resulted in many issues, such as student absenteeism due to diarrhea and financial burden on families to spend for medical care. School attendance and learning progress of students etc. are all tied to safe water. This need to be addressed in an effective way for all of those concerned.”
- Mrs. Pich Sarith, Grade 4 Teacher

“Our school located in the rural area and we do not have access to safe water. This is the greatest challenge we are facing, and we wish to have clean and safe water available in the school for the sake of everyone here, and also to eliminate our concern for school water source that is unsafe.
- Mr. Ros Chanda, School Headmaster