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.
We have no water treatment facility here and it is the greatest challenge we have faced. Our students cannot afford bottled water, so some of them drink water directly from the nearby well, while others bring boiled water from home. I wish I could have someone donate a water purification facility so that we could provide safe water for free to everyone here. This will help to improve our school attendance and remove the financial burden from the parents of our students.”

- Mr. Seang Vin, School Headmaster
Ending water collection from contaminated ponds and wells will set school children on the path to a healthy future

Trapaing Krasaing is the local primary school located in Trapaing Krasaing Village of Srenoi Commune –within the Varin District of Siem Reap Province. As a rural farming community, livelihoods depend on rice planting, crop subsidiary plantation work, and selling locally crafted handmade goods. Economic pressure has caused some villagers to migrate away to work as laborers in town. The commute is time consuming and costly, which causes additional strain on women and girls to increase their productivity. 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 for most, so villagers and students are forced to use untreated water from the nearby contaminated wells and ponds.

Because the majority of local community members and children of Trapaing Krasaing Village drink untreated water, waterborne illnesses are among the top health risk concerns. Mr. Seang Vin, the school principal, explained that students are often absent from their classes due to chronic waterborne illnesses that require their families to spend money for their medical treatment - which is often unaffordable. The principal wishes for clean water for the school and village in hopes of alleviating waterborne diseases and reducing the health care expenses for treating the community and children.

Number of Students: 416
GPS Coordinates: 13.953311, 104.112130
Village Population: 1,951
Number of Households: 410
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.

“My village is regarded as the poor one among the others in this area. We have 256 our village households that do not have access to the electricity grid, with no piped water supply in this area. Living here is difficult because my villagers earn two to three dollars a day, so they have to prioritize for their food. It will take many years ahead to get things improved.”
- Mr. Heang Kong, Vice-Village Leader

“Clean drinking water is not available in my school. I have to find water on my own, so I drink water directly from the well. This gives me diarrhea and I have left my classes. I wish I could have safe water to drink at my school and take it home.”
- Am Sreymao, Grade 5 Student