



Sreynich playing a game of hockey with her classmates at the LaValla School, Cambodia.

CASE STUDY//SREYNICH - CAMBODIA



“Sreynich” is 17 years old and was born in a rural part of Battambang Province, in a small village close to the border with Thailand. Sreynich was born with congenital defects, which resulted in her legs not forming properly below the thigh, and her left arm not forming below the elbow. She is the youngest of six siblings and shortly after her birth her father abandoned the family.

Several of Sreynich’s siblings worked as labourers in Thailand and sent money home to her family. Her mother was able to enrol her in a local school as she grew older, however, she found it increasingly difficult to support her needs. Wanting the best for

her daughter, Sreynich’s mother contacted the local Buddhist Monks who told her about LaValla School. From that day forward her life changed.

Sreynich commenced at LaValla School in October 2014 aged 14. She was placed in Grade 1 as her entry assessment revealed that the education she received in her village school was extremely poor. Sreynich divulged to LaValla School registrar, Ngin Visal, that she barely attended school because she was bullied and treated as an outcast.

Sreynich arrived without any assistive devices so LaValla School immediately sourced two leg prosthetics and a walking stick for her. This was the start of a new Sreynich. Her confidence grew and her social skills improved as she became more comfortable with herself in the new environment of LaValla School. Her movement has greatly enhanced and she has discovered a love for hockey.

Sreynich is currently completing Grade 4 and her favourite subjects are Khmer and English. With the end of her primary education in sight, Sreynich wants to further her education and attend secondary school and one day become a teacher.