ការេប៉ុងមិត្តជាតិជាមួយការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ក្នុងការបង្កើតឈ្នះប្រជាជន (Khmer)
This is the story Sister Keo, her business selling papaya salad, and her young child, named Mouse. Little Mouse likes to hang around and visit with his mother’s customers, but he’s too young to find a place to go to the toilet by himself and Sister Keo starts losing time and customers constantly having to take her son into the bushes. Sister Keo soon realizes that investing in a latrine will save her time and customers.

Objectives

To help the participants/target audience to…

- Know how the benefits of having and using an improved latrine (an essential part of every household) can help improve a family’s quality of life and well-being (convenience, comfort, safety and good health)
- Look for more information on benefits of having and using an improved latrine from their community leader or health volunteer
- Seek information on types of affordable latrines that suits their need from suppliers/sales or equipment shops
- Build and use a latrine. Promote the use of the latrine by family members, and support neighbours to do the same.

Remember

- This story is supposed to make learning fun. So be sure to smile, laugh and enjoy reading it with people in your community.
- You can change the names in the story to names more similar to people in your community (however be careful not to make anyone uncomfortable or embarrassed).
- You can create a similar story to this as long as it has a successful ending that has to do with the benefits of constructing and using a latrine.

Instruction and Steps for storytelling

1 Engage your audience
- Know how the benefits of having and using an improved latrine (an essential part of every household) can help improve a family’s quality of life and well-being (convenience, comfort, safety and good health)

2 Build the scene
- Throughout your storytelling, you want to tell your audience the story in a way that makes them feel like they’re there. Start by giving them context when you start your story. Continue to create the scene by using details which help them picture the action and feel the same way as the characters in the story. For example, “This story happened in one village in rural Laos. In the afternoon while the weather was terribly hot like it could scorch the rice fields, Nang Noy, who was a beautiful young girl in the village, suddenly had a very bad stomachache…”

3 Build tension and release tension
- You want to make your audience see the problem and finally the solution in the story. Furthermore, you want to make your storytelling exciting, for example, when the characters are facing a difficult situation, you want to build a feeling of tension. But later the problem or the tension is ultimately overcome, and everyone is happily smiling after they successfully built a latrine.

4 Emphasize what’s important
- After your audience see both the problem and the solution, you want to emphasize key messages or the benefits of having a latrine which will help them improve their lives (convenience, safety and privacy). This will give them good opportunities to have good health, a better quality of life, prosperity, and the pride and dignity of the family leader, demonstrating that they are responsible for their own community as well.

5 Discuss by asking questions and listening
- After your audience knows the end of the story, ask how they feel or what they think about the story. Show them again the opposite situations between before and after having a latrine and how the characters felt and why they decided to solve their problems that way.
- Ask: “Do you want to listen to another story?”
• One day, Mrs Keo started having a problem. At just about lunch time every day – when most customers visited her shop – her son, Kinoy, wanted to go poop in the nearby bush.

• He was too young to go down the hill by himself but could not wait until his mother tended to all of her customers.
• Mrs Keo had to ask her customers to wait while she took Kinoy down to the bush. She would hurry down the little hill and then hurry back as soon as Kinoy had finished. But all this took time: She needed to dig a small hole for him, then cover it up, then wash Kinoy’s hands and her hands with soap afterwards and walk back up the hill.

• Lately, she noticed that many of her customers had already left before she could get back. Many could not wait so long. The few customers that were still waiting looked unhappy.

• One customer asked her, “Can’t you find someone else to care for your son during the day?” Mrs Keo explained she was still breastfeeding and couldn’t leave him with anyone else.

• Another customer said he didn't want to buy her salad after just seeing her come back from the bushes. Mrs Keo explained that she always washed her and her son's hands with soap after coming from the bush and again before preparing food. But some customers still looked a bit wary.

• She noticed she was starting loose her customers and their money.

• Mrs Keo started thinking how she could solve her problem.
Mrs Keo thought how much she disliked having to take her son to the bush.

She thought about how many people had decided not to buy her food while she was down in that stinky bush every day. She also thought about how her son hated all the mosquitoes and other bugs down there.

Suddenly, Mrs Keo recalled what the village chief told her and others about building a latrine.

She had been thinking of asking her husband to build a latrine for their family. But she was always afraid it would cost too much money.

However, now she was thinking how much money she was losing while taking her son to the bush.

Finally, she made a decision. It was time to build a latrine for her house.

Many other people already had one, and she knew it would save her time and money. Some customers were also asking if she had one they could use. She was embarrassed at always having to say ‘no’
Mrs Keo told her husband about how she didn't have time to run her business and take their son to the bush all the time.

She said she needed a latrine.

Her husband said he had also heard a woman at the health center talking about building latrines....to become a model healthy village and to be recognized as an Open Defecation Free village.

He said wasn't sure if they could afford the money to build one, but he said he would look into it.

The next day he started talking to the village chief. Later, he asked his brother for some help getting the materials, and soon they started building the latrine.

Mrs Keo was excited. She was also proud to show her son that they would soon have their own latrine.
Once the latrine was finished, Mrs Keo proudly taught her son to use the latrine himself and wash his own hands.

Customers noticed the nice new latrine she had in back of her house and how clean everything suddenly looked.

Old customers were coming back, and new ones were coming to try Mrs Keo’s papaya salad. Nobody even complained about having to wait in the long line.

Mrs Keo and her husband could hardly believe the extra money she was suddenly making. They made so much extra that they helped their brother to buy materials and build his own latrine. Other neighbors were building them as well, and there was talk that the village would soon gain its awaited status of “Open Defecation Free”, similar to others in the district.

One day a couple of weeks after her latrine was built, Mrs Keo looked down the hill at the old bush where she used to take her son. She laughed and thought how that old bush would never steal her time or customers ever again.