



Completion Report

KHM-HPC-CCP-P01, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Reporting Period: March - August 2017

Protecting Exploited Children

Budget: \$15,000 fully funded.

Update:

This one-year project sought to establish teams to undertake outreach during the evenings in the red-light district of Phnom Penh. The Government of Cambodia had told our partner that new cases of sex trafficking of children are occurring in this district, and at night. To prevent this, the teams have been heading out during the evening to connect with the children on the streets, to build relationships and to help them avoid predators. Our partners have spent the year working in this area, building relationships and learning about what drives children to be on the streets at night so that long-term solutions can be put in place as well as the short-term avoidance of evil.

In the second half of the year, 4 new staff members joined the 2 original staff members to work with the street kids at night and they have started 5 Kid's Clubs in various location. Our partners were informed by the Department of Social Affairs that the 40 newest cases of child exploitation have come from these red-light districts so they know they are in the right areas creating a presence and building relationships with both the children and their families.

Our partners have also continued to work in the Stung Mean Chey slums and are running a Creative Arts Program twice a week with 20 committed participants. The program targets individuals of all ages and is providing a sense of renewed hope in the community. Connecting with the families of the children and their local communities was the catalyst for our partners and police rescuing 7 exploited children in a single raid in the red-light district and rescuing a 4-year-old girl in the slums.

The night teams reach out to small, working groups of children who sneak quick breaks away from their begging or selling books and bracelets to join the clubs and get to know the friendly, caring staff. When they met Mike (name changed), it was easy to see that he was being physically and emotionally abused. His body was covered with signs of beatings, his clothes soiled and he was being forced to beg on the streets until he dropped from exhaustion. Mike had been sold by his mother at birth and then sold again and again His current owner beat him severely if he didn't bring home enough money and was threatening to sell him to a foreigner. Our partners and the military police intervened at this stage by conducting a raid on the riverfront where Mike and 6 other children (the youngest being 6 weeks old) were taken into safe custody and Mike's 'owner' was arrested.



Our partners are saving lives, one at a time, and believe that one day the sex tourist district of Phnom Penh will be a thing of the past. Thank you for helping to protect the futures of these vulnerable children!



Protecting Exploited Children

Budget: \$15,000, \$1,320 still unfunded.

Update:

This project seeks to establish teams to undertake outreach during the evenings in the red-light district of Phnom Penh. The Government of Cambodia has told our partner that new cases of sex trafficking of children are occurring in this district, and at night. In order to prevent this, the teams head out during the evening to connect with the children on the streets, to build relationships and to help them avoid predators. The aim is to work in this area for a year building relationships and learning about what drives children to be on the streets at night so that long-term solutions can be put in place, as well as the short-term avoidance of evil.



Kidnapped girl Cici is found.

Our implementing partner has hired its first two Khmer staff members to work nights in the sex tourist area. It is now out on the streets five days per week from 8.30 – 12.00 am. Over the past six months the night team has become familiar with the families and children in the catchment area. The staff have made contact and begun building relationships with 125 children (70 boys and 55 girls) and 75 family members have indirectly benefited from the work. The team has also helped authorities to bring to justice two serious cases of child abuse and the neighbourhood now understands that the abuse of children is taken seriously in this area and that it will not go unnoticed.



Young boy saved by our partners.

In one particular case young kidnapped Cici was found after three months, severely abused but alive and able to begin the restoration process of healing (pictured above).

Our partners started work in the Stung Mean Chey slums launching a Healing Through the Arts program on 9 January. The program targets individuals of all ages. An average of 50 children are coming twice a week to the Kids Club. The Arts program has located a space to work in and has hired its first Khmer staff member. This is providing a sense of renewed hope in the community.

Our partner works closely with the local authorities and relevant government departments. In February, our partner received a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Government of Cambodia, which is a year-long process, at a time when many organisations have been denied.

Our partner reports that Australian paedophile Mr G has been investigated and consequently imprisoned. Six children from our partner's programs who had been living with him full-time have been saved.

On behalf of the children and families on the streets, thank you for sending funds to protect their futures!