

Mission Direct

Volunteering visit to Cambodia Oct-Nov 2022

Helen Porter

The Team

4 MD staff
members

2 teachers

We volunteered at 2
of the 3 schools run
by Serve Cambodia

The staff members
are currently
volunteering at the
3rd school



I met this girl
washing duck
eggs on my first
tour around
Happy Village

This caused me to
ask many
questions and to
reflect on the
answers



Training the teachers!

We trained the teachers to teach phonics, storytelling and crafting in more imaginative ways



Glove puppets for use in storytelling



School assembly at TLC

The children love singing songs with actions and learn them very quickly



We had fun with
the children too
Health and
safety is
different in
Cambodia!



**A lunchtime walk
around Happy
Village soon
turned into a
'school trip'!
Jill and I were
concerned about
the lack of risk
assessment!**



Some accommodation is very poor quality and floods frequently

This is a home in Happy Village and is not considered to be slum housing



This widowed grandmother is now the sole carer of her 4 grandchildren

She has no income and relies on handouts.

This house has just one room in which the family sleep. It has no toilet and floods every time it rains heavily



**Sponsored girls:
Ey Muoy (14)
& Dema (12) with
their Christmas
presents**

**They attend
Harvest of Hope
School and are in
the same class**



**The Club is
sponsoring
Raliza (13)
She attends
TLC School**

**Raliza is a quite
quiet and shy, but
loves to learn and
hopes to become a
teacher of Khmer**



Raliza and her
friends building
Lego models as
stimulus for
storytelling
TLC School



Playground Games at TLC

Children have very few toys and little games equipment



Women's Work

Silk weaving (by hand) is highly skilled and provides a steady income for a few women (usually widows)



Preparing palm sugar and selling it at the roadside

Most women I saw working were selling goods in small stall or shops and their income was just a % of the profits, so was unpredictable and insecure. Pensions and sick pay/maternity pay are very rare in Cambodia.



Daughters of Cambodia

The harsh reality of life in a brothel

Daughters of Cambodia aims to never turn away a sex worker who comes to us asking for a new life. Our goal is that they permanently walk free from sex-work, and experience holistic healing in every area of their lives.



"My Life in a Brothel" drawn by a 12-year-old

Commercial Sexual Exploitation : how it works

Commercial sexual exploitation of children, young women and men in Cambodia has escalated in recent decades into what is now an "industry".

In Cambodia, there are several key factors that lead to a girl entering the sex industry, and once there, it is almost *impossible for her to leave*:

- Social stigma and *lack of education* → no alternative job options
- *Rape* destroys hope and value, often leading the victim into the sex industry
- Children want to support their families in order to pay back the debt of being born
- *Loss of hope* is off-set by the belief that she will earn a better re-incarnation through sacrificing her life to support her family
- Victims are unwilling to live in a shelter due to the loss of dignity/choice and the need to retain existing support networks and family relationships

Visiting The Slums in Phnom Penh!

Thanks to Sue
Hanna from
Flame Charity



**A house built
on stilts over
the canal (open
sewer)**



Bophana a crushed flower

An educated young woman who was imprisoned and tortured at Tuol Sleng prison (S21)



The Killing Fields



An amazing
landmine
detecting rat

A very
valuable
Tanzanian
Pouched Rat



Angkor Wat at Sunrise



Thank you for
listening
& thank you
Jill

Helen Porter 2023

