

# 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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

