

## The Staff at Fountain of Life Center – Cambodia



### Title of the Project:

**Raising Awareness and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups  
To Ensure Safe Migration and Combat Trafficking in Person**

Our day begins with Morning Prayer and reflection



### Training of Staff

Training of Staff presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base of all the staff members. It strengthens those skills that each staff member needs to improve and brings them to a higher level so they all have similar skills and knowledge.

Training enables all concerned to address weakness and strengths.

Providing the necessary training creates an overall “knowledgeable staff” and they can take over for one another as needed independently without constant help and supervision from others.

Training of staff enables them to respond to the current day challenges of our times.

For these reasons – every day we have training of staff sessions. During these sessions the staff discuss significant subjects such as:

- Trafficking in persons
- Pre-departure information
- Migration – legal and illegal etc



a) The outreach program conducted at Fountain of Life – is an anti-trafficking initiative operating between 3 main groups:

- Networking with vulnerable groups in Thailand
- The Villages in Sihanoukville
- The women in the bars in Sihanoukville

#### Group 1 – Networking with Fountain of Life

Pattaya Two staff members will be involved

They will work in Cambodia in the prison in the bars and in the villages paying special attention to children and young adults who have left or who are planning to leave Cambodia to find employment in Thailand and the neighbouring countries

Every three months they will travel to Thailand and work with NGOs in Chonburi – Thailand who are working in this area

They will visit Cambodian families and places where Cambodian children and young adults are working or are kept in Thailand





### Group 2 – Working in the Villages

Teaching children and young adults Khmer – English – Hygiene (health education)

Providing information to individuals and families about trafficking and its different and complicated methods of recruitment

Pre-departure workshops for people who are planning to leave the country

### Using the Buddhist Temple as a classroom to teach the Children in the villages

Many of the children are too poor to attend special tuition classes – this can have a negative effect in their class performance

Some of the children do not go to school and are used by their guardians to help earn money for the family.

Our staff teach in several villages and this gives an opportunity for all to learn



Staff teaching the children Khmer and English in the Buddhist Temple



Working with the people in the village – Practical Skills in Health Care

Group 3 –Empowering the women and teenage girls who work in the Bar – through:

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Providing   | Information on trafficking for forced labour – sexual exploitation – domestic work<br>Pre-departure information<br>Language skills – English and Khmer<br>Counseling services and health education |
| Encouraging | Information regarding – marriage with foreigners – smuggling of people<br>The women to care for each other and to join the programs at the center                                                  |
| Settling    | Disputes that often arise because of poverty and language problems                                                                                                                                 |



Services provided at the Center:

Providing information to vulnerable groups on:  
Pre-departure – Trafficking – Legal and illegal migration  
Pornography  
Forced Labour



Trafficking and safe migration

Challenges faced in the villages – and in the bars Poverty

This is a great challenge faced by the women and teenage girls  
Therefore they can easily become victims of trafficking  
Unemployment  
Young people have no work

They are frustrated at being idle for long periods. They are often under pressure to find work quickly which makes them vulnerable to accepting dangerous job offers  
They do not critically assess the job advertisements or recruiting firms



Afraid to contact local authorities

When it involves border crossing victims seek the help of traffickers who provide them with false documents – they are afraid of the local authorities

Pressure from the Families

Families and relatives vigorously collect enough money so that their daughter or their relative can go abroad and find employment

Pressurized to appear successful

Returned survivors who were trafficked refuse to acknowledge that they are victims of trafficking and despite all the hardships they encountered they are prepared to go again and again until they can bring home money

Stop Migration – has not worked

Curbing their mobility would put them into a more exploitative situation

### Our Approach

Safe Migration

Our approach: MAKE MIGRATION SAFE instead of NO TO MIGRATION

Complexity of Trafficking

Trafficking is very complex

Traffickers only want to exploit labour and they are not concerned whether the victim is an

Illegal migrant or a trafficked person or a smuggled person

Our primary concern

Prevent forced labor

Provide information to vulnerable groups

Form networks that can be useful to vulnerable groups

Make Migration Safe has now become the focus for all our interventions because we know the women will go abroad



Pre-departure workshops – fake passports and real passports

Building relationships with the Bar Owners

In 2015 we started a program with the bar owners

Our Staff are in contact with about 10 bar owners

Most of the Bar owners are Cambodian women living with foreign men

They have responded positively

They inform the women who work in their bar about the services we provide

They encourage them to participate in the programs offered at the Center

(b) Services provided at the Fountain of Life Center



Providing a safe environment for the children

Day Care Services

No of Children attending our day care 33

Services Provided

Before admitting a child our staff make a home visit to assess the family situation in order to provide the necessary help and support that the family and child needs

Only children and families in difficult circumstances are admitted

Some of these children study at our Center in the morning and in the afternoon they study at the Public school

### Lunch and a snack

Every day the Children are served with a nutritious meal and they also get a snack before they return to their homes

The older children help to feed the younger children

The meals are prepared by the staff



### Teaching the Children to take a Shower

Some of the Children do not have safe facilities to have a shower in their homes or in their villages

Every day before they leave the children take a shower at our Center

For some Children this is the only shower they will have for the day.

Teaching the children to take a shower





## Teaching the children LIFE SKILLS

### We believe that

Life skills are learned through repetition and practice

Life skills help children through the turbulence of adolescence

Good Life Skills help children to stand up to unhealthy peer pressure

Children don't naturally know how to make good choices

Life skills help children to know what to do in everyday situations

By teaching children life skills we are preparing them to make good decision as they grow into adulthood



Taking the Children for an Educational Exposure

### Educational Exposure

Through role play we teach the children good and abusive behavior

The children are taught how to reach out and help less privileged children

Every week our staff take a few children for a 15 minutes educational exposure

When they return to the center they share with the other children what they had seen – what actions they should take and what actions they should avoid

### The Children are learning:

About their rights as children

What behaviour is appropriate and what is inappropriate

The duties of parents

Getting the Parents involved in the development of their children





## Khmer Classes for Vietnamese Children with Cambodian Citizenship

### Purpose of this Program

After the Vietnamese helped to defeat Pol Pot they ruled Cambodia until they were pressurized to leave Cambodia. Many Vietnamese have Cambodian Citizenship but in the past they were very reluctant to learn the Cambodian Language – neither did they allow their children to study the language. However now they are beginning to realize that without the language they will not qualify for jobs or educational opportunities in Cambodia.

Currently there are about 5 children learning Cambodia at our Center every day.

### Effectiveness of our services

This program is very effective as the children are able to read and write in Cambodian

They are able to participate fully in the lessons taught at school

The relationship between the Vietnamese children and the Cambodians children is slowly improving and in some situations the previous suspicion is also slowly disappearing



## English for at all levels for the people in the Community

### Purpose of this Program

The classes are conducted every day from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Through this program we are able to reach out to all the people in the community.

Many of the people who attend the classes do not have the money to have private tuition classes

Every day about 139 children – teenage girls and boy – and young adults come to the Centre

Young Mothers are able to share their life struggles with us and receive counseling after the classes

The young adults are working and they need Language Skills

### Effectiveness of our services

This is a very effective service

Our visibility is enhanced in the community – since most of our services are outreach services

The children who attend the classes do well in school

There are 6 levels

Level Six – Working adults and tertiary level students

Level Five – Students from secondary level 3 and 4

Level Four – Students from secondary level 2 and 1

Level Three – Students from primary level 6 and 4

Level Two – Students from primary level 3

Level One – Students from primary level 1 and below

## Prison Ministry

Every day the staff teach sewing in the prison

They also provide other services to the women prisoners

Once a year there is an inter-faith gathering

Religious leaders from the various religious denominations meet and conduct sessions

### Teaching Sewing in the Prison



### Religious leaders from the various religious denominations meet and conduct sessions in the Prison



### Other Significant Activities

#### Workshop on SAFETY

14th February 2015 our staff were invited to give a workshop on SAFETY at the Don Bosco Vocational Training College.

Topics discussed

Pre-departure information



Trafficking in Persons

Abortions and safe sex – Family Planning – New Concepts of Family

Gender Equality

200 students attended the workshop. The Don Bosco staff would like our staff to do this every year



Workshop at Don Bosco Training Center

Water Festival

5th of April – The students and the staff celebrated Water Festival – which is the Buddhist New Year in Cambodia – the actual date is from the 13<sup>th</sup> of April to the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Although many people celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> of January – the Buddhist New Year is very important to them. The festival is the time to remind the people that they need to recognize and respect what their parents and elders have done for them throughout their life. Buddhist people also visit Buddhist temples and worship the great Buddha. They offer food to monks and cleanse the image of the Buddha with perfumed-water



Cleansing the image of the Buddha with perfumed-water – with the prayer that the New Year will bring good luck and prosperity

## Buddhist Lent

This festival is celebrated in the month of July – it shows the concern of the Lord Buddha for the environment

It is a very significant religious ceremony in all Buddhist countries

The Lord Buddha assigned to all of his disciples to stay in their monasteries during the rainy season because they might accidentally step on young plants and insects

During this season young men become monks for a short period of time

It is a special time for self-reflection and doing charitable works



The Buddhist Monks teaching the children and the women at the Center about the significance of the Buddhist Lent

## Christmas Party for the Children





| January to December 2015 |        |      |          |        |          |          |
|--------------------------|--------|------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Months                   | Center | Bars | Villages | Prison | Day Care | Families |
| Jan                      | 130    | 34   | 54       | -      | 18       | 50       |
| Feb                      | 133    | 31   | 76       | -      | 20       | 51       |
| Mar                      | 57     | 37   | 36       | -      | 19       | 55       |
| April                    | 44     | 17   | 27       | -      | 20       | 57       |
| May                      | 111    | 16   | 31       | -      | 23       | 59       |
| June                     | 132    | 20   | 31       | -      | 23       | 60       |
| July                     | 126    | 21   | 56       | -      | 27       | 61       |
| Aug                      | 140    | 33   | 70       | -      | 27       | 63       |
| Sep                      | 154    | 41   | 93       | -      | 27       | 65       |
| Oct                      | 157    | 18   | 96       | -      | 32       | 68       |
| Nov                      | 119    | 42   | 42       | 23     | 34       | 76       |
| Dec                      | 117    | 42   | 42       | 26     | 35       | 80       |
| Total 437                |        |      |          |        |          |          |