

Annual Report 2006



CSN brings together local NGOs that improve the lives of vulnerable Cambodian children, their families, and their communities. Our core business is transferring knowledge and know-how, but we also make financial contributions and link local NGOs with Western donors, when necessary.

CSN is a non-political, non-religious, Swiss organization.

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1. WHAT CSN DOES:

Transferring Know - How

- Quality assurance of projects
- Helping with the drafting of ideas for projects
- Counseling during the creation of projects
- Linking local NGOs with Western experts who volunteer their time
- Short-term support to resolve unexpected problems

Financial Contributions

- Financial support for starting new projects
- Financial help during transitional periods (to bridge between donors)
- Financial contributions

Child Support Network (CSN) brings together local NGOs that improve the lives of vulnerable Cambodian children, their families, and their communities. Our core business is transferring knowledge and know-how, but we also make financial contributions and link local NGOs with Western donors, when necessary.

Why was CSN created: CSN was founded by humanitarian professionals who saw a need to coordinate local NGOs working with Cambodian children. This means getting different organizations to communicate so that they don't all do the same things and leave other important problems asides.

Furthermore, donor “funding themes” are something that many NGOs are over-zealous to follow. Indeed, most local NGOs are so preoccupied about appealing to the current fad amongst donors that many important projects get left behind. CSN strongly believes that the real needs of vulnerable Cambodian children should be determined by local NGOs, not donors in the West.

CSN's partners employ some 400 local staff who care for over 3000 vulnerable children.

2. SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Mith Samlanh / Friends – Drug rehabilitation project “Camp Sabay Sabay”



CSN actions:

- Creating links between the NGO and Western volunteers
- Financial contribution to the project

CSN had supported Camp Sabay Sabay in the past, but in 2006 two groups of young people created rival gangs in the center. Mith Samlanh/Friends successfully calmed the tensions and has since adapted its entrance procedure. Only when a class has graduated from the program, does the organization take a new batch of youths. CSN will finance the project for an additional year.

KADO - Agricultural training program



CSN actions:

- Checking on the quality of the project
- Helping the writing of new funding requests
- Connecting KADO to competent volunteers
- Financial contribution to the project

Since mid-2005, CSN has had many meetings with KADO in an attempt to improve the NGO’s quality standards. At that time, it was decided that renewed financial support would be given in 2006-07 only after fulfillment of certain criteria. In December 2006 Judith Bauer (a CSN board member) visited KADO and concluded that the organization did not fulfill the conditions for continuing the agricultural project. CSN has thus ended its collaboration with KADO and is currently looking for other agriculture training projects.

OEC - AIDS orphan project

CSN actions:

- Checking on the quality of the project
- Cooperation with OEC for writing new financial requests
- Supporting inter-organizational networking
- Financial contribution to the project



In 2006, OEC began its project for AIDS orphans in Battambang and CSN is satisfied with the initial results. After this first year of positive collaboration, OEC submitted a request for continuing funding. CSN rejected this first version of the request for different reasons (missing co-operation with other welfare organizations, etc.). OEC revised the project with the support of CSN's field coordinator. A new contract was signed and the modified project lasted until July 2007. CSN has since made a third extension to this collaboration.

Goutte d'Eau Handicap: new project started in February 2007

CSN actions:

- Helping with the project's planning
- Connecting the project to competent volunteers and other organizations
- Checking on the quality of the project



In February 2007, Goutte d'Eau started a project for physically and mentally handicapped children in Phnom Penh.

The handicapped project is part of Goutte d'Eau's legal structure but is under the full responsibility of a seasoned medical professional named Irma Hug. A nurse by training, Mme Hug is responsible for the project's technical questions and has committed to do her own fund-raising. She has worked in many



development projects in Cambodia (including Beat Richner's well known Kanta Bohpa Hospital).

During the start-up phase in Phnom Penh, CSN helped Mme Hug with fund-raising and publicity. Now that the project has been launched many children from the CSN network are benefiting from the new facility. Currently CSN only provides support for management issues.

Goutte d'Eau Cambodia – Poipet: New Samarkum Center

CSN actions:

- Checking on the quality of the project
- Finding volunteers for the project
- Supporting inter-organizational networking
- Providing financial support to “bridge” a transitional period



Goutte d'Eau has been present in the Cambodian town of Poipet for several years because the proximity to the Thai boarder attracts child traffickers. In 2006, Goutte d'Eau moved from the Wat Thmey neighborhood to a new center in Samarkum area. After a plot of land was purchased, a Swiss architect, Kurt Ulrich, kindly volunteered his time to supervise the construction of the new buildings. In late August 2006, the Samarkum compound was finished so the children, the staff, and activities moved over. An inaugural party took place in February 2007.



The new Samarkum complex has four main activities: 1. an area for children saved from traffickers, 2. a rehabilitation center for drug abusing children, 3.

a long-term residential area for children who have lost their families, and 4. A school for the destitute families of the Poipet area as well as the kids living in the Samarkum long-term residence. Below we will briefly expand on two of these activities:

The area for children rescued from traffickers (locally known as “the residential”) is a house for Cambodian children who have been saved from traffickers in Thailand. The building is the furthest away from the road and offers a safe place for the children to learn how to be kids again. Slowly the former trafficking victims gain confidence and re-learn how to play and have faith in themselves.



The children live in small, family-like groups, and initially attend Goutte d'Eau's day-school. After a certain time, when the former trafficking victims are doing well enough, they are sent to the local public school. Similarly, Goutte d'Eau does family tracing and evaluates whether the parents (when they are still alive) are ready to take the child back or whether they are likely to re-traffic the child. Once the security of the child is guaranteed he/she returns to his/her family. After a family re-integration, Goutte d'Eau makes regular follow-ups to make sure the child is doing well.

It sadly happens that sometimes the risk of re-trafficking is too high for the children to be reintegrated into their families. When this is the case, the children remain in Goutte d'Eau's long-term residential center or with other partner organizations, such as Mith Samlanh/Friends.

The school for the destitute families of the Poipet area as well as the kids living in the Samarkum long-term residence. This school offers basic education to a variety of vulnerable children. Kids living in the streets or from “fragile families” attend the half-day program where they learn arithmetics, as well as reading and writing. For many street children, the Goutte d'Eau school in Samarkum is a stepping stone for integrating the public school system.

Friends international - Protection and Support of Cambodian Children on the Streets of Bangkok

CSN actions:

- Help in elaborating the project's concept
- Connecting the project to competent volunteers
- Networking with other like-minded organizations
- Financial help to launch the project



Child Trafficking in Cambodia is a tragically common reality. It flourishes everywhere where poverty and corruption prevail. Every year a growing number of Cambodian children and young people are sold to criminals in Thailand as prostitutes, cheap labor, or beggars. Many of them are treated like slaves and live in constant fear of being caught by the Thai police because this often means brutal arrests and being sent into Bangkok's juvenile detention center.



When caught by authorities the children spend months imprisoned in sub-human conditions, before being shipped back to the Cambodian border like animals. Once back in Cambodia many of the kids are immediately reinserted into the web of human traffickers, and thus their cruel fate continues.

The new project

In late 2005, CSN members took action to break the vicious cycle of trafficking. Friends International kicked off a new anti-trafficking project with operations on both the Thai and Cambodian sides of the border. The aim is to work in collaboration with authorities to attack the problem at its root rather than to treat the symptoms. To succeed, we must create an environment where criminals feel that the business of trafficking children is too risky and unprofitable to continue.

The actual project started in February 2007, with CSN helping in the conceptual framework and the H. Looser Foundation kindly donating 160'000 US\$ to start-up the project. CSN believes new sponsors (such as UNICEF) can be attracted now that the project is running.

A four pronged strategy

Social workers need to be present in the areas of Bangkok where trafficked children can be found. This ensures that the young victims are rapidly taken off the streets and brought back to their countries of origin. Different NGOs cooperate to make sure each child successfully reintegrates into his or her community.

Concretely this means:

1. Support to the stranded children in Bangkok;
2. Assisting the return to the child's countries of origin (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam);
3. Support with a lasting reintegration into communities;
4. Prevention work in the areas afflicted by slave traders and migrations.



3. TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN CAMBODIA

CSN has a full-time expatriate staff in the field to help local partners with capacity building, coaching, and networking. CSN does not just look for projects to fund, instead CSN selects good local NGOs doing meaningful work and helps them do an even better job assisting vulnerable kids.

In 2006, our technical advisor developed a large network of contacts amongst organizations working with street-children. Also that year, our staff rushed to the assistance of a local NGO (but not member of the CSN network) who needed immediate help in crisis management (for more information see below).

4. CSN OFFERS IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL NGO: A CASE OF PEDOPHILIA IN A SIEM REAP ORPHANAGE

An orphanage (not member of the CSN network) contacted us in 2006 due to the strong suspicion that a staff had molested a child. CSN's technical advisor in Cambodia immediately organized a team of specialists and carried out an intensive inquiry during 3 days. The research results were dreadfully clear; a child had been sexually abused. At this point, Cambodian authorities and UNICEF were brought in. The NGO's management was judged responsible of not having detected the pedophile, and as a result a new management team was put in place.

5. VOLUNTEERS

Many people from the West applied in 2006 to be volunteers with CSN. The network selected and sent several competent people of different ages and training to assist our local partners in Cambodia.

6. CSN's NEXT STEPS

6.1. Handicap. There is still an important need for institutions that care for mentally and physically handicapped children in Cambodia, because if nothing is done many of these kids will end up on the streets. CSN will continue supporting NGOs responding to this (underfunded) need.

- **Develop synergies** between the network's partners. For 2007, CSN is in contact with NGOs who will provide training to network members in how to work with handicapped kids.
- **Linking local NGOs with Western partners** such as schools for the handicapped in Europe and volunteers with specialized skills.

6.2. Trafficking remains a major hazard for many vulnerable children. CSN and its members continues to fight the problem at its roots in both Cambodia and neighboring countries.

6.3. Expanding the network. CSN is actively searching for small local NGOs who could benefit from becoming part of the network. The new partners get access to CSN's services (quality assurance, networking with Western partners, technical support, etc.), and the network benefits from the NGO's unique local knowledge and expertise

6.4. Vocational trainings. CSN is exploring new ways to provide Cambodian young people with honest means to earn a living. We are currently looking at the possibilities of new training centers in agriculture and fish farming.



7. WANT TO HELP?

Financial Support. Your contribution entirely benefits our relief projects. No administration costs are incurred in Europe.

From Switzerland

Postfinance, 3030 Bern
CCP No 87-183923-5

From outside Switzerland

Swift-Code: POFICHBE
IBAN-Nr.: CH1709000000871839235

Volunteer your time and expertise. If you have special skills (architects, educators, nurses, etc.) and would like to contribute to our work please contact our office.

8. CONTACTING US

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