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Assisting Children and Families in Need in Cambodia

A SPECIAL REPORT FOR

Women of Vision - South Puget Sound

WORLD VISION REPRESENTATIVE

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ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED IN CAMBODIA

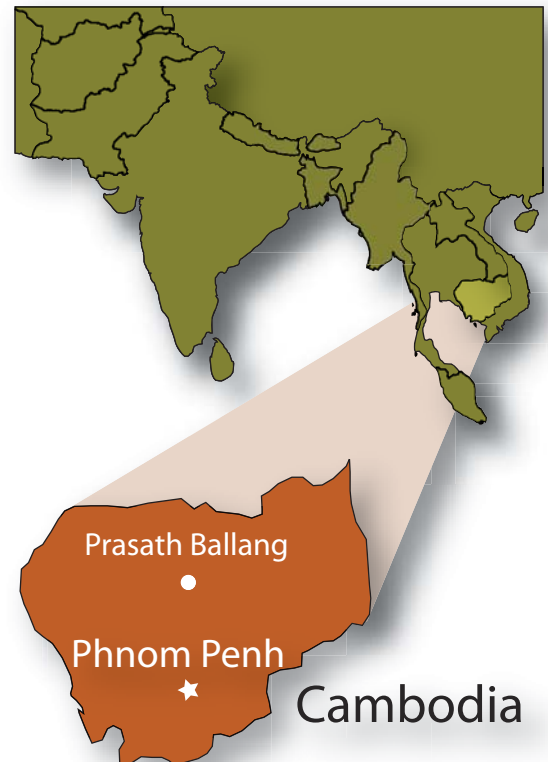
On the cover

Kim Hong, 3, doesn't need words to express how much he likes drinking clean water from a well instead of unsafe water from traditional sources such as streams. The well was provided through World Vision as part of our holistic plan to work with communities and help them create sustainable improvements in their lives.



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED IN CAMBODIA



*Our vision for every child,
life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart,
the will to make it so.*

—From World Vision's
vision statement

** The United Nations
defines an orphan as a child
younger than 18 who has
lost one or both parents.
Children who have lost one
parent are called orphans
because even the loss of
one parent, especially if that
parent is the mother, often
leads to the breakup of the
family and a change in living
situation for the child.*

Introduction

World Vision is deeply appreciative of the care and support—the love—the South Puget Sound Women of Vision have shown children and families in Cambodia. You have helped many people—particularly children—regain the hope they had lost and again believe they can have a full life and a bright future.

It is hard for most of us in the United States to understand what many people must go through to survive—just to have a glass of water or a place to sleep. You have felt their suffering and responded with an outpouring of support.

When you reach out as the hands of Jesus to people in need, you are reflecting His love and shining His light in the darkness. Thank you for your devotion to this life-changing partnership.

This report looks at the new Community Investors microenterprise development project you support in the Prasath Ballang area of Cambodia and gives an overview of other World Vision projects in that area. You will receive a separate report related to U.S. projects you so generously support.

Background

In Cambodia, the pressures of poverty coupled with the commercial sex trade pose serious threats to children. Girls are tricked into brothels by false promises of marriage or better jobs. Sex tourism and a demand for young partners—due in part to fear of HIV and AIDS—add to the vulnerability of children. In families desperate for income, parents may find themselves forcing their daughters into prostitution or labor. In other situations, children are sexually abused by relatives, neighbors, or acquaintances.

As your website states, “We have chosen to combat issues of human trafficking and child labor in Cambodia through microenterprise development. This will allow a poor woman to start a small business. As her income increases, more will be spent on her family and within the community, stimulating existing businesses and increasing the income of those entrepreneurs. As these businesses grow, more money is spent on their families, more employees will be hired, family welfare improves, and incomes increase throughout the community.

“As the community resources increase, children will be able to attend school and will not be expected to work locally or in the city to help support their families. By creating jobs and opportunities in rural communities, microenterprise development not only enables economic development, but improves the situations of women and children who are forced into compromising situations by the extreme destitution of their families.”

Your compassionate commitment will help transform the lives of vulnerable children in Cambodia, including orphans*, by creating more income-generating opportunities for their parents or caregivers. That in turn will enable more children to remain with their families instead of being sold into forced labor or sent to live on the streets.

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Who we are

Women of Vision is a volunteer ministry of World Vision that unites women who feel led to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity, and finances so that impoverished women and children might find hope, and a tangible expression of God's love.

The South Puget Sound Chapter began in the fall of 2008 with a group of women challenged by the Heart of The Matter Study. As a result of much prayer and guidance by World Vision, our chapter was officially formed in the spring of 2009. We meet regularly for prayer, planning, and education on issues pertaining to women and children in crisis.

We encourage all women to participate in what God is doing in our hearts and in the lives of women and children!

(From the South Puget Sound Women of Vision website)

Prasath Ballang, Cambodia

Prasath Ballang district, in Kampong Thom province, is home to 8,000 families. Ninety-five percent of the residents rely on farming to meet their needs, with the remainder engaged in crafts or small businesses. Food shortages occur throughout the year.

World Vision established its Prasath Ballang community development area in 1994 to help residents address issues such as water and sanitation, food security, education, healthcare, HIV and AIDS, peace, and justice. But further steps can be taken to give a hand up to the hardworking poor in this community. Access to business information, markets, and technology will equip people with the capacity to make informed decisions, improve their livelihoods, and increase their capacity for self-reliance.

Community Investors

In Prasath Ballang, the enterprising poor are severely limited in their access to credit, markets, training, and new technology. To help increase household productivity and income—which will lead to a better quality of life for families—World Vision will provide \$91,000 in business loans by September 2012 to poor entrepreneurs.

World Vision will gather borrowers together into community banks. There are great benefits to this community banking approach in that it creates opportunities for the poorest entrepreneurs to obtain credit. Self-selected groups of 20 to 30 borrowers agree to cross-guarantee each other's loans. The group screens borrowers and tracks repayment, building leadership and a sense of pride along the way. With loans, borrowers will be empowered to expand farming, or start and expand small businesses to generate income. As a community investor, you support financial services for the enterprising poor, leverage World Vision's community development work, and help families take a final step out of poverty.

VisionFund Cambodia helps the entrepreneurial poor get a start in business by providing small loans. As borrowers earn more income, they can provide their children with nutritious food and an education. This complements World Vision's ongoing ministry to those in need by giving families assistance in establishing secure, healthy, and dignified lives. As of June 2010, VisionFund Cambodia was serving 99,854 clients with a portfolio of \$25.8 million in outstanding loans.

VisionFund currently serves about 1,700 families in the Prasath Ballang district through other offices, while many more families are potential clients.

work



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A terrible but typical scenario

Your support of microenterprise development in the Prasath Ballang area will help prevent the following scenario from occurring:

Parents struggling for a way out of poverty and desperate to feed their family send their 8-year-old daughter to work as a domestic servant—or so they thought. Tricked by an unscrupulous acquaintance, the money they received was actually the down payment on the sale of their little girl into the sex trade.

After a period of brutal and systematic coercion into sexual slavery, maybe she is rescued and taken to a secure center for girls with similar stories.

But maybe she never gets rescued.

Thanks to you, fewer girls will have to hope someone rescues them.



In Sambo Village near Prasath Ballang in Kampong Thom province, Phorn Phuong concentrates as she weaves scarves, skirts, and tablecloths using a wooden loom. The 18-year-old admits this is “hard work,” but it’s work she enjoys. She learned to weave through a six-week course offered through World Vision. The training is free of charge and, once completed, graduates keep the looms with the agreement they will repay the \$90 cost within two years. Instructor Chhorn Ort says graduates can earn upwards of \$4 per day for the products they weave.

The Prasath Ballang Community Investors Project will target poor households in the district and especially women. The result will be more low-interest loans and business training, and more children experiencing changed lives.

By 2012 in Prasath Ballang, VisionFund seeks to set up an office to better serve the area’s clients, provide financial services to approximately 350 clients initially, and positively impact the lives of approximately 1,400 children.

Community development

The Prasath Ballang community development area includes four of Kampong Thom province’s seven communities, 27 villages, and 20,570 people. Ninety percent of the population is Buddhist and 5 percent is Christian.

Most families in Prasath Ballang are subsistence farmers growing paddy and upperland rice. Some families raise additional crops to supplement their income and nutrition, while others take on second jobs. The climate is tropical, with an average temperature of 89 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation is most plentiful during the rainy season, which runs from June through November.

Residents fortunate enough to live near the main highway that runs through the region have access to education and healthcare facilities. However, those residing in more remote, forested areas do not have the same access to services.

World Vision initiated the community development area in Prasath Ballang in 1994. Since then, interventions have been taking place to improve the lives of community members. In fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through



VisionFund Cambodia loan recipients are exceptionally good at repaying their loans. Here, Aran Cheas, a client service officer for VisionFund, totals up the monthly payments he received in the village of Salasantuk.

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A PRIORITY FOR WOMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

It is noteworthy that 86 percent of VisionFund Cambodia clients are women, since women are more likely than men to use additional income for children's well-being, including improved nutrition, basic education, and health services.

It also is noteworthy that 100 percent of these clients live within community development areas served by World Vision. The aim of a community development area is to ensure sustainable access to basics such as healthcare, education, clean water, food, and economic well-being.

September 2009) and the first half of fiscal year 2010 (through March 2010), World Vision focused its transformation efforts on education, health and nutrition, food security, and water and sanitation. Here is a look at some of the achievements in these focus areas:

Education: Helped 592 parents understand the value of education; supported 1,843 children with scholarships and school-related materials; maintained five sites for providing nonformal education to children who live in remote



Members of a VisionFund community bank in Chhrobok Mease village get together to weave baskets. The extra income they generate will benefit their children.

areas; created and maintained six clubs that promote peace within the community; and continued to educate children on their rights.

Health and nutrition: Increased the percentage of children receiving full immunizations to 86; boosted the number of pregnant and lactating mothers attending nutritional education classes to 3,811; and educated 4,270 people on diarrhea treatment and prevention and 5,754 people on malaria prevention and treatment.

Food security: Increased the number of households with home gardens by 89 for a total of 399; boosted

the number of households raising pigs or chickens by 46, for a total of 180; increased the number of farmers adopting soil management techniques by 31 for a total of 94; and added another farm group utilizing small-scale irrigation techniques.

Water and sanitation: Added 2,045 households to the number that keep their property clean by removing animal manure from under houses or making animal sheds separate from the house; increased the number of households by 135 that exhibit proper food preparation by washing their hands with soap before cooking and keeping food and utensils clean, constructed or renovated 81 additional household latrines, trained an additional 792 households in maintaining safe water sources, and increased the number of safe water sources in the area by 14 for a total of 213.

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AND FAMILIES IN
NEED IN CAMBODIA**



A quick look at Cambodia

Population	14.8 million
Area (square miles)	69,898
Life expectancy	62.5 years
Literacy rate	73.6 percent
HIV prevalence rate	0.8 percent
Per capita income	\$1,900
Population below poverty line	40%

A VisionFund loan enabled the mother of these children, shown doing some schoolwork, to purchase bags of rice she in turn sold for a profit. With the proceeds she was able to purchase school materials for the children, from left, Pesurn Srey Kah, 6, and Preourn Minah, 10.

Thank you

A mere thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation for the love the South Puget Sound Women of Vision are showing children and families in Cambodia.

People in the Prasath Ballang area are extremely grateful for your contributions to improving the lives of children there, many of whom have seen and experienced things we can barely imagine.

You are setting a wonderful example of Christ's love to people in need. May you be richly blessed for sharing your blessings. World Vision, along with these precious children, thanks you.



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.