

# Cambodian Women's Development Agency



## Annual Report 2010

Finding practical and innovative solutions to social problems by empowering vulnerable women and children.

# Contents

<b>What is the CWDA?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Dear Reader</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Programme Overview</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme</b>	<b>7</b>
- Cambodian Prostitute's Union	8
- CPU HIV+ Support Group	11
- Young Women's Health Study	13
<b>CSPATWC Programme</b>	<b>17</b>
(Community Self Prevention Against the Trafficking of Women and Children)	
- Sharing Information	18
- Poverty Alleviation	19
- Campaign Against Child Trafficking	21
- Support Services for Survivors	23
<b>Vocational Training Programme</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Financial Statement</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Organisational Structure</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Contact us</b>	<b>30</b>

## List of Abbreviations

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

Anti -Retroviral (ARV)

Amphetamine-type Substances (ATS)

Australian People for Health Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA)

Cambodia Against Child Trafficking (Cambodia ACTs)

Cambodian Community of Women with HIV/ AID (CCW)

Cambodian Women's Development Agency (CWDA)

Cambodian Prostitute's Union (CPU)

Community Information Centre (CIC)

Community Learning Centre (CLC)

Community Self Prevention against the Trafficking of Women and Children (CSPATWC)

Ensemble pour une solidarite Therapeutique Hospitaliere En Reseau (ESTHER)

Human Papaloma Virus (HPV)

Khmer Development of Freedom Organisation (KDFO)

Literary Resource Centre (LRC)

National Centre for HIV/AIDS and STDs (NCHADS)

NGOs Coalition to Address (Sexual) Exploitation of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM),

Opportunistic Infection (OI)

People Living With HIV/ AIDs (PLHA)

Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMCT)

Prostrate Specific Antigen (PSA)

Safe Villages Network (SVN)

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)

Sharing Experience Adapted Development (SEAD).

Terre Des Hommes, Netherlands (TDH)

The Young Women's Health Study (YWHS)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

University Of California and San Francisco (UCSF)

University of New South Wales Australia (UNSW)

Reader note... throughout the report the Khmer word *Khan* is used instead of *District* and *Sangkat* is used to replace *Commune*.

## What is the CWDA?

The Cambodian Women's Development Agency (CWDA) is a small local, non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) with no religious or political affiliations but a strong feminist agenda. It grew out of the dissolved Phnom Penh Municipality Women's Association and was accredited as an NGO by the Supreme National Council in May 1993.



The CWDA aims to promote self-sufficiency and self-reliance in Cambodian communities and the advancement of women's economic and social rights. It seeks to address the socio-economic and psychological problems resulting from Cambodia's two decades of civil war and political instability by empowering women in both their productive and reproductive capacities through education, organisation, and self-development, access to resources, advocacy and cooperation.

The philosophy and practice of the CWDA is the recognition and enhancement of the capacities and contributions of women in the process of national development. The CWDA has well established formal and informal networks with local, national and international governments and non-government sector organisations. The CWDA works in partnership with local communities in establishing gender sensitive, participatory community development initiatives and is involved in national lobbying efforts for the promotion of women's rights.

**Vision:** *Women and children in Cambodian society have quality of life, dignity, safety and are free from discrimination.*

**Mission:** *To enhance the capacity of women in Cambodia through empowerment, education, self-development and advocacy in collaboration with stakeholders.*

**Goals:** *To find practical and innovative solutions to social problems by empowering vulnerable women and children in underserved communities to govern their own lives and become autonomous and self-reliant.*

## Dear Reader,

2010 was another exciting and challenging year for the Cambodian Women's Development Agency. Despite the small size of our organisation, CWDA's programmes continued to work successfully towards improving the lives of Cambodian women. This success is thanks to the dedication and positive working relationships between CWDA staff and our project beneficiaries.

The CWDA's achievements for 2010 include the distribution of information on trafficking which reached communities through CWDA's Community Information Centres (CICs) and the efforts of the CWDA's women volunteer leaders who made over 3000 home visits. The CWDA's SMILE project in association with Asia-

Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) was successfully implemented and monitored, and saw a considerable increase in literacy. It is the only project in Cambodia which combines women's literacy with maternal healthcare and has greatly facilitated civil knowledge and good practice.

CWDA have continued the Young Women's Health Study in collaboration with the National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS), the University Of California and San Francisco (UCSF) and University of New South Wales Australia (UNSW). Data was collected to protect and care for at risk young women in Phnom Penh. The study boasts a 77% retention rate and has established solid relationships with academic and civic partners which we look forward to utilising in the future. The study was concluded with an informative presentation at the 2010 NCHADS Symposium.

I would like to thank all our donors – Terre Des Hommes Netherlands, Australian People for Health Education Development Abroad, Cambodia Against Child Trafficking, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, NGOs Coalition to Address (Sexual) Exploitation of Children in Cambodia, The Body Shop and UCSF - as well as to the many generous individuals, for their past or continuing support in our activities, without which the CWDA's important work in improving the lives of Cambodian women would not be possible. The team look forward to the next year which will mark 18 years since the CWDA was first established as an organisation. We step into 2011 with the experience, enthusiasm and determination to continue innovatively improve the lives of Cambodian women.

Best wishes for 2011,



Hun Phanna

Acting Executive Director, CWDA.



# CWDA Programmes

## The Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme

CWDA work with entertainment workers in Phnom Penh to provide healthcare, resources, information and regular, unbiased support. This programme is designed to help **prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to support and empower entertainment workers**. The programme involves two strands of activity: 1) **The Young Women's Health Study (YWHS)** which is a collaborative research study which monitors the health of female entertainment workers and provides them with healthcare and support; 2) **The Cambodian Prostitute's Union (CPU)** which is a collective of entertainment workers in Phnom Penh, supported by the CWDA. The CPU is wholly owned, governed and sustained by the entertainment workers themselves and is dedicated to improving the lives of entertainment workers and promoting their rights.



Learning how to wash hands with the SMILE Project (pg 14) in Kam Rieng Village.

## Community Self Prevention against the Trafficking of Women and Children

Every year Cambodian women and children are trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labour abuse. CWDA are committed to putting a **stop** to this practice by investing resources at a **community level and stopping trafficking at its roots**. We focus our efforts on **sharing information and awareness raising, poverty alleviation and peer education** to empower individuals and communities to prevent trafficking and other forms of violence. We provide opportunities in the community to raise the status of women and children through **literacy classes, micro-credit schemes, women's leadership and peer education**. CWDA is a member of Cambodia ACTS and implement the **Campaign to Combat Child Trafficking** project in 67 Cambodian villages. CWDA train peer educators and key trainers who teach their peers, community members and school students about the dangers of trafficking, the law, human rights, gender based violence and good parenting. In addition to preventative activities, CWDA provide support for survivors. CWDA run a **safe shelter** which provides refuge, support, legal aid and reintegration services for young women who have been the victims of or are at risk of trafficking, domestic violence and/ or sexual and labour abuse.

## The Vocational Training Programme

For many young people in Cambodia, educational choices are made in light of economic conditions. This means that education is often not a priority. The Vocational Training (VT) Programme provides further educational opportunities to a small number of local young people, in order to enhance their future prospects. The priority of the programme is to provide young people with 'real' options and is focused towards employment. Classes include English language, office skills, accounting, IT and citizenship. We provide a supported work experience placement at the end of the programme and mentor the young person to see them into good quality employment.

# The Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme



Working in the entertainment industry carries severe **health risks**, especially when you work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Endemic poverty, discrimination, high levels of violence, a severe HIV epidemic, high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI), high levels of drug use, and a highly mobile population result in a dangerous environment in which to live and work. **The Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme** works to decrease the endemic health risks of entertainment work and promote the rights of Phnom Penh's female entertainment workers through education and research, provision of resources, support, healthcare and advocacy

## SUMMARY

### Program Objectives:

- To empower female entertainment workers and protect their rights.
- To support and educate entertainment workers and encourage proper healthcare.
- To raise awareness and minimise the spread of HIV/ AIDS.

**T**he Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme works intensively with the **Cambodian Prostitute's Union (CPU)** which is a collective of entertainment workers based in Phnom Penh. The organisation was founded in 1998 in Phnom Penh's red light districts and is wholly owned, governed and sustained by the entertainment workers themselves and is dedicated to innovatively improving the lives of entertainment workers and promoting their rights. The CWDA provide organisational support to the CPU with the mission of **voicing the collective needs and concerns of entertainment workers with the express goal of empowering them to take control of their lives.**

The Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme has also included a research element since 2007 due to CWDA's involvement with the **Young Women's Health Study (YWHS)**. The YWHS is a research study involving the National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS), the University of California and San Francisco (UCSF), the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the CPU and the CWDA. The study assesses the socio-demographics, sexual health, risk and drug use of young women working in the entertainment industry in Phnom Penh.

# Cambodian Prostitute's Union

## How we work

The CPU is run from a small Women's Room in Toul Kork, which is open from Monday-Friday from 8am-12am and 2pm-5pm and offers a safe and friendly environment in which entertainment workers can come to receive information or advice, discuss their problems with a counselor or a peer educator or just socialise with their friends. The 'drop in' approach provides flexibility and lends itself to creating a community feel. This makes receiving counseling, information and advice easily accessible. The CPU has three main activities, in addition to managing the CPU HIV + Support Group:

- 1) Education and Training
- 2) Advocacy
- 3) Documentation and Monitoring.

## Where we work

The CPU works with **entertainment workers** throughout Phnom Penh but with a special focus on the 'red light' areas of the city. In Phnom Penh these are: around **Wat Phnom**, **Vihear Cham** and **Kdan II** in **Sangkat Sras Chhak**; **Psar Toch**, **Mitapheap Village** and around the **railway line** and **Sam Han Road** in **Toul Sangke**; and around the **railway** and **CMAC Road** in **Toul Kork**.

### The Stats. 2010...

**3,000** members of the CPU

**81** members of the HIV+ Support Group

**11** members diagnosed with HIV

**16** members received 'emergency funds'

**15** members per month received a travel allowance to access healthcare

**30** members per month received food support



## Education and Training

The CPU uses a system of **peer education** to create a strong communication network with and between members. This network promotes safety, information sharing and increases the likelihood that the most vulnerable can be accessed. Peer educators are members of the CPU who volunteer to receive training on health and human rights and non-formal education and basic counselling. They use this training in the community to make home and work place visits to entertainment workers. On average the CPU provide non-formal education to **323** entertainment workers per year.

These visits are used to **spread information** to individuals and groups of entertainment workers about **human rights, HIV/ AIDS transmission and prevention, STD prevention and healthcare, the dangers of drug abuse, safe sex practices, how to negotiate condom use with clients and safety.** The work of the CPU peer educators is supported and monitored by outreach workers from CWDA. **CWDA outreach workers** are trained in providing non-formal education and in counselling. They regularly visit the Women's Room, homes and workplaces of entertainment workers to provide information on **health and human rights**, to provide **counselling** and to **monitor** the community.



A peer educator teaches about and promotes condom use in the Women's Room in Toul Kork.

## Documentation and Monitoring

Visits by outreach workers and peer educators to members of the CPU provide an opportunity to learn about the specific problems faced by entertainment workers and monitor the effectiveness of the programme. Members are provided with **free counselling** from CWDA outreach workers who build case files for each member. This system of documentation allows the CPU to closely monitor the community and record any incidences of violence, abuse, serious illness, trafficking or drug abuse, for example. This enables the CWDA to **observe general practices and trends in the community and report human rights abuses.**

The CWDA have built **strong partnerships with legal aid organisations: Legal Services for Children and Women, Cambodian League for the Defence of Human Rights and the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association.** If a member of the CPU suffers a human rights abuse, with her consent, her case is passed on to one of these legal aid organisations to seek legal justice. Outreach workers also conduct regular workplace monitoring of CPU members, in which they conduct Informal interviews and observations. This allows the CWDA to build an accurate picture of trends and practices within the community, meaning that we can target the Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme accordingly.

**In 2010 the CPU reported:**

**9 cases of abuse by police and clients**

**50 members with drug addictions**

**11 members diagnosed with HIV**

**4 unsafe abortions**

## Advocacy

The CPU use public advocacy to promote the voice of entertainment workers and demand that their rights be realised.

In 2010:

- On 20th May members participated in the Candle Light Memorial Day to remember those who have died of AIDS.
- Two members gave interviews with Free Asia Radio, giving advice to people living with HIV/ AIDS (PLHA) on how to take care of their health.
- The HIV+ Support Group participated in a press release concerning the free trade agreement between India and the EU in the production and supply of drugs to Cambodia, including ARV for PLHA. A decision has now been reached that Cambodia will continue to be provided with the drug until 2015.
- Five members of the CPU participated with other network members in the Water Festival Campaign to raise awareness about HIV/ AIDs.
- The CPU worked with ESTHER Cambodia (Ensemble pour une solidarite Therapeutique Hospitaliere En Reseau) to secure funding from APHEDA to pay the expenses of CPU members receiving OI or ARV at Calmette Hospital, Phnom Penh.
- The CPU Leader participated in a press conference with Human Rights Watch USA on arbitrary detention and other human rights abuses against entertainment workers in Cambodia.



The CPU Leader meets with members of the media.



Members of the CPU participate in a campaign promoting condom use.

## Literary Resource Centre

In 2006 the CWDA established Cambodia's first **Literary Resource Centre (LRC)**. The LRC collects, develops, publishes and disseminates literacy information throughout Cambodia with a specific emphasis on the empowerment of women and girls through education. In 2010 the LRC developed innovative literary materials specifically designed to assist and complement the non-formal education activities of the CPU. These materials are designed by CWDA to provide members with information on health, human rights and safety. The CPU Women's Room is equipped by CWDA with these resources where they are used to support non-formal education activities.

## CPU HIV+ Support Group

The CPU run the HIV+ Support Group which provides healthcare, support, advocacy, community and counselling to members of the CPU who are HIV positive. The group works to improve the healthcare knowledge of members who are HIV+ and assist those caring for people with HIV/ AIDS. The group encourages a supportive community by providing counselling at drop-in sessions and home visits, regular meetings and training for members and public advocacy to promote the rights of people with HIV/ AIDS. **With thanks to NCHADS, the HIV+ Support Group is also able to provide free OI or ARV treatment to members and supports them in receiving their treatment.**

### Outreach Activity

The CPU the HIV+ Support Group uses a system of peer education and outreach work to communicate with members of the group and provide them with support and counselling. In 2010, peer educators and outreach workers provided education and information through weekly home visits based on the individual problems or needs of the members. This can involve educating members and their families about reproductive health and family planning, helping families to care for members with HIV/ AIDS, counselling members with drug addiction problems and making them aware of the impacts of drug use, distributing condoms on home visits, supporting women who have been victims of violence, visiting members in hospital or accompanying women to the health centre.

### Bi-monthly meetings

In 2010, the CPU conducted bi monthly meetings for members of the HIV+ Support Group. On average forty members attended each meeting throughout the year. These meetings have proved an effective means of disseminating information to members and a good opportunity for members to meet and share their experiences. Over the year, different speakers attended the meetings from Chhouk SAR clinic, CCW and monks from the Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC) to lend their support and share information.

### 2010 Activities:

- Outreach activity in the community
- HIV testing and healthcare
- Training of 7 outreach workers and peer educators
- Bi- monthly meetings
- Training on how to take care of people living with HIV/ AIDS (PLHA) and safe sex .



A CWDA outreach worker provides counseling to a member of the HIV+ Support Group.



Training in the CPU Women's Room.

## HIV testing and Healthcare

The CPU support and encourage their members to regularly be tested for HIV. In 2010, **11** entertainment workers in our target areas were **diagnosed with HIV**. The newly diagnosed members were referred to Chhouk Sar clinic and then Preah Kosamak hospital. During this period we visited **6** women at Preah Kosamak, Calmette and Preah Sihanouk Hospitals and provided **emergency funds** to support **16** women.



The CPU leader visits a member of the HIV+ Support Group in Calmette Hospital, Phnom Penh.

At the time of writing there are **81** members of the CPU HIV+ Support Group of which **25** member are receiving OI (opportunistic infection) treatment and **56** are receiving ARV (anti-retroviral) treatment. Every month in 2010, we provided a **travel allowance** to **15** members which enabled them to access health services at clinic Chhouk SAR, Preah Kosamak, Preah Sihanouk, Samdech Ev, Calmette and Preah Keto Mealea hospitals. Every month **30** members received **food support** (rice, canned fish, instant noodles and vegetable oil) to help to improve their daily nutrition. In this period the CPU referred the daughter of a member who is seriously ill to **Home Centre** in Sihanouk Province to receive support and treatment. She is now recovered and is able too attend public school.

## Taking Care of People Living with HIV/ AIDS and Safe Sex

The CPU conducted a two day basic and refresher training course for 80 HIV+ Support Group members. The training was facilitated by the **CWDA**, the **Cambodian Community of Women with AIDS (CCW)**, **Khmer Development of Freedom Organisation (KDFO)**, **Marie Stopes** and **Sharing Experience Adapted Development (SEAD)**. The training was designed to provide members with knowledge, information and resources to look after their own health, PLHA and how to keep sex safe (The specific of the topics were: human rights and AIDS facilitated by **CCW**, harm reduction facilitated by **KDFO**, reproductive health/ family planning facilitated by **Marie Stopes**, safe sex and negotiation skill for using condom facilitated by **CWDA and CPU**, the importance of using OI and ARV treatment facilitated by **SEAD**, how to take care of PLHA and HIV /AIDS and nutrition).



Project site in Toul Kork, Phnom Penh.

# The Young Women's Health Study

In collaboration with: National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS), University of California and San Francisco (UCSF), University of New South Wales (UNSW) Australia.



A group of participants from the Young Woman's Health Study.

## The study aims to:

- To assess sexual health and drug use among young women with multiple sex partners in Phnom Penh.
- To assess the willingness of women to participate in future HIV/STI prevention and drug treatment research in this population.
- To identify barriers and motivating factors related to participation in longitudinal prevention research.

**I**n June 2007 CWDA collaborated with the National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS), the University of California and San Francisco (UCSF) and University of New South Wales (UNSW) to begin a longitudinal research project which assessed sexual health and drug use in young women aged 15-29 years with multiple sex partners who are at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

## Target Group

220 young women (aged 15-29) at high risk of STIs, specifically HIV.

## Target area: Phnom Penh

Women were recruited in 13 sites in 6 Sangkats as below:

Sangkat Boeung Kak: 2 sites, Sangkat Toul Sang Ke: 4 sites, Sangkat Sras Chhak 4 sites, Sangkat Prek Leap: 1 site, Sangkat Chroy Chang Var: 1 site, Sangkat Tongle Bassac: 1 site.

## Process of Activities

### Project Dissemination

Before entering the study, participants were given detailed information about the aims of the research and what their participation would involve. Women attended the meetings to hear information about the research project's aims and the procedures of the study. The individual benefits (free counselling, healthcare, free condoms and project incentive), social benefits, selection criteria and potential risks and discomforts resulting from participation were also explained. Interested women who met the criteria were invited to come to the CPU Women's Room in Tuol Kork at a later date to formally enrol in the study.

### Recruitment

From 345 women who attended the information sessions, 264 volunteered to participate and were screened as meeting the eligibility criteria of the study. These women were invited to come to the CPU Women's Room to formally join the study and sign the consent form. At this meeting outreach workers explained again information about the project and what the women's participation would involve. Following this the consent form was explained in detail to participants and they were invited to ask questions before signing the forms. The final number of participants who signed the consent form was 220 (67 from YWH1) and they also got one black copy of the consent form.

### Follow-up visits at the clinic

#### Enrolment Visit

Participants were interviewed about risk behaviour, they took an ATS and a pap test and were tested for HIV/AIDS and each participant was given an enrolment number (ID#). Two weeks following the check-up the women returned to the clinic where they received their tests results. At each visit women were provided with pre-test and post-test counselling.

All 220 participants attended the enrolment visit. Only 212 participants returned to receive their test results. Women who were HIV positive were encouraged to access healthcare services close to their home or of their own choosing. For women who were found to be non-HIV positive, they were encouraged to continue to practice safe sex. 42 Women were found with abnormal test results. They were provided with counselling and referral cards to the MCH Hospital.

### Summary of Achievements

- Project Dissemination
- Recruitment
- Follow-up visits at the clinic
- Community Outreach work
- Counselling Service
- Meetings with women leaders
- Referred women to health service
- Monthly meeting
- Collaboration



Discussing the consent form in recruitment.

### First Visit (3 months)

After 3 months the participants returned to the clinic for further testing. 200 returned for interviewing and testing for HIV/AIDS, ATS and after 2 weeks, 185 participants returned to receive their results and were provided with counselling and health services.

### Second Visit (6 months)

At the 6 month visit, 183 participants returned for interview and testing for HIV/AIDS, ATS, Urine test and PSA. After 2 weeks, 185 participants returned to receive their results and were provided with counselling. 177 returned to receive their test results and counselling and health services were provided.

### Third Visit (9 months)

At 9 months, 172 participants returned to the clinic for interview and testing for HIV/AIDS, ATS, Urine test and PSA. 163 Participants returned for their results and counselling and health services were provided.

### Fourth (Final) Visit (12 months)

At the final visit 170 participants came to interview and test for HIV/AIDS, ATS and PSA. 155 women returned to receive their test results after 2 weeks and counselling and health services were provided.

### Vaccination for HPV prevention

Women who were not pregnant received 3 doses of HPV vaccine at each follow up visit. At the first visit 149 women received vaccine V0, at the second visit 135 women received vaccine V1 and at the last visit 118 received vaccine V2. We noticed that the numbers of women that received the vaccine reduced in each visit because some women became pregnant or they missed the follow up visit because they moved away from the area.

### Health service referral

Among the 46 participants who received abnormal test results 33 were referred to a private clinic for repeat tests and colposcopy tests and treatment. The 12 participants who were not referred; 4 women were pregnant, 6 women moved out and 2 women were HIV positive.

### Community Outreach work

CWDA outreach workers visited the participants every week to monitor their health, including mental health, living situation and other problems they may be facing. CWDA outreach workers provided information on STDs and HIV prevention, reminded and encouraged participants to make an appointment to go to the clinic and to take their medicine; provided education about the dangers of drug abuse and advise them to stop or reduce taking drugs. CWDA outreach workers also accompanied the women to the clinic for follow-up visits.



A CWDA Outreach Worker at a follow up visit with participants .



CWDA outreach worker meets participants.

## Counselling Service

Every month CWDA provided counselling for on average 30-40 participants. For HIV positive women CWDA counsellors provided advice and encouraged the participants to access health services, to regularly monitor their health and to take their medicine on time as directed. The counsellor also strongly advised these women that although they are already HIV positive, they should avoid contracting any further STDs and transmitting HIV to others by continuing to use condoms. HIV positive participants were encouraged to use the services of the CPU HIV+ Support Group (pg. 9). For non-positive women, the CWDA counsellor advised the women to keep using condoms to prevent STDs and HIV/AIDS and they strongly advised all of the participants to avoid using drugs and educated the women on the dangers of using drugs. Counselling was provided in the CPU Women's Room and also in the community on home and brothel visits. Home visits were particularly important for women who lived far from the Women's Room.

## Meetings with Women leaders

CWDA outreach workers conducted group meetings with 35 women leaders every 3 months at The CPU Women's Room. Communication with participants was reviewed and participants were able to raise any problems they faced. Participants were able to share information and experiences with each other on health education and discuss how to take the project forward for the benefit of the participants.

The overall feedback from the participants suggests that this study project should be continued because of the clear benefit received by participants. The most important benefit for the participants was the free healthcare, including abortion services and other reproductive



A monthly meeting with participants at the CPU Women's Room

health services. CWDA outreach workers also used the meetings to encourage women leaders to strengthen the communication between their members and thanked them for participating in the study.

## Monthly meeting

Every month CWDA project outreach workers, project manager and counsellor met together to discuss the project. The main difficulties that the outreach workers faced were women moving because of personal problems, redevelopment and to avoiding police harassment. These meetings focused on ways to solve or minimise the effects of these problems.

## Collaboration

CWDA collaborated with clinic staff during each clinic visit and maintained strong communications with them throughout the project.



CWDA believe that children should be allowed to enjoy a childhood free from violence. Here two young boys play in Taley Village.

# Community Self-Prevention Against the Trafficking of Women and Children

## Programme Objectives:

- To raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking.
- To educate those vulnerable to trafficking and provide them with the tools to gain an alternative income.
- To conduct research and share information on trafficking and its causes.

## SUMMARY

Every year Cambodian women and children are trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labour abuse. CWDA are committed to putting a **stop** to this practice by investing resources at a **community level and stopping trafficking at its roots**. We focus our efforts on **sharing information and awareness raising, poverty alleviation and peer education** to empower individuals and communities to prevent trafficking and other forms of violence. We provide opportunities in the community to raise the status of women and children through **literacy classes, micro-credit schemes, women's leadership and peer education**. CWDA is a member of Cambodia ACTS and implement the **Campaign to Combat Child Trafficking** project in 67 Cambodian villages. CWDA train peer educators and key trainers who teach their peers, community members and school students about the dangers of trafficking, the law, human rights, gender based violence and good parenting. In addition to preventative activities, CWDA provide support for survivors. CWDA run a **safe shelter** which provides refuge, support, legal aid and reintegration services for young women who have been the victims of or are at risk of trafficking, domestic violence and/ or sexual and labour abuse.

This programme is implemented in 67 villages in 8 Sangkats: Stung Mean Chey, Boeung Tompun, Prekbra, Cbar Ampov I., Cbar Ampov II, Chak Angrer Leu, Chak Angrer Kroim, and Sangkat Nirod, in Khan Meanchey, Phnom Penh Municipality.

## Activities:

### 1. Sharing Information

- Community Information Centres
- Women Leaders

### 2. Poverty Alleviation

- SMILE Asia Project
- Microcredit

### 3. Campaign to Combat Child Trafficking

- Peer educators
- Key Trainers
- Public advocacy

### 4. Support Services for survivors

- Safe shelter
- legal aid
- reintegration

## Sharing Information and Awareness Raising

CWDA's awareness raising activities are an integral part of the anti-trafficking programme. We teach communities about the dangers of trafficking and how to avoid and prevent it. This aspect of the programme especially focuses on the role of female empowerment in preventing trafficking and gender based violence. By giving women the tools to have leadership and decision making roles in their community, CWDA aims to stop trafficking and gender based violence for this generation and those to come.

### Community Information Centres

CWDA manage a network of **Community Information Centres (CICs)** which act as a focal point of their community work. These centres provide a 'safe space' for women to meet and hold community meetings. CICs also provide a space for CWDA to hold regular literacy classes with community members (see SMILE Asia Project, page 19) and provide counselling and support services. The CICs are managed by **women leaders** from the community and house educational resources from the CWDA **Literary Resource Centre** (page 10).

Each CIC is equipped with multiple documents such as **books, pamphlets, newspapers, posters and flip charts supplied by CWDA**. The CICs are open every day in the mornings from 8:00-10:30am and in the afternoons from 2:00-4:30pm. Community members provide the materials and labour to construct the CICs which creates a sense of ownership and responsibility. The CWDA provides support through weekly monitoring visits and the regular provision of new documents and materials.

### Women Leaders

CWDA has supported the establishment of **Women leader Groups** within each of the CIC villages. The members of these groups appoint one woman to act as overall manager of the CIC while all of the women are responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of the CICs. The CWDA train the women leaders in CIC management and leadership, as well as providing education on the prevention of trafficking and other issues such as domestic violence, sanitation, nutrition and health care.



Villagers from Khvet Village outside their CIC.



A Women's Leader Group meeting Tropaing Chork Village



A mother reads to her children using materials from the CIC in Tropaing Trob Village.

# Poverty Alleviation



## SMILE Asia Project Supporting Maternal and Child Health improvement and Building Literate Environments

CWDA worked with the ACCU (Asia Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO) for Girls and Women Programme which promotes the literacy and non-formal education of local communities, especially women and girls through curriculum development, training, networking, information sharing and advocacy. It has 18 Organisations in 17 countries and the CWDA are proud to be one of them. The SMILE project was formulated as a **new model project in Cambodia which integrates literacy with maternal and child health education**. The project targets illiterate and neo-literate mothers, with a focus on mothers' influential roles in families and communities.



### What is SMILE?

The SMILE Project provides **integrated literacy and maternal health classes** with the objective of **creating literate environments at home and in the community and to improve the health condition of mothers and children**. In 2010, 162 women enrolled in the project who were literate or neo-literate and were either pregnant or had children between 0-5 years old. The project ran in 8 villages in 4 Sangkats of Khan Dangkor and 1 village in 1 Sangkat of Khan Russey Keo. CWDA formed mother's groups in each village to support the learning from the literacy and maternal health classes. Each village received funding from the project to create a **Community Learning Centre** (with the same design as a CIC, see page 19), which was provided with resources from the CWDA LRC (see page 10). The CLC provides a safe space for the literacy and maternal health classes and for the mother's group meetings.



A literacy and maternal health class in Prey Veng Village.

### How does it work?

16 facilitators (2 per village) were selected to facilitate the literacy classes. The facilitators were also responsible for circulating SMILE information and reading materials to the students and making 'door to door' home visits to encourage reading at home. ACCU also provided gift packages for each of the learners (1 pen, 1 note book, 1 soap, 1 towel, 1 Khmer alphabet poster including reading books relate with mothers and child care). The participants built strong partnerships with local health clinics who were able to offer additional support and resources to the project. The mother's groups made message boards where they could display health information which would be read by other members of the community. CWDA project staff also conducted additional workshops in the community with a focus on practical skills to improve health and nutrition. Topics included; how to process soya beans, how to make a re-hydration formula and how to provide good nutrition for your family. During the project CWDA also worked closely and provided training on mother and child health to the Committee Women's Council Responsible for Women and Children (CCWC).



A Mother's Group Meeting in Tropaing Trob Village.

## Microcredit

Poverty is one of the root causes of trafficking. By working with communities to alleviate poverty, raise living standards and enhance the status of women and children, CWDA are empowering communities to stop trafficking.

**CWDA provides microcredit at very low interest rates to rural women to improve their land their families living standards and to establish and promote their status within their family and community.** The microcredit is used for such purposes as establishing or improving small businesses, paying school fees, healthcare or house maintenance. CWDA outreach workers support beneficiaries and help them to plan their investments. CWDA provides these loans to the poorest people in the full knowledge that they may not be able to be paid back on time. CWDA does not charge interest on loans given to families in extreme poverty, to people living with HIV/AIDS and/or those who have lost a family member to AIDS. CWDA also provides microcredit to the families of trafficking victims after the victims have been reintegrated from the CWDA Safe Shelter.

### How it works

Beneficiaries are encouraged to establish Loan Groups to support each other and to encourage savings. Each loan group is comprised of 5-8 members. Before receiving a loan each member must make a small contribution to the **community savings fund**. The community savings fund is then used for small community projects. CWDA also encourages individual savings, with each member required to contribute a small amount each month to an individual savings fund. Every month the members pay both capital and interest. In this way, villagers are able to work towards financial security and can save and plan for the future. CWDA also provide microcredit to the families of girls who have been reintegrated from the CWDA Safe Shelter (see page 22) and provide the victims with materials such as school books, stationary and a bicycle, so that she can complete her education.



This woman used microcredit to buy seeds. Here she teaches her grandson about growing vegetables. Kam Rieng



A tailor used her microcredit from CWDA to buy a sewing machine.



A woman prepares fish to sell on her stall bought with microcredit from CWDA.

# Campaign to Combat Child Trafficking



CWDA is a partner of Cambodia ACTs in its Campaign to Combat Child Trafficking. Cambodia ACTs is an NGO network composed of twelve NGOs working to stop child trafficking in 9 provinces and Phnom Penh municipality. The project works with local stakeholders to raise awareness and build capacity. **Within this project, CWDA trains peer educators and key trainers and organises public advocacy events.**



## Peer Education

CWDA train children to be **peer educators** who spread information about the dangers of trafficking to their friends in school and in the community. Aged between 12 and 17, CWDA provide them with on going training and support in this role. In 2010 we provided a two-day Training of Trainer's workshop and ongoing monitoring and practical support throughout the year. This training provides peer educators knowledge on trafficking law, child rights, the role of good parents, child protection, gender based violence. The peer educators provide a **vital link** to the community and mean that we can share information with and access those who are most vulnerable. In 2010, CWDA supported **20** peer educators (15 female, 5 male). In turn they reached **1,374** of their peers (of which 659 were female) with information on trafficking and its dangers.



Growing up happy and healthy in Prey Veng Village

## Key Trainers

**CWDA train school teachers, community leaders and representatives from the Department of Women's Affairs to teach school students and community members about the dangers of trafficking, human rights, good parenting and gender based violence.** The model is based on positive behaviour change and aims to decrease violence committed both by and to children, equip children and community members with practical knowledge aimed at decreasing violence and empower them. In 2010, we continued to provide support to and train **16** **key trainers**. In turn they used their training to provide ongoing information about the dangers and prevention of trafficking and violence to **2472** **school students and community members**, of whom 1955 were female. Key trainers also visited **110** **villages** to educate villagers.

## Public Advocacy

**On 12th December 2010 CWDA organised celebrations for National Anti-Trafficking Day** in Wat Dampok Kpos, Sangkat Boeung Tumpun, Khan Meanchey. The day was designed to raise awareness about human trafficking and to build networks between organisations working to combat it. There were well over **300** participants on the day and it received excellent media coverage from local TV and radio stations and Kam-puchea Thmey newspaper.

# Support Services for Survivors



## CWDA Safe Shelter

CWDA run a safe shelter in Phnom Penh which provides **refuge and support** for young women and girls who are the victims of, or are at risk of **trafficking, domestic violence, sexual or labour abuse**. The mission of the Safe Shelter is to empower young women and girls from these backgrounds of violence, abuse and trafficking to **become strong, resilient and independent members of the community**. This approach which includes **counseling, rehabilitation, education, vocational training and work experience** has enabled hundreds of women to reintegrate successfully into the community. **In 2010 the shelter assisted 31 girls and young women aged between 10-25 years old**. In addition CWDA assisted and continue to monitor **35** girls and young women in the community who were deemed by outreach workers as 'at risk' or had been victims of gender based violence or trafficking. In these cases CWDA provided counselling, mediation on behalf of the beneficiary, legal aid, (see below), microcredit and materials for school studies. In 2010, the Shelter was funded by COSECAM. Services at the CWDA Safe Shelter include:

- Safe accommodation
- Food, clothes and materials
- Healthcare including an onsite nurse.
- Counselling
- Rehabilitation
- Reintegration
- Vocational training (including the CWDA's Vocational Training Programme, an onsite weaving course and other private vocational and skills training programmes - see page 24)
- Formal education at public school



Most of all we aim to provide a **happy and safe** place for the girls to live. The shelter is a home for the girls and young women everything possible is done to create a **stimulating and supportive** environment for them.

## Legal Aid

The CWDA have built **strong partnerships with legal aid organisations: Legal Services for Children and Women, Cambodian League for the Defence of Human Rights and the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association**. These organisations provide legal aid to any client who stays at the CWDA Safe Shelter or any member of the communities where CWDA work.

# Vocational Training Programme

Union Aid Abroad APHEDA  
The overseas humanitarian aid agency of the ACTU



**F**or many young people in Cambodia, educational choices are made in light of economic conditions. This means that education is often not a priority. The aim of the Vocational Training (VT) Program is to provide further educational opportunities to a small number of local young people, and so enhance their future prospects. The most recent VT Program, supported by APHEDA, ran for 2 years. The first course ran during 2009 with 15 young people (9 females and 6 males) and the second in 2010 with 12 young people (8 females & 4 males) from Phnom Penh

## Objective:

To provide vocational skills to disadvantaged young people in order to generate an income and enhance employment opportunities.

**T**he curriculum was designed by CWDA and APHEDA to provide beneficiaries with a relevant learning experience that that could be successfully utilised within the job market. **The aim of the course is to provide students with real options for the future and successfully see them into well paid and good quality employment.** To achieve this the curriculum included English language, typing, accounting, book keeping, administration, office management, filing, administrative writing, computer skills and general education classes. At the end of the course, the students were provided with a three month, supported work experience placement, where they could try out their new found skills. To date, the students who completed the 2010 course have all found employment or are continuing their work experience placements. CWDA are very proud of our students and will continue to support them in their future careers. Vocational training courses are also offered to the girls in the shelter and we do all we can to help them to build the future that they want. We also teach the girls at the shelter traditional Khmer weaving skills, where silk and cotton is made into *samputs* (traditional Khmer skirts) and bags and although this is used as more of a therapy, we do sell the samputs to members of the public and the money goes back into the girls education.

## Progress of Activities

### Stage 1: (1<sup>st</sup> February - 31st March)

The programme was promoted to potential candidates. Promotional materials, such as flyers and information sheets were distributed to local communities, offices and schools (Makara, Daun Penh, Mean Chey, Sen Sok, Tuol Kork and Russey Keo in Phnom Penh Municipality). Over twenty prospective students applied and twelve (8 females and 4 males) were selected on a needs-test basis through interview and a home visit by both CWDA and APHEDA staff. **The curriculum was designed by CWDA and APHEDA.**

### Stage 2: English Language Course (05.04.10– 20.05.10)

To begin the 2010 programme an English Language course ran for 2 months with 2 ½ hours of classes every week day. The course provided students with practical skills in speaking, pronunciation, spelling, listening and writing in English. The course included 18 hours of individual Self Learning Unit (SLU) practice and 15 hours of TV watching. This gave the students a good grounding for the rest of the course.

**Typing Course:** the typing class ran for 2 months with classes held every day for 1 ½ hours. The course provides practical typing skills in English and Khmer.

### Stage 3: General Office Skills Course (07.06.10—28.10.10)

**Accounting:** the accounting course ran in two stages, the first from the 7<sup>th</sup> June- 13<sup>th</sup> August and the second stage from 30 August - 15 November, each with 12 students. During the course, the students studied an introduction to accounting and book keeping, accounts payable/ creditors, accounts receivable/ debtors and bank reconciliation statements. The students studied 1 1/2 hours per day, 5 days per week.

**Administration:** the Administration Course ran in two stages, the first from August 16<sup>th</sup> - October 28<sup>th</sup> and the second stage running from 16th November to 31st January 2011 with 12 students. The duration of the course was 2 ½ months. The students studied theories and practical skills on basic concepts and office management, role and office equipment, filing management, administrative writing, office management, the role of a secretary and how to write a CV. The students studied 1½ hours per day, 5days per week.

**English Language Course 2:** the second English Language Course was held every weekday for 1 hour. The class provided students with practical skills in speaking, listening and writing in English including communication skills on how to use the telephone, dealing with problems such as a bad line, wrong numbers, making and receiving calls, taking messages, telephoning for someone else and making appointments, and 11 hours of individual Self Learning Unit, and 12 hours watching TV.



**Computer Skills Course:** the Computer Course was held every weekday for 1 hour. This class trained students in practical based office management software packages such as how to write articles, letters, reports and budgets using Microsoft Office Programs, how to set up an E-mail account, check E-mails and use the Internet.

**General Education:** all students who attended stage 2 of the VT Program also received 25 hours of compulsory classes in 'general education'. These classes included information and education on: trafficking, human rights, domestic violence, nutrition, HIV/ AIDS, gender, drug and Labour Code.

### Class Monitoring and Evaluation

Both APHEDA and CWDA monitored the ongoing progress of the VT Program, making sure that students were gaining from the program and standards were kept. Students progress was monitored through regular testing. At the start of each lesson all students are given a pre-test (10-15 questions depending on the lesson) and at the end of the lesson all students are given post-test to determine the knowledge gained during the lesson.



Classroom activities in the 2010 programme

### Stage 4: 1<sup>st</sup> November - 28<sup>th</sup> January: Work Experience

Before the Programme began CWDA wrote to various local organisations to ask whether they would be willing to take on a work experience student. Positive feedback was received from these inquiries and good quality work experience placements were organised before the start of the course. Students prepared their CV during the course and 3 – 4 of the students CVs were sent for the organisation to select. CWDA also organised for a representative from UNDP to speak to the students to share his experience of working at an NGO. He answered the student's questions and concerns and offered them motivation and advice.



English class, 2010 programme

The work experience commenced on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 and lasted for 3 months. All 12 students had work experience placements at a variety of different NGOs, companies and organizations, including Save the Children Australia, UNDP and CWDA. CWDA staff regularly visited each workplace to monitor the students and to discuss the progress of the students with staff, help to solve any problems and to secure the standard of the placement. CWDA staff received excellent feedback from the students on their placements and we were able to ascertain that the curriculum had been relevant and useful. At the end of the work experience placement we the students spoke to an advisor about their placements and they took a final test to ascertain what they had gained from the course and to improve the curriculum in the future.

# Financial Statement

For the year ending 31st December 2010

Income	2010 US\$	2009 US\$
APHEDA	12,974.40	13,162.29
COSECAM	13,550.25	18,045.33
Cambodia ACTs	14,757.17	17,769.72
UCSF	42,593.58	53,338.78
UNESCO/ACCU	10,290.00	5,000.00
Trust Funds	21,909.00	5,426.01
Body Shop	0.00	6,040.27
Other Income	1,787.16	1,514.76
	<b>117,861.56</b>	<b>120,297.16</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Personnel expenses	53,545.80	52,735.00
Operating expenses	54,694.82	53,303.62
Administrative expenses	4,833.06	6,305.23
	<b>113,073.68</b>	<b>112,343.85</b>
Excess of receipts over disbursements	4,787.88	7,953.31
<b>Fund balance at beginning of year</b>	16,366.18	8,412.87
	<b>21,154.06</b>	<b>16,366.18</b>
<b>Fund balance at end of year</b>	<b>21,154.06</b>	<b>16,366.18</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>		
Cash in hand	-790.20	522.98
Cash in bank	21,944.26	15,843.20
Advance	0.00	0.00
	<b>21,154.06</b>	<b>16,366.18</b>

## CWDA Board of Directors

Ms. Barbara Fitzgerald - APHEDA Programme Coordinator Cambodia

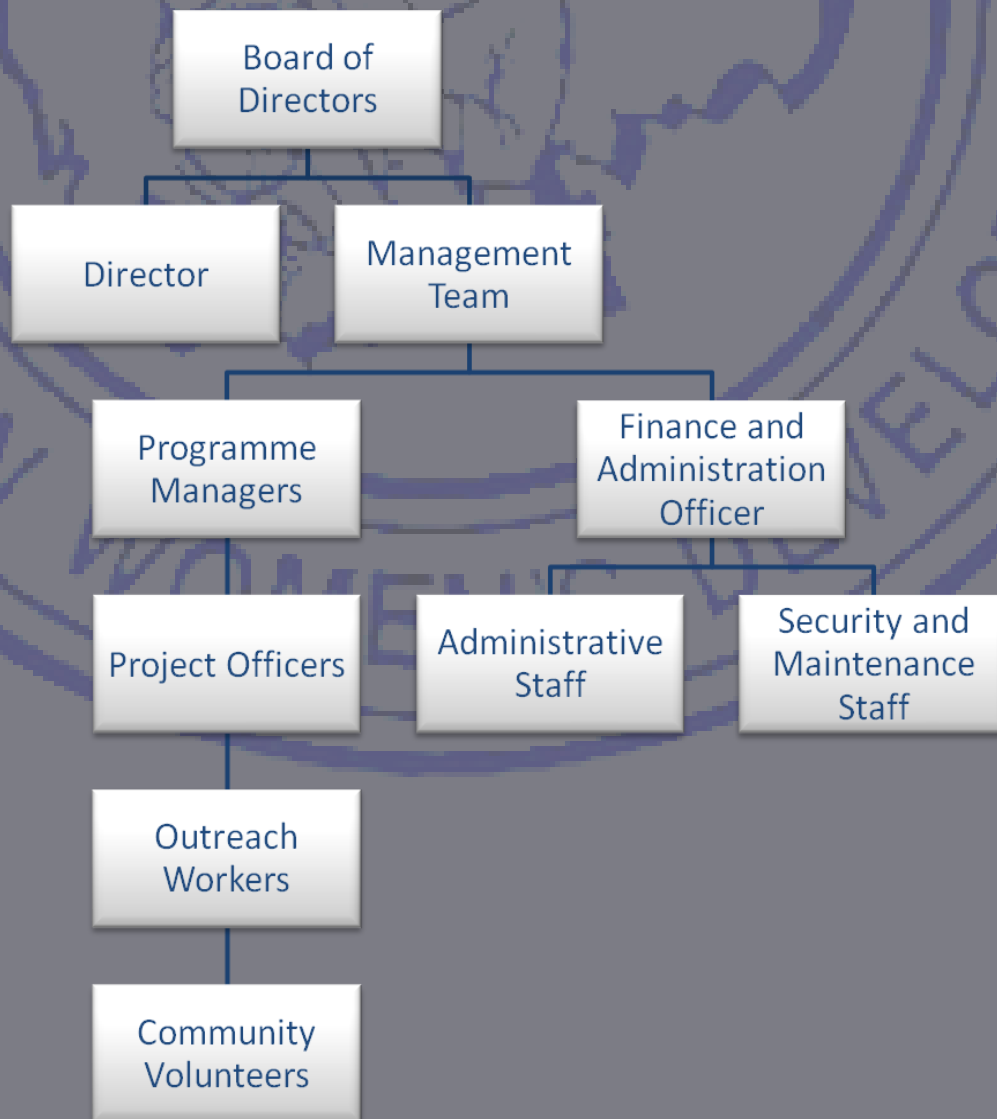
Ms. Minh Navy - OXFAM GB Programme Coordinator

Ms. Ly Vichuta - Executive Director, Legal Support for Children and Women

Mr. Chea Pyden - Executive Director, Vulnerable Children Assistance Organisation

Mr. Tep Chanbora - Programme Manager, Gender and Development Network

## Organisational Structure



## CWDA Staff

**Ms. Hun Phanna - Acting Executive Director**

**Ms. Chhoeung SunLay - CSPATWC Programme Coordinator**

**Ms. Keo Sichan - Women's Health and HIV/ AIDS Programme Coordinator**

**Ms. Chan Ratanak Ubol - Vocational Training Programme Coordinator**

**Ms. Sao Sotheary - Finance and Administration Officer**

**Ms. Tony Masy - Project Officer**

**Ms. Serey Mealy - Counsellor**

**Ms. Chhouk Sithan - Outreach Worker**

**Ms. Ossoth Thavy - Outreach Worker**

**Ms. Or Sokchhoeun - Safe Shelter Manager**

**Ms. Chan Dyna - CPU Leader**

**Miss. Seng Phally - Nurse**

**Ms. Chhoeun Serey Vann - Office Skills Teacher**

**Miss. Thuch Vichea - Administrative Assistant**

**Mr. Yim Dara - Driver and Security Guard**

**Mr. Em Chamroeun - Security Guard**

**Mr. Chhorn Yorn—Security Guard**



CWDA had two voluntary interns in 2010. We would like to thank Miss Melissa Cockroft, who worked for CWDA from 2008 - 2010, and Miss Laura Roberts, who worked for CWDA for seven months from September 2010 - March 2011.

## Thank you...

The Cambodian Women's Development Agency would like to thank our generous donors **APHEDA, COSECAM, Cambodia ACTS, UCSF and ACCU** who make the work that we do possible.

## Contact us...

The Cambodian Women's Development Agency is a small organisation that is dedicated to improving the lives of Cambodian women and promoting their rights. If you like what you have read in this report please consider making a donation to further our work. Any donation is always appreciated and will go directly to supporting our activities. **If you have any questions or queries or would like to make a donation, please do not hesitate to contact us...**

**Office Address:** #19, Street 242  
Sangkat Boeng Prolit  
Khan 7 Makara  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

**Postal Address:** PO Box 2334  
Phnom Penh III  
Cambodia

**Phone:** +855 23 210 449

**Fax:** +855 23 210 487

**Email:** [cwda@online.com.kh](mailto:cwda@online.com.kh)

**Website:** <http://www.pub22.net/cwda/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CambodianWomensDevelopmentAgency>



**STREET ADDRESS**

#19, Street 242  
Sangkat Boeng Prolit  
Khan 7 Makara  
Phnom Penh  
CAMBODIA

**POSTAL ADDRESS**

PO Box 2334  
Phnom Penh III  
CAMBODIA

**CONTACT**

Phone: +855 23 210 449  
Fax: + 855 23 210 487  
Email: [cwda@online.com.kh](mailto:cwda@online.com.kh)