

JRS CAMBODIA 2014

Hospitality

Dignity

Compassion

Hope

Justice

Participation

Solidarity

Reconciliation



ACCOMPANY | SERVE | ADVOCATE

GENERAL CONTEXT

2014 ended more peacefully than it began. Political tension ran high with “manifestations of people demanding that their government protect their right TO LIVE IN DIGNITY”. The justice system is not independent, impunity for the powerful and well-connected is widespread, and many innocents were imprisoned or violently beaten or “disappeared.”

In July 2014, the Opposition Party agreed to take their seats in the National Assembly and the semblance of an elected government began. The Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) is still in control, but the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), led by Sam Rainsy, is exercising influence in some of the Parliamentary commissions. The disputed 2013 election results did not stop the party that claimed victory passing legislation from January to July. Youth and workers of Cambodia, very active in the election period, need to maintain their enthusiasm for democracy and quality of life for all. A new mood of collaboration for common good may have surfaced.

ECONOMIC

The gap between the rich and the poor grows. Many of the people in the countryside are extremely poor while in Phnom Penh, opulent houses, luxury cars and high rise complexes are evident. Our survey of people with disability showed more than 50% of people did not have enough food to eat. Garment workers protest for a minimum wage.

SOCIAL/CULTURAL

Buddhism is the major religion and centre of cultural festivals. Islam and Christianity have freedom. There are some tensions with ethnic Vietnamese and the Khmer Krom are restive about their situation. Degradation of the forests, logging, land evictions, migrant workers, statelessness, and trafficking are major social concerns. The Khmer Rouge Court convicted the major perpetrators of genocide and continues its work. Khmer film, dance and art are being acclaimed around the world. The smiles of the children continue to delight.



OUR PROGRAMMES

- 1) Urban Asylum Seekers/Refugees
- 2) Disarmament and Survivors of War and Conflict
- 3) Reflection/Reconciliation Centre
- 4) Statelessness
- 5) Advocacy and Research on Forced Displacement

HISTORY

JRS entered Cambodia in 1990 after 10 years in the border refugee camps with Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees. It came in a spirit of Reconciliation, to build relationships with the people of Cambodia at local and national levels, to serve those affected by war and conflict, and to advocate for peace. The original projects were in Phnom Penh and Kandal. Refugee repatriation occurred in 1992-1993. Our sister organization Jesuit Service began in 1994. From 1995 to 2009, JRS continued within Jesuit Service. In 2009 it resumed a separate identity. Regional headquarters are in Thailand and International in Rome.



ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Dominating refugee news in Cambodia in 2014 was the deal between Australia and Cambodia on relocating asylum seekers from the Australian off-shore detention centre on NAURU to Cambodia. JRS stated that Australia was shirking its moral responsibility and sending refugees to a country where many people live in poverty and where legal processes for documentation and protection are weak. Nevertheless, the deal was signed on 26 September 2014. JRS was approached by Australia, UNHCR and the IOM for opinions on the deal and its implementation.



Of the 5000 refugees whom JRS accompanied in Cambodia since 1993, only 60 remained in Cambodia at the beginning of 2014. More than half have been resettled, others ran away, some were deported, and some voluntarily returned to their home country. By November 2014, 46 remain and are joined by 38 new (or not so new) asylum seekers. Of these, 80% have sought sponsorship in a third country.

In 2014, JRS accompanied urban refugees through monthly home visits, telephone counseling, orientation to marketing, finding houses, and solving problems with landlords and the police. It helped 10 start up small businesses, 7 children go to school and solved numerous problems.



We gave small grants to 3 families who were resettled because of medical emergencies, 2 repatriation grants, 2 for family reunification, and 2 for other resettlement.

R.S.D in Cambodia is determined by the Cambodia government. Our JRS lawyer advised 8 on their initial statements, 2 appeals, 15 resettlement issues, and various other matters.

In 2014, Cambodia created new Departments for Immigration and Identity within the Ministry of the Interior. JRS helped 3007 visitors understand about refugee rights and new developments.

JRS, in public statements and private interviews insists that:

- There should be no institutionalized accommodation for refugees.
- Effective documentation should be granted quickly.
- An adequate settlement package is available.
- Mental health assistance is included in the health insurance.
- The right to work, movement, and protection are guaranteed.



A good aspect of the agreement is that refugees are promised identity cards and resident cards. We advocate that this flows to all refugees in Cambodia.

JRS organised a public awareness meeting on the refugee situation in Cambodia, refugee rights, and the refugee deal. Numerous interviews with newspaper journalists have taken place. Refugees have also advocated for their own rights.

The details of the deal and the rights and obligations entailed have been made into an Orientation Brochure for refugees by JRS.

**TO ACCOMPANY, SERVE,
ADVOCATE**

DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGNS AND THE SURVIVORS OF WAR AND DISPLACEMENT



CONTEXT: Cambodia is a leader in the Mine Ban Treaty. In implementation, its clearance programme was rated in the top 5 of the world. In the area of assistance to survivors and victims, Cambodia made a new strategic plan and will report on its obligations under the CRPD. The number of new victims in 2014 is already higher than in 2013, but many fewer than when we began the landmine campaign. Cambodia signed the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014.

Cambodia has not yet joined the Cluster Munitions Convention, which 115 countries are signatories. There are still 82 countries to sign, including all of Southeast Asia, except Laos. The Holy See is a prominent leader in this.

Pope Francis calls us to campaign against Nuclear Weapon and Killer Robots.

ADVOCACY IN 2014:



Accessibility Photo Exhibition in FCC. Siem Reap. Sor Not



COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE WORKSHOP, which influenced the Cambodian government's contribution at the Maputo Review Conference on how they would complete their obligations in clearance and victim assistance.

- ▶ Participated in formulating the National Plan on Disability.
- ▶ Helped monks from Myanmar understand the Mine Ban Treaty and CMC.
- ▶ Spoke with students from Japan, Australia, USA, Singapore, Thailand, Spain, South Korea, The United Kingdom, Philippines, Brunei, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and France.
- ▶ Marathon Bicycle Ride.
- ▶ Dance in front of Angkor Wat (December 7, 2014).
- ▶ Journalist interviews, TV, spots.
- ▶ Facebook, Website.
- ▶ Letter to all politicians.



THE SNP PROJECT:

WHY DID WE DO THIS PROJECT?

- ▶ To understand and accompany people suffering from war.
- ▶ To provide service for those in great need.
- ▶ To teach leaders about disability rights and to ensure that they know the people with disability in their village.
- ▶ To contribute data for national plan and to hear the voice of survivors.

ACCOMPANY: We built up a survivor network team to accompany survivors in 6 provinces. We ourselves surveyed 4 north eastern Provinces where cluster bombs are found.

Our Quality of Life survey revealed the highest scores of survivors were:

- ▶ My family likes me.
- ▶ I am happy I am alive.
- ▶ I respect the rights of others.

The Lowest score were:

- ▶ I do not have enough food to eat.
- ▶ I do not have enough income to live in dignity.

SERVE:

From the survey results, we helped people with:

- ▶ 33 Wheelchairs
- ▶ 65 Emergency Food (Rice Bags)
- ▶ 2 Houses
- ▶ 2 Health Referrals/Prosthetics
- ▶ 34 Toilets
- ▶ 3 people Income Generation
- ▶ 12 Bicycles
- ▶ 20 Library Packages
- ▶ 2 Wells

We also assist ICBL/CMC in monitoring the treaties. The top priority for ICBL/CMC in 2015 is getting at least 25 more countries to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). CCBL is on the international governance board.

A new project, beginning in October/November 2014, is focused on Women With Disability.

OUR 2014 TEAM

Sr. Denise Coghlan, Country Director

PHNOM PENH

Srun Sony: Social Worker

Kim Phirum: Social Worker/ Driver

Keth Bunthoeun: Admin Assistant

Nou Sokchanthou: Hospitality Office

Sarah Goodyear: Lawyer

Sourn Butmao: Consultan

SIEM REAP

Sak Sopheak: Advocacy/Data

Pros Pheareth: Finance

Tun Channreth: SNP Outreach

Sor Not: Communications

Chan Men: Admin Assistant

Sok Chet: SNP Assistant

Him Sue: Driver/Logistics

REFLECTION CENTRE HOSPITALITY TEAM

Soun Thary

Haem Touch

Lon Lok

Kert Reaksmeay

Choy Sokha

Khut Bunchee

Mit Vichet

Haem Srey Pov

Sok Phearum

Chhaem Chantha

VOLUNTEERS:

Elisabeth Hermelin

Haley Farrell

PASTORAL:

Jub Phokthavi SJ

PARISH PRIEST

Stepanus Winarto SJ



RECONCILIATION AND REFLECTION CENTRE



In Interfaith
Harmony Week 2014,
Buddhists, Christians,
Muslims, people of no
particular faith, refugees,
people with disability
answered in our
Reflection Centre.

WHAT KIND OF WORLD WE WANT

- A world of dialogue between different faiths, different political parties, civil society
- A world that cares for the environment
- A world where wealth is shared
- Good quality education for all
- Affordable health care
- No people stateless or without home
- Freedom of speech, freedom of religion
- Where land mines and cluster munitions are banned.
- Where people with disability are included
- Where all are happy not hungry

The Mindol Metta Karuna Reflection Centre accompanies many groups to reflect on their lives, to see the challenges of Cambodia through the eyes of the poor.

Groups who came in 2014 included

- Buddhist monks from Myanmar
- Fondacio
- Jesuit Schools
- Australian Catholic Mission
- Mercy Schools
- Women with Disability
- Refugees
- Environmental Campaigners
- Dancers, artists, Poets
- Journalists
- People evicted from their land
- Religious in Formation
- World friends
- Sogang and Sophia University
- Catholic youth
- Retreatants
- The Dhamayietra Group
- World Council of Church
- Centre For Peace And Conflict Studies
- French Scouts
- Peace Bridges
- Dancers
- Marathon Runners



We remember the visit of JRS Worldwide for the 2013 Reconciliation Seminar and still pray especially for Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We hope all who came were graced by their visit. We certainly were.

We are grateful to Doris Cofield (RIP) friend of the Mercy Sisters, Australian Jesuit Mission, the Richic Fernando Memorial, the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy for funding the buildings and infrastructure of Mindo Metta Karuna.



STATELESSNESS

WORLD CONTEXT - November 2014 saw the launch of UNHCR's Global Campaign to End Statelessness, 'I Belong.' The campaign aims to draw global attention to the devastating life-long consequences of statelessness with the goal of ending the endemic by 2024. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, stated, "We have a historic opportunity to end the scourge of statelessness within 10 years, and give back hope to millions of people. We cannot afford to fail this challenge." He continued, "The most well-known and well-discussed case in the world is the *Rohingyas in Myanmar* with more than 1 million people, which, of course, are not granted citizenship...they are considered to be illegal migrants from Bangladesh. But, if you go to Bangladesh, they will be considered to be illegal migrants from Myanmar, which means that the overwhelming majority of the Rohingyas have no rights, no citizenship at all."

JRS Cambodia Project on Statelessness

Following up on the recommendations from our reports *Boat without Anchors* and *State of Migration* we surveyed 10 communes which housed both Khmer and ethnic Vietnamese residents to examine their documentation, the birth registration process and access to education for children.

Preliminary results reveal:

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE POSSESSING DOCUMENTS

	Identity Card	Birth Certificate	Resident Card	Family Book	Poor Card	Immigration Card
Ethnic Vietnamese	15%	11%	79%	13%	21%	44%
Khmer	86%	86%	50%	64%	25%	0%

In Cambodia there are a number of groups who are de facto stateless. The biggest group belong to the ethnic Vietnamese residents. Rohingas and other refugees, including the ones who may arrive from Australia's off shore detention centres, are also destined to be stateless unless measures are taken to remedy their documentation and identity status.



FORCED DISPLACEMENT

MIGRANT WORKERS - The return of 260,000 migrant workers from Thailand in June 2014 caused a major upheaval in the lives of people and the economy. JRS visited returners in Poipet and some villages and is part of the coalition that is monitoring the new laws and guidelines that are promised. A JRS intern will publish a report on the progress made and situation since the return.

TRAFFICKING - JRS attends coalition meetings on trafficking.

We accompanied two particular people.

- The plight of a maid repatriated from Malaysia severely traumatised by abuse communicated to us by our Survivor Liaison in Kompong Thom. Tun Channareth investigated and called in the social skills of Sony to accompany her. She is now slowly recovering and able to leave her home and talk to people a little.
- A young man went to Thailand as a constructor, was drugged, captured, and dumped on a fishing boat at sea for four years: no pay, no leave, beatings. He allowed Sor Not to video his story to help others understand the pitfalls of migrants and the danger of being trafficked.

JRS also convened a meeting of Sisters interested in trafficking and participated in CARITAS Workshops.

EVICTION FROM LAND

The Reflection Centre is both a sanctuary, a learning space for people needing to understand their right to housing and land titles.



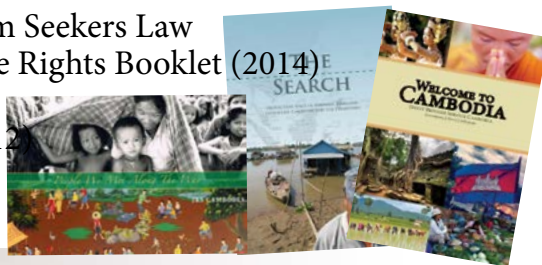
Ethnic Vietnamese without birth certificates cannot enter high school. We visited Ministry of Education to advocate their cause.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

THANK YOU

ON REFUGEES AND REPATRIATION:

- Video on Accompaniment (2014)
- Refugee Law / Refugees and Asylum Seekers Law
- Welcome to Cambodia and Refugee Rights Booklet (2014)
- Repatriation (2000)
- People We Met Along the Way (2012)
- The Search (2012)
- Australia Deal (April 2015)



ON DISARMAMENT AND SURVIVORS:

- I am Happy I am Alive (2013)
- Disability Services (2012)
- Translation of Disability Rights Convention (2010)
- Cluster Bomb, Land Mine leaflets
- Disarm the Heart (2013)
- Disability Access (2014)



ON STATELESSNESS AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT:

- Boat Without Anchors (2013)
- State of Migration (2012)
- Video on Trafficking (2014)
- To Be Determined (2013)
- Untitled (2009)
- Statelessness 2014 (to be published)
- Migrant Workers (2015)



REFLECTION:

- Words From Faith (2012)
- Interfaith Workshop (2012)
- Planting Trees (2014)

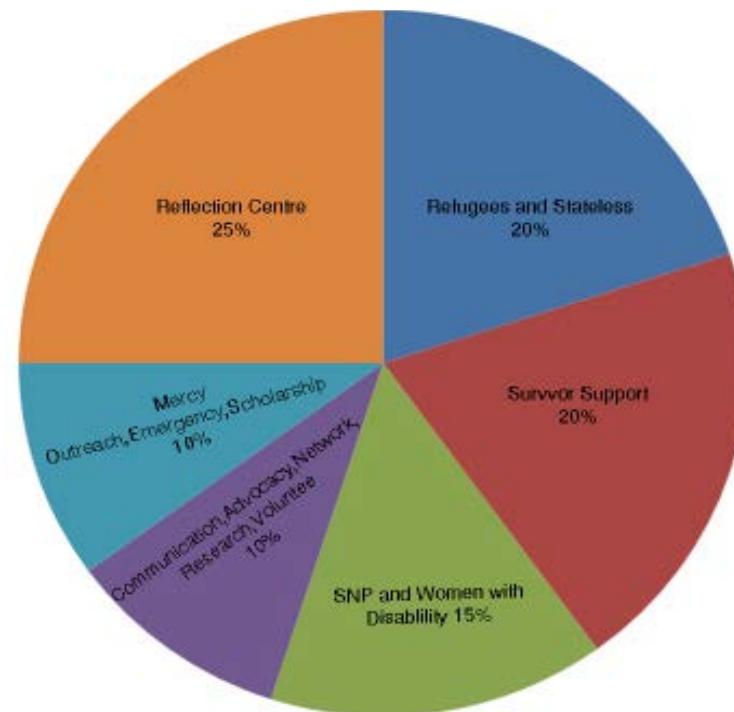


Our sister organization, Jesuit Service (JS), has published 195 books for children in Khmer.

Our gratitude goes to all our supporters: those who pray and those who pay or do both. They include Australian Jesuit Mission, Mercy Sisters, ICBL/SNP, JCBL, Mercy and Jesuit Schools, Friends, Alboan, Geosite, Friends of Cambodia.

Our Reflection Centre is self-funded from guests.

EXPENSES 2014 (TO NOV. 1)

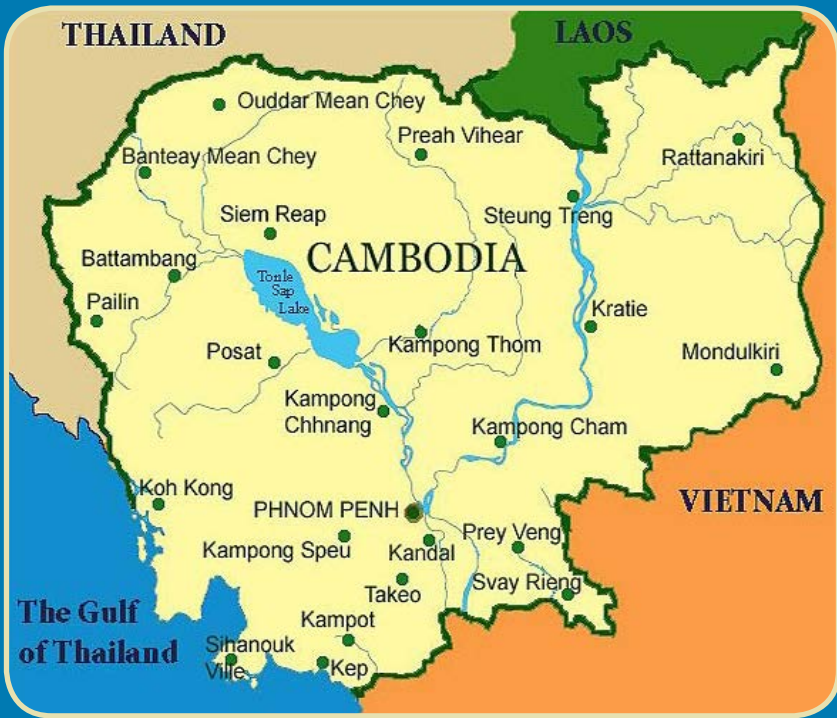


Our networkers and collaborators:

CMAA, LICADHO, Arrupe, UNHCR, UNCHR Equitable Cambodia, MIRO, Nationality Law Team, CLEC, Caritas, Bishop Kike Figaredo, Jesuit Service, Disability Sector, Survivor Network Liaisons, the Catholic, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian faith communities, CPCS, the many friends who have visited or advised us, the refugees, and journalists and landmine/cluster campaigners.

WHERE JRS WORKS:

- **REFUGEES:** PHNOM PENH AND SIEM REAP
- **REFLECTION CENTRE:** SIEM REAP
- **SURVIVOR NETWORK PROJECT:** SIEM REAP, ODDAR MEANCHEY, PREAH VIHEAR, KOMPONG CHAM, AND NORTHEAST (SURVEYS AND LINKS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY)
- **STATELESSNESS & MIGRATION:** KOMPONG CHNANG, PURSAT, SIEM REAP, PHNOM PENH,



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