



lotus outreach
australia

Within one generation-



we are seeing real change.

Lotus Outreach Australia –
preventing child labour and trafficking in Cambodia
by enabling education – and helping to change lives.

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 / 2013

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Lotus Outreach Australia Overview 2012-2013

Lotus Outreach Australia is a non profit organisation. Our mission is to ensure the education, health and safety of the most marginalised and exploited women and children in Cambodia. We also advocate for their human rights. We are guided by the UN's Millennium Development Goals to promote gender equality, gender balance, and to empower women and girls to be able to move out of dire poverty.

What we do:

We consult and work with respected Cambodian Government registered NGOs to identify girls at risk of child labour and slavery, and offer a compelling alternative - scholarships for GATE – Girls' Access to Education - so families keep their girls safely at home, attending local schools. We focus on girls' education as the most proven way to eradicate poverty and lead to economic independence, and opportunities for sustainable jobs and lives.



Our Projects and Outcomes:

GATE is a highly successful program. Girls from the very poorest families are starting to graduate high school and attend tertiary training and/or university.

Within one generation we are indeed seeing real change.

GATE enables:

- Scholarships, school supplies, computer training and healthcare for 150 at-risk girls.
- Rice support for families in dire poverty – lessening the need to put girls into child labour to feed the family - which can often lead on to various forms of slavery.
- Bikes to safely travel long distances to school – which have lessened incidents of assault. Spending less time travelling also means girls have more time to study.
- GATE graduates at university now study banking, IT, design, healthcare, languages.
- School principals report that advocacy in communities and girls achieving university, promotes parents' involvement in the schools, and increases respect for daughters.

Our Status:

- Incorporated as a Registered Charity with NSW Department of Fair Trading 2004
- Fundraising authority with NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.
- ABN, plus charity tax concessions with the Australian Tax Office.
- Tax deductibility for donations made through our community partner AFAP - Australian Foundation for Peoples of Asia and the Pacific - and earmarked for our projects.
- An affiliate of eight Lotus Outreach organisations globally, originally founded by renowned lama and film-maker Khyentse Norbu Rinpoche. However Lotus Outreach Australia programs are entirely under our own direction, and we raise all our funds ourselves.
- A successful, effective organisation with strong governance and proven programs.



Lotus Outreach Australia
President, Anna Harper.

2012-13: A Year in Review

The year 2012 marked our 9th year since formally incorporating in Australia and further developing our unique Lotus Outreach Australia identity. This landmark birthday afforded us the opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the last nine years, a period in which we have increased our sponsorship from 50 girls to 150, with the older girls now graduating and beginning to move into university, tertiary training or jobs.

This milestone also gave us cause to engage in some deep visioning about the positioning of Lotus Outreach Australia in the years ahead, a vision that continues to take shape as we focus our attention on the key to changing lives and society – the education, health, and safety of at risk girls in the developing world. Cambodia is where we have chosen to focus our effort – being one of the poorest countries in the Asia Pacific region. Our purpose in pursuing this mission is to help create a more just, peaceful world where all people, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion or gender, can lead rich, meaningful lives that are free of physical and structural violence.

Our pursuit of this vision is manifested in the following core program areas:

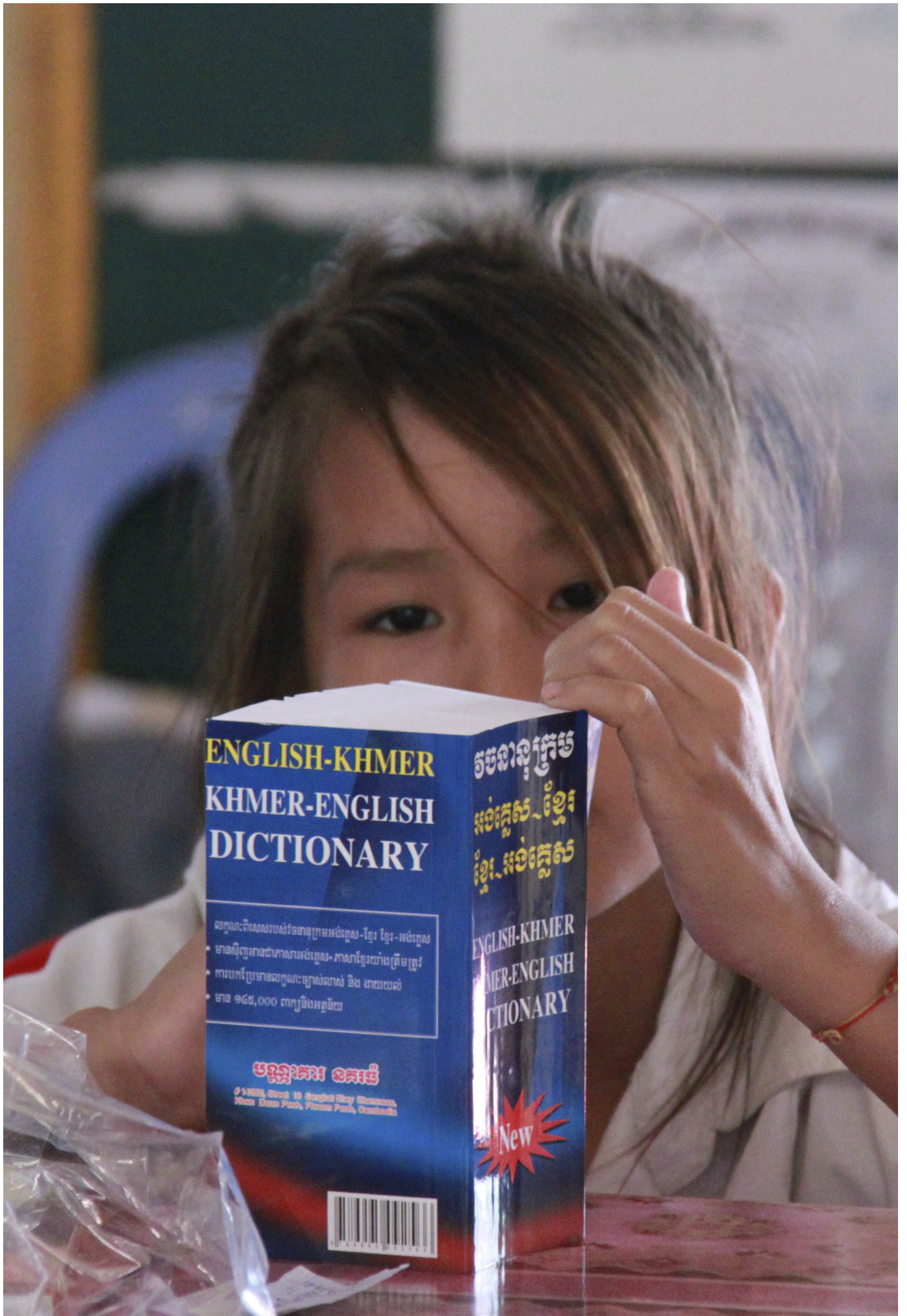
1. Improving access to quality education for marginalised girls
2. Economic empowerment of parents and young women
3. Human trafficking and gender-based violence prevention and after care.

The pages that follow will take you on an inspiring journey of what we have achieved during this financial year 2012-13, building on the platform set in the past nine years, and the incredible generosity of our donors who undertook to sponsor amazing fundraising events, enabling us to continue to commit to the provision of access to quality education in conjunction with our in-country partner, Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), with whom we are associated through our GATE program.

But before you begin this journey, as the President, I want to take this opportunity to tell you what it is that makes Lotus Outreach Australia such a unique and powerful organisation – it is having a team of dedicated volunteers who contribute their time to be on the Lotus Outreach Australia Board and Management Committee, for whom I have been privileged to work. I would also like to particularly thank KPMG, as well as Emry's Media for contributing their expertise and resources.

In gratitude to all our supporters,

Anna S Harper
President.



Our Program Activities in Cambodia 2012/2013

Background and Mission

During our inception in 2004, Lotus Outreach Australia responded to a great need in Cambodia identified by our local partner the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) - the country's leading NGO for women and children. Under age girls from families on the semi-rural outskirts of Phnom Penh were increasingly at great risk of being forced out of school and put into work, as their families became more and more destitute. These were the girls falling through the gaps. They were too scattered across various difficult-to-access areas - to come to the attention of the larger NGOs.

For some time, land in these areas has been expropriated either for industry – particularly garment factories – or for new housing for people with greater means. Increasing urbanisation has also brought increasing costs of everyday items, and without land for subsistence farming plus income, and without education themselves, parents often choose to send their daughter/s out to work simply to pay for food for the rest of the family, and sometimes so the boys in the family might stay at school.

Additionally, children in Cambodia need uniforms, shoes, books, and school supplies. Often in precarious health and with little health care, a number of parents are unable to work at all, and consequently fall into debt. A daughter's wage, or even the sale of that daughter into slavery, may alleviate that debt.

Jobs for uneducated girls are often in factories at best, or in various forms of exploited labour – roadside cafes, cleaning, on construction sites - or in the very worst instances being sold into begging rings or into sexual slavery.

The girls in Lotus Outreach Australia's GATE program live in seven different school districts, some distance apart. Our call wasn't to do with building a school in a central location, nor relocating girls away from their families and communities. Our purpose was to respond quickly to make sure these girls did not fall into exploitation and slavery, and that they gained the greatest possible chance to rise out of poverty through education and jobs, and help shore up their families, their local schools and communities as they transitioned.

How the girls are chosen for Lotus Outreach Australia Programs

Girls supported by Lotus Outreach Australia are identified by CWCC working with Local Education Working Groups (LEWGs) - comprising school principals, healthcare workers, community elders. LEWGs may know the various families' situations already, or are alerted to their needs by friends or relatives - or the families themselves may apply after seeing notices in local communities or schools. The families' meagre assets are measured, their work situation and health is studied, they and their girls are interviewed, and girls from the most desperate families are then chosen for scholarships. Unfortunately there are still many needy families who are not selected because of our limited funds.

The girls are regularly monitored by CWCC, and if away from school for more than three days, CWCC visits the home to ascertain reasons for non attendance – most often illness of a family member – and works out ways to help. Monthly attendance lists and the girls' academic progress and health are charted.

Lotus Outreach Australia Meetings in Cambodia

Each year various Lotus Outreach Australia Board Members, Management Committee and/or Fundraising Committee members travel to Cambodia to visit our projects, meeting with our CWCC partners and our local staff managing the GATE Program, and connecting with the girls and their families.

Since 2010, our Board Member Charlie Cristi has been residing in Phnom Penh. Her first year was spent as an Australian Ambassador for Youth Development (an AusAid initiative), working with Raksmei Var, our Cambodia Country Representative on Lotus Outreach Australia projects, particularly English Language Intensive Program. Currently as our In Country Liaison Officer, Charlie keeps a close connection with Raksmei, and follows the girls' progress – including those who have graduated from the GATE program.

In March our co-founder and vice president Jane Lyttleton travelled to Cambodia. She and Charlie Cristi held meetings with CWCC Regional Manager Ms Mearedy MOUNG and with our GATE Scholarship staff Mr Sophall Chan and Miss Malin who manage and monitor our GATE projects.

Along with monitoring the girls, each year the scholarship staff conduct two ceremonies at which the scholarship materials are presented. These are attended by students, parents and the LEWG. There are also two semester meetings attended by students only, in May and November. Additionally one annual workshop is held by our CWCC staff primarily for advocating for girls' and women's rights and the value and effectiveness of girls' education.

LOA funded CWCC staff and the LEWG make 15-20 visits a month to the homes and schools of GATE recipients depending on needs. The LOA Gate scholarships team also helped to set up Self Help Groups for various families. Access to self help groups has helped with emergency financial needs.



Lotus Outreach Australia dedicated staff - Mearedy MOUNG, Mr Sophall Chan & Miss Malin – meet with Lotus Outreach Australia Founder and Vice President Jane Lyttleton and In Country Liaison Officer Charlie Cristi to discuss the projects, the girls and their families and their futures.



Mr Sophall Chan,
GATE Scholarship Manager
Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre

2013 Annual Workshop for girls in the GATE Program

Snapshots of 2012/13 school year for Lotus Outreach Australia Scholarship Students.

August 2012

15 girls are chosen for a three month Computer Training Course to help them prepare for university and/or finding a job.

October 2012

The Scholarship Officer and Local Education Working Groups organise a ceremony to distribute the new school year scholarship packages to the students. Extra stipends are also provided for mathematics, physics, chemistry and English classes. Around 70 of the parents also attended. Conditions of receiving the scholarships were reviewed. The Deputy District Governor attended, encouraging parents to allow their daughters to continue studying until they achieved their goal of graduating.

Students and families are made aware of safe migration within Cambodia and to other countries. They are also counselled regarding the tricks that employment brokers can use which can lead to trafficking – particularly into sexual slavery.

November 2012

The Project team accompanies 16 scholarship girls to participate in the Launching of the UNFPA report on “The State of World Population 2012 By choice, Not by Chance: Family Planning, Human Rights and Development”. This Launch brought together over 100 young people from universities, communities, the entertainment industry and NGO networks to learn about and discuss family planning, human rights and development in Cambodia with experts from the government and NGOs.

December 2012

Project officer and staff coordinate a workshop on Joining Together in Improve Girls Education to Develop Family and Society. It is also attended by the Deputy District Governor, The Deputy Chief of Education, Chief of Women’s Affairs and Ms Meareday Moung - Regional Manager of CWCC Phnom Penh. Putharika - a former scholarship girl is invited to share her experiences of studying at public school and continuing after graduation to study at Passerelle Numerique Cambodia which provides two year training courses in System and Network Administration and Web Programming.

The project officer and staff advocate with local authorities, and raise awareness if underage scholarship recipients are withdrawn from school to work using fake documents.

May 2013

64th International Childrens’ Day is celebrated under the theme “Child Development is a Foundation for National Development’ – again underscoring the multiplier effect that education of children – particularly girls has in benefitting families, communities and the nation itself. Last year, the International Labor Organization estimated that around 1.5 million Cambodian children involved in child labour and about 310,000 in the worst forms of child labour, for instance, working in salt fields and brick factories. Lotus Outreach Australia is addressing these situations by enabling girls to stay safely at school with the prospect of better paid jobs or tertiary education when they graduate high school.



Girls in Lotus Outreach Australia's GATE program come from some of the poorest homes in Cambodia.



Our Activities in Australia 2012 -2013

The Board and Management Committee activities are driven by constant monitoring of where our projects are headed, and the ways that we can provide future support for the girls through GATE and into bridging courses and the GATEways Program (scholarships for university and tertiary study).

This involves our work revolving around four major endeavours: -

1. The management, overseeing, value adding and planning the future of our Cambodian programs and projects. This includes working closely with our Cambodian staff and partners, with our Affiliate Lotus Outreach International staff and Field Director, and with our Australian Community Partner AFAP – the Australian Foundation for People of Asia and the Pacific, with whom we have a strong and educative relationship.
2. Fundraising to underpin these projects and to sustain the organisation.
3. Skills training in all appropriate areas for our Board Members and Management and Fundraising Committee members, including Institute of Company Directors' Courses, Philanthropy Australia Courses, Blackbaud Online Fundraising Webinars, Cavil + Co Corporate Partnerships Seminars and Masterclasses.
4. Increasing awareness of the girls and families we serve in Cambodia – their human rights, their current plight and their successes – using advocacy, communication with our donors and supporters, increasing our supporter base, and seeking all methods of bringing awareness to our cause – social media, speaking at conferences and events, speaking to foundations, grant makers, corporations, media.

This year we are even more aware of considerations that we need to focus on:

Regarding the projects, we are determined to re-instate the Intensive English Language Program – interrupted for lack of sufficient funds. Teachers, parents, and the girls themselves beg us to re-start this. English is needed for good jobs, and for the girls to operate in the wider world in the future. We are exploring partnerships with other Non Profits and with various schools. Without our program, parents worryingly go into debt to pay for private language tuition.

We are learning again and again that many individuals philanthropists, PAFs, Foundations, Grantmakers and Corporations wish to see us achieve DGR status - independent tax deductibility status in our own right - instead of under the auspice of our partner AFAP. Given that attracting funds and help for overseas programs is more challenging than for local Australian programs, We are working hard to achieve DGR, ably helped by pro bono lawyers and strongly supported by our community partner AFAP.

We attracted some excellent pro bono supporters and advisors this year.

Our small but passionate and hard working Board Members, helped by our fundraising committee and scores of our friends, family and supporters had a very active year, making a great effort to raise over A\$100,000 in around 15 months. But to be truly sustainable in the long term we need to attract ongoing support from a wider base.

Currently many Lotus Outreach Australia GATE graduates are being supported through university and tertiary training by our affiliate partner, Lotus Outreach International. However one of our dearest goals is to find sustainable funding to support these girls through university ourselves, and/or follow their progress into meaningful jobs, economic independence and the benefits that will then flow on to their families and communities – the ultimate outcomes of our investment in them. This means gearing up fundraising for the long term sustainability of our organisation to support these endeavours.

Our fundraising activities in this last financial year included:

August 2012

The Sun Herald Sydney City2Surf – 15 runners over a number of teams including the AJ Physio Team from Bondi Junction



August 2012

Lotus Outreach Australia Board Member Hannah Saunders wins for Lotus a KPMG National Chairman's Award for volunteering – a prize of \$2,000.

October 2012

Volunteers convenes 'Garage Band Aid' with 400 people listening and dancing to a combo of professional musicians and 'garage bands'. In country liaison manager flew in from Cambodia to talk to the crowd about the realities of sex slavery, the girls' potential precarious situation; how necessary these fundraising events are to the continued success of the GATE Program.



It was a unique, standout event from the crowd's perspective and a very successful fundraiser.



November 2012

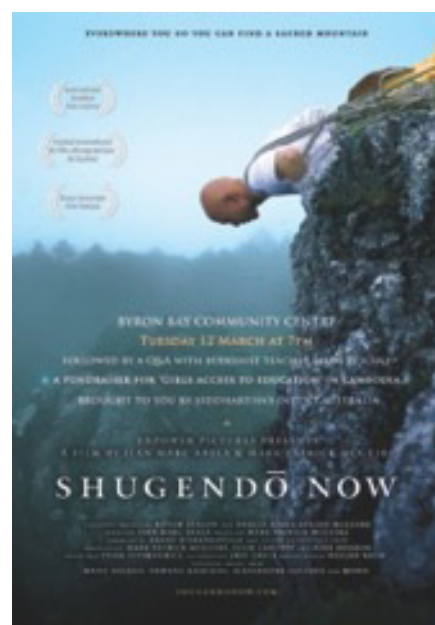
- Christmas Soiree and introduction of our 8 minute Mini Doco (pro bono editing by awarding winning Guillotine. Original music by Craig Kelly)
- Women's Luncheon and Silent Auction with over 50 women, catered by Longrain restaurant, and convened by volunteers



December 2012

- Everyday Hero online personal challenge by Lotus volunteers
- Christmas Appeal and Christmas gift certificates

March 2013 - Film Event 'Sugendo Now' in Byron Bay convened by Mischaela Simpkins with our mini doco shown and funds to the GATE program



Easter 2013 – Raffle supported by TAFE ESL teachers

June 2013 – End of Financial Year Appeal
Sun Herald City to Surf Fundraising appeal begins again

Education and Cambodia – some facts and figures.

Lotus Outreach Australia is guided by the UN's Millennium Development Goals to promote gender equality and gender balance, and to empower women and girls to be able to move out of dire poverty.

'Educating children helps reduce poverty. Education will give the next generation the tools to fight poverty and conquer disease. School also offers children a safe environment, with support, supervision and socialization. Here they learn life skills that can help them prevent diseases, including how to avoid HIV/AIDS and malaria...

'UNICEF advocates high-quality basic education for all, with an emphasis on gender equality and eliminating disparities of all kinds. In particular, getting girls into school and ensuring that they stay there has what UNICEF calls a "multiplier effect."

Educated girls are likely to marry later and have fewer children, who in turn will be more likely to survive and be better nourished and educated. Educated girls are more productive at home and better paid in the workplace, and more able to participate in social, economic and political decision-making.'

Reference

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), Global Education Digest 2011: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World, UIS, Montreal,

2011.UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT 2012 FOR CAMBODIA, EAPRO

http://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Cambodia_COAR_2012.pdf

- Over half of Cambodian children live in the poorest 33% of households, primarily in rural areas, and are deprived of quality basic social services.
- More poor families are turning to child labour and institutionalization to ensure food and education for their children, putting them at higher risk of exploitation, trafficking and abuse.
- Only 65 per cent of the poorest children can read or write as opposed to 85 per cent top-quintile children. One of the key reasons for children not attending school (28.9 per cent in 2011, 26.4 per cent in 2011) is they "must contribute to household income," according to the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2010.
- Large disparities exist in nutritional outcomes...children from the poorest families are two times more likely to be stunted (51 per cent versus 23 per cent among the wealthiest). Among women of reproductive age, nearly 20 per cent are too thin and 44 per cent are anaemic.

UNICEF Website – Millenium Development Goals.

'Until equal numbers of girls and boys are in school, it will be impossible to build the knowledge necessary to eradicate poverty and hunger, combat disease and ensure environmental sustainability. And millions of children and women will continue to die needlessly, placing the rest of the development agenda at risk.'

TARGET by 2015: Eliminate gender disparity at all levels of education by 2015 and empower women. unicef.org/mdg/gender



Getting girls into school and ensuring that they stay there has what UNICEF calls ‘a multiplier effect.’



Lotus Outreach Australia Case Study 1 – Yanida



Yanida is in Grade 10 at High School and works hard. We met Yanida and her mother, at their small one room wooden house under a corrugated roof on the edge of a river that joins the mighty Mekong just a few miles away. The river floods every wet season, a time when snakes are frequent visitors. Yanida's mother even wrapped slippery linoleum around the hut's support pillars so the snakes wouldn't climb them and make their homes in the rafters!

Yanida has three siblings, one brother who is handicapped and living in residential care with an NGO, and two sisters who are doing year 12 studies. Their mother, Narom, was widowed in 2001, and though greatly weakened by illness and in dire poverty, she still manages to bring up her four children, with the three girls now almost finished high school.

To fully understand Yanida's situation, we have to go back to before the Khmer Rouge and the marriage of her parents.

Narom tells us, "I was born in 1963 in this part of Phnom Penh, and my family were not rich but not poor also. To care for us children they sold a house and some land and gave each of their children gold to the value of \$200 – a small fortune at the time. I bought a motorbike and came here to build this house." The small home is hers but on the adjoining land was an Angkor period Stupa and the land Narom built on was eventually ceded to the Pagoda. 20 families are in the same situation. The district governor recently came to ask how many families are settled here – which might mean eviction for them in the future.

Narom was in 5th grade when war broke out and she, along with her own mother were forced by the Khmer Rouge to relocate to Battambang, so her studies were interrupted very early. She confided that she and her husband had planned to become Medical practitioners. Her husband was forced to discontinue study in his 3rd year, when their motorbike was stolen and he could no longer reach his distant University.

Twists like these in the history of Cambodia humbled thousands of families who would otherwise have been able to realize their potential. Even though she lacks formal education, Narom painfully frail, birdlike and short of breath, spoke with strength and conviction: "In my youth I dreamt of becoming a Medical Practitioner but circumstances were against it. Even so I deeply appreciate the value of education and have nothing else to give my children, so I want them to become as educated as possible so they can support themselves."

Narom scrapes a living by pressing clothes and selling vegetables. The two oldest girls work as housemaids by morning and attend year 12 in the afternoons. Lotus Outreach rice support also makes a difference as Narom told us, "I don't know how we would survive without the extra rice every month."

All three girls are studying English and attend private evening tuition at \$5.5 per month. Narom pays for Yanida's extra tuition, and Yanida tells us, "Only those with extra tuition can keep up and 40% of the class is unable to do so. This is very frustrating for me but thankfully English tuition is helping and I can also ask my two older sisters for help."

In Cambodia, these days especially, English language and computer skills are highly prized and sought after. In addition to support for tuition in 4 subjects of her choice, the GATE scholarship program provided Yanida with a 3 month introduction to a computer course which included typing skills, Word and Excel.

Lotus Outreach Australia Case Study 2: 18 year old Cheah

“6 people live in our tiny tin shack, four of them our family. We have no home, this one belongs to my grandmother. I am the youngest sibling and live here with my grandmother, older sister and her husband.

My parents are working as labourers in Mondulkiri. We were relocated from a slum in Phnom Penh in 2005 and were given a 5 x 12 metre plot that we can't afford to put a house on as yet.

My parents were not educated much but they are happy for me to finish my school. I am first in my class and want to study Khmer literature at University but my family will not be able to afford it without support.”

Currently Cheah is discussing her tertiary education options with the GATEways coordinator, Sotheany for when she graduates from the Lotus Outreach Australia GATE Program.



“Once I have achieved my own goals I will always encourage families to send their children to school, as Cambodia badly needs it's human resources for development.”

Lotus Outreach Australia Case Study 3: 15 year old Lathi

Lathi is in Grade Eight. For the last two years she's been a Lotus Outreach Australia GATE scholar and was in the English Intensive program held in 2011-2012. Her parents are illiterate. We visited Lathi in class and at home. Her mother said: 'We used to live in Phnom Penh Sambok Cham slum (the infamous red light area) We were one of 300 families given a 6x4 metre plot in the middle of a field with no water or electricity. We drank from a dam and lived in a tent.'

The field was a dumping ground for poor families evicted from areas required for commercial development. It was far from employment. The families suffered tremendously. A Lotus Outreach Australia scholarship opportunity came up and CWCC, the local commune authority, and village heads verified Lathi's family as 'very poor', and eligible for the GATE program.

Lathi's mum: "I wanted Lathi out of school to help us with our livelihood, but she studies really hard and since she's so enthusiastic, and getting the scholarship support, I decided we would let her remain in school. We've worked so hard in our lives, selling river shells



"I will stay in school as long as possible, studying Chinese & English. I'm confident I'll get a University scholarship as my grades are really good. My goal is to be an interpreter. I did 'How to attain your goals' training with an NGO, so I'm confident of achieving this dream."



(the cheapest and least profitable product there is in Cambodia) and we want her to have a good job and she will be better able to help support the family."

Lathi is very intelligent. If she can stay in school she can look forward to a bright future. Lathi says: 'I do all the cleaning, washing and home chores. In Grade Seven I worked in a garment factory during my three month school break. Getting the scholarship, I was able to return to school - otherwise my family would have me continue working to support our family.'

We have to reflect what a huge loss it would be if such a capable resource as Lathi was not enabled to attain her goals. Her mother reiterates: 'She studies very hard. Comes home from school at 5pm, goes for her English class at six, then Chinese then computer!! and doesn't eat till 10pm sometimes. So, I have hope for her future.'

The Power of the Bike

A major empowerment for Cambodian girls - is having a bike.

19th Century feminist Susan B. Anthony once said, "I think [the bicycle] has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives a woman a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. The moment she takes her seat she knows she can't get into harm unless she gets off her bicycle, and away she goes, the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."

Providing bikes to our GATE scholars is not only a practical way for them to cover long distances to school, it can also mean the difference between a girl reaching her full potential or being traumatised and in constant danger.

Rape and other violence against women have reached epidemic proportions in the Cambodian countryside. Underage girls are often assaulted while walking alone. We became very aware of this on one of our visits to the schools last year. When the bell sounds to finish school – the girls flock to their bicycles, wheeling around with their friends, laughing and shouting – having fun and a normal childhood – before pedalling off over many kilometres back home.

By car, we followed 15 year old Sopea as she whizzed along rural roads, past truck stop cafes, dark alleyways and stretches of dense bushland – all areas where assaults are easily perpetrated on vulnerable young girls walking by.

Sopea was home quickly, and uses the time she saves by riding instead of walking, to study. That extra time studying makes a huge difference. Today, less than two percent of Cambodian women possess education beyond high school, partly the tragic legacy left by the Khmer Rouge's systematic campaign to decimate the entire nation's intellectual class. Girls in Lotus Outreach Australia's GATE program have been graduating high school at around 90-100% - 10 - 20% higher than the average rate in Cambodia. And a time saving, safety device like a simple bicycle, is helping them achieve this.

Without bicycles – school wouldn't even be an option for many girls like Sopea. Nor would the prospect of university or vocational training and good jobs. And without education the lives left open to these girls is exploitation as farm labourers and garment workers at best, or in sex slavery at worst. Cambodia, and the world at large could lose these bright minds and great potential - for want of something as simple as a bicycle.



Our Team

Anna Harper

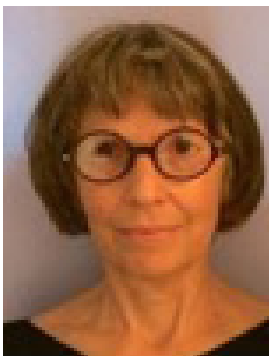


President

Board Member Lotus Outreach International

Anna Harper leads her consulting firm, Cultural Shapeshifters, working with Australian and International Businesses and Organisations, particularly in Asia, living there for 15 yrs, and with the UN. She specialises in developing global leaders for the future. Anna facilitates 'shaping' individuals and workplaces towards greater consciousness of what is possible, through organisational cultural alignment, team dynamics, cultural engagement and expanded thinking. She has two Masters degrees, M.Arts in Chaos, Complexity and Creativity, and M.Applied Science, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts, which influence her mission to contribute to making the world more equal, fairer and sustainable - this plays into her great commitment to helping at-risk Cambodian girls and their families gain safe, fulfilled and independent lives. Anna was Treasurer for Lotus Outreach Australia from 2004- 2012, and sits on the board of Lotus Outreach International.

Jane Lyttleton (TCM)



Vice President

Jane Lyttleton is an author, teacher and practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) specializing in gynaecology and infertility. She trained in genetics and biochemistry at the University of London, and studied TCM in Australia and China. She lectures at universities in Sydney and internationally. Jane has long been dedicated to the education and health of women and children. She helped establish Lotus Outreach Australia in 2004 after she and a group of Lotus Outreach members travelled to Thailand and Cambodia meeting local groups working to combat sex trafficking. She continues to visit Cambodia and the projects regularly.

Jennifer Mellet



Secretary and Director Communications and Fundraising

Jennifer is a graduate of University of Western Australia and a screenwriter, actor and broadcaster. A regular writer for television drama, she also taught Spoken English, English as a Second Language, Drama and Video to children in Australia, UK and Middle East. Jennifer previously worked pro bono with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Custodians in Far North Queensland, on their Cultural Heritage Mapping and Recording Project. A graduate of the Australian Film, Television & Radio School, she has filmed Lotus Outreach Australia's projects in Cambodia and leads the very committed volunteer fundraising team.

Trisha Heaton



Co-Director Fund Raising

Trisha Heaton graduated from the Australian Film, Television & Radio School (AFTRS) and has worked in the film industry since 1980. Trisha is a former CEO of Ausfilm. Ausfilm is responsible for marketing Australia as a production destination for Feature Films, Television and Visual Effects. Trisha previously worked for the NSW Film and Television Office and was responsible for marketing and positioning NSW as a film destination in the global marketplace. She has served on the Ausfilm Board and the Screen NSW Board and is Co-Director of The Heaton Group developing real estate projects. Trisha has been a passionate supporter and fundraiser for Lotus over many years.

Stephanie Hancock



Media Director

Stephanie worked for global advertising agency J Walter Thompson in Toronto, New York and Bangkok. She was an award winning regional account director and executive creative director with some of the most famous and powerful brands. Now living in Singapore Stephanie co-founded and manages the well known Wild Honey restaurants. She has a great interest in Asian cultures, particularly Cambodia. She is keen to use her skills to help Cambodia's most vulnerable girls achieve their potential for themselves and their country.

Raksmey Var



Country Representative, Cambodia

Raksmey volunteered as a teacher and mentor for a youth group providing social services to poor children, where she taught kids about children's rights. While also working as an English teacher at a private school, Raksmey decided she wanted to do more to help children. Raksmey completed her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting in 2004 at the National University of Management in Cambodia. In 2007, she received her Master's in Gender and Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Raksmey's particular areas of focus include children's education, child and youth mobility and employment, livelihood development, child labor, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Charlie Cristi



In Country Liaison Officer

A graduate of University of Newcastle, Charlie lives and works in Phnom Pehn. She is a gifted teacher of Art and Textiles. Charlie spent a year as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, an AusAID initiative, liaising with Lotus Outreach Cambodia and helping to support the projects. Charlie also helped set up the English Language Program for Lotus Outreach Australia. Charlie is passionate about supporting the girls in our programs, and works part time pro bono, liaising with our partners and affiliates.

Our Affiliates



Lotus Outreach Australia is proud to be an affiliate of Lotus Outreach International, based in California, USA. Lotus Outreach was originally founded by renowned lama and film-maker Norbu Khyentse whose award winning films include 'The Cup' and 'Travellers and Magicians'. He noted a need to give a voice to abused and exploited children in Asia, and helped set up Lotus Outreach as a secular Not for Profit. Today this highly regarded organisation has 8 affiliates worldwide - Australia, USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Between us we enjoy a healthy and productive working rapport that bridges 14 time zones.

Our Australian Community Partner



Australia Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific Ltd.

AFAP is an independent secular, non profit, fully accredited Australian NGO incorporated in NSW. It is a leading agent for poverty alleviation through innovative and appropriate community based development, underpinned by AusAID policy requirements. AFAP provides support to Australian Partners involved in sustainable international development programs. Lotus Outreach Australia has tax deductibility under the auspice of AFAP.

Our Local Partners



Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC)

CWCC is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its primary purpose is to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking, working towards creating equality, peace and development. CWCC works hand in hand with Lotus Outreach International, Lotus Outreach Cambodia, and Lotus Outreach Australia on program needs and implementation, ensuring all projects are effective and culturally atuned.



Cambodian Organization for Children & Development (COCD)

COCD is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its vision is for a society where all people are equal, all children are free from abuse, and are protected, cared for, and have their rights respected. COCD aims to improve the welfare of vulnerable children, their families and communities through the implementation of integrated development and empowerment projects. Lotus Outreach Australia has worked with COCD in the building of wells for safe drinking water and for use in growing crops – part of the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods.

Thank you to all our Supporters

The pro bono Board of Lotus Outreach Australia is one part of our organisation. Our Cambodian staff and Partners work with us forming another vital part. The girls and the families we serve are naturally the focus of the organisation. And all those who donate to and support Lotus Outreach Australia sustain it. Together we're a small, nimble, highly effective Non Profit with good outcomes.

Unbidden, the girls and their families continually ask us to thank the donors and supporters. Both mothers and daughters talk of the important psychological component of knowing there are people in Australia who know about and understand their plight, and who are trying to make a difference in the lives of those who by birth and circumstance face greater hardships and less opportunities than we have in our own country.

The generosity of all our pro bono advisors, our supporters and tireless helpers and supporters is true compassion in action. On behalf of the board, the girls and their families, we truly thank you.



Financials

The pro bono Board of Lotus Outreach Australia is one part of our organisation. Our Cambodian staff and Partners work with us forming another vital part. The girls and the families we serve are naturally the focus of the organisation. And all those who donate to and support Lotus Outreach Australia sustain it. Together we're a small, nimble, highly effective Non Profit with good outcomes.

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Donations received	63,168	32,962
Fundraising income	46,100	3,412
Interest income	439	815
Other Income	-	200
Total revenues	109,707	37,389
Fundraising Costs	(8,981)	(122)
Audit fees	-	(1,826)
Bank, merchant and administrative fees	(3,884)	(2,115)
Website expenses	(1,477)	(828)
Other expenses	(839)	(158)
Total expenses	(15,181)	(5,049)
Net surplus before payments to beneficiaries	94,526	32,340
Funds provided to beneficiaries	(68,467)	(16,363)
Net surplus/(deficiency) for the year	26,059	(15,977)

Statement of changes in funds for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Accumulated Funds	Total Funds
Opening balance 1 July 2011	53,765	53,765
Net deficiency for the year	15,977	15,977
Closing balance 30 June 2012	69,742	69,742
Opening balance 1 July 2012	69,742	69,742
Net surplus for the year	26,059	26,059
Closing balance 30 June 2013	95,801	95,801

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	63,781	35,420
Other assets	32,020	34,322
Total current assets	95,801	69,742
Total non-current assets	-	-
Total assets	95,801	69,742
Liabilities		
Total current liabilities	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	-
Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets	95,801	69,742
Funds		
Accumulated funds	95,801	69,742
Total funds	95,801	69,742

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from donations and fundraising	66,579	13,070
Cash payments to suppliers	(13,160)	(4,128)
Cash payments to beneficiaries	(25,497)	(1,403)
Interest received	439	815
Net cash from operating activities	28,361	8,354
Cash flows from investing activities		
Net cash from investing activities	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash from financing activities	-	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	28,361	8,354
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	35,420	27,066
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	63,781	35,420

CONTACT DETAILS:

www.lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au
www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia

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**lotus outreach
australia**