

CWS' Statement of Commitment

The CWS program in Cambodia is committed to:

"Working with the poor and vulnerable people in communities"

"Developing the capacity of people to meet their basic needs and to survive emergency situations"

"Contributing to a strong civil society at the grass roots level"

"Encouraging community initiatives, building local leadership (government and civil society) and supporting existing local structures"

"Building strong partnership founded on mutual respect, benefit and accountability to all parties"

"Promoting the equality of the women"

"Assisting groups to protect and conserve natural resources"

"Initiating and advancing processes for peace building, conflict resolution and reconciliation"

"Cooperating, coordinating and collaborating with other agencies and government institutions"



C Church World Service (CWS) was established in 1946 and has been working in Cambodia since 1979 as one of the first humanitarian organizations to be permitted to work in the country after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime. Although our work is informed by a rapidly changing reality, the main objective of our presence in Cambodia has always been to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people. We strive to develop the capacity to meet people's basic needs in a sustainable manner, and participate in an emerging democracy. Furthermore, CWS focuses its attention on developing the technical and institutional capacity of its Cambodian NGO partners and community-based organizations. To achieve our goals, we work in close collaboration with the Royal Government of Cambodia on the implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan. At present, CWS has offices in Phnom Penh, Batambang, Kompong Thom, Svay Rieng and Banteay Meanchey, working mainly through and with (local) partner organizations.

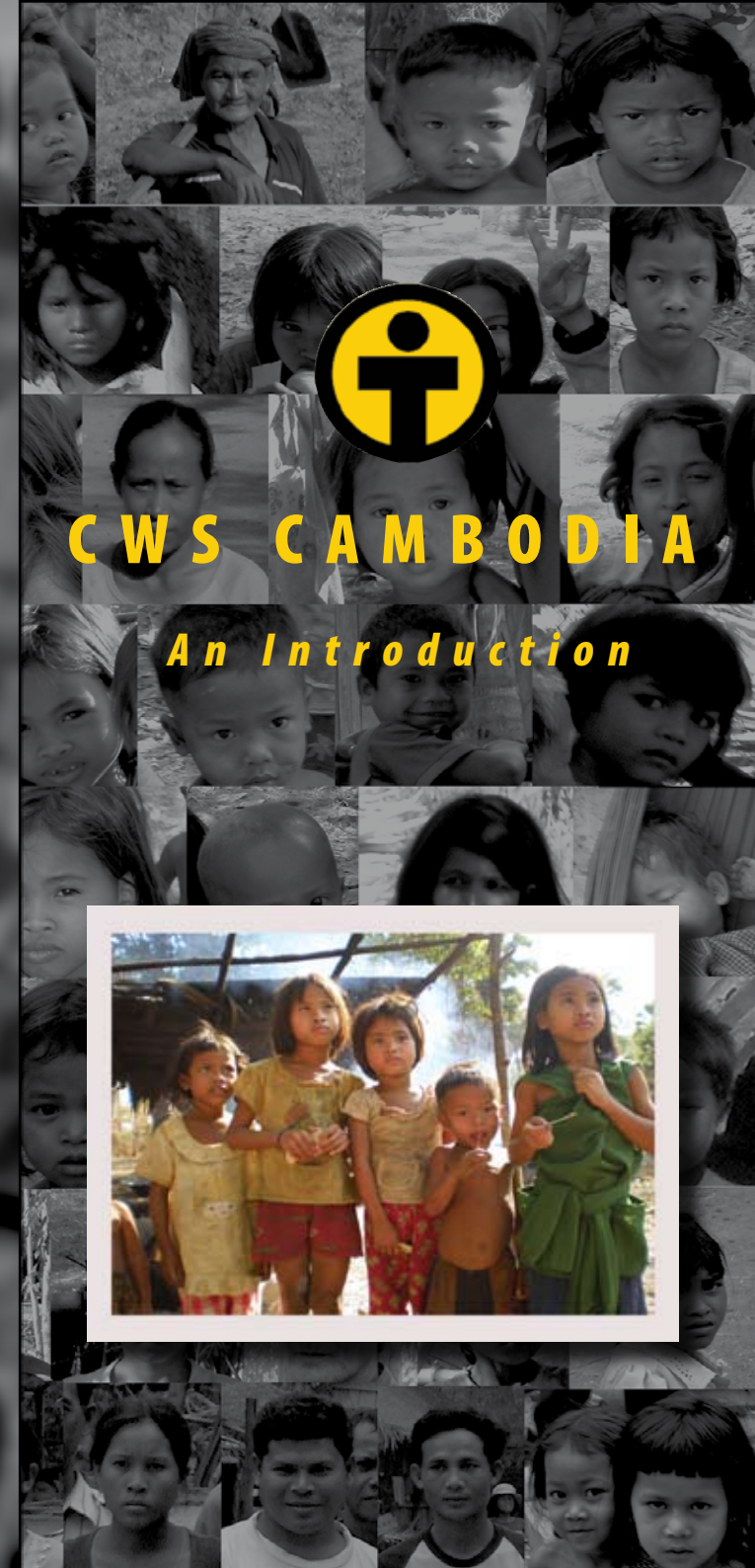


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Social & Economic Development

Imagine a world without clean drinking water, where health care is unavailable and where the risk for landmines is throwing shadows on every step one makes; *for many people in Cambodia this is daily reality!* CWS has been fighting issues like these for decades and as a result we have developed an extensive program for Social & Economic development in Cambodia's villages. Together with a community, we assess their problems and subsequently try to tackle them through increasing available knowledge and improving village structures. Furthermore, CWS assists with the implementation of literacy programs, micro credit, health care and livestock management training which contribute to a village's development.

Partnership

Within the framework of social and economic development, CWS Cambodia has cooperated with local NGOs since their emergence in the 90's. With their knowledge and commitment we are able to assist poor and vulnerable people by supplying grants, training and materials. Our philosophy is based on building relationships of mutual respect with young local NGOs working in remote rural areas where grinding poverty is the rule of life .

Humanitarian Mine Action

Although the dark years of Khmer Rouge hostilities are over now, many Cambodians still live in the shadow of war. Due to the presence of millions of landmines and other explosives, many people die, are injured while large plots of fertile land remain uncultivated. Since 1994, Church World Service has cooperated with the Mine Awareness Group (MAG) to tackle the problems of land mines and other unexploded ordinance. In the last twelve years, CWS and MAG have successfully demined the land of hundreds of families in Kompong Thom province. Recently we have therefore extended our program to North West Cambodia where we hope to assist even more people with our mine clearance activities.



Water & Sanitation

CWS works in cooperation with the community, local authorities and government departments on many water related projects. Latrines, hand pumps and filters are constructed and great effort is spend on training people about water related issues such as hygiene, water born diseases and maintenance of wells and hand pumps. "Water is life" is an often heard slogan and through our Water & Sanitation program, CWS has brought new life to people who previously struggled to get water for drinking and bathing.



Peace & Democracy

CWS believes that in order for poverty relief to be effective, shaping a peaceful setting in which reconciliation is possible, is crucial. We therefore define "development" in broader terms than most other NGO's in Cambodia. Peace is not simply the end of war but rather a situation in which people can cooperate with each other in an equal and respectful way. Issues like corruption, trauma, restorative justice and mutual respect therefore form important parts of our peace efforts. CWS supports many initiatives for peace & democracy building and we are proud to have witnessed a lot of positive change.

Emergency Response

Cambodia's rural areas are very prone to disaster and the impact of annual drought and flooding is worsened by poor soil quality and a lack of knowledge. CWS, together with its partners, supplies emergency relief to people who are not able to feed and maintain themselves during disaster prone months. We donate one month supplies of rice and fish for people to gain an opportunity to generate income for the spare couple of months. Furthermore, CWS seeks to achieve durable solutions to these returning problems and we focus on making communities less vulnerable ■

