



Photo: © Susan Schulman

The Cambodia Trust

Newsletter Spring 2004

Making an impact...

It is now **15 years** since The Cambodia Trust was founded. The people involved at the very beginning - Stan Windass, Dr. Peter Carey, John Pedler and Anthony Smith - could not possibly have predicted the impact our organisation would have on the lives of **so many** disadvantaged disabled people.

So much has been achieved. Our projects are now almost completely staffed by **qualified Khmer nationals**. We have gained **2 international accreditations**. Our work and staff have been honoured with several **awards** and featured on **BBC television**. Thanks to the support of donors such as **The Nippon Foundation**, we are now launching exciting new projects in **Sri Lanka** and **East Timor**.



Unfortunately, a decade and a half since we started our humanitarian work, many of Cambodia's problems remain. **Landmines and UXO** (unexploded ordnance) are still rife. **Thousands** of disabled men, women and children continue to face **discrimination** and **poverty**. In a recent survey, we found that **60%** of poverty reduction projects in Cambodia are routinely **excluding** people with disability.

...please help us continue

Several rehabilitation clinics run by other NGOs in Cambodia are **closing down** because of lack of funds. I am sure you will agree that **we must not** allow this to happen to our projects. **We need your continued support** to enable us to go on providing vital assistance for people with disability, such as landmine and UXO survivors.

Could you sponsor our work?

Receiving **regular** donations really helps us to plan ahead. If you could spare even a small amount each month, it could make a real difference.

Could you help us to raise funds?

Could you show our film to your friends or colleagues...take part in a marathon...or hold an event? Please ask for our **Fundraisers' Pack**.

Could you help us to find some new supporters?

If you already sponsor our work, perhaps you could help us by asking your friends, family and colleagues to **sign up as sponsors**. Our database is very small and we need **your help** to increase it. **Please tell us** if you know of **anyone** who would be interested in sponsoring our work or receiving our newsletters.

Thank you. Your support will make an impact.

Carson Harte, International Director

Beyond Cambodia...

10 years after the establishment of the **Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics**, we are proud to announce the expansion of our work into **Sri Lanka**. Thanks to the generous support of **The Nippon Foundation** of Japan, we are starting work on the establishment of the **Sri Lankan School of Prosthetics & Orthotics** - Sri Lanka's first training centre offering accredited studies in the prescription and fitting of artificial limbs and orthopaedic braces.

As we have seen in Cambodia, the training of **local** specialists is **essential** for the sustainability of rehabilitation services for people with disability in developing countries. We are delighted that the expertise our staff and students have built, at the **Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics**, is now going to be shared with another country in the region.

We are hopeful that we will shortly be announcing the launch of another new project. **Dr. Peter Carey**, one of the founders of the Cambodia Trust, is currently in **East Timor**, working to establish the first rehabilitation clinic for people with disability.

Receiving support for these projects from major donors means that they do **not** affect the funding or fundraising for our core work in Cambodia.



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Landmines and UXO: the tragic legacy



Report on UXO by Ryoko Tsutsumi, on location in Prey Veng Province with JMAS (Japan Mine Action Service), a Japanese NGO conducting UXO clearance in conjunction with Cambodian Mine Action Centre.

Injury from UXO - unexploded ordnance - is one of the most common causes of disability among people who attend our rehabilitation clinics. UXO is often considered to be a part of the landmine issue; however, in Cambodia, the number of casualties caused by UXO is almost the same as those caused by landmines - or even slightly higher.



The word UXO is used to describe both bombs dropped from aircraft which fail to explode, and unused shells and bombs left on the battlefield. Both adults and children are tempted to disturb these live munitions; the children see "toys", the adults see "income". The problem is linked to poverty and lack of education.

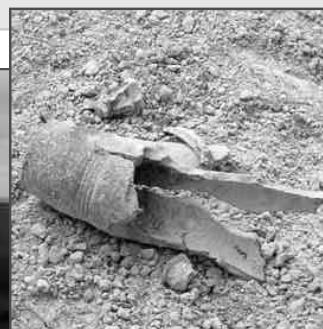


Poverty-struck farmers collect and dismantle UXO to gain small amounts of scrap metal. Recently, a man working in Kandal province was a victim of the UXO he had picked up, losing his arm, leg and eye-sight. Within two communes in Kandal province, there are 150 villagers who collect UXO as their livelihood during the dry season. It is hard to imagine the power when you are so close to a grenade (a grenade explosion can reach about thirty metres) and people do not realize how dangerous it can be.



Last year, after a man lost his life in Prey Veng Province, near the Vietnam border (one of the most heavily bombed targets during the war), a JMAS (Japan Mine Action Service) team visited his family to pay their respects and to find out exactly what had happened. The team found around thirty kilograms of scrap iron that the man had compiled. The estimated value of his collection was three thousand Riel - less than a dollar.

An expert at JMAS said, "The most scary thing is the casual attitude...people think it is not going to happen to them. Live munition can explode any time, anywhere, once it is disturbed. If people simply do not touch them, the UXO casualty rate will decrease by eighty percent. We have to stop this situation where kids are innocently tampering with UXO - before it is too late."



Photos: from top, local children take clearance specialists to the place where they found UXO; specialists from JMAS and CMAC check the UXO found; a live grenade; local specialists from CMAC searching for UXO at a construction site; 30 kg of UXO, found in one afternoon; the UXO is taken to a safe distance and destroyed, after the local people have been warned using a loud-speaker; after the explosion, the specialists check that all the UXO has been fully destroyed.

of decades of conflict and poverty

Facts and figures:

Cambodia remains one of the most heavily **landmine** and **UXO-affected** countries in the world.

834 people - more than two every day - were killed or injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance between January and December 2002. **One in three** were children.

6,422 villages in an area of **4,466** million square metres are reported to be affected by landmines and UXO.

Artificial limbs (prostheses) last around a **year** for an adult; **6 months** for growing children. They must be replaced as they wear out, just as you would replace your shoes.

Each artificial limb costs **£100**. To put this in perspective, 36% of Cambodia's population lives below the poverty line of 30p a day - an income of **£109 a year**.



Every year, at our 3 rehabilitation clinics in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Kompong Chhnang, our **local** staff make and fit over **2,000** artificial limbs and braces.

For those lucky to survive a landmine or UXO accident, receiving an artificial limb is the first, most vital step towards **self-sufficiency**. **Mobility** enables people with disability to participate in **school, employment** and **community life**. Mobility is not just the key to **breaking the cycle of poverty** - it can mean the difference between **survival** and **death**.



It costs **just £100** to make a high quality artificial limb, which will last between 6 and 12 months - and yet this is **the most difficult area** of our work to raise funds for.

We need to raise **£200,000** this year, to provide **2,000** people with artificial limbs or braces. **Please help us** reach our target, by sponsoring our work, making a donation, or by spreading the word about the terrible problems facing landmine survivors in Cambodia.



A donation of just £8 a month would provide a landmine survivor with a new artificial limb every year, giving ongoing mobility and the chance of self-sufficiency. For people like Dany, the young woman in these pictures, our support provides the chance to participate in family and community life; and to look forward to the future with dignity and hope.

Your support could really make a difference.



Photos: © Susan Schulman

Thanks for coming...

just a few of the Trust supporters who've recently visited our projects:



Ian Kidman (right, with Country Director **Alison Rhodes**) who presented an Outreach vehicle donated by the generous supporters of the **Friends of the Cambodia Trust Auckland** and the **Cambodia Trust Aotearoa, New Zealand**.



Mark Inglis, who made time in his packed schedule to visit our projects and attend our training school's graduation ceremony. Above left: Mark helps a young Cambodia Trust client out of the new Outreach vehicle donated by our supporters in New Zealand. Above right: Mark delivers a hands-on lecture to the students at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics. Find out more about Mark at www.markinglis.co.nz

Tim Smith, who cycled by during his **3,300 mile** ride from Singapore to Hong Kong. You can read more about Tim's adventures in aid of the Cambodia Trust, at www.crazyguyonabike.com

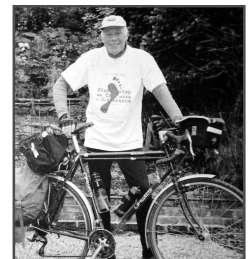
Ben Sadler, who has run two London Marathons to raise funds for us. Ben decided to see for himself how his funds were being used. This year, Ben is running the **Marathon des Sables** - one of the toughest foot races on earth! Read Ben's story at: www.gingerrunner.com.

The Rev. John Dennis of the First Presbyterian Church, Oregon, USA. As on previous visits, Rev. Dennis left a donation of over **\$1,100**.

Joy Irvine, founder of our Australian supporters' group, who attended our school's graduation ceremony and donated a digital camera.

John Gregory - a man with a mission!

"I have supported this charity with monthly donations for the last 5 years. On a tour of S.E. Asia in 1999 I was able to visit your HQ in Phnom Penh, where I met Carson Harte and observed the valuable work being done, both to train the local staff and to help the unfortunate victims of landmine disasters. It was heartwarming to witness their courage, endurance and the new found hope which The Cambodia Trust was helping them to achieve.



"They provided me with the inspiration to consider a challenging charity ride in this, my 60th year. In April I will embark on a **1,500 mile** cycle tour of the UK, with the money I raise being shared between **The Cambodia Trust** and **The HALO Trust**, whose hazardous work, clearing landmines in Cambodia, so effectively complements the work of your organisation. There are countless worthy causes within our global village, but these are two that I personally hold in high regard. I am a keen cyclist with a lot of energy, which I intend to use for the benefit of those who are not so fortunate."

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