

RAPHA

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

SPRING UPDATE 2021



DREAMS FOR A HEALTHIER CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, mental health issues are widespread. The recent history of war and genocide, in addition to ongoing social issues like domestic violence, substance abuse, poverty, and sexual abuse, all contribute to the prevalence of mental health problems. The need for mental health care services is substantial. Unfortunately, as stated by TPO Cambodia (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization), “there is tremendous gap in Cambodia between what is needed and what is available to reduce the burden of mental disorders and to promote mental health.” Although Cambodia has a population of 16 million people, there are less than 200 trained psychiatrists available.

Recently, three Rapha Counselors joined a pilot program at University of Puthisastra in Phnom Penh, a two year program in Professional Health Counseling. Through this course they experienced an explosion of growth in their understanding of mental health and counseling services. **Their vision has grown from providing the best care for Rapha girls to include the dream of improving mental health in all of Cambodia.**

In January of 2021, staff from Rapha International, along with a few local partners, helped sponsor and host a conference for mental health care workers in Siem Reap. Around 40 Cambodian practitioners from the social work and counseling fields gathered for a day of discussion and brainstorming ways to support each other and develop better mental health care services in Siem Reap.

Healthy communities, healthy parents, and healthy families keep children safe. We are proud that Rapha staff are stepping up to lead the way as we dream of a healthier Cambodia!

JENNI | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - CAMBODIA



Partner Today

Now more than ever we need your committed partnership to give survivors a future of freedom.

[RAPHA.ORG/SPRING21](https://Rapha.org/Spring21)

Sanoh's Story

Sanoh was trapped.

At home, Sanoh felt angry and hopeless as she fought with her new stepfather every day. After graduating from the sixth grade, Sanoh ran away from home to live with her friends. Soon after, a boy took a video of her being sexually assaulted and threatened to share it on social media. Humiliated, ashamed, and alone, she was coerced into prostitution.

Sanoh had no one to tell and thought that no one could help her.

The police uncovered Sanoh's situation. During the investigation, she was brought to Rapha International for her protection, and she found a team of people ready to help her engage in holistic services on a path towards healing.

Sanoh had fallen behind in school while she was trapped in prostitution, but Rapha teaching staff provided extra support to help her catch up to her grade level. Through trauma-focused therapy, Sanoh regained her sense of self-worth and she began to accept that what happened was not her fault. Rapha's legal staff is helping Sanoh navigate her court case and as a result, twelve offenders are being formally charged in Sanoh's case.

Sanoh has begun to dream about her future again. She wants to attend a local vocational training school, and someday own a small shop in her village.

Now, Sanoh is free.

WAITING FOR YOU

There are thousands of children like Sanoh waiting for advocates who are committed to investing in their freedom. Children recovered from dangerous situations by local law enforcement and child protective services need immediate safe shelter and care at Rapha.

Right now, Rapha's Aftercare Campuses have the physical capacity to serve more children. But, caring for survivors requires more than an empty bed. Children served by Rapha need security, counseling and medical services, education support, social work, and legal advocacy.

The empty bed is only the beginning. Our ultimate vision is to see the girls we serve living in sustainable freedom within families and communities as soon as is safely possible.

Your partnerships allow Rapha to consistently offer these services, and lay a foundation for healing, hope, and freedom for every survivor. Visit Rapha.org/waitingforyou to learn more!

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