



TV

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CAMBODIA: RIGHTS OF HOME-BASED WOMEN WORKERS

VIDEO

SHOTS PHNOM PENH CITY
STREETS

YUN SOPHEA ON BOARD A
PEDICAB

YUN SOPHEA ON CAMERA

SOPHEA ENTERS HER HOUSE
SOPHEA WORKS ON HER SEWING
MACHINE

AUDIO

NARRATION

Phnom Penh, the bustling, noisy capital of Cambodia. It's also this developing nation's economic hub – drawing scores of its citizens each year in search of work and a better life. (16.5")

That was the reason that 44-year-old Yun Sophea came ten years ago. Abandoned by her husband, she came to the city with her four young children and camped at the railway station. (14")

YUN SOPHEA: (KHMER) F

"It was extremely difficult. I did not know where to go or how to get money to buy food and my children were so small. It's so difficult." (9")

NARRATION

But Sophea was lucky to find an organization that provided temporary housing for her family and trained her in

the making of hand-crafted jewelry and toys. Her income soon enabled her to provide basic shelter for her family at a cost of 20 dollars a month. (19.5")

SHOT OF PHNOM PENH STREETS

MAN SEWING

WOMAN W/ CHILD,
SEWING MACHINE

MEN PUSH STREET CART

MEN SINOEUN WORKING IN
OFFICE

Out of a need for survival, Sophea has joined the ranks of thousands in Cambodia who are fulltime workers in the informal sector – those who work in small, entrepreneurial jobs without government protection or regulation. In fact, it's estimated that 85 percent of the Cambodian workforce are informal workers- many of whom are home-based labourers. Men Sinoeun, Director of Artisans Association of Cambodia, says more than 70 percent of their member producers are women struggling to get out of poverty. (37")

MEN SINEOUN ON CAMERA

MEN SINOEUN: (English) M

"We are proud inside ourselves that we can help a certain number of people to get employment and get out of poverty." (6.5")

VILLAGE SHOTS

SHOTS OF VARIOUS WOMEN
SEWING

(SHOTS W/ THEIR CHILDREN,
SEWING MACHINES)

STORE SELLING THE GOODS

NARRATION

The Artisans Association works to help its nearly 50-member groups network for information, enhance productivity and increase income for workers like these at Villageworks, a collective two hours outside of Phnom Penh. (15")

Many home-based women workers in Cambodia – and throughout Southeast Asia – have flexible work arrangements, but they are often the sole providers of family income, and without a safety net can find themselves at risk in crisis, says Jean D'Cunha of the UN Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM. (19")

JEAN D'CUNHA: (English) F

JEAN D'CUNHA ON CAMERA

"So there's a lack of legal protection, social protections, a lack of collective bargaining mechanisms. They are subject to sexual abuse, physical abuse." (7")

B-ROLL WORKERS

NARRATION

TRAINING SESSION SHOTS

MAN LEADS SESSION

VARIOUS SHOTS MEN & WOMEN

LISTENING

And this is a factor that Sineoun is trying to change with the help of Homenet, a regional organization that advises workers on their labour rights. (9.5")

SLIDE SHOW

MEN SINEOUN SITTING

Homenet brings in experts to train group leaders on how to get fair wages and education, the right to express opinions and concerns, and ways they can improve work safety conditions. (13")

SOPHEA WORKING AT HOME

Sopheha has also received Homene training, and has even formed her own group to make bracelets. Learning about her rights as a home-based worker has given her the confidence that she can keep

her family out of poverty. All four of her children are in school, and they recently moved to a newer and brighter home. (21")

YUN SOPHEA

YUN SOPHEA ON CAMERA

"My life is improving because I seek the understanding of rights. We can no longer say that we do not have rights" (6.5")

NARRATION

VARIOUS WORKERS AND GOODS

But the work has just begun. What is needed is nation-wide recognition of home-based workers' huge contribution to the economy and the political clout to match, says D'Cunha. (12")

JEAN D'CUNHA:

JEAN D'CUNHA ON CAMERA

"There needs to be space provided to home-based workers to actually have a seat at the policy table to formulate legislation and programmes that work in their interest." (8.5")

NARRATION

W/S YUN SOPHEA RIDING IN
PEDICAB

As for Sophea, she is now helping others in her bracelet-producing group achieve their own potential with knowledge she has of her rights in the labour force. (9.5")

YUN SOPHEA:

YUN SOPHEA ON CAMERA

"Now I never lose hope, I am happy. Sometimes we are short of money for a short time, but we can earn some money

*later... We are not short of ideas like
before.” (15.5”)*

NARRATION

CLOSING TAG

This report was produced by Bree Fitzgerald
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