



Fast Facts

Country: Cambodia; Viet Nam

Duration: June 2002 to July 2004

Implementing UN Agencies: UN-HABITAT

Other Implementing Partners: Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi

Budget: \$360,627.72

Key Words: Urban poverty; youth and children; human trafficking; education

BACKGROUND

At the time of the project's commencement in 2002, Cambodia was emerging from more than 25 years of war and internal conflict with significant consequences to its overall poverty and development. At the same time, Viet Nam had made tremendous progress in reducing the number of its citizens living below the poverty line. Yet both Ho-Chi-Minh-City in Viet Nam and Battambang in Cambodia were faced with a similar situation of insecurity. In each city, large population of children and youth were living alone in impoverished and dire conditions. These

children were subject to exploitation, malnutrition, lack of education, disease and social exclusion. Although several organizations had developed programmes to intervene with street children, these programmes did not assist those over the age of 16. These young people were emotionally ill equipped for adult life, lacked basic education and were often disenfranchised from their citizenry. As a result, many ended up in criminal activities or were victimized by human traffickers.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to address the needs of street youth in two ways. First, it provided the necessary support to help vulnerable youth make the transition into adulthood and re-integrate as full citizens into their societies. Second, it raised awareness of the issues

faced by disadvantaged youth and created an environment in which communities and local Governments were better prepared to serve youth in need of assistance.

BENEFICIARIES

The project provided psychological and educational support to empower urban youth, 15 to 19 years of age, who were living on streets or had been victims of human trafficking. Through the establishment of a 'House for Youth' in Battambang and Ho-Chi-Minh-

City, youths were given vocational and skills development training as well as basic education to break out of the cycle of marginalization and poverty and to restore their human dignity.