

# The Future of Southeast Asia

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Challenges of Child Sex Slavery  
and Trafficking in Cambodia

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To change the lives of people forever, and always for the better. To advance new solutions to the most emergent challenges around the world. To work with others to build the new politique of the 21st century. This is the mandate of The Future Group, a Canadian-based international non-governmental organization.

Over the course of the next five years, The Future Group will engage in an ambitious initiative to map the world, targeting the most pressing international issues facing major regions of the world, including: Central and Eastern Europe, South America, Africa, the Middle East and for our inaugural project, Southeast Asia. All projects will be built in concert with local organizations to ensure their sustainability. The Future Group will also maintain relationships with key organizations in each region and take the steps necessary to establish long-term leadership in these areas.

#### **THE CAMBODIA PROJECT**

During 2000-2001, The Future Group launched its inaugural project in Southeast Asia to address child sex slavery and trafficking. For nearly one-hundred days, a deployment team of four worked with local organizations in Cambodia to implement new ideas to help the children affected by this crisis of international proportions.

Initially, The Future Group had planned to work to implement five projects in Cambodia. After just three weeks, the deployment team was significantly ahead of schedule and began to actively identify new areas to pursue. Critical areas of need at local centres were addressed and projects that increased the scope of advancing new ideas were completed. More details about individual projects can be found at [www.thefuturegroup.org](http://www.thefuturegroup.org).

#### **Building Coalitions**

Relationships were forged with over twelve local and international organizations in Cambodia to develop a rich understanding of the challenges facing Cambodia and to provide a basis to implement new projects across Cambodia.

reached along major trafficking lanes nationwide through a prevention activity and colouring book in the Khmer language. This was the first time that a prevention project directly targeted children in high-risk situations.

### **Responsible Tourism**

The responsible tourism program for airlines was successfully launched. Targeting regional businessmen and foreign sex tourists, 6,000 deterrence leaflets will be disseminated by President Airlines and Royal Phnom Penh Airlines in flight in addition to over a hundred permanent desk copies on display in sales offices throughout the country.

### **Recovery Centre**

A full educational program was developed and funded for recovering victims. It includes reading, writing, math, history, geography, culture, and sciences. A medical project was successfully implemented by partnering a local doctor with the centre to provide regular medical check-ups, emergency care, pharmaceuticals and preventative health training for staff. The Ministry of Health has also agreed to a proposal for a national healthcare project to couple local doctors with recovery centres and residences throughout Cambodia. The Future Group assisted in the recovery and teaching of between fifty and sixty girls that immediately benefited from the assistance provided to this recovery centre.

### **Reintegration**

A three-month small business training project was developed and implemented with recovering victims of sex slavery and trafficking in a model restaurant where they also learn how to cook and serve customers. This is expected to significantly increase their chances of successful reintegration. Local teachers will be expanding the project to train hairdressing and sewing students as well. Between forty and fifty rescued girls and trafficking victims will have a stronger start to beginning a new life in communities throughout Cambodia.

skills to improve advocacy work, community participation in the policy making process and giving feedback to the government. The skills learned at these sessions were used to plan events to engage the public leading up to the Second World Congress against Commercial Exploitation of Children in Yokohama, Japan in December 2001.

### **Regional Expansion of Operations**

A strategy for the regional expansion of a leading Cambodian NGO was developed targeting Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar over the course of the next five years. This expansion plan will bring investigation, rescue, recovery and reintegration lessons learned in Cambodia to the other countries of the region.

### **Policy Development**

Working with a leading Cambodian NGO, a comprehensive yet succinct policy declaration was developed. It serves as the basis for long term leadership in the region and is embodied in the new solutions proposed in this report.

### **International Campaign**

With a launch date of 2002, The Future Group will chair the Steering Committee of an international campaign to advance new ideas and pressure policy makers to take action. A campaign plan was developed to bring these new solutions to the international community.

### **Action Research**

Through sharing ideas with hundreds of people, new solutions to the problem of sex slavery and trafficking were discussed. Twenty-three rescued girls were interviewed in detail about their experiences. In addition to the fourteen experts that were willing to go on the record to substantiate evidence gathered, dozens of other people were also consulted off the record. These people represented many different nationalities, and come from business, government and non-governmental sectors. The common thread to these discussions was that all of these people's lives have been touched by the crisis of sex slavery and trafficking in some way.

lives of children and young women that had suffered from sex slavery and trafficking. One hundred days later, we have seen that difference made not just directly in the lives of one or two girls, but in a hundred. On a higher level, literally tens of thousands of people will have been impacted through the projects that were launched in Cambodia and now championed forward by the local partners that developed them with us.

We're called The Future Group because we do not just talk about the future, we are built to address the challenges of the future. It is our objective to better the lives of people, and we know the enormity of the task worldwide. If only one by one, we can work to better those lives, then we will consider our entire endeavor to be a success. On the ground, across Cambodia we saw that the approach we were taking was unique. It had never been done this way before. It was a time when the politics of it all became real.

Benjamin Perrin

*Executive Director, The Future Group*