



British Embassy
Phnom Penh

Press Release

British Embassy Contributes US\$ 25,000 To AFESIP for Supporting the Rehabilitation of Women and Children who are Victims of Trafficking for Sex Slavery

The British Embassy Phnom Penh will contribute **\$25,000** to the Agir pour les Femmes En Situation Precaire (AFESIP) to support a 12-month project on the **Rehabilitation and Legal Support of Women and Children Victims of Trafficking for Sex Slavery**, which started from 01 August 2003 and will be completed by 30 July 2004.

The project's goal is to rehabilitate victims of sex slavery in specialised centres. The project will procure holistic care to international standards and strengthen the legal department within AFESIP. This project will continue the ongoing reception/rehabilitation activities for women and children (both Cambodian and Vietnamese victims) who are rescued from sex slavery. The social and psychological care will be provided in centres located in Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, and Siem Reap. Residential centres currently provide vocational training including hairdressing, sewing, catering, krama/mat weaving and agriculture. Human rights, personal hygiene, and social morality (life skills training) will also be taught in the centres. They will conduct family and community visits as a preparatory step for the reintegration of the beneficiaries in collaboration with teams from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

This project will also provide support for a legal advisor in order to increase the awareness of legal and procedural issues in the services provided to the victim. The legal assistance procedures shall be reviewed and any gaps highlighted. The rights of the victim will be re-emphasised as the highest priority at every stage. This will ensure that the victim receives the best legal assistance that is possible within the means available. This in turn should improve awareness of rights issues within the legal groups and also ameliorate practises among law enforcement officials.

We hope that this contribution will help Cambodian Women and Children victims of trafficking and it will improve their life chances.

*British Embassy
Phnom Penh, 06 August 2003*