

HAGAR

The House of Smiles Programme

Toul Kork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Annual Report 2006

Programme Goal:

To promote greater levels of independence and self-reliance for vulnerable children with disabilities in Cambodia through community based alternative care, rehabilitation activities and well-established residential facilities.

Deliverable One:

Each child has the opportunity to develop to her/his fullest potential.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- At the end of 2006, House of Smiles Programme (HOS) was caring for 32 children (22 from local community).
- The children in the HOS have access to personal development services, such as physical therapy and psycho-social therapy to enable them to achieve individual development goals and attain higher levels of independence.
- Each child has the opportunity to express their feelings and desires through the HOS staff, caregivers and the Programme Manager.

Table One: Statistics of Disabled Children at the HOS Programme (2006):

Children	Male	Female	Total
Total Resident Children	7	3	10
Total Community Children	11	11	22
Total Residents and Community Children	14	18	32



Children with cerebral palsy receiving physical therapy.

Deliverable Two:

Each child has access to educational opportunities according to their personal requirement and capacity.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- The HOS provides education and care for the disabled children in Cambodia where education is limited for them.
- At HOS, deaf children get priority over others. Staff regularly check individual record books to monitor their progress.
- The HOS advocates awareness about disabilities and each child's right to education.

Table Two: Total Number of Children Attending General Education:

School	Male	Female	Total
Local Government School	1	2	3
Krousar Thmey, (school for children with hearing impairment)	6	7	13
Rabbit School (special school for children with severe disabilities)	4	4	8
Community Learning Centre (catch-up school)	5	3	8
Total	16	16	32



HOS children doing extra lessons every afternoon

Deliverable Three:

Respite services are available for children with disabilities from the surrounding community.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- Respite services offer opportunities for the families of disabled children so they can earn money or tend to household chores while their children are cared for and have access to developmental activities at the HOS.
- The respite service package includes education, physical therapy, emotional development and medical treatment.
- 22 disabled community children received respite services during 2006.

Deliverable Four:

Competent and caring HOS staff receive on going training opportunities to enhance their knowledge of childcare and disabilities.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- 13 staff attended training courses during the first half of 2006. The courses provided were mental retardation, cerebral palsy and development, autism, polio, paralysis and other topics related to disability issues and community development.
- There was also a specialized training workshop at Rabbit School on the topic of attitudes and challenges of children with disabilities.
- During the second half of the year, trainers and teachers came from Hungary and have developed individual care plans for each child defining the learning, therapy and development objectives and activities that can be done according their abilities.
- Technical staff have assisted in monitoring the progress of the children using specially designed monitoring charts in order to help the children with specific needs, as well as physical and emotional development. The staff are aware of the children's aspirations for development and help them fulfill these dreams.
- Three children who have made a big improvement since the *Function, Language and Movement Education (FLAME)* training started are now applying their new knowledge and learning to their daily lives. The FLAME training initiative has been facilitated by representatives of Hungarian Baptist Aid.

Deliverable Five:

Children live in a homely, secure and caring environment.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- The House of Smiles is safe and secure facility which provides services to children with disabilities and uses a holistic development approach. Hagar is committed to the long term future of the HOS and its expansion.
- Currently, the HOS operates from a rented home that is relatively small compared to the land it sits on.
- Due to the particular care requirements of the children at the HOS, the residential home will never house large numbers of children. A small-scale "group home" approach has been internationally proven to ensure significantly higher levels of care for children. Hagar's intention is to avoid the creation of an "institution-style" facility. Therefore, numbers of children at the HOS will be limited to 15 children. The number of community children who will access the HOS services will be able to increase considerably with the acquisition of a new site in 2007.
- During 2007, a new site development initiative will be pursued with the intention of establishing a purpose-built owned facility.

Deliverable Six:

Positive relationships are developed within the wider community including advocacy and networking.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- The Manager of the HOS has developed active and positive relationships with local officials, authorities, leaders and general members of the local community.
- Community members were invited to attend awareness raising seminars and training sessions conducted by HOS staff and they were encouraged to share any issues regarding disability awareness, homecare, counseling, community development and child participation.
- Regular contact was maintained with local schools for disabled children to share expertise and experiences concerning quality education for disabled children. Additionally, the HOS Manager approached local schools to discuss integration options and access for children with disabilities.
- Representatives from the HOS met with other groups involved in similar areas of work to learn from each other and support each other.
- A survey was conducted to investigate local knowledge and attitudes towards the HOS and disability in general. It is hoped that this information will be useful in getting a better understanding of issues and may help with building bridges into the community.

- HOS children continued to be encouraged in developing friendships with neighbouring children by inviting them to share in play times, occasional meals and karaoke sessions. Also, HOS children are encouraged to go outside for outings and spend time with family.

Deliverable Seven:

Effective management of HOS is maintained.

Progress Toward Deliverable:

- During 2006, clearer systems have been developed for monitoring and evaluating different aspects of HOS work. Monthly reports are provided to senior programme managers and weekly meetings are held to discuss accomplishments and challenges.
- In December, staff participated in the review of 2006 annual plan and the development of working policies and the three year strategic plan for 2007-2010 in order to continue the development of the HOS.

Special Events with HOS Children and Staff:

- These include going to the Phnom Penh Water Park and also a trip to the beach in Sihanoukville located on Cambodia's southern coast.
- The HOS children have been involved in many advocacy campaigns during the year. These include the special celebration on the 10th anniversary of National Centre for Disabled Persons (NCDP), which was celebrated at the Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh and presided over by Prime Minister Hun Sen. Twenty children and the staff of HOS had an opportunity to meet and speak directly with the Prime Minister. It was a very good opportunity for the HOS Manager, Mr. Chan Sarin, to explain to the Premier Minister the work of Hagar's HOS and its contribution to help address the needs of disabled children.
- International Children's Day celebration at Samdach Hun Sen Park.



HOS children ready to take part in the parade for International Children's Day

- The Global Campaign for Education held at Samdach Hun Sen Park. This was a national event presided over by His Excellency Tea Banh. He was invited to speak with the HOS children to further raise awareness of the plight of children with disabilities. The manager of the HOS also had the opportunity to briefly explain the progress and future plans of the HOS. HE Tea Banh was impressed by the HOS's efforts and expressed admiration for Hagar's contribution towards social development.



His Excellency Sok An visited the HOS exhibition and talked with children and staff.