

## The Human Trafficking of Cambodian Women and Children for Sex Industry: Internal end External Case Study

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### *Abstract*

Perdagangan manusia atau *human trafficking* menjadi isu yang penting di kawasan Asia Tenggara, bahkan global seiring dengan meningkatnya jumlah korban dan perubahan pola-pola perdagangan manusia yang sangat cepat. Konflik dan perkembangan teknologi, serta kondisi sosial ekonomi masyarakat turut mempercepat angka perdagangan manusia, tak terkecuali di Kamboja dimana banyak yang menjadi korban perdagangan manusia ke Thailand dan Vietnam. Paper ini akan menjawab pertanyaan apa sebenarnya penyebab utama perdagangan manusia di Kamboja, bagaimana pola-pola perdagangan manusia, serta bagaimana respon dari pemerintah Kamboja untuk memberantas perdagangan manusia.

### **Introduction**

Human trafficking is one of the most serious human rights issues facing Cambodia today. In a country where the average per capita income is among the lowest in the world and state support systems are negligible, unsuspecting victims are lured with false promises of jobs or marriage, and they are forced into sex work or exploitative labor situations. The growing number of human trafficking for sex industry in Cambodia is associated with poverty, lack of education and social conditions including pressure to contribute more income to their family. Moreover, the patterns of economic development (including expansion of the tourist industry, privatization and corruption) and gender relations in Cambodia society have interacted to create the conditions for a flourishing sex industry.

A complex of interrelated changes associated with economic development and gender roles have operated to provide an increasing supply of women for the sex sector. Social norms play a large role as men's sexual activities

and it is accepted by Cambodian society, in contrast to the sexual activities of women. The norms which accept men's sexual activities, as well as the sexual behavior of UNTAC soldiers and tourists (which is closely related to the idea of 'orientalism') supports trafficking in Cambodia (Takamatsu, 2005). This condition increases the demand in the sex industry, because of the social acceptance of men buying sexual services, the inadequate disposable income of a large and growing segment of the Cambodian population, and the development of tourism, which tends to promote the industry.

This paper will describe the current situation of Cambodian women and children trafficking for sex industry, both internal (within Cambodia) and external (cross border or outside Cambodia). The structure of the paper divides into five parts. *First*, the definition of human trafficking and its relation with sex exploitation. *Second*, human trafficking situation in Cambodia, the main drivers of trafficking from push and pull factors, who is the victims and who is the traffickers. *Third*, the pattern of human trafficking in Cambodia, both internally and externally, *fourth*, the Cambodian response, to combat human trafficking and *finally*, is the conclusion.

### **Definition of Human Trafficking**

The UN protocol on human trafficking (Palermo Protocol) defines trafficking in persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation... [set forth above]... shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth have been used (UNIAP, 2008).

The definition of human trafficking above is perhaps the first international definition or reformulation of "trafficking in persons" since the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others. The 1949 Convention focused exclusively on prostitution and considered all prostitution, whether voluntary or forced, to be trafficking. The Palermo Protocol recognizes the existence and possibilities of both voluntary and forced prostitution and indeed leaves "prostitution" intentionally ambiguous to allow for different interpretations. According to Kathleen, the Palermo Protocol includes but does not define the phrase

“exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation”<sup>1</sup>. This occurs because the members in that conference agreed that involuntary participation in prostitution constitutes trafficking, but they rejected the idea that voluntary participation by adults in prostitution amounts to trafficking (Kathleen, 2007).

Sandy (2006) has the same opinion to distinguish between those who have “voluntarily” entered sex work and those who were “forced” into the business. She argued that trafficked sex workers are variably defined as women who were “sold” or “tricked” or “forced” or “deceived”. While voluntarily sex workers are those who want to work as sex workers since this job gives more money than work in the factory and the work seems to be easier.<sup>2</sup>

### **Human Trafficking in Cambodia**

Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women and girls are trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia for exploitative labor as domestic workers and forced prostitution. According to the Ministry of Women’s and Veteran’s Affairs, approximately 88,000 undocumented Cambodian women are in Thailand, and an estimated 40-60 percent of the sex workers’ (14,000) in Cambodia have been forced into the business (MWVA, 2003). Another article notes that there are at least 15,000 women sex workers active in Cambodia (Takamatsu, 2004).

While Cambodian children are trafficked to Thailand and Vietnam for sexual exploitation and begging, sell candy or flowers, or shine shoes. Parents sometimes sell their children into involuntary servitude to serve as beggars, into brothels for commercial sexual exploitation, or into domestic servitude. Within Cambodia, children are trafficked for forced begging, waste scavenging, salt production, brick making, and quarrying. Women and men are trafficked to work as cheap and highly exploited labor in construction activities, the fisheries industry, as porters, in factories, and in agriculture.

### **The Causes Factors of Human Trafficking in Cambodia**

The causes of trafficking are complex. Many factors lead people vulnerable to trafficking (see figure 1). This is happened because Cambodia’s turbulent history has impacted significantly on human trafficking trends. Societal

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1 “Sexual exploitation” means the participation by a person in prostitution, sexual servitude, or the production of pornographic materials as a result of being subjected to a threat, deception, coercion, abduction, force, abuse of authority, debt bondage or fraud. Even in the absence of any of these factors, where the person participating in prostitution, sexual servitude or the production of pornographic materials is under the age of 18, sexual exploitation shall be deemed to exist

2 Sex workers can earn more than 100 US\$ per month, while garment workers only earn US\$ 35 per month (LSCW, 2005)

structures and traditions, such as the centrality of the family, the Buddhist religion and respect for elders, have been undermined. Several underlying causes of human trafficking in Cambodia can be divided into push and pull factors. The push factors lead to human trafficking as follows:

### **1. Poverty**

Poverty and economic inequality are also significant factors to human trafficking in Cambodia. In 2003, around 90% of Cambodian was living under poverty in rural areas and the majority of them are women. Around 65% of women are farmers and responsible for 80% of food production (LCSW, 2005). People in the rural areas of Cambodia are challenged to earn living, particularly during the dry season when many of them migrate to provincial towns and the capital, Phnom Penh, in order to pursuit work opportunities, which are fairly limited. Men may work as moto-taxi drivers or construction workers, while women may work as street vendors, domestic servants, garment workers, beer girls in restaurants, scavengers, and others. One of the main factors related to poverty in rural areas, is lack of opportunities through loss of land and decline in traditional agricultural practices which have impacted greatly on Cambodian women and girls.

In some cases, because of poverty pressure the parents consent to allow their daughters to go with traffickers. This is happened because they believe that their daughters will be offered reasonable jobs so that it will supplement the family income. In Cambodian culture states, women are supposed to contribute to the family's income; women and girls feel pressurized to fulfill expectations and have a sense of responsibility to provide income for their family. The study then highlights cases where women or children have been compelled to work as prostitutes as they have no alternatives for providing income to support their families at home.

### **2. Lack of Education**

The situation of women in Cambodia is quite problematic, as there is an obvious gender gap in education. Most Cambodian women and children in rural areas have low education. Parents agreed with the old traditional idea that they should not allow their daughters to attend school because they might have love relationship with boys. Furthermore, girls tend to drop out in large numbers than boys, and the gender gap increases as the level of schooling rises. The gender gap in education is related primarily to two areas, first to costs, both direct costs and opportunity costs, and second to social attitudes towards gender roles (Takamatsu, 2004). Although women comprise the majority of the labor force, they enter the labor market with lack of educations, qualifications and skills than men. More than 20.000 women work in Cambodia's garment factories, as beer girls and as commercial sex

workers. Few of them have positions and power, as decision maker, and have status in Cambodian society.

### 3. Lack of Alternative Employment

Many Cambodians have limited opportunity for education and vocational training. They A large pool is created for unskilled workers. The lack of viable employment opportunities in Cambodia and the inadequacy of rural farming options for supporting families have encouraged them to seek employment elsewhere. It is often resulting in irregular and uninformed internal and cross-border migration which renders them vulnerable to traffickers.<sup>3</sup> At present, the job creation rate does not support the increasing labour supply. As a result of the deaths of approximately 2 million people in Cambodia under Khmer Rouge's rule (1975-1979), nearly 50% of the population in contemporary Cambodia is below 20 years old.<sup>4</sup> Around 150,000 to 175,000 people join the labour force annually and this is expected to increase to over 200,000 by 2010 (ILO, 2005).

### 4. Debt Bondage

Debt bondage is a form of coercion whereby women pay back traffickers/ smugglers, brothel owner or an agency the sum of money for which they were purchased, or a sum for travel documents, food, housing, and other services. It is one of the most frequently used methods of binding women. The girls may have been trafficked but still feel an obligation to pay back the brothel owner, and believe that eventually they will be able to make money in their own right. This expectation may prove false as their initial debt can be inflated through charges for accommodation, food, interest on the original loan (LCSW, 2005).

In Cambodia, the survey with child domestic workers found that it is a relatively common practice (10% of CDWs are estimated to be in debt bondage), almost exclusively practiced by parents who are exploiting their children's labour (IOM, 2007). Children may be used to repay a parent's debt, sometimes from one relative to another. Given the strong duty of the child towards the parent, these practices are rarely openly questioned.

### 5. Other Social and Cultural Factors

Some other causes commonly cited to explain the emergence and detection of human trafficking in Cambodia include the economic liberalization and

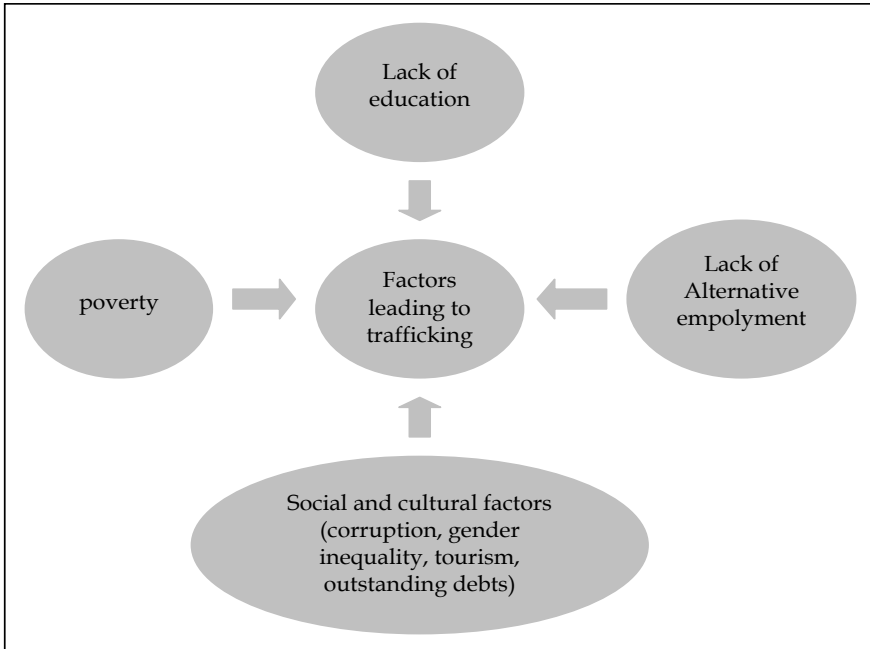
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3 IOM estimates that 30-40% of total migration flows in the region take place via unregulated channels

4 Population Pyramid, Cambodia 2007 based on demographic estimates and revised population projection from 2005, as found in: NCPD[2007], Cambodia Population Data Sheet 2007: Second Edition, [Phnom Penh:2007]

opening up of the country during the arrival of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC); uneven economic development from the influx of foreign currency; corruption; discrimination and gender inequality; increasing scarcity of productive agricultural land; natural disasters; debt pressures; inadequacy of safe and legal avenues for migration; and increased tourism.

**Figure 1. The Causes of Increasing Trafficking in Cambodia**



Source: Takamatsu, 2004

While the pull factor is the expectation that destination countries are places better than their impoverished economies and where migrants can earn more money for remittances back home (Naro, 2009).

**Who is Being Trafficked/Victims?**

Human trafficking affects men, women and children. It is commonly acknowledged that women and children are more vulnerable to trafficking than other sectors of the population. Whilst this may be the case, trafficking in men is also a serious issue that is quite commonly overlooked in discussions on human trafficking. In Cambodia, trafficking is often associated with women and children being sold, deceived or otherwise lured into prostitution (UNIAP, 2008).

According to officially repatriated cases, almost all victims repatriated from Thailand and Vietnam were children identified as being trafficked into begging or street selling and were from localized areas in key border provinces of Cambodia. The Cambodians repatriated from Malaysia and the Vietnamese repatriated from Cambodia were all women trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation (IOM, 2005). While men are only newly acknowledged as victims of trafficking in Thailand with the passing of the new Thai human trafficking law, counter-trafficking NGOs report receiving increasing numbers of complaints from Cambodian men trafficked to Thailand to work in the fishing industry over the last few years.<sup>5</sup> Within Cambodia, trafficking is predominantly women for commercial sexual exploitation and children and women for domestic work (Brown, 2007).

In Cambodia, a significant proportion of female victims of trafficking for prostitution are ethnic Vietnamese, some of whom were born in Vietnam. Some Cambodian and ethnic Vietnamese women and girls are trafficked internally to areas in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville. They are forced to prostitute in brothels and karaoke bars. NGO and media reports indicated that internal sex trafficking of women and girls from ethnic minority groups and of ethnic Vietnamese is an increasing problem. The sale of virgin girls continues to be problematic in the country, with foreign (mostly Asian) and Cambodian men paying \$800 to \$4,000 to have sex with them. Cambodia is a destination country for foreign child sex tourists, with increasing reports of Asian men traveling to Cambodia in order to have sex with underage virgin girls. Some Cambodian women who migrated to Taiwan as a result of brokered international marriages may have been subsequently subjected to conditions of forced prostitution or forced labor.

### **Who is the Trafficker/Broker?**

Trafficker is any person commits the crime of trafficking in persons. This is not limited to those involved in recruitment or transportation of people, but includes employers and all those involved in the exploitation of the trafficked person (Pearson, 2005). They are those who organize the transportation, those who provide the transportation, those who guide through the numerous cross border routes, those who are paid to ignore border crossing, those who provide legal documents for inflated prices at international crossing and those who find employment and jobs.

Generally, trafficked women and children are being deceived by trusted person, relatives, neighbors, known persons in the village, boy friend and/or friends. In many cases the perpetrators of the crime are aware of the *naïveté* of the women and children they deceive. There are some cases which indicate

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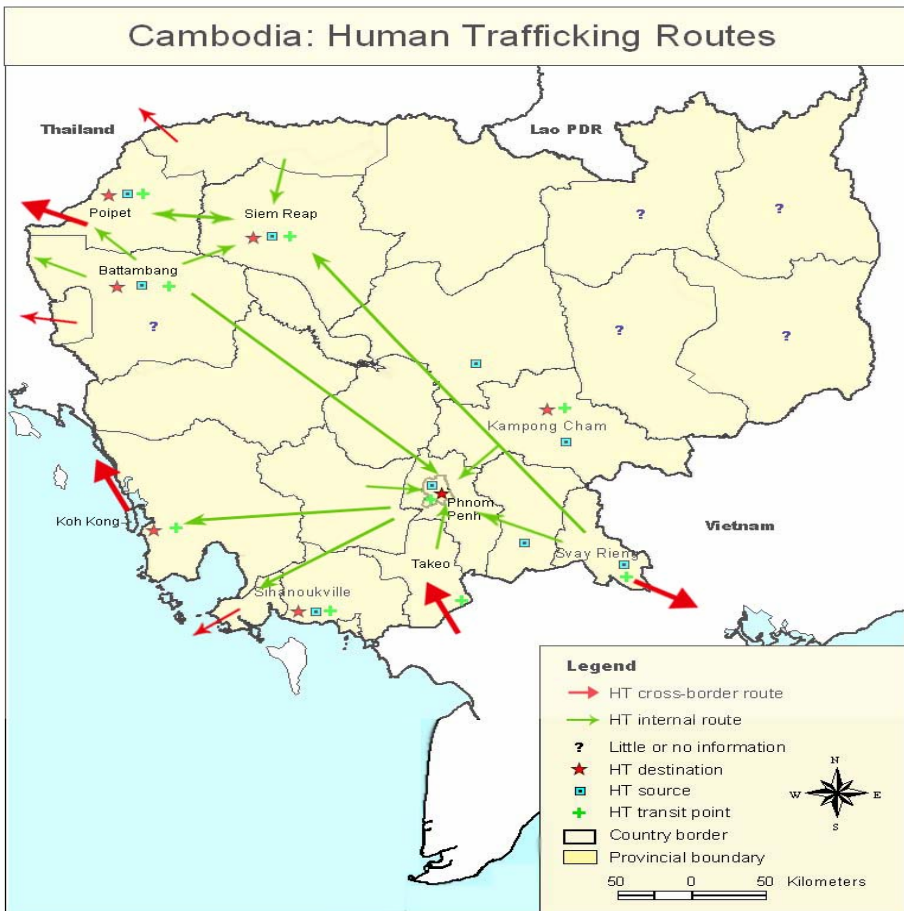
<sup>5</sup> Increasing number of complaints have been received by Licadho, Adhoc and LSCW

parental consent is given to allow daughters to go off with the above mention people because they believe that their daughters will be offered reasonable price and contribute to family income.

### Pattern of Trafficking in Cambodia

Human trafficking in Cambodia is far from a homogenous phenomenon. Trafficking networks in Cambodia range from small-scale *ad hoc* activities to large-scale and well-organized operations. Cambodia now experiences significant internal and cross-border trafficking, and is a country of origin, transit and destination. The Cambodian human trafficking can be seen in figure 2, both internal and external trafficking.

Figure 2. Human Trafficking Routes in Cambodia



Source: UNIAP, 2008



**Internal Trafficking: within and into Cambodia**

Trafficking usually draws from rural areas to urban areas. Phnom Penh is the core point for transferring the women and children to other countries outside Cambodia. Within Cambodia, many women are trafficked from rural areas to central or tourist areas for the purposes of bonded labor and participation within the sex industry.

Source provinces for domestic trafficking are usually highly populated rural areas in close proximity to urban/tourist canters, especially those susceptible to economic downturn such as that caused by severe droughts and flooding. Provinces commonly perceived by the NGO community in Cambodia as source provinces for domestic trafficking are Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takeo, Battambang and Phnom Penh (particularly from fast developing urban slums) (UNIAP, 2008).

While, the most common destination provinces in Cambodia are: Phnom Penh (for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, domestic work, and labour exploitation); Koh Kong (for the fishing industry, construction and commercial sexual exploitation); Sihanoukville (for begging and commercial sexual exploitation); Siem Reap (for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, domestic work and construction) Poipet (for begging and commercial sexual exploitation); and Battambang (for commercial sexual exploitation). These trafficking destination hot-spots are specifically urban areas.

Table 1 below gives statistics on internal trafficking of Cambodian women. From the table, we can assume that domestic cheated is the main reason how women and children are recruited for trafficking. The typical stories involve girls being promised a decent job with a high salary somewhere in the city or other countries, hoping for a way to escape from poverty, while rape/sex abuse is the majority of sex exploitation among women and children.

Table 1. Trafficking of Cambodian Women

Location	Cases										Total
	Trafficking					Exploitation					
	Domestic Cheated	External cheated	From inside	From outside	Rape/abuse	Violence	Obscene	Rescue	Send to court		
Phnom Penh	11	5	1		30		2	2	1		76
Sihanouk ville					5	1					6
Kandal	1		1		21	5					28
Takeo	1				2	5					8
Kompong Cham	1				14	8					23
Bantey Meanchey	3	2			15	5	1	2			28
Battambang	1				26	8					35
Prey Veng					6	5					11
Kampot	1				9	1					11
Pursat					1	1					2
Svay Rieng					4	3					7
Kompong Thom					4	4					8
Siem Reap	1				19	4	3				18
Ratanakiri					1						1
Kompong Speu	1		2		11	2					16
Kompong Chhnang					6	2					8
Koh Kong					1						1
Kratie	1										1
Pailin					1						1
Total	22	7	4		167	54	6	4	1		265

Source: Trafficking Department, Ministry of Women Affairs, 2002

Moreover, Cambodia is also a receiving country, many foreign women are forced to work as sex workers in Cambodia. Most of them are from Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines and China who has been trafficked to Cambodia for work in the country or for transferred to a third country. While trafficking from further abroad, such as Eastern Europe (Tajikistan, Russia) is also for commercial sexual exploitation. These countries are located quite far from Cambodia, so it is obvious that syndicates of organized crime have been built (Takamatsu, 2004).

### **1. From Vietnam**

Trafficking from Vietnam is not only involved women and children from Vietnam, but also Vietnamese communities who live within Cambodia. They are particularly vulnerable to internal trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Many of the Vietnamese women and girls in Cambodia come from the South Vietnam provinces of Can Tho, Sok Trang, Anh Giang, Long Binh, Vin Long and Ho Chi Minh City which border or have closes access to Cambodia. Within this group are Khmer women who are known as Khmer Kampuchea Kraom (ethnic Khmers living in Southern of Vietnam). Aged between eleven to over twenty years, these women and girls are deceived, coaxed or forced into making the journey.

Based on research conducted by the Human Right Commission during 1996-1997 in 22 provinces and municipalities and 46 districts in Cambodia found 14,725 women working in brothels comprising 81% Khmer, 18% Vietnamese and 1% from other countries (Caoutte, 1998). Along the Vietnam-Cambodia border there are a number of legal and illegal passes and it does not appear to be difficult to cross the borders. The fee charge for crossing the border is \$2 - \$3 per person, though some people have paid from \$10 - \$60. Modes of travel and entry to Cambodia are by land and river, including cars, trucks, motor bikes, boat or on foot. In 1999, CWDA reported that these were the methods for crossing into the provinces of Takeo, Kandal, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham and Ratanakiri. Recently, a report said that young beautiful Vietnamese girls from Northern Vietnam have been flown to Phnom Penh with proper passport.

### **2. From China**

In a few cases ethnic Chinese women have been trafficked into Cambodia via Vietnam and entering legally through Bavet in Svay Rieng province. There have also been cases reported of Chinese women entering with illegal visas and being assisted by Chinese businessmen in Cambodia to stay and work temporally in five star hotels in Phnom Penh (CWDA, 2001).

### **3. From Philippines**

Some Philippines enter Cambodia on short term visas, flying into Phnom Penh international airport or entering through Sihanoukville via sea route. Many of them work as singers or dancers in major cities such as Phnom Penh or Sihanoukville.

### **4. From Thailand**

Thai women are brought into Cambodia on day passes through border points at Bantey Meanchey/Aranyaprathet, Koh Kong/Trad, and Udon Meanchey/Surin. Some of them are with legal documents through Phnom Penh International Airport. In due course they travel to Phnom Penh to work in night clubs. Some of them are already involved in the sex industry in Thailand and are bonded to their pimps. They are taken to Cambodia to perform sex shows in some of the Phnom Penh nightclubs. Thai traffickers assist them to go to Cambodia.

### **External Trafficking**

Trafficking can take place both within and across border. Poverty, broken family, landlessness, lack of education, false marriage, less control of border and the influence of networks of traffickers both from Cambodia (sending countries) and receiving countries, are also significant contributing factors to increase one's vulnerability to being trafficked cross border or internationally. In most cases in Cambodia, the migration of women and children typically occurs without being formally organized. However, in some cases, it is organized by traffickers who may be involved in the sex industry. The cross border trafficking from Cambodia as follows:

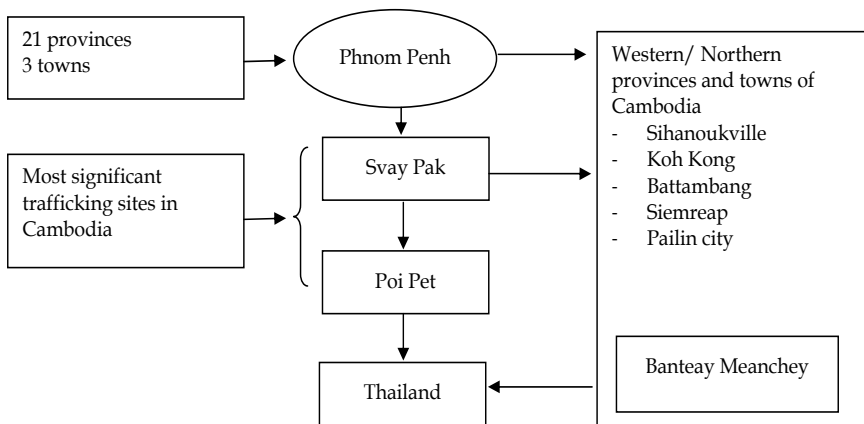
- 1) Trafficking to Thailand of men women, children and for labour exploitation (especially begging and fishing), sexual exploitation, and domestic work.
- 2) Trafficking to Vietnam of children for begging.
- 3) Trafficking to Malaysia of men, women and children for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation (especially factory work and construction work) and domestic work.
- 4) Trafficking further abroad to remote countries such as Saudi Arabia for domestic work, Taiwan and Korea for marriage, United States for adoption and Somalia for labour exploitation in the fishing industry etc.
- 5) Vietnamese and Chinese are also trafficked through Cambodia to further locations abroad.

**Cross Border Network of Traffickers in Cambodia**

The trafficking movement toward Cambodian women and children in Cambodia can be seen in figure 3. There are classifications for migrants to find jobs among 21 provinces and 3 towns in Cambodia. The position of trafficking movement stretches from the Eastern provinces to the Western or Northern provinces of Cambodia. This is happened because the Eastern provinces are the poorest provinces in Cambodia, such as Svay Rieng, Prey Vieng, Takeo and a rest of Kompong Cham that borders with Vietnam.

It is said that Phnom Penh is the city axis or home of all migrants from other provinces. Migrants are attracted to the capital in the hope of finding good jobs, high paying risk jobs and tourist attractions. While Svay Pak is well known for foreigners as the big location for sex trafficking in Cambodia. The traffickers’ network lured the vulnerable women or children to sell virginity or to be prostituted and shared to the provinces bordered with Thailand, such as Koh Kong, Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey (Poipet), Sihanoukville and Pailin City.

Figure 3. Cross Border Trafficking Movement in Cambodia



In Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Poi Pet and Siem Reap are the biggest sex tourism places for tourist and local people. While Svay Pak is known as a popular sex tourism brothel for Japanese, foreigners, China and all over the world. Businessmen, middlemen and powerful men in Cambodia, such as high official police, soldiers as well as tourist, always visit Svay Pak to have sex with young Vietnamese and Cambodian women and children. The Cambodian and Vietnamese traffickers have their networks in Phnom Penh. They exchange prostitutes with each other in Toul Kork and to other provinces. Then they distribute the trafficked women and children to several brothels in Cambodia.

The traffickers use three types of transportation to transport trafficked women and children across Cambodia's border by overland routes, by waterways and by air. Cambodia can be accessed overland or by boat to/from Thailand and Vietnam. By overland route, at the checkpoint traffickers use many kinds of schemes involving hidden deals between the Cambodian police and the police from Vietnam and Thailand. Sometimes, the Thai and Cambodian traffickers share benefit with each other after having brought the women and children across the border to Thailand. It is difficult to establish reliable statistic on cross border Cambodian women and children. However, this figure can be useful to estimate the number of the victims. The information of repatriation from Cambodia to Vietnam received from MoSVY, Thailand to Cambodia from Poipet Transit Centre, Vietnam to Cambodia from IOM, and and Malaysia to Cambodia from MoFA (UNIAP, 2008).

**Table 2. The Repatriation of Trafficking Victims**

Official Repatriations from Thailand of Cambodian Human Trafficking Victims		Official Repatriations from Vietnam of Cambodian Human Trafficking Victims	
Year	Number repatriated	Year	Number repatriated
2005	186	2005	93
2006	232	2006	113
2007	160	2007	224

Official Repatriations from Malaysia of Cambodian Human Trafficking Victims		Official Repatriations from Cambodia of Vietnamese Human Trafficking Victims	
Year	Number repatriated	Year	Number repatriated
2005	19	2005	12
2006	6	2006	5
2007	3	2007	8

Source: UNIAP, 2008

### **Cambodian Response to Combat Human Trafficking**

Cambodia has established the National Task Force (NTF) to commit itself to the regional MOU agreement on the elimination of trafficking of persons and providing assistance for the victims of trafficking. The stakeholders of fight against human trafficking are the government, donors, NGOs. The NTF consist of 10 articles which include the need for greater collaboration between existing municipal/province level working groups, the implementation of MOU and Agreement between Cambodia and Thailand as well as Vietnam.

The human trafficking in Cambodia is under Department of Human Trafficking, Ministry of Women Affairs. This ministry is working on the prevention of trafficking. Its activities are implemented across the country, mainly in areas where cases of trafficking have originated from. These activities include awareness raising campaign on human trafficking and safe migration, education, and capacity building, creation of child protection

networks, poverty alleviation, and disaster response project through micro credit processes. Within the region, MoWA also seek to put into place laws, polices, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries that support a legal response and improved services for trafficking victims (Nero, 2009).

### Conclusion

Every year in Cambodia, hundreds of girls are trafficked and sold into brothels where they are forced to work as sex slaves. Although precise figures are unavailable, recent report says the rate of trafficking is soaring. Many of the victims endure years of torture and abuse in brothels, resulting in lasting physical and psychological trauma. The Cambodian women and children who live in poverty, lack of education and social stereotypes to support family income are vulnerable to human trafficking for sex exploitation. This situation gets worst when Cambodian government do not have enough political will to combat human trafficking with their corrupt police official. Even some sex industry is backed up by the powerful people on Cambodia. The vicious cycle of human trafficking of Cambodian women and children is quite difficult to cut if demand and supply of trafficked women and children still exist. ●

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