

Well-being of Women and Children at 4 Cambodian Prisons increased and Vocational Training with Job Placement after release ensured

Small Project Proposal 2021-2023



Consultation of Mother and Child at Stung Treng Prison with entering data

**To submit to Caritas Vlaanderen
2021-2023**

Prepared by Ms. Bernadette Glisse, Siem Reap Provincial Director

PROJECT PROPOSAL ON
“WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT 4 CAMBODIAN PRISONS INCREASED AND DIGNITY AFTER
RELEASE ENSURED DUE TO VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING
2021-2023

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NGO (1 PAGE)

Caritas Cambodia is an official social development arm of the Catholic Church in Cambodia. It has been built on the values of Love, Concern, Justice, Peace, Unity, Sharing and Unity. It established in 1990, assists the poor, disadvantaged and displaced people of Cambodia. Caritas works in solidarity with all people of good will and similar vision to promote human dignity, alleviate human suffering, promote the development of people, and foster charity, justice and peace in the country and in the world. Caritas assists the poor solely based on need, not creed, race and nationality and maintains strict standard of efficiency and accountability.

Vision

Caritas Cambodia in its quality as the social arm of the Church is entrusted with the task of fighting against injustice, promoting the dignity of the poor and above all contributing to establishing the values of the Kingdom in a Buddhist society. As such, its vision is:

“The realization of a just society where the rights of people are respected and integrated development is promoted by building communities through an empowering process”.

Mission

In order to achieve this vision, Caritas will be an institution for empowering the poor through animation and community organisation and above all through a mutual learning process. Consequently, its mission will contribute to the restoration of human dignity for the poor and will liberate them from the clutches of poverty.

Guiding Values

As the social arm of the Church, the roots of Caritas Cambodia lie in the values of the gospel and the social teaching of the Church. Its action stems from a strong desire to live the values of the gospel in a society where there is a need for constant dialogue and reflection.

Where We Work

Caritas Cambodia is working in eleven provinces across the country: in Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Siem Reap, Takeo, Preah Vihear, Kratie, Mondolkiri, Stung Treng and Rattanakiri. Integrated rural development projects are implemented in all provinces. Our work is dealing with upgrading sustainable livelihoods for the poor and marginalized at the grassroots level, to strengthen the Health system at the first level of care, including health centres. HIV/AIDS is also a strong focus for the Caritas Community Health Programs. Caritas Cambodia is committed to promoting and strengthening community-based activities and in empowering the poor and the most vulnerable. Finally, Caritas is supporting 7 prisons and is empowering the prisons structure and inmates so that they get equipped to re-enter into society with dignity after release due to skills trainings and Job Placement after release.

Highlighted Programs

1. Community Empowerment Program

2. Community Health Program
3. HIV/AIDS Program with Home Based Care, Self-Help Groups, Livelihood program and Drop In Center
4. Comprehensive Prison Program for 7 Provincial Prisons
5. Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH)
6. Preventive Eye Care (Takeo Eye Hospital)
7. Emergency Response Preparedness and Rehabilitation
8. DRR and CCA Program
9. Right Based Approach and Advocacy (RBA)
10. Gender and Anti-Trafficking
11. Youth Development Program

1.1. Name of NGO **Caritas Cambodia**

1.2 Overall objectives of the NGO

Goal 1: Promote a collective disaster preparedness, relief and rehabilitation of people affected by natural calamities

Goal 2: Improve livelihood and quality of life of poor and marginalized communities in the 11 provinces of Cambodia through an integral development

Goal 3: To provide preventive and curative health care services including health awareness, nutritional support, safe motherhood, eye care, care for mental health, and HIV/AIDS programs in order to decrease mortality and morbidity and to improve health conditions of target communities especially women and children.

Goal 4: To channel the energies of people at different levels to demand for justice, human rights, land rights and to influence political changes.

Goal 5: To enhance good governance and Institutional Capacity of Caritas

Goal 6: To reduce Gender based violence and Human Trafficking in our targets areas.

1.3 Strategy used to reach the objectives of the NGO

Strategy 1: Elaborate strategies for disaster reduction (DRR), mitigation response and prevention.

Strategy 2: Through the ongoing empowerment process motivate and strengthen the communities to take up collective activities on important global and national issues.

Strategy 3: Strengthen the Government Health System and Community Health structures at Health Centers levels in partnership with community representatives and local leaders.

Strategy 4: Promote advocacy by networking with P.O., other likeminded organizations and the government to influence policy changes.

Strategy 5: Strengthen the institutional capacity of Caritas Cambodia by introducing new systems and structures at all levels.

Strategy 6: Through community awareness, advocacy issues, prevention, prosecution and re-integration of victims of trafficking into society.

1.4 Local and international partners of the NGO (if applicable)

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Interior, Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Germany, Caritas Int. Belgium, Caritas Spain, Caritas Australia, Caritas Scotland, Caritas Hong Kong and other Caritas.

1.5 Address, fax, telephone and e-mail of the Diocesan or National Caritas

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Website: www.caritascambodia.org

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1.6 Prepared by

Bernadette Glisse, Siem Reap Provincial Programs Director with Mr. La Vibol and Mr. Samreth Tola, Prisons Projects Managers.

2. PROJECT TITLE AND SUMMARY (1 PAGE)

2.1 Title of the project.

Well-being of Women and Children at 4 Cambodian Prisons increased and Vocational Training with Job Placement after release ensured

Summary of the project:

The project will target all women at prison with special focus on pregnant women and women living with children at 4 prisons and support them in their basic needs, increase their knowledge on how to care for their children and provide them with vocational skills to ensure their re-integration into society after release. Their children living behind the bars will be specially protected and their basic needs ensured so that they get the best possible development at prisons.

Awareness on Health and hygiene, care for young children and cross-cutting issues such as drugs addiction and drug dealing, Gender based violence, human trafficking and child protection policy will be priority focus in the training curriculums.

Hygiene materials and food support will be provided to pregnant and women with children and their children themselves.

Basic Cambodian literacy courses, sewing, beauty parlor, weaving and food processing skills will be provided to interested candidates. Advocacy and respect of Prisoners' Rights and especially Women's Rights will always remain a crosscutting issue...Small grant to start up a business after release will be provided if suitable

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND (PROBLEM ANALYSIS)

3.1. Bernadette Glisse has been the recipient of the **first Caritas International Deckers Award** in November 2007. Then, Bernadette, got in 2010, additional support from Caritas Belgium for water wells digging in remote villages of Svay Leu in Sothnikum district in Siem Reap province. This activity was a component of the livelihood program for parents of malnourished children in unsecured food areas of the community health program. In addition to the community health program, the Caritas team in Siem Reap had implemented a large HIV program for the entire province of Siem Reap, caring for over 1800 PLHIV and families from 2001 to 2015. In the meantime, the Caritas Siem Reap team started to work in 7 provincial prisons, setting up the health systems at these prisons in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior.

Once the health system was well established, Caritas initiated the cooperation with the Provincial Department of Vocational Training under the Ministry of labor to improve the quality of life of inmates during their detention and to facilitate their re- integration into society after release. The prison program project cares for over 2586 inmates in total for 7 prisons. Caritas Belgium has been very involved and supportive of the prisons program from 2014 to 2019 when they faced some challenges for funds raising due to migrants' situation in Belgium and recently due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition to these programmatic issues, Caritas Cambodia is a strong advocate for Human Rights at prisons and involve in many protection issues.

Finally, Caritas Cambodia was also asked to support a last new program called "Promotion of Comprehensive Social Inclusion of vulnerable persons suffering from psycho-social, social and physical disabilities and chronic diseases (HIV/AIDS) in Cambodia.

On 16th October 2019, Bernadette was honored to receive the "Cross of Knight in the Order of the Crown bestowed by H.M. the King of Belgium through H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka, Ambassador of the King, for services rendered by Bernadette over 40 years assisting the Cambodian People to recover from the Genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouges and moving towards better life and dignity.

3.2. Prisons situations, achievements and remaining needs:

The 4 prisons targeted by this program are: Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Stung Treng and Rattanakiri provincial prisons. The Stung Treng and Rattanakiri prisons have been supported by Caritas Australia and Caritas Belgium since 2015 for their health and vocational training needs while Oddar-Meanchey and Pailin prisons are currently supported in their health needs by Missio.

While the health needs at prisons have been successfully managed and the vocational skills trainings largely developed and very successful, it appeared that women have been left behind as they were seen as minority compared to males' inmates being the majority and more demanding of skills training. In addition, pregnant women and women living with children at the prisons were more focusing on caring for their children instead of registering to trainings. **This project would like to empower women at prisons with better education and skills training to ensure a smooth and happy rehabilitation after release with their dignity fully restored.**

Prisons brief description of the 4 targeted provincial prisons:

3.2.1. The Oddar Meanchey Province and Prison:

Oddar Meanchey Province is located in the far North West of the country and is bordering to the North with a lengthy borderline to Thailand, to the East with Preah Vihear, to the West with Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap to the South. In the North the province consists of the re-known Dangrek Mountains. The rest of the province is an agricultural land. The total area of Oddar Meanchey province is about 6,158 square kilometres with a population of 185,443 inhabitants and is at 458 kilometres from Phnom Penh and 142 kilometres from Siem Reap Province. This province suffers of serious drought and constantly faces problems with water.

The Oddar Meanchey Prison was moved from Police Commissioner land to a new location on 15 November 2014 at about 12 kilometres from the city. It owns a land of 5 hectares and is located at Cha Erm village,

Samrong commune, Samrong city in Oddar Meanchey Province. It counts now 339 inmates of which 25 women and 6 children.

3.2.2. The Pailin Province and Prison:

Pailin province, very close to the Thai border, is located at 247 km from Siem Reap, bordering Battambang province and is part of the diocese of Bishop Enrique Figaredo (Kike) where the church is very active. The church was already supporting a water well at the prison in 2017.

In the North, the small municipality consists of the typical plain wet area, covering rice fields and other agricultural plantations. Pailin City itself is located on the foothills of Chuor Phnom Kravanh, an extension of the Kardamom Mountains. The South of the municipality is quite hilly and tops with the highest altitude of 1164m. The province also features some smaller rivers coming from the mountain range. The current population in this municipality is about 35,234 people or 0.25% of the country's total population and population density is therefore 44 people per square kilometer.

From the economy point of view, the surrounding area of Pailin City was in the past rich in a variety of gemstones which were mined to support the Khmer Rouge. They also logged the area to create personal wealth with no regard for the effect on the environment. Nowadays all you can find is low-quality, cheap, hand-faceted gemstones at the market in Pailin downtown. After the exploitation of the natural resources available, the Khmer Rouge invested their money in the Casinos around Pailin.

The Pailin Prison in 2014 was moved from a former cinema site to new location, at about 5 kms from town and with 3 hectares of land at Toek Chenh village, Stueng Kach commune, Salakrao district, Pailin Province. The prison hosted by January 2020, 328 of which 23 women and 1 child.

3.2.3. The Stung Treng Province and Prison:

Stung Treng is a province in the northeast of Cambodia. It borders the Rattanakiri to the east, Mondolkiri and Kratie to the south and Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear to the west. Its northern boundary is Cambodia's international border with Laos. The Mekong River bisects the province. The province is mostly covered by forest, but logging and fishing put high pressure on the forest and fishery reserves.

Stung Treng is on the traffic zone with Laos and make a lot of exchanges with the country. Many Laotians people cross the border for business and smuggling drugs.

The Stung Treng Prison is populated by people mostly uneducated and unskilled, trafficking illegal drugs, involved in human trafficking and other serious offenses. It counts by January 2020, 377 inmates in total, of which 28 women and 1 child.

3. 2.4. The Rattanakiri Province and Prison:

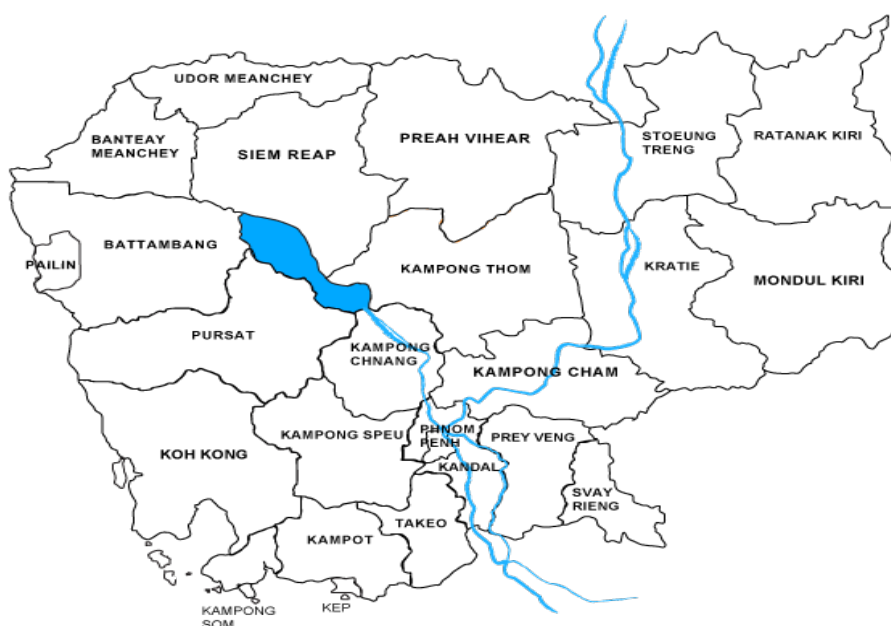
Rattanakiri is a province of northeast Cambodia. It borders the provinces of Mondolkiri to the south and Stung Treng to the west and the countries of Laos and Vietnam to the north and east, respectively. The province extends from the mountains of the Annamite Range in the north, across a hilly plateau between the Tonle San and Tonle Srepok rivers, to tropical deciduous forests in the south. In recent years, logging and mining have scarred Rattanakiri environment, long known for its beauty. Rattanakiri is sparsely populated; its 184,000 residents make up just over 1% of the country's total population. Residents generally live in villages of 20 to 60 families and engage in subsistence shifting agriculture. Rattanakiri is among the least developed provinces of Cambodia. Its infrastructure is poor, and the local government is weak. Health

indicators in Rattanakiri are extremely poor; men's life expectancy is 39 years, and women's is 43 years. Education levels are also low, with just under half of the population illiterate.

The Rattanakiri Prison is populated mostly by Ethnic Minority, Indigenous People, often breaking the Law due to ignorance, lack of education...or extreme poverty. The prison is hosting by January 2020, 446 inmates of which 38 women and 1 child.

Map of Cambodia

**With Oddar Meanchey and Pailin provinces on the west and
Stung Treng, Rattanakiri provinces on the east.**



3.3. The general problems at Cambodian Prisons

- **Prisons and Prison Health are of low priority by Governments worldwide and Cambodia** does not make exception to that situation. The Prison Health System is now getting better due to Caritas Cambodia long commitment and advocacy to the MoH with other stakeholders working at prisons.
- **In prisons, people face great suffering**, violence, discrimination and sometimes torture...People in prisons have very little or no rights...Prisoners after release are discriminated and lack of support!
- **Most prisoners are illiterate, unskilled** and so, unable to make a decent living...so, they ended up stealing or dealing illegal drugs...Most inmates are victims of poverty!
- **Prisoners are locked in their cells all day long**, besides 1-hour exercising, where there are no vocational trainings offered....
- **80% of the detainees are drugs addicts or drugs dealers** and often re-offense and come back to prison because they have no skills and are not able to sustain their life, their families.
- **Youths remain in large cells with adults, often illiterate and dream** about reading books or cartoons... They are orphans or children from poor families who could not care for them... Then, they

got trapped into gangs and involved in serious offenses like theft, drug dealing, rapes or crimes...which lead to long time sentence generating sense of failure, hopelessness and self-destruction...

- **Food at the prisons is scarce** as the Ministry of Interior's budget for food is about \$1 per day per prisoner and some prisoners show signs of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency. Some get sick and develop Tuberculosis...
- **Once released, some prisoners are unable to work** or to make income to sustain themselves and families. Some are abandoned by their families which complicates their re- integration after release.

However, if Prisons can be places for violence, hate and discrimination, they can also be places for healing and reconstructing oneself...if inmates find a peaceful and positive environment...if they meet people that respect them, love them, trust them and help them to rebuild themselves and their future...

Sick people need to get health care, young people need to be literate and skilled for their future, people facing despair or hopelessness feelings need accompaniment... All need love and attention, all need to learn and get skills, all hope in a better future and more dignity! It is a great goal that Caritas can achieve with them and all stakeholders.

Since 2008, Caritas Cambodia is implementing comprehensive prison program including health and vocational trainings... Over the years, Caritas has been also very sensitive to other issues such as rights of prisoners and socio-economic development of prisoners and indirectly of their families.

Caritas Cambodia, inspired by the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles and thanks to the support of its Funding Partners, wishes to fulfill its mission through its work at prisons in order to assist prisoners in their search of dignity and hope for a better future!

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 Beneficiaries

4.1.1. Target groups: Women at prisons are especially targeted for vocational trainings and **pregnant women and women with children and their children** supported in their health needs and vocational training needs at 4 Provincial Prisons of Cambodia.

Prisons	# women	# pregnant women	# women with children	# children behind bars
Oddar-Meanchey	40	1	5	6
Pailin	23	0	1	1
Stung Treng	28	1	1	1
Rattanakiri	38	0	1	1
TOTAL	129	2	8	9
BIG TOTAL	148 Women and Children			

4.1.2. Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries:

- Direct Beneficiaries: 148 per year = 444 estimated for 3 Years.
- Indirect beneficiaries: $129+10=139 \times 4=556$ family members per year as family members will benefit from these activities during detention and after release. (1 family: 4 members in average)

4.1.3. Services provided on health and cross-cutting issues awareness

- Health education and awareness on cross-cutting issues such as women's Rights, Child protection, drugs addiction...
- Ante-natal and post-natal care provided to all PW
- Referral of children for vaccinations, growth monitoring and consultations
- Support to monthly hygiene materials to all women and other materials for women with children.
- Clothes and games for children
- Nutrition to PW, women with children and children

Skills trainings supported in cooperation with Ministry of Women's Affairs

- Sewing skills
- Beauty Parlor skills
- Weaving skills
- Food processing skills
- Vegetable gardening and chicken raising skills (through advocacy and supported by other funds)
- Literacy skills (Through advocacy and supported by Educ. Dep)
- Job placement with possible grant as startup if suitable

4.2. Overall Objective or Goal:

To facilitate re integration of female prisoners into society after release and improve their living conditions and self esteem during their detention through provision of health care and support to basic needs for the women and children and provision of vocational skills training with special focus on Women, Pregnant women, Women with children and their children themselves.

Expected Impacts:

1. Female Inmates are able to get jobs after release to sustain themselves and families.
2. Pregnant women and small children are healthy as they receive good health care and appropriate nutrition.
3. Living conditions at prisons improved due to activities enabling them to leave their cells for daily education and vocational skills trainings.
4. Dignity and self-esteem restored.

4.3 Specific Objectives/ Purposes:

1. To provide appropriate health care to PW and children staying with mothers including referrals for ANC, delivery, child care and vaccinations.
2. To ensure good hygiene and nutrition to all women, PW and children. Extra food to children provided.

3. To provide awareness on hygiene and cross-cutting issues such as Women's Rights, Child protection, drugs addition and how to resist to peer pressure after release.
4. To improve children well-being through games and good clothing
5. To provide 4 prisons with "sewing, beauty parlor, weaving or food processing skills" for Young Women, Pregnant Women and Women with children interested to learn.
6. To advocate for women of 4 prisons to register to "Gardening skills" and "Chicken raising skills" trainings through Provincial Vocational Trainers
7. To advocate for women to attend "Literacy skills" trainings at 4 prisons

Outcomes:

- 100% of PW are healthy as they get appropriate care including consultation, referral for ANC and HIV test, PNC and other health services.
- 100% of Children are healthy as they got their vaccination, referral for health services when sick.
- 100% Children enjoy better living conditions at prison with games, toys and appropriate clothing.
- At least 15 female inmates /Y /prison and 45 in 3 Years per prison enrolled in various skills trainings such as sewing, beauty parlor, weaving or food processing courses at 4 prisons= 60 per year and at least 80% will be able to practice their skills when release.
- At least 15 female inmates/year and per prison will have learned vegetable gardening or animal raising skills and will be able to use their skills when released.
- At least 5 female inmates/year and per prison will be able to read, write and calculate.... after enrolled in literacy course.

4.4. Activities:

1. Provide education on hygiene and nutrition to all women (140 average) women of the 4 prisons
2. Provide awareness on cross-cutting issues: Women's Rights, Child protection and drugs issues to 140 women per year.
3. Support hygiene materials monthly and quarterly to about 140 women
4. Support nutrition monthly to at least 10 PW, Women with children for the 4 prisons.
5. Network with Ministry of WA and with PoLVT to make the VT plan for each year at 4 prisons
6. Support sewing skills on shared costs with WA for at least 15 trainees/year/prison; 45 in 3 years
7. Support beauty parlor skills, weaving or food processing skills on shared costs with WA for at least 15 trainees/year/prison; 45 in 3 years at each prison.
8. Advocate to PoLVT for women registering to vegetable gardening and animal raising skills
1. Advocate to Educ. Dep. for women to register to literacy course.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Project organization

Caritas Cambodia will work with the Prisons Directors, security guards, prison staff and Caritas staff involved at prisons. They will work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Women's affairs, Social Affairs and Provincial Education Department and for follow up after release... Contracts will be issued with commitment of the Prison Director to allow all interested inmates to attend the training without discrimination of sex, race, ethnicity and kind of offense...as long as people have acceptable

behavior...and that security is ensured. Gender will be strongly followed up and encouraged and a quota for women attending trainings will be defined.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

The program costs will be mainly **start up costs** and prisons leaders will be involved in the process to guarantee the maintenance and property of the prisons over these assets. Caritas will support start up trainer fees but will encourage newly trainees to become trainers for others... (cascade trainers)

Beneficiaries will be selected according to their capacity and will be trained in sessions of 3 to 6 months, according to the skill. Criteria for new enrollment will be developed to ensure on-going new beneficiaries. Literacy programs will be longer-term programs. The on-going activities will be under the responsibility of the prisons authorities. Certificates of completion after training will be provided when appropriate.

7. MONITORING

Caritas staff will monitor the activities daily, monthly and quarterly while they are also implementing health programs at these 4 prisons. The prison project manager will plan, monitor and follow up the activities during start up and on-going activities at least quarterly. The Caritas Coordinator (Bernadette Glisse) will monitor the program on a quarterly basis and provide guidance and support. One qualified staff will be appointed for the 4 provincial prison to ensure good and timely implementation of the activities. Reports will be made quarterly, annually and at the end of the 3 years' program. After 3 years, the on-going activities will be completely managed by the prison authorities under the Ministry of Interior, the General Department of Prisons, Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Provincial Education Department

8. WORDS OF THANKS

We take the opportunity to thank very deeply our Supporting Partners to allow us to bring skills, knowledge and so hope, peace and serenity to our people detained at the prisons. We wish them good health and continuing commitment to reduce suffering, stigma and discrimination on these too often marginalized people!

We are happy to work in great cooperation with Caritas International- Belgium and his supporters and we remain committed to do our best for the success of this great program!

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV/ART	Ante-Retro Viral or Ante-Retroviral Therapy
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDoP	General Department of Prisons
HC	Health Centre
HP	Health Post
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency virus
IEC	Information Education Communication
MoEYS	Ministry of Education Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OD	Operational District (Health Authority at district level)
PHD	Provincial Health Department
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention Mother-to-child-transmission
PoLVT	Provincial Office of Labour and Vocational Training
PoEYS	Provincial Office of Education Youth and Sport
PTC	Provincial Training Centre
RH	Referral Hospital
TB	Tuberculosis
UNOHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
VCCT	Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing

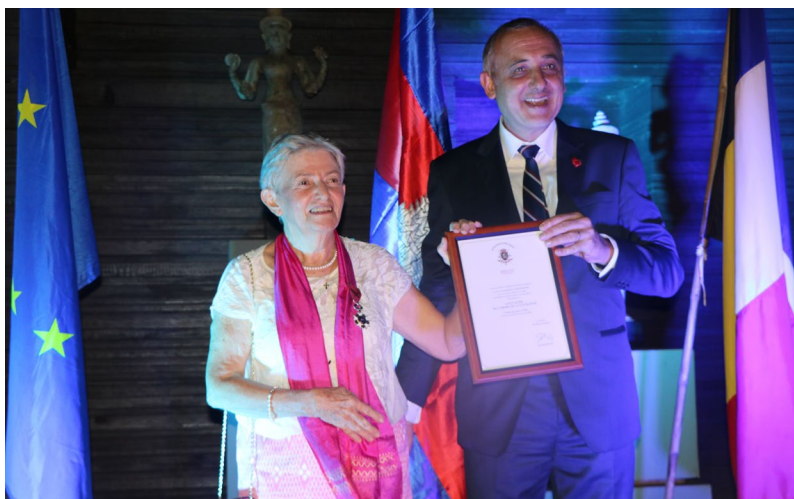
Photographs of current activities



Bernadette interviewing a woman with child at Oddar-Meanchey prison during Covid-19 pandemic and distributing some relief package



Gardening activities at Rattanakiri Prison



Bernadette receiving the “Cross of Knight in the Order of the Crown” bestowed by H.M. the King of Belgium through H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka, Ambassador