



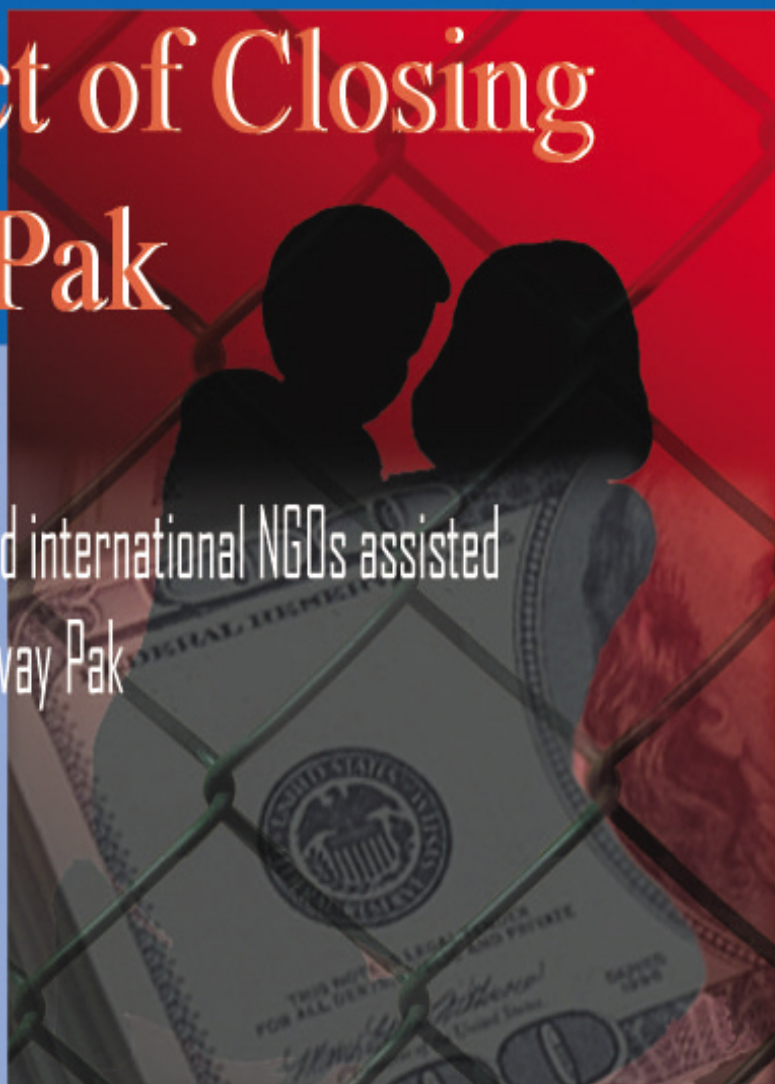
NGO Coalition to Address (Sexual) Exploitation
of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM)

Impact of Closing Svay Pak

Study of police and international NGOs assisted
interventions in Svay Pak

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Abbreviation

AFESIP - Agir pour les Femmes En Situation Précaire

AIDéTouS - Association International pour le Développement, le Tourisme et la Santé

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CWC - Cambodia Women Clinic

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IJM - International Justice Mission

MEC - Médecine de l'espoir Cambodge

MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières

NGO - Non Governmental Organization

PSF - Pharmaciens Sans Frontières

STD - Sexually Transmitted Disease

STI - Sexually Transmitted Infection

UNTAC - United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

Problem statement

This report presents findings from investigations that aim at studying the impacts, positive or negative, of the successive attempts to shut down Svay Pak known as a prostitution area located 11km from Phnom Penh. This report does not aim at criticizing police interventions in Svay Pak or to point out some NGOs but aim at highlighting the long period of time needed to definitively close this area and from now the need of a different and holistic approach by NGOs, government agencies and police units. Both government and anti-trafficking NGOs ought to consider prostituted women/children as victims of an internationally influenced unbalanced development process. Actually, these victims are mainly responding to family pressures in being prostituted. Another comment would be for the government to work more on prostitution networks than on prostituted population. Of course, the corruption and the involvement of high ranking officials must be a real matter of concern to reach objectives aiming at stopping commercial and sexual exploitation of children.

The need of a holistic approach is to improve the efficiency of anti-trafficking programs and better harmonize policies. For example, the successful closure of Svay Pak has not stopped the sexual and commercial exploitation of the prostituted children and girls working previously in Svay Pak. Even worse or perhaps better for them sometimes, as we will see, it mainly spread this population all around the country with living and working conditions that we plan to study in this paper. Some policies aiming at fighting trafficking were not adapted to the local situation and NGOs must not act to reinforce their visibility among and through Media or to ensure funding but mainly to support law enforcement and provide assistance to victims.

Moreover, we understand that the issue of prostitution is also very sensitive for several reasons and it can also be a source of disagreement between NGOs in terms of legitimacy or lawfulness of activities. The primary conflict appears to be the legality of NGO actions, mainly in terms of care for people acting illegally, or people being trafficked. But on the anti-trafficking side, each NGO must make a decision as to how far they must regulate themselves as an NGO and to not step on the toes of the Government. Provision of social services by NGOs is also a priority, to ensure children's and youth's rights, and to get valuable information to ensure paedophile and virginity-seekers are brought to trial. Partnerships must be developed between police, NGOs and social services prior to intervention. At the moment, some NGOs have such a holistic approach, but some do not. This report aims to encourage a holistic and common approach to rescue victims and avoid further trafficking of victims.

To conclude this section, a more effective approach would certainly be to reinforce activities countermanding sex with minors. If there were no demand, there would be no supply

Introduction

Cambodia's most notorious red light district, known as Svay Pak, was officially closed down at the end of summer 2004. This follows several international non-government organisations (NGOs) and police raids in Svay Pak, where suspects were arrested and victims of sexual trafficking were rescued. If we strongly welcome the closing of Svay Pak, this report aims to draw up the consequences of this “closure” or “closing” following the three months period where police maintained surveillance activities in Svay Pak. To understand the complexity of trafficking and child sex tourism issues in Svay Pak and perhaps to explain the recent upturn in prostitution, we will insist on the background of the village in a first section. Then, we will study the response of the international NGOs in terms of implementation of repressive or preventive policies. The third section will provide examples of police and NGOs interventions and the cause of their more or less important degree of efficiency. We will conclude by the present situation in Svay Pak.

Background

Tourism is strongly increasing in The Kingdom of Cambodia bringing a huge diversity of behaviours and attitudes. Among these, sex tourists and child sex tourists represent a growing part of travellers' benefiting of weak law enforcement policies and actions. If a strong willingness of the government exists, it mainly faces to low salaries playing a major role in the non implementation of governmental strategies. Moreover, the situation remains ambiguous with the involvement of officials in the trade of human being. Consequently, prostitution and more particularly sex tourism become easily opened to foreigners and locals customers. Networks are strongly installed in few areas, as Svay Pak was before, offering children to western paedophile or also to Asian virginity-seekers. Poverty will also inevitably facilitate the trade of children and virgin girls with on debt families thinking about opportunities to quickly reimburse it. As a duty, the oldest girls of the family will be voluntary sold to pimps or brothels owners. In the context of Child abuse, few questions are still unresolved as the bridge between begging and prostitution. How a family can accept to sell one of more of its children for sexual purposes? Do they realize about the mental and physical consequences? Are they conscious about the illegal nature of such kind of actions?

In this context, Svay Pak was offering, mainly since 1998, an open access to prostituted children and girls. The increase of the demand was so important and visible than actions started to be undertaken by NGOs in partnership with police Units. But despite newspapers coverage and international pressure, the closing of Svay Pak has been very long to appear.

Study goals

Nowadays, strong coordination problems become visible at all level of the development process. These problems appear between states, between international organizations and between NGOs, resulting from cultural, political or economic conflicts of interests. Of course, funds will be directed to NGOs according to the respect of the donors' policies and guidelines. Sometimes religion or political choices can also play a strong part in these divergences of objectives.

This study expects to overtake the common approach criticizing the responsibility of the government but rather to highlight problems created by the different NGOs approaches and philosophies, by the lack of coordination and the need of visibility and sustainability for NGOs programs.

Research objectives

This work aims to provide a follow up of the raids on Svay Pak and to analyze the present situation in order to give:

- ⇒ An assessment of the impact of raids on brothels on prostitution and trafficking networks in Svay Pak
- ⇒ An assessment of the impact of raids on brothels on the spread of prostitution from Svay Pak, and its consequences for the prostituted minors and girls.
- ⇒ An assessment of the impact of raids and closure of brothels on community life in Svay Pak
- ⇒ An assessment of the impact of raids on social and community activities by other NGOs.

Village Historical background

Data in this document come from stories, evidences and several witnesses. Their reliability is based on strong experiences on the village characteristics and situation but we agree that informants may sometimes be confused and not possess all information.

1. Village description and Population

Svay Pak is located 11km from Phnom Penh on National Road 1. Mainly Vietnamese families (comprising 90% of the population) live in the village. Most of them came from Vietnam without passports or official papers. These families come from different Vietnamese provinces including Long An, Tien Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, An Giang, Kien Giang, Minh Hai, Ca Tho, Sroc Trang, Ta Vinh, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, and Ho Chi Minh Ville.

For more information about Svay Pak History, a study by Baker and al¹ gives a very clear background of the village from 1985 where the first commercial sex services to March 2002:

“The first brothels were huts made from bamboo and palm thatching, employing around two to five prostituted girls. The huts were large enough to have two beds, with often just a curtain separating them. These brothels were very basic, they had no electricity, the beds had no mattresses and there was only one bathroom and that tended to be located outside of the hut.”

¹ Baker Simon, Saranda Ly, Saron Un, Xakha Hom Em and Samon Un, “*Promotion of community identification and participation in community activities in a population of debt-bonded Sex workers in Svay Pak*”, for Population Council, 44 p., Cambodia, 2003.

As mentioned in this report, according to the long-term residents of Svay Pak, the number of brothels increased strongly with the arrival of UNTAC in 1992 from 30 to around 50 and that there was an increase in the number of prostituted girls from around 360 to 500. The authors point out a report from Cuc and Flamm (1996:112) who pretends to a greater population of prostituted people at this time, between 700 and 900. In 1995, MSF set up a STD clinic in Svay Pak to finally also provide social services at the lotus club to the prostituted community.

External events also play an important role in Svay Pak with two fires in 1992 and 1995 which completely destroyed the brothels. Both times, brothels were rebuilt, being more substantial, with improvements in terms of comfort and basic services as electricity, water...

2. Economic and social activities

Primarily, if Svay Pak was internationally well known as a prostitution area promoted through websites² and word of mouth, above all Svay Pak is a village with an economic and social life. All along the years, socio-economic activities have been developed getting indirect and induced benefits of prostitution.

In fact, the development of any economic activity will build up a network of others directly or indirectly linked economic activities or business. Thus, bars, restaurants, hairdresser and else made up the economic network associated to the prostitution business. Red light areas correspond first and foremost to living areas. Many legal economic activities are part of a global economic networks including and mainly led to illegal activities.

In Svay Pak, all these activities, including gamble and illegal cock fighting, existed and are nowadays suffering of the closing. A brief survey among the population has been done to assess the impact of raids and closure of brothels on community life in Svay Pak. The results will be described later in the document.

Few others activities as medical services, private clinic, also exist in Svay Pak. Actually; some prostituted girls don't want to go to clinics run by NGO, scared that the NGO staff blames them for not used condom with clients. Thus, they like to go to the drug store for self treatment but the drugs do not work and they still have problems. Moreover, many prostituted girls go to the private clinic for abortion, the clinic is not far from the brothels and the midwife allow the sex- workers to pay later (any case they don't have money they can pay later). Some prostituted girls claimed that the midwife does not have enough qualification.

3. Prostitution and its evolution (number, nature and characteristics...)

Except the period 1992-1993, considered as the golden age of Svay Pak with the presence of UNTAC, foreigners start to especially come in Svay Pak from 1998 onwards. Previously, clients were predominately Khmer and Vietnamese. The survey made by AIDéTouS³ in December 2001 then 2002 provides the first estimation of clients' frequency but also on the type and

² http://www.zenbuckaroo.com/zentours_cambodia_2000.htm

<http://www.erotictravel.com/newsltr.htm>

³ International association for development, tourism and health

characteristics of the demand. Here, we could also talk about the features of the supply but we consider the demand as the engine of all kind of prostitution. The following table give an overview of the customers' frequency in Svay Pak and its evolution

Table 1: Number of customers coming to Svay Pak, divided per nationalities

Nationalities ~ >	Khme r	Chinese	Vietnamese	Japanes e	Westerne r	Other s	Total
- December 2001	907	224	355	527	676	144	2 833
- December 2002	1 463	505	749	526	958	13	4 214
- Growth rate	+ 61%				+ 42%		+ 49%

These data on frequency of customers in Svay Pak show a total amount of 4214 registered visits for sexual purpose in December 2002, meaning an increase of 29.7% compared to the summer 2002 and 49% compared to December 2001. At this time, the westerners' frequency was 42% greater than in December 2001 and represented 23% of the total amount. In order to know about the type of demand by clients, focus groups were organized asking questions on customers' behaviours (Age, paedophile, drugs users, violence, condom use...). As an example, the Japanese and the Westerners show a low use of condom, 65% among Japanese and only 41% among Westerners, which confirms their tendency towards paedophilia as the other surveys show that they use condoms during sexual intercourse with non- virgin girls. But not using a condom also corresponds to a high demand for oral sex (around 50% of the Japanese and Western customers, paedophiles included), whatever the age of the girl or the boy. Surprisingly, Svay Pak didn't have the same distribution of clients as in Phnom Penh where Chinese clients are much more represented and involved in human trafficking with a strong and particular demand as virginity-seekers.

Another interesting point is the opposite relation between the growth of clients' number and the decrease of prostituted population during the last few years. Mainly caused by the two blazes in 1992 and 1995, a more than fifty percent drop off in the amount of prostituted girls can consequently be observed. This decrease means an increase of the number of clients per prostituted girls and of their productivity. This information highlighted the strong and increasing demand for sex with minors in Svay Pak. Thus, an additional AIDéTouS survey, conducted among 25 teenagers, girls and boys, forced to work in prostitution, gives the following results.

Table 2: Characteristics of children and their sexual activity with customers

Sex	Total	Average age at the time of the survey	Average age of first contact (oral, vaginal or anal)	Nationality first customer	Compromise number of customers per day	Compromi se income per relation with customer
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Girls	18	14.2	12.9	Western 8 Japanese 6 Chinese 3 Khmer 1	1 - 3	2 - 5 \$
Boys	7	13.3	12.3	Western 5 Japanese 2	1 - 2	5 - 10 \$

Concerning the introduction into prostitution:

- For the boys: they get between 50 and 100 US\$ for their first intercourse then 20 US\$ for anal sex and 5 US\$ for oral sex..
- For young girls: they get between 300 and 500 US\$ for the sell of their virginity. A virgin pubescent can be sold several times within the first two weeks after her defloration for a hundred dollars each time. After three weeks, the cost of a trick decrease to be between 70 and 80 US\$ to finally reach progressively 5 US\$ after one or two months.

Since, NGOs and police interventions help to stop any commercial and sexual supply towards foreigners by prostituted children or girls in the village.

NGO background in Svay Pak

Since 1995, NGOs have established office in Svay Pak, in response to the recognition of a need to provide humanitarian services and information collection. Such information assists in the documentation of community evolution, and is useful for framing policies concerning all aspect of local commercial sexual activities. The latter include: the exploitation of prostituted people (particularly children) by local and international clients, the breakdown of traditional community and family values, the inevitable spread of sexual transmitted diseases or infections (STDs & STIs), sex tourism and the provision of alternate employment for prostituted population. The provision of services (to the exploited community) by NGOs is usually restricted to weekday working hours. Persons at risk (of sexual exploitation) are thus exposed at night and on weekends/holidays. Some others NGOs have a complementary but more repressive approach trying to rescue victims and to arrest pimps and brothel owners.

A chronology of NGOs present in Svay Pak is as follows.

1. Preventive support

☐ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

In 1995, the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) team in Cambodia decided to open a clinic where enslaved women and girls could receive free medical treatment and counseling concerning how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) including HIV. Throughout the duration of the program in Svay Pak, MSF worked closely with advocacy organizations,

keeping them informed of opportunities for rescue operations. Following a reorientation of their activities to AIDS care, MSF decided to hand over the project in Svay Pak to two local

NGOs⁴: Cambodian Women's Clinic (CWC) took over the clinic part and Khemara the social part. Khemara is currently still continuing the project in Svay Pak while CWC handed the clinic later over to MEC, another local NGO

❑ Cambodian Women Clinic (CWC)

Cambodia Women's Clinic was established as a local NGO in September 1998 with the financial, technical and managerial support of Marie Stopes International Australia (MSIA). CWC works to provide a safe and innovative approach to reproductive health, family planning and maternal and child health care services. In 2001, CWC took over the MSF clinic but made policy changes. They decide to ask a fee of 3,000 Riel for a simple consultation for the prostituted girls, in order to give them a sense of responsibility. As a consequence, the number of consultations rapidly declined. CWC ceased activities in Svay Pak in 2003.

❑ Khemara

Khemara was the first local NGO founded in 1991 as Cambodia emerged from two decades of war and isolation. It played a pioneering role in working for the advancement of women and children - who bear a disproportionate share in the legacy of trauma and conflict - and in the contributing to the development of Cambodia. Working in the semi - urban district of Russei Keo on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, khemara's strength as an organization came from its community - based programs that address the needs of poor villagers, especially women and children. Specifically to assist women to empower themselves through intervention with vocational skill, literacy training, psychosocial and legal support for women victims of domestic violence and sexual exploitation (prostituted girls). It work to promote the basic rights to education , health, livelihood, and protection from domestic violence , HIV/AIDS prevention and STI , reproductive and sexual health and gender Khemara is based on the leadership of women for the empowerment of women. In 2000, Khemara (with MSF) launched *The Lotus Club (Cau Lac Bo Bong Sen)*, a drop-in centre on the first floor of the clinic focusing on the well-being of the Prostituted children and girls, introducing non-medical activities. In 2002, Khemara had to cease providing child support.

Methods: By interacting directly and daily with the prostituted girls, Khemara promotes safe-sex practices and encourages a sense of community among the workers that facilitates the spread of this information .The goal of this activity is to assist the prostituted girls in taking responsibility for their own health .Khemara also administer programs that provide these sex- workers with vocational skills and motivation to study and learn other occupations in their communities.

❑ Médecine de l'Espoir du Cambodge (MEC)

Médecine de L'Espoir Cambodge (MEC) was founded on 24th July 1996 after being transferred from Médecine de l'Espoir Internationale (MEI). MEC is a Cambodian, local, non-profit and non-political organization. MEC aims to create a better health and well being of the most vulnerable communities in which they can enjoy and improve their living standard.

⁴ The MSF building was shared in two parts: the ground floor was devoted to primary health care and STD services by CWC and the first floor to Khemara for social support..

MEC's mission focus and place primary emphasis on improving both mental and physical health for the poorest and most vulnerable population such as feeble families, especially poorest women, adolescent and children from rural areas of the country. Since 1998, MEC has diverted to social development services for feeble women, children as street people, commercial sex workers, sexually abused people, exploited young girls, and destitute women through the vocational training skills, local health training program, capacity building for existing local health workers and HIV/AIDS prevention programs to renew their lifestyles.

Since June 2003, with the support of PSF, MEC has been running the STD clinic in Svay Pak. Currently there are 21 staff working for health center in Psar Thmey, 14 in Svay Pak and 3 extension workers in Ksach Kandal.

❑ World Vision

In Svay Pak, World Vision was running a children club which focused on child protection. Over 200 children participated in the club's activities including children rights education, non-formal education, library, HIV/AIDS awareness and music skills/entertainment. The project provided micro-loan to poor families living in Svay Pak to start their business, so they can support themselves and their families. The aim of the project is to prevent child trafficking and child sexual abuse. World Vision focuses on the lives of the poorest children and families, regardless of their religious beliefs, gender, or ethnic background and on a non-profit basis.

World Vision's current project based in Svay Pak has long term commitment to work with community people to tackle the cause of poverty and achieve a transformational development.

2. Repressive and rescue activities

❑ AFESIP

The mission of Agir pour les Femmes En Situation Précaire (AFESIP) is to combat causes and consequences of trafficking in women and children for sex slavery; to care for and rehabilitate those rescued from sex slavery; to provide occupational skills and to reintegrate those rescued into the community in a sustainable and innovative manner. In this way, AFESIP has sometimes aided in the rescue of trafficked women and children from Svay Pak. These interventions were based on investigations providing proof that people were involuntary prostituted. AFESIP actions are on a relatively small scale, to respond to urgent needs. AFESIP was also very often involved in providing care and rehabilitation of victims without any involvement in the official complaints leading to the rescue operation. In such cases the raids were undertaken by the police, as a result of their own investigations, or the investigations of another NGO.

❑ International Justice Mission (IJM)

International Justice Mission (IJM) uses former law enforcement agents, private investigators and department of justice workers with hi-tech equipment to investigate and perform raids and rescues. After having led several raids in Svay Pak in 2003 and 2004, IJM recently announced

that it has inspired authorities to do what others have tried to do for years i.e. strike a stinging blow to Cambodia's human trafficking network.

3. Surveys

Surveys undertaken by various NGOs have provided a picture of some of the impacts of the provision of commercial sexual services but also on the living conditions and expectations of the enslaved population.

□ Population council

In collaboration with MSF and Khemara, the Population Council's Horizons project was conducting Participatory Learning in Action (PLA) activities as part of a two-year operational research project. This research project has focused on community building and mobilisation amongst the primarily debt-bonded, brothel-based, prostituted girls in Svay Pak.⁵

The results mainly mention that "prostituted girls were unwilling to spend time building networks within the community, as they had little or no interest in Svay Pak. They had illegally migrated from Vietnam, had no rights, and were usually unable to communicate with the local Cambodians. They wished to earn as much money as quickly as possible, even if it meant having unsafe sex, before returning to Vietnam."⁶ The authors of the report also underline that the study showed that PLA sessions were important not only to collect data but also as an empowering tool for the sex workers. These sessions enabled the sex workers to address their own concerns, while allowing them to build self-esteem, life skills and solidarity.

□ AIDéTouS

The main objective of AIDéTouS is to reduce the negative repercussions of modern tourism while attempting to inform, form, show, act and mobilize the local population. Far from being a benefit for developing countries, mass tourism can, in fact, result in an impoverishment rather than an enrichment of the population. In the field of sexual tourism, the goal of the AIDéTouS investigations is to reverse the current increase in worldwide sex tourism. Sexual exploitation of children is strong increasing all over the world especially in Cambodia, which has a tourist and foreign demand that AIDéTouS has tried to quantify by leading the surveys in partnership with MDM, MEC, PSF, RACHA and Khemara.

The different interviews confirm that the tourists' demand to have sexual intercourse with children with/without condoms increases the number of prostituted minors and their required productivity by the pimps. Once sold for their virginity, these children remain working in prostitution, primarily because children having lost their status as a child cannot reintegrate in his/her original group and also because the network of pimps generally imposes a system of debts that cannot be reimbursed by their parents before having prostituted their child for several years. Paedophiles also subject children to the risk of STD, in addition to the long lasting physical and mental suffering. According to the prostituted girls, clients look for virgin

⁵ Results of this survey are in Baker and al., op. cit.

⁶ Baker and al., op. cit., p 42.

children, either because of their paedophile nature or for limiting their risk of contamination or for reasons of belief (rejuvenation, fighting against STD...) without being worried by STD that they can pass on.

Efficiency and impact of government and NGOs programs on frequency and prostitution in Svay Pak

The question of the efficiency of government and NGO interventions on trafficking issues and more explicitly on rescue process will highlight different sensitive remarks. First, although justified, it appears that small scale interventions aiming at rescuing a small amount of victims will merely lead to their replacement by another trafficked person. Second, the problematic of this fast replacement is strongly linked to the barriers met by and from the government to enforce existing laws or to create adequate measures. As an example, the bylaw issued by local authorities of the 27th of August 2002 to close Svay Pak has born no impact on the clients' frequency but mainly worsen the living conditions of the prostituted population. Another important remark is the monetary weight plays by children exploitation and its impact on law enforcement. So, the following information gathered near Wat Phnom (see interview in annex) give us a very good image of the problematic: A group of ten to twenty commercially and sexually exploited children between ten and twelve years old bring in 1000 US dollars per night to their pimp. This pimp has to pay back between 200 and 300 US dollars per day to high ranking police officials. A quick calculation shows that in one year:

- ✧ The incomes bring in by this small group of children is at minimum 300 000 US dollars
- ✧ The benefits for protection get by police are around 80 000 US dollars for the same period.

With regards to this example, we can observe that the economics of prostitution play a strong role in the efficiency of law enforcement. Similarly, the lack of efficiency of NGO interventions will not be improved without to take into account the involvement of some police officials. But it's important to mention that not all police units or individuals are corrupted, strong efforts and programs exist with a need of global attention and support.

In this part, to confirm our previous explanation, we will give an assessment of the successive and "definitive" closing of Svay Pak through interviews, investigations, reports and researches. We aim to understand why it took so long times to definitively close Svay Pak?

Four main points will be highlighted to evaluate the efficiency of this measure. Also, we will attempt to give an assessment of the closing of Svay Pak, through police raids and surveillance, on prostitution and trafficking networks, on the spread of the prostituted population, on the community life and on the activities of others NGO.

1. Assessment of the impact of raids on brothels on prostitution and trafficking networks in Svay Pak⁷

A chronology of police interventions since August 2002, based on information gathered through the host community, will draw attention to the past difficulties to close Svay Pak. Prior to give any information, we would like to mention here that our informants may not have the full information and may have got some things confused. For example, sometimes these people think the girls went to AFESIP but they did not, maybe they went to CWCC, or maybe people think that NGOs were involved in a raid and they were not. Finally, we mainly want to highlight here that despite numerous police interventions, Svay Pak was still providing prostituted children and girls to foreign and local customers. Finally, a police strategic change, or a real political willingness, has been needed to definitively close down the brothels.

- ❑ 27/08/02: Bylaw issued by Russeikeo district ordering the closing of Svay Pak
- ❑ 17/08/03: Armed police from Phnom Penh (PP) and Russeikeo district made a raid at 6 a.m. at brothel N17. Eight girls were arrested and sent to CWCC offices.
- ❑ 25/08/03: Police from Russeikeo raided brothel N6, arrested four girls, and detained them at the police station.
- ❑ 3/09/03: Police recovered 22 girls and sent them to a shelter of “Agir pour les Femmes en Situation précaire” (AFESIP)
- ❑ 15/10/03: Police from PP raided brothel N5. No girls were arrested, as the girls had fled the premises before the police arrived.
- ❑ 24/11/03: Police made another raid brothel N5, at 5 p.m. This time five girls were recovered and taken to AFESIP. Three girls escaped from the police by jumping off from the balcony (one sustained a leg injury). Police also arrested three clients (two westerners and one Japanese national). The Japanese client was making a sex movie with the girl.
- ❑ 7/12/03: A small group of police from Russeikeo went to brothel N17 and arrested the pimp, who was taken to the police station. The pimp paid \$50 and was released.
- ❑ 8/12/03: Two police from Russeikeo went to brothel N21 at around 8 p.m. and arrested two girls (while the girls were outside the brothel). The girls had to each pay \$20.
- ❑ 18/12/03: Police from PP and Russeikeo district made a raid at 4 p.m. at brothel N6. Eight Vietnamese victims were rescued and referred to AFESIP, on December 19th, 2003 through SKK. Three clients (one westerner and two Japanese nationals), and the owner’s brother, were also arrested.

⁷ We are only talking about Svay Pak here and that there are many other red light areas in Phnom Penh where raids and rescues also occur.

- ❑ 5/08/04: More than 20 police from PP and Russeikeo made a raid at 9 a.m. All brothels were depopulated, no arrests were made. Some brothel doors were open while some were locked: the police used an electric grinder to destroy some locks. Police confiscated two TVs, eight fans, an ice box, a wall clock, a hair dryer, a small bicycle, a suitcase, and quantities of makeup, rice and clothes.
- ❑ 18/08/04: A large police contingent from PP and Russeikeo districts arrived at 3:30 p.m. All Prostituted children and girls had fled the brothels. While some brothels were open, police used a hammer to force entry to brothel N9. Brothel N9 kept underage girls (8-13 yo.), but no girls were arrested and the brothel owner fled. Police arrested a daughter of the owner of brothel N8 (the woman was married to a Cambodian police officer). On searching the brothel, a shotgun belonging to the husband of the woman was discovered, but the owner was not arrested.
- ❑ 20/08/04 More than ten police (from various districts) maintained surveillance in Svay Pak. They worked in teams of two, keeping guard outside the brothels and at the street entrance to Sway Pak.
- ❑ At 3pm, on August 20, an undercover agent for IJM asked a moto-dup to take two girls from Svay Pak to a hotel in Phnom Penh. One was 'Tien', 18 years old, working in brothel N6. The other was 'Li', 13 years old, who, after selling her virginity, had worked outside (as an indirect SW). On arrival at the hotel, the two girls were arrested and the moto-dup was detained by officials of the Ministry of the Interior. No news was released as to the whereabouts of the two girls.
- ❑ 21-23/08/04 Police maintained surveillance activities in Svay Pak. The police slept in the commune office between shifts.
- ❑ 24/08/04 Police remained in Sway Pak. Two police came to the Khemara offices to talk with staff. The police asked as to the girls present whereabouts, and if the girls came to the clinic for consultations.

A brief conclusion of these different police interventions shows that:

- ⇒ The bylaw issued by Russeikeo district officials on August 2002 has born no impact on the clients' frequency. As mentioned in AIDéTouS surveys, this frequency was still increasing after its implementation to observe a growth of 29,7% between August and December 2002. Moreover, this bylaw mainly strongly affects the living conditions of the prostituted population. All doors have to be closed and prostituted girls to be shut in. Only children were staying in the street playing and openly waiting for potential customer.
- ⇒ If customers were arrested in Svay Pak, as mentioned above, no follow up is clearly known until now. Curiously, we also met at Martini Bar the Japanese citizen arrested on November 2003.
- ⇒ Only few of these interventions have led to the arrest of pimps or brothel owners but mainly prostituted girls. They are not often charged and usually pay

bribes to get let off before getting to court. When a pimp or a brothel owner is arrested, between 500 and 800 US\$ for the pimps and between 1000 and 2000 US\$ for brothel owners help them to recover their freedom. For the prostituted girls this amount will be between 20 and 50 US\$ according to the police unit in charge of the operation.

- ⇒ It clearly appears in these interventions' description that strong leakages exist inside and between different police departments. At several occasions, brothels were empty at the time of police raids and brothel owners or pimps fled already. This apparent inefficiency of police raids continue to pose problems for the development of partnerships between NGO and police to fight against child sex abuse.
- ⇒ All interviews among prostituted girls and brothel owners confirm the police racketeering of prostitution business. This activity can be under the extortion of money or the illegal acquisition of goods. As an example, in a police raid on Sisowath Street, the police confiscated all the contents of the prostituted girls' premises. The police also arrested her pimp, asked him for \$30. As he did not have the money he was sent to the police station. Finally the police released him after confiscating his shoes.
- ⇒ Regarding an interview with a man (see annex) made in "Wat Phnom", we discovered that a previous brothel owner of underage girls and boys was still continuing her activities. We learned that she was exploiting between twenty ten children and earning approximately 1000 US\$ per night. She also gave back everyday between 200 and 300 US\$ to high ranking police officials and PM to be protected.
- ⇒ Finally, the implementation of a surveillance system financially supported by IJM, since August 2004 has led to momentarily or definitively shut down Svay Pak.
- ⇒ Another consequence is the difference of judgement or appreciation of sexual and commercial exploitation of children by brothel owners. In Toul Kork, the owner of previous brothel #12 is willing to call the police if she sees paedophiles or brothels selling children. But this position results more in the economic costs of the closing of Svay Pak than in an understanding of the children abuse issue.

2. Assessment of the impact of raids on brothels on the spread of prostitution' actors from Svay Pak and its consequences for the prostituted population

Three main impacts come from police and NGO assisted raids in Svay Pak. Firstly, at the moment, Svay Pak is still successfully closed. Secondly, there is an impact on the demand distribution and its organization. Third, we observe an impact on the supply and its spread. Actually, the different police raids have created a suspicious atmosphere among pimps and organized clients' networks. Chinese and Japanese groups have progressively changed their behaviours to develop a delivery system, using hand phones, directly to Hotels and Guest houses. Following client's request, Middlemen contact brothel owners to arrange human being trade or virginity sales. As we observed in January, some clients are still going to Svay Pak where

pimps can redirect them. On the other side, around 200 prostituted girls and 50 masseuses have moved from Svay Pak since the closure. Movements have been to Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kampot, Thai border and some have been returned to VN. But we also observed movement of Cambodian prostituted girls previously installed on road number 1 running massage parlours and brothels.

The following table draw the new spatial distribution of prostituted girls and children and the development of some new locations as paedophile area

Table 3: Distribution of prostituted population spreading

Brothel Number	Destination
1	Daun Lem, Thai Border (Battambang province)
4	Phnom Penh, Street 63
5	Phnom Penh, Wat Phnom
6	Siem Reap, Rd No 6
8	All the prostituted girls moved to different location
9 (Children)	Phnom Penh, Wat Phnom
10	Phnom Penh, Toul Kork
12	Phnom Penh, Toul Kork
14	Phnom Penh, Martini Bar
16 (Children)	Phnom Penh, Wat Phnom & Siem Reap, Rd No 6
17	Phnom Penh
20	Move to Kampot in December 2004
21	Siem Reap, Rd No 6
22	Siem Reap, Rd No 6

The compulsory ending of activities in Svay Pak will inevitably have an impact on the living conditions of the prostituted population but also on the running of these illegal businesses. These changes can both appear in terms of welfare or at an economic level.

Firstly, Svay Pak was facing a strong pressure of police units through legal or “illegal” raids or requests. As an example, local police rules that each brothel has to pay 20 US\$ per month and per prostituted girl. Additionally to this established taxation system, some policemen used their power to claim for free services or beverage. Any refusal was generally followed by a police intervention the day after.

Secondly, as we already mentioned, the closing of Svay Pak has created a movement and a new distribution of the prostituted population and some others inhabitants. In some of these news areas, mainly in Siem Reap, both brothel owners and prostituted girls declare that the living and working conditions were better than in Svay Pak because there were no police harassment or arrests. In Toul Kork, if the police is still coming to collect money everyday – sometimes 10,000 Riel, sometimes 5,000 R, interviewed people consider that life is safer in Toul Kork as there are no raids.

Nevertheless, if the harassment of the police seems effectively weaker in these others areas, some others changes brought by these obligatory movements would be significant for a rapid

return to Svay Pak. Surprisingly, despite the different described problems with the police in Svay Pak, having relatives and friends still living there, some girls expect to come back as soon as possible. Another reason to come back is the financial cost of the new location. Generally, brothel owners owned their house in Svay Pak and the new renting and running costs are strongly higher in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. As an example, the price of the electricity is 350 Riels per kilowatt in Svay Pak vs. 2500 Riels in Phnom Penh on Sisowath Street for a masseuse. The price of water is also more expensive.

Finally, with regards to the elements described above, the new financial earnings are more or less important according to the new locations. They are even multiply by two in Siem Reap concerning the foreigners, going from 5 to 10US\$. At the contrary in Toul Kork, no more clients are foreigners leading to a decrease of incomes. Thus, if the new location will have an effect on the level of incomes, welfare and on the variety of customers, the decision to go back to Svay Pak will depend on familial factors for the prostituted population or economic factors for brothel owners.

3. Assessment of the impact of raids and closure of brothels on community life in Svay Pak

All data in the part below are from a small survey among 30 families of Svay Pak village (10% of the total family's number). This survey has been done in January 2005 to receive villagers' feeling and evaluate the consequences on their living conditions after the closing of Svay Pak: knowing that this population was indirectly taking benefits of prostitution. Thirty people were interviewed with a mean age of 43 years old and a median of 42 years old (Min = 29, Max = 57).

Table 4: Nationality and sex of interviewed people

Sex \ Nationality	Female	Male	Total
Cambodian	9	6	15
Vietnamese	12	3	15
Total	21	9	30

If the interviewed population is half Cambodian and half Vietnamese, the distribution of the birth places shows a large panel of locations with 23,3% born in Vietnam and 10% of Khmer ethnic from Kampuchea Krom.

The main question was to know about the population feeling and 83.3% of them consider the closing of Svay Pak as having consequences on their life. This question aimed at knowing if families face changes and why. As an example, in Siem Reap, we met a large diversity of previous inhabitants of Svay Pak, from the moto-taxi to the prostituted girl, coffee seller and else. A brief evaluation showed a movement of a hundred people from Svay Pak to Siem Reap and confirmed data obtained in Svay Pak.

If 83,3% of this population pretend to face change, the reason mentioned by all of them was the strong drop off clients' numbers. As a consequence, 43.3 % have one member or more who have left the village to find a job in Phnom Penh or somewhere else.

Table 5: Evaluation of family members leaving

How many members left the village for a new job	Frequency	Percentage
0	17	56,7%
1	7	23,3%
2	1	3,3%
3	3	10%
4	1	3,3%
7	1	3,3%
Total	30	100%

A strong decrease of incomes linked to the closing of prostitution business and the drop off clients' number has led to a change in daily expenses and a general increase of the level of debts. Actually, the amount of income per day has decreased from a mean of 52 500 riel per day to 17 000 riel per day after the closing of Svay Pak. This decrease of incomes concerns 25 out of 30 families and strongly impacts the daily profit margin. Consequently, families have reduced their daily expenses from 15 900 riel per day to 11 500 riel per day. But these expenses were mainly for school and food. Unfortunately, these cut in the budget will have an impact on children education. A second effect was to balance this decrease of income with new investments in order to start new business or improve services' quality (new chairs and tables for coffee shop). But these new investments put and mainly increase the number of families in debt. In fact, this average level of debt goes from an average debt of 101,6 US\$ before the closing of Svay Pak, representing only 10% of the interviewed people, to an average debt of 181 US\$ after the closing for 56,7% of the interviewed people.

Table 6: Level of Debt in Svay Pak

Level of Debt	Frequency	Percentage
0	13	43,3%
17	1	43,3%
25	1	3.3%
30	1	3.3%
50	1	3.3%
100	2	6,7%
110	1	3.3%
150	1	3.3%
200	3	10%
250	1	3.3%
300	1	3.3%
400	1	3.3%
500	1	3.3%

800	1	3.3%
2000	1	100%
Total	30	

Before the closing of Svay Pak, mainly two families were on debt having borrowed money (1000 and 2000 US\$) for building house. After the closing, the distribution of on-debt families was largest and concerning more than 50% of the interviewed people. 26,7% of the families have borrowed money to invest in new business.

But, if the closing of Svay Pak have had an impact on the incomes level, it was also interesting to analyze the judgment of the population concerning its beneficial effect or not. Interestingly, the interviewed population is equally shared between the decrease of the income level and the end of an activity degrading the image of their living area. Moreover, if prostitution in Svay Pak was considered as a Vietnamese phenomenon, there were no relation between the nationality of respondent and the nature of their answers.

Table 7: Appreciation of the closing of Svay Pak

Closing of Svay Pak is good?	Yes	No	Total
Nationality			
Cambodian	8	7	15
Vietnamese	7	8	15
Total	15	15	30

One more point, not usually mentioned by NGO, is the villagers' satisfaction on the impact of closing Svay Pak on drugs use. Parallel to prostitution services, a drugs market was established in Svay Pak. All kind of products were available for clients increasing the level of insecurity.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the closing of Svay Pak must be welcome, possibly no matter what consequences on the local population indirect benefits from prostitution are, but we must understand how nowadays prostitution is linked with numerous economic activities and the economic weight that it represents. The lack of efficiency of policies and interventions against sexual and commercial exploitation of children and women is definitively linked to the weight that prostitution plays in the Cambodian society.

4. Assessment of the impact of raids on care, social and community activities by other NGOs.

Without criticizing the closing of Svay Pak, we can observe a transfer of sexual and commercial activities to others areas. Obviously prostituted girls and children need care and sometimes it cannot be ensured or adapted to them (ethnics, foreigners). Contacts need to be re-established between NGOs and brothels owners with health consequences on the prostituted population. As an example, for Khemara: closing brothels usually results on the movement of prostituted girls to a new brothel in a different location; Khemara faces some difficulties to follow them. During the different interviews, the prostituted girls claimed that they were unable to visit the STI clinic. Because in their new working place they don't know where the clinic is providing

the service by organization and another reason, as Vietnamese native, they can not speak Khmer. Many prostituted girls go to drugstore to self treat their infection.

For MEC, activities have to be reduced from four (STI treatment, abortion, family planning, general medicine) to only two at the moment (STI treatment and laboratory). Some prostituted girls are still working in Svay Pak but they are not going to the clinic by fear of the police.

Moreover, a strong suspicion for care NGO is becoming a real problem to care of prostituted girls. Accesses to prostituted and exploited children had always been almost impossible and not authorize, considered as a non assistance to children in danger.

Conclusion and Situation of Svay Pak in January 2005

If we strongly welcome the closing of Svay Pak, as at January 2005, there is substantial evidence that stricture on commercial sexual activities in Svay Pak has merely resulted in a proliferation of such activities elsewhere. The former prostituted population of Svay Pak has been mainly divided up in two destinations: Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Contrary to Phnom Penh, the prostituted girls are mainly grouped in one area in Siem Reap. Moreover, this is a complete network or community who has moved to develop a similar business including minors too. In Phnom Penh, the prostituted population is fragmented among existing prostitution areas with an important part of the children around Wat Phnom.

It also appears that brothels have moved with the young women and children. This may entail the incurrence of additional debts to bonded prostituted children and girls, and hence a deterioration of their human rights. In reality, we have observed that the new location play an important role on the living conditions of the prostituted population. On this point, Siem Reap offers to both brothel owners and prostituted women a much more lucrative and safe area than Svay Pak. Nevertheless, the frequency of clients is lower over there.

With regards to the age of the prostituted population, the consequences of the closing of Svay Pak are obviously different. In fact, if we note some improvements for the oldest prostituted women, the new living conditions of the trafficked and sexually exploited children are worse than before and their commercial exploitation became completely underground. Long term investigations to arrest brothel owners and prepare children reintegration are now strongly recommended. Knowing that closure of prostitution areas without the arrest of key persons is having negative consequences on NGO programs, on NGOs reputation and on the living conditions of trafficked population. On another side, we understand that the closure of Svay Pak could be good for the reputation of the country.

Further, the extension of commercial sex services to “new” areas may result in local community friction, enhanced spread of STIs due to lack of relevant information, and an imbalance in local economic activities. Moreover, in Siem Reap, the arrival of a hundred Vietnamese people has inevitably had an impact for the local but also for themselves. At the moment, the prostituted women met in Siem Reap explain us that the different clinic or NGO close to their living area don't employ Vietnamese speakers. This makes difficult the delivery and the efficiency of care activities for a particularly vulnerable population.

At the moment, only few foreigners are still going to Svay Pak, certainly not informed about the closure, but pimps are still redirected them to other prostitution areas or simply to who they would like. Actually, some foreigners have established long term relationships with brothel owners. Either they visit regularly Svay Pak or simply being fall in love with a prostituted girl.

Prostitution still exists all over Cambodia and in Svay Pak area too. Nevertheless, the current prostitution in Svay Pak is completely directed towards local clients. Some of the brothels became officially coffee shop. These new economic activities or business are the consequences of new investments putting into debt several families previously getting benefits of this illegal activity. All families reduce their daily expenses and try to be more cautious. The village is trying to survive to this crackdown but others possibilities are emerging as to fill the land:

*“The Phnom Penh municipality will move ahead with its plan to transform a notorious brothel area into an upscale commercial center by raising the ground level of the entire area”*⁸

Around the beginning of February, an American movie was shooting in Svay Pak telling the story of a trafficked girl and an American client falling in love for her. This movie brought some incomes to locals paid 7 dollars per day and it also ensures the presence of police and military. Once this movie will be finished, Svay Pak will definitively stop to be in the spotlights. But if the initial objective of the closure was to definitively avoid any bad publicity for Cambodia; unfortunately such kind of movie will mainly reinforce an image of Cambodia as a sexual destination.

Recommendations

The issue of prostitution in Asia is much more complex than usually describe. Actually in many countries, cultural values persist that help feed the trafficking industry and in particular the child sex industry. Increased poverty and food insecurity has reinforced this vulnerability of children to trafficking. But, the main source of trafficking is the existence of the demand. Tourism and increasing demand for young girls play a major role in the sexual and commercial exploitation of children. Chutikul (1999)⁹ mentioned that many studies already reported that the spread of HIV/AIDS has increased demand for ever younger girls in the sex industry. The price paid for girls' virginity belongs to these push and pull factors shared between individual and societal factors. Thus, first of all, strong efforts need to be realized to fight believes and tourist demand for children.

As mentioned above, long term investigations to arrest brothel owners are also strongly recommended. Arguments such as “all rescue children will replaced by another one” are unfortunately true, and pro-active and joint efforts must be implemented to smash human trading networks and their protective governmental individuals. It's necessary to increase the number of arrests and prosecute those involved in trafficking: recruiters, transporters, protectors, those who maintains person in slave-like conditions or commit other crimes. This can be done through the improvement of the capacity of law enforcement agencies and ensure

⁸ Cambodia Daily, Tuesday, January 11, 2005, p. 12.

⁹ Chukitul Saisuree, *Exploitative commercial sex, cross-border trafficking, sexual abuses and violence against children and women*, ESCAP, July 1999.

that law enforcement officials comply with their legal obligations. It's also necessary to lobby policy makers to offer a legal protection for victims of trafficking without to refer to their age.

Additionally, strong social and psychological approaches and supports need to be cautiously implemented and planed by NGOs. Until now, these activities were usually not integrated in the rescue interventions of numerous NGO, except those already practicing both activities. Strong and long term collaborations between NGOs and also government through police units, including financial and technical, must be also organized to cover all steps from the rescue to the reintegration into society. All steps of this process have a cost and reintegration programs need to be planed and prepared not only at a technical but also at a financial level.

To conclude, human trafficking cannot be solved without a holistic approach from the outbound to the inbound areas. This starts through general awareness about the risks of trafficking at community level and the development of community based programs that offer livelihood options to keep people in village/country. But without the cooperation, the involvement and the sharing of information of all concerned agencies, NGOs, donators and government no valuable results will appear within the next ten years. It seems particularly useless to continue to develop new laws and policies when the tools already existed but are simply not enforced. This also means the acceptance by all of the policies, programs and actions to be developed, and mainly the government to play its role of coordinator, facilitator and operator.

Annex 1

PS: All information below and more sensitive details have been transmitted to anti-trafficking unit program and will remain secret until the end of police investigations.

Record of Interviews and Investigations (January 2005):

1. In the Wat Phnom area we discovered where a brothel owner (the only one who previously kept exploited child in Svay Pak: brothels 9 and 16) had relocated to. We saw two prostituted children, formerly of Svay Pak. We did not know if they were waiting for clients, or just relaxing. We saw a moto-dup who previously worked exclusively for this brothel owner in Svay Pak (transporting prostituted children to hotels to meet clients etc.)
2. Previously in Svay Pak, the brothel owner had two premises (9 and 16) and ~ 40 prostituted children. The girls were in appalling circumstances – they were kept in an isolated group within each brothel, they were beaten if they displeased the owner, they did not use condoms or have access to information concerning STDs including HIV, and the owner did not allow them to go to a health clinic. The owner previously released them at 14-15 years old. They were then able to come to the clinic and provided some of this information. The freed prostituted individuals all had serious STIs.
3. We interviewed a man living close to one of the new houses for the Prostituted children and girls. He was a reliable source of information on conditions inside the brothels. He told us that this brothel owner bought two new houses. She now has between 12 and 20 female underage prostituted girls. The police protecting the brothel owner come to collect money from her everyday in Wat Phnom. The informant was also familiar with the international movement of prostituted girls via Cambodia to countries including Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Macau and Hong Kong. They hold Vietnamese passports and are able to get short-stay tourist visas to their destinations.
4. On January 11 we visited Toul Kork (TK) and discovered that the owner of, and more than 15 prostituted girls from, brothel N12 in Svay Pak had moved to TK. We talked with the brothel owner and some prostituted girls. They are renting new premises for US\$300/month. They also have to pay for electricity and water (total expenses are greater than those in Svay Pak). Police from TK come to collect money every day – some times 10,000 Riel, some times 5,000 R. It is safe in TK as there are no raids. The brothel is closed during the day, open from 5 pm. through to 3 or 4 am. Mostly the clients are local people (i.e. not foreigners). The prostituted girls do not have access to a clinic cf. the situation Svay Pak. The prostituted girls buy medicines from the local pharmacy.
5. We interviewed a masseuse. She moved to the riverside three months ago i.e. since the police closure of Svay Pak. She rents a room costing \$150/month, and has to pay extra for utilities. Previously she rented similar premises in Svay Pak for \$30/month, plus \$5/month for each of water and electricity. She cannot afford to pay this rent, and now she is very ill. Last week the police raided her premises but she escaped. The police

confiscated all the contents of the premises. The police also arrested her pimp, asked him for \$30. As he did not have the money he was sent to the police station. Finally the police released him after confiscating his shoes. The masseuse reported that now she has a very difficult life, she needs condoms and medicines from NGOs as she cannot afford to buy them.

6. We interviewed seven prostituted girls at Martini's Bar, Phnom Penh. Former prostituted girls from brothel N14 were freelancing in the bar. They now lived independent of the brothel, renting rooms (generally two sharing) in Phnom Penh. They can earn as much as, have more freedom than, and are less scared of the police than, previously. The prostituted girls are obliged to pay a 10% commission to a mamasan when they get a client. The prostituted girls said that clients in this bar used condoms.
7. In Siem Reap, we first visited three brothels. In the first brothel (previously the brothel N22 in Svay Pak), 15 girls were working, (including some from Svay Pak brothels N8, N20). The prostituted girls said that the living and working conditions were better than in Svay Pak because there were no police harassment or arrests. Also, the clients paid more: in Svay Pak, local men paid 10,000R, in Siem Reap it was \$3/12,000R, while for foreigners it was \$5 in Svay Pak vs. \$10 in Siem Reap. The prostituted girls were happy having more freedom to move around - to see the Angkor temples etc. The brothel owner said the costs of rent and utilities were higher in Siem Reap than Svay Pak, but because of higher prices for sexual services, these extra costs were easily met.
8. In Siem Reap, one girl complained about the medical check-up system: there were no Vietnamese speaking staffs in the clinics, and hence a major failure in communications. Also, she was unhappy about the unhygienic conditions of the rooms and equipment. She thought that the prostituted girls may actually pick up disease in such clinics.
9. (In previous brothel N16), all the prostituted girls were familiar faces from Svay Pak. There were 18 girls working. All the girls were happy working in Siem Reap, and did not want to return to work in Svay Pak (as was the case in brothel N22). The male owner kept a receipt book so that the prostituted girls could keep an exact record of their clients, i.e., assisting to prevent exploitation of the prostituted girls by the brothel owner. The brothel owner said that although the business advertised itself as a 'massage parlour', in fact only three or four of the prostituted girls had any competency in this field - hence most clients came for sex. All the clients in this brothel used condoms, compared to very few in Svay Pak. Although we didn't ask the owner, we heard a rumour that prostituted children were kept hidden in the roof of the premises
10. (In previous brothel N21) there seemed to be a very relaxed atmosphere. There were 15 prostituted girls, mostly formerly from Svay Pak. All the girls with relatives in Svay Pak were intending to return for the Vietnamese New Year in early February, but all wanted to subsequently return to Siem Reap. The brothel owner was very enthusiastic about condom usage and health check-ups for his workers, and while previously based in Svay Pak he had also been concerned for the health and safety of his workers e.g. organizing serological tests.

11. We interviewed a prostituted girl formerly from Svay Pak brothel N12. She was happy in her new location, and her sister was staying with her, while her mother had moved to Siem Reap and was renting a small room. This prostituted girl and her sister were now working at “Tokyo Massage”. During the daytime they could stay with their mother. Work started at 4 pm. and went until the early morning, which was similar to the working hours of others we interviewed in Siem Reap.
12. On January 16 we interviewed some girls formerly working in a massage parlour in Svay Pak, who had moved for work to Siem Reap. They provided similar answers to others we had interviewed referring to better working and living conditions in Siem Reap. We also interviewed other Svay Pak community members – moto-taxi, cooks, chefs, maids, bread sellers, and café workers etc. – who had moved to Siem Reap to provide the ancillary services for brothel infrastructure.
13. We inspected a village a few kilometres from Siem Reap. There were many “karaoke houses” where local men could pay for sex. In another nearby village, Sra Srang (near Angkor Wat) many children present selling souvenirs – possibly providing opportunities for paedophiles.
14. We also interviewed, in Svay Pak, one girl from Siem Reap (previous brothel N6) (this brothel is actually along the river, not close to the other brothels). She had previously worked in Svay Pak brothel N5. She said that she wanted to return to work in Siem Reap.

Internet info on Cambodia and sex

1. http://www.penhball.com/html/svay_pak.html

It seems that no matter how hard the NGO's try and put Svay Pak out of business they always find a way to keep going. While all of the negative publicity has certainly diminished the numbers of western tourists making the trip eleven kilometres out of town, there still seems to be a strong contingent of Japanese and Khmers taking part in the action. Before the main hours for visiting were in the afternoon but now most of the guys are going in the late afternoon and early evening, eight to ten in the evening seem to be popular times. Although the names have been removed from all of the brothels most of the touts and mamasan will be glad to tell visitors which house is which.

There are several new venues springing up all over town. Martini's has moved to a location near the Chinese Embassy and the Walkabout is becoming a hot nightspot. A walk down Sixty-third Street at any time of the day will bring out a myriad of touts trying to steer you toward a particular brothel and 154th St. near Norodom has a number of new brothels in operation. I guess that the more things change the more they stay the same; Cambodia is still a popular destination for punters with an adventurous spirit

Annex 2 - Questionnaire

Date of interview	
Nationality	
Name of respondent	
Sex of respondent	
Age of respondent	
Birth place	

Question	Before	Now
1. How many members do you have in your family?		
✧ Adult number		
✧ Children number		
2. How many members of your family are seeking for incomes?		
3. After closing Svay Pak, did you face any change?		
✧ Why?		
4. Following the closing of S.P., did some members of your family have to leave to seek for incomes?		
✧ If yes, how many and where?		
5. What is your family income per day?		
6. What is your level of expenses per day?		
7. What kind of expenses?		
8. Do you think that your income or purchasing power decrease?		
✧ Why?		
9. If your level of income decrease, do you have any solution for increasing it?		
10. Do you have debt?		
✧ If yes, how much?		
✧ If yes, why?		
11. What do you think after the closing of Svay Pak?		
✧ Why?		
12. Have you ever seen paedophile coming to the village?		

PUBLICATIONS

- 001 *Project Document (English and Khmer)*
- 002 *Project Document: Appendix Activities Program 2003- 2004 (English + Khmer)*
- 003 *Draft Minimum Standards for Shelters, 2003* by Sim Souyoung: One-year Shelter Group Discussions during 2002, compiled in one report as draft recommendations (English and Khmer).
- 004 *Exchange Visits Child Rehabilitation Centres, 2003* by Amanda McLoughlin: visits to 13 child rehabilitation centers (English and Khmer)
- 005 *Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care, 2003* by Sim Souyoung (Khmer with English summary).
- 006 *Sold like Chickens: Trafficked Cambodian Girls Speak Out, 2003* by Sandy Hudd (English and Khmer)
- 007 *Training Manual Investigation for NGO Staff, 2003* by Im Vuthy (Khmer + English)
- 008 *Lobby & Advocacy: Principles and Methods, 2003* by A. Gehrels and J. Vijghen (Khmer and English)
- 009 *Project Document Overview: Activity Program 2004 - 2006 (English + Khmer)*
- 010 *Annual Report 2003 COSECAM*
- 011 *Child Recovery Centre – Intentions versus Realities, John Vijghen (English)*
- 012 *Tricked by the Trade – Trafficked Cambodian Girls Speak Out, May 2004* by Diane Lawrance (English and Khmer)
- 013 *Result of Workshops in 10 Provinces on the National Plan against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation June - July 2004 (Khmer)*
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