

Frontline CAMBODIA

Annual Report Edition

Bringing Hope and Healing
to Trafficking Survivors —
TOGETHER!



RATANAK
INTERNATIONAL



Actual photo of Ny and her mother reuniting after ten years of separation! Her mother didn't know whether she was even alive and now they are finally together again!

A DECADE OF SILENCE

For ten years, Ny was alone, suffering in silence after she was trafficked into Malaysia at just 16-years old. It all started with rumours. Her village talked of jobs abroad, which would be life-changing for impoverished families like Ny's.

Her parents were thoughtful and loving, and believed a job overseas would be a great opportunity, so Ny agreed to go.

But Malaysia wasn't like Ny expected.

Immediately, she was stripped of her belongings and her phone was taken away. Without it, she had no way to call her family or ask for help.

She was forced to perform severely exhausting work, endlessly and without pay—first as a domestic house slave and later in a bakery.

Ny was resold and relocated, but her situation never improved. Her captors starved her. No one spoke Khmer. Escape was impossible...and she was alone.

Each day, her stomach was in pain, and she was always watching for danger. She had to be.

One of her captors was a vile man who bought her as a housemaid. He tried to slip pills into her food. It was clear to Ny that he wanted to rape her, so whenever she saw him touch her food, she went hungry.

As his attempts to drug her increased, Ny begged the broker to help. She felt intense relief when she was moved to another location, but her new tormentors soon began to viciously beat her.

For years, she endured the physical, verbal and emotional abuses alone, in complete isolation. Her only comfort was returning home to her family in dreams.

Then, one day, Ny saw a chance to escape—and she ran. Though her lungs thirsted for air and her legs ached for rest, she ran until she reached a train station. And there stood a Cambodian woman—an answer to prayer!

This woman helped Ny find transport to the Cambodian-Thai border. She arrived at the Poipet Transitional Centre and then

was referred to Ratanak. In our transitional home, Ratanak staff greeted Ny with a special welcome package to help her feel loved and safe.

With support from Ratanak, Ny is receiving counselling to help heal her deep traumas. She now feels comfortable accessing medical care for her ongoing stomach pain. Thanks to the compassion and care shown by Ratanak staff, Ny has started to open up, trust and build emotional connections.

During a group reflection, she shared, **"Since I was born, no one has treated me better or taken better care of me than my parents and the staff at Ratanak."**

Her growing faith has also brought her comfort and strength. She started attending worship services in church with our care team and prayer has become a part of her healing journey, *"When I could not sleep, I prayed, and then I could sleep well,"* she says.

Ny longed to see her family again, but after many years she had forgotten where they lived. It took two months of dedicated searching from our team, but we finally located them in a new province—they had moved!

On the day of reunion, Ny was excited, but also afraid. After dreaming of reuniting, she wondered, *"Will they accept me?"*

Her fears vanished when her mother ran and threw her arms around Ny and they both sobbed with joy. It was a beautiful moment to witness and your partnership made this long-awaited reunion possible for this precious family.

All those years, her parents didn't even know if Ny was alive. Her mother said, *"I never heard from her...I never thought she would come back. Seeing her again is a great joy!"*

Thanks to you, Ratanak gave Ny's family a food package, and we're continuing to support Ny along her healing journey. She is no longer isolated and alone. She is surrounded by many who love her.

Today, she dreams of raising chickens as a small family business, and with help from Ratanak supporters like you, that dream will soon come true.

Give today to support Ny & others like her!

**Names, images and or/some details have been altered as appropriate to protect the identities of those in our care.*

YOUR IMPACT IN 2022

Your partnership is key to ending exploitation by allowing Ratanak to focus on caring for individual survivors and on developing national systems to protect vulnerable people in Cambodia. Here's a snapshot of how your 2022 gifts have made an impact:

SURVIVOR CARE

JOURNEY TO RESTORATION:



225

Female and male trafficking survivors received transitional and/or community-based care.

A SAFE PLACE:



67

Women received care in Ratanak's transitional home after escaping situations of trafficking.

HOPE FOR HEALING:



496

Individual and group therapy sessions were provided to help survivors recover from their traumatic experiences.

FINANCIAL STABILITY TO STAY SAFE:



150

Survivors received career counseling, vocational training, and micro-business or agricultural startup support to sustainably provide for themselves and their families.



COMMUNITY & NATIONAL IMPACT

PREVENTION

STOPPING TRAFFICKING BEFORE IT STARTS:



540

Vulnerable families received trafficking prevention training through their local village leaders and ongoing support to keep them and their communities safe from exploitation.

NATIONAL-LEVEL COLLABORATION

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICIES TO CARE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS THROUGHOUT CAMBODIA:



2

National Consultation Workshops took place for final provincial and ministerial input on the *National Case Management Guidelines* and the *Procedures for Repatriation of Trafficking Survivors (By Aircraft)*. Both of these new national policies were drafted with significant contributions from Ratanak staff. Workshop feedback was consolidated with support from Ratanak staff and final versions have been prepared for ministerial approval, publishing and national launch.

REVENUE

- Individuals \$2,126,681
- Churches \$99,446
- Charities/Foundation \$782,815

Total \$3,008,942

EXPENSES

- Programming \$1,538,200
- Administration \$276,317
- Fundraising \$446,700

Total \$2,261,217

SENATOR YONAH MARTIN HONOURS RATANAK IN THE SENATE OF CANADA

In the fall of 2022, we celebrated an incredible milestone as Ratanak was honoured in the Canadian Senate.

Senator Yonah Martin, who is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and advocate in the fight against human trafficking, shared some very moving and powerful words about Ratanak's work.

"Honourable Senators, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable organization, Ratanak International...Ratanak International is fighting to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our global community and ensuring that they have a voice. They provide essential support to these individuals as they journey down the long and painful road to recovery and finding a way forward.

Brian's leadership and tireless efforts and that of the entire Ratanak team in Canada and Cambodia are truly commendable. Each year thousands of young women and men are trafficked and exploited in Cambodia. Ratanak International has spent three decades working and building relations and a strong partnership with Cambodia to protect these vulnerable individuals. Now it is our turn to do what we can as legislators to support organizations like Ratanak.

Please join me in acknowledging the work of Ratanak International as they continue to bring light and hope into the lives of many."



Senator Yonah Martin honoured Ratanak this past fall in the Senate of Canada. Thank you for partnering with us to end exploitation and bring healing to Cambodian trafficking survivors!

A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN

2022 was a year of continued success. With your support we have impacted the lives of many Cambodian young women and men and, in cooperation with the Cambodian Government, we are developing systems that will impact many more in the months and years ahead. The dark world of human trafficking is ever changing but Ratanak remains nimble, adapting to those shifts, to meet the needs of those enslaved and suffering. We have prepared new and expanded initiatives for 2023 and look forward to sharing more with you in the new year!. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers as we work to bring light and hope to those escaping darkness.

Blessings,



Brian McConaghy,
Founding Director