WE BELIEVE CHILDREN SHOULD BE IN SCHOOLS, NOT BROTHELS.

SO WE EMPOWER WITH AN EDUCATION TO PREVENT SEX TRAFFICKING.
DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

This year we celebrated our 6th birthday and enrolled our 700th girl onto our program.

Back in 2009 I spent a month with more than 200 survivors of sex trafficking in Cambodia. I asked them what they wanted and how we could help. They wanted to end sex trafficking. They explained that when girls are rescued from brothels the traffickers don’t go without girls, they just go out into the rural villages and take a new young girl. They wanted these girls to be protected. Not one of the girls I met had been in school when they were trafficked. They believed that if they were in school they wouldn’t have been trafficked. If they were in school they would have been safe.

Cultivating a team of dedicated and knowledgeable professionals is a priority for us. We invest in the training and development of our team to ensure the best possible delivery of our program for our girls and their families. We are a professional organisation with high standards and a focus on quality and results. In the last year alone, our team in Australia have volunteered another 3,800 hours of their time, we’ve employed 8 more Education Outreach Officers in Cambodia, reached 14 more villages, enrolled 216 more girls, provided 3,000 more library books, 288 more water filters and built 5 more houses!

We have a family focused approach. We partner with parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles as they do their best to keep their children safe and in school. Our girls understand the difficulties their parents face. Eleven year old Reaksa says, “Even though I am small, I am the eldest of my siblings. I cook, clean, water the plants and feed the cows. And I take care of my two younger sisters. After lunch I take them to the field with library books, so they can read while taking care of the cows. This is a hard job but I am happy to do it because I am happy to help my parents earn money. If I cannot do all these jobs, my mother could not work to support our family. So I feel I am like part of the parenting team.”

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful supporters and our beautiful team for their determination and integrity.

Thank you,

N. Mih
Managing Director and Founder
Hello, I am Lem. No matter how long I have been working here, it’s always about “I love and I want to work with the Free To Shine team.”

I am really proud we have created the Scholarship Program for Cambodian rural girls to get an education. It is not easy to make a great thing alone, but most great things are created when every person joins together, by having the same principle, the same goal, and the same vision to make change. The change can happen when people are becoming educated.

I want to say “Home is not home if there is no women. Social Development cannot happen rapidly if there is no participation from women and girls. To build a strong girl today means to build strong mothers in the future and, to build an education for all children.”

Since I started working here, I have learnt a lot from bad situations in Cambodia. Many bad things happen, such as sex trafficking, girl dropping out of school, young girl is sent to work with parents, girl is living alone and girl acts as a mother for her younger siblings. This puts girl at risk.

All people are not same, but they are equal. Why are some girls still not equal? Some of them are cared for, some of them are not? The most important thing is girls must to be at school when they are young.

I, the Education Outreach Officer, face challenges with many social issues such as domestic violence, sex trafficking, alcohol abuse and illegal immigration. New problems happen day to day and month to month.

I am working with a great team, so I never solve the hard problem alone. We are the team of Free To Shine. We know the problems and we learn from each other. We know girls are innocent and they have every right to get an education to build their future.

I think I do the right thing to join with Free To Shine team to make Cambodia change by providing formal education to girls. We are the bridge, we are strong, and we are committed to succeed so we will.

Finally, I want to say profound thanks to Free To Shine, founders, and sponsors for spending your own resources to help Cambodia’s girls. I know to be an Education Outreach Officer in Free To Shine is not easy, but I am really happy because all team members make it happy, enjoyable and respectable. We share values and care for each other.

We team members meet many problems, but problems are not problems for long because they are solved by us. I am determined to do great things with Free To Shine team to reach out the goal we have set.

I wish everyone has a great day and live peacefully.
SOPHY.

I am the oldest. I mean, I’ve been here at Free To Shine, the longest. I was single, now I am married, and finally, I am a mother. I’ve learned and it has taught me so much.

Life is so amazing, all the time searching, learning, and experiencing lots of new things. Sometimes it hurts and sometimes it is fun but I can drive through it.

Talking about working with Free To Shine it is hard but at the same time it is much more amazing.

It’s hard because at first I had many things to learn, lots of new things, and I had problems with new faces such as villagers, village leaders, commune chiefs, and seeing alcoholic men and family violence in my work. I used to think why do I have to do all these things? It’s so stressful! It was also tiring to speak English with my team leader and my CEO, who are Australian.

Day by day I go on and now, I can do it. It’s fun!

English is easy and sometimes I even enjoy speaking it more than Khmer. It is almost three years that I’ve been with Free To Shine.

Every single girl and her family touch my heart. They are so loveable and caring. All those girls are innocent. Why can’t they get good care and their right to be protected, have good food, shelter, and a chance to have a good education?

Up to now, I find Free To Shine is super! I love my team and they are beautiful people. Their problems are my problems. We help and care for each other. We work together to protect our people and our girls.

I am confident and experience enough to deal with all kinds of problems. I am just waiting to see what my CEO and Team Leader give me to do next. From time to time Free To Shine surprise me. I am so excited to complete our annual goals, and I am so happy to see more and more Cambodian people getting help and support from Free To Shine.

This is so beautiful and I love doing it. I am looking forward to do more new things and enrol more new girls.
WHO WE ARE
We believe children should be in schools, not brothels. So we identify girls at high risk of being targeted by traffickers, get her a uniform and a bike, fill a bag with books and pens, and visit her regularly to keep her in school and keep her safe. We are a human rights organisation working in collaboration with communities and local governments in Cambodia. Our work enables girls to grow into empowered female leaders.

WHO WE WORK WITH
• Girls who have never been to school
• Girls who have discontinued or are on the verge of discontinuing their education
• Girls left to live independently, caring for younger siblings
• Girls living with grandparents or aunts with little ability to keep them in school
• Girls who work to financially support their families
• Girls living with family violence

WHY PREVENTION
It is certainly important to have organisations collaborating with the police on rescue operations, supporting aftercare centres for survivors, and working with legal teams in the justice system to bring about prosecutions. However, survivors report that when girls are rescued from brothels, the traffickers simply go out into rural villages and take a new young girl. These girls need to be protected. Survivors believe that if these young girls were in school they would not be trafficked. The International Labour Organisation agrees, “Getting girls into schools and keeping them there is vital to reducing their vulnerability to trafficking.”

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY
We take seriously the responsibility that you entrust in us when you invest your time and resources in our organisation. We are a registered Australian charity founded on June 01, 2010 and endorsed by the ATO. Our ACN is 143 986 074. Free To Shine is governed by a board of directors, with all our financials being independently audited by a registered company auditor. We are run by a skilled team of volunteers in Australia led by our MD, a position that is currently a part time paid position. We currently employ 18 highly competent Cambodian Education Outreach Officers.
TEACHING HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Human Rights class is one of the most fun to teach. The students always listen carefully and raise their hands to answer questions.

This class is presented to the girls and their parents. It explores the five Human Rights which underpin the work of Free To Shine. These include: Freedom from slavery; Access to safe drinking water; Access to education; Enough food to not be hungry and Adequate shelter. The class is interactive and students are encouraged to discuss how they can help people in their villages to understand these rights.

We have kept 700 girls safe from being trafficked.
There is a great deal to teach in the community class.

The main points that we want our students to learn are: ‘Who can be a sex trafficker?’ and ‘What ploys do they use?’

There are so many ways that traffickers can trick families; offering a job that seems too good to be true; saying a girl will work for a rich family and her wages will be sent home; sending a nicely dressed woman trafficker because parents trust women more; and sometimes even using someone the family know.

One girl’s mother said, “I often think if my daughter is given a job in other provinces, it will be so good for me. Before, I lacked the information about sex trafficking because I did not know about it. The Sex Trafficking class has provided me with details on how to identify traffickers and how to keep my daughter safe.”
When unskilled Cambodians struggle to find employment in Cambodia, they often go to look for work in Thailand. This can be very dangerous for them and their families. Most go there illegally, have no protection under the law and are more likely to be exploited. Free To Shine teaches a community class called ‘The Dangers of Going to Thailand Illegally’. It is difficult to access medical help, children are unable to attend school, and work is often irregular and underpaid.

“This is a really important community class and we feel so happy when we see that our girls and their parents understand our message because we know it is helping to keep them safe.”

— Choy, Education Outreach Officer
TEACHING HOW TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL ABUSE

SEXUAL ABUSE IS A VERY DIFFICULT TOPIC TO TALK ABOUT ANYWHERE, INCLUDING THE RURAL VILLAGES IN CAMBODIA.

Our Team did training with the Women’s Resource Centre in Siem Reap to firstly learn all the necessary facts we need to tell to our girls’ communities, and also to help us to become comfortable with discussing these facts when we deliver training.

Now our team is confident to explain what sexual abuse is, and who can be an abuser of children. We show the community a video that shows how abusers get close to children, and cover topics like who is at risk and try to give real examples so that they can better understand this topic.
DAYS FOR GIRLS

WE ARE WORKING WITH GREEN GECKO AND HEARTS TO HARMONY TO BRING A DAYS FOR GIRLS CLASS ON PUBERTY, MENSTRUATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TO ALL OUR GIRLS AGED 12 AND OVER.

We taught our students what changes to expect in their bodies as they grow up to become a woman, about the uterus and what its purpose is, to know about the signs before they begin menstruation and how to keep clean, and we described how to use the feminine hygiene products donated from Australia.
OUR MOBILE LIBRARY

OUR GIRLS REALLY LOVE TO READ THEIR LIBRARY BOOKS AND ARE SO HAPPY WHEN THEY RECEIVE NEW ONES EVERY MONTH.

For a lot of our families, choosing the library books is a group decision as many of our girls’ parents and grandparents cannot read and so story time becomes a nightly family event. One mother told us, “Every night my daughter reads to me and her grandmother. We always listen to her, but we never hear the end of the book because we fall asleep!”

Some girls can read very well and can remember all the characters, plot and themes. Most of Free To Shine’s books are written in Khmer and English, but a few are in just Khmer or English. This year we have purchased 2,978 books, hitting our target of having 5000 library books for our girls to choose from.
PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER

WATER CREATES LIFE IN THE WORLD SO WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT IT, BUT IN CAMBODIA SOMETIMES WE ALSO CANNOT LIVE WITH IT. UNCLEAN WATER MAKES US SICK.

Free To Shine gives a water filter to every girl on our program so they can get safe drinking water. Living in rural villages, many of our families only have access to well water, stagnant ponds or rivers to drink from. They frequently become sick from water-borne illnesses such as diarrhoea and are unable to go to work or school for extended periods of time, which can lead to families having to take out loans to cover everyday bills or even larger loans to pay for medical treatment. This can lead to children dropping out of school.

Each time we deliver a water filter, we give a comprehensive lesson on its importance, and the best way to clean and look after it so that it can remain in the best condition for as long as possible. Often this is the first time our families learn the effects that drinking dirty water can have on their health.

“I was so surprised when our EOO from Free To Shine told me that drinking dirty water was bad for my family’s health. I’m really happy now that I have this knowledge to keep my children healthy,” said one father after his family received a water filter. Further reiterating that education is vital, not just for our girls, but for their whole families. At Free To Shine we are proud to be part of this education process.
GROWING VEGETABLES

THIS YEAR, FREE TO SHINE HAS ACHIEVED SOMETHING AMAZING.

Last year, we provided 5 types of seeds to our girls, but the difference is now we have delivered 10 types of seeds. Moreover, these new seeds were the best quality available, imported from Thailand. As they are such good quality, they have grown well and quickly, which has made our girls really happy. Among the ten seeds - morning glory, herbs, zucchini, pumpkin, eggplant, chili, cucumber, winter melon, papaya, and lettuce - the two that have grown the best are morning glory and zucchini.

Several of our girls were able to grow enough to feed their families and they were able to sell excess at the market. This year, there have been three fantastic girls that have made us feel really proud.

Reas sold her morning glory from her house to some of her neighbors.
“I sell the morning glory for two weeks and I get about $4 from it. I am so happy to buy some food for my family. I would love to be able to grow more in the rainy season,” she said.

Thanya said, “There are many people come to buy my morning glory, but I do not usually sell it to them because I need it for my own family.” She added that she hopes that Free To Shine will continue to provide seeds for her to grow. She is so excited and proud of herself to be able to grow food for her family.

And we have Savourng, who we feel is the most impressive. She grew her seeds so well that she had enough for her family to eat and to sell $10 worth at her local market. We feel so proud of her and all of her hard work.
BUILDING HOUSES

This year we partnered with World Housing to bring the human right of adequate shelter to 5 more families.

We did house investigations on families that we believed had the greatest need for new houses. After choosing the five families in most need and also who deserved it the most, our two organisations got to work.
First we prepared the ground so the soil could be elevated, ensuring that the new houses would be safe from flooding when the rainy season arrives. World Housing’s houses are strong, with high quality roofs, walls and floors. They also have a layer of insulation so that it doesn’t get too hot inside. There is a concrete base laid underneath so that it can be used as an outdoor kitchen, which is customary in Cambodia. The houses have a pipe connected to the gutters, which is used to collect the rainwater and deposit it into a large jar, which the girls and their families can use for cleaning and drinking. All of the materials were transported on trucks from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, approximately 6 hours away, and then out to our girls’ houses in the village.

One mother said after we finished building her new house, “I am very happy that Free To Shine built a new house for us to live in. My old house is very old and some parts of the house are completely broken. Now my family won’t have to worry when the rain comes. I never expected to have a strong house like this. Now Free To Shine completes my dream.”
WORKING TOGETHER
WORKING WITH COMMUNE CHIEFS AND VILLAGE LEADERS

Free To Shine regularly meets with 13 Commune Chiefs and 44 Village Leaders; that’s every village and commune we work in. Twice a year, we go meet with the Commune Chiefs and Village Leaders to provide updated documents and reports on our work. It also allows us to maintain our strong relationships with the local authorities. We outline our activities in the Commune/Village in the last six months, such as delivering water filters, giving seeds and any community classes that have been run. They also provide us with vital information like which villages are the most impoverished and how many other NGOs are operating in the area. Our priority is to find out which families sex traffickers may target, and which girls are at the highest risk of dropping out of school.

CHOUNG HACH

Choung Hach is the first female Village Leader Free To Shine has ever come across. It is a rare position for a woman. Her husband died more than 20 years ago and her eight children have all grown up and married.

“Before, the woman did not have the same rights as the man. All the jobs for a man never had a woman, for example Village Leader, Committee members, Commune Chief and consultants. But now, woman’s rights lifts us up equal to the man. The man can do the job, and the woman can now also do the same job.

I don’t want to have only men leaders. We are women, we can get a good education for the next generation and they can lead. I want the next generation of girls, and their children and grandchildren, to study, be educated, be leaders, have a job, and don’t expect all from the man.”
NIM MAO

Nim Mao (in blue in photo) has raised six children on her own. She was widowed years ago, when her youngest child was only three days old. She’s had a hard life as a single mum yet still adopted a baby girl when she saw a girl in need, and fostered other children whose parents died until they were able to be placed with family members. Nim Mao is a key member of her community who points Free To Shine in the right direction of other girls she thinks we should assess for enrolment onto our program, and then she looks out for them and encourages them.

“I want the children to get a better education, get good jobs, and have lives that are not as difficult as my generation had. I want my children to get a high education. I don’t want them to be poor and have a hard life like me. I want them to do what they want to do in life, and have choices. For example, they want to go to school, and they go by themselves without me pushing them to go. When I see this, I am so happy.”

KOEM TOCH

In the rainy season Koem Toch works as a farmer, and in the dry season she works as a cook. She has three adult children, and a husband who stays at home to look after the house and animals. In her community, Koem Toch helps navigate complicated relationship issues between families and individuals, including Domestic Violence.

“I help my community to solve their problems. I am the person who will take a pregnant woman to the health centre or provincial hospital when she is having her baby. I teach them not to be afraid to ask for help from medical staff. Sometimes when I am away for work in a different village, the villagers now know they can go on their own. Before they were ignorant but now they can speak for themselves. I have taught them to be brave and they are better than they were.”
SCHOOL DIRECTORS
At Free To Shine some of the most important relationships that we cultivate are with School Directors from the local state schools. Developing strong, honest relationships allows us to work together so that we can provide better education and better support for our girls.

School Directors often point us in the direction of girls who have recently dropped out of school, or who have low attendance rates, allowing us to support these struggling families by enrolling their daughters onto our program. The first time we met one of our School Directors he told us, “I am very happy to hear that Free To Shine comes to help the students in my school. Even though Free To Shine does not help the school, you help the students, which helps my school so much. I hope you will be able to help more students to be able to finish High School.”

This year, we are most excited to be working with our first female School Director. Not only is she kind and welcoming, but also she is a great leadership role model for our girls.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNE COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
The Commune Council of Women and Children (CCWC) works alongside the Commune Chief, working closely with families in each village in the commune. The CCWC is in charge of knowing the information specific to women and children: how many women and children are living in the village? How many organisations are working in the commune with women and children? And who stays in the village and who leaves to work somewhere else?

The CCWC also knows about each families’ situation and problems, for example, which families are having domestic violence and living in bad conditions such as poverty, and helps to solve these problems. They are a great resource for us and our program.

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS
There are many organisations working in Siem Reap Province with different but overlapping missions. We work to prevent sex trafficking but we cannot work alone. We are more effective and more efficient if we cooperate and work with others to extend our reach.

We attend many meetings with other organisations. Some of the organisations we’ve worked with this year include EGBOK (one of our girls is in their vocational training program), Tnai Samrap Srey (to provide feminine hygiene products and education); The Women’s Resource Centre (referrals for counselling, and training for our staff); The Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (about community mental health); First Step Cambodia (referral for child counselling), and many others.

Working with other organisations helps us further support our girls, families, and communities to improve their situations.
We work together with girls and their families to help them get a better education and to be safe from sex trafficking. We are problem solving many different family issues such as migration, family violence, and girls missing school. Some families have violence, arguments, loans, and sometimes we find parents who do not seem to care much about their children. It is hard to get these parents to listen to us, as they are committed to their own way of thinking. But it is part of our job to advise and educate them, even though sometimes it can take a long time.

Nearly all our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are kind and supportive of Free To Shine. Sometimes, when we first meet them, we might find them shy and serious. However, later on they will become comfortable to laugh and joke with us, as well as confide in us their problems. We give them advice, encouragement and are open minded and supportive.

One mother has built an extremely close relationship with our team. She always shares her good news with us and confides her problems. Whenever we visit her village, she always asks if we have had lunch yet and offers to cook for us if we haven’t eaten. Another family is always on the lookout for other families in the village that are struggling. Whenever they find a family who are living in a poor condition, have family violence or could use some extra support, they always take us to their house and introduce us. We are so appreciative of this help and the strong relationships that we have with these families.
There are many kind of jobs in Cambodia but employment opportunities for poor, uneducated people are limited. Such people, if they are lucky enough to find work, are employed for low pay in unskilled jobs like: farmer, construction worker and cleaner, or they go to work in Thailand.

Free To Shine’s girl Savin’s mother works as a construction worker to support her family. The life of a construction worker is physically very hard. Savin’s mother has to carry heavy concrete, bricks, wood, and other construction materials. Sometimes she has to mix cement for the builder. She can earn only $4 per day from which she has to pay for everything such as food, clothes, her children’s school materials, and any extra costs the family has.

Secondly, she doesn’t have much time to look after her children. Construction workers are not paid sick leave so Savin’s mother has to go to work even she is sick or the family cannot afford to live. As a single-parent, her family is all her responsibility; life is very difficult for her to control and I challenge anybody to do better in her circumstances. Moreover, she doesn’t want to work at this job, but she doesn’t have any choice. She never thought that she would be able to support her children to finish or even attend school. She is so grateful to Free To Shine for supporting her daughter because without otherwise her daughter would never get an education. Now she doesn’t worry as much about her daughter because she has Free To Shine as a part of her family’s support network.
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF EDUCATION

Sreynit is 14 years old and with Free To Shine’s help, has found her passion in life: Agriculture! When we first began visiting Sreynit, she showed little interest in our library books, and often couldn’t remember the plot when we asked her what she had just read. After Sreynit had been on our program for a few months, we supplied her with her first packets of morning glory, herb, and zucchini seeds.

Within a month, there was a palpable change in Sreynit’s demeanour. She was engaged and excited to see us, and proudly showed her EOOs her flourishing vegetable garden. In just one month, she had grown enough to supply her family with enough vegetables to eat, and had excess that she was selling to her neighbours. She asked if next month she could have some farming and agricultural books so that she could learn how to grow even better vegetables. Now every time they go to visit her, her EOO’s know to take a selection, as the first question Sreynit always asks is “do you have any new farming books for me?” Due to her extensive knowledge and hard work, Sreynit now has one of the best vegetable gardens on our program. She grows morning glory, zucchini, eggplant, herbs and chili exceptionally well.
A NEW BEGINNING

Last year we met two sisters, aged 9 and 12, who had never been in school. Naturally, we saw the girls’ vulnerability to being trafficked as they approach puberty and so we wanted to enroll them onto our program to help keep them safe; but first they had to be going to school. Our Education Outreach Officer’s visited them regularly to encourage them, and submitted applications to our processing team, but the girls’ parents weren’t supportive and kept blocking the way. Eventually, in a decision that almost broke our hearts, our processing team had to say no to their applications. Without an education to support, Free To Shine could not offer scholarships.

But, we couldn’t get these girls out of our minds. We couldn’t give up. We sent our EOOs out again and again to try to get these sisters into school. Although we didn’t know what else we could say, we knew that we could not give up on this family.

After 11 months of visiting, encouraging, explaining the importance of education and the girls’ human right to receive an education, we are thrilled to share that these two sisters and their younger brother have enrolled in school and have attended every day since. The decision to let them go was helped by their elder brother who said that he would do all of the cooking and cleaning from now on so that his siblings could study. The mother of this family was so nervous and excited for her children on their first day that she waited outside the classroom the whole day to ensure that they were fine.

“The easiest assumption to make is that sometimes parents and families of our girls just don’t care enough about them, but this family reminded us that it can be simpler and less sinister than that: having never been to school themselves, these parents didn’t know why education was important and they were fearful to let their children do something that they didn’t understand.” Biba, Coordinator.
**PART OF THE PARENTING TEAM**

Reaksa and her family work very hard together to improve their future. Reaksa’s father works as a construction worker and her mother is a junk collector. Both parents really understand the importance of education, and work impossibly hard to support their family. “I am uneducated and cannot find a good job to do. I really want my daughter to finish school and have a good education for her future; not live a hard life like me”, said her mother.

Reaksa is 11 years old, although if you met her you might think she was a lot younger, and is the eldest child in the family. She attends school in the morning, then returns home to make lunch for herself and her three younger siblings. Once they have eaten lunch and completed the daily housework, Reaksa and her siblings head out to the family’s field to tend to their buffalo. Not wanting to waste any study time, Reaksa takes her library books out to the field with her, and reads them out loud to her siblings and the buffalo. She then helps her siblings to improve their literacy skills. Her father has a blackboard in the house, and he uses it to teach his children in the evenings once he comes back home from work. Sometimes in the evening, Reaksa takes the time to practice her painting with her siblings.

“I am happy to do all the housework, look after my siblings, feed the buffalo and water my vegetables because it is part of helping my parents to get an income. If I don’t do it my mother cannot go to earn money to support the family. I feel like I am part of the parenting team”, says Reaksa.
SEX TRAFFICKING TODAY

In April 2016 we went to Phnom Penh to visit NGOs working closely with law enforcement and the justice system to combat trafficking in Cambodia. The commercial sex industry has changed dramatically since Free To Shine began six years ago, and so our purpose was to learn which methods sex traffickers are currently using to recruit and trade girls so that we can pass this on when our team teach community classes to our girls and their families.

When Free To Shine began in 2010 it was still the norm for underage girls to be held on brothel premises, making it easy for a paedophile to walk in off the street and pay for their services. In the years since, successful raids and prosecutions have led to a decrease in the recorded number of child and underage sex workers, and a reduction in child brothels. But the industry has also changed. As methods used to track, capture and punish traffickers have become more sophisticated, so has the business model. Traffickers now use a series of networks through the entertainment industry to avoid being detected. Members of these underground networks can visit a particular KTV bar, restaurant or café and request to have an underage girl sent to their hotel room. These girls are just as enslaved as girls were in the past, but keeping the crime off-site enables traffickers to avoid detection, with one organisation reporting, “Crackdown is becoming more difficult because perpetrators keep coming up with more trickery.”

Since detecting and prosecuting perpetrators is increasingly difficult, we were encouraged that prevention is a hugely important part of ending sex trafficking. By keeping at-risk girls in schools, we truly are keeping them safe.

DROUGHT

Scarcity of food and water is a common struggle of rural Cambodian life. Many factors contribute to this, such as seasonal weather conditions, lack of transport and distance from central markets, and poverty. This year Cambodia saw its hottest year on record, and the worst drought in living memory. Whilst the country is always dry during the first part of each year, the rains come like clockwork in late-April / early-May ushering in months of heavy daily showers. This year it didn’t rain a drop until the end of May, and rainfall since has been sporadic – intense downpours for a few minutes, and then nothing more for days - which is hugely concerning for the 80% of Cambodians who rely on agriculture as their main source of income.

During the worst of the drought rivers, dams and wells dried up, and many rural villages faced severe water shortages, making it not only impossible to grow enough fruits & vegetables to eat and enough grain to feed livestock, but also incredibly difficult for villagers to find safe drinking water. Families who did manage to find water often had to source it from stagnant rivers and ponds. Free To Shine provides a water filter for every girl on our program, but the water they had to filter was so dirty that it would have taken up to three or four times for it
to be adequately purified. It is unlikely that they were purifying or filtering it properly, leading to increased water-borne sickness i.e. diarrhoea.

Villagers who would typically find paid work in agriculture struggled to find employment during the drought, which had a flow-on effect to the local economy. Many water-sourced foods staple in the Cambodian diet, such as fish and shrimp, became harder to find as there was simply not enough water to support their breeding cycle. Foods that were available at market became more expensive than usual; as yields were more labour and resource intensive, growers and market sellers raised prices to ensure their own survival.

In parts of Cambodia the drought caused up to 40% absenteeism. Our team reported that some children who were not going to school regularly stayed away because they felt that they could not waste money that their family needed for food to go to school when food was so scarce. Another, lesser known, cause of absenteeism is the effect that lack of access to private toilets and water for hand-washing on school grounds has on teenaged girls who often choose to stay home for a few days each month rather than risk embarrassment.
OUR HAPPIEST LIBRARIAN

RINA IS A GOOD STUDENT WHO IS STUDYING IN GRADE 10. HER DREAM WAS TO ONE DAY HAVE A LIBRARY AND A HOSPITAL IN HER VILLAGE. WHEN EOO’S HEARD THIS THEY KNEW THAT FREE TO SHINE COULD HELP.

We couldn’t build a hospital, but we could provide Rina with enough books so that our girls in her village could have a new reading material in between EOO visits.

Rina is so happy to have 67 library books to manage and told us that in the future she hopes to have an even bigger library so that she can share knowledge with all the people in her village. Since Rina has been a librarian she says the girls are swapping books for new ones as soon as they finish reading the last; her library is thriving and she promises to keep taking great care of the books. Finally she said thank you to Free To Shine for making her dream come true.
Hong Ever since we first met Hong, she has had a dream to teach English to the younger children in her community. Not long after being enrolled on our program, she had requested and received a whiteboard from Free To Shine, and had begun teaching her first class. Two years later Hong has a class of 12 students, who she teaches English to every Sunday in her village.

“When I finish school I want to go to university and become an English and Khmer teacher. I think teaching is the best way to help my community and develop my country. I really hope that one day I will be able to reach this goal and make my parents proud.” says Hong.

Pourb Pourb has a difficult family life, but she refuses to let this hold her back. Pourb has a dream to become a teacher, and this year she turned her dream into a reality. From 9am-10am every day, Pourb holds a Maths and English class in her village. She currently has 4 students in her class, and is earning $4.50 per month to help support her family. “I am so happy that I have the opportunity to teach. This is my first step to succeeding at my goal to be a teacher,” says Pourb.

More and more of our girls are displaying leadership qualities, whether it’s helping each other with their homework, sharing their library books or assisting each other to grow better vegetable gardens. The girls who we are particularly proud of are those who teach classes in their respective villages, showing us just how vital education is, and their inherent instinct to share their skills and knowledge.

Our Inspiration At Free To Shine, we encourage our girls to become strong leaders, endowing them with the skills and confidence they require to lead their communities and help develop Cambodia.
NUMBERS THIS YEAR

WE ENROLLED ANOTHER

216 GIRLS

PROVIDED

10 TYPES OF SEEDS

PROVIDED

288 MORE WATER FILTERS

AND ADDED

3000 LIBRARY BOOKS

REACHED

9 NEW SCHOOLS

ACROSS

15 NEW VILLAGES

NUMBER OF VILLAGES

45

ACROSS 44 SCHOOLS

5,000 LIBRARY BOOKS

431 WATER FILTERS

BUILT 10 HOUSES

TOTAL NUMBER OF GIRLS ENROLLED

700
FINANCIALS

42% FUNDRAISING EVENTS & DONATIONS
39% GIRLS SPONSORSHIPS
15% MAJOR SUPPORTERS
3% GRANTS
1% INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME

Funds Raised & Girls Enrolled

YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5 | YEAR 6
0 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500
THOUSANDS

Graph showing revenue distribution with 42% from fundraising events & donations, 39% from girls sponsorships, 15% from major supporters, 3% from grants, and 1% from investment and other income.
Underlying these results is integrity and compassion for every girl on our program. It is our commitment to continue to build upon our success and reach an ever growing number of girls before the traffickers do, and collaborate with each girl and her family as she pursues her education and her human entitlement to be free to shine!
# Statement of Activities

For the years ended 30 June 2016 and 2015

## Support and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events &amp; Donations</td>
<td>114,300</td>
<td>88,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Sponsorships</td>
<td>105,874</td>
<td>53,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and Other Income</td>
<td>3,126</td>
<td>2,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Supporters</td>
<td>40,826</td>
<td>43,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>274,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>208,469</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Operating Expenses

### Program Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Visits</td>
<td>36,947</td>
<td>16,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolling New Girls</td>
<td>25,542</td>
<td>10,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Materials</td>
<td>54,268</td>
<td>15,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bikes</td>
<td>20,339</td>
<td>8,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Books</td>
<td>4,771</td>
<td>2,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Filters</td>
<td>6,809</td>
<td>2,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veggie Gardens</td>
<td>6,498</td>
<td>665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Builds</td>
<td>2,917</td>
<td>2,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Operating Expenses</td>
<td>17,735</td>
<td>16,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Personnel &amp; Training</td>
<td>60,561</td>
<td>36,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Registration</td>
<td>2,858</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>3,097</td>
<td>3,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind Donations</td>
<td>8,822</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Skills &amp; Community Classes</td>
<td>1,639</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Management and General

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>10,175</td>
<td>7,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>1,938</td>
<td>1,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>3,771</td>
<td>2,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fundraising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>19,970</td>
<td>14,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>289,978</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,697</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Revenue less Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue less Expenses</td>
<td>-15,852</td>
<td>65,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets at end of the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at end of the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,476</strong></td>
<td><strong>173,328</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU

19,000 volunteer hours, $700,600 and 6 years and the result is an incredible 700 girls, once at risk, now safe and thriving. This has been possible due to the loyalty and commitment of our supporters.

Great milestones have been achieved, and with them complex decisions made, always with the best interests of the girls at heart.

Thank you to our Major Supporters:

**Donors who contributed over $20,000**
- BIG1
- Natures Organics

**Donors who contributed over $10,000**
- Australian Ethical Super
- Freedom Summits
- Synergy Fitness

**Donors who contributed over $5,000**
- Kevin Hitch

And for their In-Kind contributions, we would like to thank:
- 88 Bikes
- Avon Graphics
- RJS Accounting Services
WHERE NEXT?

We take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people who have supported FREE TO SHINE this year, as a volunteer, as a donor, as one of our girls sponsors, as someone who ran for a reason or pledged their pressies, as someone who attended our events - the list is endless! THANK YOU - these efforts combined is what has enabled us to enrol 700 girls already.