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*Self expression through dancing*



*Disabled volleyball ball players*



## Partnerships

### Moving forward, moving best ... with kindred spirits

We have adopted at NHS a positive approach to invite and embrace co-operation, rather than to compete with or put distance between us and other organisations. We aim to maintain cordial relations with national and local officials of authorities, who sometimes do not understand the independence and self-reliance our members cherish. Warm all-round relationships do help, especially with other organizations who provide enhanced benefits to our members and who help build our coalition for advocacy. These vary over time due to changes, both positive and negative, and especially to funding issues. Nowadays it is harder to raise funds for Cambodia, which is why NHS seeks best value for its work never losing sight of the goal of self-sufficiency of our members, individually or in self-help groups, as soon as possible.

#### Kampong Thom

In 2012-13, with the re-orientation towards Kampong Thom province, we are very pleased to have entered in to a formal partnership with local NGO "Cambodian Organisation of Women" (COWS). Indeed we are now housed in their office. Their brochure may be read [here](#).

#### Kampong Chhnang

We no longer have a close working partnerships with NGOs in the province as much of our original work directly in rural areas has not been able to proceed. This has allowed greater opportunity for the computing capacity-building modules to forge ahead instead. (This is reported in Latest News and Human Stories.) In fact, it had led to an excellent private sector and sustainable solution where our former beneficiary now provides the services our members require on a commercial basis. This is better value than NHS operating its own centre.

We still maintain close ties with our three main partners and hope that at some point activities with them can resume. Where safe to do so, we support individual beneficiaries through these partners. **Vaddanhak** is an agriculture technical and human resource capacity-building NGO. **Support Rural Children Organisation** (SRCO) as its name suggests, promotes the interests of children. **Bright Hope Institute** (BHI) is a higher education centre for rural students who cannot afford to leave home and study in Phnom Penh.

We still work closely with human rights NGO **LICADHO** with offices in both provinces and with the human rights community networks in Cambodia.

We have been pleased to provide technical advice to Nomad RSI ([www.nomadrsi.org](http://www.nomadrsi.org) or [www.mondulkiri-centre.org](http://www.mondulkiri-centre.org)). Our General Secretary serves as the **Nomad RSI** General Co-ordinator. He, with our Executive Officer and Community Facilitator, have introduced the concept of self-help groups in poor indigenous communities facing loss of traditional land, and by mid-2013 15 such groups were operating successfully. They have also formed their own federated NGO, the **Mondulkiri Indigenous People's Association for Development** (MIPAD, as per [www.mondulkiri-centre.org](http://www.mondulkiri-centre.org)). They too are partnership-based with close co-operation with the **Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association** (CIYA) ([www.ciyamedia.wordpress.com](http://www.ciyamedia.wordpress.com)).

Other previous partnerships, as described below, are largely in abeyance but may resume if funding permits. Certainly in their day they provided enormous benefits and happiness.



**Cambodian National Volleyball League (Disabled) (CNVLD)**. A longstanding relationship providing excellent sports opportunities for many of our members, and where one of our beneficiaries, Sokunthea, achieved her ambition in life. [www.standupcambodia.org](http://www.standupcambodia.org)

**EpicArts**, led by Katie McCabe, has transformed the lives of so many disabled people who never imagined they could sing or dance in public with just as much accomplishment as everyone else. The NHS Child Advocacy Group has performed at national conferences. [www.epicarts.org](http://www.epicarts.org)



**All Ears Cambodia** provides free audiology services within NHS's target areas using our premises and network for referrals and follow-up. [www.all earscambodia.org](http://www.all earscambodia.org)



**Cambodia Trust** provides prosthetic and orthotic services as well as sharing similar advocacy issues. [www.cambodiatruster.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.cambodiatruster.org.uk/index.htm)



**Disability Development Services Pursat (DDSP)** in our neighbouring province has worked with us to develop community development tools and training conducive to participation by disabled people. They also provide "community-based rehabilitation" guidance.

NHS enjoys fruitful relationships across the entire range of disability, human rights, and development organizations to advance personal cases and common civil society goals. We are an active member of the **Disability Action Council**. [www.dac.org.kh/index.htm](http://www.dac.org.kh/index.htm)



**Ddp-cambodia.org** is a foremost group for people with hearing and speech difficulties, assisting in training in "signing" and producing a highly successful International day for Deaf and Dumb People. Contact [advisors@ddp-cambodia.org](mailto:advisors@ddp-cambodia.org)

**Partnerships and networks** - here we can only mention the main partners and show the linkages, especially useful for advocacy, to other organizations and to civil society networks. We apologize if some are not mentioned, but express appreciation to all.