



Human Trafficking in Cambodia

- Cambodia rests in the heart of Southeast Asia, neighboring Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. The country is a source, destination, and transit for human trafficking within the region.¹
- Cambodian children are trafficked externally and internally for forced labor, domestic work, and prostitution. The country is a known destination for child sex tourism.¹
- In 2010, of the confirmed 39 sex trafficking cases, 48.7% of the victims were between 13 and 17 years old.²
- A recent study showed that almost 80 percent of victims agreed to go with their trafficker for financial reasons, and that most of them were related to their traffickers.²
- Traffickers are commonly females in their 30's who work as brokers for the girls.²

What is human trafficking?

The definition of human trafficking used in Cambodia comes from the United Nation's Palermo Protocol and can be broken down into three parts. All three elements must be present for human trafficking to exist:

The Act – WHAT is done e.g. recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.

The Means – HOW it is done e.g. threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, giving or receiving of payments and benefits to control a person.

The Purpose - WHY it is done – to exploit victims e.g. in prostitution, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery, servitude or removal of organs from a person.

Where the victim is a child only 'act' and 'purpose' need to be present to constitute human trafficking.

1 United States Department of Labour, Bureau of International Labour Affairs, Reports, Child Labor & Forced Labor, Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Cambodia (2012), <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/cambodia.htm>

2. NGO Joint Statistics Database Report on Sexual Trafficking, Exploitation and Rape in Cambodia 2010, <http://www.ecpatcambodia.org/index.php?menuid=1&rp=116>