



**CIOMAL**

# Helping Children Living In Prison

## Annual Report 2008

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## **Children living with their imprisoned mothers.**

Under Cambodian law, children are allowed to stay with their mothers in prison until the age of six, if alternative care is not available; this age limit is nevertheless flexible and some children beyond the age of six do live with their detained mothers.

The daily budget per prisoner amounts to Riels 1,500 (about USD 0,35) and no budget is foreseen for accompanying children or for pregnant women whose child will be born in prison ; consequently, women jailed with their children, as well as pregnant women face a situation whereby they either depend on the solidarity/generosity of their fellow prisoners or they face particular hardship leading to possible malnutrition, especially if they are destitute and have no family to support them.

The Cambodian Prison Service is presently reviewing this amount and proposing an increased daily budget of Riels 2,800 (USD 0,66) per prisoner and Riels 1,400 (USD 0,33) per child.

If accepted and implemented, this proposal, while improving the situation, will still fall short of covering the daily needs (food, personal hygiene items and medical care) of detained women and their children.

## **CIOMAL bi-monthly distribution of supplementary food and hygiene materials in two prisons.**

Since November 2003, Ciomal regularly visits two prisons where children live with their detained mothers.

**Correctional Centre 2 (CC2)** is the main prison in Cambodia for women and minors (prisoners aged 13 to 18) and is located at Prey Sar, about 25 kms. from Phnom Penh; it was constructed in the 1990s to provide accommodation for 200 women prisoners, but usually houses up to 250.

The second prison, **Takmao**, located some 20 kms. from Phnom Penh, is one of the oldest in the country, but was renovated in 2005.

It is primarily a men's prison, but has a small women's section; many of the women prisoners held there are in pre-trial custody.

CIOMAL staff visit both prisons, twice a month, to distribute packages of supplementary food and hygiene materials which include, per month, 20 kgs. of rice, 10 cans of fish, 2 kgs of dried fish, multivitamin tablets, 1 bar of soap, 1 bottle of shampoo and 1 packet of detergent for washing clothes.

In addition, the packages for children include powdered milk; whilst CIOMAL respects the Ministry of Health policy on promoting breast feeding, we include milk in the packages for children as many nursing mothers are unable produce sufficient breast milk for their babies.

The Prison Service is supportive of this project ; CIOMAL staff have direct access to the detained women/children receiving the packages and can usually talk to them confidentially.

A total of 1,374 packages were distributed during the reporting period of January to December 2008. Each month, on average, 28 children living with their mothers in prison, 7 pregnant women and 23 women with various medical conditions received packages of supplementary food and hygiene materials.

The monthly numbers of recipients and packages are shown in the following table :

<b>2008</b>	Number of children living with their mother		Number of pregnant women		Number of HIV/ TB and chronic cases		Total	2 packages per month	Total number of packages
	CC 2	Takhmau	CC 2	Takhmau	CC 2	Takhmau			
	<b>January</b>	19	11	5	3	31	7	76	2
<b>February</b>	19	12	5	2	14	7	59	2	<b>118</b>
<b>March</b>	19	12	5	2	14	7	59	2	<b>118</b>
<b>April</b>	19	12	5	2	14	7	59	2	<b>118</b>
<b>May</b>	19	12	5	2	14	7	59	2	<b>118</b>
<b>June</b>	19	7	5	0	14	6	51	2	<b>102</b>
<b>July</b>	19	7	5	0	14	6	51	2	<b>102</b>
<b>August</b>	19	7	5	0	14	7	52	2	<b>104</b>
<b>September</b>	19	7	5	0	14	8	53	2	<b>106</b>
<b>October</b>	19	7	5	1	15	8	55	2	<b>110</b>
<b>November</b>	19	7	5	1	15	8	55	2	<b>110</b>
<b>December</b>	19	7	5	1	18	8	58	2	<b>116</b>
<b>Grand Total :</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1374</b>

One **package** usually contains : ..10 kg of rice  
 .. 1 kg of dried fish  
 .. 5 cans of fish  
 .. milk powder for children  
 .. multivitamin, soap, shampoo and detergent

In addition, on the occasion of Khmer New Year, every April, a special event is organised in both prisons for the children living with their mothers and the children of the prison staff. Soft drinks, biscuits, jelly and fruit are provided, together with clothes and a toy for each child.

Project funds can also be used, as necessary, for the purchase of items such as medicines, mosquito nets, clothes, as well as to pay for babies of detained women to be delivered in a health facility providing maternity care.

Although the project is intended to support children and pregnant women, CIOMAL did extend, in 2008, the scope of its assistance to some 23 destitute women with AIDS, tuberculosis and various chronic medical conditions,

We are grateful to the Directors of CC2 and Takmao Prison for their advice and cooperation in the implementation of these activities.

The CIOMAL Foundation also wishes to express its gratitude to the “**Fondation Irene**” in Geneva, as well as to the “**Australian Association of the Order of Malta**”, for their generous contribution in support of this project.

## **In 2009, we will ...**

- Continue bi-monthly distributions of supplementary food and hygiene materials to children accompanying their mothers in prison, to pregnant women, as well as to women with chronic medical conditions.
- Continue to participate to the costs of emergency medical needs, as well as, for destitute women, to the costs of children deliveries.
- Associate ourselves with the “Association Mondiale des Amis de l’Enfance”, to provide educational opportunities for children detained with their mothers (see the attached press cutting, concerning a daycare centre being built by AMADE, beyond the walls of CC2 prison)  
AMADE was created in 1963 by Princess Grace of Monaco to fight poverty and malnutrition among children and offer them education opportunities ;  
AMADE is presently presided by Princess Caroline of Hanover.

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Last year, as we were trying to secure funds not only for the 2009 supplementary feeding program, but also for a new educational program for the children, we received confirmation, in October 2008, that we would be supported, in 2009, by the “Georg and Emily von Opel Foundation”.

We wish, already now, to express our deep gratitude, on behalf of the children and their mothers, to the “Georg and Emily von Opel Foundation”; their generous grant will mean a better future to those children.