

Mother's Heart Organization Partnership Report to GyMEA Baptist Church: Nurturing Hope and Building Futures

We at Mother's Heart Organization (Mother's Heart) are deeply grateful for your faithful and generous partnership. Your commitment allows Mother's Heart to embody the love of Christ, offering holistic, compassionate care and path to self-sufficiency for vulnerable women and children in Cambodia. This report highlights the profound impact of your support from **January to October 2025** and our shared hopes for the future.

Our work is founded on the conviction that every woman or girl deserves support, dignity, and a future, even in times of crisis. Your generosity directly enables this commitment to our vision and mission. The data and stories presented in this report – from providing essential medical care to offering hundreds of counselling sessions and building economic capacity – demonstrate how we execute this mission.

Our focus is on holistic, compassionate care, the very core of our mission. Your support ensures we invest deeply, first in our staff, and then in the women, girls, and children we serve.

Our 16 dedicated staff members across Phnom Penh (9 staff) and Battambang Province (7 staff) are rooted in faith. We maintain our spiritual commitment through regular Monday morning online devotionals to share scripture, and the Annual Day of Prayer, which anchors our work, thanking God for past blessings and seeking His guidance for the road ahead.

We prioritise continuous learning to ensure our staff delivers high-quality, specialized care while building organizational stability:

- **Strategic capacity-building:** Our Executive Director and Senior Social Worker in Battambang Province attended a two-day local fundraising workshop. This is critical for Mother's Heart's future. Given the current global funding landscape, building local fundraising capacity is essential. This effort builds a stable financial foundation in-country, ensures long-term sustainability, and deepens local/community ownership, making our program less reliant on international funding in the future, while strengthening local team and program relevance and trust.
- **Specialised training:** Our two midwives completed training focused on Pregnancy Care, Assessing Sick Infants, and CPR. Recently our midwife in Phnom Penh also attended a training on Women's Cancers and Pain Management. These trainings help our midwives gain knowledge and practical tips that will help them provide the best possible care to the mothers we serve.
- **Child protection and trauma care:** Three of our social workers were equipped with vital skills in Trauma-informed care and specialized training on child protection, with a focus on mitigating risks related to online grooming and sexual exploitation.
- **Leadership and oversight:** Our Executive Director enhanced organizational leadership by attending a Monitoring and Evaluation Learning workshop. This training was crucial for strengthening our capacity in developing baseline data, effective data collection, and robust reporting and interpretation, building directly on previous learning workshops.

IMPACT: Lives Transformed by Your Generosity

The period from January to October 2025 shows tangible results for women and girls (and their children) facing crisis.

Safety and stability:

- New life: We welcomed **29 women and girls** into our program and celebrated the safe arrival of **27 babies (14 girls)**, all of whom are thriving.
- Consistent support: We are currently serving **153 beneficiaries (including 65 who are underage or 17 years old and below)** providing 817 formal and informal counselling sessions with our partner-NGOs to build trust, explore and address their needs, and provide emotional stability and access to available support and resources. We also have a total of **147 children** in our care, with zero cases of malnutrition or underweight.
- Protection and legal identity: 137 (out of the 153) beneficiaries now possess social protection cards (ID-poor cards, priority cards). For single mothers (and their families) in Cambodia, these cards are important as they are key to unlocking free government healthcare and essential social benefits, significantly reducing the burden they carry.



Crucially, all 147 children in our program (75 are girls, and we were blessed with four sets of twin boys) have been issued birth certificates. This is important because, more often than not, children without fathers are not issued these documents, creating a massive challenge growing up. Securing a birth certificate legally secures their identity, ensuring their fundamental right to healthcare, education, inheritance, and future employment.

104 of these children are with/being raised by their biological mothers and 37 are living with their relatives (kinship care). Two children are in temporary foster care, while four are in permanent foster care.

- Legal assistance: Five beneficiaries received critical legal assistance from our partner NGOs (Chab Dai, Adhoc, Hagar, and the Child Protection Unit). We are pleased to report that **one perpetrator is currently in jail, with four additional court cases ongoing.**

Self-sufficiency and empowerment:

Through the support of our partners on the ground, we are moving mothers towards a future of independence:

- **Economic empowerment:**
Fourteen (14) beneficiaries received start-up assistance to launch small businesses or livelihood activities (grocery shops, chicken raising, etc.) with the help of their family members. 55 beneficiaries are actively involved in a secured employment with ongoing coaching from our social work teams.
- **Education/Skills for the future:**
Four (4) young girls returned to school (one in university) while five young girls are enrolled in vocational skills training (dressmaking, housekeeping, food processing). These vocational skills training are offered by our partner NGOs and the most recent one, the Ministry of Labour's Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Program.
- **Removing barriers:**
Four (4) children are currently in day care, a service that directly enables their mothers to work or continue their schooling/vocational skills training.



Stories from Mother's Heart: Your Generosity in Individual Lives

We chose the following stories to show the impact of generosity and the partnership with Mother's Heart. It also shows the diverse range of women Mother's Heart supports, spanning from teenagers like Soriya (17) to adults like Kounila (43), *not their real names*. Thanks to your support, both received holistic care needed to move beyond crisis and break the cycles of isolation and helplessness. Their journeys have just begun, and it's your commitment that keeps them moving toward a better future for themselves and their children.

Soriya's Story of New Beginnings

At just 17 years old, Soriya had faced enough instability for a lifetime. Her early years were marked by fractured family life and profound emotional isolation. By age 11, she was already working as a restaurant server just to survive. Lacking the stability and warmth of a true home, she struggled with deep emotional wounds, leading her to cope with drinking and drug use.

The crisis hit when one of our partner NGOs, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC), visited her workplace to conduct health checks. It was through this screening that she made the shocking discovery, she was pregnant, a fact entirely unknown to her. Alone, without her mother's knowledge or the support of the child's father, she was immediately facing fear, uncertainty, and despair.



When Soriya's story reached Mother's Heart, she was deeply isolated and initially reluctant to accept help. But our dedicated team refused to give up. Our social workers and midwives kept calling daily and paid her visits, gently breaking through her emotional walls.

This compassionate connection, made possible by your support, allowed Soriya to finally agree to receive care. She stayed in the program, receiving comprehensive, holistic support throughout her pregnancy:

- **Health & safety:** She received full health check-ups and specialist medical treatment for her infections, and monitoring needed for her complicated pregnancy.
- **Healing & stability:** Our staff and partners provided dedicated professional counseling to address her crisis pregnancy, her deep-seated trauma, providing the emotional foundation needed to embrace motherhood.
- **Material support:** She received crucial material and financial support, including food aid, vocational planning, and a complete baby basket.

Today, Soriya's health is stable, and she is actively preparing for her future with the help of her social worker. Your support built a bridge of trust that pulled a vulnerable young woman back from the edge of distrust and despair. Thank you for ensuring she and her baby will enter the world with health, hope, and the compassionate support of a community that refuses to let them face hardship alone.

Kounila's Story of Grit, Dignity, and Hope

By her early forties, Kounila had known immense heartbreak, enduring the grief of losing three husbands and a young son. At seven months pregnant, she was left solely responsible for her remaining children and elderly parents, trapped in profound poverty and living in a borrowed house, long uninhabited after her sibling left years ago to seek work in Thailand.

She faced not only the hardship of lacking food and inadequate shelter, but also deep shame. In her community, she was mocked for being an older woman and pregnant again, criticism that left her isolated and desperate. The path ahead of her was bleak.

The turning point came during a prenatal check-up when Kounila reached out for help. Recognizing the depth of her crisis, local authorities referred her immediately to Mother's Heart.

Thanks to the resources provided by faithful partners donors like you, we immediately intervened, providing holistic support that slowly but surely rebuilding her dignity and stability:

- **Emotional healing:** She received crisis pregnancy and psychological counseling to address her crisis, profound grief and shame, receiving emotional encouragement that is helping to heal her spirit.
- **Essential care:** She received consistent prenatal health care, monthly food packages, financial support, and a complete baby basket.
- **Legal documents support:** We helped secure her missing civil documents, working with local authorities to speed up the process, ensuring she and her children had the legal documents needed for a secure future.

Even in hardship, Kounila was determined to become financially independent. After giving birth, she was among the first to enroll in a new vocational program of the Ministry of Labour under the TVET Program. She chose fruit and vegetable processing.

Kounila showed high interest and was incredibly diligent in attending the classes. Yet, going every day was a challenge due to two barriers: the two-kilometer commute and her family responsibilities—she had to prepare food and attend to her elderly parents and children before leaving. Recognizing her commitment, MHO and our community partner provided a simple gift: a bicycle.

This bicycle was more than transport; it was a symbol of empowerment. It cut her travel time significantly, allowing her to balance her training with her essential domestic duties. It was the practical tool she needed to secure her family's future through her own effort.

Kounila's story demonstrates the power of compassion. The generosity of our partners and donors provided the healing, dignity and the means to change. It proves that when offered guidance and the right support, women like Kounila will seize these opportunities and rebuild their lives.



Future Hopes: Expanding the Circle of Protection

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, Mother's Heart is driven by the vision that every mother (and child) having well-being, economic empowerment, and a sense of belonging. With continued partnership, our hope is to realise the following expansions:

Crisis Pregnancy Prevention Awareness: We hope to launch a dedicated project aimed at equipping schoolchildren and the community with knowledge about safe relationships, self-protection, crisis pregnancy prevention, reducing harmful behaviours to contribute to prevent the increase of crisis pregnancies (and teenage pregnancies).

Community Crisis Hubs: We hope to establish crisis pregnancy hubs within the communities to ensure beneficiaries do not have to travel far to seek support, making vital services immediate and accessible.

Expanded Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE): It is our dream to scale up our WEE project (with the participation of their family members) to ensure more beneficiaries achieve self-sufficiency needed to strongly uplift their families and their communities.

Sharing best practices: As Cambodia's pioneering and (still the) only organization dedicated to crisis pregnancy support for 15 years, Mother's Heart hopes to publish our best practices and lessons learned in the field. This vital document will offer a unique reference for researches and institutions focused on

maternal and child health, child protection, and gender issues, enabling others to replicate our proven model in their own countries.

Achieving mission stability and continuation: Above all, we dream of securing stable, long-term funding support to ensure the continuation of this vital ministry in the years to come. This stability will allow our dedicated staff to fully focus on serving the beneficiaries and expanding our reach- maximizing our mission impact and efficiency. Having financial stability ensures that the unique support offered by Mother's Heart will not disappear.

Gymea Baptist Church's faithful commitment enables us to continue this life-saving work, turning crisis into capacity, isolation into community. Without the timely, compassionate, generous support, the women and girls would have not known how to survive this difficult chapter of their lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for walking alongside us in this ministry.