



# Maryknoll Deaf Development Programme (DDP)

NTID-RIT  
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## Who we are?

- Established: 1997 (under Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation), 2002 (under Maryknoll)
- Maryknoll: US based Catholic Mission organisation that has been working in developing countries since 1911.
- Maryknoll is registered in Cambodia as an International Non-Government Organisation (INGO)
- DDP is one of the six projects Maryknoll runs in Cambodia



## Vision and Mission

- **Vision**  
*Deaf people are accepted, respected and included as equals in all aspects of Cambodian society.*
- **Mission**  
*Our mission is to empower deaf people to develop their education, language, employment and community, and to raise awareness and understanding of deafness, deaf people and their culture within Cambodian society*



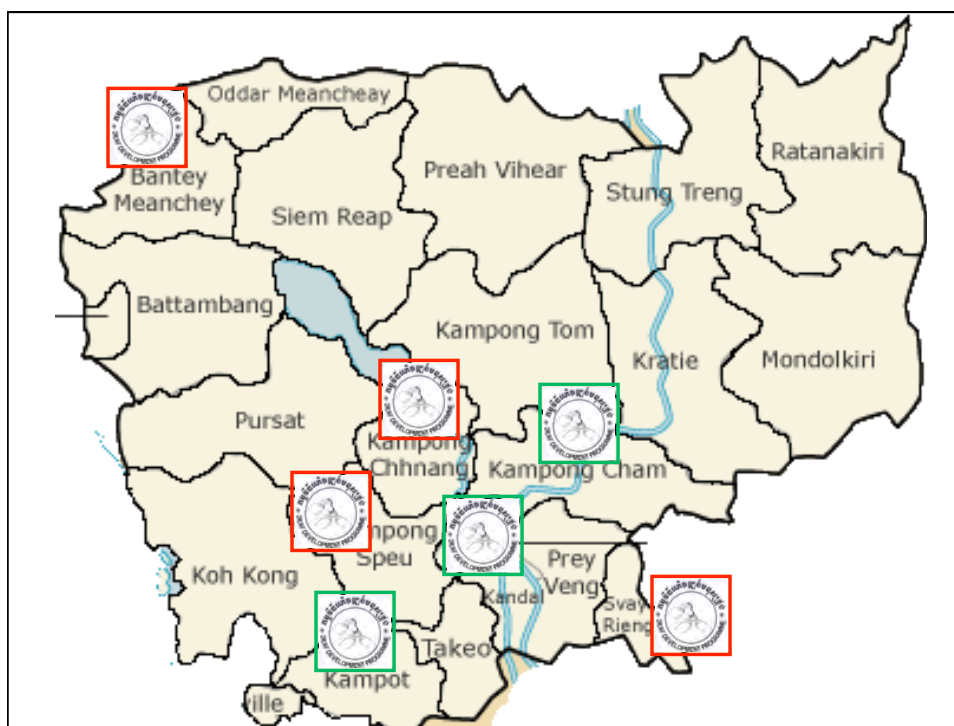
## Family, community, services


- Lack of understanding & awareness of deafness, deaf people, and deaf culture in Cambodian society.
- Isolation in community and even in family.
- Dependent on family for basic living (no independence) and lack access to basic services such as medical care.
- Limited gestures for communication (if at all).
- Traditional arranged marriage – rare for families to accept deaf-deaf marriages (2002 – first documented legal marriage between two deaf adults).
- No support, services, or provisions from the Government available



## What we do and where?

- Six projects for deaf people and their families
  - Basic Education
  - Job Training
  - Cambodian Sign Language Interpreting
  - Deaf Community Development
  - Cambodian Sign Language
  - Social Services
- Three centres; Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, and Kampot.
- Total staff: 72 (of which 17 are deaf)





## Basic Education

- First started as a general education and Cambodian Sign Language course in 1997
- Now offered as a two-year, non-formal basic education course, for teenagers and young adults who are not of school age
- Subjects taught are: CSL, Khmer literacy, mathematics, social sciences, and life skills
- Qualified teachers with additional training provided by DDP on methodology for teaching deaf people, the use of both sign language and written Khmer in class, and understanding of deaf culture etc
- 2012: 100 students in three locations



## Job Training

- 80% + of the population works within Agriculture
- Typically, deaf people assist the family business and/or agriculture work.
- OR, deaf people take care of other siblings, old relatives, or the home, while other family members are working.
- DDP training in motorbike repairs, sewing, sewing machine repairs, barbering, metal work, carpentry, beauty school.
- Assistance with finding job placements within factories/companies, and/or setting up businesses of their own.



## Interpreting

- Nine full time CSL interpreters (seven based in Phnom Penh, one in Kampong Cham, one in Kampot)
- Mainly used for DDP's Job Training project
- DDP's Interpreting training 2011/12 (15 students) – 4<sup>th</sup> group
  - 9 months
  - Training includes learning CSL, interpreting theories and processes, and ethics etc
- Provision of community interpreting services for:
  - NGOs and Government ceremonies
  - Hospitals
  - Families
  - Court cases / police situations
  - TV news



## Community Development

- Most deaf people have never met another deaf person before.
- Even if deaf people did meet each other, the lack of identity, limited language skills, and education, means that it is unlikely they would be able to communicate with each other.
- No organised community or activities by deaf people themselves.
- No National Association of the Deaf
- Community project started as a pilot in 2005 and became a formal project in 2007
- Three components: Locate deaf people, provide a meeting place/community centre, teach CSL and provide activities.



## Cambodian Sign Language

- No evidence of a common sign language before 1997
- CDPO (1997) – bringing deaf people together to start foundations of Cambodian Sign Language as it is today.
- Nippon Foundation – Documentation and Practical Dictionaries project.
- CSL classes for deaf and hearing people



## Social Services

- Four main areas of work
  - Assistance with getting medical care
  - Support within legal situations (courts/police)
  - Counseling
  - ‘Lost’ deaf people or people with no family/homes