



**Shine Centre
Partner Report**
Oct-Dec 2020

We are officially open!

With a total of 264 girls coming into the Shine Centre in the first quarter of operations, there has been a lot going on inside. We focus on each girl's safety, education and empowerment opportunities. Here is what that looks like:

Safety



Education

This has been a tough year to be in school in Cambodia. Schools closed several times due to COVID-19, but that's what makes AusCam so valuable to girls... we never close.



Empowerment

Our empowerment programs are up and running at the new Shine Centre, including our Health GLOW courses, career counselling and girls empowerment and mentoring clubs!

161 girls received reproductive health training

We completed a 2-month reproductive health course with support from Global G.L.O.W., including: value and decision making, life cycle and puberty, period and pregnancy, self-esteem, assertiveness, stress and conflict management, boundaries and consent, sexuality and common myths, and sexually transmitted infections

5
active girls clubs

23
girls secured
positive jobs

Meet Nak

Nak has been part of AusCam for the last three years. She lives with her family (parents and older brother) at their own house. Similar to other AusCam scholars, Nak was enrolled into our program because of her low social-economic situation and was at risk of dropping out of school.

While inadequate shelter and food are remarkable risks alone, Nak's case worker observed that she wasn't doing well in school. She was failing all of her math and science classes and her mother expressed concern about Nak's study and told us that she often would not come home after school. Very quickly, Nak's relationship with her family began to deteriorate and she ran away from home.

Shortly after the disappearance, AusCam's social workers began the search. We helped her parents prepare and file paperwork with local police and knocked on doors [...]

throughout the community to find information about Nak's whereabouts. We received a tip that she was living with her boyfriend (who was hiding her) and working illegally. Illegal work often leads to different forms of exploitation, so it was important that we found her quickly.

After a few discussions with Nak's boyfriend, our social workers explained the legal consequences if he tried to hide her. Two weeks later, she returned home and is now enrolled in school again.

AusCam social workers continue to help Nak and her parents rebuild a strong relationship and educate her on the consequences of dropping out of school and the risks of illegal work. We aim to show her what a great support network she has and the resources available to her.

Many girls in Cambodia have become victims of trafficking or exploitation because of a single poor choice during a vulnerable time of adolescent development.

This is why we exist: to protect girls and create opportunities so they can build a future that is truly free.

This has been an important quarter; one that will begin to build on a model for lasting resistance to exploitation. Thank you, our growing group of partners

