

## Cambodia Prison Research Project

<b>Agency:</b>	Caritas Australia Limited	<b>Location:</b>	Cambodia
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Tim Morris, Asia DMEL Lead	<b>Contract Period:</b>	May – August 2022

### 1. Organisational Background

Caritas Australia is the Catholic agency for international humanitarian relief and development in Australia. Through relationships with the Church, partners and communities in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Australia, Caritas Australia helps to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Our programs promote the good of every person regardless of their religious, political or cultural beliefs. We envisage a world in which children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice are agents of their own change and architects of their own development.

### 2. Background

Caritas Australia currently supports one prison-focused project in the Asia region, partnering with Caritas Cambodia in Cambodia. In the past Caritas Australia also supported work in the prison context in Timor Leste as part of the Peace Building/Community Violence program, however this concluded in 2015. Caritas Australia began supporting Caritas Cambodia's prison programming in 2011, starting with two prisons and expanding to 6 prisons over the years.

An evaluation of the Cambodia prison project was conducted in November 2019. It found that significant improvements had been made in the quality of healthcare available to inmates in prisons, greater harmony amongst inmates and between inmates and prison staff, increased capacity of prison management and staff to undertake their roles and to manage their prison programs, and improved opportunity for inmates to learn new skills while in prison.

However, the project faced some difficulties, especially in regards to the objective of improving the skills and job opportunities for inmates once they have been released. Skills training available to inmates while in prison was limited. Additionally, the project faced challenges in following up with inmates upon release to link them with further skills development and job placement opportunities, and to monitor whether they had been able to use what they learnt or gain employment once outside of prison to improve their livelihoods.

### 3. Rationale

Caritas Australia recently launched our Strategic Directions 2021-31 and an aligned Asia Regional Strategy. Recognising the unique vulnerabilities experienced by prison populations in Cambodia and other countries in Asia; the Asia Regional Strategy retains a strong focus on this sector in order to achieve these Strategic Goals. The Caritas Australia prison programming in Cambodia aligns with both:

- GOAL 2: All people, especially the most marginalised, experience wellbeing and live in safe, just societies.

- GOAL 3: A common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice.

The Strategic Plan also focuses on Caritas Australia building a strong evidence-base for more impactful programming:

- GOAL 5: Caritas Australia is a vibrant, impact-focused organisation, committed to ongoing learning

As outlined above, previous programming approaches have focused primarily on enhancing the dignity, well-being and safety of participants during their incarceration, as well as enhancing livelihoods skills to support positive transitions out of prison. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities have been limited in understanding the longer-term impacts on supporting positive reintegration and reduced recidivism.

By undertaking this research project prior to making additional programming investments, Caritas Australia aims to ensure future investments in this area are impact-oriented and supported by a strong evidence-base.

## 4. Purpose, Scope and Specific Objectives

### Purpose

The purpose of this Research Project is to develop an evidence-base to inform Caritas Australia's future prison programming investments in Cambodia and potentially other contexts in Asia in line with our Strategic Directions.

This aims to ensure future programming has the greatest impact both in terms of:

- enhancing the dignity, well-being, and voice of participants whilst in prison.
- Supporting systemic changes and long-term improvements related to prevention, reintegration, and reduced recidivism.

### Scope

This project will in part explore the effectiveness of Caritas Australia's previous investments in this sector through a meta-analysis of available program documentation and through primary research where feasible; while also mapping emerging trends, partnership opportunities and contemporary practice to inform impactful programming decisions moving forward.

### Objectives

1. Undertake a landscape analysis to identify the key drivers and impacts of the incarceration cycle in Cambodia and comparable contexts; as well as identifying key actors, emerging innovations and good practices that are having a measurable impact in addressing these drivers.
2. Review the effectiveness of Caritas Australia's previous investments in prison programming in Cambodia in light of the above analysis and identify opportunities for deepened impact.
3. Generate recommendations for future programming in line with Caritas Australia's Strategic Directions, highlighting the types of program investments that have the greatest impact across the incarceration cycle; what success would look like in this context; and who Caritas Australia should work with to achieve this success.

## Audience & Use

**Caritas Australia:** to understand impact of previous programming and inform strategic decision making around future program investments and partnerships.

**Other Stakeholders:** The research paper may be shared more broadly with stakeholders engaged through the project or who are engaged in the work with the justice system in Cambodia. It is expected that the Consultant will develop an executive summary in accessible format that can be circulated with key stakeholders participating in the research.

All intellectual property from this research is owned by Caritas Australia.

## 5. Accountability

The Consultant will report directly to the Asia DMEL Lead. An internal project team will be established within Caritas Australia to manage the consultancy and provide relevant technical support and oversight at key stages of the project.

## 6. Methodology

The methodology is to be determined by the Consultant in collaboration with the Caritas Australia project team. In order to achieve the project objectives, this should include:

### Phase 1: Landscape Analysis

1. Landscape analysis using both primary research (e.g. key informant interviews with key stakeholders) and secondary research methodologies that explores:
  - a. Analysis of the drivers and impacts of incarceration and recidivism within the Cambodian context
  - b. Analysis of emerging innovations, trends, and good practice approaches being implemented to effectively address these drivers by actors in Cambodia and comparable contexts
  - c. Analysis of relevant developments in Cambodia, particularly in terms of government legislation, programs or strategies, and analysis of the opportunities or constraints these might present
  - d. Analysis of key actors within the Cambodian context and potential opportunities for enhanced collaboration and partnership.

### Phase 2: Meta-Analysis

1. Undertake a meta-analysis of Caritas Australia and partners' monitoring, evaluation and learning data to assess the effectiveness of previous programming investments in relation to the key findings
2. Where feasible, data may be triangulated through consultations with current or former primary participants of Caritas Australia's programs.

### Phase 3: Sense-Making and Report-Writing

1. Conduct sense making workshop with key stakeholders including Caritas Australia staff to explore key findings and implications for Caritas Australia's future investments

2. Document Research Report with key findings and recommendations for future investments where Caritas Australia can have the greatest impact both in terms of enhancing the dignity, well-being and voice of participants whilst in prison; while supporting post-prison transition and reduced recidivism.

## 7. Ethics and Risk Management

Caritas Australia is committed to the highest standards of ethical research. Recognising the particular vulnerabilities experienced by prison populations in contexts such as Cambodia, the Consultant(s) will be expected to undertake a risk assessment prior to undertaking any primary research and to operate in line with:

- Research for Development Impact Ethical Research Principles and Guidelines
- Caritas Australia's Child Protection Policy and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy, Code of Conduct and Speaking Up Policy
- Caritas Australia's Privacy Policy
- Relevant national legislation or Codes related to safeguarding, privacy or other relevant issues

## 8. Expected Deliverables & Timeframe

The ideal timeframe for the project is for completion by end of August 2022. This may be negotiable for the right candidate. Expected deliverables are as follows:

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
Inception	Consultancy Plan Inception Workshop with Project Team
Landscape and Meta-Analysis	Desk Review Report
Sense-Making and Reporting	Sense-Making Workshop Draft Report for Feedback Final Report

## 9. Payment

Payment will be on submission of tax invoice on delivery against milestones. Milestones include:

- Signing of contract: 25% of agreed payment
- Submission of Draft Report: 50% of agreed payment
- Finalisation of Report: 25% of agreed payment, plus any additional travel related costs with receipts provided.

## 10. Selection Criteria

- Strong primary research and/or evaluation experience
- Strong working knowledge of Cambodian prison system and/or comparable contexts; including knowledge of key stakeholders
- The ability to analyse and synthesise a range of information to produce concise, helpful findings and recommendations
- Strong understanding of applied research ethics, safeguarding and data protection
- Preferably based in Cambodia but will consider applicants with appropriate expertise based elsewhere
- Appropriate insurances and willingness to undergo recruitment screening in line with Caritas Australia's Safeguarding and Counter Terrorism policies.

## 11. Expressions of Interest

Applicants should submit a simple Expression of Interest (max 4 pages) to Tim Morris, Asia DMEL Lead by 22 May 2022 via [Tim.Morris@caritas.org.au](mailto:Tim.Morris@caritas.org.au), that includes:

- Proposed methodology and timings for each phase of the consultation process and your rates and any additional expenses;
- An outline of your previous experience relevant to this Terms of Reference;
- An indication of your available dates; and availability to complete the consultancy within the specified time frame.

EOIs will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the position may be filled prior to the close date if a suitable candidate is found.