



## Program Fact Sheet September 2010

**Program:** Somaly Mam Foundation

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**Website:** [www.somaly.org](http://www.somaly.org)

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**Mission:** The Somaly Mam Foundation (SMF) strives to give victims and survivors a voice in their lives, liberate victims, end slavery, and empower survivors as they create and sustain lives of dignity

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**Where They Work:** Somaly Mam supports survivor rescue, shelter and rehabilitation programs globally with a special focus on Southeast Asia. SMF will use Dining for Women's donations to help Cambodian sex trafficking victims.

Millions of tourists visit Cambodia yearly to tour the ancient Angkor Wat temple complex. They watch the country's abundant wildlife, including more than 500

species of birds, or ride across the ancient land, dominated by the mighty Mekong River. As they watch it water large sectors of verdant land, where most Cambodians still rely on agriculture for their livelihood, these tourists often overlook an uglier aspect of Cambodian society: sex trafficking. **According to the CIA World Fact Book, Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for people trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.**

Parents sometimes sell their children into involuntary servitude to serve as beggars, into brothels for commercial sexual exploitation, or into domestic servitude. Cambodia is on the Tier 2 Watch List because it does not comply with all minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but it is making significant efforts to do so. Still, in 2009, the government did not show evidence of progress in convicting and punishing human trafficking offenders - including complicit public officials - and protecting trafficking victims.

**History of Cambodia:** Most Cambodians



consider themselves to be Khmers, descendants of the Angkor Empire that ruled much of Southeast Asia and reached its zenith between the 10th and 13th centuries. Attacks by the Thai and Cham (from present-day Vietnam) weakened the empire, ushering in a long period of decline. The king placed the country under French protection in 1863, and it became part of French Indochina in 1887.

**Following Japanese occupation in World War II, Cambodia gained full independence 1953.** In April 1975, after a five-year struggle, Communist Khmer Rouge forces captured Phnom Penh and evacuated all cities and towns. **At least 1.5 million Cambodians died from execution, forced hardships, or starvation during the Khmer Rouge regime under POL POT.** A December 1978

Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge into the countryside, began a 10-year Vietnamese occupation, and initiated a 12-year civil war. The 1991 Paris Peace Accords mandated democratic elections and a ceasefire, which was not fully respected by the Khmer Rouge. UN-sponsored elections in 1993 helped restore some semblance of normalcy under a coalition government. The remaining elements of the Khmer Rouge surrendered in early 1999, and national elections have been fairly peaceful since.



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**History of Somaly Mam:** In early 2007, friends and Air Force Academy graduates Jared Greenberg and Nicholas Lumpp became aware of a growing international crisis: sex slave trade. Disturbed by public ignorance, Jared and Nicholas decided it to take action. But with an industry that generates \$12 billion a year, enslaves millions of women and children and is protected by corrupt governments and law enforcement, they felt overwhelmed.

**Fate intervened a few months later when Jared and Nicholas saw a video clip of Anderson Cooper 360 spotlighting Somaly Mam, a young woman sold into slavery at 12.** Somaly later escaped and desired to rescue and rehabilitate other victims. The result was AFESIP, an organization that has rehabilitated thousands of trafficking victims since its inception in 1996.

Jared and Nicholas visited Somaly Mam, toured facilities, and met some of the young women who had been rescued. **During an inspiring conversation with Jared and Nicholas, Somaly explained her vision for a U.S. based organization that would take her life's passion to the next level.** That year, the Somaly Mam Foundation was born.

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**The Project** Dining for Women's donations will help finance the Somaly Mam Foundation Scholarships Fund to invest in a trust fund and to pay for primary, secondary, and higher education for victims who wish to continue formal academic education.

**Four types of scholarships are being offered:**

1. Primary and secondary education (cost is \$400 per person)
2. Higher education (cost is approximately \$3,500 per yr)
3. Technical/vocational (cost is \$130-750 per person)
4. Short courses (\$150 -\$ 650 per person)

Item	Expense (USD)	Remarks
VFC graduate stipend	\$6,000	5 VFC graduates (Yr 3), \$200/mo, 1 year. <b>DFW will pay 50%</b>
Hagar Cambodia - technical/vocational training	\$3,000	6 VFC graduates @ \$500/ea for vocational training
10 Continuing Education Scholarships	\$4,000	10 @ \$400/ea, primary and secondary continuing education. Funds for school entry documents, tuition, materials and tutors
2 Higher Education Scholarships	\$7,000	2 @ \$3500/ea
Short courses (low-cost)	\$750	5 @ \$150/person. One-time courses that increase marketable job skills for survivors. Examples include trade / craft, etc, such as cooking, computer skills, or other, for a certificate.
Short courses (high-cost)	\$3,250	5 @ \$650/person. See above.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	

**Application criteria:**

Women and girls ages 6 and up who have been trafficked, commercially exploited or raped or are at high risk are eligible. SMF is very sensitive about the privacy of all victims and survivors of human trafficking. If a course of study is greater than one year, students need to reapply before a new semester or term.

**Why Needed**

**Access to education is one of the crucial components in the reintegration process and the victim advocacy program.** In answer to the growing problem of trafficking for sexual exploitation of women and children, AFESIP in Laos has been providing a model multi-pronged care and support response ensuring better Quality Of Life for the victims since 2006.

- ♀ **The whole response process is the first of its kind in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR),** therefore it acts as a model for the government. Victims of trafficking benefit from such a pilot service. The goal: recognition of victims’ status with appropriate comprehensive care.
- ♀ **The project highlights the importance of recognizing trafficking as a legal and health issue** and recognizes women and children’s rights to

protection and access to health service. The long-term health consequences of trafficking (particularly mental health outcomes) are emphasized, as are the long-term strategies to assist the victims.

♀ **The services provided by the project will foster women and children's overall well-being with practical forms of assistance like legal, medical, social service and education.** The second emphasis is on social reintegration in order to provide victims with professional skills and tools to access the job market or to set up a sustainable micro business. The third priority is access to legal service, as receiving justice and being fairly treated is a healing process in itself.

♀ The study grant provides **the survivors with access to education they would not have otherwise received**, mostly due to poverty and family constraints.

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### Accomplishments of the Somaly Mam Foundation

- Runs three of the largest shelters in Cambodia.
  - Last year gave more than \$300,000 to their shelters.
  - Rescued more than 4,000 girls from brothels.
  - At any given time, there are 75 girls in each shelter.
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### Goals

Thanks to DFW's partnership with the Somaly Mam scholarship fund:

- ♀ At least **five victims** will graduate and begin internships with Somaly Mam or other nongovernmental organization,
- ♀ **10 victims** will be given general continued education scholarships.

Furthermore, the team aims to expand its out-reach to the victims still trapped in their places of exploitation and offer them access to health care and provide them with exit strategies to leave prostitution and accept AFESIP's offer in receiving shelter, rehabilitation and reintegration services.

### Why DFW's Funding is Vital to this Project

- ♀ **The study grants provide a unique opportunity for survivors of trafficking to access educational or vocational systems.** AFESIP Laos has funding to set up group vocational training or short courses, but it cannot commit to individuals in the long term, as most of the budget comes from donors on a yearly basis and their main donor, ANESVAD, does not cover education costs.
- ♀ **Many of the survivors could not go to school as long as they wished because families pressure women** to earn income or maintain the cultural belief that girls do not need to attend school.
- ♀ **More males than females have access to school.**



**Grants for staff survivors of the social enterprise contribute to the sustainability of the company.** Grants to non-staff survivors will give women more professional positions in AFESIP, other NGO's or parts of the economic sector, so they may live with dignity.

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### How the Somaly Mam Foundation Measures Program Success

**A committee, consisting of Somaly Mam, the SMF Executive Director, and two former victims, will review requests and select candidates for these scholarships.** Where needed, scholarships will cover room, board, food and tuition. For the education program, they track the progress of the people who apply each year. This year, they provided 14 scholarships that cost less than \$10K. They keep the funds in a trust, which allows for growth and monitoring of sustainability.

**After awarding scholarships,** the SMF education officer communicates regularly with partner organizations to ensure that students are progressing and academic needs are being met.

Where a student is deemed not to be progressing, SMF will advise re tutoring options.

**After completion of study,** an exit interview will be conducted to get further input. Additionally, scholarship participants will be encouraged to attend an annual gathering in Phnom Penh in which they will report back to SMF staff, share their progress, and their experiences with the partner organizations. This feedback will be compiled by SMF staff and incorporated immediately into decisions made about future programs.

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### Financial Profile of the Organization

Administration: 10%,

Services: 90%

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**Goal of DFW's Gift:** \$24,000

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### Sources

Somaly Mam Foundation

wikipedia.org

cia.gov

nationalgeographic.com