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## 2017 / 18 ANNUAL REPORT



#### Dear Friend,

Reflecting on all we were able to accomplish in 2017/18, I'm glad World Hope International (WHI) was counted among the faith-based relief groups that provided aid to survivors of the PNG Earthquake disaster, where 145 people were killed and almost a half a million people in four provinces were significantly impacted. I've seen first-hand the strength of the local church to act as the safety net for the vulnerable and alongside

faith agencies in Papua New Guinea, WHI utilised partnerships—both new and old—to take a proactive role in response to this disaster.

But while our 2017/18 story was marked most notably by the clean water, power, food aid, and psychosocial relief that we were able to supply in Papua New Guinea during desperate times, we celebrate so many other exciting moments this year in other countries as well.

In an effort to continue to build and equip our team, we welcomed new technical experts to lead with wisdom in areas of health and nutrition, gender-based violence and anti-trafficking, community development and agriculture, and water and sanitation.

WHI Australia also entered into exciting new operational partnerships with WHI USA and WHI Canada in order to streamline resources and expand our shared mission. By working together, we know we'll be able to amplify our work and message to help more people. I'm excited about the energy and dynamism that USA CEO John Lyon and Canada Executive Director Tanya Nace bring to our team!

It's been clear to me this year that in the places with the greatest need, our team continues to step up with their talents and gifts to put the poorest of the poor first—regardless of ethnicity, gender, race or religion.

And the impact was clear. This year, we have installed rain water tanks at schools and health clinics and built a new classroom for elementary students in remote PNG. Partnered with two public hospitals to provide cervical cancer testing in PNG. And, in Cambodia, 92 households produced over 61,000 kgs of mushrooms, which were sold and generated monthly sales of over \$43,000 for families of farmers.

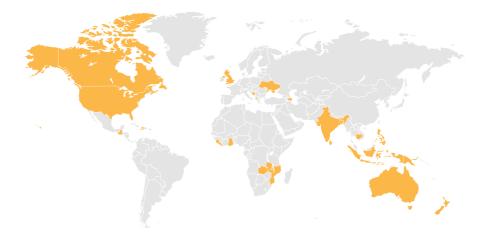
As we've helped to transform thousands of lives this year—women, children, and families—we're committed to bringing Opportunity, Dignity and Hope. This requires us to listen hard to local communities, partner with others to do the best work we can, and build up a team of smart, compassionate people.

But we're able to accomplish none of this life-changing and transformative work without you.

It's been an honour to serve alongside you to alleviate poverty, suffering and injustice around the world this year. I truly look forward to our partnership in 2018/19!

Blessings,

Ruth Thomas CEO







Ngor is the wife of Sron Srin, and they have three beautiful children. They were previously farmers growing rice and cassava in a small field. Sron sometimes had to go to a far town to work as a wood cutter. When food was not available, the family would find snails and crabs from the rice field to feed their family. Without any income, the children were not able to go to school and when they fell ill, there was no means to receive treatment. After Ngor and her family learned about and began growing mushrooms, their life changed for the better. Now, they no longer need to borrow money with high interest rates. They are buying seedlings for growing crops and were able to build a storage for raw materials. Their house has electricity, and, the children are going to school again. The family plans to extend the mushroom house to reach their goals of purchasing a truck and motorbike, drilling a well, and building a toilet.

- 92 households in 5 communities in Cambodia produced over 61,000 kgs of mushrooms; in addition to the 12 wells provided by WHI USA, 15 borehole wells dug by mushroom growers at their own expense to expand the programme.
- A purpose built processing and marketing platform increased growth in mushroom production from 500kg per day to 1500kg per day.
- 1 chicken coop in partnership with Ensisi Valley Wesleyan Church in PNG

### Cambodia Mushroom Business Rapidly Expanding

There is a high rate of men migrating to Thailand for labor, leaving women in Cambodia as the head of their households. For this reason, WHI expanded the Sisters Community Development Program to explore mushroom production in five villages in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. Initial activities began in 2014 with 128 femalelead households who were members of self-help/savings group formed by WHI.

In 2017/18, 85 households—including 137 females, 148 males and 141 children—continued to grow mushrooms. At the beginning of the year, 12 hand pump boreholes were provided by WHI USA to create livelihood options for consistent cash flows through the engagement of women in and around their obligations at home. Fifteen additional boreholes wells were dug by mushroom growers at their own expense to increase their production and to expand production to include other cash crops, especially mung bean. This bean also enhances the soil through nitrogen fixation. Additionally, growers can add the dried mung bean stalks to the rice straw after harvest to create the mushroom growing substrates.

Some of the early adopters of mushroom houses have gone on to build even more and buy agricultural waste from neighboring farms to supply their mushroom operations. In late 2017, some female-led households started trials on higher value cultivars such as black and yellow ginger, rosella, cacao and avocado to sell together with mushrooms.

In one year, the number of mushroom grow-houses increased from 23 to 92. In 2017/18, the households produced a total of over 61,000 kgs of mushrooms. This increase in mushroom cultivation was mainly due to a mutually-supportive approach to marketing and market linkages forged by WHI through Thera Metry. Meaning "Compassionate Earth," Thera Metry is a local cooperative enterprise formed by WHI for collective sorting, processing and delivery of mushrooms and other cash crops produced by households. Through Thera Metry, WHI is able to help improve the farm gate price for household producers and farmers. At the end of 2017, the project generated monthly sales of over \$43,000.

## Emergency Response

## Water and Sanitation

• 1 new classroom for 35 elementary students in PNG

Education

- Cyclone Gita in Tonga clean water, food and shelter
- PNG Earthquake coordinated 2 volunteers who spent 224 hours distributing clean water and provided health promotion, psychosocial support, food and medical first aid.
- 22 wells drilled across Cambodia, benefiting 1219 households
- Started construction on piped water utility in Cambodia, expected to benefit 100+ households
- Installed 2 x 5000 litre rainwater tanks, benefiting 250 students and their community in a remote school in PNG
- Installed 2 x 9000 litre rainwater tanks at a health centre in remote PNG benefitting 200+ households

# Health and Nutrition

- 2000 women in PNG will benefit from cervical cancer testing
- 500 infants and children in Wopasali PNG will benefit from receiving vaccinations with the new vaccine refrigerator supplied by WHI



### **Enable The Children**

The Enable the Children (ETC) program provides physical therapy and occupational therapy, care, and support services to approximately 700 children living with disabilities in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Staff visit patients in their homes and teach families and caregivers how to support children with disabilities using play, developmental positioning, and feeding support, which allows families the opportunity to learn to provide at-home care and treatment. As cultural beliefs lead many mothers to place blame upon themselves when a child is born with a disability, ETC works with mothers so they understand each child's medical case and to reassure parents that they've done nothing wrong.

ETC does not stop with medical care and therapy. Through child sponsorship, children's school fees are covered, which affords for these children the otherwise unlikely opportunity to attend school. The program also provides small-business start-up grants to families who have had to change their pattern of work to allow for care to be provided for the child at home. ETC also works with local carpenters, tailors, and technicians to provide specialized equipment for patients including specially-designed chairs, standing frames, leg gaiters (to support standing and walking), and drop-foot supports. The program also provides wheelchairs to patients in need.

In 2017, ETC trained five rehabilitation therapy workers and assistants, three family support workers, and one pastoral support worker. These individuals, combined with existing staff, conducted 138 disability clinics where 504 new patients were admitted into the program. Therapists provided 1,616 therapy home visits, provided specialized equipment to 179 children, provided business start-up grants to 24 families, and supported 70 children with school sponsorship. Staff met with 313 local leaders to help them understand the unique needs of children with disabilities, and conducted 61 family support group meetings.

## Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Malis shared how WHI's group therapy helped her recover from 30 years of domestic violence and abuse: "We have become stronger in sharing and asking for help." Malis, a 49-year old Cambodian and loving mother of six, is a brave woman who fought against her country's cultural norms and raised her voice against the threats, abuse, and control that her husband imposed on her for years. After her husband started drinking and spending their limited income in brothels, the violence began. He wouldn't even let her work as a village teacher because he was jealous. He believed she was seeing other men. However, Malis built her courage and reported it to the local authorities, who informed WHI's newly trained government social workers. Some months later, Malis' husband was arrested by the police and she started receiving counselling and support to help her recover from her trauma. "When I started working with her she didn't trust me. I tried to apply the skills I was taught by WHI and this helped me gain her trust. Now she is more confident and brave" says Sopheap, Malis' government social worker, as she shares the change she saw in her new client.

### Providing care to survivors of SGBV

In 2017, WHI reached 2817 women and girls through the Enhancing Responses project, including a total of 212 survivors of violence who received either full counselling and case management services, individual counselling, or were provided information about their rights and the services available to them. Out of the 212 survivors, 77 received direct services through trained staff from the Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth and Department of Women's Affairs, including one 9-year old girl, a victim of sexual violence.

Compared to 2016, WHI saw an increase of 159 survivors receiving services through the Enhancing Responses project. This increase was caused by a more active engagement of the WHI staff with the Commune Committee of Women and Children, and the local community's increased ability to identify more victims.

### Government social service providers respond to SGBV

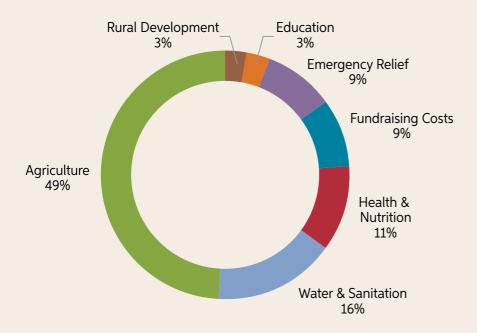
In 2017, WHI trained 31 social service providers, 16 from the Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth and Department of Women's Affairs, and 15 from the Commune Committee of Women and Children. Additionally, in order to encourage 2016 trainees to keep working with their clients, 16 trainees received a report card showing the results of their evaluation on case presentation and applied skills that is assessed during supervision.



212 female survivors of violence in Cambodia helped through individual and group therapy, and 31 social service providers received training in counseling and case management skills.



#### **PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION**



The complete audited financial statements are available at www.worldhope.org.au/about-us/annual-report.

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- Mrs Annette Dobson, Director, National Director Wesleyan Women

#### **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

Mrs Ruth Thomas, CEO

"For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love."

-Galatians 5:13

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Opportunity. Dignity. Hope.

World Hope International (Australia) 519 Mt. Petrie Rd. Mackenzie Qld 4156 WorldHope.org.au

DonorServices@WorldHope.org.au 1800 967 534 ABN: 67 615 983 661

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