

Bernadette and her work at Prisons with Caritas Cambodia

Bernadette Glisse, one of the Human Rights and Nursing Award winner has worked since the age of 29 with Cambodian people. First, she assisted Cambodian Refugees at the Thai-Cambodian Border, then, after people returned to their country, she worked with various NGOs and since 1995 with Caritas Cambodia.

Caritas Cambodia is the Social development Arm of the Catholic Church in Cambodia dedicated to the service of the poor and the promotion of charity, justice, peace and integral development of people irrespective of race and creed

Mission:

Bernadette is currently implementing with a team of 40 Cambodian staffs, 4 large programs including community Health program, Community Development program and Livelihood, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Changes Adaptation and the Comprehensive Prisons Program as the largest, covering 8 provinces.

The Prison Program started in 2005 at the request of the Siem Reap's Prison's Director, inviting Caritas to assist the prisoners in their health and psychosocial needs. **By 2017, Caritas supports 8 Provincial Prisons** out of 28 Prisons in Cambodia.

Objective:

To promote, maintain and improve the "Health and wellbeing" of the prison's population through the development of a "Comprehensive Prison Program" including health care, emotional support and Vocational skills training"

Bernadette with a team of 5 Cambodian colleagues started to develop the health system at the prisons so that inmates have good health and are able to learn and get equipped to re-enter successfully to society once released.

The Caritas Prison Team composed of nurses and social workers under Bernadette's leadership started to **develop on the Health Care** with consultations and treatment of common diseases, chronic illnesses like TB, HIV, Diabetes and Hypertension, including referral to the hospital in case of emergency.

Then, they **set systems based on Rights:** Right to health care, Right to movement, Right to information, Right to safety with protection of women and children at prisons, Right to education including literacy and mathematics, vocational trainings such as tailoring, motorcycle repairs, electricity connection, computer, beauty skills and many handicraft activities

Achievements:

- Constructed 4 Health Posts and fully equipped, including water systems.
- Constructed 6 secured rooms at 6 referral hospitals and provided transportation vehicles
- Constructed rooms for mothers to ensure mothers and children privacy and safety
- Constructed 4 large vocational training units.
- Equipped with sewing machines, computers, motorcycle spare parts, equipment for electricity connection, supplies and equipment for beauty parlor
- Supports vegetable gardening, chicken raising with seeds, tools and equipmen

Impact:

- At least 85% of the prison population has an excellent health due to the health post services.
- Environment has greatly improved with clean water, adequate nutrition, good hygiene and sanitation.
- HIV/AIDS Chart, Human Rights chart and Prisoners' Rights Chart are posted, discussed and all prisoners and prison population are well aware of these and start to apply and respect them.
- Prison governance has improved and is moving towards ownership and sustainability by local authorities.
- Prisoners are learning and getting skills to get well equipped to re-enter into society after their release. They also get a certificate recognized by the Ministry of Labor-Vocational Training.

In 2016, 693 inmates have been trained on various skills here below and received certificates of completion

Sewing skills:	93 with 35 female
Literacy course:	284 with 15 female
Mechanics:	60
Electronics:	15
Computer skills:	39 with 2 female
Hair dressing and Beauty parlor:	32 with 23 female
Gardening and chicken raising:	170 with 3 female



Health records supervision



HIV test



Health education



Health Post construction