

Cambodia



CAMBODIA



My Name is Sam Kagna and I am a 16 years old girl. People call me Kagna. I caught polio when I was a little girl and there was no treatment for it in my village in the province of Takeo which is a long way from Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. I have no movement in my legs so I am not able to help my family very much. When I was selected to attend La valla School run by the Marist Brothers I was very happy. Maybe I can get enough marks to be selected to go to high school. With a good education there are many things that I can do. Hopefully one day I will graduate and perhaps I can work in an office or even be a teacher. My teacher, Mr Lai, also has polio and is in a wheelchair like me. He helps children have a good life.



I live at La valla School and have lots of friends. Some of them can walk on their own but many are in wheelchairs or have leg braces and crutches. We play volleyball and basketball and swim in the hydrotherapy pool. It is good to be able to move around in the water so easily.

I have two brothers and one sister. They are all older than me and work in a garment factory. They tell me that some of the shirts they sew are sold in your country. Is that true? My father is a Moto driver and he earns his living by transporting people around on the back of his bike. He collects me every second weekend and takes me home to visit my family.



Capital City: Phnom Penh
 Population: 14,000,000
 Time Zones: GMT/UTC +7
 Languages: Khmer (official); English; French
 Religion: Buddhist, Animist, Cham Muslim, Christian
 Currency: Riel (KHR)
 Exchange rate: AUD \$1 = KHR R3.500
 Dialling Code: 855
 Travelling Cost: about AUD\$1,200 return