

WORLD VISION SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE IN CAMBODIA: Small loans and repair skills help survivors earn a better living

by Mike Weickert – World Vision

The northwest provinces of Cambodia are the most heavily mined areas of the country resulting in the highest numbers of amputees and dis-

abled people.

The social stigma associated with being disabled in Cambodia is very hard to overcome, making gainful employment difficult and training expensive compared to that for non-disabled people.

Amputees have difficulty farming because their artificial limbs do not work well in the mud or rice paddies, nor do they have the energy to push the ox-driven ploughs. Alternative occupations such as small engine and radio/TV repair, welding, typing and animal husbandry are considered more suitable skills for landmine survivors to learn, as they are occupations where amputees and the physically disabled have been able to earn a good living.

Since 1993,

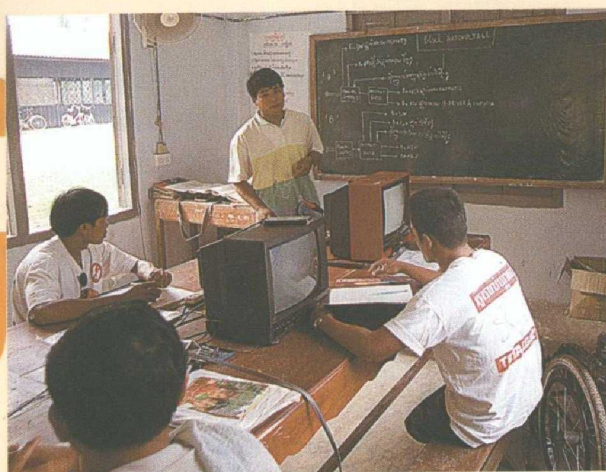
World Vision has been funding a vocational rehabilitation program for landmine survivors in the Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin and Pursat provinces of northwest Cambodia. Since 1998, these efforts have been supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The principal component of the program is the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, a residential centre in Anlongvil, near Battambang town, which provides vocational training to more than 100 disabled men each year. The rehabilitation centre currently operates with 18 national staff, 30 per cent of whom are disabled.

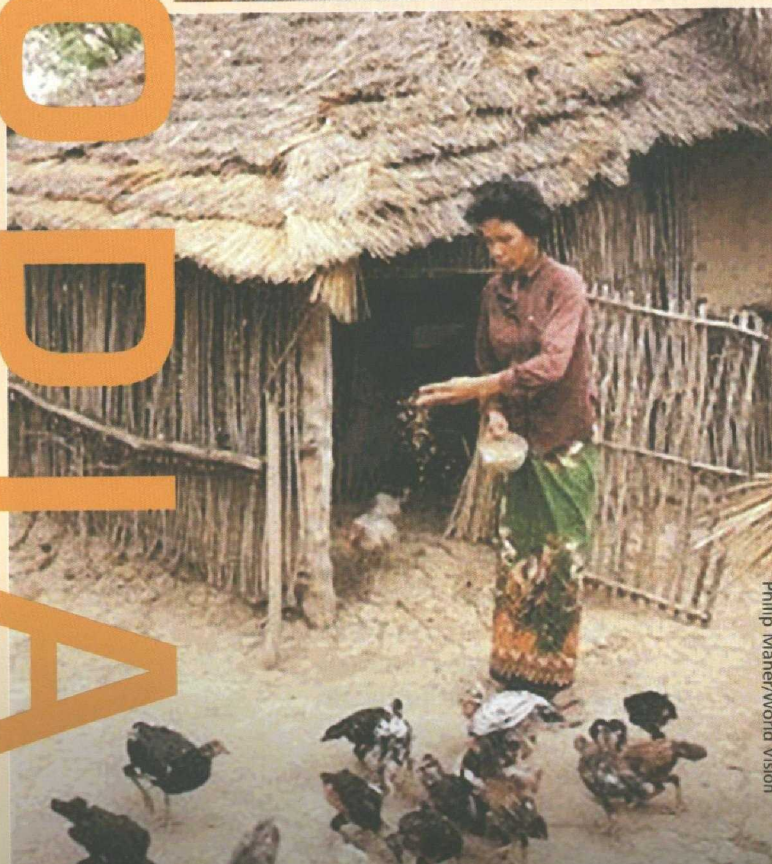
The rehabilitation centre is supported by an extension unit, which provides graduates with business training, small loans, job placement support and advocacy with local authorities.

The third component of the project is the Agricultural Extension Unit which focuses on landmine survivors who cannot attend the rehabilitation centre, many of whom are women. It provides community-based training in animal husbandry, as well as a chicken and pig loan program and credit scheme, which help participants

Landmine survivors learn TV repair skills and agricultural techniques through World Vision's program.



Philip Maher/World Vision



AMID KHAMASEEN WINDS: Senator Finestone hands over demining equipment in Jordan

by Sara Kabariti and Donica Pottie – Canadian Embassy in Amman, Jordan

On May 4, 2000 against the backdrop of the annual hot *Khamaseen* winds, Senator Sheila Finestone formally presented a Caterpillar loader and demining boots and over-boots to Jordan's Royal Corps of Engineers. The ceremony took place in a tent beside a minefield in the Jordan Valley.

Senator Finestone and other Canadian parliamentarians were in Jordan for the 103rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference. Senator Jean-Claude Rivest and Members of Parliament Marlene Catterall and Lorne Nystrom accompanied Senator Finestone at the

ceremony. Canada's Ambassador to Jordan, Michael Molloy and Irving Schwartz, Chairman of the Canadian International Demining Centre also attended.

It was a rare opportunity to learn the extent of the landmine problem in Jordan and to witness first hand the work conditions of the deminers in the Royal Corps of Engineers. The weather vividly illustrated the level of difficulty in demining the Jordan Valley. Hot, dusty, extreme winds – the *Khamaseen* low pressure front – were hampering the



Canadian Embassy, Amman, Jordan

establish viable livestock activities.

The effectiveness of the program is borne out in the lives of people like Chhem Phorn and Sao Roeun. Chhem, who had a leg amputated in 1985, is a graduate of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in motorbike repairs. Before attending the centre, he made a meagre living binding baskets. Now he operates a successful motorbike-repair business, which has made it possible for his children to attend school, something which they were unable to afford previously.

Sao also lost a leg to a landmine in 1988. In late 1996, she entered an Agricultural Extension Unit training program and started raising chickens, which were initially loaned to her by the program. She repaid this loan and took advantage of a similar program for pigs, which she also repaid. She is now growing pineapples with the help of a cash loan. The success of her activities has also made it possible to send her children to school for the first time.

World Vision's program is implemented in close cooperation with national and local governments and communities. This cooperation has meant many of the best practices of the program are being disseminated and replicated in similar programs throughout the country and will result in the hand-over of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre to the Cambodian government at the end of 2000. ●

Responding to Jordan's request, Canada contributes a caterpillar loader. Left to right: Brig. Gen. Zakariya Ja'afra, Brig. Gen. Nassar Al-Majali, Brig. Gen. Youcoub Haddadjali, Senator Sheila Finestone, Canada's Ambassador to Jordan, Michael Molloy and Radio Canada reporter, Leila Deeb.