

# No child's play

Respect for children's rights at tourist destinations  
Examples from Thailand, Cambodia & South Africa

SCHYST RESANDE 2013



FAIR TRADE CENTER

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Schyst resande is a network of six organizations – Unionen, Fair Trade Center, the Swedish Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, the Church of Sweden, Church of Sweden Youth and the IOGT-NTO movement. The network highlights various aspects of tourism and provides a holistic approach to sustainable tourism. The organizations in the network are all involved in Human Rights issues related to tourism and travelling from different perspectives.

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# Executive Summary

This report was commissioned by the Swedish network Schyst resande and conducted by the Fair Trade Center, with the overall objective of raising awareness of children's rights in relation to tourism and travel destinations which many Swedish tourists visit. It pays specific attention to booming tourism destinations in Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa and focuses on how children are directly and indirectly affected by tourism, and in particular on how their rights as children are affected in these countries.

The chapter on Thailand focuses mainly on undocumented Burmese migrant children and their families working in the tourism industry. Their basic rights are not respected and parents are discriminated against through low pay, few benefits and hazardous working conditions. Migrating parents are often separated from their children. This can also be said of the children with parents working in the tourism industry in South Africa. The lack of parental control may also leave children vulnerable to social ills such as gang culture, alcohol and drugs as well as transactional sex. Many worker interviewees from Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa indicated that their job gives them a chance to provide for their children and to master a trade. There were other similarities between the three countries. Migration, and especially internal migration to tourism cities, was prevalent in Cambodia, for example in the construction industry. Cambodian parents are struggling to make ends meet and taking jobs that are high-risk and low-paid. Street children were particularly at risk in all three countries, being exposed to child sex offenders and drug abuse. They also begged and sold flowers, postcards and drinks to tourists. Trafficking of children is prevalent in all countries, and child sex tourism was found to be statistically prevalent in Thailand and Cambodia. Official data on the extent of child sex tourism in South Africa is lacking, but it is estimated to be a problem there too.

In Cambodia, high poverty levels aggravate the situation for Cambodian children, which to some extent explains the high level of child labour. There is a constant demand for the services of children. In Thailand, child labour has decreased but still remains a problem. In South Africa, child labour is prevalent as well.

The report also focuses on the fastest growing niche within the tourism industry in the countries concerned – voluntourism. Since volunteer destinations lack resources, this growth means that tourism companies themselves must bear greater responsibility in ensuring adequate protection for children in volunteer projects, especially children in orphanages. Volunteer projects therefore need to be effectively planned, managed and monitored, and they must serve to meet local needs. Volunteers also need to share this responsibility, in particular by seeking out volunteering organizations with the best practices and sound knowledge of how to contribute to the well-being of the children concerned.

The findings of the report emphasize the need to define how tour operators can work to respect children's rights. Sweden's three biggest tour operators mainly focus their work on children by implementing the ECPAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. By adopting the Children's Rights and Business Principles developed by Unicef, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children, tour operators have a framework for working with children's rights, and can integrate them into their core operations. Some tour operators such as Apollo has already made references to the principles on their website, but we call upon all tour operators to implement them more broadly across the sector. The report ends with key recommendations for travellers and volunteers as well as for volunteering companies and travel operators aimed at improving the basic rights of children in tourist-driven economies.

# Glossary

**Street children.** Friends International has developed a definition which encompasses three groups of children: first, street-living children who have cut off ties with their families and live alone on the streets; secondly, children who spend all or most of their time working on the streets, and whose income is often returned to the caregiver; thirdly, children who live together with their families on the streets.<sup>1</sup>

**Migration.** According to the International Organization for Migration, the term constitutes “The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State [including] migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification”<sup>2</sup>.

**Human Trafficking.** According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, human trafficking can be defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons”<sup>3</sup>.

**Child sex tourism.** Child exploitation related to travelling, either internationally or domestically is called child sex tourism. The perpetrator has travelled from home and illegally pays for sexual contact with a minor.<sup>4</sup>

**Child labour.** According to the ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, and Convention No. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the minimum age for admission to employment is 15. In developing countries where economic and educational facilities are less well-developed the minimum age for regular work can be lowered to 14 years. For hazardous work the limit is 18 years for all countries. Light work can be carried out from the age of 13, and in developing countries from the age of 12.<sup>5</sup>

**Voluntourism.** The term implies that the traveler is a volunteer at a specific organization or company in the host country. The length of time spent volunteering varies and volunteers often pay a fee to cover food and accommodation. Common tasks are teaching English, community development projects, and environmental and/or wild life conservation. The volunteers often live at the premises of the organization or company or in the nearby community.<sup>6</sup> Volunteering with orphans is referred to as orphan tourism<sup>7</sup>.

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# 1. Introduction and aims

This report has been commissioned by the Swedish network Schyst resande and conducted by Fair Trade Center, with the overall objective of raising awareness of children's rights in relation to tourism and travel destinations that many Swedish tourists visit. It sets to answer a series of questions. In what ways are children's rights respected and in what ways are they violated? How are children indirectly affected when their parents work in the tourism industry? How do children engage with, or how are they being exploited by, the tourism industry and tourists? In what ways does voluntourism affect children?

This report aims to give recommendations to tour operators and travellers. The three biggest Swedish tour operators' work on children's rights is highlighted. The development of the Children's Rights and Business Principles by Unicef, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children provides travel companies with an opportunity to excel in their work to protect the rights of the children by fully integrating these principles into their core operations.

The tourism industry is booming. In 2012, the number of tourist arrivals reached 1 billion<sup>8</sup> and this year the industry expects to grow by 3 per cent, generating in total US \$6.8 trillion, or 9 per cent of global GDP. Further, it expects to employ more than 266 million people – which would mean that 1 in every 11 jobs on the planet is within the tourism sector.<sup>9</sup> While the importance of the economic contribution of tourism cannot be denied, research shows that tourism is not without issues and could generate social, cultural and environmental problems.<sup>10</sup> It is therefore intriguing to look at the situation of tourism-driven countries that often lack resources to protect vulnerable groups, including children, and to see how they are affected – both positively and negatively – by tourism.

As this report will demonstrate, when children are negatively affected by the tourism industry, poverty often sits at the heart of the problem. The need for economic stability makes parents and their children extremely vulnerable. For example, between 13 and 19 million children (under the age of 18) are working in the tourism industry. They represent 10–15 per cent of the total workforce.<sup>11</sup> Hence, they are a target for labour exploitation and are often not enrolled in school.<sup>12</sup> Children sell goods to tourists and they beg or are used by adults to attract tourist sympathies – instead of being in school. There are documented cases of children that are working in restaurants or hotels, in street performing, as tour guides or as sex workers. By being active in these high-risk occupations, they also run the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and are prone to alcohol and drug use. Another key development that highlights how tourism can affect them negatively is the growing voluntourism industry – particularly where volunteer placements at orphanages are concerned. Hence, the report also aims to give recommendations to volunteers and organizations offering volunteer opportunities.

## 2. Method

Desk studies and field research were carried out in Thailand by Catrin Rosquist, Fair Trade Center, in June and in Cambodia by Catrin Rosquist and Veasna Noun, a consultant for the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Foundation for Education and Development in Thailand also interviewed workers (Burmese migrants and Thai nationals) in Khao Lak and Phuket in June and July 2013. Katarina Mancama, an independent researcher, conducted the desk study and field research in South Africa in July 2013. Save the Children Sweden contributed with an analysis of the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

In the field, semi-structured interviews were conducted with various stakeholders and experts, including child rights organizations, unions, NGOs, workers in the tourism sector (including children) and travel agencies.

The countries studied have been selected based on their relevance for Swedish tourists. Last year, 323,000 Swedes made their way to Thailand<sup>13</sup>. While Cambodia is less of an obvious choice for Swedes, it is a growing tourist destination neighbouring Thailand. Fifteen thousand Swedes applied for tourist VISA to enter Cambodia in 2012<sup>14</sup>. According to Cambodia Ministry of Tourism, 16,215 Swedes travelled to Cambodia in 2012, an increase of 9.8 per cent since 2011<sup>15</sup>. On a global scale, the number of international arrivals increased by 15 per cent when 2.8 million visited the country in 2011<sup>16</sup>. The selection of South Africa was based on the idea of adding a contrasting example, and on the fact that Sweden is ranked among the top-ten long-haul markets for the country. In 2012, 40,856 Swedes travelled to South Africa, an increase of 5.4 per cent since 2011<sup>17</sup>.

Furthermore, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) has been used as a guide to identify examples of the respect of both positive and negative rights in the studied countries. The selected articles apply to children (under 18 years of age) that are, for example, subjected to child labour, trafficking or other forms of exploitation. They also state the responsibilities of parents, governments and the state to ensure the welfare of children as regards their health, living conditions and education. Furthermore, according to Article 25, children that are placed in care need to be monitored properly, which relates to the last part of the present report, on voluntourism.

## 2.1 Delimitations and clarifications

The report uses examples to describe how children are affected by tourism in various ways. The examples do not cover all situations and may not always be representative. Categories of worker covered include construction workers (building of hotels, restaurants), hotel workers, workers in the fishing industry, tuk-tuk drivers, sellers on the streets, sex workers and workers at safari lodges. Construction is included here as being part of the tourism industry since the demand for hotel construction and maintenance is driven by the expansion of tourism. The fishing industry has been added since tourists for example in the south of Thailand enjoy the seafood served at the restaurants. Another industry worth mentioning is the wine industry (wine farms) in South Africa, which is relevant in this context as most tourists to South Africa visit one or more wine farms as part of their itinerary.

Further, Schyst resande would like to express that when children (under 18 years) are mentioned as prostitutes or sex workers, they are in fact subjected to sexual exploitation. The same argument can be made of child labourers who are also subjected to exploitation.

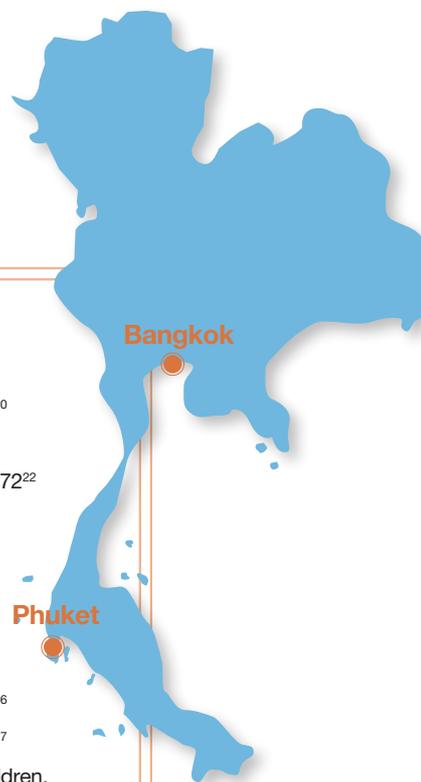
The report does not aim to give detailed recommendations to governments on how they should protect children's rights, nor does it give an extensive account of government actions in this field. But governments do play a key part in ensuring that the rights of the children are respected through the formulation and strict enforcement of laws and through cooperation with national and international actors.

## Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. It has 54 articles. The following is a summary of the selected articles for this report.

- Article 1** Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.
- Article 3** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children.
- Article 11** Governments must take steps to prevent children being taken out of their own country illegally or being prevented from returning.
- Article 18** Both parents share the responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must help parents by providing services to support them, especially if the child's parents work.
- Article 24** Every child has the right of the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy.
- Article 25** If a child has been placed away from home, (in care in hospital or custody for example) they have the right of a regular check of their treatment and care.
- Article 27** Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Government must help families who cannot afford to provide this.
- Article 28** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in school must respect children's human dignity. Wealthier countries must help poorer countries to achieve this.
- Article 29** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.
- Article 31** Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.
- Article 32** Governments must protect children from harm that is dangerous and might harm their health or education.
- Article 33** Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.
- Article 34** Governments must protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Article 36** Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation that might harm them.<sup>18</sup>

# 3. Thailand



Number of Swedes that travelled to Thailand (2012):	323,000 <sup>19</sup>
Total number of tourists that travelled to Thailand (2012):	22,3 million <sup>20</sup>
Jobs created by tourism in Thailand (2012):	4,818,500 <sup>21</sup>
Human Development Index (2012): (medium human development)	103 out of 172 <sup>22</sup>
Poverty level (2011): 13,2 per cent <sup>23</sup>	
Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (public sector) (2012):	88 (176) <sup>24</sup>
Year of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:	1992 <sup>25</sup>
Per centage of children of the population:	26 per cent <sup>26</sup>
School enrolment:	94 per cent <sup>27</sup>
Children involved in child labour:	300,000 children, 1.5 million young workers (15-19 years) <sup>28</sup>

## 3.1 Situation awareness

Thailand ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 and the country's constitution from 2007 contains principles on children's rights, including the right to a fair trial and appropriate care of children subjected to sexual violence. Since 2007, the Thai Government has also developed an institutional framework for children and young people's rights called "the Children and Youth Development Act".

Though the Thai government has taken measures to address the issue of children's rights there are still social and economic factors that contribute to children's vulnerability. The differences in demography represent a major challenge for children and women. For example, the share of children in the population differs greatly depending on the geographical area. In urban areas only one in five are children, while around 40 per cent are children in the north-eastern part of Thailand, which also represents the poorest area in Thailand.<sup>29</sup> However, in 2012, the Government announced a new provision to extend healthcare benefits for all Thai and migrant women and children, including free healthcare for children<sup>30</sup>.

While many Thai children go to school, ethnic minorities are in many cases not officially registered and therefore have limited access to the education system. They have the right to go to school but do not receive official diplomas. One source suggests that out of some 200,000 Burmese migrant children, only around 20 per cent go to school<sup>31</sup>.

In rural areas it is still common for children to be needed as agricultural labourers, which is why the education level is rather low. In general, child labour has decreased in Thailand, but there are still children who are working instead of attending school<sup>32</sup>. As cheap and unskilled labourers they work in factories, fisheries, construction and as mentioned before, agriculture.

Sadly, many are involved in the commercial sex industry or are forced to beg on the streets. In this context migrant children are especially vulnerable. Prostitution is illegal in the country but, even so, widespread. Most prostitutes serve domestic customers even if sex tourism contributes to maintaining the high numbers.<sup>33</sup> Human trafficking is also illegal in the country but common. While domestic trafficking has diminished, an increasing number of people are smuggled from poorer neighbouring countries, especially Burma, Cambodia and Laos, to Thailand. Several NGOs and government committees conduct awareness campaigns on the issue and NGOs have also established collaboration with the police in order to defeat child trafficking.<sup>34</sup>

## 3.2 Family situation for children of workers in the tourism industry

Cross-border movement across the Greater Mekong Sub region<sup>35</sup> generally involves people with little means travelling through informal channels. The majority of them end up in Thailand. Estimates say that there are between three to four million irregular migrants, mainly from Burma, Laos and Cambodia. Eighty percent of them are Burmese.<sup>36</sup> In 2010, there were one million registered workers from Cambodia, Burma and Laos in Thailand. Approximately 1.4 million dependents and others were not registered. Among this number, 377,000 were children<sup>37</sup>.

The most common way to reach Thailand is through a broker. A Cambodian looking to get to Thailand pays 500–600 dollars (3,200–3,900 SEK) if he or she does not have a passport. To achieve legal status and to be able to work in Thailand is more expensive.<sup>38</sup> Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, a Thai NGO that works to promote and protect the equal rights of migrant labourers, says that the migrants' journey to Thailand is risky, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, abuse or trafficking<sup>39</sup>. Upon arrival they face several difficulties on account of their lack of legal status, and receive low wages or none at all<sup>40</sup>. Low pay makes it difficult for them to send money home to relatives and loved ones, including their children, that they have left in Burma. This fact is also relevant for others migrating from Cambodia or Laos.<sup>41</sup>

There are several ways in which Burmese migrants are discriminated against in the Thai tourism industry. According to Htoo Chit, founder of the Foundation for Education and Development (FED), Burmese migrants get paid less than Thai nationals – approximately 4,000 baht (820 SEK) a month for Burmese workers compared to 6,600 baht (1,360 SEK) for Thai workers<sup>42</sup>. Thai nationals work in every sector of the tourist industry, but in contrast to migrant workers they also occupy high-ranked positions. They have access to trade unions and government social security departments and are close to their own community.

Migrant workers usually have no proper contract or job security, and can be dismissed at any time.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, a Burmese migrant has three alternatives to think about when they have children. The first option is to send the child home to be cared for by its grandparents in Burma. This means that the migrant workers will most likely not be able to see their child more than once a year. The second option is to have someone watch the child at home, which requires enough money to pay a child minder. A third possibility is to register the child by paying a fee for pre-schools and schools run by organizations such as FED.<sup>44</sup> One Burmese migrant woman working in the hotel sector who we interviewed stated that she was afraid to get pregnant as she was afraid of getting fired and would not know what to do then<sup>45</sup>.

### 3.3 How parents' working conditions in the tourism industry affect their children

The construction industry in Phuket is booming and many current projects involve building and renovating hotels and restaurants. Still, migrant wages in the industry remain low and do not take into account the increased living expenses in the city. For example, parents of Burmese children can earn 160 baht per day (around 30 SEK), compared to parents of Thai children that can earn 250–300 baht per day (around 50–60 SEK) according to the minimum wage. Benefits vary depending on the good will of the employer. Sometimes employers fail to pay the remaining salaries due on completion of work, and sometimes the work and pay is delayed. These conditions make it difficult for the worker to be able to provide for their children on a long-term basis. In Phuket, the children of construction workers live in provisional housing close to the construction site.<sup>46</sup>

Construction workers also move from site to site, which makes it difficult to create a sense of home for the children and, where children attend school, for them to stay at the same one. If the parents do not allow children to stay at home while they are working, and if the children do not go to school, they will accompany their parents to the construction site.<sup>47</sup> The following is an example of the living situation of a father and son who are both working at a construction site in Phuket.

#### **Burmese father, 35 and son, 15**

*(construction worker – hotel maintenance)<sup>48</sup>*

*The Burmese construction worker has been in Thailand for almost 10 years and for the last six months with part of his family. They live in a small room, measuring 9 square metres with a common toilet and bathroom, electricity and clean water. His wife takes care of the youngest daughter, cooks and cleans their room.*

*The construction site is owned by a Thai company that pays its staff regularly (340 baht per day (70 SEK) and 47 baht overtime per hour (10 SEK)). The construction worker used to have problems with previous employers that did not pay regularly. However, he has no official contract, cannot take days off (no sick leave or maternity benefits) and works from 07.00 to 19.00.*

*The construction worker says that working in construction is very tiring, but it is the only place where he can work. His child who is 15 years old works at the construction site with him. He says that he wants to help his family to earn extra money. A typical working day constitutes 8 hours with no benefits. Salary is 220 baht (45 SEK) a day, with 20 baht (4 SEK) for overtime per hour.*

*His father does not want his son to work in the construction industry because of the hard working conditions. According to the father most of the workers at the site smoke and drink, and he is very concerned his son will be either become an alcoholic or a smoker. That is why he is trying to get back to Burma as soon as possible.*

The next example illustrates that money is not enough and that migrant children are separated from their parents working in the tourism industry.

**Burmese man, 32 (hotel receptionist)<sup>49</sup>**

*The hotel receptionist paid 4,500 baht (930 SEK) to come with a broker from Burma to Thailand to earn a living. He has been working as a receptionist for seven months and sends home money during high season. He is able to earn money from working in the tourism industry, but the fact that he is away from his son affects his relationship with him. He does not have a work permit or a contract but the job is permanent. He works 13 hours a day, sometimes at night. He has no days off or paid leave.*

*He says that he does not earn enough to transfer money to his son because of high living costs and because it is low season here in Phuket. Thai workers earn more and do not have to work long hours. He has no personal experience of management withholding salaries, but some do so if the employee makes mistakes. His employer provides him with accommodation and food and he lives together with two staff in one room. The hotel receptionist says that he is sad because he cannot see his son, though he tries to call him every week.*

Some of the other interviews revealed that many migrant workers consider it preferable to work in restaurants and bars compared to construction sites. Many also saw their work in the tourism industry as positive because they were able to learn some English. Here is an example of a woman that works at a diving center, with good salary and benefits.

**Thai woman, 35 (diving centre)<sup>50</sup>**

*She has been working for 13 years at a diving centre because her salary is high; she learns new things including English and believes that it is not as difficult to work there compared to factories and shopping malls. She is employed permanently, works eight hours a day and has paid holidays. Her wage is 25,000 baht per month (5,150 SEK). She gets no overtime pay. She says she can afford everything she wants for her child. She gets paid holidays and leave if her child is sick. Maternity leave is 45 days and new mothers take leave for three months. If there are any problems with labour rights, there is no trade union, but she can contact the social security department. The Thai woman lives at Khao Lak beach in an apartment with one bedroom. Her husband is also working in the tourism industry, but has no regular work. She gets support from the government to provide for her child who is living together with her mother in another province.*

### 3.4 Child labour

The Thai government lacks nationwide data on child labour<sup>51</sup>. But according to Unicef, there are approximately 300,000 children involved in child labour and 1.5 million young workers (aged 15–19 years)<sup>52</sup>. The Labour Protection Act forbids employers to hire children under the age of 15 and the minimum age for hazardous work is 18. The government has also increased the minimum age for children to work in sea vessels from 16 to 18.<sup>53</sup>

Htoo Chit confirms that child labour is an urgent issue in Thailand. He says that the last couple of years have seen a decrease in the use of child labour, but the problem is still prevalent in the tourism industry. Research of Schyst Resande has revealed cases of child labour on several occasions. For example, in 2012, Schyst Resande reported that children were working under appalling conditions at a laundry facility used by hotels that major Swedish tour operators Ving and Fritidsresor were in indirect business relations with<sup>54</sup>.

According to Htoo Chit, the employers want cheap labourers that work for more than 8 hours, which is why children are used. In Phuket, children, especially migrant children, work at construction sites, restaurants, laundry services, hotels and small guest houses. He says this is because employers are generally afraid to use Thai child labour compared to migrant child labour because they would be faced with problems from trade unions and the government.<sup>55</sup> Migrant children usually accompany their parents to the construction site and the children either play or help with the work. They are aged only 13 to 15 years and get paid half of what adults receive.<sup>56</sup>

The Labour Rights Promotion Network provides an illustration of the situation for migrating children within Thailand as a whole. There are two groups of children that migrate to Thailand to become involved in child labour. The first group migrate together with their parents. They are under 13 years old and end up selling things in the streets of Bangkok. Many of them are Cambodian. It is also likely that when these children become older they will start working in the tourism sex industry. The second group migrate alone and end up working as sex workers. The children can also work in the food processing and fishing industry when they are only 13–14 years old.<sup>57</sup> A recent study by the ILO found that of 596 interviewees, 33 children under the age of 18 were working on Thai fishing vessels. Seven of these were under the age of 15<sup>58</sup>. Thailand is a leading exporter of edible fisheries products. It ranks third in the world after Norway and China with export revenues of 7 billion USD. However, due to a dated legislative framework, unclear and inadequate definitions of mandate and insufficient resources, the fishing industry is marred by widespread exploitation and abuse of workers, where they are forced to work and are trafficked. It is an industry that is heavily reliant on migrant workers (Cambodians and Burmese), but still suffers from labour shortages.<sup>59</sup>

While there are many migrant children on the fishing boats, many also migrate to Bangkok with the south of Thailand as final destination<sup>60</sup>, though some Burmese children are located along the border provinces to Burma and they become sex workers in order to survive. According to the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, the Cambodian child migrants are easier to identify as a significant number of them beg on the streets of Bangkok.<sup>61</sup> Some children, who are affected by the tourism industry in Bangkok and around the city, live together with their families in rented rooms or slum areas with poor living conditions.<sup>62</sup>

Street children are particularly vulnerable to the negative aspects of tourism. Approximately 20 000 children are living on the streets in the major cities such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Phuket in Thailand due to poverty or violence<sup>63</sup>. Thai children generally move to the street due to domestic violence and abuse in their families, while migrant street children are there because of lack of financial means<sup>64</sup>.

*Burmese migrant parents in Thailand are sometimes dependent on the income of their children. Because their children are forced to work, they are not able to attend school.*



According to Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, 15 years ago the children begging on the streets for money from tourists were mainly homeless children. Today, some parents make children leave their homes to work on the streets and sell flowers and candy. A beggar on the streets of Bangkok can make 300-500 baht (60-100 SEK) per day. Compare this to a meal that may cost 30–40 baht (6–8 SEK). This means that it is very lucrative for children to hang around the tourists and beg.<sup>65</sup> Street children in tourism cities also run the risk of using drugs<sup>66</sup>. Often, they cannot afford to buy expensive alcohol and use other types of drugs such as narcotics or glue instead<sup>67</sup>.

#### **Girl, 10, selling flowers in Bangkok<sup>68</sup>**

*A ten-year-old Cambodian girl is selling flowers to tourists in the night at Na-na in Bangkok. She sells several bouquets of roses for around 400 baht (80 SEK), and buys them for around 20 baht (4 SEK). This means that she makes a profit. Sometimes they get the flowers for free from the temple or shrine and buy the plastic wrapping for 10–20 baht (2–4 SEK). The girl has brown hair and a pretty face, and is streetwise. She has learnt a few words in English, which she uses to approach the tourists. Tourists' willingness to help will mean enough money to support a whole family. The girls make 300–400 USD per month (2,000–2,700 SEK). Her parents remain in Cambodia.*

#### **BEGGING MOKEN CHILDREN<sup>69</sup>**

*In the south of Thailand lives a community that was severely affected by the tsunami in 2004, when many moved from the mainland. Numbering around 10,000, the Mokens live in communities of about 200–300 people. Some of them live on islands off the coast while others have settled on the mainland. Although close to the tourist resorts, the Mokens' homes are hidden and thus rarely noticed by tourists who come to Phuket. But they interact in several ways with tourists vacationing at Rawai beach, Phuket.*



*A girl, not more than 10 years old, has meticulously assembled shells in a neat line to offer to passing tourists. She says that she has not sold a single shell yet today. It is low season and there are not many tourists at Rawai Beach.*

*A 37-year-old Moken says that they have tried to reduce the extent of child begging, but tour operators are actually encouraging it, so the practice has increased again. The children that sell to tourists are 10–11 years old and start doing so when they find that it is difficult to get money from their parents.*

Burmese migrant workers in the tourism industry also face difficulties finding schools for their children. For example, in Phuket there is no Burmese migrant learning centre, so the Burmese migrants need to send their children back to Burma in order for them to get an education. Most children of the Burmese migrant workers in the Khao Lak area go to schools that are organized by the Foundation for Education and Development. They run day care and school from classes 1–7 and an integration project with Thai schools which aims to end discrimination against Burmese migrant children. Most migrant children in the area of Khao Lak go to school but some children are also forced to work if the family is dependent on the income of the child, and is denied schooling.<sup>70</sup>

*Tourists interact with Mokens in several ways when they are vacationing at Rawai beach, Phuket. As tour operators encourage begging, this has led to an increase in the practice among the Moken children.*



### 3.5 Child sex tourism

Child sex tourist offenders remain one of the greatest threats to children in Thailand. However, ECPAT says that efforts from the Thai government, INTERPOL and foreign law enforcement agencies to restrict child sex tourism have led to child sex offenders turning to the neighbouring countries Cambodia, Laos and even Bangladesh<sup>71</sup>.

According to Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, fewer Thai children are involved in the sex industry as they have benefited from economic prosperity, more education opportunities and stronger legislation<sup>72</sup>. At the same time, the number of migrant children of various nationalities that are victims of child sex tourism and paedophilia has increased and now involves several different nationalities<sup>73</sup>.

Victims of child sex tourists are identified by their perpetrators on the streets, on the beach, in hotels at karaoke clubs and in brothels. Arranged marriages are also common<sup>74</sup>. The children most at risk are those already vulnerable through abuse, discrimination or extreme poverty<sup>75</sup>.

Labour Rights Promotion Network says that both parents and children assume that foreigners are kind because they give them money. By giving money tourists also want to create a bond with the child. Some families even encourage foreigners to engage in an informal adoption procedure that entails giving money to the family, and taking care of their children.<sup>76</sup>

Cities where child sex tourism occurs are mainly in Bangkok, Pattaya, Pang-Nga, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Songkla (Hat Yai District), Phuket and on several islands.<sup>77</sup> According to ECPAT, child sex tourism seems to have decreased in Bangkok, while still being prevalent in Pattaya, Phuket and Chiang Mai<sup>78</sup>. In Pattaya, the going rate for sexual intercourse with a girl is 2,000 baht (500 SEK). If a broker is involved, 50 per cent of that money would end up in the hands of the girl; the rest goes to the broker.<sup>79</sup> The use of an intermediary that together with an adult decides that a child shall provide sexual services is a common arrangement. Another trend is that organized crime (such as brothels) is becoming less prevalent, while the streets are becoming a much more common venue for child sex tourism.<sup>80</sup>

#### CHIANG MAI

*Chiang Mai is famous for being a place where you can exploit a child sexually, says Pern Phensiri Foundation Manager/Programme Coordinator of FOCUS Thailand<sup>81</sup>. The town is both a transit destination and a final destination for trafficking victims and beggars. Victims travel south via Bangkok and also further down to Phuket (mainly Burmese migrants). It is also common practice that the girls have visited the region once before with their families and then go on their own or with friends. They are only 16–17 years old. While in Chiang Mai, they stay at brothels and nightclubs.<sup>82</sup>*

Children who have sex with tourists run the risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS. For example, Pasissorn Noja, Director of the Anti-Trafficking and Child Abuse Center in Pattaya mentions one case of a German tourist who managed to infect several children with HIV through sexual encounters<sup>83</sup>. Street children in the major tourist cities are especially at risk as they are often uneducated about HIV/AIDS and STDs<sup>84</sup>.

Thailand is also a source, destination and transit country for human trafficking<sup>85</sup>. It is a practice that is increasing and the victims, including children, are forced, coerced, or defrauded into labour or commercial sexual exploitation<sup>86</sup>. A conservative estimate indicates that tens of thousands of children are affected<sup>87</sup>. According to Labour Rights Support Network, children are victims of all the different types of trafficking (sexual exploitation, forced labour, sexual exploitation of children in tourism) except trafficking in organs<sup>88</sup>. Victims come from neighbouring countries such as Cambodia, Burma, China, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Fiji. Corrupt officials on both sides of the border facilitate the smuggling of undocumented migrants between Cambodia and Thailand; many of these migrants subsequently become victims of trafficking. Some have been trafficked into Thailand with the promise of getting work as waitresses, but have been lured into the sex industry.<sup>89</sup>

According to the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, the girls can make 3–4 million baht per year (620,000–820,000 SEK) but a majority is given to the broker. Some girls, for example Burmese girls in the border area, that are younger than 15 and can make more or less 50,000 baht (10,300 SEK) for the first time. Cambodian brokers often offer girls ordinary jobs in other trades; they are unaware that they will instead be sold as sex slaves in Thailand. The tourist industry is attractive for children to work in because young people can get paid well on account of high demand.<sup>90</sup> The children come from the north of Thailand (for example Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai) and take the train to Bangkok and then from Bangkok to Pattaya. The street children living in Bangkok also travel to Pattaya.<sup>91</sup>

Furthermore, a significant portion of labour trafficking victims in Thailand are exploited in commercial fishing, fishing-related industries, low-end garment production, factories, and domestic work, and some are forced to beg on the streets<sup>92</sup>.



*The picture illustrate how tourism workers live in Thailand.*  
Photo: Foundation for Education and Development.

## 4. Cambodia



Number of Swedes that travelled to Cambodia (2012):	16,215 <sup>93</sup>
Total number of tourists that travelled to Cambodia (2011):	2,8 million <sup>94</sup>
Jobs created by tourism in Cambodia (2012):	1,805,500 jobs <sup>95</sup>
Human Development Index (2012):	138 out of 172 (medium human development) <sup>96</sup>
Poverty level (2011):	20 per cent <sup>97</sup>
Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (public sector) (2012):	157 (176) <sup>98</sup>
Year of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:	1992 <sup>99</sup>
Per cent age of children in the population:	42 per cent <sup>100</sup>
School enrolment (2010/2011):	95.2 per cent, primary school <sup>101</sup>
Children involved in child labour:	45 per cent <sup>102</sup>

### 4.1 Situation awareness

The population of Cambodia is young. 42 per cent are under 18. Many of these children suffer from malnutrition.<sup>103</sup> The country ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 and aligned it with the Constitution in 1993. In practice, however, the government lacks the resources and proper coordination of activities needed to help children and their families. Particularly poor children suffer the most from inadequate health, education, safety and overall development. Children are abused, exposed to violence and neglected on a daily basis. Other factors that aggravate the exploitation of children are gender inequality, marginalization of the urban and rural poor and discrimination of various kinds.<sup>104</sup>

The Cambodian Government's child protection services remain weak due to widespread government corruption<sup>105</sup>. According to Panadda (Yui) Changmanee, Regional Coordinator, Plan Sverige, a lot of funds have been sent to Cambodia but failed to reach to the right recipient. The widespread corruption results in weak law enforcement and a weak judicial system<sup>106</sup>.

According to Unicef, NGOs fill some gaps as they provide much-needed services and follow-up support for children, but their coverage is limited. As a result parents need to take measures such as migrating under insecure circumstances, and some even abandon their children or leave them in residential care.<sup>107</sup> Many children are also living on the streets due to lack of family and social support. The probability of these children abusing drugs, engaging in sex work and engaging in crime is high.<sup>108</sup> As a consequence, a staggering 85,921 children are infected by HIV. Despite the strong emphasis on children's rights in the Constitution, children are victimized daily through denial of education, high infant and child mortality, rape, hazardous and dangerous labour, prostitution and trafficking.<sup>109</sup>

## 4.2 How parents' working conditions in the tourism industry affect their children

As in Thailand, the construction industry is prospering as new hotels are built and old ones renovated. The labour shortage opens up possibilities for migration. Those migrating to Siem Reap, come from the poorer provinces all over Cambodia<sup>110</sup>. According to the Construction Union, the parents migrate first, followed by their children. During the time that the children and their parents are separated, the children stay with relatives. Friends have often migrated already.<sup>111</sup>

There is no legal minimum wage for construction workers. According to the Construction Union in Cambodia, some employers will pay wages as they see fit. Sometimes workers only get paid after the work is done. Furthermore, the construction firms do not take responsibility for workers' safety, especially if they get injured. Union organization in the construction industry is difficult due to the prevalence of many small sites, which makes it difficult to organize many people<sup>112</sup>. Below is an account from a man who, though aged only 26, has been working in the construction for 10 years. Here he tells his story.

### **Man, 26 years, (construction worker, Siem Reap)<sup>113</sup>**

*The construction worker builds restaurants and public pagodas and is at work 10 hours a day and sometimes in the evening if there is work to be done. Non-skilled workers make 3 dollars (20 SEK) a day and skilled workers make 5 dollars (25 SEK). Child workers receive less. He says that sometimes it takes only two weeks to get paid, sometimes longer and sometimes he is not paid at all. The wage is not enough – the family needs to borrow money to survive.*

*A relative of his worked in the industry in Siem Reap, which led to him moving there. After his child was born, his wife started working in construction too. They live far away from the construction site in a small wooden house with a little bit of land.*

Living conditions can also be grim for the construction workers. Another interview with a male construction worker revealed that his family lived in a small house, with a low, leaking roof. The house is very hot as it absorbs the heat as there is no material in between the walls. His family shares three toilets with 100 people<sup>114</sup>.

In the hotel industry, the working conditions are often better at internationally owned hotels. The staff receive higher wages, have medical insurance and maternity leave (90 days off, 50 per cent pay) and are union members to a larger extent. The average wage depends on position and whether the person is skilled or unskilled. Locally owned hotels have in the past not always followed the labour law and in some cases workers at these cannot be absent from work for even as little as three days without having their salary reduced.<sup>115</sup>

While vacationing in Cambodia, and especially in Siem Reap, it is almost impossible not to see a tuk-tuk-driver. A tuk-tuk is a motorbike that has a carriage attached to it. Below we hear how an experienced tuk-tuk driver is unable to provide for his family in the way he would like.

### A Tuk-tuk driver, Siem Reap<sup>116</sup>

*He has been a tuk-tuk driver for 10 years and has three children. His wife is a housewife and he is expecting a new baby to arrive soon. His children are 16, 14 and 5 years old. The 16-year-old child is working in a garment factory and the 14-year-old is living with the driver's mother in his home village. The 14-year-old is in school, grade 5, and the 5-year-old stays at home. The salary is not enough and it can be very dangerous in the traffic. The increased use of major tour companies' transportation has also made it difficult for tuk-tuk drivers to survive.*

*He says that he wishes he could buy better food and have money to educate the children. His wife used to work in the restaurant industry, but she got pregnant, and so he has to carry the whole burden of supporting his family.*



### 4.3 Child labour

Child labour is an imperative aspect to take into account in Cambodia. The practice has not increased in recent years, but the incidence is among the highest in East Asia and the Pacific. A staggering 45 per cent of Cambodian children aged between 5 and 14 years are involved in child labour.<sup>117</sup> Cambodia has ratified the Minimum Age Convention no. 138, Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour no. 182 and Convention on the Rights of the Child. Relevant national law on child labour include the Constitution, Labour Law and Prakas no. 106 on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour<sup>118</sup>. According to the Cambodian Labour Law, the minimum age for employment is 15. Children between 12 and 14 years old can engage in light work, provided that they go to school. The law specifies the maximum number of hours of light work that children in this age range may undertake per day and per week, the hours during which children are not allowed to work, and the amount of rest time required per working period. Hazardous work is allowed from 18 years as stated in a 2004 declaration on the Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour<sup>119</sup>.

Some Cambodian children find work in the tourist industry by building hotels and restaurants, by working at restaurants and by selling souvenirs, books, postcards and drinks to tourists. Some are between 10 and 12 years and sell, for example, seas shells on a cart or postcards and books at the temples of Angkor Wat. Children as young as 10 years old are employed at the beer gardens and interact with tourists. Children are also involved in massage parlours, but this is difficult to document since the sector is informal with no employment contracts. Relatives and family benefit from their children working. Some parents force their children to sell and beg in the tourist areas.<sup>120</sup> In construction, children make 1.50–2 dollars per day (9.50–13 SEK). Children usually help the adults at the construction site, for example by collecting bricks.<sup>121</sup>

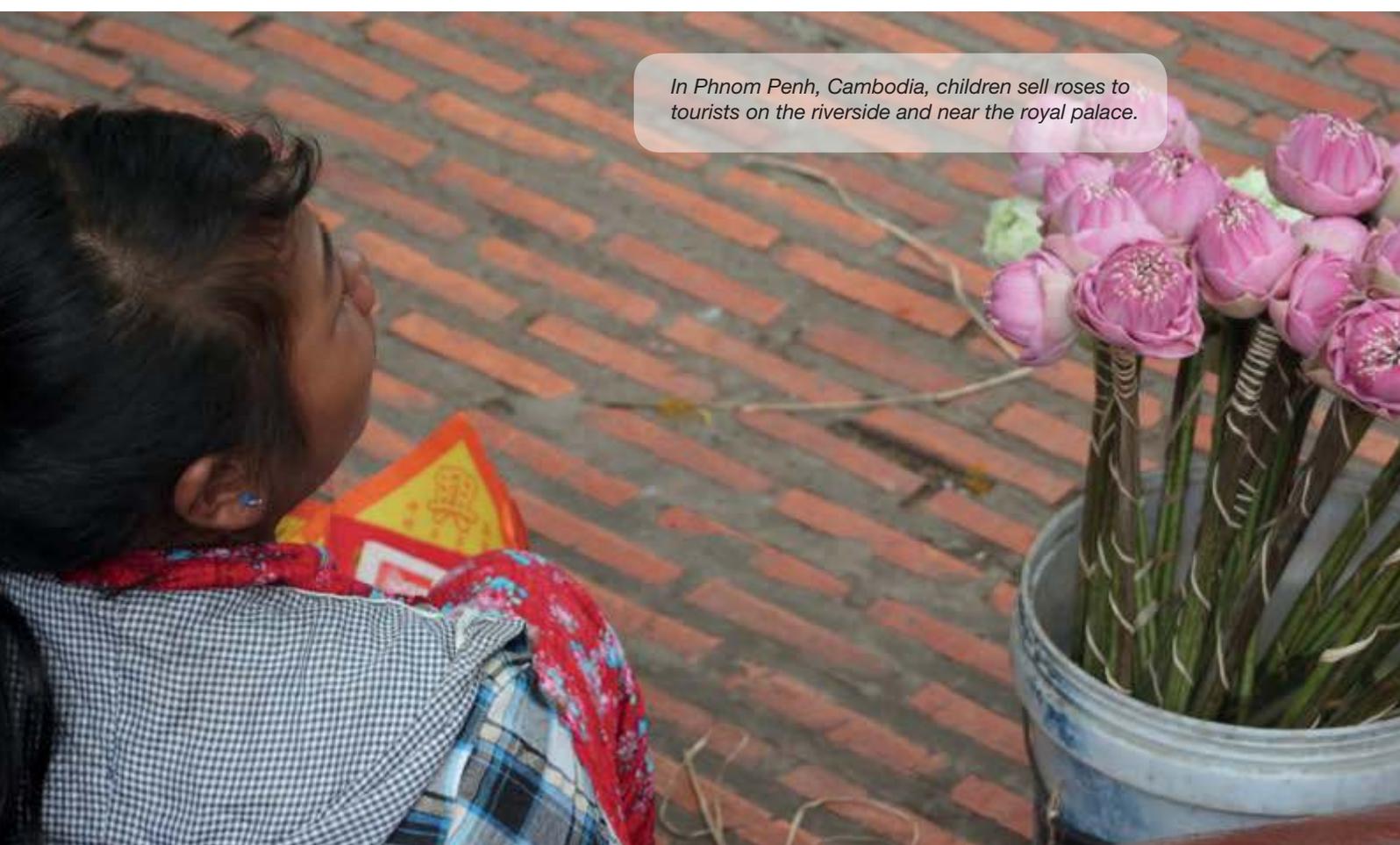
Children that interact with tourists are also found on the streets of Cambodia<sup>122</sup>. According to ChildSafe Cambodia, approximately 24 000 children live on and/or in the streets of Cambodia<sup>123</sup>. In Phnom Penh, many children sell roses to tourists on the riverside and near the royal palace. They are about 12–13 years old and often live in the slum areas.<sup>124</sup> Ongoing research and anecdotal evidence from several organizations confirms significant drug use by street children in Cambodia. The Mith Samlanh Substance Use Survey from 2011 concluded that 35.6% of the entire street child and youth population in several Cambodian tourist cities used drugs whilst 76.5% of the lone street living children and youth population used drugs.<sup>125</sup> They consume alcohol and drugs “in order to survive their experiences and escape their reality”<sup>126</sup>.

As mentioned earlier, a popular venue for children to sell at is the temples of Angkor Wat. There thousands of tourists come every day to walk around for several days. Children there under 14 years old usually sell for half a day and go to school for the rest of the day. The average income is 2 dollars (13 SEK) a day. The mobile sellers work from 7.30 until between 16.00 and 18.00 depending on the availability of tourists. In 2008, there were about 50–60 children in two selling areas. Below is an example of a girl who has been selling for almost 10 years. Since 2009, the provincial authorities, NGOs and social services have worked to eliminate all selling at the temples by children by 2015. A member of the Informal Economy Association is sceptical about the possibility of achieving this goal, as there are many poor families.<sup>127</sup>

**Girl, 14, seller at Angkor Wat <sup>128</sup>**

*She has been selling since she was 5 or 6 years old and stands beside a table close to the temples of Angkor Wat. Her parents started the business and she helps them. She gets up at 6 a.m. and cleans, and then she studies. In the afternoon she sells for about five hours. The money she earns is given to her parents. They give money to her for school. She lives in a 5 by 2 metre room with her family. She has no idea of what is going to happen in the future or what she wants. She is worried that tourists are not buying what she and others have to sell and that the authorities are going to chase them away. She says that she would like proper clothes, and better housing.*

Child labour is also prevalent at orphanages in Cambodia. In order to attract funding children are trained for hours to perform traditional Khmer dances for generous tourists or to craft souvenirs. They also pose for photos with the tourists. In Siem Reap, the performances are widely marketed. In order to have time to practice as well as to perform the dances, children may even leave school and miss out on their education<sup>129</sup>. More on this topic related to voluntourism will be dealt with in the chapter on voluntourism.



*In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, children sell roses to tourists on the riverside and near the royal palace.*

## 4.4 Child sex tourism

It is estimated that between 40 000 and 100,000 Cambodians are involved in prostitution. Unicef estimates that 30-35 per cent of these are children<sup>130</sup>. Selia Samleang, Country Director at APLE (Action pour les Enfants) says that child sex tourism is increasing in Cambodia and many cases are not discovered<sup>131</sup>. Paedophiles, situational child-sex offenders, long-term residents and virginity seekers, constitute the child sex tourists in Cambodia. Many of them are not westerners, but are often Chinese or South Korean.<sup>132</sup>

ECPAT attributes the prevalence of child sex tourism to the low costs of travel to Cambodia and the worsened economic situation of the local population. As it is not culturally accepted as a child to say no to an adult in Cambodia, it is easier for the child to be exploited. The children who are living on the streets are especially vulnerable. Social and cultural factors underlie such child abuse.<sup>133</sup> Children who are involved in child sex tourism and are victims of sex trafficking are especially vulnerable infection with HIV/AIDS.<sup>134</sup>

Cambodia is also a source, transit, and destination country for children who are victims of trafficking and in particular forced labour and sex trafficking. It is common for Cambodian children to migrate to other countries in the region – primarily Thailand and Malaysia, but also Singapore, Vietnam, and South Korea.<sup>135</sup> In addition, many young Vietnamese girls especially from the south of Vietnam are either sold or trafficked to Phnom Penh and other tourist destinations for the purpose of sexual exploitation<sup>136</sup>.

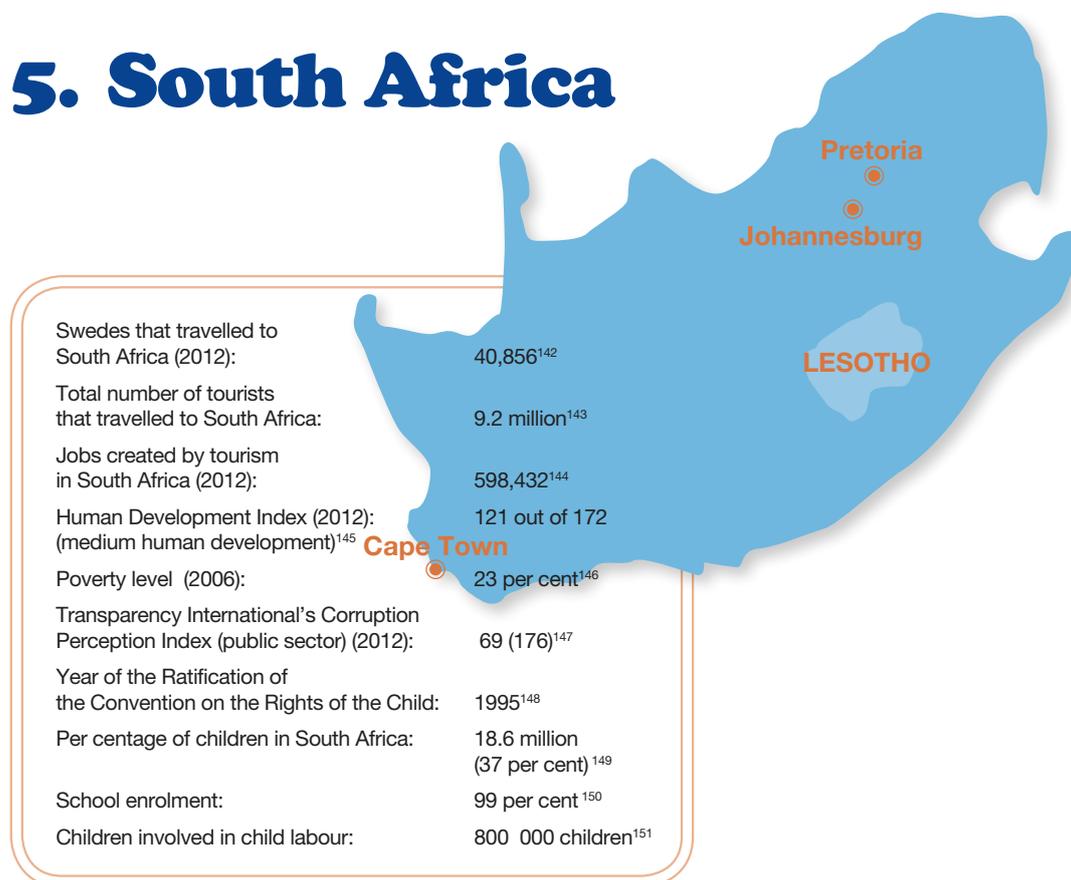
The main reason for their migration is work in factories, restaurants and other industries. However, many are subjected to sex trafficking, domestic servitude, debt bondage, or forced labour within the fishing, construction, food processing, and agricultural industries<sup>137</sup>.

## 4.5 Alcohol

According to the People Center for Development and Peace, the level of alcohol consumption is higher in tourist destinations than in other areas of Cambodia<sup>138</sup>. Mak Chamroen, President of the Khmer Youth Association, the Cambodian government thinks that the alcohol industry contributes to the growing economy in Cambodia. However, the negative side effects are estimated to cost three times the amount that tourism brings in economic terms to Cambodian society. For example, more local youths are involved in violence.<sup>139</sup> Increased alcohol consumption among workers leads to domestic violence which affects the children in the families concerned<sup>140</sup>. Furthermore, tourism, alcohol, drugs and sexual exploitation are very much linked to each other. In an environment where alcohol is aggressively promoted and sexual behaviour is encouraged, young people are also at risk from HIV/AIDS.<sup>141</sup> Hence, there is a risk that increased alcohol consumption in tourist areas affects local children negatively.



# 5. South Africa



## 5.1 Situation awareness

According to Unicef, there are approximately 18.6 million children under the age of 18 in South Africa<sup>152</sup>. Of a total population of 49.9 million people, 37 per cent are children. South Africa has made significant progress in terms of fulfilling the rights of children since the first democratic elections in 1994. South Africa ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995 and thereafter aligned it with its constitution. Near-universal access to primary education has been achieved and the government is increasingly focussing on improving the quality of education<sup>153</sup>. Violence and poverty remain prevalent risks to which children are exposed. Significant social and economic disparities generate challenges for children in South Africa. The gap between rich and poor is vast, and poverty among children is far higher than in the general population.<sup>154</sup>

Two-thirds of children in South Africa live in households with incomes below the poverty line (defined as less than \$2 a day) and the quality of health care, social services and education is often of low quality in many rural and poor areas. The most recent estimates are that nearly 20 per cent of South African children have lost one or both parents, with close to half of these deaths being attributed to HIV/AIDS-related mortality.<sup>155</sup> Although The South African government has a legislative responsibility to extend the same protective measures to foreign children as it would extend to any South African child, illegal immigrants are reluctant to seek out these services due to fear of arrest and deportation. This means that the growing number of migrant children (both unaccompanied and accompanied) live in a situation where they do not have access to health care, social services or education.<sup>156</sup>

## 5.2 How parents' working conditions in the tourism industry affect their children

Many people migrate from rural areas towards the urban centres of Cape Town and Johannesburg as well as the mining areas in search of work. These people often leave their wives and children behind in the rural homestead (in the case of men) or their children to live with grandparents (in the case of women).<sup>157</sup> Although this type of migration is more prevalent in industries other than tourism, there is a particular scenario where we see this in a micro-context. In the game (safari) lodge industry, workers often live on-site (since lodges are situated remotely and in areas without public transport) and typically work four weeks on, two weeks off. Children of the tourism workers are therefore separated from their parents most of the time. An interview with Kathy Bergs (former General Manager for a game lodge situated in the Timbavati Reserve) revealed that all married male staff wanted their wives to stay behind in the village to look after the children, whereas single mothers typically left their children to be cared for by grandparents. These children would live in the lodge's staff accommodation until they were weaned (at two years of age) and then move back to their siblings and grandparents in the village.<sup>158</sup>

Wives and children would visit the staff accommodation during school holidays, when the number of occupants usually swelled to 4–5 times the normal amount. Almost all of the male staff subsequently took a “wife” at the lodge from within the single women working there. From experience, Kathy Bergs saw this as a typical pattern in the safari lodge industry, and the HIV/AIDS rates are correspondingly high.<sup>159</sup>

Sarah Bergs, founder of Nourish, an NGO operating in the area close to the Timbavati Reserve, believes that there is an adverse effect on children who have one or both parents at the lodge for several months. Because of the close-knit family structures in South African communities these children often stay with other family members, which means they have security, but seemingly a lot less discipline and safety, especially as they get older or as grandparents suffer from bad health. Then children are left more and more to fend for themselves. When a father leaves and a mother is still at home to look after children, family life seems to have more stability with the mother ensuring that food is made, school attended, the children's health attended for, and so forth. But life is still tough because not all money made at the lodge gets sent home, since many men working in the lodge industry have girlfriends at the lodge (and spend their money on them as well rather than sending it home to support their families). Thus, despite the positive impact of money coming in through lodge employment, there are still adverse effects on the children in the community.<sup>160</sup>

In a country where only around 40 per cent of the working-age population are in formal employment, it is still considered better for children that their parents are earning an income. In addition, many tourism industry managers and workers reflected on the fact that workers in the tourism industry who regularly come into contact with guests (such as waiters and waitresses, rangers, etc.) have a better understanding of the macro-economic context and are thus more likely to understand the necessity of formally registering their children and ensuring that their children complete school.<sup>161</sup>

Visiting wine farms is the second most popular tourist activity in South Africa<sup>162</sup>. However, farm workers themselves and their families suffer from poor health, substandard delivery of services (such as water, electricity and sanitation) and harsh living conditions. Up until mid-February 2013, farm workers were paid a minimum wage of 69 ZAR per day (50 SEK), but after a violent and protracted strike the Department of Labour increased the minimum wage to 105 ZAR per day (70 SEK).<sup>163</sup> However this is still often not enough to support a family. Women are less likely to receive a wage they can live on since they are paid less than men and have less stable work due to being employed on a seasonal or contract basis.

Many farmworkers' children, who often grow up in single-headed households, don't have enough to eat and are thus vulnerable to a variety of infections and diseases. Children on farms are among the most vulnerable persons in South Africa. Their extreme vulnerability and marginalization exposes them to a great number of social ills and health risks that place them at a great developmental disadvantage. Apart from physical abuse, child abuse and neglect on farms they are also exposed to poverty, alcohol, child labour and lack of access to health services, amenities and educational facilities<sup>164</sup>.

Whether a farmer's children complete high school or go on to achieve a tertiary qualification is a matter of choice, but it is very rare for the children of farm workers even to finish high school, let alone attend university. When a worker's child becomes a teenager, he or she is often forced to work on the farm to pay for accommodation. If teenagers do not work, compensation is deducted from their parents' wages.<sup>165</sup> Although banned for decades, the "dop system",<sup>166</sup> in which farmworkers were paid partly in money and partly in wine, is widely held accountable for creating a legacy of alcoholism especially amongst workers on the wine farms. Some sources claim that the system was in use up until the 1990s<sup>167</sup>.

### 5.3 Child labour

The Department of Labour estimates that just over 800,000 children are affected by child labour in South Africa<sup>168</sup>. However there has been significant progress with measures to relieve household poverty, which is seen as the main driver of child labour. Furthermore, legislation that addresses child labour – in particular the Children's Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) 75 from 1997 – have been improved. The BCEA specifies 15 as the minimum age for work and 18 as the minimum age for hazardous work<sup>169</sup>. Children between the ages of 10 and 14 are most likely to be in child labour, and girls are more likely than boys to be affected<sup>170</sup>. Although it is believed that most child labour takes place within the household (subsistence farming, household chores, fetching water, etc.), there are also children working in the economic sector outside of the home. There is little or no data on these children, but the Human Sciences Research Council estimates that "most children are employed in sectors and geographical areas where labour enforcement does not regularly reach, such as on farms and in domestic services"<sup>171</sup>.

Child labour, in the form of forced begging and street vending as well as child performances, is directly or indirectly a result of the tourism industry in South Africa. In areas regularly frequented by tourists (such as Cape Town's Waterfront and Long Street), many children are engaged in begging from tourists or selling trinkets. Many of these children are engaged in child labour in that they are often forced, either by an adult or by an older gang member, to "earn" a living through these activities. Many children are in a debt-bondage situation where they owe money for drugs and/or a place to sleep, a situation that is often perpetual. In tourist areas, young children are the most vulnerable on account of the emotional appeal they generate. Paul Hooper from the Homestead Projects for Street Children states that over 100 children are living on the streets either permanently or during certain periods in central Cape Town, and approximately 10,000 children live on the streets in South Africa.<sup>172</sup> By giving money to these children, or even food or clothing, tourists may inadvertently add to the problem. He says that if tourists only give to those that look hungry and ragged, then that is what we will see on the streets – whether the children make a conscious decision to do this or are forced by their controllers. He also believes that we need to send a message that this is not a viable way of living. Accounts from street children reveal that they can earn as much as 200 ZAR (155 SEK) per day.<sup>173</sup> With the minimum wage in unskilled sectors such as domestic work starting at less than 10 ZAR (7.70 SEK) per hour, these children can make more money on the streets than they can hope to earn from a real job.<sup>174</sup>

*Some of the interviewed parents revealed that lack of family time was the biggest drawback from working in the tourism industry in South Africa. They were not able to help their children with homework, attend school functions and family events. Furthermore, long and odd working hours left the parents tired and unable to help their children fully even when not working.*



An example of exploitation in this field concerns the renting of children to accompany beggars. In 2011, the South African police investigated a crime syndicate that involved panhandlers renting babies and small children (from daycare centres for poor people) for about 30 ZAR (25 SEK) per day. Children are also rented directly from the mothers. In these cases, older children's legs are sometimes broken so that the children appear smaller when tied to the "mother's" back. Smaller children garner more sympathy. Children may also be drugged so that they appear sickly. This practice can net up to nearly 700 ZAR (540 SEK) per day.<sup>175</sup> Another contentious issue is that of children performing. If operated well and in line with current legislation it can be not only a source of income (often distributed as school fee support), but also a way to boost self-esteem and keep children off the streets. On the other hand, there are situations where children are forced to perform with little or no compensation or regard for their physical and emotional well-being. There is a demand from tourists to see children performing traditional songs and dances, and this can lead to positive change for vulnerable and poor children. According to the Sectorial Determination 10, a person or business that engages children in the performing arts must have a permit from the Department of Labour. But what about street performances? Kathy Bergs from Fair Trade Tourism says that tourists should look for information about the organizers of the performance, such as the organization's name and status (non-profit is most common), whether they have a website or other contact details and whether there is a responsible adult accompanying the children. If you cannot find this kind of evidence (often displayed on a small sign next to the performers), it is probably better not to give money as you may contribute to forced child labour.<sup>176</sup>

The reason why children end up on the streets in the first place is because their everyday life is no longer viable. The most common reasons for children to leave their homes are abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by parents (who thus cannot ensure their children's safety), ill health of parents, and poverty. Often, children will soon find themselves in a situation of drug addiction (glue sniffing, marijuana or even crack cocaine) that they continuously need to support through begging, crime or prostitution. Many children also prefer the relative freedom that life on the streets affords them – away from abusive parents and domestic duties.<sup>177</sup>

Children are also trafficked to, and within, South Africa for other purposes, such as work in the farming sector, illegal mining, drug couriership, street vending or begging, and domestic work. Of these groups, the street vendors and forced beggars often come into direct contact with tourists in city centres such as Cape Town and other tourist hot-spots. Young children are particularly vulnerable to this type of trafficking and forced labour due to their ability to generate emotional appeal.<sup>178</sup>

The Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill, passed in 2010, aims to solidify South Africa's commitment to international legal instruments aimed at countering and preventing human trafficking such as the Palermo Protocol and ILO's Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.<sup>179</sup>

## 5.4 Child Sex Tourism

South Africa is considered a popular destination for child sex offenders.<sup>180</sup> Academics indicate that underage sex tourism occurs in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Durban. However, extensive research on the prevalence of child sex tourism is lacking<sup>181</sup>.

A study by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Sex Worker Education and Advisory Taskteam reported no evidence of children in Cape Town brothels and over a 24-month research period, while a total of five children were encountered selling sex on the street. Most brothel owners and managers interviewed said that foreigners visit their facilities from time to time, particularly during the tourist season in Cape Town, but all relied on local clients for the bulk of their business.<sup>182</sup> However, a child rights expert reported to ECPAT that street children are having sexual encounters with non-South Africans on numerous occasions. In addition, arrested child sex tourists are often charged with indecent assault or rape, it makes it difficult to find them in the statistics. Some child sex tourists that have been convicted have originated from Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the United States.<sup>183</sup>

A local Code representative (ECPAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism) in South Africa, says that even though there is little evidence of commercial sexual exploitation of children by tourists in South Africa, many underlying conditions (such as poverty and many vulnerable children) are present. It is becoming increasingly important to protect children through awareness-raising.<sup>184</sup> In connection with the 2010 football World Cup, two initiatives have served the purpose of raising awareness on child sex tourism in South Africa: the signing of 'The Code' by tourism companies, and the UNICEF Red Card campaign.

## 6. Summary of the three studied countries

Both Thailand and Cambodia are located in the Greater Mekong Sub region where migration takes place. In this report we have identified two major nationality groups, Burmese and Cambodian, that migrate to Thailand in order to look for work. In instances where these children or parents do not have legal status, it becomes immediately more difficult for parents to find well-paid and high-skilled work, and they often resort to working at construction sites. Their housing facilities are limited and while in some cases a Burmese learning centre can provide for schooling for the children, this may be disrupted if the construction site is moved. Often migrant parents are separated from their children, for example when the children are left in Burma. This is also common in the cases studied South Africa, where parents were often living for long periods of time away from their children. The lack of parental control may also leave children vulnerable to social ills such as gang culture, alcohol and drugs as well as transactional sex.

Many migrating children from Cambodia end up on the streets of Bangkok and, after some time as street vendors or beggars, engage in the sex industry. The extent of child labour in Thailand has fallen in recent years but is still a problem, especially for migrant children. Sex tourism is widespread even though there are signs that neighbouring Cambodia is becoming the new sanctuary for child sex tourists since Thailand has taken a number of measures to combat the problem. Migration occurs in Cambodia as well but is of a more internal nature. Siem Reap is one major tourist city to which many migrate in order to look for work, for example in construction. But they end up earning less than in Thailand, and with hazardous working conditions and no job security. Child labour in Cambodia seems to be even more widespread. There is a constant demand for services delivered by children, particularly where tourists are present, for example close to the temples of Angkor Wat. In South Africa, child labour is also prevalent, though traditional dancing with children occurs (with permission from the South African government). While in both Cambodia and Thailand child sex tourism is a major problem, the debate on the scale of the problem in South Africa is ongoing due to lack of proper data. All three countries suffered from child trafficking. Interviews also revealed another common factor: that tourism workers are happy to be able to earn a living and a trade, and in some instances English. Street children in all three countries constituted a particularly vulnerable group, due to exposure to child sex offenders, drugs, begging and child labour (selling flowers, postcards, drinks). Sometimes even parents encouraged or forced their children to beg and sell on the streets.



*Children at some orphanages in Cambodia are forced to raise money from tourists by performing advanced traditional Khmer dances.*

## 7. Voluntourism

One of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry – and one that affects children both positively and negatively – is voluntourism. In 2008, over two million people across Europe volunteered, according to research firm Mintel<sup>185</sup>. Swedes who volunteer tend to seek a real and genuine experience and a merit to put on their CV. The typical Swedish volunteer is female, 20–25 years old and well-educated (just finished high-school and before university studies).<sup>186</sup> Furthermore, the most popular volunteer activities involve children, for example working at an orphanage or teaching them English<sup>187</sup>.

Voluntourism is the subject of a heated debate. Some fear that the international volunteers with their money and inexperience might replace local staff or disrupt the regular work of local staff, thus hindering the sustainability and quality of the work due to the short-term nature of volunteering as well as making the community dependent on receiving volunteers. But Stefan Starve, founder of Volontärresor, says in an interview for the Swedish Radio show *Tendens* that the volunteers are doing work that would not otherwise have been done since the communities in question cannot afford to hire new people.<sup>188</sup> Another issue is how the children's rights can be protected by correct management of volunteer recruitment process of the sending country (travel operator or NGO) and organization in the host country. Lack of proper implementation was evident at *Projects Abroad* in Sweden that sent a volunteer to Cambodia without checking references or making sure that police record was sent prior to the departure of the volunteer.<sup>189</sup>

As regards volunteering with children, especially at orphanages, critics such as Friends International highlight the negative psychological effects that the short but loving presence of the volunteers can have on traumatized and vulnerable children with attachment disorders. The positive aspects of voluntourism focus on well-run and sustainable voluntourism initiatives that allow intercultural exchange between the volunteer and the children, and the opportunity for the volunteer to see a world where happiness is not focused on material things.<sup>190</sup>

In Thailand, voluntourism is considered to be a promising future niche market. In 2003, there were three volunteer programmes offered in Thailand. In 2012, there were 259 volunteering programmes<sup>191</sup>. In the case of South Africa, thousands of voluntourists visit the country annually, including significant numbers from Europe who purchase volunteer holidays through travel companies or directly from service providers in destination countries<sup>192</sup>.

## Volunteering in Cambodia – ConCERT

Michael Horton founded **ConCERT**, an organization that works with sustainable tourism and helps the vulnerable communities in Siem Reap to benefit from tourism. One of the reasons for founding the organization was the observation that while many tourists came and helped or wanted to help, the outcome was often not what they expected. There are several explanations for this. Siem Reap is an unusual tourist destination. Tourists stay for three or four nights. There is significant development in the tourism sector, bringing extensive wealth. People come here and directly experience the poverty. Adding to that, Cambodia is still rebuilding its infrastructure and human capacity as well as capability within the government.

Michael Horton says that these factors create a vacuum; when large numbers of uncoordinated NGOs and charities come and many tourists want to help, the situation becomes unsustainable. There are about 100 NGOs in Battambang (the second city in Cambodia) and about 400 NGOs in Siem Reap. Many tourists who wanted to help ended up doing nothing, but many got involved with things that they did not understand. Hence, **ConCERT** works through giving information to tourists on community development projects and is engaged in supporting activities. The organization cooperates in projects involving the care of children (orphanages, day centres and schools), education support, community centres, agricultural development, vocational training, infrastructure projects, combating human sex trafficking, support for vulnerable people (especially women and children), health and hygiene, water supplies, landmine removal, and environmental protection and biodiversity. The projects that **ConCERT** supports need to show how they are managed and financed, how they make use of volunteers and that they are serving the needs of the community. With regard to child-related projects, it must be ensured that these support the health and safety of the children concerned. Member organizations in Siem Reap include hotels, guest houses, restaurants and bars as well as tour operators and other enterprises.

There are many tourists that want to volunteer in Siem Reap. **ConCERTs** criteria, practices and policies (including on child protection) ensure that the volunteers are used in a sustainable way. If a member violates the criteria and efforts to rectify the situation fail, he or she is dropped. When it comes to volunteering at residential centres, volunteers are assigned specific responsibilities that few of the walk-in tourists can take on. Teaching of English is another volunteering activity that **ConCERT** offers. However, most volunteers are not teachers, so they will help the teacher teach.

**ConCERT** has designed child protection workshops for volunteers who come to work with Cambodian children. These run every two weeks (more often if there is enough demand). The workshops not only raise and cover child protection issues, they also serve as an effective introduction to Cambodian culture. Many Cambodian staff members have also attended and found the workshops very useful.

**[www.concertcambodia.org](http://www.concertcambodia.org)**

## 7.1 Challenges of orphan tourism – examples from Cambodia and South Africa

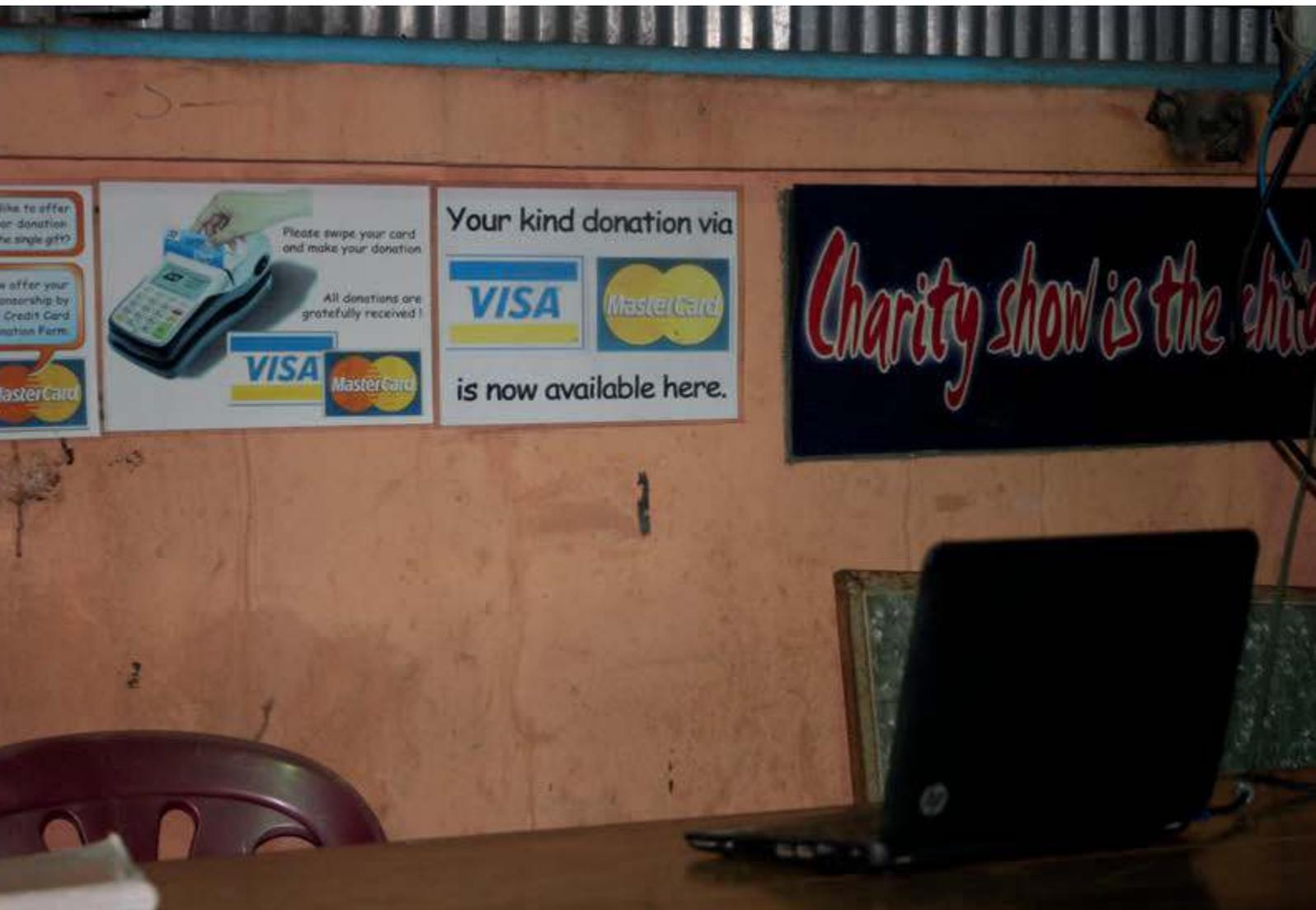
The media has recently reported heavily on volunteering at orphanages in Cambodia<sup>193</sup>. In June 2013, Swedish Radio programme Kaliber revealed that the UK-based Projects Abroad group, which has an office in Stockholm, had sent a volunteer for two weeks to Siem Reap without checking references or making sure that police records were obtained prior to departure from Sweden. In Siem Reap, the volunteer (a journalist in real life), had been left alone with 24 children and had the opportunity to take some of them outside the orphanage unsupervised. After this incident, Projects Abroad in Sweden cancelled for the time being their volunteer opportunities with children at residential care facilities.<sup>194</sup>

The case of Cambodia is interesting in many respects. The country developed minimum standards in its Policy on Alternative Care for Children in 2006 and Minimum Standards on Alternative Care for Children in 2008. Those standards say that institutional care should be the last resort, and that children are best taken care of in their families or in their community. However, this does not accord with the fact that the number of residential care facilities has increased by 75 per cent to 269 (11,945 children) in 2010. Children in residential care run the risk of “clinical personality disorders, growth and speech delays, and an impaired ability to re-enter society later in life.” In addition, the children miss their families, and become dependent, showing affection in abundance. They feel that they are not getting the love that they deserve or that the love is unequally distributed. Some do not receive the education they were promised and worry about their future. Furthermore, government research has found that almost half of all children that were placed in residential care had parents or extended family. The biggest reason appears to be the inability of parents to provide for food and education (which constitutes 26.5 per cent of non-food expenses) for their children. They believe that the best option they have is to put them in residential care, rather than community-based care.<sup>195</sup>

Luke Gracie, Manager, Program for the Protection of Children (3PC), Friends International says that parents sign a form of consent with the orphanage to leave their child there. Whether it is informed consent is another issue.<sup>196</sup> Some parents have even been lured into signing an adoption agreement, which in practice makes it extremely difficult for the family to make the child return to the family.<sup>197</sup>

As government ministries have Memorandums of Understanding with local NGOs, residential care facilities need to recruit the children staying with them since no NGO will allow children to be sent there. An interviewee who wants to remain anonymous says that the worst is that the care homes remove the children from their families, and that all their rights are being violated<sup>198</sup>.

In this context, overseas donors have become interested in funding residential care facilities, contributing to their growth in number. It has also made residential centres that are located close to the tourist streets dependent on international funding, and the children are in some cases playing an active part in raising money for residential care by dancing, crafting souvenirs, posing with tourists on photos and interacting with donors.<sup>199</sup> Rana Flowers from Unicef Cambodia said in an interview with Kaliber that the way that children are used is a clear case of child labour in some instances<sup>200</sup>. There have been cases in Cambodia where people are able simply to walk in for a day and volunteer at an orphanage without anyone checking their references or police records. Alone and without supervision, they have been able to take children outside the orphanages, which makes these an attractive target for child sex offenders<sup>201</sup>.



The Government of Cambodia has started to raid orphanages that are not following the Minimum Standards on Residential Care for Children. But an interviewee who would like to remain anonymous says that nothing happens if you do not follow the minimum standards. The exact same pattern as in Cambodia can be found in South Africa, i.e. the sudden availability of funds from volunteers that are willing to pay for the personal fulfillment they hope to gain by assisting poor and destitute children has led to an increase in the number of “non-family residential group care facilities” (orphanages). However, many of these orphanages are not registered with the necessary welfare authorities (and thus not controlled). Further, the high staff turnover that is a result of short-term volunteering can make these places unstable rather than secure environments for children.<sup>202</sup>

Several critical voices oppose voluntourism, particularly at orphanages. Professor Richter, author of “AIDS orphan tourism: A threat to young children in residential care” argues that voluntourism is potentially exploitative of children suffering adversity as a result of poverty and HIV/AIDS. She believes that child advocates should protest against these practices and that welfare authorities should ensure they are stopped.<sup>203</sup> Luke Gracie, Manager, Partnership Program for the Protection of Children (3PC) of Friends International says that if tourists come to Cambodia and visit an orphanage and give money, they contribute to a negative cycle where children who would not be in an orphanage in the first place, stay there for a very long time. Unicef specifically opposes the sending of volunteers by volunteering agencies to work directly with children at orphanages in Cambodia.<sup>204</sup>

However, there are many other programmes where volunteers come into contact with children through institutions other than orphanages, such as schools, early childhood development (ECD) centres and sports associations. To simply discourage all volunteering that involves children is probably too simplistic. Paul Miedema, owner of Calabash Tours, says about their school support programmes that the most important thing is that the volunteers don't come to interact with children. They come to interact with an existing programme that supports children. He continues to emphasize the importance of structured and ongoing programmes due to the fact that the volunteers are only there for a short period of time. It is crucial that they contribute in a constructive way to a long-term strategy. Instead of just coming to play with the children, they come to transfer skills to the teachers. This does not mean that they do not interact with the children, and there are rigorous systems in place to mitigate against potential risks, but this is not the main objective of the volunteer programme.<sup>205</sup>

## 7.2 Suggestions for improvements in voluntourism

How can volunteering opportunities be structured to serve the best interests of the child? Kathy Bergs, General Manager at Fair Trade Tourism says that it is crucial that a voluntourism programme is well structured, but also open and transparent. It is important that each volunteer is contributing to a long-term strategy. They should be one part of a large jigsaw puzzle, where everyone involved can clearly see the end objective. Given that international volunteers are often paying a fairly high price for their volunteer holiday, it is also essential that the programme transparently accounts for how this money is spent. For example in South Africa, Fair Trade Tourism created a standard for volunteer programmes in 2009, and have subsequently certified three voluntourism programmes by two different operators: CalabashTours in Port Elizabeth and Volunteer Africa 32° South (VA32) on the Wild Coast. Bergs recommends looking to these two operators to determine best practice, as both have undergone a rigorous audit against the Fair Trade Tourism standard<sup>206</sup>.

In addition to having solid structures and a long-term strategy, a volunteer programme should also make requirements of volunteers. At a minimum, a background check should be performed on potential volunteers, including a copy of their criminal record before they are accepted on a programme. At the destination, there needs to be a formal Code of Conduct which should form part of the volunteer's contract, and the volunteers should have a contact person within the programme. Paul Miedema says that a good Code of Conduct includes issues such as general conduct (dress, alcohol consumption, foul language etc.) but also more detailed rules such as not spending more time with one particular child (having a favourite) and never being alone with a child without staff being present. This policy will be in line with Children's Rights and Business.<sup>207</sup> Six Swedish volunteer organizations of various sizes were contacted regarding a child protection policy, Studin, Amzungo, Soliudarity Travels, Volontur, Peaceworks and Volontärresor. All of them had their own policy of sorts, whether informal, formal or specific to particular projects. Such a policy on child protection, including a Code of Conduct, should be formal and available on the websites of volunteer organizations so that volunteers can verify that an organization is committed to protecting children's rights. The policy should be taken into account in the process of selecting volunteer projects.

An example of such a policy from Calabash Tours (in collaboration with their UK-based agent People & Places) is given below.<sup>208</sup>

#### **WE WILL:**

- Treat children and young people with respect, listen to and value their ideas and opinions.
- Listen to children and take relevant and appropriate action to protect their wellbeing.
- Report any violations of these standards of behaviour.
- Be aware of situations which may present risks and manage them effectively.
- Be visible and not work alone with the children, as far as possible.
- Have a named Child Protection Officer – at people and places and in the local PMT (Project Management Team)

#### **WE WILL NOT:**

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse children.
- Interact with any child in a manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative.
- Seek to use children in any way to meet adult needs.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour and language with children.
- Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or HIV status.
- Develop ‘special’ relationships with specific children.
- Develop physical/sexual relationships with children.
- Give gifts or show favouritism.
- Take a child on or in any form of transport, without prior agreement by the named Child Protection Officer.
- Have a child/children with whom we are working to stay overnight without prior agreement by the child’s parent or guardian.
- Ever be alone with a child in a room with the door closed, or spend excessive time alone with children away from others without the permission of the designated project leader.

This is not a complete list. The basic understanding is that we will all avoid actions or behaviour which may constitute bad practise or potentially abusive behaviour.

Furthermore, clear communication is also crucial, especially as often neither the volunteer nor the child speaks English as a first language. That volunteers need to be especially careful in the way they express themselves is evident from the true story below (name of programme withheld).

” *We had a European girl here volunteering, and she bonded very strongly with one of the little girls at the school. It was a couple of days before she left, and she said to the girl “I’m going to put you in my suitcase and take you home with me, or I’ll miss you too much”. The day of her departure, the girl and her mother arrived at the volunteer house, all packed and the mother very emotional and hugely grateful that her daughter was being given this opportunity!”<sup>209</sup>*

Managing a volunteer programme should be the core business of a serious volunteer organizer. It requires a thorough understanding of the context in which the organization operates, and of the needs of the beneficiaries<sup>210</sup>.



## 8. How can the travel industry work to respect children's rights?

In the following sections, we give examples of how Swedish tour operators work to ensure respect for children's rights in their operations. These three Swedish tour operators have been selected on the basis that they are the three biggest charter tour operators in Sweden. Together they account for 25 per cent of the Swedish holiday market<sup>21</sup>. Apollo has charter tours to Thailand and South Africa. Ving and Fritidsresor offer packages to Thailand. None of the three companies currently sells tours to Cambodia.

### The Code, 2.0

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code) was established in 1988 by ECPAT in order to work with the travel industry to address sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourist operations. It has a Board consisting of 5 industry seats and 4 non-industry seats. Signatories make the following commitments:

**To establish a policy and procedures** against sexual exploitation of children

**To train employees in children's rights**, the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases

**To include a clause in contracts** throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children

**To provide information to travellers on children's rights**, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and how to report suspected cases

**To support, collaborate and engage stakeholders** in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children

**To report annually** on their implementation of Code related activities

## 8.1 Apollo

According to the website of Apollo, they work to combat child sex trafficking and child sex tourism in their operations. This is done in practice by including a commitment to respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child in their policies, which are to be followed by suppliers and in the company's investments as well as in its own operations. Apollo signed the Code in 2001, which means that, aside from having a policy on child sex tourism, they train their staff and cooperating partners on the issue. They also inform guests and key actors at the destinations. They report their implementation activities annually to the Code Secretariat.<sup>212</sup> In addition, they also cooperate with the Swedish police to get guests to report on child sex tourism<sup>213</sup>. Their Suppliers Code of Conduct forbids child labour and all forms of child exploitation including slavery and dangerous working conditions<sup>214</sup>. The company also sponsors SOS Children's Villages in Phuket, Thailand and up until 2012 sponsored the vocational training centre at SOS Children's Villages in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Kajsa Moström, Information Manager at Apollo, sees a strong connection between the negative aspects of tourism and the importance of giving children a good education. Without that, poor children risk being exploited and may have to resort to begging and prostitution. In Apollo's four Corporate Responsibility areas, the connection between human rights and children's rights is strong.<sup>215</sup> Apollo's website states that the company is committed to the Children's Rights and Business Principles, and various actions are described, including risk analysis, prevention, mitigation and remediation of sexual exploitation of children<sup>216</sup>.

## 8.2 Ving

Ving's Code of Operations includes principles that forbid child labour and child sex tourism. The company signed the Code in 1999. According to their website, Ving trains their staff and informs their clients about child sex tourism and what to do if they suspect that a child is being exploited. Through their Code of Operations Ving requires all hotels and other partners, to act regarding child exploitation. In 2013, Ving also became a "vän-företag" (corporate friend) of ECPAT by donating between 50,000 SEK and 200,000 SEK. In addition, the company supports projects at local destinations. An example of such a project is a school for the blind in Pattaya.

Magdalena Öhrn, Information Manager at Ving, says that they want to contribute in a constructive and good way. Their community projects do not necessarily need to be connected to tourism and travelling, but rather seek to contribute where the needs are, with a particular focus on education<sup>217</sup>. Furthermore, Ving participates in a series of workshops arranged by Unicef on Children's Rights and Business Principles<sup>218</sup>.

## 8.3 Fritidsresor

Fritidsresor has followed the Code since 1998 and has addressed child sex tourism in their sustainable business policy. The hotels they contract and other suppliers are required to follow the policy. The Code specifies how suppliers should work to prevent sexual exploitation of children through training courses and by filing reports in cases of abuse.<sup>219</sup> Fritidsresor train their own staff at home or at travel destinations and inform their travellers and local cooperating partners. An annual report is sent to the Code via TUI.<sup>220</sup> Cooperation has also been initiated with the Swedish police on reporting child sex tourism.

Regarding child labour, Fritidsresor's Supplier Code of Conduct states that children under the age of 18 can be employed by suppliers provided that: national laws or the Convention on the Rights of the Child are respected (whichever protects children the most), ILO Conventions 138 and 132 are respected, and children do not perform inappropriate, hazardous or immoral work and are monitored by the supplier.<sup>221</sup>

## 8.4 Comments

It is positive that all companies have signed the Code and that all state in their policies that they are working to eliminate child labour. However, based on the information on the websites, it is difficult to assess the degree of compliance. Furthermore, it is welcome that at least Apollo states how they are working to end child exploitation by referring to Children's Rights and Business Principles. Still, more extensive reporting on how this work is done in practice would be desirable. Judging from the information above, it is also a good sign that Ving is participating in workshops on Children's Rights and Business Principles, though this was not something that they advertised on their website. In general, financially supporting projects that aim to respect children's rights is not enough. If a company aims to seriously engage in children's rights issues, it needs to look into how their business affects the children, and find ways to prevent and mitigate those effects – for example, by paying children's caregivers a decent wage, and by preventing any form of child exploitation from occurring in connection with their operations.

## 8.5 Children's Rights and Business Principles

As stated in the introduction, the development of the Children's Rights and Business Principles means that tour operators have the possibility of taking an integrative approach to ensuring that children's rights are respected in their operations. Save the Children, the UN Global Compact and Unicef have developed these principles in consultation with children, business, investors, trade unions, national human rights institutions, civil society, governments, academics, United Nations entities, child rights experts and business experts. They are not legally binding, but "businesses of all sizes and from all sectors and geographies are encouraged to use the Principles to guide their efforts to respect and support children's rights."<sup>222</sup>

It is vital to take into account the effects of tourism in Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa in considering how these principles can be put into practice. The principles are stated below and further elaborated by Save the Children Sweden (Rädda Barnen) on the role of businesses in implementing the principles.

### **All businesses should:**

1. Meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children
2. Contribute to the elimination of child labour, including all business activities and business relationships
3. Provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers
4. Ensure protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities
5. Ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them
6. Use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights
7. Respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use
8. Respect and support children's rights in security arrangements
9. Help protect children affected by emergencies
10. Reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights

The Children's Rights and Business Principles are the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. The principles are built on existing standards, initiatives and best practices related to business and children, and aim at filling gaps so as to present a coherent vision for businesses wishing to maximize positive impacts and minimize negative impacts on children. The principles help to elaborate both expectations of and opportunities for business in relation to children – a frequently overlooked stakeholder in the business community.

Ten principles identify how businesses can respect and support children's rights through core business activities; strategic social investments; advocacy and public policy engagement; and partnerships.

The first principle outlines the actions to be taken in the form of policy commitments, due diligence and remediation, and encourages all businesses to go beyond basic respect for children's rights to the next steps of supporting and promoting these rights.

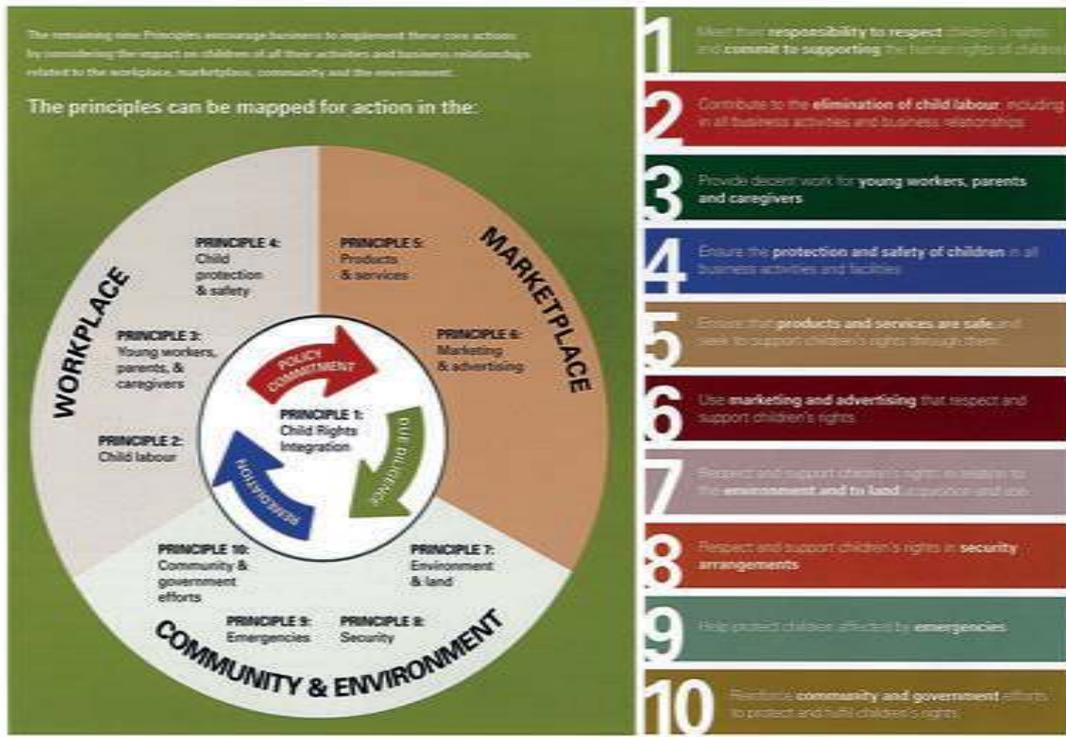
The following principles cover holistically how businesses directly and indirectly affect children's rights – in the workplace, the marketplace and in the community and environment. In the workplace framework, child labour is of course a critical issue, but it is also extremely important to pay special attention to young workers, parents and caregivers. As shown in this report, young workers are particularly vulnerable not least when living away from their parents. Migrant parent workers either leave their children at home, with the result that parent-child relations suffer, or they bring them to their place of work, putting them at higher risk in numerous ways. All of these issues are not only relevant for the tourist venues themselves, but equally important for the supply chain. Food, furniture and other products are purchased by the hotels, linen and towels are washed, and many services are provided by local sub-suppliers. Each company is responsible for maximizing its influence – in business contracts, legally and otherwise – so as to systematically prevent violations and minimize risks, and to work with other actors and businesses to lobby governments and support initiatives promoting children's rights in the area.

In the marketplace, businesses are responsible for ensuring that products and services are safe and that marketing practices adhere to a child rights perspective. This is highly relevant for the tourism sector. That facilities, travel arrangements, food, etc. are safe for children is crucial for business and has in many cases been addressed for a long time. However, much can be done to go beyond local law, and the influence an international tourist company can have on local business partners and peers should not be underestimated. Marketing practices in the tourism industry affect children's rights in several very important ways. For instance, products and services aimed specifically at children or parents require special attention, and it is crucial to have a solid understanding of and commitment to good practices when using children in advertising.

The tourism industry is very well placed to take action to be a positive influence for children in the communities where it operates. The impact on the local environment, the need for security arrangements in some areas and preparedness for emergencies are all aspects of any tourist activity. Furthermore, relations with the local community – local authorities, community organizations and businesses – provide a platform for much influence.

All of the above illustrates the broad approach to what a business should and can do, and clearly the value chain of tourist services encompasses all of these aspects to a varying degree depending on the size and geographical focus of the company. The Children's Rights and Business Principles provide a platform tool for analysing broadly how any specific company affects children through its core business and business relations, and can serve as a method for integrating, prioritizing and setting an action plan for how children's rights can be protected and supported. The tourism industry is also uniquely placed to achieve results through cooperation between companies active in the same areas. There are already good examples of this, but this potential is not utilized sufficiently. Often the same suppliers and sub-suppliers are used for products and services for hotels and resorts in a whole area, and the community as a whole would benefit from coordinated and systematic efforts.

Since the Children's Rights and Business Principles were launched in 2012, work has started on supporting companies in implementation. Save the Children Sweden has developed and used a model for supporting companies in different sectors in starting the journey from understanding the impact, prioritizing and making an action plan, all based on the holistic coverage of the principles. Other organizations have also started this work with encouraging results. The journey of fully engaging the private sector to become actors for children's rights has just begun and there is a long way to go, but there is growing interest and increased awareness both among companies and other actors on the necessity to cooperate and reach real results for children.<sup>223</sup>



## 9. Summary and conclusions

Several factors influence the current situation of children in Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa, including limited government resources, limited coordination and monitoring, migration flows and a lack of job opportunities as well as the activities of the tourism industry. A variety of actors (government, police, NGOs, international authorities, tour operators, hotels and tourists all play a role in identifying, mitigating and remedying violations of children's rights.

In this report, we focus on generating recommendations for tour operators, volunteer organizations, travellers and volunteers. Tour operators and volunteer organizations should tackle child rights on a broader level but with clear links to their core operations and due diligence processes in line with the Children's Rights and Business Principles. Identification of risks with regard to the well-being of children and of ways to prevent and mitigate these risks should be part of standard operating procedure. Examples include tour operators monitoring working conditions in their supply chains (including subcontractors) and researching how these conditions will affect the workers' own family situations (for instance where workers have undocumented migrant status), taking into account the needs of their children. Another example concerns the measures to be taken when child labour is discovered, which should address issues such as how to get the child back to school. This work demands close cooperation and interaction with local organizations and authorities. In cases where individual businesses may lack influence, companies can join together to exert influence on suppliers and governments. Another issue relates to the right to a decent wage. Schyst resande has long advocated in favour of a living wage, and therefore considers that one vital recommendation for tour operators in particular is to ensure that caregivers working in their supply chain receive a wage they can live on so that the children in their care can have a decent standard of living.

Tour operators and volunteer organizations play a role in informing travellers and volunteers on responsible behaviour, for example not giving money to begging children and being vigilant against services being delivered by children. An obvious recommendation for travellers is not to exploit children sexually, but they should also be aware that this can happen to children, even in South Africa where the official statistics on child sex tourism are inconclusive. Here, hotlines can be used so that tourists, volunteers, tour operators and volunteering organizations can act if they witness child exploitation or cases of trafficking.

Tourists themselves can help by researching their destination country in order to fully understand the situation of children there, to learn how to behave and be aware of how to identify and act upon situations of child exploitation. The challenge here will be to enable charter tourists to do the research and engage in children's issues while spending only 1–2 weeks at the destination. Here, local organizations such as ECPAT, the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation, ConCERT and Friends International have expert knowledge of the situation.

The report further demonstrates how voluntourism is flourishing in uncontrolled environments in Cambodia and South Africa. The lack of state resources shifts more responsibility to the volunteer organizations when it comes to ensuring that the volunteer project respects the rights of children. But the fact that volunteering opportunities generate income both for the volunteering company and for the project at the destination constitutes a threat to children. In both Cambodia and South Africa, this was particularly true for volunteer placements at orphanages, where children in some cases were not even orphans, just children with poor families, and would be better off with their parents or their extended family and community. Furthermore, sending inexperienced volunteers to look after children with attachment disorders for a short period of time may not be in the best interests of the child, even if it might be a “life-changing” experience for the volunteer. This practice is not current in Sweden or in any other western society precisely because it is morally questionable. Moreover, if the sending companies conduct their business irresponsibly and do not properly check the volunteers prior to departure, the children are put at even greater risk. Child labour is also prevalent in this context as children were often expected to raising money for the orphanages by performing dances for the tourists, crafting souvenirs and otherwise actively seeking donations.

While volunteering at orphanages should not be promoted, volunteering programmes with holistic and long-term objectives together with a strategy for mitigating problems can ensure that benefits for the children concerned outweigh any negative impacts. However, the safety and the well-being of the children should never be jeopardised. Hence, the challenge and the opportunity for voluntourism is to continuously build on best practice so that travellers can make a sustainable difference while ensuring that the needs of the local community are met. Both volunteers themselves and the sending organization need to be aware of the risks and opportunities and have a plan for managing these. The volunteer agency should show the way by implementing children’s rights and business principles, instituting proper recruitment procedures and setting strict criteria for choosing and monitoring volunteer projects. Volunteers must do the research on their own in order to form realistic expectations and ask the right questions – for example, if a child protection policy is in place and if police records and references are needed.

It is clear from the findings and recommendations of this report that the tourism industry operates in very complicated regions that face daunting challenges. To tackle these, holistic approaches to children’s rights and cooperation between various actors and organizations are needed in order to ensure and demonstrate that children’s rights are fully respected.

# 10. Recommendations

## Travellers

- Do background research on your destination, including the general situation of children
- Promote hotels, restaurants and other local businesses and organizations that participate in initiatives aiming to protect children's rights
- Be vigilant if you see children providing services (for Thailand, Cambodia and South Africa the minimum age for employment is 15 years, or 18 years for hazardous work)
- Drink responsibly around children
- Do not give money to begging children
- Do not take photos of children without permission from their parents
- Support local NGOs working to protect children's rights on the ground

## Volunteering with children

- Volunteer to help build the capacity of local staff
- Do not volunteer in projects that directly involve children if you are not a child care or education professional
- Do not volunteer at an orphanage
- Aim to volunteer for a longer period of time
- Research the objectives and impact of the volunteer project by consulting media and internet reviews and by interviewing former volunteers and the volunteer organization
- Contact local organizations that have extensive experience with volunteering organizations
- Ask specifically if the volunteer programme requires references and a criminal record check, and if it has a Code of Conduct that includes protection for children. These requirements should be posted on the volunteer programme's website.

## Tour operators

- Commit to the Children's Rights and Business Principles. Use them as a tool for analysing how your company affects children through your core business and business relations. The principles can serve as a method for integrating, prioritizing and setting an action plan for how children's rights can be protected and supported. Find below concrete recommendations inspired by the Children's Rights and Business Principles together with recommendations from Schyst Resande. More principles, guidelines and best practices can be found at: <http://childrenandbusiness.org/>
- Meet your responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children. This should be done through policy commitments and processes of due diligence and remediation. Maximize your influence with a view to preventing violations, minimizing risks in business contracts and working with other actors and businesses to lobby governments and to support initiatives promoting children's rights in tourist destinations.
- Contribute to the elimination of child labour, and provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers. Work with governments, social partners and others, including your business partners, to promote education and sustainable solutions to the root causes of child labour. Develop concrete action plans for rapid implementation when child labour is discovered.

- Encourage decent work opportunities for young workers above the legal minimum age by promoting social protection, health information, education, vocational training and livelihood development programmes.
- Provide decent working conditions for parents or caregivers. This includes the payment of a living wage sufficient to meet a family's basic needs, decent working hours, maternity benefits and support to migrant and seasonal workers who do not live with their children. Further, facilitate access to good-quality childcare, health care and education for dependants.
- Ensure protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities and promote children's rights in the local community. For example, become a proactive and committed member of local initiatives and networks that support children's rights in a broad perspective. Develop a Child Protection Code of Conduct and ensure its implementation in your supply chain. Inform travellers of how they can respect children's rights before, during and after travel.
- Ensure that children's rights are respected when planning tourism area developments, for example in land acquisitions, security arrangements and emergency preparedness. Work closely with peers and partners in the local community to see that development has a positive influence on children in surrounding communities.

### **Organizations offering volunteer opportunities**

- Commit to the Children's Rights and Business Principles.
- Ensure that a thorough selection procedure is in place when choosing volunteers, including volunteer interviews, matching of competences and expectations, and checking of references and criminal records. Prospective volunteers should be informed of the requirement to adhere to the organization's Code of Conduct or Child Protection Policy.
- Make respect for children's rights a prerequisite when choosing projects. Follow up projects regularly to verify that the organization and the volunteers are following the Code of Conduct or Child Protection Policy. Keep in contact with local NGOs for updates on the project and the general situation in the area. Do not send volunteers to orphanages to work directly with children.
- Ensure that volunteers are making a sustainable contribution to the projects. This may be achieved, for example, by sending fewer volunteers for longer periods of time.
- For more information see the International Ecotourism Society's International Guidelines on Voluntourism for Commercial Tour Operators: <http://www.ecotourism.org/voluntourism-guidelines>

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# APPENDIX:

## Examples of projects that aim to respect children's rights

### SOS Children's Villages Thailand (Apollo sponsor)

We interview Mr. Apinyanun Somsak, the Village Director of SOS Children's Villages in Phuket. The children at their village come from all over Thailand and have lost or been abandoned by their mother and/or father. NGOs, government and other actors approach the organization with children they have identified as eligible. Their ages vary between 0 and 7 years and by coming to SOS Children's Villages they are given a sense of home.

One "mother" lives in each house. In Phuket there are 12 houses with 10 children in each. The mothers are there 24 hours a day and are helped by "aunties". On a normal day the children start by preparing for school and after school they do house cleaning and homework as well as eating and sleeping. During the weekend they get to know what their talents are. The goal is to finish university and those who do not go to university will at least attend a vocational school. Mr. Apinyanun Somsak says that development is too fast for the children to keep up in an ethical way. SOS Children's Villages teaches them values that make them immune to the temptations that development brings.



### Vocational training at SOS Children's Village in Siem Reap, Cambodia (Apollo used to sponsor)

The vocational training at SOS Children's Villages in Siem Reap started in September 2004. It offers young people between 17 and 23 years old workshops in electrical training, plumbing, carpentry and mechanics. According to the organization's website it is trying to provide youths with "fair starting possibilities so that they can become independent and so that they are able to cope with the social and economic demands made on them."

Currently, 24 young people are in training, six in each area. They are from poor families and their parents are unable to provide training themselves. Students can study all of the subjects on offer, each one taking 2.5 months to complete. They also learn how to do maintenance and repair. In total 160 students have attended the vocational training courses – although some dropped out from the course, this means eight batches of trained students, all of whom have subsequently been employed.



The students keep in touch with the training providers after they have completed the course. In the event of losing their job, some vocational trainees return to the training to refresh their knowledge while looking for new work. The most common sector in which to work is tourism, particularly hotels.

#### **Interview with a male student, 23, on the vocational training course**

The student originally comes from another province. When his father died, he finished high school and migrated to Siem Reap to live with his aunt. Many of his friends are working in the tourism industry. He heard about the vocational training from them and has trained as an electrician. In the future, he would like to work at a hotel. There are several aspects that he likes about the vocational training: the learning itself, of course, but also that the students are provided with essentials such as food and accommodation.

#### **Friends International & Child Safe in Cambodia**

Friends International started in 1994 in Phnom Penh to help street children and youths. Friends programmes are up and running in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and in Laos, Indonesia and Thailand. The organization functions as a social enterprise and operates several programmes aimed at providing services to marginalized urban children and young people, their families and their communities. It is also involved in the CYTI ALLIANCE network of organizations that works with the same aim. It also runs social businesses that enable children and young people to integrate and become actively involved in their societies.

Child Safe encourages ordinary people to protect children and to abstain from any form of abuse of children, says Khemreth Vann (Tito), Child Safe Manager of Friends International. The concept involves raising awareness of child protection issues and engaging society. A team trains identified actors for one or two days on how to identify child abuse and take action. These actors can be sellers, tuk-tuk drivers, travel agencies and hotels. The travel agents are also encouraged to inform travellers on how to take action. When the training is completed the actor is monitored and evaluated. In order to be certified as a Child Safe member you have to be committed to children's rights. A travel agent or hotel can demonstrate commitment by adopting a child safe policy, talking to staff, identifying abuse and taking action where appropriate, not only

in the vicinity of the hotel. Even if no action is taken the Child Safe certified actors need to inform others about child protection. The type of action that Child Safe certified actors take varies.

For example, a call could be made to a variety of hotlines – Child Safe has its own and there is also a hotline administered by the authorities. The government hotline only deals with criminal cases and Child Safe specializes in children. Child Safe engages social workers to assess the situation. Friends International tries to cooperate directly with the government.

Khemreth Vann, (Tito), Child Safe Manager of Friends International says that the work is challenging. It takes time to explain the organization’s rationale to potential Child Safe actors. They need to be assured that they will gain something by being involved, and that they will not worsen the situation for children.

### **Interview with Child Safe certified tuk-tuk driver**

In Siem Reap, we meet a Child Safe Certified tuk-tuk driver. “I did not see how children were treated so I joined ChildSafe,” he says. One member is selected in each hotel to become Child Safe Certified. When other staff see children in danger they report to him. Sometimes the driver cooperates with tourists on the matter. He says that there are fewer cases of child abuse reported now than in 2000–03, for three main reasons:

- 1) *Street children have been pushed out of the centre of Siem Reap by the authorities.*
- 2) *More NGOs are currently working with children than before.*
- 3) *Law enforcement is more effective.*

The driver has been part of Child Safe now for 10 years. He is “happy to improve society.” He has completed one initial training course and then once or twice a week a coordinator comes and follows up.

He mentions one successful case that he was involved with. In 2005, a mother was beating her girl with a stick and injured her badly. He called the Child Safe hotline and the authorities came and took the girl to a centre, to the mother’s strong disapproval. She was allowed to visit her daughter while at the same time being able to participate in vocational training.

### **Tara Angkor Hotel – a Child Safe hotel in Siem Reap**

Tara Angkor hotel is Child Safe Certified and is recommended by several Swedish travel agents, including Phoenix Travels. The hotel provides information to the guests in the form of brochures from Child Safe that are placed in the rooms. When Fair Trade Center talked to hotel representatives in Siem Reap, they were about to hold a new Child Safe training course. According to their Human Resource Manager, they have never found anything that was suspicious at their hotel. Hotel staff have clear instructions to retain the identification cards of guests who look suspicious, for example a western man with a Cambodian child. After investigation, if it is found that the pair were unrelated or had no relation other than a sexual one, an arrest is made.

## **Uthando, South Africa – Township Tours with a difference**

Uthando (Zulu for ‘love’) was established with the objective of raising funds for a range of development projects across South Africa, but predominately in and around Cape Town’s townships. It is a unique and innovative philanthropic idea, whereby the needs of the South African people came first, and a tourism product was developed subsequently. It supports a wide array of projects, such as: urban agriculture; animal welfare; youth development through the medium of art, dance, choir singing, classical music, drumming or sport; special needs education; assistance to refugees; the environment; economic empowerment through skills development; arts and crafts; township theatre; prisoner rehabilitation; and care and protection for children, women and the elderly. Founder, James Fernie, started out asking tour operators to raise a set contribution from their clients with the message that they would be supporting those less fortunate in South Africa. He also took journalists and other interested people on personal tours to see the projects, and this is how the Uthando Tours were born.

On an Uthando Tour, small groups of visitors (never more than 10 people) visit a number of projects (depending on the interests of the group and the availability of the projects) but also learn more about Cape Town’s townships, their history and their current situation. Visitors interact with the people that work on the different projects, and through this get an opportunity to meet the real people of the townships. However, there are no visits to see the inside of a shack or other components that in many people’s eyes are voyeuristic and turn poverty into a tourist attraction. Visitors are encouraged to bring gifts selected from a wish-list created by the projects. These gifts will be given to the director of the particular project and not directly to the children in order to discourage begging and the creation of an expectation among the children that white people always give gifts.

Uthando engages only with initiatives that have a proven track record showing that they are contributing to their communities in a transparent and sustainable manner, and the projects are required to report back to Uthando on their activities. Furthermore, the money made by the tour company is ploughed back into these projects in one form or another, be it directly or by investing in marketing schemes and other endeavours. Many of the projects that Uthando works with are aimed at children. However most projects are after-school activities, which means that tourists can only visit on weekends and school holidays. Children are never kept out of school to participate in their projects; in fact school attendance is a prerequisite for gaining access to the activities. Below is an outline of two projects supported by Uthando that work with children.

[www.uthandosa.org](http://www.uthandosa.org)



### **Happy Feet Youth Project – South Africa**

Happy Feet Youth Project was founded in 2007 by Siviwe Mbinda in an effort to provide a safe after-school environment for the children of his community. Through Siviwe's work as a tourist guide in Langa, he saw an opportunity to further develop the mentor relationship he had with a small group of children. He paired responsible tourism and gumboots dance (a heritage from the mine workers, who sang and danced accompanied by handclapping and slapping their boots to make a rhythm) together as a catalyst to enable psychosocial and concrete benefits for the children. The participants are required to balance their school work, participation in the Happy Feet activities and broader conduct within the community. The program includes approximately 70 boys and girls aged 3–20. Through dedication and hard work Happy Feet has performed at conferences, traditional ceremonies, hotels, universities, dance competitions, museums, and in parliament. The funding Happy Feet receives goes towards uniforms, traditional instruments, a feeding scheme, school fees and material support, and Happy Feet outings and functions.

<http://happyfeetyouthproject.org/>

### **The Grootbos Foundation-South Africa**

Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is a five-star lodge located approximately two hours east of Cape Town, close to the small town of Hermanus. The lodge sits in a 2,500-hectare private nature reserve of indigenous fynbos (meaning “fine bush”, the smallest and richest of the six floral kingdoms worldwide).

Grootbos is actively engaging with the local communities in the area around the nature reserve, both through employment at the lodge and through a variety of social programmes run by the Grootbos Foundation. Guests can support the foundation in a variety of ways, ranging from a passive donation to participation in tours guided by local youth or even getting down and dirty to plant trees.

The Youth Development Programmes use sport as a vehicle to promote education, health, social integration and participation amongst the culturally diverse communities of the Gansbaai area, especially the underprivileged youth. The Grootbos Foundation played a key role in the establishment of the Gansbaai Communal Sports Centre, which includes a full-size artificial football pitch, two additional grass pitches and several other sporting facilities including a multi-purpose clubhouse. The centre is intentionally situated in the middle of the racially diverse communities of Gansbaai (comprising black, coloured and white communities), serving as the perfect catalyst for social integration in a traditionally segregated area. A variety of sports including football, rugby, hockey, netball and athletics are offered to encourage a wide spectrum of participation. In order to gain access to the facilities, young people must also participate in life-skills and other social education programmes such as HIV/AIDS awareness, computer literacy and entrepreneurial development. Further, children that bring recyclables (cans, glass and paper) receive points that can be saved up and used to “buy” sports kits such as shirts and shoes. This not only contributes to children's environmental awareness, but also to keeping the townships clean. Across the different sports and educational programmes, the project reaches about 600 children and adults from different racial groups every week.

**Below is the story of Akhona Mbizeni, and how the Youth Development Programmes have made an impact in his life.**

Akhona Mbizeni was born in 1990 in King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape. In 2003 he moved to Gansbaai to live with his mother and two brothers and joined the Football Foundation programme in 2008. Upon successful completion of his Grade 12 year in 2009, Akhona went back to the Eastern Cape for his cultural initiation ceremony. When he returned in 2011, with no future plans or financial aid, he took advantage of the Breaking Barriers programme opportunity and joined the first group of students to complete the accredited Sports Coaching and Administration course.

*Completing the course and discovering his ability to excel and complete a task inspired and encouraged him to continue studying. The course opened up opportunities that would otherwise not be available for a Gansbaai resident.*

*Akhona: "Since joining the Football Foundation in 2008, I have felt part of a family who encourages growth on and off the field. I believe that had it not been for the Football Foundation coaches and staff motivation and creative opportunities made available, I would've just become another statistic by working at a fish factory in a fishing town or worse, stuck at home with no drive or enthusiasm to strive for a better future."*

*Akhona has now completed his one-year course at the Green Futures Horticulture and Life Skills College and is taking what he has learnt back to the youth of his community.*

**[www.grootbos.com](http://www.grootbos.com)**

**Nätverket SCHYST RESANDE har tidigare gett ut rapporterna:**

*En exkluderande resa.*

En granskning av turismens effekter i Thailand och Brasilien (2008, SwedWatch och Fair Trade Center)

*Happy Hour i paradiset.*

Om alkohol och turism i Thailand, Kambodja och övriga världen. (2010, Sara Heine)

*Utsugning av vissa, guldkant för andra?*

En studie av all-inclusive turism och den svenska turistbranschen. (2011, Mats Wingborg)

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