



I was searching the internet trying to find a Rotary International Project where I could contribute. I could not find a dental project managed by Rotary, but there were plenty of examples of where Rotary had donated money to provide overseas aid. The Cambodia World Family had received a large grant from a Colorado Rotary Club to help establish a dental clinic to treat orphans around Phnom Penh. The clinic is managed by an Australian Dentist who coordinates a

constant supply of dental volunteers, who stay for a few weeks at a time, and provide care for an endless stream of orphans.



The diet has a high sugar content and chewing sugar cane and sweetened drinks are a favourite so many of the small children have a lot of decay.



8.8% of children aged 0-17 years are orphans (one or both parents dead), 6.1% of children aged 0-17 years have a chronically ill parent and 14.4% of children aged 0-17 years are orphaned and/or have a chronically ill parent

It is estimated that 335,000 Cambodians below the age of 15 have lost one or both parents, mostly to HIV/Aids. In 2007 it was estimated that 20,000 women aged over 17 had the disease, as did 4,400 children.



Orphanages are run mostly by voluntary organisations and have between 50 and 100 children. They vary from converted houses in the city to wooden buildings in the country. Most have a school attached to teach them up to the early teens and all the children appear very happy and welcome visitors.



The mother of the Australian dentist who ran the clinic held knitting groups for her friends in Australia to make these dolls for the children. They were very light weight and easy to transport and were really appreciated by the children - even better than my balloons.