

Human's cottage become chicken's coop

The patient is a 22-year-old man and lives in Svay Rieng province. He attended school through grade 7, but then stopped and went to work at a factory. After working there for a year, his illness began when he was 17 years old. He did not want to see anyone or communicate with others. He stayed alone and did not sleep at night. He spoke to himself and his speech was disorganized.



His mother brought him to traditional healers for four months, but their treatments did not help. So, his mother brought him to a referral hospital for mental health services. He received medical treatment there for 18 months, but his condition still did not improve. He frequently ran away, so his mother decided to chain him to a pillar five years ago because she worried that he would harm himself or others, as well as damage other people's property. His mother believed that he was sick because he had eaten dog meat when he worked at the factory. His sister also had a similar illness.

After the Operation Unchain project was contacted, a clinical team from TPO Cambodia—a psychiatrist and a psychologist—arrived at the patient's residence in order to provide free psychiatric and psychological treatment for both him and his sister. After walking into the patient's home, the clinical team saw him wearing shorts without a shirt and sitting on old bed alone. He did not speak, his affect was depressed, he had no interest in others, he was dirty and had poor hygiene, and his leg was chained to a pillar in the room.

The clinical team developed a treatment plan, which included medication and working with his family to provide better support and care for the patient. The team also worked with the villagers living close by to educate them on how to be more supportive and reduce any discrimination. Additionally, the team worked with village and commune authorities.

After receiving care from the Operation Unchained clinical team for over two months, the patient's symptoms began to improve. He was able to communicate better, he stopped talking to himself and his family decided to free him from the chain. With the improved support from people living around him, he takes his medication according to his doctor's prescription and his psychological functioning normalized in 12 months. He was able to return to work at the factory, which increased income for himself and his family. The small cottage where he was once chained was converted into a chicken coop and continues to provide more income for the family.



The man, after got treatment from TPO able to take care himself and to work to earn income for his family

The man, before got treatment from TPO was chained in a cottage separated from his family.