



INVESTIGATING TRAVELING CHILD SEX OFFENDERS



APLE

**“An Analysis of the Trends and Challenges
in the Field of Child Sexual Abuse and
Exploitation in Cambodia”**

February 2014

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1.0 Introduction

APPLE is a non-religious and apolitical non-governmental organization [NGO] dedicated to combating child sexual abuse and exploitation. The NGO has been active in Cambodia since January 2003, when the PROTECT Project was launched in partnership with Global Humanitaria Spain. As of 31 December 2013, APPLE investigations had led to the arrest of 288 child sex perpetrators and accomplices and the rescue of 648 victims from sexually abusive and/or exploitive situations. In addition, 637 victims had received social support and 562 victims had received legal support. Finally, APPLE had trained and/or provided awareness to 9,279 participants in a variety of topics related to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

APPLE's vision is *'freedom from sexual abuse and exploitation for all children'* and its mission is *'to reduce all forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation through prevention, protection and promotion of prosecution'*. APPLE is mainly focused on street-based exploitation. As a result of that focus, the subjects under investigation are primarily alleged traveling sex offenders from the West (i.e. North America and Europe).

For eleven years, APPLE has worked to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation. During this period, APPLE's staff members have collected valuable information about child sexual abuse and exploitation cases in Cambodia. All APPLE investigations are documented in detailed case files. Cases that have led to an arrest have been combined with staff consultations and form the basis of the first part of this report. The objective of this first part is to provide the reader with substantial knowledge about traveling child sex offenders, victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and the legal process in Cambodia. The second part of this report is based on 25 semi-structured interviews about grooming techniques with victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation. The objective of this second part is to provide more insight into grooming techniques used by traveling child sex offenders in Cambodia. The third part of this report describes international collaboration between APPLE or the Cambodian National Police and foreign or international police agencies. Case stories are used to provide more insight into existing international collaboration.

Throughout this report, the term child sex offender is used to describe all perpetrators and accomplices who have been arrested as a result of APPLE investigations. The use of the term does not imply that someone has been convicted for a sexual crime against a child.

2.0 APLE Cambodia

The majority of child sex offenders in Cambodia are locals. That being said, some foreigners do travel to Cambodia to sexually abuse and/or exploit children (i.e. traveling sex offenders). For multiple reasons (e.g. poverty, weak legal system, cultural values, etc.), they regard Cambodia as an appealing country to commit sexual crimes against children. Hence, a moral and ethical responsibility exists to prevent this type of sexual exploitation, protect those who have been victimized, and promote (i.e. advocate for) prosecution of the offenders.

Sexual exploitation of children in Cambodia usually occurs within one of three categories. Those categories are establishment-based, street-based and institution-based exploitation. The three forms of exploitation are defined as follows:

“Establishment-based exploitation is facilitated through established sex-houses (e.g. brothels, karaoke bars, etc.). In Cambodia this means is favored by Cambodian and other Asian men for access to children¹.”

“Street-based exploitation is facilitated personally by the sex offender or an intermediary, who approaches children directly in a public area in order to commence a relationship with them that will lead to sexual abuse. This type of exploitation is perpetrated largely by foreign tourists and residents².”

“Institution-based exploitation occurs when an individual uses an institution that is intended to benefit the well-being of children to gain access to, groom, and/or sexually exploit children. Based on APLE’s observations, this type of exploitation is favored by foreign child sex offenders³.”

APLE is specialized in investigating street-based exploitation. However, any case of child sexual abuse or exploitation is extremely serious and has devastating consequences for the victim(s). Therefore, APLE investigates every report about the sexual victimization of a child, regardless the form of victimization.

¹ Keane, K. (2006). Street-Based Child Sexual Exploitation in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville: A Profile of Victims, Phnom Penh: Action Pour Les Enfants.

² Ibid.

³ APLE developed this definition in order to describe a new type of child sexual exploitation that it has seen growing over the recent years.

3.0 Offenders, Victims and the Legal Process

3.1 Introduction

In the period 2003-2013, APLE investigations resulted in 288 arrests. Detailed information has been collected about the offenders, victims, and the legal process in each case. All data has been analysed and APLE staff members were consulted to provide their expertise about the topics in question. This quantitative and qualitative data from APLE's database and the consultations form the basis of this research. The objective is to provide substantial knowledge about traveling child sex offenders, victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and the legal process in Cambodia.

3.2. Methodology

3.2.1 Sample

Data was collected from two separate sources. The first source is APLE's database. This database includes all 288 child sex offenders (210 perpetrators and 78 accomplices) that were investigated by APLE and arrested as a result of that investigation in the period January 2003 to December 2013. The database contains offenders from 26 different nationalities (170 foreign offenders, 118 Cambodian offenders) and male offenders are disproportionately represented (male = 234 female = 54). As of 1 January 2014, 25 court cases against offenders were still pending, 3 offenders died during trial, and, for the remaining 260 offenders, the legal process had finished (i.e. conviction or release).

Consultations with experienced APLE staff members are used as a second source of data. The staff members were asked for general information about the topics under analysis and explanations for some of the findings. In addition, they were asked to outline the relevant challenges and give recommendations. In total, six staff members were consulted: three managers (Investigations Manager, Social Work Manager, and Legal Manager), one Investigator Coordinator, one Community and Training Coordinator, and one Deputy Director. These staff members have central positions in the organization and together they represent all departments within APLE.

Due to APLE's focus on street-based exploitation, the data is skewed towards traveling sex offenders and this provides an excellent opportunity to research this group in depth. The fact that 118 of the 288 offenders are Cambodian nationals does not undermine this research. On the contrary, it provides an opportunity to compare the foreign offenders (i.e. traveling sex offenders) with Cambodian offenders.

3.2.2 Data Collection

Quantitative data about child sex offenders, victims, and the legal process was collected from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2013. Every time an APLE investigation resulted in an arrest, this was documented (N = 288). Consultations with staff members were conducted inside APLE's head office from 1 January 2014 to 31 January 2014. All consultations had an informal nature and were done during work hours. Consultations were done only once. To

increase the validity, only information that was mentioned by at least two staff members is included in this report.

3.2.3 Measures

For the purposes of this paper, a child sex offender is defined as 'an adult who has been arrested on suspicion of committing a sexual crime against one or more children'. Child sex offenders can be divided into perpetrators and accomplices:

- Perpetrator: a child sex offender who allegedly abused one or more children directly (offences include indecent act against a minor under fifteen, sexual intercourse with a minor under fifteen, purchase of child prostitution, etc.).
- Accomplice: a child sex offender who allegedly is indirectly responsible for the abuse of one or more children (offences include the act of selling, buying or exchanging a person with purpose, soliciting child prostitution, etc.).

A traveling sex offender is defined as 'a perpetrator who abused one or more children in a country other than his or her own'.

3.2.4 Statistical Analysis

Most analyses are of a descriptive nature. Differences between groups are analyzed using t-tests. Correlations analyses are used to find trends over time. Most of the time, foreigners and Cambodians are analyzed separately. In addition, accomplices have been left out of most analyses due to the fact that they differ from perpetrators in their motive (i.e. money).

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Awareness

A long held belief in Cambodian culture is that when a female loses her virginity, she has lost her value. At that point, no 'respectable' man will marry the female anymore. There is thus enormous pressure on females to keep their virginity until getting married. Although beliefs are slowly changing, females who have been abused, exploited or raped will often not disclose this. Sometimes, victims feel pressured to marry their abuser in order to maintain their reputation. Male victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, on the other hand, are, as a result of beliefs about masculinity, not taken seriously. Many people in Cambodia do not even believe that males can be sexually abused. Male and female victims of sexual abuse and exploitation feel ashamed, embarrassed and often guilty for what has happened to them. In Cambodia, like in many South-East Asian countries, victims of sexual abuse, exploitation and/or rape are stigmatized by society. Often they are not treated like victims, but like offenders.

The above-mentioned factors contribute to a 'culture of silence' surrounding child sexual abuse and create a climate where child abuse and exploitation can exist and grow. For traveling sex offenders, this culture of silence is one of the factors that make Cambodia an appealing country. Recently, traveling sex offenders have moved from the cities to the more remote areas. Awareness about sexual abuse and exploitation is low in these areas. In

addition, most NGOs do not reach these areas and offenders therefore do not have to fear investigations.

3.3.2 Victims and Offenders

Nationality of the Offender

In total, APLE's database contains child sex offenders from 26 different nationalities (See: Table 1). More than forty percent of the offenders are Cambodians (41.0%). Other nationalities that are disproportionately represented in the database are Americans (12.5%), Vietnamese (9.0%), French (8.7%), and British (6.3%). When perpetrators and accomplices are divided into different groups, Americans (17.1%), French (11.9%), and British (8.6%) account for a significantly higher proportion of perpetrators compared to accomplices ($p < 0.01$). The data corresponds with APLE's experience that offenders from the West are directly involved in the sexual abuse of children, but (almost) never involved in sexual crimes for money. Vietnamese, on the other hand, are almost always involved in moneymaking offences. Cambodians can be placed in between the Vietnamese and the Westerners. They are both involved in moneymaking offences and in offences where they sexually abuse one or more children.

Gender of the Offender

Males (81.3%) are disproportionately represented ($p < 0.01$) as compared to female offenders (See: Graph 1). If the analysis is limited to perpetrators, males account for 100 percent of the offenders.

Table 1: The number of child sex offenders divided by nationality

Nationality	P & A*	%	P*	%	A*	%
American	36	12.5	36	17.1	0	0.0
Australian	8	2.8	8	3.8	0	0.0
Austrian	3	1.0	3	1.4	0	0.0
Belgian	2	0.7	2	1.0	0	0.0
British	18	6.3	18	8.6	0	0.0
Cambodian	118	41.0	65	31.0	53	67.9
Canadian	4	1.4	4	1.9	0	0.0
Chinese	2	0.7	1	0.5	1	1.3
Danish	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Dutch	8	2.8	8	3.8	0	0.0
French	25	8.7	25	11.9	0	0.0
German	11	3.8	11	5.2	0	0.0
Greece	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Israeli	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Italian	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Japanese	4	1.4	4	1.9	0	0.0
Korean	2	0.7	1	0.5	1	1.3

New Zealander	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Norwegian	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Pilipino	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Russian	2	0.7	2	1.0	0	0.0
Spanish	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Swedish	3	1.0	3	1.4	0	0.0
Swiss	7	2.4	7	3.3	0	0.0
Thai	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Vietnamese	26	9.0	3	1.4	23	29.5
Total	288	100.0**	210	100.0**	78	100.0**

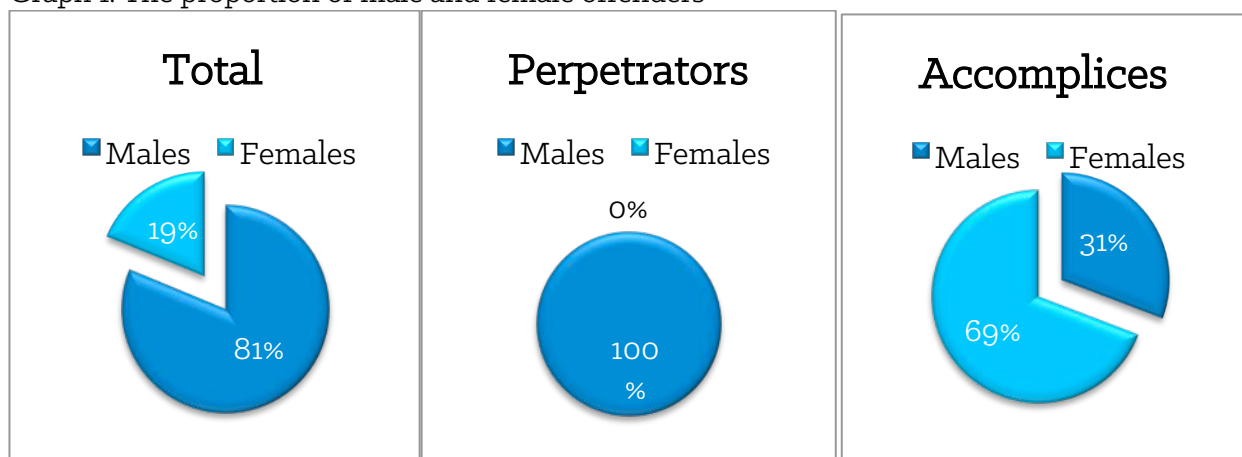
* P = perpetrator, A = accomplice

** Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

Although estimates differ widely, the ratio of female-to-male child sexual offenders (perpetrators) is approximately one to ten⁴. One explanation that APLE investigations have never led to the arrest of a female perpetrator is the social tendency to dismiss the negative impact of a sexual relationship between a young boy and adult women⁵. Thus, people who would report a sexual relationship between a male adult and a female or male child may not report such a relationship between a female adult and a male child.

If the analysis is limited to accomplices only, the proportion of females (69.2%) is significantly higher than the proportion of males (30.8%, $p. < 0.01$). This indicates that females play a significant role in organizing and facilitating human trafficking and child prostitution. In APLE's experience, females have a particular important role in the recruiting and transporting stages because females contact children and gain trust easier than males.

Graph 1: The proportion of male and female offenders



Gender of the Victim

⁴ Cohen, J. L., & Galynker, I. (2009). "Psychopathology and Personality Traits of Pedophiles". *Psychiatric Times*.

⁵ Ibid

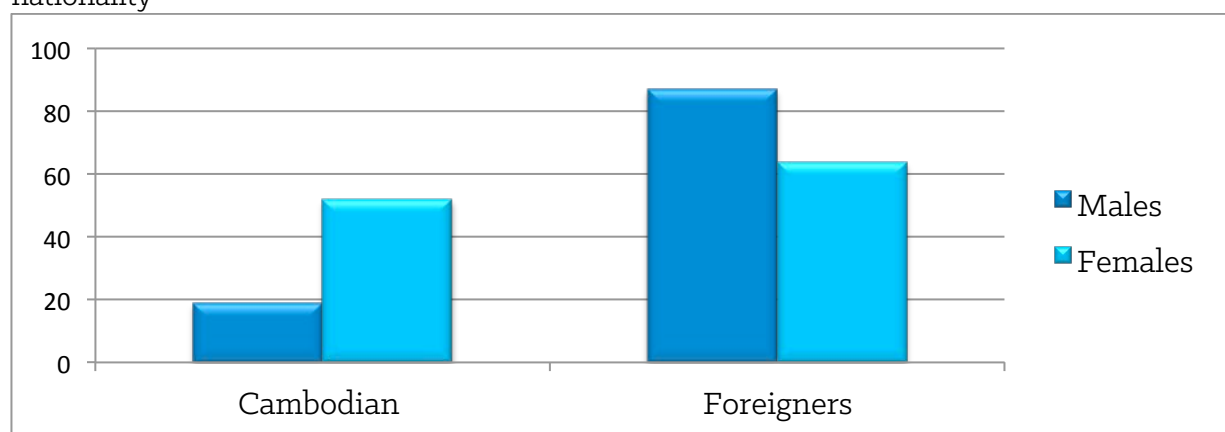
The 206 perpetrators (in four cases information about the victim(s) was unknown) abused 495 victims (See: Table 2). On average, each perpetrator abused 2.4 victims. The number of victims abused by one perpetrator ranged from one to twenty. Boys are significantly more represented (61.6%) in the total number of victims than girls ($p. <0.05$). Cases involving boy victims are also characterized by a higher average number of victims (3.1) compared to cases involving girl victims (1.7).

Table 2: Number of victims divided by gender

Gender of Victims	Number of Victims	Percentage of Victims
Boy	303	61.6
Girl	189	38.4
Total	492	100.0

It might surprise some that most victims in APLE cases are male. However, considering APLE’s focus on street-based exploitation, the findings are not surprising. Street-based exploitation often requires a considerable amount of time, effort and money before a sexual relationship between the offender and victim is established. The victim has to be groomed thoroughly, not only to make him or her participate ‘voluntarily’ in the sexual activity, but also to prevent him or her from disclosing the abuse. Establishment-based exploitation, on the other hand, often only requires a small amount of time, effort and money. As a result, most offenders who engage in street-based exploitation have a real preference for children (preferential sex offenders). Most of those who engage in establishment-based exploitation have no preference for children over adults (situational sex offenders). They sexually abuse children for a wide variety of other reasons (e.g. feeling of power, curiosity, boredom, etc.). It is known that the majority of situational sex offenders prefer females, while the majority of preferential sex offenders prefer males⁶. In other words, APLE deals mainly with preferential sex offenders due to its focus on street-based exploitation. As a result of that, most victims are males instead of females.

Graph 2: Number of cases with male or female victims divided by the perpetrator’s nationality



Graph 2 shows the number of cases with female and male victim(s) divided by the nationality of the perpetrator (i.e. foreigner or Cambodian). The results show that the

⁶ Lanning, K.V. (2010). Child molesters: A behavioral analysis (5th Ed.). Alexandria, VA: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

overwhelming majority of Cambodian perpetrators victimized one or more females. This is in line with the fact that Cambodian offenders engage much more in establishment-based exploitation compared to street-based exploitation. For foreign offenders (i.e. traveling sex offenders), the opposite is true. They victimize males more often than females and this is in line with the fact that foreign men in Cambodia often engage in street-based exploitation. However, foreign men are not homogenous when it comes to gender preferences. APLE's statistics show that Asian men prefer females, while Western men prefer males. If Asian men were excluded from the group of foreigners, the preference Western men have for male victims would be even clearer.

Prior Convictions

In APLE's database, 27.6 percent of the traveling sex offenders (only foreign perpetrators were included in this analysis) had a previous conviction (See: Table 3). Less than three percent did not have a previous conviction. Unfortunately, in about seventy percent of the cases, this information is not known⁷.

Table 3: Previous convictions of foreign perpetrators

Previous Conviction	# of Foreign Perpetrators	Percentage	# of Foreign Perpetrators Known	Percentage
Yes	40	27.6	40	90.9
No	4	2.8	4	9.1
Unknown	101	69.7	-	-
Total	145	100.0*	44	100.0

* Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

When all unknown cases are excluded from the analysis, the situation appears even more shocking. In that case, 90.9 percent of the traveling sex offenders had a previous conviction. Only 9.1 percent did not have a previous conviction. It is necessary to keep in mind that in a substantial amount of cases the information is unknown, but it is fair to say that the real percentage of previous convictions is likely above 50 percent.

The results show that Cambodia is still a popular and an appealing country for (convicted) traveling child sex offenders. Unfortunately, this situation seems to persist in 2013. In the arrests that year, three (25%) foreign perpetrators had previous convictions, one (8%) foreign perpetrator was wanted in his home country for sex crimes against children, and information is unknown for eight (67%) foreign perpetrators.

Offender's Occupation

From the 210 perpetrators, 61 were tourists and 149 were short- or long-term residents or businessmen in Cambodia. A worrying trend is visible in institutions that aim to benefit children. Fourteen perpetrators worked in such an institution before they were arrested. Five perpetrators worked as English teachers and nine worked in NGOs. In addition, seven (50.0%) of these arrested perpetrators had previous convictions and one (7.1%) was wanted in

⁷ Not all law enforcement agencies are willing to share information of this nature.

his home country for child sex crimes. For the remaining six (42.9%), it is unknown whether they had previous convictions or not.

In 2013, three arrested perpetrators had a job that involved working directly with children. One was a teacher and two worked within NGOs (one founded his own orphanage and the other was the director of a shelter). Two of them had previous convictions and one was wanted in his home country for child sex crimes. Institution-based exploitation still accounts for a small number of arrests compared to street-based and establishment-based exploitation. However, the number of cases is increasing and this is alarming. Also, most of these perpetrators have previous convictions, which underlines the need for preventative measures.

How do people with a previous conviction for child sexual abuse find a job in an institution that aims to benefit children? First, people applying for a job (voluntary or paid) in an NGO or school are rarely asked to provide a police clearance certificate in Cambodia. Convicted child sex offenders know this and misuse this situation. Second, Cambodia lacks control and sanction mechanisms for the government to deal with NGOs and schools that do not meet certain requirements. For example, unregistered NGOs or NGOs that do not meet the Minimum Standards for Alternative Care are often allowed to continue their practice for a long time with no oversight.

In the UK, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre [CEOP] and the Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Record Office [ACRO] have developed the International Child Protection Certificate [ICPC] in order to protect children from convicted UK child sex offenders who seek employment overseas. The ICPC is a criminal records check that would reveal any convictions or other reasons as to why someone should not work with children. Such initiatives are a step in the right direction. Hopefully, more initiatives like this will come in the future.

3.3.3 Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Cambodia is still in its infancy. Criminal investigations are of relatively low quality and do not meet international standards as a result of multiple factors. First, police officers are not paid a reasonable salary. Low-ranked police officers make approximately 130 dollars a month while more high-ranked police officers make approximately 300 dollars. This has a negative impact on the motivation and willingness of the police to investigate child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. In the last decade, police forces in the major cities (e.g. Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Reap) have made immense improvements in this regard. In the more rural areas, however, a lack of motivation and willingness to properly handle cases persists.

Besides motivation, police officers lack the knowledge, skills and equipment to conduct high-quality investigations. Not only do officers lack knowledge about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, but also about Cambodian laws and regulations that apply to child sexual abuse and exploitation. Some of APLE's investigations failed because police officers did not understand that a crime had been committed. Again, the more remote areas are doing worse in this regard.

Another factor that has major implications for the quality of police work is the law that guides police in their investigations. In the last decade, new laws have been introduced (e.g. Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, enacted in 2008). The situation has improved drastically because of that. However, some flaws continue. For example, police officers can still judge in many cases when and how to intervene. If they are not willing to intervene, they do not have to. The degree of freedom that police officers have to decide whether or not to take action has serious consequences. One consequence is that police almost never conduct any kind of pro-active investigations into alleged cases of child sexual abuse or exploitation. A child should first be victimized before police will take action.

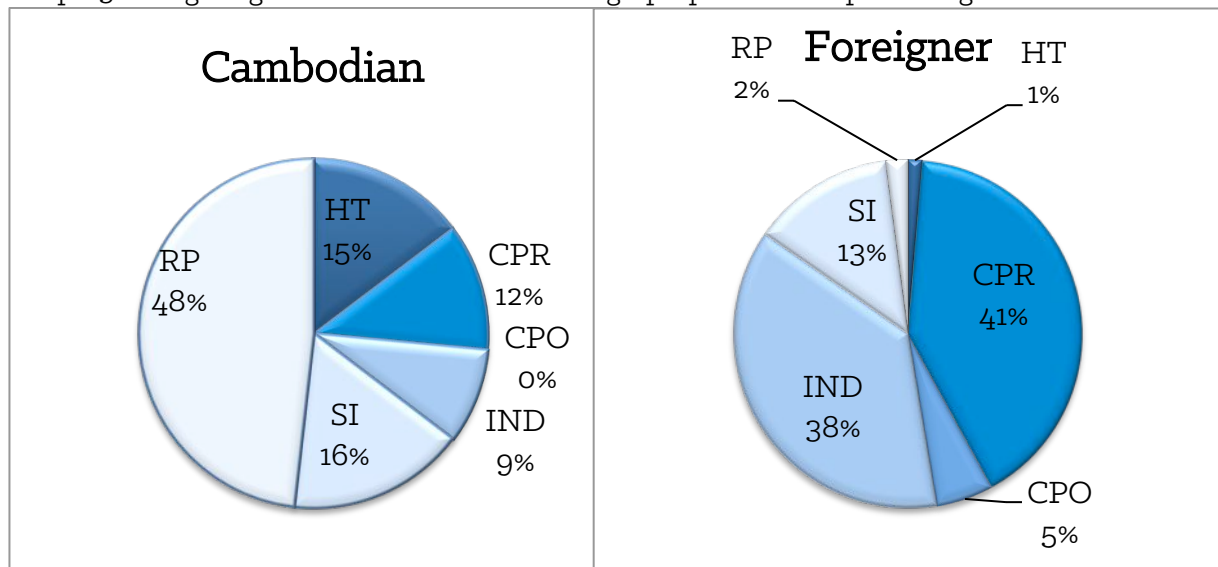
3.3.4 The Legal Process

Charges

For this analysis, offences are divided as follows:

- 1: Human trafficking [HT]; 2: Child prostitution [CPR]; 3: Child pornography [CPO]; 4: Indecency [IND]; 5: Sexual intercourse [SI] 6: Rape [RP].

Graph 3: charges against Cambodian and foreign perpetrators in percentage



In Graph 3 the charges against perpetrators in the First Court of Instance are shown. Only perpetrators that were convicted in 2008 or later were included in the analysis, because in 2008 the new Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation [LSHTSE] was implemented.

Graph 3 shows clear differences between charges against Cambodian and foreign perpetrators. For Cambodian nationals, Rape is the most common offence (48%). After that, Sexual Intercourse (16%), Human Trafficking (15%), Child Prostitution (12%), and Indecent Act (9%) follow. Foreign offenders almost have the opposite pattern of offences. They are mostly involved in Child Prostitution (41%). After that, Indecent Act (38%), Sexual Intercourse (13%), Child Pornography (5%), Rape, and Human Trafficking (1%) follow.

APLE's experience corresponds with the data in the sense that traveling sex offenders generally do not use force or violence against their victims. They groom their victims in order to make them 'voluntarily' participate in the sexual activity (i.e. Indecent Act, Sexual Intercourse, etc.). Cambodian nationals, on the other hand, often force their victims or use violence to have sex (i.e. Rape).

Verdicts

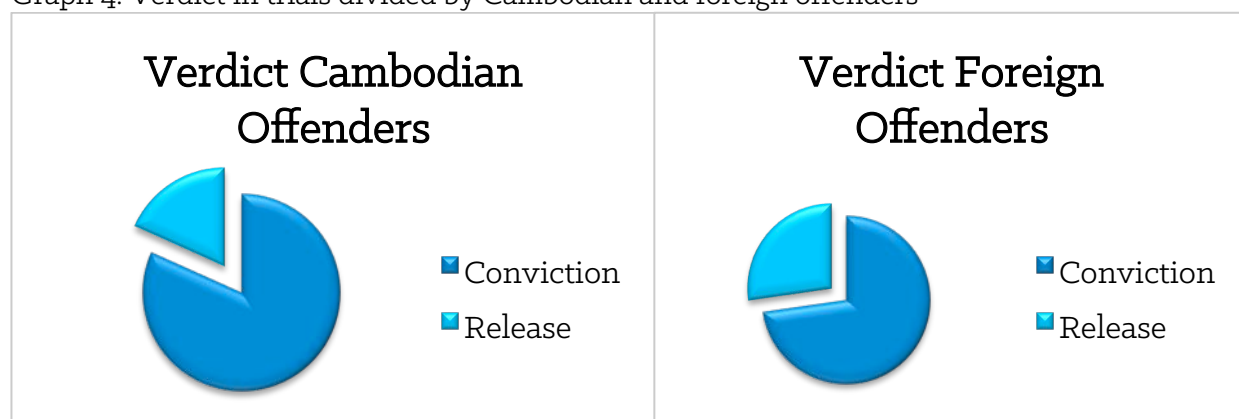
Table 4: Verdicts (conviction or release) divided by year

Year	Arrest	Conviction	Released	% conviction/release	Pending	Died	Total
2003	7	0	1	0.0/100.0	0	0	1
2004	10	6	9	40.0/60.0	0	0	15
2005	5	0	4	0.0/100.0	0	0	4
2006	23	3	3	50.0/50.0	0	1	7
2007	20	21	4	84.0/16.0	0	0	25
2008	18	14	2	87.5/12.5	0	0	16
2009	51	17	8	68.0/32.0	0	0	25
2010	37	40	11	78.4/21.6	1	1	53
2011	39	36	1	97.3/2.7	3	1	41
2012	38	28	8	77.8/22.2	3	0	39
2013	40	39	5	88.6/11.4	18	0	62
Total	288	204	56	78.5/21.5	25	3	288

Only verdicts issued by the Court of First Instance are included in the analysis. More than 90 percent of the offenders (260 out of 288) have either been released or convicted (See: Table 4). Twenty-five cases are still pending and in three cases the suspect died. Significantly more offenders are convicted (78.5%) than released ($p < 0.01$). A positive significant correlation ($r = 0.808$, $p < .01$) tells that the relative number of convictions has increased over the years. Although many factors can be attributed to this finding, it is also an indication that the legal system has improved.

Graph 4 shows the relative number of convictions and releases for Cambodian and foreign offenders. Cambodian offenders are convicted in 81.7 percent of the cases against foreign offenders in 74.2 percent of the cases. The difference is not significant ($p > 0.01$).

Graph 4: Verdict in trials divided by Cambodian and foreign offenders



Prison Time

Table 5 shows the average prison time ordered by the Court of First Instance. All sentences were rounded to whole years before calculating averages. A significant negative correlation was found between the year and the average prison time ($r = -0.77, p < 0.05$). In other words, the average prison term decreased from 2007 to 2013. This is a disturbing trend, but additional analyses are needed to fully establish this relationship. The average prison time (2007, 2009-2012) for Cambodians is 6.9 years. For traveling sex offenders (2007-2012) this average is 6.3. The difference is not significant.

Table 5: Average prison time for perpetrators ordered by the Court of First Instance

Year	Average prison time	Cambodians	Foreigners
2007	13.6	11.7	14.4
2008	6.5	-	6.5
2009	5.4	3.0	5.6
2010	6.5	10.5	6.0
2011	5.7	5.9	5.6
2012	4.3	6.0	2.5
2013	4.3	4.4	4.1
Total	6.6	6.9	6.3

Keep in mind that the results above show the years of imprisonment as ordered by the court. In reality, many child sex offenders are in prison much shorter than the ordered prison time. Three different options that influence the time in prison will be explained below:

1. Suspension of prison time

In Cambodia, the courts inconsistently apply minimum sentences. If a court convicts a person for ‘Sexual Intercourse with Minors Under Fifteen Years’, Art. 42 of the LSHTSE is clear about the punishment:

“A person who has sexual intercourse with another person of the age of less than fifteen years shall be punished with imprisonment for 5 to 10 years.”

Judges in Cambodia, however, can suspend a part of a person’s prison sentence. As a result, persons who are convicted for ‘Sexual Intercourse with Minors Under Fifteen Years’ are not necessarily sentenced to at least five years imprisonment. In particular, Westerners are often given a sentence under the minimum sentence for a certain crime. The described procedure (suspending a part of a sentence) is not against the law, but it is questionable whether the described procedure should be allowed for those who commit sexual crimes against children. On top of that, it is questionable what kind of influence the offenders have on the procedure.

Table 6: Number of times that prison time was (partly) suspended divided by Cambodian or foreign national

Nationality	Cases	Times suspended	Percentage
Cambodian	56	3	5.4
Foreign	109	24	22.0

Table 6 shows how often judges suspended (a part of) a sentence. We have only included perpetrators in this analysis and some of the records were missing. In 27 cases (16.4%) a prison term was either fully or partly suspended. Cambodian nationals see their sentence partly or fully suspended in 5.4 percent of the cases, while foreign nationals see this happen in 22.0 percent of their cases. This difference is significant ($p. <0.01$). This result indicates that one in five foreign offenders are able to avoid at least a part of the full prison sentence.

2. Parole

Art 512 of the Code of Criminal Procedure states:

“Any convicted person who is serving one or more imprisonment sentences may be paroled, provided that he has shown good behavior during imprisonment and appears to be able to reintegrate into society”.

According to Art 513, parole is only possible when a convicted person has served:

- Half of the sentence if the duration of the sentence is less than or equal to one year.
- Two-thirds of the sentence in other cases.

Child sex offenders who display good behavior have a possibility to serve only two-thirds of their sentence.

3. Royal Pardon

According the Constitution, the government can request the King to grant a pardon to a prisoner. Three convicted and jailed offenders in APLE cases have been pardoned after the government requested the King to do so:

- Alexander Watrin
- Rene Aubel
- Alexander Trofimov

All above-mentioned practices cut down the time of imprisonment for offenders. A court should have options to cut down sentences based on circumstances; however, APLE advocates not doing this for child sex offenders. For victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, who were brave enough to speak out about the abuse, the above-mentioned practices are discouraging. In addition, it sends out a message to child sex offenders that sentences are negotiable in their favor.

Financial Compensation

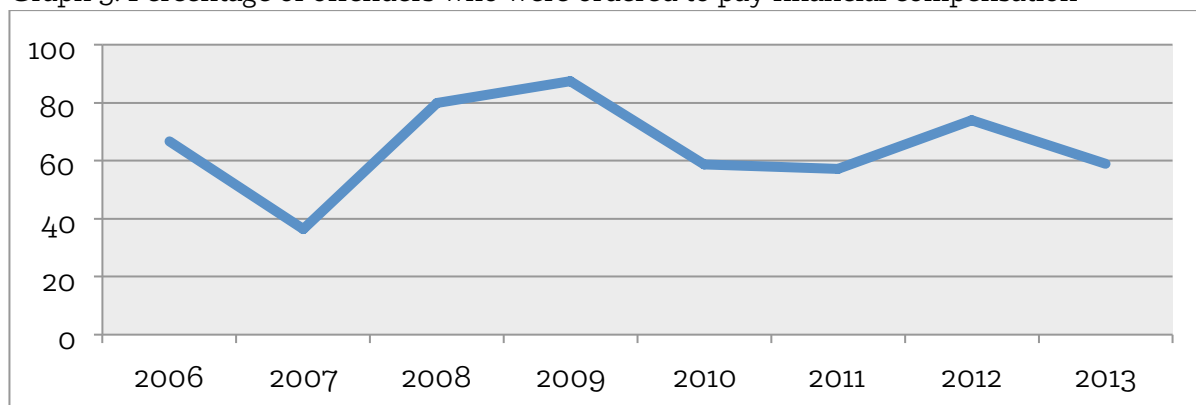
Art. 46 of the LSHTSE indicates that:

“a person who obtains enrichment without a legal cause knowing that the enrichment has been obtained from the act of selling/buying or exchanging a person or sexual exploitation shall be liable for restitution of the whole unjust enrichment along with accrued interest”.

An aggrieved person (a person being exploited) may claim for damages in addition to the restitution of such unjust enrichment.

Some have argued that financial compensation should never be granted in child sexual abuse cases in developing countries. The compensation would 'trigger' parents to sell their children in order to claim financial compensation later. APLE's experience is different. In most cases, APLE does request the judge to award financial compensation to the victim(s). In order to make sure that children are not being abused for the sake of financial compensation, APLE investigates the role of civil plaintiffs very carefully in every abuse case. When the civil plaintiffs are in any way involved in the abuse of their children, financial compensation is not requested. In addition, one needs compensation management in order to make sure that financial compensation serves its goal. Money should directly benefit the well-being of the victim and not be spent otherwise. This requires a party to manage the compensation. If both these conditions are fulfilled (civil plaintiffs not involved in abuse and compensation management), there is no reason not to grant financial compensation to a child for the sole reason that the child is born in a developing country.

Graph 5: Percentage of offenders who were ordered to pay financial compensation



Graph 5 shows the percentage of offenders that were ordered to pay compensation to their victim(s). In about 60 percent of the cases, financial compensation was ordered. No significant correlation between the year and the percentage of offenders ordered to pay was found. One problem with compensation orders is not visible in the graph. If a judge orders an offender to pay compensation to his or her victim(s), this does not guarantee that the offender will indeed pay. In 2013, only three offenders paid compensation to their victim(s). That year, 23 offenders were ordered to pay compensation. One of the underlying problems is that if financial compensation is awarded to the victim(s), the offender is not obligated to pay the money until he or she finishes the jail term. As a result, victims have to wait for years before they receive the compensation, if they receive any.

There can be multiple reasons for not paying compensation. Offenders may be unwilling or too poor to pay. If an offender does not pay the compensation after he or she has been released from prison, the civil plaintiff can complain to the prosecutor. If there is evidence that the offender has the money, but is unwilling to pay, the prosecutor can order the offender to pay. If he does not pay, the prosecutor can order him/her to stay in jail until the compensation is paid. However, for victims who are abused by poor offenders who cannot pay the compensation, the only thing to do is to wait.

Alexander Watrin, a German national, was convicted for abusing four underage boys. Watrin was ordered to pay his victims 2500 US dollars in total. Watrin is now paying each of his victims in monthly payments of 25 US dollars per month (in total he pays 100 dollar per month). This means that it will take 25 months before he has paid the complete compensation to his victims. For the victims, the ongoing payments of the offender are conflicting with the healing process.

Court Handling in Country of Origin

Art. 567 of the Code of Criminal Procedure states:

“The extradition of a foreign resident who has been arrested in the territory of the Kingdom shall be governed by the provision of international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Cambodia. If there is no such treaty or convention the provisions of this Chapter shall apply, unless otherwise provided in a separate law.”

Cambodia only has extradition treaties with four countries, namely Thailand, Lao, China and South Korea. For all other countries, the Code of Criminal Procedure applies. Art. 579 of the Code of Criminal Procedure states that:

“All extradition requests shall be submitted to Royal Government of Cambodia through the diplomatic channel. Each request shall contain the supporting documents. The supporting documents shall include:

- *Documents adequate for identifying the wanted person;*
- *A report of the acts for which the wanted person is prosecuted;*
- *The legal provisions applicable to such offense and the possible sentence; and*
- *A copy of the sentence decision, if any.*

All documents shall be signed, officially sealed and enveloped. If they are not in the Khmer, French or English language, the request shall be accompanied by a certified translation of the documents into one of the three languages.”

In other words, child sex offenders who commit crimes in Cambodia can be extradited to their home country. According to APLE’s experience, it is not really important where an offender is prosecuted. Instead, it is important that the prosecution is in no way manipulated by corruption. For Western offenders, prosecuting them in their home country can be beneficial due to a stronger judicial system. In addition, most Western countries have good options to monitor a child sex offender after his or her release.

Table 7: Number of extraditions and sentences in country of origin

Country	Sentenced in Country of Origin	Pending Trial in Country of Origin	Extradited to Country of Origin
America	7	3	6
Britain	0	2	0
Canada	1	0	0
Germany	1	0	1

Russia	0	1	1
Total	9	6	8

Table 7 shows the number of offenders that were extradited or had/have to stand trial in their country of origin for a crime committed in Cambodia. Leading in this is America. Seven American nationals were sentenced in America and three cases are still pending. In addition, six offenders were extradited to America.

The data indicates that America is committed to bringing American traveling child sex offenders to justice. Besides America, only Britain, Canada, Germany, and Russia are mentioned in Table 5. Due to the limited nature of the data, it is hard to draw conclusions about other countries.

Deportation Orders

Art. 53 of the Criminal Code states as an additional penalty:

“Prohibition of a convicted alien from entering and remaining in the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia”

There are no further requirements or guidelines for the application of this extra penalty.

Art. 36 of the Immigration Law states:

“The Ministry of Interior has full right to deport any alien who has dangerous behavior and activities that harm the social security of Cambodia.”

Based on the above articles, a judge or the Ministry of Interior can order to deport a foreign child sex offender. It is, however, still not a mandatory procedure to deport convicted foreign child sex offenders after they have served their sentence in Cambodia. Offenders are therefore able to return to their victims after they have finished their prison term. In the worst case, they will re-offend and victimize the same or other children.

If deportation is made mandatory, convicted child sex offenders will not be able to commit another sexual crime against a child in Cambodia. However, this is not the only argument in favor of mandatory deportation orders. Most offenders’ countries of origin (i.e. Western countries) have much better law enforcement and legal systems than Cambodia. In addition, treatment and monitoring systems are better developed and implemented. As a result of that, child sex offenders are less likely to commit crimes against children in those countries.

In 2013, 39 offenders were convicted. From those convicted offenders, 18 had a foreign nationality. In total, four offenders, only 22.2 percent, were ordered to be deported after their prison sentence. The other 77.8 percent are free to stay in Cambodia after their sentence. In the past, APLE has dealt with some foreign offenders who, after doing their time in prison, abused children again.

- Mr. Knuchel was arrested in Cambodia on suspicion of abusing multiple underage boys in 2000. He was later released due to a lack of evidence. In 2009, Knuchel was

arrested again after an investigation by APLE. Knuchel was charged with indecent act and sentenced to two years imprisonment. However, he only had to serve one year since the second year of his imprisonment got suspended. In 2013, Knuchel was arrested again after multiple underage boys testified that Knuchel abused them. Knuchel is still waiting for his trial.

- Mr. Leuthold was arrested and convicted for indecent act in 2010. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment, but 14 months were suspended. The court ordered for him to be deported after he served his sentence, but this order was never executed. In 2012, Leuthold was arrested again and charged with purchase of child prostitution. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment and the court again ordered him to be deported after finishing his sentence.

These case stories underline the importance of deportation orders. In both cases, abuse could have been prevented if a deportation had been executed. In addition, the case story of Leuthold shows that a deportation order alone is not enough. The order has to be executed; otherwise, it is meaningless.

As said before, the Ministry of Interior also has the right to order a deportation. This happened in the case of Mr. Bower, a British national, who was arrested for debauchery in 2007. His debauchery charge was later dropped. In 2011, Bower was arrested again and sentenced to two years imprisonment for indecent act. Shortly after his release, the Ministry of Interior ordered his arrest for the purposes of deporting him back to the UK. By doing this, the Ministry of Interior took its responsibility and prevented Bower from doing any more harm to children in Cambodia.

In those cases where a deportation is ordered, the deportation procedure is not without flaws. In most cases, Cambodia will make sure that an offender leaves the country. Where he or she goes is not of importance. The offenders can thus go to other South-East Asian countries that are known for child sex tourism. This is not a solution as it is very likely that the offender will re-offend in another country. Preferably, child sex offenders should be deported to their country of origin. If their passports are revoked, this is possible. However, cooperation from the government in the offender's country of origin is needed to make the deportation process function without flaws. After offenders arrive in their countries of origin, their passports should be revoked. They should be monitored and receive treatment. It should be paramount to prevent the offender from harming another child ever again.

In order to prevent deported individuals from entering Cambodia again, their passports are stamped. Thus, if someone shows up at the border with a stamp like that, he or she will not be allowed into the country. However, APLE has experienced in the past that offenders who were not allowed back into Cambodia, managed to get back into Cambodia. This is because the system can be easily tricked. The only thing an offender needs to do is renew his or her passport. The renewed passport will not have the stamp and thus the offender is allowed back in.

Child Victims

The Cambodian government does not put enough efforts in the protection of child sexual abuse and exploitation victims. The same is true for witnesses because both groups are

treated the same. Almost no legislation regarding the protection of child victims exists in the LSHTSE. One aspect that is covered is the privacy of victims. Art. 49 prevents media from publishing, broadcasting or disseminating any information that could reveal the identity of a victim person to the public. However, the identity of the victim is easy to obtain because legal proceedings are not confidential.

While authorities do not provide victims with the necessary protection and services, they do encourage victims to participate in the legal proceedings. For numerous reasons, victims mostly refuse. First, most victims of street-based exploitation are groomed by their offender. In some cases the victim(s) rely on the financial support of the offender. Therefore they do not want to file a complaint or may withdraw their complaint or even reverse their testimony. Second, child victims often lack trust in the justice system. They feel that it is impossible to obtain justice and therefore they do not file a complaint in the first place. For those who do believe in the justice system, other reasons may prevent them from filing a complaint. One of those reasons is the long legal procedure, which can take more than five years. Not only do victims not file a complaint because of the lengthy procedures, they are also often not willing to stay involved over the years. The lack of cooperation from victims poses a real challenge and has very negative consequences for the legal proceedings.

Those victims who agree to participate in the legal process are not always provided with a child-friendly process. Sometimes victims have to face their offender in court and provide a testimony in the presence of the offender. Without assistance from NGOs, many victims do not receive legal counseling during the legal process. Finally, it is a common practice in Cambodia to negotiate an extra-judicial, unofficial settlement between a victim and an offender. In those cases, the victim has to drop all the charges against the offender and the offender pays the victim money to settle. Due to this practice, offenders stay unpunished and victims may receive less financial compensation. Out of court settlements should never be encouraged or practiced in child abuse or exploitation cases.

4.0 Grooming Techniques

4.1 Introduction

A well-known technique used by child sex offenders is grooming. Grooming, in this publication, is defined as deliberately undertaken actions that aim to prepare and deceive a child, significant adults (e.g. family or caretakers), the community, organizations and/or institutions for the abuse of the child. Specific goals are to gain access to the child, lower the child's inhibitions towards sex, consequently gain the child's compliance, and prevent the child from disclosing the abuse. Common grooming techniques for travelling child sex offenders are to provide their victim(s), the victim's family or the victim's community with monetary support, food and shelter, gifts, holidays and education. The giving or withholding of rewards, in the form of money, gifts or attention, can be used in a later stage to misuse the relationship of power. Some offenders develop a 'godfather' relationship with victims and their families. They present themselves as a caring 'uncle' who is only concerned with the best interests of the child, his or her family and the community⁸.

A total of 25 interviews were conducted with child sexual abuse and exploitation victims that received support and assistance from APLE. The respondents were asked about the grooming techniques used by the offender. The objective of this second part is to provide more insight into grooming techniques used by traveling sex offenders in Cambodia.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 Data Collection

Data was collected between February and May 2013. Selection criteria were set in order to prevent further traumatization:

- Victimization should be at least one year ago.
- Respondent should be at least 12 years of age at the time of the interview.
- Offender should be convicted (cases in which the offender was convicted by the Court of First Instance, but the Appeal Court was still ongoing were allowed).

Respondents had to sign a consent form before the interview started. The consent form explained that the interview could be stopped at any point by the respondent. The respondent could refuse to answer any question he or she did not want to answer. Information from the respondent would be used confidentially and his or her name would never be used in any report.

The interview took place at a location of the respondent's preference. Two interviewers attended each interview. Both interviewers spoke English and no Khmer. A translator therefore would translate the questions into Khmer and translate the answers into English. The translator was well informed about the objectives of the interview and encouraged to

⁸ Keane, K. (2006). Street-Based Child Sexual Exploitation in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville: A Profile of Victims, Phnom Penh: Action Pour Les Enfants.

ask the questions in a child-friendly manner. The use of translation during the interviews results in information loss and might even have caused some misunderstandings.

When asked about grooming techniques, children were invited to tell as much as possible about their contact with the offender (See: Appendix 1 for the complete questionnaire). Whenever a child showed, however, a sense of discomfort, the question would be skipped. If needed, all the remaining questions were skipped. This depended completely on how the child’s well-being was evaluated.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Demographics

On average the respondents were 17.5 years of age at the time they were interviewed. Ten were female (40%) and 15 were male (60%). Their offenders were all male (100%). At the time of the interview, 44 percent of the respondents went to school or were enrolled in some kind of training program. About 65 percent of the respondents had a job at the time of the interview. Jobs differed from garbage collector to motor repairer. Ten percent of the respondents did not have a job and did not attend school either.

4.3.2 Grooming Techniques

Most respondents met their offender at a public place (e.g. riverside, market, temple, supermarket, etc.). Some respondents met their offender close to or at their school or workplace. The offender was a teacher, for example. Finally, a few respondents met the offender in the offender’s room in a guesthouse or his (offender’s) own house. From all the respondents, 55 percent went to school at the time they met their offender.

Table 7 shows the percentage of offenders who used a certain grooming technique. Most respondents said they received money (71.4%) from their offender. Other often employed tricks are to take the victim out for dinner (52.3%), give the victim presents (42.9%) or clothing (23.8%). More than 57 percent of the respondents went to the home of the offender and about two-third of those also slept at the place of the offender.

Table 7: Grooming techniques used by the offenders (N = 21)

Grooming Technique	Percentage “Yes”	Percentage “No”
Giving money	71.4	28.6
Go to his home	57.1	42.9
Taking out for dinner	52.3	47.7
Giving presents	42.9	57.1
Sleep at his place	38.1	61.9
Giving clothing	23.8	86.2
Taking on trips	23.8	86.2
Hugs	19.0	81.0
Photo taking	14.3	85.7
Drugs	14.3	85.7
Kisses	4.8	95.2

Made me change clothing	4.8	95.2
Showed dirty pictures	4.8	95.2

Some respondents said:

“He did not say anything, but brought me around sightseeing, gave me food and clothing.”

“He brought me to his shop, gave me money, bought me a phone, took me to the waterpark and wanted me to work in his shop as a waitress.”

Nineteen percent of the respondents talked about the perpetrator hugging with them. Almost 15 percent (14.3%) of the respondents said that the offender made photos of them. The same percentage (14.3%) of respondents said that they received drugs from the offender. Some respondents explain how the offender introduced the abuse:

“When I went swimming he followed me. The touching started after several years.”

“On the way back home, I cut wood for my family and the foreigner helped me. The next day he helped again and afterwards he showed us a sex movie.”

“He asked me to play with his penis and he gave me one dollar. It happened along the road he just persuaded me to do that. It only happened once.”

Only 14.2 percent of the respondents talked about having contact with the perpetrator through a mobile phone. E-mail and Facebook were not used as a way of communication in any of the cases.

From the 17 respondents who answered this question, 47.1 percent said that his or her parents knew the offender. In 29.4 percent of the cases, the parents knew and liked the offender. The respondents say the following about this:

“My parents knew him and thought he was a nice man because he bought stuff for other people.”

“My mother knew him and she liked him because he was like an adoptive father.”

4.3.3 Keeping Silence

More than fifty percent of the respondents spoke about tricks employed by the perpetrator to keep them silent after the abuse (52.6%). Most were kept silent by giving them money or promising money (21.1%). Others used a wide variety of techniques:

“He said he would not take me to his house anymore.”

“He told me, don’t tell anybody. Also he gave me 5000 Riel.”

“He told me that if I would tell, he would deny it and nobody would believe me.”

4.3.4 End of Abuse

Almost seventy percent (68.2%) of the respondents said that the abuse stopped when the offender was arrested. In only one case (4.8%), the respondent said that the abuse stopped because the respondent did not go to the offender anymore.

5.0 International Collaboration

The likelihood that foreign offenders engage in illegal sexual activities with children in Cambodia depends not only on local public awareness of abuse and exploitation, but also on how determined the supply countries are to bring their citizen to justice. Severe sentences have a deterrent effect and travel restrictions would prevent recidivists from traveling to parts of the world that are known as ‘pedophiles heavens’. When foreign law enforcement agencies bring their citizens to legal account for crimes committed against children in other countries (e.g. Cambodia), they send a strong signal to offenders back home. The same is true when foreign law enforcement agencies cooperate with the Cambodian National Police and/or NGOs like APLE in the arrest and prosecution of their citizen.

In the past eleven years, foreign law enforcement agencies have collaborated successfully with the Cambodian National Police and APLE in the majority of all the foreigner-perpetrated cases. Below, four case stories highlight the importance of international collaboration to attain justice in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. The four case stories are only a small part of all the cases in which successful collaboration took place.

5.1 Case Story Opitz

Mr. Opitz is a married German national who became a subject of interest for APLE in 2006 after a report by one of his neighbors. APLE started to monitor the house of the suspect and soon it became clear that young girls were brought to his house. The girls stayed in the house for three or four hours and then came out again.

APLE informed the police about the situation and as a result the police arrested the adults who brought the young girls to the house of the suspect. In addition, all the possible girl victims were invited for questioning by the Phnom Penh Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Unit [AHTJPU]. Based on their testimonies, the police requested an arrest warrant and a search warrant from the prosecutor. The next day, the AHTJPU arrested the suspect and searched his apartment.

During the search, police found an enormous amount of evidence, including multiple sex toys and sadomasochistic apparatuses, books about pornography, a laptop and eight external hard disks, a camera and tapes for the camera, medicine, and a webcam.

All digital evidence was confiscated by the AHTJPU and sent to the police station. The next step was to process the evidence and search for specific data (i.e. child pornography). The Cambodian National Police [CNP] had, however, only limited skills in searching computers for digital evidence. In order to get the specialized people to Phnom Penh, CNP asked APLE to coordinate the assistance from the Bundeskriminalamt [BKA]; the federal police in Germany. A team of people specialized in computer forensics from the BKA came to Phnom Penh to help CNP. In the police station in Phnom Penh the BKA searched all the digital evidence of the suspect, a lot of which was locked, encrypted or secured in another way; however, the BKA was able to access all the files.

The Court of First Instance and the Appeal Court convicted the suspect, but the Supreme Court decided that the Appeal Court had to try the case again. The case is still ongoing.

5.2 Case Story Boyasian

In 2009, APLE received information that an American man called Boyasian sometimes had sex with young girls. APLE started surveillance on the suspect and very soon it became clear that the suspect had a strong desire to have sex with girls. He very clearly tried to lure and groom a 12-year-old Vietnamese girl. In addition, the suspect went regularly to Svay Pak, an area notorious for child prostitution.

APLE tried to build a network in Svay Pak to obtain more information. Two informants were willing to help APLE. With the support from these informants, APLE was able to identify all involved girls and pimps. When APLE found out that some of these young Vietnamese girls were facilitated to have sex with the suspect, APLE reported the case to AHTJPU and the US Immigration and Custom Enforcement [ICE]. Based on APLE's report, the suspect was arrested in Svay Pak on 19 February 2009 in a joint operation by the AHTJPU and ICE. In the room of the suspect, additional evidence was found and collected (laptop, flash drive, DVD, etc.). The AHTJPU was, however, not able to find any child pornography of the suspect's laptop. The laptop was therefore referred to ICE for a forensic examination. ICE was able to find child pornography in it on the suspect's laptop.

The suspect was then detained at Prey Sar prison. Shortly afterward, he was deported from Cambodia. A team from the U.S.A came to Cambodia to make sure the suspect would go to the U.S.A. After arriving in the U.S.A, the suspect was arrested and had to face trial there under the name "Operation Twisted Traveler". The trial in the United States is still ongoing.

5.3 Case Story Graham

In 2006, APLE started an investigation into a man called Graham after a report that he took many pictures of boys. During the investigation, APLE's investigators witnessed the suspect put his hand in a boy's pants three to four times. The case was immediately reported to the police, who agreed to join the investigation. Later, the suspect was seen putting his hand into another boy's pants. Afterwards, the suspect gave the boy money. One of the boy victims testified at the police station that he was indeed abused by the suspect. That same day, the suspect left his hotel and went in the direction of the airport.

The police and APLE investigators followed the suspect on his way to the airport. However, the suspect left the country before the police took action.

APLE informed the United Kingdom Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center [CEOP] about the suspect's flight. Later that year, the suspect was arrested in Britain based on the testimony to the British police by the Cambodian boys. However, the suspect was released on bail and fled the country while investigations were still ongoing. Fortunately, the suspect was re-arrested in France in 2013 and was sent back to the UK for prosecution. Finally, he was sentenced to 21 months in prison in the UK for sexually molesting 2 underage boys.

5.4 Case Story Johnson

In 2013, APLE received information from the FBI about an American national called Johnson who had fled America after committing sex crimes against children. The FBI informed APLE that the suspect was allegedly working inside an NGO.

After a thorough investigation, APLE found not only the location of the NGO, but also the location of the suspect. APLE immediately alerted the FBI about the location of the suspect and the NGO. APLE's investigators had collected information that approximately 32 children (boys and girls) were living inside the NGO.

AHTJPD, FBI and APLE met with each other in order to make a strategic plan on how to handle the case. An operation plan was developed and the suspect was soon arrested inside the NGO. Eleven boys were questioned about their relationship with the suspect. Five of them testified that the suspect had sexually molested them. One boy said that the suspect tried to force him to perform oral sex, however, the boy had rejected.

The suspect is waiting for his trial in Cambodia and will likely be brought to America to stand trial for the crimes committed against children in America after the process in Cambodia has completed.

5.5 Case Story Trofimov

Trofimov was arrested in 2007 on suspicion of sexually abusing up to 19 Cambodian girls. In 2008, he was convicted under Cambodia's old debauchery law and sentenced to 17 years imprisonment. The Appeal Court reduced this term to 8 years. However, Trofimov was released from prison by royal pardon in 2011, after serving slightly more than four years of his sentence. Following his pardon, 14 NGOs including World Vision, Save the Children, Licadho signed an APLE initiated petition asking for his re-arrest and extradition to Russia, where he would face charges of earlier child sex abuse. At that time, Russia was seeking for Trofimov's extradition.

In 2012, APLE's informants reported that Trofimov had built a house for a 10-year-old girl's family in Kandal province. They had witnessed Trofimov at the house multiple times, after he was pardoned by the King. After APLE's investigators identified Trofimov, the police was notified and prepared his arrest. Trofimov was arrested and later extradited to Russia. Arriving in Russia, he was arrested and detained. At the moment, he is still waiting for his trial.

6.0 Recommendations and Future Strategy

In the past eleven years, APLE has achieved numerous major goals in the fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation. Cambodia has likewise made some impressive steps in the right direction. However, the situation in Cambodia is still critical and full attention for the topic remains necessary. Based on this report, APLE recommends the following strategies to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation.

- Child sex offenders move to more remote areas in order to take advantage of the most poor and vulnerable children. The lack of NGOs and failing law enforcement in these areas are appealing to child sex offenders and make the situation extremely dangerous for uninformed children and communities. Vulnerable children and their communities should be educated about child sexual abuse and exploitation. In addition, NGOs should research the possibility to deploy child-protection representatives in these areas to collect information and report cases. Finally, these NGOs should establish networks of informants that report cases. Being present in all remote areas in Cambodia is impossible; it is therefore that NGOs should focus on capacity building in these areas. By educating and training the right people, communities and children will be able to better protect themselves and will know how to report cases of possible abuse and exploitation.
- The number of institution-based exploitation cases is increasing in Cambodia. This fact that a significant part of these child sex offenders have previous convictions in their country of origin underlines the need for effective measures. All organizations that work directly or indirectly with children should have an implemented child protection policy. One crucial element of a child protection policy is that all employees in these organizations have to provide a police clearance certificate before they start working. However, a good child protection policy contains multiple measures to avoid child sex offenders from entering the organization. In addition, the Cambodian government should implement more effective control and sanction mechanisms to prevent abusive and exploitive situations inside alternative care facilities. At the moment, the Minimum Standards for Alternative Care are not enforced consistently. Unregistered alternative care facilities and alternative care facilities that do not meet the Minimum Standards for Alternative Care often are allowed to continue their practice for a long time.
- Law enforcement officials need more and better training. Preferably they should be trained by foreign law enforcement agencies that are familiar with techniques that are internationally recognized. In addition, NGOs can train law enforcement officials as long as the techniques trained are not backdated. Special attention should go to officials in the more remote areas. They are far behind in knowledge and skills as compared to officials in the big cities and thus need more intensive training. Considering that many child sex offenders move from the cities to the more remote areas, this group should receive special attention.
- Foreign offenders should be mandatory deported from Cambodia after they have served their sentence. The Cambodian government should always contact the

offender's country of origin to inform them about the deportation order. Preferably, the country of origin should revoke the passport of the offender in order to make sure that the offender can only return to the country of origin. When the child sex offender is back in their country of origin, their passports should be revoked (if that did not happen yet). In addition, a monitoring system should be set-up in order to prevent the child sex offender from re-offending.

- Financial compensation for victims is ordered in more than half of all cases, but victims often have to wait for many years to receive the compensation, if they receive any at all. Offenders who can pay the compensation should start with the payment directly after the court order. Offenders who are unable to pay should pay in terms. Victims should be realistically informed about what to expect from the compensation. In addition, compensation should not be rewarded to civil plaintiffs involved in the abuse of the child. Management of the compensation is needed to ensure that the money aims to benefit the child victim.
- Foreign and international police and law enforcement agencies should assist the Cambodian National Police with the arrest and prosecution of foreign offenders. Especially when technical experience is needed, foreign police agencies should collaborate more with the Cambodian National Police and provide assistance. In addition, it is recommended that western countries become more involved in the prosecution of their citizen. In the past couple of years, more western countries have developed extraterritorial laws that allow them to prosecute their own citizen if they sexually abuse children in other countries. The next step is for these countries to actively enforce these laws.

Support for child protection measures in Cambodia is steadily increasing. Not only NGO's, but also government officials and the general public are becoming more aware that children are the future and that they are entitled to protection. It is of utmost importance that this trend is continued. Together we can prevent abuse, protect the victims, and prosecute the offenders.

"I want to be a lawyer. Just as APLE helped me, I want to help other children⁹."

⁹ Former victim

Appendix 1: Grooming Questions

1: Name?

2: Age?

3: Gender?

4: Do you go to school nowadays?

5: What school?

6: Do you have a job?

7: What job?

8: Where did you first meet the perpetrator?

9: Did you go to school at that moment?

10: Ask the following questions and try to get as much information as possible about the contact between the victim and the perpetrator, what did the perpetrator do to get in contact with you, did he ever bring you somewhere, did he ever give you something, did he ever say something about you, can you describe what happened till the moment the perpetrator got arrested (fill in box 1 according to the answer)?

Box 1	Yes = X		Yes = X
Gives me money		Kisses me	
Gives me presents		Makes photos from me	
Gives me clothing		Takes me to his home	
Takes me on trips		Let me sleep at his place	
Takes me out for dinner		Makes me change clothes	
Says I am special		Curses	
Says he loves me		Talks about sex	
Tells I am beautiful		Shows me dirty pictures	
Hugs with me		Tells me dirty jokes	

11: Did the perpetrator ever call you on your phone?

11a: E-mail?

11b: Facebook?

12: What did your parent think about the foreigner?

12a: Why?

13: Were there any adults that knew about the abuse?

14: Did the perpetrator say or do anything after the abuse happened so that no-one would know about the abuse (fill in box 2 according to the answer)?

Box 2	Yes = X		Yes = X
Says I would lose him/he will go to jail		Tells me that he is teaching me	
Says it is "our little secret"		Tells me I will get punished	
Says it is normal		Threatens me	
Says that I wanted it		Gives me presents	
Says nobody will believe me		Scares me	

15: How did the abuse stop?



APLE