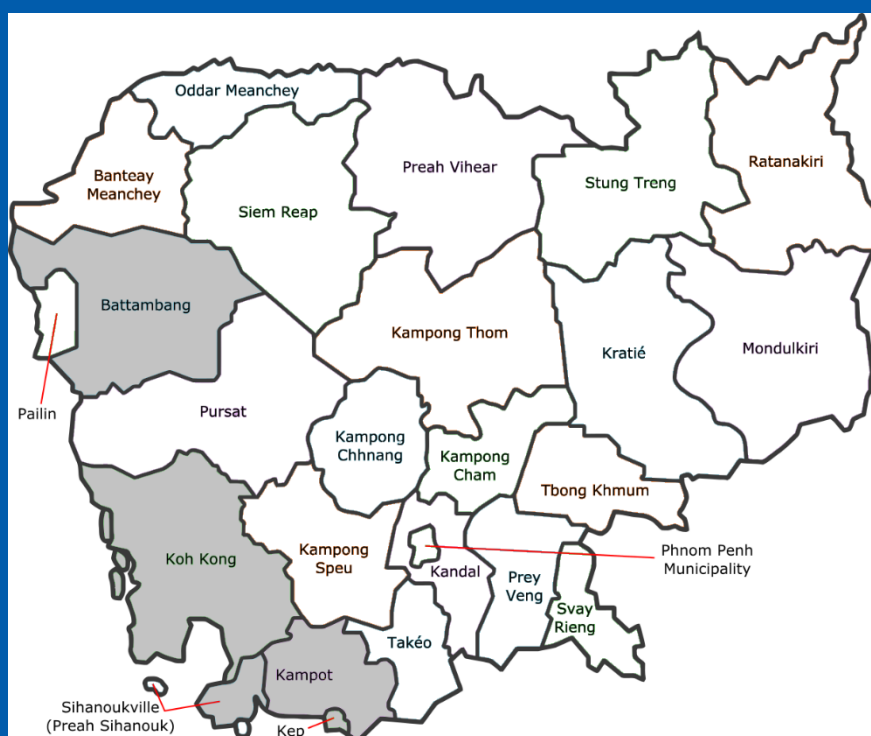




CURRENT PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION IN CAMBODIA: A STUDY IN FIVE PROVINCES



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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research study was undertaken by APLE Cambodia with support from the World Childhood Foundation (WCF). APLE is grateful for the financial support of WCF which enabled one researcher to undertake the investigation with assistance from other APLE staff for translation when required.

This report has been written by the main researcher Dr Lara Ruiz and Dr Evelyn Dykes, Acting Chair of APLE Cambodia, with input from Mr Seila Samleang (Executive Director, APLE) and Mr Vando Khoem (Program Director, APLE).

The authors wish to thank all the people who agreed to be interviewed for this study and gave up their valuable time to do so. We also wish to thank the APLE staff, Mr Moden Yi and Mr Sopheak Phay who assisted with translation of the interviews with Khmer-speaking subjects.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AHTJPD	Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department
APLE	<i>Action Pour Les Enfants</i> (APLE Cambodia)
CJD	Criminal Justice Development
CPU assistance)	Child Protection Unit (an NGO which provides investigation and legal assistance)
CR CSAE)	Civil Reporter (a member of the community trained by APLE to identify CSAE)
CSAE	Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
CWCC	Cambodia Women's Crisis Center
IDs	Identity cards
KTV	Karaoke bars
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
WCF	World Childhood Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION: This research study was undertaken by APLE Cambodia with support from the World Childhood Foundation (WCF). It builds on previous APLE studies which focussed on travelling sex offenders in various locations. In the present study the scope was wider and also included perceptions of street-based abuse, institutional-based abuse, establishment-based abuse and online abuse and exploitation.

AIMS: The main research questions of this study were:

- Which are the most prevalent types of abuse in the province?
- What are the factors that seem to be causing them?
- What are the gaps in child protection mechanisms in each province?
- What could APLE and other relevant stakeholders do in order to improve this situation?

METHODS: This was a qualitative, open-ended, exploratory research from an inductive perspective. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a range of stakeholders in the five provinces of Battambang, Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kampot and Kep. Interviews were translated where necessary, recorded and transcribed before a thematic analysis was performed. Interviewees were asked about their knowledge, understanding and perceptions of child abuse in their locations. They were also asked what they thought should be done to improve the situation. Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

RESULTS: A total of 42 interviews were conducted with members of NGOs, the local authorities and the general community in five provincial towns. A number of common themes emerged from all stakeholders in each location, but there was considerable diversity between provinces in terms of awareness of CSAE, knowledge of what to do about it, the most prevalent types of CSAE and perceptions of what was needed. Analysis shows that different provinces currently have different problems and that the strategies required to combat CSAE need to be tailored for different locations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There is an obvious need to expand the Community Awareness and Engagement Programs to include more locations and more rural areas.
2. There is a need to increase advocacy at the highest levels of Cambodian Government to address the issue of Child Protection within NGOs.
3. There is a need to ensure that other establishments which provide services to children, such as schools and orphanages, are mandated to do background checks on all employees.
4. There is a need for further discussion, at high level, to develop a strategy to protect children in Sihanoukville in the light of the changed business landscape.
5. There is a clear need for further and ongoing research to better inform all involved parties about how the patterns of CSAE are changing across the country.

APLE Cambodia is well placed to take forward these recommendations but will require more resources and manpower to do so.

INTRODUCTION

In 2013 APLE carried out a series of exploratory internal studies to better understand the situation of child sexual abuse committed by traveling sex offenders in the provinces of Battambang, Koh Kong, and Kampong Cham (Nijholt and Clark, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c). The results revealed that in these three places there was a concerning lack of awareness about child sexual abuse and traveling sex offenders. In fact, suspicious behaviors were often not recognized as such. With regard to Sihanoukville, a more recent study developed in 2016 (Parrales et al, 2016) showed a significant reduction in street-based abuse and seemed to confirm the correctness of APLE's strategy followed until then in that context. However, the situation is changing so fast and so acutely in that context that new studies are required to understand the present situation in order to develop accurate recommendations for future strategies.

In 2018, the World Childhood Foundation (WCF) generously supported APLE in conducting a new study of the current trends in Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) in Cambodia. The aim of this study, in conjunction with the findings of previous ones, was to better understand the big picture of child sexual abuse and more precisely the current trends in the provinces of Battambang, Sihanoukville, Koh Kong, Kep, Kampot, Khatie and Mondulhiri, in order to make recommendations on future strategies and interventions to combat CSAE, which could be shared with all relevant stakeholders.

In the present study the scope is wider than that of previous investigations in that the focus is not only on traveling sex offenders but also on street-based abuse, institutional-based abuse, establishment-based abuse and online abuse and exploitation (APLE Cambodia, 2014) ¹.

The main research questions of this study were:

- Which are the most prevalent types of abuse in the province?
- What are the factors that seem to be causing them?
- What are the gaps in child protection mechanisms in each province?
- What could APLE and other relevant stakeholders do in order to improve this situation?

¹ The first three are defined in: Investigating traveling sex offenders. An analysis of the trends and challenges in the field of child sexual abuse and exploitation in Cambodia. Phnom Penh: APLE Cambodia, (2014).

METHODS

This was a qualitative, open-ended, exploratory research from an inductive perspective with the aim of building grounded theory derived from the collected data. Exploration allows discovering new phenomena in a systematic manner. This methodology is particularly accurate for insufficiently known and understood social processes. According to Stebbins (2001), in social sciences “*exploration*” is understood as:

A broad-ranging, purposive, systematic, prearranged undertaking designed to maximize the discovery of generalizations leading to description and understanding of an area of social or psychological life. Such exploration is, depending on the standpoint taken, a distinctive way of conducting science- a scientific process- a special methodological approach (as contrasted with confirmation), and a pervasive personal orientation of the explorer. The emergent generalizations are many and varied; they include the descriptive facts, folk concepts, cultural artifacts, structural arrangements, social processes and beliefs and belief systems found there.

In order to obtain new data, the study included in-depth semi-structured interviews. These were undertaken according to the grounded theory principles (Charmaz, 2014), with those who have immediate experience with child sexual abuse at the community, civil society level (specialized NGOs) and local authority level. A minimum of fifteen interviews was planned in each province, to obtain a representative sample and a sense of data saturation related to the results. The questions used in these semi-structured interviews is attached in Appendix A.

The respondents were selected based on purposive sampling. Respondents were informally asked to provide informed consent for the interview before the interview started. APLE staff explained that the respondent could stop the interview at any time. The respondent would remain anonymous although their role or job was recorded and could refuse to answer any questions he or she did not want to answer.

Fieldwork was conducted by Dr Lara M Ruiz (APLE Criminal Justice Development (CJD) Team Leader) assisted by APLE investigation case officers who assisted with translation from Khmer into English when required, as not all interviewees were able to speak English fluently. Interviews were recorded and transcribed at a later stage by the main researcher.

LIMITATIONS

This was an exploratory study designed to build on knowledge gained from previous investigations. It was recognised that it would be difficult to achieve an in-depth analysis of the views of all stakeholders in the time available. The study was also limited in manpower and resources, which made it difficult to cover the wide geographical area planned. In the event, most interviews were conducted in the main provincial towns, which is where the majority of businesses, tourists and vulnerable street children are located. However, this may not be representative of the vast rural areas of each province. It was also not possible to conduct interviews in the islands of Sihanoukville (Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samlon), or in the provinces of Mondulhiri or Kratie, due to time and travel constraints. There was also no time to conduct the planned observation of hotspots.

It was also not possible to interview large numbers of people from each stakeholder group in each province, so a limited sampling technique was employed. The respondents were selected based on purposive sampling; sampling was not random and was largely directed by subject availability and willingness to participate, therefore the views expressed may not be wholly representative of that stakeholder group. Nevertheless, it is felt that all perceptions which were identified are important.

As the main researcher was not a Khmer speaker, there were further limitations due to the language barrier; although a native Khmer-speaking translator was utilised, it is always difficult to be certain that any nuances of the interviews have been satisfactorily captured.

RESULTS

A great deal of information was gained from this study, much of which affirmed APLE's previous understanding of the situation regarding CSAE across the country, but some of the findings were unexpected and will have implications for future strategies to combat CSAE.

A total of 42 interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders in the five provinces of Battambang, Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kampot and Kep. The interviewees were selected from three groups of stakeholders, namely NGOs working in the area, local authorities and the wider community, to gain a range of perspectives in each province. The full details of the interviews are too lengthy to include in this report but are attached as Appendices for interested readers (Appendices B-F). Key features of each province and the main themes identified from each stakeholder group in each province are summarised below.

Battambang

Battambang has a total population of approximately 1.12 million inhabitants and a total area of 11,702 square kilometers. Situated in the northwest of the country, its economy is mainly agricultural and it is one of the provinces included in the Tonle Sap biosphere reserve. The capital is Battambang, the second largest in Cambodia. The literacy level in the province is 81.1%. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battambang_Province)

APLE no longer has a field office in Battambang, and the number of reported cases has been lower in the past than in other locations. However, APLE staff believe that as travelling sex offenders find it increasingly difficult to operate elsewhere, they may migrate to Battambang. The perspectives of Battambang stakeholders are shown below.

Perspective of NGOs

- The most commonly reported form of abuse are rape cases.
- More prevention, education and awareness raising is required even at the NGO level.
- There are still registered NGOs and unregistered NGOs without a child protection policy in place.
- There have been cases in which the police has requested money from the victim to investigate a complaint (leading to lack of trust).

Perspective of Local Authorities

- Rape cases with an increasing degree of violence and threats to the victim are the most commonly reported.
- The police believe that cases of abuse by travelling sex offenders remain unreported.
- More awareness and education is required at the community level but monitoring the evolution of the community and its needs is also important.
- There is lack of trust in the police (complaints are not filed without the support of an NGO).

Perspective of the community

- Only a former APLE CR reports cases of traveling sex offenders in the province
- Even in definite cases of abuse, some people would not go to the police
- There is a conviction that police do not respect confidentiality and will accept money from the offender
- There is lack of awareness in the province about child sexual abuse in general

Koh Kong

Koh Kong lies in the south west of the country, and has a much smaller population of <125,000 inhabitants and a total area of 11,160 square kilometers. This coastal province relies mainly on agriculture and tourism for its economy; the literacy level in the province is said to be 75.9%. Much of the province is mountainous and forested, making travel difficult, although it is the largest national park in the country. Most interviews were conducted in the capital, Krong Khemarak Phoumin city.

Few cases of CSAE have been reported to APLE in the past from this area and APLE has never had a field office or any CRs in Koh Kong. The area was previously perceived to be a transit location and not somewhere that travelling sex offenders would stay. However based on the perceptions of Koh Kong stakeholders (summarised below) there is a likelihood that many cases of CSAE may be going unreported.

Perspective of NGOs

- NGOs mainly receive reports of rape cases or sexual intercourse with minors committed by local offenders.
- They believe that traveling sex offenders do exist in the province. Such cases don't get reported even if the NGO has a network of informants.
- Non-collaborative behaviours from one NGO (CPU) are detected.
- There is insufficient awareness in the province about CSAE. The tendency to negotiate sexual offenses privately damages the justice system as a whole.

Perspective of Local Authorities

- They believe in the existence of every type of child sexual abuse in the province although almost only rape cases get reported
- They believe there are minors involved in cases of establishment-based abuse and exploitation
- There is a weak implementation of the already existing child protection policies at the institutional level
- It is necessary to reinforce collaboration with the communes in order to educate the communities. The tendency to negotiate sexual offenses privately damages the justice system as a whole.

Perspective of the community

- There is a perception that tourism is rising in the province; a perception shared with the local authorities
- Most respondents have only heard about rape cases
- The most frequent form of interaction between foreigners and Cambodian children are the “couples” formed by a male westerner and a Khmer woman who already has children
- There is insufficient awareness about CSAE and a willingness to learn more

Sihanoukville

Sihanoukville province has a total population of 250,180 inhabitants and a total area of 2,536 square kilometers. Located in the southwest of the country its economy is more diverse and relies on tourism, real estate, transport, textile industry, agriculture, and fishery. Because of its many islands, it has been a popular tourist destination in Cambodia since 1960. The capital of the province is Sihanoukville, a port city. The literacy level in the province is 87.4%.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sihanoukville_Province)

APLE has had a longstanding presence in Sihanoukville, with active investigators and a field office in the capital city since 2005. In 2016, due to a great reduction in the number of cases in Sihanoukville (no reported cases for 18 months) APLE withdrew the investigators and reduced the personnel in the city, to focus on increasing police capacity to investigate suspected cases (Parrales et al, 2016). There was an active and effective ChildSafe network in place, a strong network of CRs and good collaboration with other child-protection NGOs in the area. However, in the past year, a new influx of business from China has occurred in Sihanoukville, and the previously established networks have been dismantled as hotels and other establishments change ownership. Stakeholder views are summarised below.

Perspective of NGOs

- Western tourists seem to be increasingly displaced from Sihanoukville as a result of a recent wave of Chinese business immigration
- The arrival of this new immigrant business community is damaging the established child protection system, more precisely the ChildSafe network among establishments and NGOs
- There is strong concern that this immigration wave will lead to an increase of establishment-based exploitation involving minors. IDs can be easily manipulated.
- Any child protection measures for the future will require coordination among NGOs and implementation at provincial level to be successful

Perspective of Local Authorities

- Establishment-based abuse will likely increase due to the type of Chinese businesses that are being opened
- In order to face this challenge the involvement of the provincial governor is key
- With the exception of the police, all authorities believe that there can be minors inside those establishments
- Not all institutions and organisations focused on child protection have a child protection policy in place for their own organisation

Perspective of the community

- The most commonly heard type of abuses are rape cases
- Police capacity to react is still slow and insufficiently proactive
- The recent wave of immigration will probably lead to an increase of establishment-based abuse.
- There is a concerning feeling of cultural and environmental destruction due to this wave of immigration and the "concept of development" that it implies

Kampot

Kampot has a total population of 611,557 inhabitants and a total area of 4873 square kilometers. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kampot_Province) Placed in the southwest of the country, the economy of this coastal province relies on the agriculture (with products like pepper, durian, and rubber), the forestry and tourism. The capital of the province is Kampot city. The literacy level in the province is 81.4%. ref

APLE has not had an office in Kampot and the number of reported cases of CSAE from this area has been low in the past. Kampot was not a particularly popular tourist destination for westerners (unlike Sihanoukville, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh), and the number of travelling sex offenders apprehended from there was low. APLE is now concerned that this situation is changing, which is supported by Kampot stakeholder perceptions (summarised below).

Perspective of NGOs

- The increasing arrival of westerners started two years ago (coinciding with their departure from Sihanoukville)
- The most common type of interaction between foreigners and Cambodian children are the apparent “families” in which the male foreigner is the partner of a Cambodian lady who had children already
- They believe there are minors involved in the establishment- based abuse
- At least ten to twelve NGOs in the province do not have a child protection policy in place

Perspective of Local Authorities

- There is an increasing number of westerners coming to Kampot
- Currently, alleged offenders do have a cover as mentors, teachers or godfathers
- Unlike the police, other local authorities believe that there can be minors involved in establishment-based exploitation
- More awareness is necessary, especially provided to the commune since they are the closest to the communities

Perspective of the community

- There is an increasing number of westerners from Sihanoukville who are establishing in Kep and Kampot
- Some of those foreigners are opening establishments (bars) which can favour prostitution in the current context of a more lenient political environment in the province
- The most common type of interaction between westerners and Cambodian children are within the apparent “families” formed by a male westerner and a Cambodian lady who already had children
- There is a number of vulnerable street children who collect cans and beg at the market in Kampot. They can be seen at the Riverside

Kep

The final province studied in this project is Kep, the smallest and least populous province of Cambodia. Placed in the southwest of the country, it has a total population of fewer than 40,000 inhabitants and a total area of only 336 square kilometers. Its economy relies on agriculture, fishery, salt production, and tourism (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kep_Province)

Until 1960 it was a highly preferred tourist destination over Sihanoukville, which from that time became the most popular seaside setting. Due to its small size and a low number of reported cases, APLE has not had a strong presence in Kep in the past. Kep was not previously particularly popular with western tourists and did not seem to be a high risk to attract travelling sex offenders. However, that situation may be changing. Stakeholder perceptions from Kep are summarised below.

Perspective of NGOs

- No NGOs in the area were available for interview so no data is available

Perspective of Local Authorities

- There is an increasing number of foreigners who come to Kep from Sihanoukville
- This may lead to an increase in the number of traveling sex offenders; according to the police In Kep, there are 460 children in situations of vulnerability
- There are institutions, schools which allow close contact between foreigners (volunteers) and teachers
- More awareness, prevention and proactive investigation from the police is required

Perspective of the community

- There is an increasing number of tourists who come from Sihanoukville
- Some street children confirm frequent interaction with foreigners who give them some money or food. (One suspicious behaviour of grooming was observed on the first night of the study between a westerner and some children)
- There also many couples formed by a male western partner and a Khmer lady who already had children
- There is frequent close interaction between foreign volunteers and children in some schools

These summaries of stakeholder views show both a concurrence and a diversity of perceptions amongst these five provinces. Two general affirmations can be made:

- In every province, the participants demand more awareness raising activities
- In every province, the most commonly recognised and reported type of abuse is rape, usually committed by locals. Other forms of abuse are only variably understood and recognised in different locations.

These results have to be considered carefully in planning future strategies to improve child protection across the country. Further details of the interviews are available in Appendices B-F.

DISCUSSION

This study was planned to include a greater number of interviews and a wider range of locations. However due to time, manpower and resource limitations, it was only possible to cover five provinces. Nevertheless, some important and interesting information has been gained.

APLE has previously had a strong presence in four main locations – Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang and Sihanoukville. In 2013, due to lack of resources, it was necessary to combine the Battambang and Siem Reap offices. In 2016, as a result of reduced activity and resources, it was also decided to remove the investigators from the Sihanoukville office to concentrate on the main pillars of APLE's new strategy to enhance community engagement, improve the criminal justice system, improve the capacity of the police and provide social support to the victims and families affected by CSAE.

APLE has had a longstanding focus on CSAE perpetrated by travelling sex offenders, and has built up a strong and well-respected reputation with foreign law enforcement agencies for its contributions to apprehending offenders. However APLE's efforts to improve community awareness about CSAE are not restricted to travelling or foreign offenders; recent cases have shown that in some places the community are able to identify abuse behaviours by Cambodian nationals. APLE also participates in a national hotline which does not distinguish between the type of abuse which can be reported. APLE has gained great respect within Cambodian government departments for its efforts to reduce CSAE and keep Cambodian children safe, and two of our staff have received awards of recognition from the King for their work.

The results of this study, taken in conjunction with the previous investigations, show how the landscape of child abuse can change even within a short time. APLE is aware of the increasing dangers of online abuse and has extended its community awareness programs to advise on this danger. APLE also provides investigators to assist the police across the country, regardless of location, if requested.

These results suggest that there is an even greater need for community engagement and awareness activity, especially in some of the smaller and more remote areas. As paedophiles, national or foreign, find their activities restricted in the big cities, they are moving outwards to smaller cities like Kampot and more rural areas. There is a need for more resources to enable APLE to provide education programs in more locations and to enhance community awareness of suspicious behaviour and how to stop it.

In addition to the migration of offenders from cities to rural areas, there is clearly increasing concern emerging in Sihanoukville, as the business landscape there has changed. In the past

APLE had a strong network of CRs, good collaboration with other local NGOs working on child protection and there was a strong and effective ChildSafe network in place. This was the result of many years of hard work by APLE staff, building trust and communications with the local community and business owners, who were predominantly Cambodian. It now seems that the new influx of Chinese businesses is resulting in a change in the approach to CSAE. There is a great deal more money coming into the province and the new business owners are changing their staff to accommodate their predominantly Chinese clients' needs. The new staff have no training in how to recognise CSAE and there appears to be little interest in fostering ChildSafe procedures; even the police appear to have been influenced adversely by the new business culture and seem unaware of the propensity for minors to be given fake IDs to enter the establishments. It is difficult to know exactly how to combat this problem and much work and more resources will be needed. It is not likely that the "old ways" are going to work in this situation and new strategies will have to be found, most likely requiring advocacy and influence at high levels.

One of the most shocking findings from this study was the fact that many NGOs purporting to work for or with children do not even have a Child Protection Policy in place for their own organisations. This is something which should be addressed at national level under NGO law, and will require advocacy at the highest levels of government to achieve. APLE is well-placed to conduct this advocacy; as always, it is only a question of resource and manpower. Such policies should also be mandatory in schools and other establishments which claim to protect children and within which there are close interactions between children and adults. There is clear evidence that potential or actual offenders are finding refuge in such establishments without any background checks and no ongoing monitoring of their activities. Until government regulations are created and implemented to prohibit these practices, these havens for offenders will remain.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, this study demonstrated significant diversity between areas in the same country. It has also shown how the CSAE landscape can change rapidly in a single province in a short time. Strategies require to be tailor-made for each location to keep children as safe as possible, and must be cognisant of and responsive to changing needs. One approach will not fit all locations. Much more work has to be done but in the meantime, the following recommendations can be made:

1. **There is an obvious need to expand the Community Awareness and Engagement Programs to include more locations and more rural areas.** As offenders migrate, so must our education programs. There is a need to expand the APLE network of CRs and to train the community and the children to recognise suspicious behaviours from the outset. APLE is well-placed to do this but will require more resources to do so.
2. **There is a need to increase activity in advocacy at the highest levels of Cambodian Government to address the issue of Child Protection within NGOs.** It is absurd that organisations which claim to be helping children are in fact creating a haven for potential or actual offenders. APLE has already developed good relationships at Government level, and with more resources, could spend more time on this activity.
3. **There is a need to ensure that other establishments which provide services to children, such as schools and orphanages, are mandated to do background checks on all employees.** This also requires advocacy at Government level to change and implement the law. Foreign law-enforcement agencies, with whom APLE has good relationships, will undoubtedly be important contributors to such checks on foreigners. APLE also has the connections to enable advocacy within Government departments but requires additional manpower to do so.
4. **There is a need for further discussion, at high level, to develop a strategy to protect children in Sihanoukville in the light of the changed business landscape.** This should be a multi-agency discussion, involving local authorities, other local NGOs, the police and the community leaders. APLE is well-placed to organise such a round-table discussion as it has contacts with all the relevant agencies. There may be a need for a subsequent workshop to include the new business owners, after some strategy to encourage participation has been developed at the initial meeting. This is an urgent need.
5. **Lastly, there is a clear need for further and ongoing research to better inform all involved parties about how the landscape of CSAE is changing**

across the country. More data is required, both quantitative and qualitative, in order to effectively and efficiently prevent CSAE in Cambodia. There is a dearth of knowledge in all areas and current NGO strategies are built largely on anecdote or popular opinion rather than fact. This is not an effective use of donor resources and APLE wishes to address this problem by becoming more active in research; resource limitations are again the chief constraint.

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LIST OF APPENDICES

A: QUESTIONS USED IN SEMISTRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

B: PERSPECTIVES FROM BATTAMBANG

C: PERSPECTIVES FROM KOH KONG

D: PERSPECTIVES FROM SIHANOUKVILLE

E: PERSPECTIVES FROM KAMPOT

F: PERSPECTIVES FROM KEP

APPENDIX A: Questions used in semi-structured interviews

- Have you heard of any case of child sexual abuse?
- What type of abuse?
- What type of offender? Nationality?
- Have you heard about child sexual abuse online?
- Have you heard about child sexual abuse by foreign offenders?
- Which are the main hotspots in the province or places of interaction?
- Have you observed any suspicious interaction between foreigners and vulnerable children around here?
- Have you ever heard about institutional- based abuse? And establishment-based abuse?
- If rape cases are so prevalent, what do you think are the causes?
- Where are the main areas where they happen?
- Do you know any NGO that provides assistance to the victims?
- Is there a clear procedure to manage those cases?
- Do you feel there is lack of awareness with regard to CSA?
- What would you do if you heard about such cases?
- Are you afraid of going to the police and if so, why?
- What could APLE or other stakeholders do to improve this situation?
- Which are the main gaps or problems in terms of child protection in the province?
- In Sihanoukville, what are the effects of the arrival of the new Chinese community?
- Are there specific effects in the area of child protection? If so, what are they?
- What could be done to improve that situation?

APPENDIX B: PERSPECTIVES FROM BATTAMBANG

The perspective of the authorities

Interview with an official of the local authority

According to the local authority official, rape cases are the vast majority, frequently committed by the father, the stepfather or the neighbour. The main causes alleged are poverty, lack of education, lack of proper care towards the child, and the use of alcohol, drugs or the internet. The local authority indicates a higher level of violence in those rape cases.

At the same time, there is no perception that there is child sexual abuse committed by foreign offenders in Battambang. The main reason alleged to justify that perception is that that type of abuse happens more often in coastal areas. As a result and with regard to abuse committed by traveling sex offenders, he believes that Battambang is a safe area.

With regard to institutional based-abuse, he has never received any complaint although he knows about a French citizen who was arrested at an NGO. In general, there is a positive perception about the work carried out by NGOs in the region.

Finally, when questioned about child sexual abuse online, he mentioned just one case which happened between two minors. There is a clear recognition of the potential risk of this type of abuse.

When questioned about the main gaps in terms of child protection, he affirms that the procedures related to what must be done in a case of child sexual abuse are clear. At the same time, he knows all NGOs which could deal with the case providing different types of assistance. The problem does not reside there. The main gaps are lack of human and economic resources. Besides, he mentions the insufficient collaboration between the relevant stakeholders. As a result, NGOs still face considerable difficulties to achieve cultural changes at the community level which should lead to an increase in child protection and prevention.

The main touristic hotspots according to this source are Banan and Saw Long.

Interview with the local police AHTJPD

According to the police, in 2017 the police received 48 cases. There were 23 rape cases. Out of those, 20 offenders were arrested. Only one case was committed by a foreigner. In the remaining cases, the offender was Cambodian. Besides, there were seven attempts of rape. Out of them, 5 offenders were arrested.

According to the same source during the same year, there were eighteen cases of sexual intercourse with minors under 15; 16 offenders were arrested. There was only one foreign offender in all those cases.

The results of 2016 are much lower having only sixteen cases overall. The reason is that the rape cases were not the responsibility of the AHTJPD. In general terms, observation from the authority indicates that short-term grooming is often present. But, the violence used during the rape cases is becoming more intense and the victims are often threatened if they file a complaint. There are also cases in which the offender forces the victim to drink alcohol and then rapes her.

However and in spite of the data, the police strongly believe that there are more cases committed by foreigners but the complaints are not received. In general he recognized that at the community level, poverty and as a result, the lack of proper parental care due to high migration levels (with one of them or both to moving to Thailand) create opportunities for the offenders when they leave the children under the care of a grandfather, an uncle or a neighbour. Other simple and common habits like letting the child going fishing or looking after the animals alone also create opportunities for abuse.

With regard to child sexual abuse online, the police see clearly the potentiality of the danger since the use of smartphones is widespread. The easy access to pornography as well as the use of drugs, alcohol and the migration of the parents seem to be behind many cases of abuse and of rape, the most visible type of abuse in the region.

As a result of all this, when questioned about the main gaps in child protection the police believe that education at the community level is key. The procedures and NGOs which could support the victim are known. According to the police the main challenge is how to teach the communities how to protect their own children. This education and prevention program should be led by the CCWC. This is considered as the main actor, but not sufficiently active in information sharing. More precisely, the police are aware that out of the 102 existing communities, five or six of them can be considered a high risk since they always have cases of CSAE. In their opinion, acting in those locations would be a priority.

Other serious problems are also indicated. The police recognize that often people from the communities do not file a complaint because they believe that they have to pay for it to the police. Therefore, an unknown number of offenses can remain unknown. During an interview with an NGO worker, this reality was also mentioned and will be later explained.

The police know the NGOs of Agape, CPU and Hagar and the type of support that they provide.

Interview with a tourist police at a hotspot (Banan)

The perception of the AHTJPD was complemented by a representative of the tourist police at one hotspot during one informal conversation. He had only heard about a rape case and not about traveling sex offenders. He underlines that the main problem of the region is the fragility of the social fabric, connecting the lack of proper care of the children and the parental emigration to Thailand. More awareness programs from NGOs are required but that awareness requires a follow-up of at least one year with the communities in his opinion. The NGOs should stay more in touch with the communities since, because of the existing fear of the police, the community people do not report or do not know how to do it without the support of the NGOs. In that sense, the role of the NGO is essential to make the reports visible. To his understanding, there is still fear of the police at the community level which may be diminishing the protection of the children.

Interview with a worker from the ministry of tourism at a hotspot

During an informal conversation, a worker at a hotspot affirms to have heard only about rape cases mainly related to emigration problems. He gives examples of children left with the neighbour or a relative who eventually becomes the offender. He has only heard about traveling sex offenders in Phnom Penh but not in Battambang. He recognized that some foreigners bring children to the hotspot and give them presents. Besides, he mentions that some children who live in shelters are brought to the hotspot at the weekend. These two facts

do not seem to have caused any concern for him in the past although he seems more thoughtful as the interview progresses. The concept of the *baran* (foreigner) as a good person still seems to be active in this interview.

He has never heard about cases of institutional-based abuse or online abuse. He recognized there is not sufficient information about how to protect the children in the communities and even inside of the ministry of tourism, where he works there is insufficient awareness of the matter. In any case, he would not be afraid to report a case to the police if he knew about it.

The perspective of the NGOs

Interview with a generic NGO

The first NGO has dealt mainly with rape cases. They provide shelter and social support to the community, more precisely they give support to the victim and training to the families. In the cases that they have had, the NGO CPU was involved in the investigation and the legal assistance. The victims of abuse can stay at their premises in rape cases. When the victim has only been touched by the offender without full intercourse, it depends, according to the case and the possible conflict created within the community, whether they will be provided with shelter.

The 5 or 6 cases in which the NGO has been involved in the last two years are all rape cases. They have never had a case in which the offender was a foreigner although she knows about that possibility. Most of the rape cases happen at the community level. The main causes are lack of proper care from the family often connected with emigration. The family trusts the close relatives (uncles, stepfathers) or neighbours too much, creating an opportunity for the abuse to happen. Oftentimes the child is impaired and not properly looked after either.

With regard to child sexual abuse online, the worker has never dealt with it and manifests her lack of interest with regard to that matter. From her reply, it seems that she considers the online abuse as a distant reality compared to the other modalities she encounters, such as the rapes.

According to her, she does not know about any case of institutional-based abuse. But at the same time, she recognized that there is no way to find out what may be happening in a different NGO or school. In fact, she affirms not to know much about the services provided by other NGOs.

When questioned about the main gaps in the province with regard to child sexual abuse, she affirms that there is not sufficient training and awareness raising at the community level in the province. The main cause for this situation is that the authorities are too busy to lead the prevention activities. Once again the procedures to follow in cases of child sexual abuse are clear, as well as the organizations which can support the victims. The problem seems to lie in the lack of prevention and education programs.

Interview with an NGO focused on abuse and trafficking cases

The cases encountered by this NGO are trafficking and rape cases committed by Cambodian offenders. Most rape cases happen in rural areas and the crime is committed inside the family or by a neighbour. In the trafficking cases, the modus operandi is connected to the presence of a middleman, someone who pretends to find a job for the victim, for example. In other cases, it is a friend of the victim who is the one who sells her. Apart from these cases, they affirm that they have never had a case committed by a foreigner or a traveling sex offender.

In practical terms, they receive more rape cases than trafficking cases. Once again, poverty, migration, lack of awareness and proper care towards the child (left with a relative or neighbour while the parents or parent is away) are underlined as the main factors. Drugs and alcohol complete the scene, which leads to rape.

When questioned about child sexual abuse online, they affirm not to have data or information about that but believe that it happens a lot. They do not provide information about any other type of abuse.

With regard to the main gaps in terms of child protection, the process to follow in cases of child sexual abuse is clear, as well as the organization which provides different types of assistance. The need to increase awareness training is underlined once again. They mention the need to provide those pieces of training in secondary schools since the students are twelve years old. Besides they indicate that is necessary to select the hotspots where the crimes happen more often (an information which can be provided by the MoSVY and the police). Finally, in order to extend the impact develop Training of Trainer programs. From the perspective of this NGO, the more awareness is provided, the more cases will be reported.

Another challenge that is mentioned is the severity of the psychological and mental states of the victims. As a result, NGOs affirm the need to receive more training to offer better counselling and promote the recovery of their clients. A recovery that without counselling would not be achieved. The severity of their states also causes that counselling is offered for long periods of time, with no deadline.

Finally, they mention as another key challenge, the slowness of the legal process that often allows the rapist to stay on the streets after having committed the crime.

Interview with an NGO focused on human rights

According to this NGO, there are cases of travelling sex offenders but they are not as prevalent the rape cases committed by local offenders. In general terms, she underlines a concerning lack of awareness and comprehension about sexual abuse even among other NGOs of the province.

With regard to institutional based-abuse, she affirms that not all NGOs or shelters are registered or have a child protection policy in place and this can cause a security problem to the children.

When questioned about child sexual abuse online, she cannot offer any concrete data but she considers it a big challenge since almost everyone has a smartphone notwithstanding the level of poverty.

She does not provide information about any other type of abuse

Her perception about the main gaps in the area of child protection is not related to the procedures to follow in cases of child sexual abuse. Those are clear at the same the NGOs which can provide assistance in that matter are known too. The main challenges are related to the lack of awareness even at the NGO level and to the insufficient collaboration with the authorities. In that sense, she underlines the need to engage the police, the CCWC and the NGOs to develop a national plan of action with all the relevant stakeholders. With regard to the CCWC she underlines that some of their members still do not understand clearly their role towards the community. The relationship between the police and the victims is also problematic in certain cases. She affirms that in some occasions the police has requested money from the family of the victim to conduct the case. This information explains the reason why some Cambodians believe that the assistance of the police is not free and do not file a complaint unless they receive assistance from an NGO.

The perspective from the community

Interview with a former civil reporter (CR)

This information is provided by a former APLE CR committed to the organization for five years who received a letter of recognition in 2016. During those five years, she reported five cases, four of them being cases of child sexual abuse. In two cases of abuse reported the offenders were Asian. One of them was a Korean English teacher who gave classes at his home. Both offenders preferred girls. The third case that she reported was a rape case. The victim had been raped by a street man. Finally, she reported the case of a Cambodian man who abused several children in the slum area where she used to live. In retrospect, she affirms to have seen several cases, by Cambodian and foreign offenders. The perspective after interviewing this CR is that probably there are more cases that are not reported due to the lack of CRs with a permanent presence at the hotspots. The case of this woman shows what could be a negative socio-economic factor for the permanence of those networks. She has lately managed to improve her economic situation, has bought a piece of land in the community and has left the slum area for good. As a result, it is doubtful that she can report more cases that seem to remain unnoticed. But what remains clear according to her experience and that of some NGO workers and even the police, is that there are probably more traveling sex offenders in Battambang than perceived and what is missing is the capacity to detect them.

Interview with a hotel worker

The interviewed works at a hotel and has heard about rape cases committed inside the families often in the rural areas. In his understanding, the main causes are the high rates of parental migration as well as the lack of proper care towards the children. He has never heard about traveling sex offenders or cases of sexual abuse online. He knows about a case of institutional based abuse, more precisely the case of a teacher who touched the children.

If he knew about a case of abuse, he affirms that he would not go to the police. The reason is the fear of the revenge from the offender. According to him, it can happen that the police have a relationship with the offender and gets protected by them. In general terms, he does not trust in the confidentiality of the police. Besides, he believes that if the offender has money, the whole process will evolve positively for him, due to the existence of corruption. As a result, and without any safety-net, he would never report suspicions to the police. This refusal to approach the police is compatible with the fact of knowing NGOs that he could in fact approach. Apart from the problems related to the police, he believes that there is insufficient awareness about child sexual abuse at the community level.

He does not provide information about any other type of abuse.

APPENDIX C: PERSPECTIVES FROM KOH KONG

The perspective from the NGOs

Interview with an NGO focused on human rights

Most of the cases received by the NGO Adhoc are rape cases. In fact, that is the only type of abuse that the respondent has worked within the last three years at the NGO. The main factors lying underneath according to him are immigration and the lack of proper care towards the children. Alcoholism, the easy access to internet and pornography are also present. The place where the rapes cases happen more often is the main city.

With regard to traveling sex offenders, he affirms not having seen any suspicious behavior although he believes that there are cases in the province and that they remain unreported.

He has never heard about cases of institutional-based abuse in the province.

With regard to child sexual abuse online, he believes that it does happen but has not received any case.

In general terms, he believes that in Koh Kong there is no sufficient awareness or training, at the community level about child sexual abuse. In general, the procedures to follow in such cases are clear and the NGOs which can provide support of different kinds are sufficiently known. He suggests the conduct of Training of Trainers sessions to extend the impact and the knowledge.

Interview with an NGO focused on human rights

The participant affirms that in the last five years they have had different cases of child sexual abuse but all the offenders were Cambodian. The cases were mainly child sexual intercourse with minors and rape cases. To the respondent's understanding, easy access to pornography and alcohol, are the main causes of the rape cases, but not immigration.

Although they have received information from APLE about traveling sex offenders and they transmitted that information to their own network of informants, they have never received a report or detected any suspicious behavior related to that type of abuse. He believes that there are not many street children in Koh Kong who can be a target for traveling sex offenders. He does not believe either that there are places for interaction affirming that only a few children pick up trash and sell it. He believes that the number of tourists in the last 3 years is essentially the same although the general opinion of most of the participants is that the numbers are actually increasing.

With regard to cases of child sexual abuse online, he does not have information about it but believes that it is concerning. The same happens with establishment-based abuse, although they have never received a case.

When questioned about cases of institutional-based abuse, he indicated the presence of volunteers (Peace Corps) in the region who usually go to one of the schools and to the commune clinic hospital. He has not got information about any case of abuse.

As in other cases, the procedure to follow is clear. A concerning issue related to rape cases is the high presence of negotiation between the offender, the victim, and the family. When the victim is a minor, the negotiation is not so prevailing. Private negotiation has perverse effects. It affects the justice system as a whole in the sense that common people's trust in the national law enforcement is reduced. Besides, negotiation leaves the offender free and ready to commit the crime again.

Another concerning information related to lack of collaboration among NGOs is also reported by this NGO. A thirteen-year-old minor was raped. The case was reported to this NGO and to the police. The NGO had an informal agreement with the family to provide legal assistance to the victim in the future. At a certain moment, the family starts a negotiation process with the offender as a result of which both parts seem to reach an economic agreement. However, the offender explains that he cannot pay at that moment and that the compensation has to be delayed. At that moment the father of the victims calls the police and they involve the NGO CPU in the process. When the first NGO contacted the mother of the victim to sign the formal agreement to provide legal assistance, she told them that CPU NGO had told them not to sign it. For the respondent, it is the first time that this type of non-collaborative behaviours is seen between NGOs in the province.

Finally, according to him, in the remote areas of the province, much awareness is required. To his understanding, many cases of child sexual abuse remain unreported. The presence of negotiation seems to play an active role in discouraging the reporting activity. In fact, and although the NGO has a network of informants, they never receive reports from those remote areas, something that according to him is concerning. As a result of all this, much more awareness raising is required. He mentions specifically as targets groups, the officials at the commune or the parents of the children who can, later on, transmit that knowledge.

The perspective from the authorities

Interview with the police AHTJPD

During the interview, the police speak about the different types of child sexual abuse they have dealt with: purchasing child prostitution, sexual intercourse with minor under 15, and rape cases. Those are the most prevalent types of child sexual abuse that they encounter. In 2017 they had three rape cases and one case of sexual intercourse with a minor. The year before, in 2016, they had ten rape cases. None of them was committed by a foreign offender.

The main causes that they indicate for rape cases are the use of drugs and easy access to internet and pornography. Two days before the interview they received a case of a thirteen-year-old child who had been raped by a local. The lack of parental care seemed to have created the opportunity for the offender.

When questioned more in-depth about traveling sex offenders, they explain that Koh Kong is a transit point and traveling sex offenders do not stay for long periods of time. Therefore, according to them, street-based exploitation does not happen. However, they indicate that there are also foreigners who stay for longer periods of time but they do not know of anyone who supports a family. They also indicate that there are not many street children. The ones who come do it when there are festivals and then leave again. They identify no specific places for interaction between children and foreigners.

With regard to establishment-based abuse, they believe that there might be cases involving minors but outside of the KTVs, not inside. The most problematic areas that they identify in the province are the downtown and Sre Ambel area.

The main challenge that they detect to improve the child protection is the insufficient education, especially in the rural areas. In those remote areas, the child sometimes does not go to school; therefore it is essential to give more awareness. Even teenagers do not know about the law and CSAE. The procedure to apply in cases of child sexual abuse is clear, as clear is the knowledge about other NGOs which provide different types of assistance (they mention CPU) but prevention is considered essential, especially at the community level.

Interview with the local authority

The committee that participates in this interview strongly believes that there is every type of abuse in the province, this includes the four main types observed in this research, although very often they remain unreported. Most of the cases the committee has been involved with are rape cases. In fact, and in spite of having a network of informants they have never received the report of any other type of child sexual abuse. The causing factors that they detect behind the rape cases (in rural areas but also in the downtown area) are the lack of education, the lack of proper parental care caused by immigration mainly to Thailand, the use of drugs, and the easy access to child pornography through the internet.

With regard to traveling sex offenders, a few years ago they know about the case of a Thai monk who got to abuse eleven children. He was registered as a monk, was often in the pagoda and had his own apartment. He collected poor children and invited them to stay with him. He used grooming techniques and elaborated pornographic material with them. He was prosecuted and died in prison as a result of an illness. Apart from that case, they had a prostitution case committed by a Vietnamese citizen. In spite of the lack of reports about

traveling sex offenders, they believe that such cases do still exist in the province and remain unreported. They connect that perception with the increasing amount of foreigners who come to the province. Many of them are retired, open a business and settle down there. A perception that is confirmed by other participants, such as the police.

They have the same perception with regard to establishment-based abuse. They do believe that it happens and that minors can be involved although they do not receive the reports. They also believe that the abuse probably happens out of the premises of the KTVs.

When questioned about institutional- based abuse, they affirm that one shelter receives volunteers. It is supported by France and they receive godfathers and godmothers. But the staffs are always present; they never leave the child alone with the visitors. They also underline that shelters must be very careful. Sometimes the victim belongs to the family of the offender and the offender tries to have access to the victim so that he or she changes the statement. The risk of uprooting the children from his own family is also underlined.

When questioned about child sexual abuse online they believe that it happens but have not received any report. They know about a case of a child who was groomed on Facebook and then sexually abused in person. The family tried to close the case with negotiation. They underline the lack of preparation of the police to investigate this type of cases.

When questioned about how to increase the child protection, they affirm that there are sufficient policies in place. The problem is the weak implementation of them. What should be done is known, but ultimately it is not done. Also, the NGOs, which can provide different services, are sufficiently known in the province. They mention Licadho and Adhoc. Therefore they recommend monitoring how the law is implemented in practical terms. And more precisely, they suggest providing training to the official at the commune because they are the ones who have the capacity to detect possible cases since they are the closest entity to the communities. They also affirm that it is necessary to increase the knowledge of the victims about their rights. There is a tendency to achieve compensation privately and close the case. This damages the national enforcement system as a whole and the credibility of the NGOs. Finally, they request that the research made by NGOs leads to concrete measures.

In general terms, they believe that this is a safe province. But when they speak of security, they do refer to general crimes. The safety of the province is explained because there is only one way to Phnom Penh and it is full of checkpoints.

The perspective from the community

Interview with a hotel worker

The respondent confirms that many tourists come to the hotel from different countries: Holland, UK, France, China, Thailand, Philippines, Canada, Austria. He is not aware of any case of child sexual abuse and he cannot mention places of specific interaction between foreigners and children. He confirms the widespread existence of Khmer women who have relationships with foreigners and who have children (common or not) as the main form of visible interaction.

When questioned about institutional-based abuse, he confirms that there is an orphanage and some foreigners do have contact with the children and bring things for them. A lot of volunteers go there. But according to him, those who take the children out are not the tourists, are the workers. As a result, he has never heard of any case of institutional-based abuse (at a shelter, NGO or school).

The only type of child sexual abuse he has heard of is rape and usually happening in rural areas. He connects it with the fact of leaving the child alone or with insufficient protection. Easy access to pornography and alcohol also other causing factors.

He mentions the existence of KTV, beer gardens and massage places where he believes that cases of sexual abuse or prostitution involving minors do happen in Koh Kong.

With regard to cases of child sexual abuse online, he knows of their existence through Facebook.

If he knew about a case of sexual abuse and unlike other respondents, he would call the police because he is not afraid of them.

He knows about two NGOs that he could approach in a case of child sexual abuse, (Licadho and Adhoc).

In general terms, he believes that the province is small and safe. That is why according to him child sexual abuse does not happen often.

He would like to know more about this issue and affirms not having received any type of training on the matter.

Interview with a worker at the mangrove (touristic attraction)

The worker at a mangrove has had this position working for two years and affirms that many foreigners visit the place. Most of them are Western and Asian (Chinese, and Thai). She affirms that while working there, she has often seen foreigners with Cambodian children. Oftentimes she sees what she considers a family (the male partner is a foreigner) but she has also seen a single foreigner with a single child too. She does not know of any foreigner who lives in the province and supports any family. Some of the families in which the husband is a foreigner do not live here in Koh Kong but in Phnom Penh or Sihanoukville.

Apart from those observations, the only type of child sexual abuse she has heard of are rape cases which happen in the province (rural areas). She has never heard of any case of establishment-based abuse or any other abuse happening at the school or institution.

If she knew about such cases, she would call the police since she is not afraid. In fact, one peculiarity of the mangrove is that if many males enter in it, the worker has to call the tourist police in order to protect those women. In spite of not having received any training related to child sexual abuse and exploitation, she would like to know more about the issue. She knows about the existence of NGOs in the area, which deals with the matter but cannot provide any names.

Interview with workers at the fall (touristic attraction)

During the observation of the fall, another touristic place, a girl who has been working there for six months running a shop is interviewed. She surprisingly affirms that she has never seen foreigners with children there, although many children do go to the fall, as will be later confirmed. She also affirms that she does not know about foreigners supporting any local family.

When questioned about what she would do if she knew about a case of child sexual abuse, she affirms that if she heard a child shouting, she would call the military police because his father is a member of them. The identification of child sexual abuse with violence is present in her, something that does not correlate with the modus operandi of traveling sex offenders, which very rarely involve violence.

The only type of sexual abuse she has heard of are rape cases but she does not believe that they do happen within this province, according to what she sees on the television.

When her mother, who also works at the same place, is questioned about the presence of children in the area she affirms that very often children from the shelter are brought to the fall. They come in big groups, but she has never seen a child alone with a foreigner.

At the entrance of the fall, a woman who runs a little shop affirms that she has sometimes seen foreigners with children alone, contradicting the affirmations of the first respondent and second respondent.

Conversation with a business worker at the beach in Koh Yor (touristic place)

The respondent affirms that there are many foreigners who visit the beach, most of them are couples. He has never seen any suspicious behavior related to traveling sex offenders or foreigners bringing children alone. He affirms that there are not many children at the street. He does not know about any foreigner supporting a local family in the area. He does not know about rape cases or any other type of abuse. If he saw something suspicious he would call the administration police since he is not afraid to report. At the same time, he affirms that he would like to receive more training about the different forms of child sexual abuse. He perceives the area as safe, affirming that the army is nearby. He cannot provide information about any other type of abuse.

During the development of this interview, the only foreigners who were seen were couples of a similar age.

Interview with the owner of a hostel in Koh Kong.

The respondent recognizes that the tourism is increasing but he is not aware of any case of child sexual abuse (not even rape cases) or suspicious behavior in the town. He does not know about any foreigner supporting local families in the province. When questioned about institutional-based abuse or establishment based abuse he provides the same answer. He has known about a case of child sexual abuse online but it happened in Sihanoukville, not in Koh Kong.

His perception is that Koh Kong is a small and safe touristic area and the people are not so naïve anymore and they would recognize the danger if it happened.

If he knew about any case, he would contact the police but he does not know about any NGO that he could approach to receive assistance.

APPENDIX D: PERSPECTIVES FROM SIHANOUKVILLE

The perspective from the authorities

Interview with the local authority (1)

All type of cases the respondent has dealt with are prostitution, sexual intercourse with minors, and rape cases. He affirms that there used to be many cases of traveling sex offenders in the past. Nowadays the most commonly known cases are rape cases, often with situations of incest among the families.

With regard to child sexual abuse online he is only aware of cases of prostitution online. He knows of the online application *Bigo Live* which facilitates prostitution, mainly of adults but also of minors. With regard to establishment-based abuse, he also affirms that there are minors inside of the establishments. In fact, he describes the procedure in the following way. The agreement is closed inside of the KTV. Only when the agreement is not respected the complaint is filed. As a result, many cases remain hidden. He gives the example of a club called Boston. In its premises, there were 29 workers and 6 or 7 were minors and victims who went sent to a shelter. To his understanding, things will get worse with the newly built Chinese businesses (casinos, hotels, clubs).

In his opinion, what can be done in order to improve the child network is to increase awareness about all types of abuse and exploitation but to confront the challenge that the Chinese businesses represent, it is necessary to work along with the provincial governor.

Interview with the local authority (2)

The respondents have dealt with different types of child sexual abuse such as rape cases, establishment-based exploitation, or institutional-based exploitation.

The most common cases are the rape cases and they often happen in the districts of Kompong Seila and Prey Nop. The main causes of such cases according to them are the lack of proper parental care, the lack of education, the lack of sexual services in the area and the distance from the local authorities. The stimulation created by Internet and pornography is not mentioned among the causing factors since in those areas they do not have access to the internet.

When questioned about institutional-based abuse, they affirm that they had one case at an NGO many years ago. They affirm that not all institutions, which host children, have a child protection policy in force. They do not provide the names of the NGOs for not damaging them. They also mention the increasing tendency to keep the children with some family members instead of sending them to shelters to avoid being uprooted.

The perception related to establishment-based exploitation is that it will increase and get worse with the increasing presence of Chinese businesses in Sihanoukville. In fact, there is a big concern about the security already and the belief that there can be already minors inside.

When questioned about how to confront this situation to improve the child protection they indicate that the Provincial Hall is the key authority to make some progress and establish measures. Another simple measure that is mentioned is to install billboards so that the victims know where to call.

Interview with the local police AHTJPD

They police affirm that after the arrival of this recent Chinese wave of immigration not many children can be seen on the street. An essential factor to explain this transformation is that many bars which used to belong to westerners have had the license revoked and become Chinese businesses. In general terms those Chinese businesses are not child-friendly so, street children tend to stay away from those premises. As a result, apparently, now there are not so many places for public interaction between foreigners and street children. The police believe that those street children may have left to Kep and Kampot, but it is just a hypothesis. That perception can be checked with the data provided by the NGO M'lop Tapang. Another relevant aspect that the police indicate is that the committee with street children does not work although it has not disappeared.

With regard to the concrete cases of child sexual abuse that they have received in the last two years, in 2017 they had 22 cases. The amount is relatively high because from that moment on, the rape cases also fall on their area of responsibility. Out of those 22 cases, six were rape cases, there were two cases of sexual intercourse with minor of 15 years old cases and three attempts of rape. Only one of the offenders was a foreign westerner, from Holland.

In 2016 they had eight cases. Out of them, two of the offenders were foreigners from India and Turkey, but the Indian case was considered a rape case/sexual intercourse with a minor and not a travelling sex offender case.

When questioned about the fast-changing circumstances in Sihanoukville and the risk of an increase in establishment-based exploitation, they assure that the commissioner manages to control what is happening inside those establishments and that minors cannot be found inside because the IDs are checked. This perception is clearly and repeatedly challenged by the participant NGOs in the research casting serious doubts on the police perception.

When questioned about the main challenges with regard to the improvement of the child protection system in the province, they affirm that the police's main problem is the insufficient budget to conduct the investigation. They openly recognize that although the budget allocated to the police increases every year, that increase is never received at the local or provincial level. Finally, they indicate the need to receive more awareness about new trends including child sexual abuse online.

The perspective from the NGOs

Interview with an NGO focused on human rights

The NGO affirms that they have had cases of child sexual abuse in almost every community. Currently, due to funds restrictions, they only work with minors below 15 years old. Most cases they deal with are rape cases (they do no longer accept cases of indecent assault or act). In 2017 they had five rape cases. All the offenders were Khmer.

When questioned about the main challenges with regard to child protection, the respondent underlines the frequent delays in the legal procedures. Those delays represent an important burden for the victim and the families because they have to pay for the trip anyway.

Another factor that she underlines is the presence of non-collaborative behaviours from another NGO. According to the respondent, this NGO receives all the information about cases directly from the police and consistently does not attend the child protection meetings of the Provincial Committee for the Consultation on Children and Women Affairs. The respondent also affirms that this NGO receives all the information from the national law enforcement. But the same does not happen when the respondent requests the same information. The replies of the respondent have to be understood in the context of the type of relationships established between the national law enforcement and the non-collaborative NGO. This strongly supports the police investigation activities, mainly in rape cases, which are the ones which tend to be more often reported. The type of link established between this NGO and the police can be the reason for a more frequent exchange of information between them which weakens the position of the other NGOs with initially the same right to information.

Finally, with regard to the risk of an increase in establishment-based exploitation due to the socio-economic changes in the area, the respondent affirms that prostitution will probably increase. At the same time she underlines the difficulty to investigate such cases since within the Chinese community the tendency to negotiate economically every aspect of life is deeply rooted, compensations to the victims included.

The respondent does not provide information about any other type of sexual abuse.

The socioeconomic transformations are having another impact on the NGOs. It is becoming increasingly difficult for them to afford the rent of the locals due to the general rise of prices caused by the recent wave of immigration. As a result, NGOs have to look at cheaper locations in more distant areas, a factor that can affect their visibility and reception of reports.

Interview with an NGO focused on human rights

This NGO worker also confirms to have problems to afford the NGO local rent at the same time prices in other sectors such as food are also rising due to the recent wave of Chinese immigration. Another effect created by the new socio-economic situation is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find good staff for the social sector since the possibility to earn money fast in the Chinese businesses attracts many young people. The rise in the prices is forcing some families to leave Sihanoukville and as a result, their children are taken out of the school. The main areas where these effects can be seen are Victory Hill and Sangkat commune.

The most common type of abuse that gets reported at his NGO is rape cases with Khmer offenders. As in other examples, the main detected causal factors behind the rape cases are the lack of parental care, the easy access to pornography and use of drugs, mainly alcohol. Often

times the parent abandons the child, creating a situation of vulnerability and an opportunity for the abuse.

The respondent has known about one case of child sexual abuse online through Facebook in 2017. More precisely, it was a case of sextortion in which an ex-boyfriend threatened a girl to post a picture of hers on Facebook. The ex-boyfriend was not aware that this was a crime and received a warning message indicating to him that if the picture appeared somewhere it would be his responsibility.

The respondent considers that the Chinese wave of immigration is displacing Western foreigners and this could have an impact on travelling sex offenders by reducing their presence in Sihanoukville. At the same time, Chinese businesses are not child-friendly, reducing this factor the visible presence of street children.

When questioned about establishment-based abuse and the presence of minors in those locals the respondent believes that it will continue in the future because as a matter of fact, to his understanding minors of 17 have always been there to a bigger or lesser extent. The respondent also underlines the capacity of these businesses to attract young people to work in the belief that they will increase their living standards very fast.

When questioned about the main challenges in terms of child protection the respondent indicates that in the society still exists and insufficient culture of care for the security of the child. He also adds that the recently created socio-economic situation is very concerning in terms of child protection and especially related to a potential increase in establishment-based abuse. The fact the money is used to negotiate almost every single aspect of life within the Chinese community makes it very difficult to gather concrete information about cases even for the NGOs in the field. Therefore, so that the measures meant to be implemented in the future can work, it is indispensable to involve the provincial governor in the process. He also mentions that for certain businesses even that support may not be sufficient. And before implementing those measures, provide intense awareness. The type of challenge created by the new socio-economic situation is so complex that, according to the respondent, NGOs cannot face it individually but on the contrary, they need to work together. The respondent also mentions the existence of a non-collaborative NGO which does not cooperate with the others. Besides this NGO, according to the respondent, tends to move the children too fast in cases of abuse, without respecting their own personal and subjective processes.

Another challenge underlined is that sometimes the families of the victim just want to have the involvement of an NGO in the process. According to the respondent, better solutions can often be found with the involvement of more than one.

Interview with a generic NGO

The respondent confirms that what they have mostly seen are rape cases, around ten since 2013. The causes are related to the absence of family care, lack of education, and easy access to pornography. Simple daily life activities to generate an income such as the mother going to do her business (selling fish) create an opportunity for the offender (the stepfather, for example) to rape the child.

He is also aware of child sexual abuse online and affirms to have seen some cases in Sihanoukville.

With regard to the establishment-based abuse, he believes that it is going to increase. He also believes that children often affirm that they are over eighteen years old when in reality they

are not. He also confirms that manipulating the ID is relatively easy. In fact, many young people do feel attracted to the possibility to earn money fast in those newly created businesses (many of them casinos) and quit their studies. According to his perception, it is not difficult that they end up becoming sex workers.

When questioned about what could be done in order to improve the child protection system as a whole, he affirms that more awareness is required. He also indicates that according to his own experience, when awareness is given to the police, finally the knowledge does not get to the community level. That is why he recommends involving the authorities in the awareness raising activities but at the same time, work directly with the parents of the children as the main transmitter of the information. He gives the example of his NGO where they have selected 180 parents to work as educators at the community level. One of the main contents that they provide is awareness about the risk of entering to work into those businesses, especially to those children who live in remote areas. In case they finally do, they give them their contact so that they know where and how to ask for help. The challenge increases with the fact that, according to him, when the owner is a westerner, it is easier to access the business. But on the contrary, when the owner is Chinese, sometimes it is not possible to enter. Therefore, for any possible measure, it is necessary to involve the provincial authority in the process. However, this respondent recognizes, just as other workers from two different NGOs, that for some establishment even the implication of the provincial authority might not be sufficient to force the business to accept the child protection measures. The affirmation shows the possibility that some businesses may receive political protection even from a higher level.

Finally, he recommends promoting the hotline. In this regard, it would be convenient to consider the possibility to unify the three existing hotlines in just one.

Interview with an NGO focused on childcare

Although the most commonly known cases are rape cases by a Khmer offender, the worker of this NGO confirms that he has also dealt with traveling sex offenders, cases of child prostitution and cases in which the tuk-tuk drivers worked as intermediaries. With regard to traveling sex offenders, he has dealt with five cases in the last two years. Unlike police's perception related to street children, he does not believe that their amount has decreased because of having left to Kep or Kampot although they are not so visible at the hotspots which are now being occupied by Chinese businesses.

When questioned about the impact caused by the Chinese immigration wave, he affirms that there are more traffic accidents and more violence against the Khmer citizens. With regard to the impact on the child protection, at the same time, Chinese businessmen are becoming the owners of more hotels and businesses they reject the child safe network that was previously in place. The worker explains that his NGO had an agreement with 26 hotels and now they only have 19, having lost seven. As a result, the network of informants and protection is damaged. They "do not have so many eyes" anymore.

When questioned about the possible risk that the type of establishments opened by the Chinese community leads to an increase of establishment-based exploitation, he confirms that perception. The respondent laughed when he was told that the police affirm that there are no minors in those establishments because the IDs are checked. In the same line of other informants, he affirms that IDs can be easily modified or made up. From his working experience at the NGO, he notices that teenagers are feeling increasingly attracted by the possibility to earn money quickly, some money that can be earned in those Chinese establishments. As a result, at their organization, they are encountering difficulties to find

teenagers to attend and complete the vocational training programs or good workers for the social sector. According to him, it is basically “due to the power of money”.

About other forms of child sexual abuse, he mentions the online modality but has never known of any case in Sihanoukville.

When questioned about how to improve the situation of the child protection conditions taking into account the new emerging reality he affirms that NGOs cannot approach alone the new establishments. On the contrary, the presence of the provincial level and the governor are necessary to undertake any type of measure, for example, a provincial policy. The respondent also indicates such that support might not be sufficient for certain businesses. Finally, once the policy is developed, the Childsafe Network could check its correct implementation.

The perspective from the community

Interview with a Civil Reporter (CR)

According to the respondent, there has been a great evolution in the understanding of child sexual abuse. At the beginning people did not understand the grooming techniques or that a boy could be abused or raped. That lack of understanding about the aim of grooming caused that the parents allowed the children to go along with the foreigners and it was very difficult to protect them.

Gradually people started to understand. The police became more active and in court, the testimonies received more credibility. The modus operandi evolved too. At the beginning, offenders had very obvious behaviours, but later on, they became more sophisticated. In some cases, the offender got to marry the mother of the child to have contact with him or her. In 2007, the activity began to decrease. People understood more about the problem. The network of informants was wider, although the work of the police still remained slow and the internal changes inside the police affected their work.

Since 2014, foreigners knew about APLE and the cases of traveling sex offenders started to decrease at the same time rape cases committed by locals increased. That is when APLE starts to receive counterattacks. The offenders tell the children not to give information to the organization. At the same time, the number of human resources available reduced too. In 2005 there were six investigators and in 2016 and 2017 only two. The lack of resources is combined with the fact that the police still respond late. However, in 2018, there seems to be an increase in the number of cases compared with 2016 and 2017. Most of them are westerners and Asian. There is still a prevailing tendency to file complaints when the offender is local. Reluctancy to do so when the offender is a foreigner (Western or Asian) remains.

According to the respondent, the impact of the Chinese community can lead to an increase in establishment-based abuse. In the last two years, three clubs were closed in Sihanoukville. In those clubs, there were women who worked as prostitutes and who came from other countries. The clubs were closed because of drugs use. The police said that there were no minors inside. The latter aspect, which can be true for that concrete case, is not assumed by other respondents on a general basis, especially the NGOs workers who participate in this research.

The respondent does not provide information about any other form of abuse although is aware of the novelty of child sexual abuse online and its risks.

When questioned about how to improve the child protection system in the province, the most concerning thing is that according to him, organizations do not have enough human resources and that decreases the capacity to act fast. He also mentions that with regard to the police, although the allocated budget increases every year, they do not receive that increase at the provincial and local level. Finally, their responses are still slow.

Interview with a hotel worker at a touristic area

The current respondent works at a hotel at Otress beach. The setting receives mostly western tourists because westerners look for areas away from the downtown and the new Chinese businesses and hotels. The hotel is a member of the Childsafe network. This implies that the

members receive training about child sexual abuse and traveling sex offenders' modus operandi. Besides, there is a protocol in place for child protection which means that if a client tries to register at the hotel with a child alone, the hotel will not allow it and will inform the police or call the hotline. To the respondents' understanding, he does not see suspicious behaviours that could lead to abuse by foreigners.

When questioned about child sexual abuse in general, he affirms that rape cases are the most commonly observed. Like other participants, he believes that establishment-based abuse can increase due to the type of businesses recently opened by the Chinese businessmen. Minors can be involved in that type of exploitation because as many other participants explain, changing the ID and the age is something relatively easy to do in Cambodia.

He also observes more violence and noise as a secondary impact of the recent wave of immigration of this Chinese community. Sihanoukville is becoming a more difficult place to live in and the respondent does not go to town anymore. Even the hotel owners want to leave the hotel too.

When questioned about other types of abuse he affirms he can only mention cases of child sexual abuse seen on Facebook.

To improve the child protection system, he proposes to involve the provincial governor and the NGOs to develop a child protection policy and force the new businesses to accept it.

APPENDIX E: PERSPECTIVES FROM KAMPOT

The perspective of the local authorities

Interview with the local police AHTJPD

During the last two years, the police in Kampot has had only one case of sexual intercourse with a minor, and another case of illegal removal of a minor. Unlike in other provinces, in Kampot, the rape cases do not fall on their area of responsibility.

With regard to traveling sex offenders, the police believe that there is approximately the same amount of street children, contradicting the perspective given by the police in Sihanoukville. They also affirm they have not noticed an increase in the number of beggars. When questioned about any other type of suspicious behavior from foreigners, the police speak about three cases. In all of them, the suspect plays a role with regard to the education of the child or children, i.e. as a teacher, mentor or godfather. The type of children that they approach are usually poor children often with an only one parent or children who live outside of town and the offender gives them some sort of support, i.e. teach English class and some food.

The main hotspot in Kampot where more interaction with children and foreigners can be observed is the riverside, according to their observations.

The police also confirm that there is an increasing number of Westerners who come to Kampot, settle down and open their own businesses. When questioned about the possibility of those businesses to increase the establishment-based abuse, they affirm that prevention measures are taken in advance. More precisely the police explain the law to them and warn them about hiring or having minors inside.

With regard to institutional- based abuse or child sexual abuse online, the police confirm they have not had any case in the province.

Finally, when questioned about the current gaps to improve the child protection, they affirm that more awareness is required, especially among the locals. There are too many villages and the police do not have sufficient resources to provide those pieces of training. They affirm that they received awareness in the past but they would like to update their knowledge especially in what affects grooming techniques. More precisely they would like to celebrate a workshop about lessons learned and a strategy to adopt in the province.

Interview with the local institutions

When questioned about child sexual abuse, the respondent explains that most of the cases are rape cases committed by a stranger or a member of the family, and mainly by Cambodian offenders. When questioned about traveling sex offenders, the respondent affirms that in 2016 there was a case of a foreigner who abused children and it was reported during a meeting she attended with the police. The respondent believes that there are around ten street children in the town. She confirms that she has sometimes seen foreigners with young girls but she believes that it is normal, that there is no problem with it. She also believes that the most common causes of abuse are in the communities.

When questioned about institutional-abuse she speaks about a case, which happened in 2015, in which there was a Khmer suspect of abuse and the center was closed down. She knows that some shelters allow to have volunteers, but does not know if also they allow to take the children

out or not. She believes that all of them should have a child protection policy in place but not sure about it. She also indicates that Social affairs are the one that monitors those shelters.

When questioned about establishment- based abuse, the respondent affirms that there are minors inside the karaoke places. According to her, they are around, 14, or 15 years old. The respondent believes that they lie about their age even if there are controls in place.

When questioned about cases of child sexual abuse online the respondent laughed and affirms to have seen it on Facebook sometimes.

When questioned about what could be done to improve the child protection system, the respondent affirms that it is essential to work with the commune, making it stronger and developing awareness activities at that level since they are the ones closer to the community, to the problems. She affirms that the available budget for the commune is very small, around 1000 dollars per year, and insufficient to get trained. She recommends a regularity of two pieces of training per year.

The perspective from the NGOs

Interview with a project coordinator at a generic NGO

When questioned about cases of child sexual abuse she mentions rape cases committed by Cambodian offenders who usually operate in remote areas and in the district. Like previous respondents, she affirms that there is an increasing number of tourists who come from Sihanoukville and some of them open new businesses. Those tourists come mostly from America and Europe and in much lesser extent from Asia. She does not believe that the number of street children has increased but like a previous respondent, she believes that now there are more beggars. When questioned about what type of interaction she sees between foreigners and children she affirms that most of the cases seem to be families. It is not rare that the male foreigner has a Cambodian girlfriend and often she had already children. She affirms that the downtown and Chum Krill are the two areas where more interaction can be seen. When asked if the foreigner could have the role of a godfather she replies that she does not know the internal relationship. She does not know about tuk-tuk drivers who could develop the role of intermediaries to provide sexual services.

She knows that there are cases of foreigners who support local families and mentions specifically a Christian group that supports many families. If she saw a suspicious behavior she would report to the authority since she is not afraid to do it. The respondent also knows which NGOs she could address and what type of services they provide in a case of child sexual abuse.

When questioned about institutional-based abuse, she affirms that she does not know any case although she knows about NGOs, which do accept volunteers. She also affirms that there are around ten to twelve NGOs in the province, which focus on education, and only a few do have a child protection policy in place. Precisely she mentions specifically two which do not have it - Putrak Bamalay and Sala Phesa Chum Kril.

When questioned about establishment-based exploitation she affirms that although on Kampot there is not a specific red light area, there are many Karaoke Bars (KTVs) for local people. She believes that there are minors inside of those establishments.

She is not aware of any case of child sexual abuse online in the province although she has heard of them in Phnom Penh.

When questioned about what to be done to improve the child protection system the respondent replies that more awareness, especially about modus operandi, is required.

Interview with an NGO worker who promotes coordination among local NGOs

The respondent confirms that there is an increasing number of foreigners who come to Kampot leaving Sihanoukville. The phenomenon started in the last two years. He notes more interaction between foreigners and Cambodian children. The most common type of relationship is that in which the male foreigner marries a Cambodian lady and she had children already. Sometimes she is a widow. The respondent also confirms that he has very often seen male foreigners with many children walking together to the market and the foreigner buys them many things. They give them food but he does not know what type of relationship they have with the children. He believes that in such cases the foreigners could be the stepfather or NGO workers. He has seen this type of situations very frequently during the last year. This type of situations can be seen in downtown, at the night market, and near the river.

The respondent, unlike in other cases, believes that there is a small increase in the number of street children in Kampot who beg for money. He also affirms that no NGO is devoted to working specifically with them. He also affirms that there are more beggars too. They beg at night, the moment when they can be seen more easily.

When questioned about establishment-based abuse, the respondent affirms that the number of bars and clubs is increasing. A tendency that in his opinion will continue due to the arrival of more westerners from Sihanoukville. He cannot affirm if there are minors inside. Generally, to have sex services, the clients go to the Vietnamese massage places. More Asian clients that foreigners tend to go to such places. To his understanding oftentimes small children can be seen outside of such establishments. However, they seem to be the children of the workers. He has no information about tuk-tuk drivers playing a role as intermediaries.

When questioned about institutional-based abuse, the respondent confirms that there are NGOs which give direct access to children. He also affirms that around 10 or 12 NGOs in the province still do not have a child protection policy in place. The information is available to the respondent because of the type of work that he develops with other NGOs in the province. He has not known about any case of child sexual abuse inside an NGO.

When questioned about cases of child sexual abuse online, the respondent mentions a case of sextortion in Kep.

With regard to the main gaps to improve the child protection system, the respondent affirms that still, the main problems rely on the way the government and police operate, with very weak and slow responses. He also mentions the need to increase awareness especially about the need to implement child protection policies at institutions. He underlines the still prevailing belief that a child with a foreigner is safe. If he heard about a case he would contact the hotline or go to the police. He knows the process very well.

Interview with an NGO specializing in human rights

During the last two years, the cases registered by this NGO are rape cases, indecent acts and a case of sexual intercourse with a minor of 15 which the judge qualified as rape. The nationality of the offenders of such cases is Cambodian and Vietnamese. The NGO also confirms the increasing amount of western tourists who are coming from Sihanoukville and who open businesses. At the end of 2017, they had a case an indecent act by a westerner offender but victim disappeared and the investigation was concluded.

When questioned about the interaction between foreigners and children the respondents confirm that they often see mixed couples with children. The type of relationship that lies underneath is not known. They also confirm the existence of a westerner, a godfather, supporting a family. More precisely he supports a girl to go to school. The respondents consider that relationship as "normal" because in the past the Khmer family helped the wife of the foreigner and he is giving it back to them now.

The respondents believe that there are no more street children now, but they identify two newly arrived families of beggars who have children here. They confirm that an increasing number of people are leaving Sihanoukville because the prices also rising. But the respondents believe that the street children are still there because the main NGO in child protection, which has a dropping center and provides vocational training, is able to retain them with its services. This information is contradictory with the one given by such organization, at least in the last point. In fact, they affirm their difficulty to find young people for their vocational training programs due to the intense attraction felt towards the new Chinese businesses and the possibility to earn money fast.

When questioned about establishment-based abuse, the NGO believes that cases, which involve minors, do happen. They do not know about tuk-tuk drivers who are working as intermediaries although they confirm their presence in Sihanoukville.

With regard to child sexual abuse online, they have only known about one case in Kep also confirmed by other respondents.

When questioned about the institutional-based abuse they do not know about any case. They do not have information about the internal regulations of other NGOs, i.e. if they have a child protection policy in place or not.

When questioned about the main gaps to improve in child protection the NGO affirms that the authority should give more awareness raising pieces of training to the community. Besides, that information should be given to students. The NGO mentions that in 2017 they had three cases of child sexual abuse within the family.

The perspective from the community

Interview with a Civil Reporter (CR)

The main observation that he notices is that the transformations in Kampot are happening very fast. There is an increasing number of westerners from Sihanoukville who are coming to Kampot. To his understanding, there are no more street children now but according to his observations, he affirms that there are more beggars, more people who live on the street. Where they come from is unknown to him. This fact is relevant because the families of beggars do come with their own children.

With regard to traveling sex offenders, he knows of foreigners who support local families and provides the concrete example of a man with a quite suspicious behaviour. He adds that this man also works as a teacher at a school.

When questioned about establishment-based abuse he affirms that since approximately a year and a half at the street Dragon there is an increasing number of businesses which are being opened by foreigners who are leaving Sihanoukville since the recent Chinese wave of immigration. The appearance is that those businesses are "clean" and just give the opportunity to the client to buy a drink for the girl. However, he affirms the potentiality of the risk involved. The respondent also speaks about a video posted on YouTube on July 21st, 2017 called Prostitution in Kampot, Cambodia (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qk3oOUg7cpA>) which gives concrete indications about prices and locations to find sexual services in the town. According to the respondent, it seems to be made by someone who lives in the town.

With regard to institutional-based abuse, he believes that the shelters and NGOs do have protocols in place often do not admit volunteers inside. Apart from that, he has not heard of any case. However, he recognizes to have detected suspicious behaviour from a man who is trying to volunteer in one of them. He also adds that is too easy still to have access to schools to work as a teacher in them. The respondent affirms that he achieved his first job at a school in Cambodia showing a degree that was not even in English and therefore could not be read or checked by those who hired him.

He has not heard about rape cases in the area apart from what he hears on the news. He does not have information about child sexual abuse online.

When questioned about the main challenges that he observes with regard to child protection the respondent affirms that there are insufficient information and awareness. To his understanding, the degree of the problem is not sufficiently recognized. He often encounters people who still don't know to whom they can report. He suggests that festivals and markets could be a good place to spread the message against child sexual abuse. He also adds that he cannot remember APLE signs in the town. He also affirms that the political change can have an impact on child protection issues. Whereas the two previous governors were stricter the current one is more lenient with regard to the opening of new businesses.

If he had to report a case, he would not call the police; instead, he would address a fellow that he knows and who is reliable according to his experience. However, he would not expect any action from him either. Therefore, he would contact an NGO to take action.

Interviews with tuk-tuk drivers at the riverside

During an informal conversation with a tuk-tuk driver, he affirmed that there is an increased number of street children right now, around ten. According to this respondent, two years ago there were not any and he does not know where they come from. Mainly they collect cans for a living. Sometimes foreign tourists take some of those children to the boat trip. The respondent explains that he has also seen a foreigner from an NGO with children because he has taken them in his tuk-tuk. He also sees Cambodian with foreigners "but they are family" as he explains. According to him, there are many Khmer ladies with foreigners. The respondent confirms that many of those Khmer ladies had children already. The main places to observe that interaction are downtown and Chum Krill. Also in the market, some foreigners have a business and others are opening bars at the Dragon Street, on the other side of the river.

During a second informal conversation with another tuk-tuk driver, he affirms that there are around 20 street children in Kampot divided into two groups. One group collects cans and another group begs at the market with the families. The respondent believes that there are more beggars too. He affirms that around ten times he has brought foreigners with children in his tuk-tuk to take the boat. He believes that they were not NGO workers and he speaks about the case of a Khmer family with a male foreign friend. He also confirms that there are many Khmer ladies with children who have a foreign partner.

Interview with a hotel worker

The main changes noticed by this respondent are related to the increasing amount of westerners who are leaving Sihanoukville for Kampot. Only a few street children, he has not noticed a bigger number of beggars.

When questioned about the interaction between westerners and children, the respondent affirms that what is more frequently seen are families in which apparently the westerner is the stepfather. The main areas where this interaction can be seen are Chum Kril, Tada waterfall, Dong Prek River park and Dong Te River park. Retired people from the West are increasingly establishing themselves in the area of Chum Kril area and in downtown and they develop relationships with the locals.

He does not know about foreigners supporting local families. He speaks of a certain presence of street children and beggars too. Has never seen a suspicious behaviour from any foreigner or a foreigner with a small child renting a room. In fact, he affirms that the police warns the hotels about those risks.

He cannot provide information about the establishment or institutional-based abuse but does not believe that tuk-tuk drivers are working as intermediaries. He confirms that the places to buy sex services are the massages places and the bars, to make contact with the woman and taking her later on to a guesthouse or hotel. The respondent confirms that they had once a local client who tried to bring a minor into the hotel and they did not allow it.

He cannot provide information about child sexual abuse online. He believes that there are frequent abuses of privacy without being cases of child sexual abuse.

When questioned about how to improve the child protection in the area he expresses that the monitoring of the operations of the police should become more intense. Unless the police warn every single hotel, abuse can happen in his opinion. He also recommends distributing leaflets where information can be more accessible and visible. In general terms, he believes that people do not have sufficient knowledge.

When questioned about the possibility to create a Childsafe network like the one which still exists in Sihanoukville, he considers it would be a good idea in terms of prevention.

Finally, he affirms that if he saw a case he would go to the police, more precisely to the admin police with no fear. He knows that they would contact an NGO after that.

APPENDIX F: PERSPECTIVES FROM KEP

The perspective from the local authorities

Interview with the military police

The respondent believes that there are more western tourists in Kep and many of them come from Sihanoukville. They rent a flat or open a business or buy a piece of land. With regard to the street children, the respondent does not perceive that the number has increased. But he specifies that those children do not live at the street; they have families and pick up cans. It is very difficult to get data about the exact amount because the police do not have collaboration with other authorities to know it with accuracy. However, he provides some figures. Around 460 children are vulnerable in Kep. Some are orphans, other disabled and others HIV infected. Out of those 460, 232 are girls. In any case, the respondent does not believe that they come from Sihanoukville.

When questioned about the interaction between children and tourists, the respondent speaks about a foreign language school where sometimes the staff takes the children out. He has often seen sometimes foreigners riding a bike with small girls along the beach together. The police believe that the school is not registered, it is basically only one house. According to the respondent, they take poor children who go to class for free and who could be exploited. Initially, there were six schools in the area, two moved out and remain untraceable; four are still functioning. Out of those four, 1 is the foreign language school.

According to the respondent, the main problem is the lack of means to check if the school is safe or not. The local authority is pleased if there is a new school coming, but there are no means to control about it. He has been told that the language school is registered but does not believe so. With regard to shelters, there are two that belong to the state. One of them used to receive foreigners but there was never a suspicious behavior reported. He does not know if those shelters have a child protection policy.

The respondent mentions two places for interaction between tourists and children in Kep, namely the two beaches and the areas in front of the provincial hall. The main areas where businessmen are settling down are Samkat Kep & Samkat Prey Thom.

When questioned about establishment-based abuse, he believes that there are minors inside the karaokes who falsify the ID. He also adds that IDs are not properly checked. In that sense, the solution should require, apart from checking the ID, checking the real address of those workers in coordination with the provincial level. He also adds that in Kep there is no specific area for sex services.

The respondent has only heard about a case of child sexual abuse online in the province in 2017. Finally, the offender was arrested.

When questioned about what could be done in terms of child protection, the respondent affirms that there should be more proactive monitoring proactively and investigation from the police side. This means to look for the crime instead of waiting for it to be reported. He also underlines the insufficient resources to work that way. Besides he underlines that more awareness for the community is necessary.

Interview with the local police, AHTJPD

When questioned about the recent changes in Kep, the respondent confirms that in the last two years there are more tourists coming mainly from Sihanoukville. To his understanding, the problem of traveling sex offenders will increase precisely for that reason. Currently, the immigration police know much about the foreigners who have lived here for a long time. The identification has a double purpose, in case they commit a crime or in case they need protection.

With regard to establishment based-abuse, the respondent explains the security measures which are taken to avoid it. He affirms that minors are not allowed inside the eight existing karaokes because there is an intense control over the IDs. He also indicates that the police give warnings to the owners and they have a photo of all the staff of the locals. He also mentions the security measures in the four existing massage parlors, such as the absence of doors if there are rooms or the absence of locks if there are doors.

When questioned about institutional-based abuse, the respondent affirms that he has often seen interaction between foreigners and children at schools or institution in the province. However, affirms that he has never seen anything suspicious. He cannot give precise information about the existing child protection policies in place.

The respondent cannot give information about any case of child sexual abuse online.

When questioned about what could be done to increase the child protection he affirms that more prevention is necessary, including all those stakeholders who are opening new businesses. The respondent insists that prevention is necessary because there will be more tourists coming from Sihanoukville to Kep.

The perspective from the community

Interview with three street children

During a conversation with three street children at a hotspot by one of the beaches, the children explain that they all live in the same area, behind the police station. Where they live there are many poor children too, according to them. They affirm that there is a lady who runs a shelter and she gives them support. She takes them around also. Apart from that, the French school (mentioned as the language school by the military police) gives them biscuits, and they get cookies whenever they go there. Tourists give them money and buy them biscuits many times. One boy explains that one of their friends, another street child, went once to the house of a foreigner (according to what he explains it is a couple) he slept there and they gave him 200 dollars. Sometimes they play with tourist on the beach. They know that tourist may feel sexual desire for them. They say they know about that already.

Interview at a coffee place near a hotspot

During a conversation with a worker in a coffee place at a hotspot, she confirms that many tourists come to Kep, mainly from Vietnam, China and also westerners. Although she spends most of the time inside of the coffee place she affirms that she often sees street children collecting cans. At the weekend it is probably the moment with most interaction when the tourists come and the children pick up cans at the beach. She has also seen many times foreigners with a Khmer wife and a child. She believes that they are families. She has never heard about cases of child sexual abuse in Kep by travelling offenders; she has only heard about rape cases committed by Cambodians. If she saw something suspicious she would call the police since she is not afraid to do so.

When questioned with regard to institutional-based abuse, she explains that there is an NGO, which accepts volunteer teachers. Those volunteers are generally young people from 25 to 25 years old. She knows them because they often come to the coffee place.

With regard to establishment-based abuse, she cannot give precise information. She affirms that some male clients rent rooms with presumed adult women at the hotel linked to the coffee place and which belongs to the same business.

Interview with a hotel owner

During a conversation with a hotel owner, he affirms that 2013 was the year with the highest number of western foreigners. Compared to that year he believes that the amount number is lower. However, he recognizes the demographic movements caused by the Chinese community in Sihanoukville at the same time westerners leave the town. He believes that some of those westerners are moving to Koh Rong (Sihanoukville's islands). He also indicates that people are increasingly buying land in Kep in case it becomes like Sihanoukville in the future.

With regard to traveling sex offenders, he affirms that he does not see much interaction between foreigners and children or street children because he spends most of the time inside the hotel. But he knows about French volunteers who come often to a children's school in Kep. He also speaks about two foreigners who wanted to give English classes. They picked up children and invited his staff at the hotel to attend. With regard to establishment-based abuse, he affirms that they have never had a case of a tourist with a child. In any case, they do not allow minors unless they belong to a family.

He cannot provide any information about sexual abuse online.

Interview with a tuk-tuk driver

During a conversation with a tuk-tuk driver at a restaurant frequently visited by tourists the respondent explains that there are tourists, mainly westerners, but many more in Kampot. Some of those tourists stay for long-term in both settings. He does not notice an increase in the number of street children in Kep. However, in agreement with previous respondents, he affirms that they live behind the police station and pick up cans for a living. The respondent affirms that he has not seen any suspicious interaction between foreigners and those children although he recognizes that he has seen westerners giving things to street children. Others go to poor villages and give them pencils and school materials. Finally, he mentions foreigners who visit one shelter. His perspective is that Kep is a "safe place" easy to control by the police due to its reduced population. That safety seems to be related to the lack of pickpockets, thieves, and other more visible crimes. He affirms that there is no establishment-based exploitation here; He knows that if tuk-tuk driver worked as an intermediary, he would be arrested too. He cannot provide information about child sexual abuse online.