

# IMPACT REPORT

2019

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# FOREWORD



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

It is a pleasure to introduce this 2019 Impact Report from APLE Cambodia. As you will see in the following pages, APLE has continued its fight against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, with great success.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to protect children at risk and support those who have suffered abuse. APLE has also made a long-term sustainable difference to the capacity of the national law-enforcement and judiciary to implement best child-friendly practices when prosecuting offenders.

In the coming year, APLE will review its strategic focus to take account of changes in the environment in which we operate. We will strengthen our efforts against on-line grooming and abuse, which is recognised by all to be a growing threat world-wide. However we must not ignore the need for continuing support to victims, training for law-enforcers and research to underpin all work against CSAE.

We hope that our donors will also recognise the continuing importance of the activities, in which APLE plays a crucial role, for which we have been nationally and internationally recognised.

I thank all our donors for their support to date, our staff for their hard work and commitment and my colleague Board members for their contributions during 2019. We look forward to even greater future success with continuing support from all concerned.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evelyn Dykes,  
Board Chairman

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019, we made further progresses towards strengthening the social and legal mechanisms designed to protect at-risk and exploited children in Cambodia. We welcomed our new staff and Board members, signed a new MoU with government, built more child-friendly spaces, trained thousands of community members, supported hundreds of children to seek justice, advocated for legislative change, developed further professional capacity of our staff, and joined memberships that have a lasting, positive impact for child protection systems in Cambodia.

We were proud to work with a wide range of dedicated people and organizations with the aim of ending child sexual abuse and exploitation. We signed a new MoU with the Ministry of Interior to continue investing in capacity building for local police, community-based prevention initiatives and supports for law enforcement activity.

In our Criminal Justice Development program, one of the proudest successes was the training for police trainers from the Police Academy of Cambodia (PAC) who are on their way to become future trainers of other police forces across the country. In 2020, we'll be working with PAC to integrate child protection training in their curriculum.

Our Court Support team continued to assist 145 child victims/their families to access justice, and advocated on behalf of child victims to make the legal process more convenient for other children. The Program also provided psycho-social support to 264 beneficiaries. Additionally, we helped dozens of social workers/lawyers to understand best practices of the effective case management system.

In 2019, our Community Engagement reached 4,000+ people through awareness raising/training and built their confidence to confront child sexual abuse. In 2020, we've planned to support a number of government's curricular developments, seeking to incorporate all aspects of child sexual abuse in school teaching.

In our effort to build evidence-based strategy, we completed the Study on Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia which has now been signed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.



We will follow up on the findings and recommendations and support the development of National Plan of Action by the government to counter online child sexual exploitation.

APLE continued to build up a multi-disciplinary partnership to protect children as the problem is evolving. Fighting child sexual exploitation, especially in travel, tourism as well as online requires a strong collaborative approach. We had the privilege to become the 109th member of ECPAT International, a global child protection network, and member of INHOPE's Hotline Association.

On behalf of APLE Cambodia, I'd like to say 'thank you' to our donors, partners, Board and staff members for all the invaluable support and dedication. Our success is the community's success and yours. With your continued support, APLE is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead in 2020 and further.

Seila Samleang,  
Executive Director

# APLE'S INTERVENTIONS



Photo credit: APLE



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT

The Criminal Justice Development Program provides critical training, long-term mentorship and assistance on investigations to national law enforcement agencies and other judicial protection mechanisms to increase adherence to national and international standards in cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and the use of child-friendly procedures throughout the whole criminal justice process.



### COURT SUPPORT

The program focuses on providing high-quality and timely legal and social support for victims of sexual abuse, thus enabling them to pursue justice while minimising the risk of further trauma. The program's activities include crisis intervention, provision of emotional support, legal advice and representation for victims and their families along with advocacy to establish child-friendly practices in the judicial process.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

APLE's Community Engagement activities engage all levels of society, from seeking support from businesses and private companies for the operation and promotion of the Internet and phone hotlines, to multi-sector meetings and trainings with youth, NGOs, and peer educators and community leaders to directly increase knowledge about CSAE in the general population.



### RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

The Research and Advocacy Program recognises the importance of using evidence to underpin APLE Cambodia's work and strategic focus. The knowledge and experience generated through such research will provide evidence to strengthen advocacy and provide transferable knowledge which may be of value to other countries with similar problems.



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We value partnerships and see them as critical to ending child sexual abuse and exploitation in Cambodia. Over the years, we have built strong partnerships among various sectors of society. Some of those are highlighted below.

Photo credit: APLE

## PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF ECPAT INTERNATIONAL

APLE Cambodia was honored to become a member of ECPAT International, a global network leading in the field of child protection, coordinating advocacy and action to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### A global network with one goal

ECPAT is a worldwide network of organizations and works at all levels, supporting shelters for survivors, training and supporting law enforcement, influencing governments and conducting a wide range of research.

ECPAT has been a supporter of APLE since 2018, as a partner to our investigative and victim assistance work, as well as in our community empowerment activities and hotlines.

In September of 2019, the ties were strengthened by APLE becoming the 109th member of ECPAT International, making Cambodia the 97th country to be represented in the global alliance.



Photo credit: ECPAT

Being one of ECPAT's members, APLE will continue to work to create stronger partnerships for collaborative action among various entities in order to combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children at national, regional and global levels.



Photo credit: APLE

## APLE'S INTERNET AND TELEPHONE 24/7 HOTLINE 2019 STATS

### 127 reports received via phone hotline

Grooming and suspicious activities	/63
Child prostitution/trafficking	/02
Child rapes and molestation	/21
Online related cases	/07
Others	/30

### 66 reports received via Internet hotline

Baseline CSAM	/7
National CSAM	/14
Doubtful CSAM	/13
Adult pornography	/2
Others	/30

### Internet hotline outcome

Content removed	/30
Domain seized/site blocked	/5
Notice sent to LEA	/2
Referred to INHOPE ICCAM	/12
Notice sent to ISP	/0
Notice sent to domain owner	/30
Non-actionable	/24

The hotlines are operated as one of our main actions to fulfill our objective of providing communities with the tools to report and take action against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The increase in hotline reports shows a correlation with the success of the Community Engagement Program awareness raising activities regarding the general public's knowledge and accessibility to the reporting platforms.

The percentage of online cases promptly attended by our hotline analyst is satisfactory in part due to our affiliation with the INHOPE network. These kind of responses are of major help in the fight against online exploitation, considering this problem is of major concern among the global child protection network due to the lack of resources to counteract it.



Photo credit: APLE

## ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

In 2019, APLE inaugurated its online training center within its internet hotline website. This section has currently an active course for professionals working with children, and will have courses for children and parents running in 2020. This course for professionals is designed to detect potential online child sexual abuse and exploitation, understand signs and how to react, going into more complex subjects such as how the online abusers operate, what mechanisms they use to hide their identity, dark web and legislation in the Asian region.



Photo credit: APLE

### Ms. NY Vatey, Online Course Participant

She was one of the 19 participants of the First Formal Launching Event of APLE’s Online Learning Resource Center, which included a live practice of the online lessons. Vatey completed all six courses and passed the final test with the highest score (100 out of 100). Like other participants, she holds a high commitment to share what she has learned from APLE Cambodia with her peers at Westline school in Phnom Penh so that they have a better understanding on how to build a safer online environment.

“It is a good opportunity for me to participate in this event. I am glad to get more knowledge related to child sexual abuse and exploitation. This course is really special as it is about internet safety, a very relevant topic considering most children start using phones with internet connection since early ages. After this course, I am going to share what I have learned with my peers. I am sure that in unity we can all fight the exploitation of children online.” - Says Vatey



APLE and Police Academy of Cambodia cooperate with the purpose of jointly implementing the Training of Trainer (ToT) program to build the capacity of police trainers on child-friendly practice in the criminal justice procedures.

Photo credit: APLE

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Criminal Justice Development program aims to create sustainable impact by helping Government institutions relevant to the criminal justice system improve national, social and legal mechanisms for the protection of CSAE victims and families throughout the criminal justice process.

In our 2019 evaluation of this outcome, APLE found that 66.2% of Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police officials who received training and continued to apply child-friendly investigative skills after the program.

APLE organized two Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions with the financial support from Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) and Bread for the World (BfdW). In the two sessions, the total number of participants was that of 47 deputy provincial police commissioners in charge of and chiefs of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection police from the cities/provinces of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Kandal, Kampot, Kep, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey.

Each participant attended both the first and second sessions of the ToT trainings on “Child-Friendly Practice in the criminal prosecution of criminal procedure for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation”.

Based on the results of the pre and post tests, 95% of participants demonstrated the usefulness of the TOT sessions.

APLE Cambodia’s programs focus on making long-term, sustainable impact. Our Criminal Justice has not only trained law enforcement officials, but has focused on training those who can pass the knowledge onto new generations with training of trainer sessions. One of the biggest achievements was the adoption of our training materials by the Police Academy of Cambodia (PAC). PAC is a public educational establishment which acts as the secretariat to the Minister of Interior, entrusted with the main roles and responsibilities in managing and planning for capacity development of the Cambodian National Police and in designing and developing the educational curriculum for all levels on specialized skills and methods of operation.

In addition, APLE continued to implement the “Case Agent Approach”, an investigation approach in which one investigator (Case Officer) is assigned as primary responsible for a case. The Case Officer works directly with the police throughout the investigation, from the initial start until the arrest, to assist police in the investigation. The approach enhances the police’s capacity and willingness to respond appropriately to possible cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

APLE referred 47 of 89 cases preliminarily assessed by APLE’s case officers to the Cambodian National Police’s Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department for investigations in which APLE case officers continued to mentor and promote child-friendly oriented casework.



Photo credit: APLE

2019 CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
DEVELOPMENT IN NUMBERS

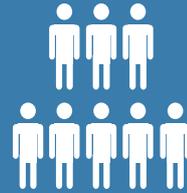
In 2019, our Criminal Justice Development team achieved the following:

Cases investigated	/86
Cases referred to local police	/36
Children rescued from abuse	/31
Suspects arrested by police	/16
Cases referred to foreign police	/21



86

Suspected cases investigated



36

Cases referred to local police for investigation

31

Children rescued from abuse/exploitation

16

Suspects arrested by police



21

Cases disseminated to foreign police

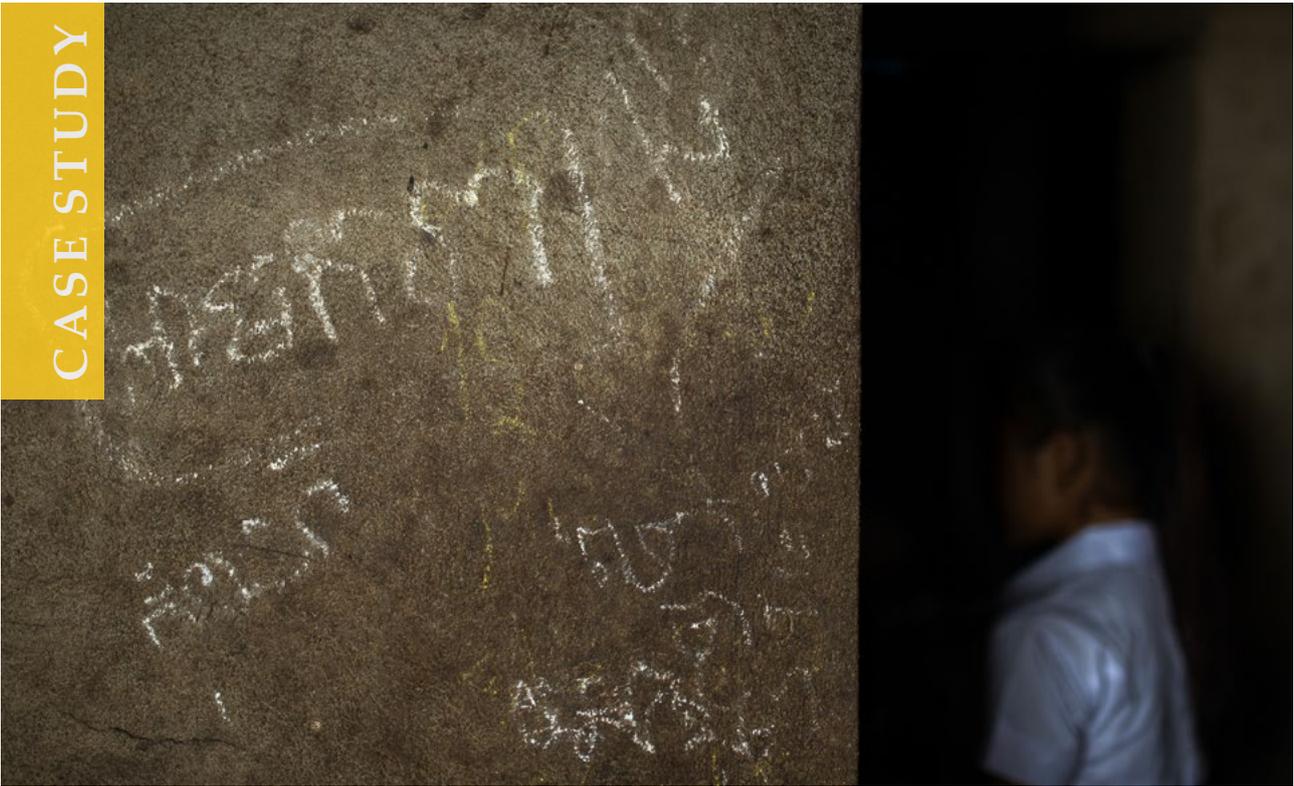


Photo credit: APLE

## SOCHEATA'S STORY

### COLLABORATING FOR SOCHEATA'S PROMPT RECOVERY AND FAST REINTEGRATION TO A HEALTHY LIFE

Socheata\* is an 11-year-old girl born into a poor family in Kbal Spean village. When she was younger, her family moved to Siem Reap. She is the middle child of three in the family. Her parents got divorced when she was young. After this separation, her mother had to take care of her and her youngest brother, while her eldest sister left home to live with a friend and work at a KTV in Siem Reap.

Since 2017, Socheata's mother held a romantic relationship with a man. The man was jobless, thus economically dependent on Socheata's mother. He was often violent due to jealousy and alcohol abuse. The lack of care from her fragile family and the frequency of domestic violence made Socheata spend most of her time with friends, becoming more and more vulnerable to her environment.

She started sleeping on the streets and begging for money, especially from foreigners around the Pub Street area of Siem Reap. Begging became the main source of her income, and she stopped depending on her family.

Due to her situation, Socheata quit her studies in grade 4 in a primary school of her village, making her even more susceptible to sexual abuse and exploitation.

In early 2019, while Socheata was begging at the Pub Street, she met a foreigner. The man invited her and her friends to his house.

Due to her financial needs and lack of awareness, Socheata and her friends agreed to go with him without much consideration. Socheata and her friends were sexually abused during that visit. The man gave Socheata and her friends a total of \$100 to share among themselves. Given their economic vulnerability, the same scene happened several more times. Sometimes, Socheata would give a small portion of this money to her mother.

In May 2019, APLE received a tip-off from a confidential source informing that a U.S. citizen had brought two under-aged street girls to his apartment to have sexual favors in exchange for an unconfirmed amount of money.

After receiving this information, APLE immediately informed the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection (AHTJP) police in Siem Reap for their investigation. APLE assisted the police in conducting the preliminary investigation. Shortly after, four girl victims were identified and interviewed by the AHTJP police in Siem Reap.

Following the girls' statements in which they disclosed and confirmed the abuse, the suspect was identified. Socheata was one of those girls.

The four girls and their families decided to pursue a court case. APLE's legal team offered them free of charge, impartial legal aid, while the social team provided crisis support to the girls and their families. Socheata was referred to long-term psychological and social supports from APLE's partner NGOs.

The court case was forwarded to the Prosecutor attached to the Siem Reap Provincial Court of First Instance. The prosecutor charged the offender with indecent acts against minors under 15 years as mandated in the Article 43 of the Law of Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation.

In June 2019, Socheata and other 3 girls and their families were summoned by the investigating judge to provide statements before the investigating judge at the Siem Reap Provincial Court of First Instance. Socheata and her mother were nervous after being informed about the date of testifying. However, they were accompanied by APLE's lawyer to ensure their rights were protected.

APLE's lawyer provided them with legal information such as their rights in court, the roles of court officials who were going to take the statement from them, and the possible questions they might be asked. This legal preparation allowed them to be ready for the court proceedings.

During the hearing, APLE's Lawyer and a counsellor from NGO Partner also accompanied them to court in order to help them go through the difficult process. As observed by our lawyer, the child friendly procedure was applied during this court proceeding.



NGO Partner is working with Socheata's family to conduct another assessment and improve their overall situation, while APLE's social team invited Socheata's mom to join a training about "Protective Care of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation for Parents" in order to prevent more trauma to affect her child again.

The mother expressed her satisfaction with joining this training. She has shared this knowledge with her family and her neighbors and has shown an interest to join more of these trainings.

*\*Name changed for confidentiality*

## CHILDREN DESERVE SAFE SPACES

We are strong advocates of international Child-friendly investigation standards. This translates to less chances of re-traumatization for child victims during their participation in the legal process.

A child-friendly interview room serves as a place where the victim's needs for feelings of privacy, security, integrity and comfort are met. The room is designed to provide the child with environmental psychological cues that ease anxiety, fear and distress. In 2019, one child friendly interview room was set up and launched at DoSVY in Phnom Penh, and two child friendly interview rooms were launched at the Kandal and Kampot provincial police stations.

A total of 15 children made use of the child friendly rooms in Phnom Penh & Siem Reap this year.



Child friendly interview room set up within the police station in Kandal province

Photo credit: APLE

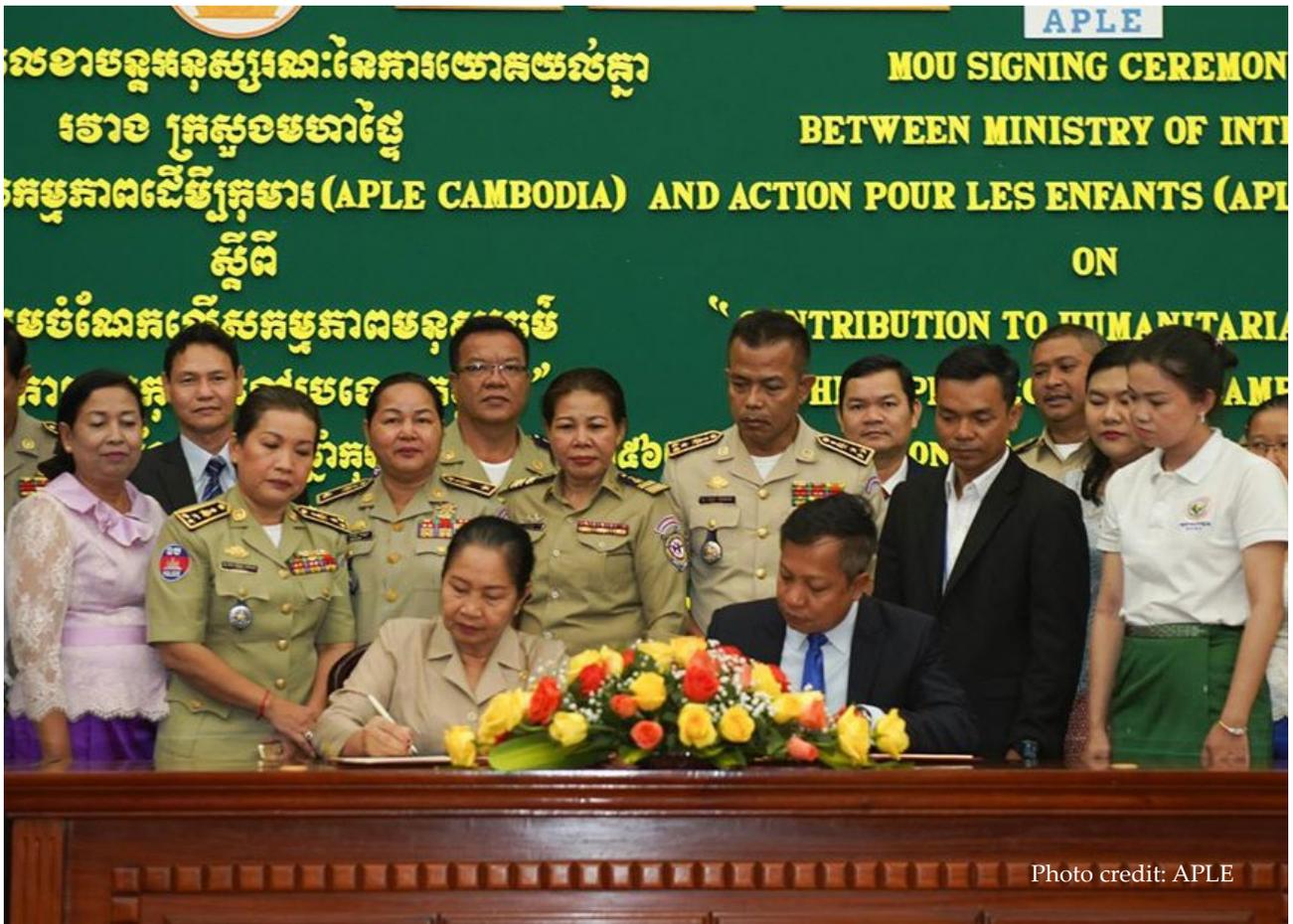


Photo credit: APLE

## COLLABORATING WITH NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

In September, at the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia’s headquarters in Phnom Penh, APLE and the Ministry of Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding which translates as both establishments’ mutual endorsements of efforts towards protecting Cambodia’s children and their commitment to continue doing so in harmonious cooperation for the coming five years.

Both parties agreed to sign the MoU with the purpose of strengthening cooperation in the prevention, suppression, rescue, protection and prosecution of all forms of child abuse and sexual exploitation, and strengthen the responsiveness of government institutions in the field of criminal justice.



National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Persons



Cambodian National Police

## COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

APLE's partnerships with foreign law enforcement agencies have achieved successful justice-seeking outcomes in cases where the offender was a foreign citizen. In 2019, APLE collaborated on casework with the US, UK, German, Australian, Dutch, Canadian, Austrian & Interpol law enforcement.



Photo credit:  
US Embassy

Four APLE staff members, along with Cambodian National Police officials, were awarded a letter of appreciation by the United State Embassy's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in recognition of their ceaseless efforts and cooperation in fighting the online and transnational cases of child sexual exploitation.

The celebration was held in June at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh. The FBI recognises and appreciates the vital cooperation of the partners and embassy staff.



Photo credit:  
Swedish Embassy

In October 2019, with the collaboration of the Swedish Embassy and the Swedish police, APLE spoke to Nordic citizens at the Swedish Embassy in Phnom Penh about the sexual exploitation of children and what can be done to stop it.



Photo credit: APLE

In December, APLE organized a study visit to Thailand for a group of senior police in charge of juvenile protection from Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk. During the visit, the group conducted meetings with key experts in crime against children. In Pattaya, they had a meeting with A21 and TICAC and learned about the child advocacy center model and their multi-disciplinary cooperation in supporting victims/survivors of sexual exploitation. In Bangkok, they met with DSI of Thailand and had the opportunity to learn from their successful operational strategy as well as the partnership approach to counter transnational crime against children. The group also paid a visit to the Crime Against Children section of INTERPOL Bangkok, learned about their internationally recognized ICSE Database tool and discussed future cooperation.

# COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Court Support’s main objective is for child victims and families to receive quality, free psycho-social support and legal services. We cater to the participation of the child victims, serving their best interest and respecting their rights and choices.

## 2019 COURT SUPPORT IN NUMBERS

In 2019, 80% of child victims and their families received quality psycho-social support and legal services after their victimization is confirmed or during their participation in all stages of criminal justice process.

The survey informed:

- 89% confirmation from both child victims and family members that they received quality psycho-social support and legal services after their victimization was confirmed or during their participation in all stages of the criminal justice process.
- 70% of child victims and their families feel that they have received timely, efficient and respectful social and/or legal support services.
- 89% of child victims and their family members feel that they have received timely, efficient and respectful social and/or support services for 1 year of project period.

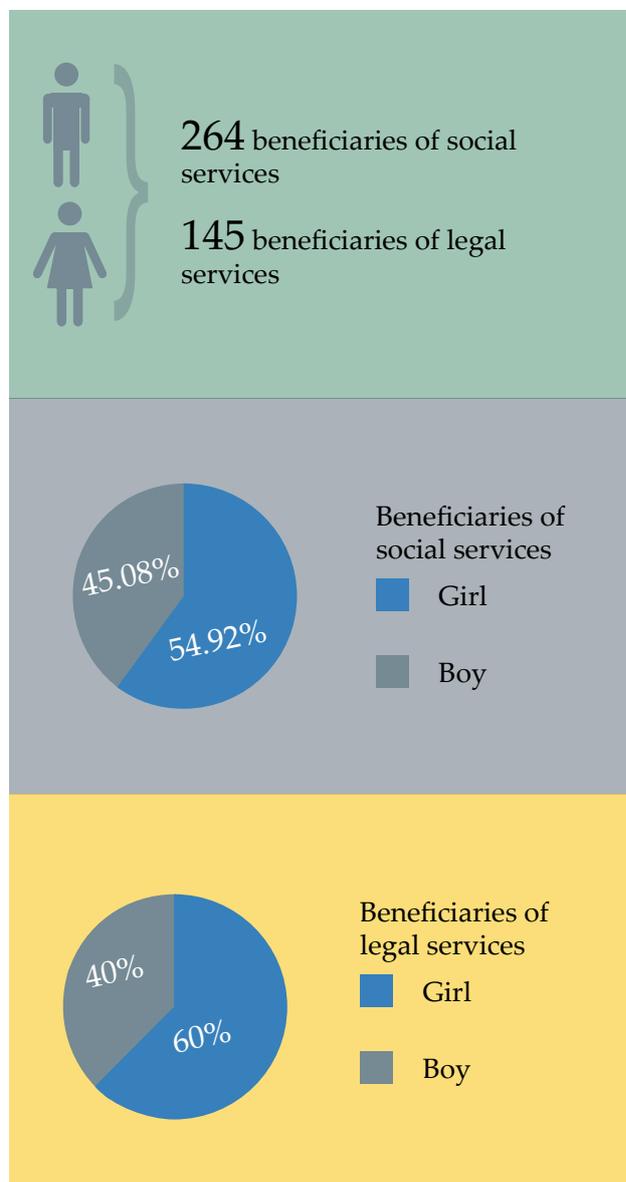




Photo credit: APLE

## JUSTICE REBUILDS LIVES.

On October 1st, 2019, six Cambodian girl victims of sexual abuse received a compensation of approximately USD 23,250 in total, after a Swedish court pronounced a verdict against Swedish national Ulf Christian Goransson, found guilty of child sexual abuse and exploitation. In 2015, six street girls were rescued from sexual abuse and exploitation by the Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department police in Phnom Penh and referred to rehabilitation.

The offender escaped from Cambodia back to his home country, where he was detained after APLE collaborated with Swedish agencies to have the individual arrested and prosecuted. With APLE's mediation, the Cambodian victims obtained free legal representation in Sweden through a Swedish Law Firm. In November 2016, Ulf Christian Goransson, aged 63, was found guilty of Sexual intercourse with a minor and purchase of child sexual abuse, in accordance with the Swedish law.

The offender was sentenced to 2 years and 7 months of imprisonment, as well as ordered to pay a total of SEK 214,400 in compensation to his 6 Cambodian victims. The amount was disbursed to the six victims shortly after.

With APLE's and its partner organization's social support, the girls have also been following rehabilitation programs and have been doing vocational training courses to gain control over their lives in order to not have to return to the streets.

One girl in particular has planned to use the compensation money to start her own tailoring business. "Compensation to victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation is extremely important as a first step for the victim to rebuild their lives. Feeling heard, understood and receiving justice gives victims hope to carry on", said Sophorn Him, APLE's

Court Support Team Leader. "

We feel pleased to have collaborated with the Swedish pro-bono law firm which smoothed the process of the victims' reparations. Extra-territorial collaboration is very helpful in these cases and that is why APLE aims to grow and strengthen its international cooperation" she added.



Safer Internet Day has been celebrated by APLE since 2018 to promote the positive change online and create a better internet for everyone. APLE supports SID in order to promote the safe use of digital technology, especially among children and young people.

Photo credit: APLE

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Awareness raising sessions bring up the uncomfortable conversations in the community about the child sexual abuse and exploitation reality, in order for common citizens and children to understand the risks faced daily in their online and offline environments and potentially prevent the abuse.

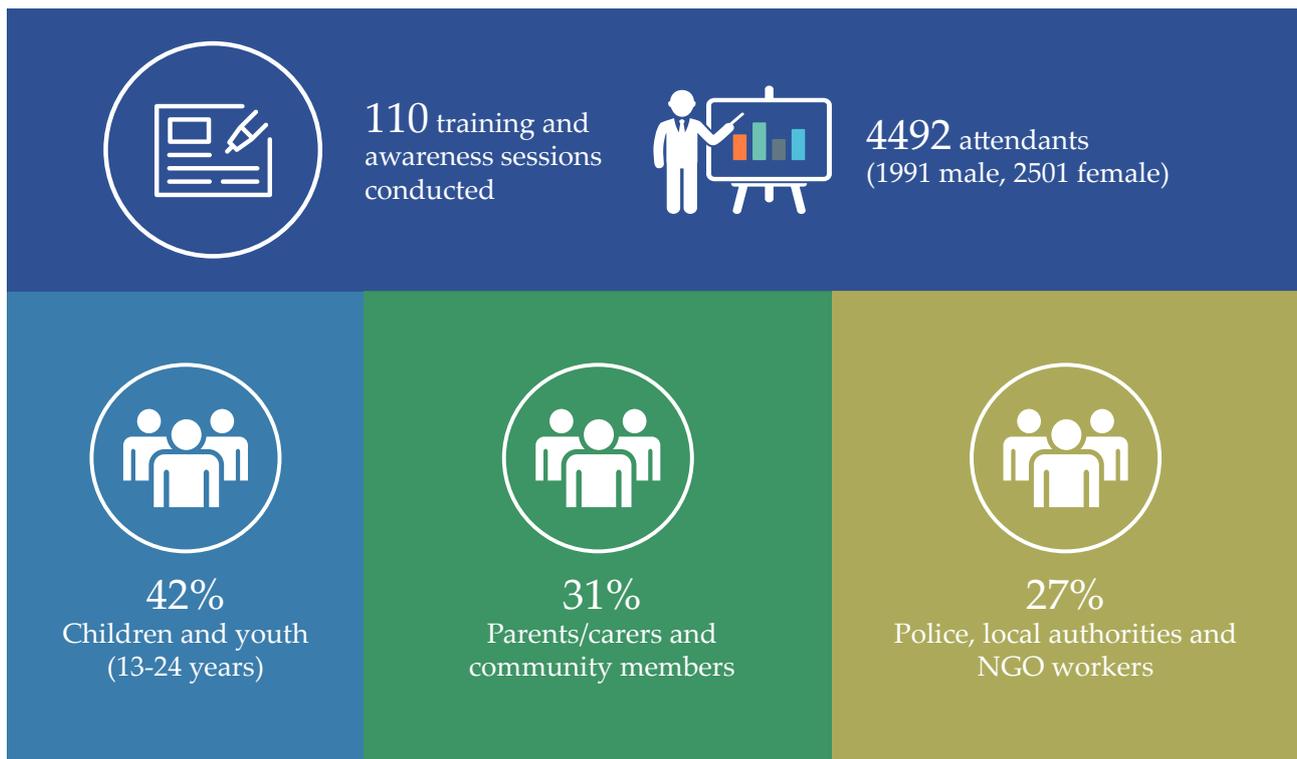
The sessions are specifically designed to build the necessary skills among participants to take action, building their confidence to confront potential online or offline CSAE.

These sessions empower the participants with the knowledge that it is within their personal power to stop abuse for others and protect themselves from online and offline threats.

## 2019 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN NUMBERS

<b>Total participants reached</b>	<b><u>/4,492</u></b>
Training sessions	<b>/48</b>
Participants (Over-accomplishing the plan of 735)	<b>/1879</b>
Awareness raising session	<b>/62</b>
Participants	<b>/2,613</b>

### Percentage of attendants by group





We recognise the importance of using evidence to underpin APLE Cambodia's work and strategic focus. The knowledge and experience generated through such research will provide an evidence base which is currently lacking; this will strengthen advocacy for positive changes in laws and the criminal justice process.

Photo credit: OCSE

## Protecting children is at the top of our priorities.

We aspire to completely transform all levels of society for the eradication of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and involving the relevant authorities is part of this mission. With evidence from research and best practices, we advocate before the mandated agencies for best practices to protect children and victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Our CJD and CS teams had several workshops and meetings in 2019 that included government officials and professionals who work in the child protection field. Many meetings took place to discuss improvements in legislation, behavior and attitudes. A few of our top advocacy events of the year include **“Child friendly practice in the criminal justice procedure to protect child victims and child witnesses of sexual abuse and exploitation”**

On the 28th of March of 2019, APLE collaborated with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) and the National Police (CNP) to conduct a workshop on “Child friendly practice in Criminal justice procedure to protect child victims and child witnesses of sexual abuse and exploitation” at Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh. The aim of the workshop was to increase knowledge of participants on how to work with child victims complying with child friendly practice, challenges, and positive experiences in supporting victims of sexual abuse and exploitation at all criminal justice proceedings.

100 participants (26 women, 74 men) attended the workshop, including 21 lawyers (16 females) from the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The rest of the attendants included representatives of law enforcement from the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection police, The National Committee for Counter Trafficking, National and international NGOs, Prosecutors, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

In September, APLE collaborated with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) to conduct a second workshop of “Child friendly practice in the Criminal justice procedure to protect child victims and Child witnesses of sexual abuse and exploitation” at the Hotel Cambodiana in Phnom Penh.

84 participants (36 of them females) were given valuable information in the dealing with child sexual abuse and exploitation. Among the attendants, 02 survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) were present (one female, one male).

Representatives of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Law enforcement from the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection from Office and from Department, The National Committee for Counter Trafficking Government officer working relevant with child protection, National and international NGOs, Prosecutors, Judges, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation; also made act of presence.

On December 19th of 2019, APLE conducted a meeting on awareness-raising of Child-Friendly Practice in the Criminal Justice System with 14 attorneys from private law firms at the Essence Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. During the meeting, educational material for child-friendly court procedures was provided.

# PROFESSIONAL & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## OUR BIGGEST RESOURCE: OUR TEAM

Professional Development and Staff Welfare: A priority.

An honorable cause we are proud to serve, Child Protection is not particularly easy. More often than we wish, we deal with difficult cases that no human could avoid getting emotionally invested with.

As service providers, our work is highly dependent on a team of 30 committed professionals. Therefore, we put a high level of focus on our staff's well-being, by providing them with access to psychological assistance, benefits, trainings and a yearly staff retreat.

In 2019, APLE's staff members democratically chose to have their annual staff retreat in the Northern Province of Mondulkiri. Half of the time was spent on reflecting over the team's achievements and how to improve in the next year.

In 2019, APLE had 3 internal trainings which included project management, reporting, legal child protection training and other related topics, as well as 9 external trainings, which included capacity building for our hotline analysts to better protect children online as well as for our lawyers and social workers to better assist the recovery of the victims.



**Philippines** - INHOPE Asia Pacific Regional Meeting: Our hotline analysts attended a training in The Philippines on tracing child abuse content on the Internet and discussed opportunities to join efforts to prevent online child sexual exploitation.



**Malaysia** - INSPIRE training course In August 2019, our Child Protection Specialist undertook an INSPIRE training course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organized by the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and The University of Edinburgh.



**Singapore** - In December, APLE joined an International Conference on Child Online Safety and ECPAT East and Southeast Asia Consultation. Law Enforcement, NGOs and Private Sector learned from each other's experiences, shared trends and identified workable solutions.



# NEW FACES AT APLE



**VATHANA HOY,**  
Community Engagement Coordinator

In 2019, APLE welcomed Vathana to the Community Engagement team. She is a mental health professional in Cambodia with over three years of experience in project management and more than five years of experience as a trauma clinician. All her previous experiences set the ground for her to develop age appropriate and culturally accepted curriculum in her current role at APLE, which helps make the information on the prevention against CSAE more digestible.

**CHARYA HENG,**  
Finance & Admin Officer

In 2019, the Finance team also got refreshed by welcoming Mrs. Charya as the new Finance and Administration Officer. Mrs Heng holds a Master Degree of Finance from the National University of Management. She has extensive experience in the NGO and development field. Her work at Winrock, Plan International, Oxfam, Helen Keller and Hagar International set the ground for her new role at APLE, where she is responsible for the organisation's finances and budgeting.



**SORN SOLITA,**  
Networking Officer

Solita holds a BA of Social Work from the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

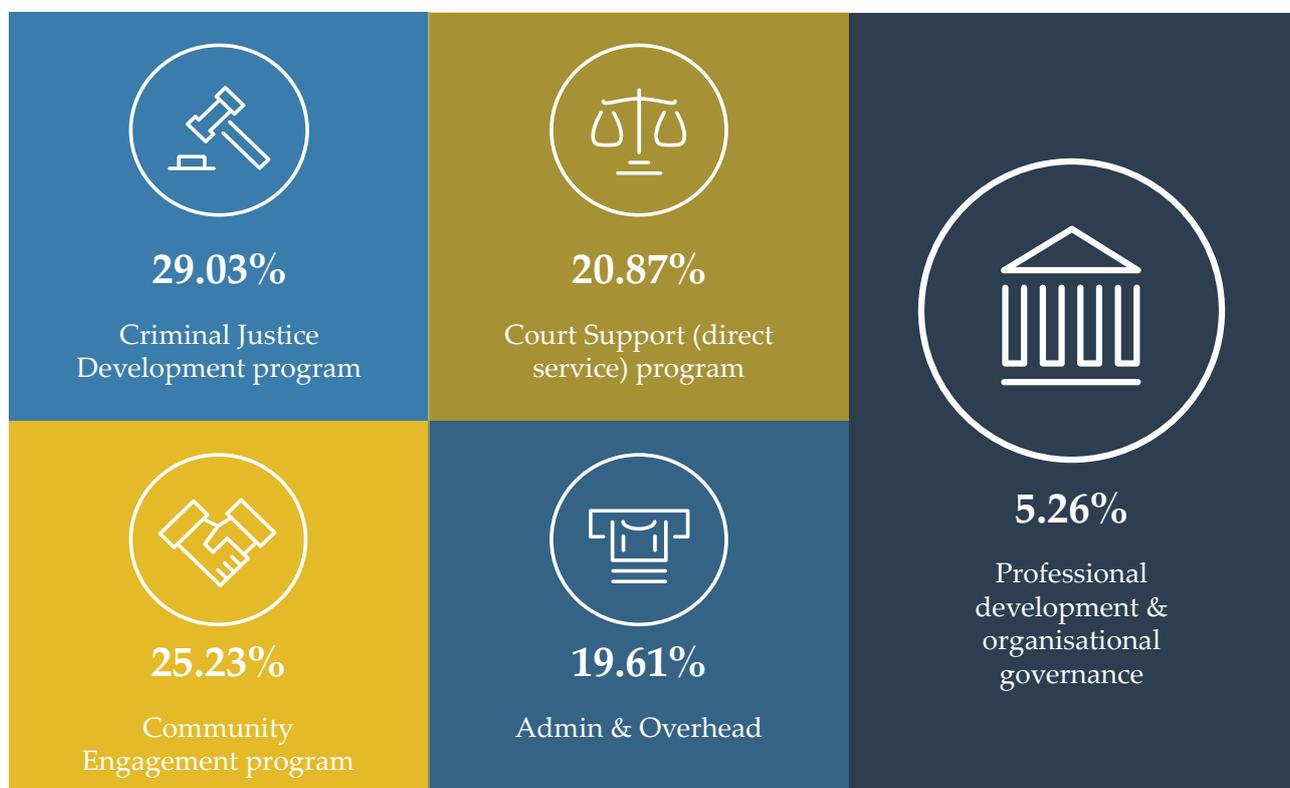
She has worked at AusCam Freedom Project for almost 6 years before coming to APLE, in which in a short space of time she has proven herself to approach work with love, vision and passion. Her main responsibilities involve planning and developing networking strategies, establish networks with civil reporters selected from at-risk communities and increase their knowledge on how to protect children.

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

**Total expenditure** /\$655,342

Criminal Justice Development	/\$190,269
Community Engagement	/\$165,388
Court Support	/\$136,280
Professional Organizational & Governance Development	/\$34,842
Overhead Costs	/\$128,563

Percentage of expenses by category (Figures based on the financial audit 2019)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We can't celebrate 2019 accomplishments without mentioning those who made them possible with their support and mentoring. It is comforting to know that when it comes to protecting children, we do not stand alone.

Our lobbying efforts for long-term, institutional, sustainable change wouldn't have been possible without the financial and technical expertise from Terre des Hommes Netherlands, a crucial child-protection partner. Terre des Hommes has provided support to strengthen our Court Support and Community engagement activities, and worked with us on the ground to ensure victims of sexual exploitation have access to adequate quality social services. For this successful collaboration, we are proud.

World Childhood Foundation has also played a crucial role in the carrying out of our activities. World Childhood has given APLE the resources to ensure trainings of trainers of the national police, ensuring the long-lasting, sustainable impact we aim to have in the Criminal Justice System's ways of approaching child sexual abuse and exploitation with both a firm, intolerant hand towards the crime and a compassionate, caring and understanding treatment towards the child victim.

Bread for the World provides generous financial support to our Criminal Justice and Court Support Programs, and has been an active, engaged partner in the capacity building of our staff, providing us with tools to ensure the impact of our work. For that, we are greatly thankful.

ECPAT Sweden not only has collaborated greatly to all of our programs, but has believed and invested greatly in our team, making possible travel costs for our staff to get training from internationally recognised and experienced entities, and has helped us give Cambodians a crucial tool to fight child sexual abuse and exploitation: our hotlines.

Save the Children has been a key ally in delivering awareness raising to communities at risk of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, a matter of worry in our community. APLE Cambodia is proud of the over-achievements carried out with Save the Children in 2019.

To other private and individual donors; without your generous contribution, we could not be able to give our staff the very necessary trainings needed to continue to protect children in a constantly changing world that demands adaptation.

[Profound thanks to all our donors for their invaluable support!](#)





**APLE**

“ Each and every achievement of social and legal justice for the powerless children affected by abuse and exploitation is what drives us to continue the fight ”

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