



## **ANNUAL REPORT** 2024

JAN-DEC 2024







# TABLE OF

# CONTENTS

- Message from the Board of APLE: Reflecting on Progress and Future Commitment in protecting children in Cambodia
- Letter from the Executive Director: Reflecting on Achievements and Continuing Commitment to Child Protection in Cambodia
- Executive Summary: Highlighting our work in community engagement, capacity building, advocacy, and victim support
- Challenges and Trends: Addressing complex online threats and Increasing volume of Child Sexual Abuse Material in 2024
- Key Achievements and Milestones: Enhancing Education, Law Enforcement, and Support Systems for Child Protection
- Financial and Governance: Ensuring accountability through rigorous financial practices and organizational oversight
- Future Strategies: Innovation in capacity building, case management, hotline development, and network expansion

## **OPENING MESSAGE**

#### From the Board of APLE

In 2024, the Board of APLE proudly reflects on our progress against child sexual exploitation and abuse in Cambodia. Despite challenges, our team, partners, and supporters have shown remarkable resilience.

APLE's approach combines prevention, protection, advocacy, and support, yielding impactful results. We have strengthened law enforcement's ability to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse through capacity building and international partnerships.

Our child- centered case management provides holistic support for victims, with critical psychosocial services and legal aid offered in collaboration with government and NGOs.

The APLE Internet Hotline remains crucial for reporting exploitation, and we strive to enhance its reach and community involvement.

Advocacy drives our work as we work to influence policies that uphold child rights.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building on this year's successes and expanding our efforts to create a safer environment for all children.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our staff, partners, and supporters for their unwavering dedication and

support, and we especially acknowledge the invaluable support of our donors: Bread for the World, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, World Childhood Foundation, Terre des Hommes Germany, UNICEF, and ECPAT-UBS. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission.

We remain steadfast in our mission to protect and empower Cambodia's children. We encourage all of you to support this common goal, contributing your voices and resources to assist us in creating a more robust and sustainable future for APLE.

I thank the members of the Board and the Executive Management Team for their dedication and hard work.

We must unite to confront the future with determination and strength to protect those who are most at risk.

Sincerely,

**Malina Enlund Acting Chair of the Board** 





#### **Letter from the Executive Director**

As we wrap up another impactful year at APLE, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the ongoing support from our partners, staff, and the communities we serve. This past year has strengthened our focus on our mission to fight child sexual abuse and exploitation in Cambodia, reinforcing our dedication to creating a safer and more supportive environment for children.

APLE has led the way in child protection with a well-rounded approach that includes prevention, protection, advocacy, and support. Our collaborations with law enforcement, government agencies, and community partners have been crucial in tackling the complex issues surrounding child sexual exploitation and abuse. This year, we concentrated on four main programs:

Community, Industry, and Media Engagement;

Criminal Justice Development; Victim Support and Assistance; and Policy and Legal Reforms.

Through our Community, Industry, and Media Engagement program, we empowered communities to take an active role in preventing child exploitation with targeted training and awareness campaigns. This year, we reached over 4,400 individuals, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to protect children both

online and offline. The involvement of child volunteers in peer-to-peer education was particularly inspiring, highlighting the impact of youth leadership in community learning.

In the area of criminal justice, APLE improved law enforcement's skills through specialized training and collaboration. By focusing on practices centered around the needs of children, we ensured that the best interests and well-being of child victims were prioritized throughout the justice process.

Our Victim Support program provided essential services for child victims and their families. We offered crisis support and recovery services to help victims heal and reintegrate into society. Additionally, APLE advocated for legal reforms to ensure our national policies align with international standards.

Looking ahead, we will continue to advocate for strong policies, enhance our programs, and strengthen our partnerships to protect children from exploitation. Thank you for supporting us on this important journey.

Seila Samleang, Executive Director, APLE



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2024, APLE reinforced its position as a leading force in the fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation in Cambodia. Through our comprehensive programs and strategic partnerships, we have made significant strides in protecting children and advocating for their rights. This year, our efforts were guided by four main programs: Community, Industry, and Media Engagement (CIME); Criminal Justice Development (CJD); Victim Support and Assistance (ViSA); and Policy and Legal Reforms.

The CIME program focused on empowering communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse by promoting protective behaviors and collaborative actions. Through 36 awareness and training sessions, we reached 5,450 individuals, including children, youth, parents, and local authorities.

A key highlight was the participation in Safer Internet Day, where we engaged 568 participants in promoting digital well-being and online safety. Our peer-to-peer education initiative involved 92 child volunteers, who educated over 621 peers, demonstrating the power of youth leadership in community learning.

Our CJD program enhanced law enforcement capabilities through specialized training, focusing on child-centered practices that prioritize the well-being of child victims. APLE conducted training for 404 police officers, improving their ability to handle cases of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) with child-friendly approaches. This year, we investigated 54 cases and referred 44 to law enforcement, resulting in the arrest of multiple perpetrators. The program's success underscores the importance of international cooperation and advanced investigative techniques in combating child exploitation.

APLE's ViSA program provided comprehensive support tailored to the needs of 88 child survivors and their families. Our holistic approach included psycho-social support, legal assistance, and capacity building for social workers, ensuring that victims receive the care and services they need to heal and reintegrate into society. This year, we facilitated 19 case management meetings involving government and NGO partners, highlighting our commitment to multi-disciplinary collaboration in victim support.

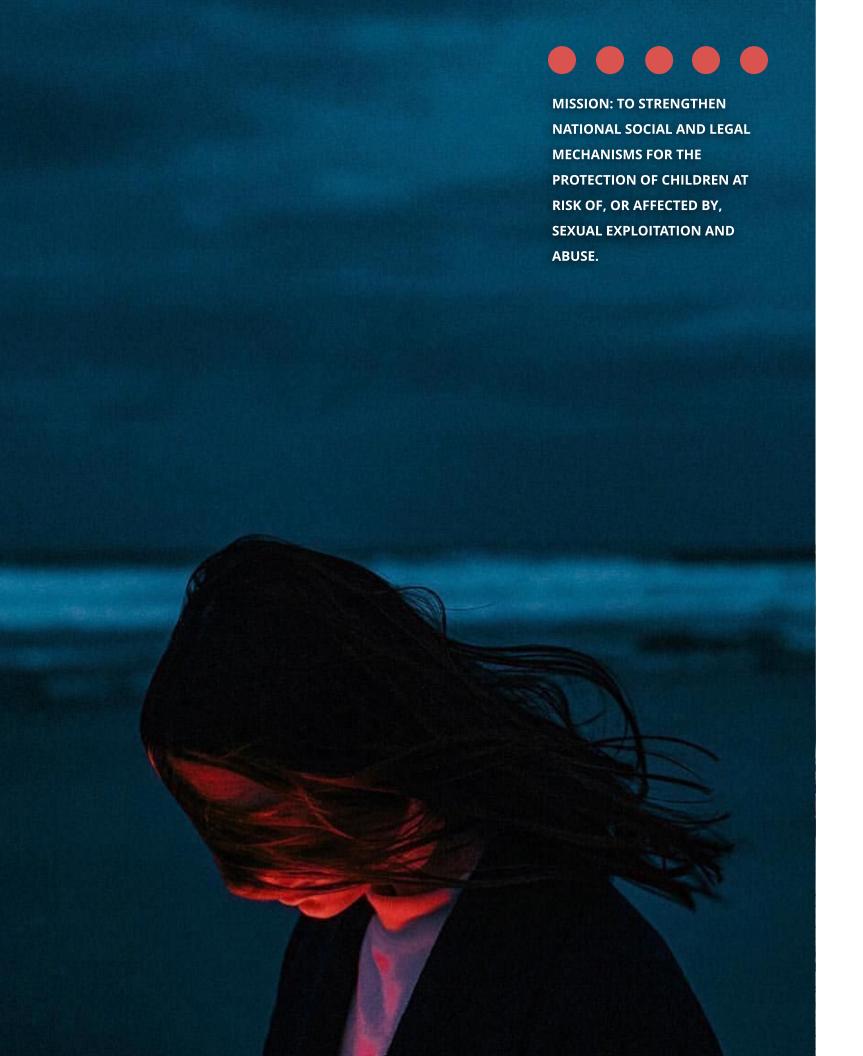
In advocacy and legal reform, APLE played a crucial role in aligning national policies with international standards. We conducted workshops and technical meetings with government officials, focusing on enhancing understanding of online threats and improving cooperation among stakeholders.

The impact of our work is reflected in the tangible outcomes achieved across our programs. From community empowerment to legal reforms, APLE has made significant progress in creating a safer environment for children in Cambodia.

In 2024, APLE noted the rising complexity of online child sexual exploitation due to technology and stressed the need for better online safety education, prevention, justice responses, and tech solutions. The rise of self-generated and Al-generated CSAM poses major challenges for analysts and law enforcement.

As we look to the future, our focus will be on expanding our reach, focusing on innovative approaches, and strengthening partnerships to ensure that every child is protected from exploitation. With the support of our partners and stakeholders, we are building a brighter future for the children of Cambodia.





## **CHALLENGES & TRENDS**

In 2024, APLE tackled child sexual abuse and exploitation through prevention and intervention. We observed that online threats have become more complex due to technology and digital platforms. This highlights the importance of strong online safety education, prevention measures, and support for those affected.

**Unprecedented Volume of CSAM**: The INHOPE network processed over 2.5 million online records of Child Sexual Abuse Material in 2024, marking the highest volume in its 20-year history of data collection.

**Self-Generated Material Trends**: A significant portion of CSAM reports involves self-generated content shared via mainstream platforms and encrypted messaging apps, indicating a shift in how such material is produced and disseminated, often as a result of sexual extortion or manipulation.

**Rise of Al-Generated CSAM**: There is an increasing sophistication in Al-generated CSAM, including manipulated and composite images that are more realistic and difficult to distinguish from authentic material, presenting challenges for analysis and law enforcement.

**Impact on Children**: An analyst reported that in 2024, their hotline dealt with records depicting at least 30,000 children, underscoring the real impact of these crimes on victims.

**Platforms for Distribution**: Image hosts and forums are the primary distribution channels for CSAM, with iCAP sites emerging as significant players alongside traditional platforms. These sites exploit social media for wider dissemination.

**Evasion Tactics**: Perpetrators are employing new tactics such as link shorteners, browser apps, and streaming platforms, making it increasingly difficult to combat the distribution of CSAM through public forums and adult sites.

**Adaptation to Technology**: The rapid adaptation of perpetrators to new technologies and tools complicates efforts to disrupt their operations, demonstrating an ongoing challenge in combating CSAM distribution.

**Increased Workload and Resource Limitations**: The rise in reports to hotlines leads to increased analytical workload; however, the number of analysts does not always increase, resulting in longer processing times for reports and takedown orders.



## **APLE'S PROGRAMS**

## **Community, Industry, and Media Engagement**

This program focuses on empowering communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse by promoting protective behaviors and collaborative actions. The program provides targeted training, awareness-raising, and campaign initiatives to equip communities with the skills necessary to identify and address exploitation and abuse effectively. Our advocacy emphasizes community involvement as a cornerstone of child safety.

### **Criminal Justice Development**

The program is crucial in combating child sexual exploitation and abuse in Cambodia. By offering specialized training and capacity-building, the program enhances law enforcement and judicial capabilities, focusing on child-centered practices that prioritize victims' well-being. Officers are equipped with advanced investigative techniques and trauma-informed approaches, enabling them to conduct sensitive operations that minimize harm to victims.

The program fosters international cooperation, sharing resources and best practices across borders to strengthen the global response to child sexual exploitation. It establishes specialized units

trained in empathy-driven methodologies, significantly improving investigation and prosecution success rates while upholding the rights and dignity of young victims.

### **Victim Support and Assistance**

APLE provides comprehensive support services tailored to the individualized needs of child victims and their families. The program emphasizes coordinated crisis support, recovery efforts, capacity building for social workers, and the development of inclusive response systems. Our holistic approach empowers victims to heal and reintegrate into society, fostering resilience and recovery.

#### **Policy and Legal Reforms**

APLE plays a crucial role in advocating for policy and legal reforms that align with international standards. We work to establish clear legal frameworks and strengthen child-centered approaches in legal proceedings. Our efforts aim to enhance the protection of vulnerable children and ensure that their rights are upheld in all legal contexts.

APLE is a member of ECPAT International and INHOPE, two of the largest global networks focused on fighting child sexual exploitation.

APLE strengthens regional and global efforts against child sexual abuse material by promoting cooperation among hotlines. In the Asia Pacific, it brings members together to share knowledge, while globally, it supports advocacy and policy initiatives. Our efforts enhance local contexts, improving the overall effectiveness of the global network in the fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse.



## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

## **Outcomes of CIME Program**

In 2024, APLE held 36 training sessions for 3,883 stakeholders, including children, youth, parents, teachers, and authorities, to educate on child sexual exploitation and abuse. A key event was the Safer Internet Day campaign in Preah Sihanouk, with 568 participants, where APLE discussed online safety and digital well-being. Notably, 92 trained child volunteers educated 621 peers, showcasing youth leadership in awareness efforts. Our outreach has greatly impacted the community, highlighting the need for continuous education and engagement.

### **Summary**

- Awareness and training sessions conducted: 36
- Total people reached: 5,450 (2,497 females)
- Children involved in peer-to-peer education: 92 (52 females), who educated 621 (416 females) children.

## **Impact Story**

In the rural district of Srei Snom, Siem Reap province, APLE, in collaboration with the Siem Reap Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sports and with support from Plan International Cambodia, launched a pivotal initiative focused on " Understanding Child Safety Online. " Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, this program reached 695 students across six secondary schools, equipping them with essential knowledge about online activities, risk identification, and e-safety practices.

A key element of this initiative involved 44 child volunteers from four schools who underwent intensive training on online child sexual exploitation and abuse. These young leaders then shared their newfound knowledge, engaging their peers in crucial discussions about online safety and reporting procedures. Notable sessions included those at Kork Thkov, Moung, Brei, and Thlork Secondary Schools, where students actively participated in understanding online threats and safeguarding measures.

This program not only raised awareness but empowered the youth to critically engage with digital interactions, fostering a culture of vigilance and responsibility. Through these comprehensive efforts, APLE and its partners have laid a strong foundation for proactive education and community engagement, ensuring a safer digital future for children in Srei Snom and beyond.



## **Outcomes of CJD Program**

In response to the increasing threat of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), Cambodia, in collaboration with APLE, the Police Academy, and the Cambodia National Commissariat, launched an initiative to enhance law enforcement's capacity to protect children online. Seven training sessions were conducted, training 404 officers (107 females) in child-friendly investigative techniques for OCSEA cases. These efforts led to a significant knowledge increase, with post-training test scores rising from 40.98% to 69.6%, and 84.9% of participants showing improved skills. This training has empowered officers to apply child-centered practices effectively, as demonstrated in a notable case where a child's safety and recovery were prioritized through counseling and legal support.

APLE advocates for child-friendly practices in the justice system, ensuring child victims and witnesses feel safe and supported during legal proceedings. Age-appropriate language, minimizing distress, and involving trusted adults are key strategies to reduce trauma. APLE's Multi-Disciplinary Response Mechanism (MDRM) provides comprehensive support, including protection, psychosocial care, and healthcare, with trauma therapy and family counseling empowering children and families.

Through advocacy, training, and strategic partnerships, APLE is transforming the justice system to better address the needs of vulnerable children, ensuring they are heard and supported. Data from child-friendly interview rooms in five provinces show that 220 child victims (5 males) have benefited from these initiatives. Additionally, APLE developed guidelines for victim identification and illegal content takedown, strengthening law enforcement engagement and promoting standardized, victim-centered practices. A comprehensive information package informs victims and caregivers about their rights and legal procedures, ensuring their voices are heard and rights safeguarded.

### **Summary**

- 404 law enforcement officers received training to respond to child sexual exploitation and abuse n a child-friendly way.
- 85% of these officers applied child-friendly practices in their responses.
- 220 child victims benefited from child-friendly interview rooms in five provinces.
- Internet Hotline received 247 reports, with 176 related to OCSEA, with 99% of these reports referred to other INHOPE hotlines or Internet platform companies.
- 44 cases were referred to law enforcement for investigation.
- 68.3% of CSAM and harmful content was removed.
- A total of 874,444 images were classified by the team. Of these, 65% were confirmed as CSAM.



## **Impact Story**

Empowering Cambodia's Law Enforcement: Building a Safer Future for Children Online

In response to the escalating threat of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), Cambodia has launched a crucial initiative to bolster law enforcement's ability to safeguard children online. A significant achievement was the development and endorsement of an OCSEA training manual on December 10, 2024, now integrated into the Police Academy of Cambodia's curriculum. The manual addresses child rights, online risks, investigative procedures, and child-friendly case management.

Collaborating with APLE Cambodia, the Police Academy, and the Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection, the program trained 404 officers (107 females) from various regions. These sessions focused on child-centered, trauma-informed methods and collaborative strategies for effectively addressing OCSEA cases.

A poignant case underscored the training's importance: a child exploited online faced severe emotional distress. With APLE's support, law enforcement used a child-friendly approach to ensure the child's safety and well-being, overcoming challenges in digital evidence tracking and emotional support. Counseling, legal aid, and

safe shelter were key in the child's recovery.

The fight against OCSEA demands collective action. Communities, law enforcement, and child protection stakeholders must collaborate to raise awareness, educate families, and establish robust systems for tackling online exploitation. You can help by recognizing abuse signs, reporting suspicious activities, and supporting child protection initiatives.

The program led to significant progress: police officers demonstrated a strong understanding of OCSEA risks, achieving a 90% success rate in investigations and case management. Child-friendly practices were consistently applied, with an 85% success rate in CSEA and OCSEA cases. Participants also spearheaded community outreach, integrating OCSEA topics into the 2025 Provincial Action Plan and enhancing multi-agency collaboration.

## **Outcomes of ViSA Program**

Over the past year, APLE provided crucial psycho-social support to 388 clients, including 291 females and 2 children identifying as LGBTIQ. Of these, 28 new child survivors (21 females), aged 7 to 16, and 2 vulnerable children (both female), aged 12 and 13, received support and legal information. Additionally, 23 new families of child survivors benefited from these services. Notably, 23% of new survivors reported directly to the APLE Hotline, while 77% were referred by NGO partners or national law enforcement.

APLE's services were vital for child survivors, vulnerable children, and their families. Among the clients, 88 were identified as child survivors (63 females) and 2 as vulnerable individuals (both female). Furthermore, 298 family members (226 females) received social and legal support to cope with the aftermath of abuse. In the legal domain, 177 clients (128 females) received legal counseling and support, including court representation, ensuring their rights were upheld with dignity and respect. This support covered 88 child survivors (63 females), 2 vulnerable individuals (both female), and 87 family members (63 females).

Currently, 28 court cases are in progress, including 3 in the US and 22 at various judicial stages in Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, Siem Reap, and Battambang. Additionally, 3 cases are with the appeal court in Phnom Penh and Battambang. In 2024, APLE continued providing legal counseling on compensation rights, collaborating with lawyers post-verdict. Two child survivors received \$5,600 in compensation from Khmer offenders after final verdicts in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.

APLE coordinated with government social welfare officials to refer 28 child survivors (21 females), aged 6 to 16, to long-term support services from NGO partners in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, and Kratie. APLE facilitated 19 case management meetings with 92 participants (63 females) from relevant government departments and 8 partner NGOs to update on child survivors' status and address their needs.

#### Summary

- A total of 90 child survivors, with 63 females, aged between 4 and 17 years, received social and legal support.
- 87 families of victims were assisted, including 63 females, through social and legal services.
- 28 child survivors, 21 females, were referred to various support services.
- 298 individuals, 226 females, including both child survivors and family members, participated in educational programs.
- 17 convictions of perpetrators. were secured.
- 122 social workers and child protection professionals, including 74 females, received training and case management support.

## **Impact Story**

## The Journey of Theary & Napy

Theary, 14, and her sister Napy, 11, grew up in Phnom Penh under challenging circumstances. After their parents separated and started new families, the girls were left with their 60-year-old grandmother, who struggled to provide for them. Initially, they were sent to an orphanage for education and sustenance, but returned to their grandmother's care after two years, facing a life with no education and insufficient food. To survive, Theary and Napy began working at a young age.

At ages 14 and 11, their 18-year-old aunt brought them to live with her in Phnom Penh, securing jobs as dish cleaners at a club. Their aunt, who controlled their earnings, later lost her income and pressured them into sexual exploitation for financial survival. Despite their pleas to find alternative work, their aunt arranged for them to meet a 53-year-old man via Telegram, leading to repeated exploitation from November 2023 to January 2024, with their aunt taking the money.

In January 2024, APLE received a report of suspicion and coordinated with the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juveniles Protection Unit to rescue the sisters and arrest their aunt.

APLE provided emotional counseling, basic necessities, and facilitated their testimony to the police.



After assessing their needs, the sisters were referred to a shelter for emotional treatment and safety.

APLE also coordinated with government institutions like MoWA and DoSVY, along with NGOs, to ensure the sisters received comprehensive social and legal support. Legal representation was arranged through the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, facilitated by MoWA.

On November 1, 2024, Theary and Napy bravely testified in court against the offenders. By November 20, 2024, the court found both guilty: the 18-year-old aunt was sentenced to 5 years for procuring prostitution, and the 53-year-old man received a 7-year sentence for purchasing child prostitution. Both were ordered to pay 200,000,000 Riels (approx. USD 50,000) in compensation to the sisters.





23 Sept 2024: A workshop with government officials from the Ministry of Education focused on online threats to children and the need for prevention through education. It aimed to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) by introducing safety programs for schools and communities.

On Sept 26, 2024, a workshop in Kep and Kampot engaged 86 participants from various educational bodies to promote OCSEA prevention through education. Research findings were shared, highlighting gaps in educational policies and programs, leading to actionable strategies for improvement. Schools committed to using provided materials and recommendations.

On Sept 25 & 27, 2024, two technical meetings in Phnom Penh involved 20 participants from the Prevention Working Group. These sessions aimed to raise awareness about OCSEA and enhance cooperation among government bodies, developing practical strategies aligned with national efforts. An action plan was created for ongoing prevention and response efforts.

On Dec 25, 2024, APLE and the National Committee for Counter Trafficking held a workshop in Phnom Penh, gathering 55 stakeholders to promote national strategies against OCSEA. The workshop emphasized shared responsibility in online child protection and fostered collaboration among participants, demonstrating commitment to addressing OCSEA.



## **NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **Ministry of Interior (Mol)**

On 30 October 2024, APLE and the Ministry of Interior renewed their partnership for 5 years to combat child sexual exploitation and trafficking. The agreement was signed by H.E. Chou Bun Eng and Mr. Seila Samleang. This collaboration will focus on victim support, law enforcement training, internet hotline operations, and education, aligning with the government's 5-Year Strategic Plan against Human Trafficking.

### Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS)

On 13 December 2024, MoEYS and APLE signed a three-year MoU to promote Internet safety in schools and protect children from online abuse. The project will enhance educational institutions' capacity and develop resources for integrating online safety into programs, engaging school communities to create a safer online environment.

#### **Smart Axiata**

On 30 July 2024, APLE and Smart Axiata teamed up to improve child online protection in Cambodia. They signed an MoU to enhance CSAM reporting and support child victims. A webpage for reporting OCSEA cases has been launched, and both organizations are promoting it to encourage public reporting and awareness.



## Regional and Global Participation

APLE actively participated in key regional and global initiatives in 2024 and advanced its efforts.

On December 17-18, APLE joined the Global Roundtable on Regulating Voluntourism in Bangkok. The event marked a year since the UN report's launch. Representatives from Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Europe participated.



On June 11-12, APLE joined a peer-to-peer exchange in Sydney, hosted by eSafety, enhancing regional collaboration to improve CSAM removal. This collaboration with representatives from Cambodia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand strengthens efforts to protect

children online.

COLLECTIAE

End Child Sexual

Abuse including in

East Asia

tation and

al world

On December 4-5, APLE joined the WeProtect Global Summit in Abu Dhabi together with 600 global stakeholders to address tech trends impacting child online safety.

On February 9, APLE attended the UN Concluding Session on the Cybercrime Convention in New York, where discussions emphasized criminalizing cybercrime and safeguarding human rights.

On March 12-15, APLE participated in the SCROL Summit in Bangkok, where APLE collaborated with 34 child protection experts from Asia, Africa, and Europe to enhance strategies against online child exploitation.

On April 12, APLE attended a DevOps meeting at Interpol HQ in Lyon, focusing on global efforts to tackle CSAM content online.





## **HIGHLIGHTS** OF THE YEAR

## **SID 2024**

Celebrated to foster respectful, inclusive online environments for future generations.



## **Police ToT**

Equipping police officers with digital forensics and investigative skills to combat online child sexual exploitation.



## **Endorsement**

Our Training Manual was approved by the Police Academy of Cambodia for expert training in child online protection.



**Legal Review**APLE took part in the process of reviewing the draft child protection law, offering feedback to ensure it effectively protects the rights and well-being of children.



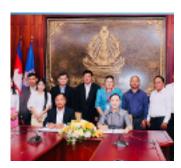
## Hotline

APLE's hotline provides a safe place for people to report suspected abuse and get help.



## **Law Enforcement**

APLE supports law enforcement in arresting and prosecuting child abusers.



## Collaboration

APLE partners with governments, CSOs, and digital companies to offer coordinated child protection services.



## FINANCIAL & GOVERNANCE

The financial report for the 2024 audit is provided below. This report highlights the analysis conducted during the audit and confirms the absence of negative findings, as noted in the management letter.

	\$US
Grant Incomes and Donation	391,669
Expenditure	
Criminal Justice Development	89,413
Community, Industry and Media Engagement	52,503
Victim Support and Assistance	61,113
Policy and Legal Reforms	9,305
Professional and Organizational Development	9,194
Overhead costs	153,010
Total Expenditure	374,538
Surplus of income over expense	17,131
Fund balance, beginning of the period	78,015
Fund returned to donors	(2,995)
Fund balance, beginning of the period	92,151

## **Financial Management and Control**

To prevent discrepancies in operations and internal control, financial management in APLE shall be conducted in accordance with the financial manual, finance policy, donors' guidelines, and other related policies.

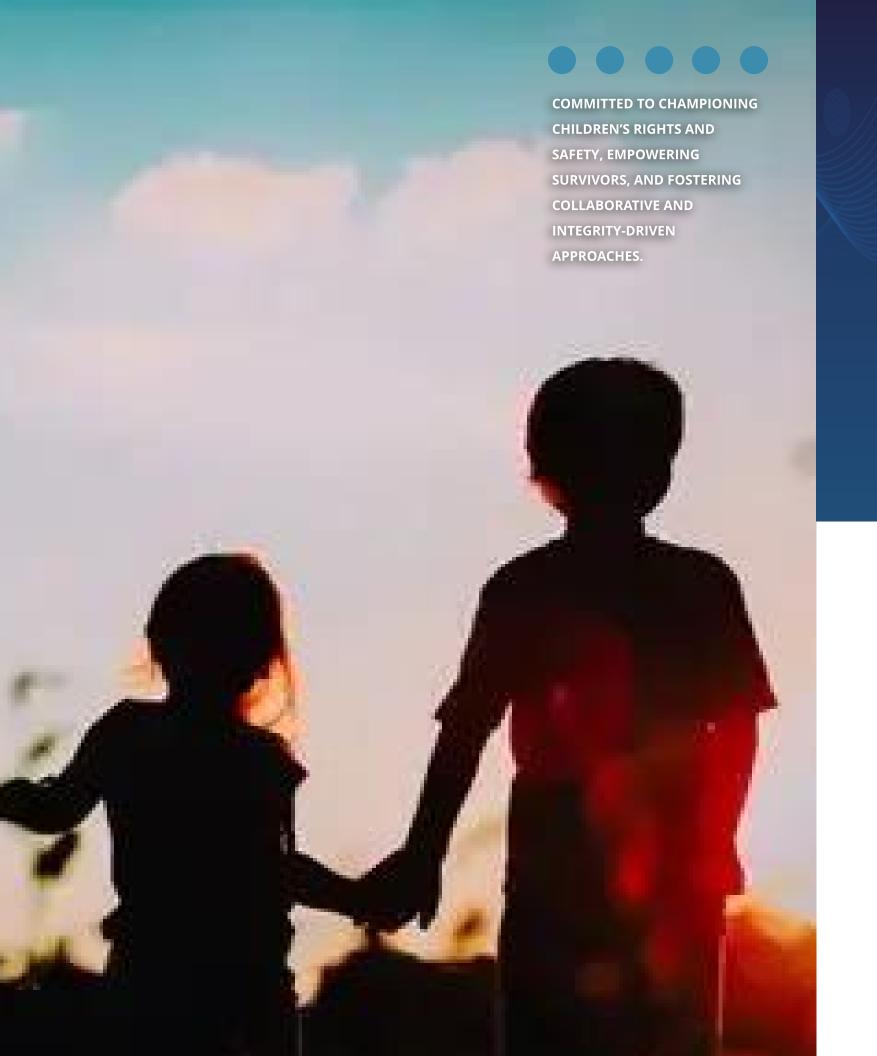
To ensure accountability, APLE's financial standards follow the Modified Cash Basis of accounting. We use QuickBooks accounting software to record financial transactions and generate financial reports. Organizational operating and reporting year adopts 01 January to 31 December as fiscal year and USD is used to functional and reporting currency for organizational transaction. We prepare the annual budget regularly and ensure that all expenditures are made according to the approved budget line. Reconciliation must be performed, properly documented on a monthly basis, and submitted by the due date each month.

All financial transactions must be reviewed by Finance Head and approved by Executive Director ensuring transparency and compliance with legal policies and procedures.

A global audit will be conducted annually by an external audit firm, which will issue a formal report identifying weaknesses and recommending improvements to the accounting procedures and internal controls. These measures are critical in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of our initiatives, allowing us to make data-driven decisions that enhance our impact.

### **Governance at APLE**

APLE is registered in Cambodia as a local non-governmental organization (NGO) and is overseen by a Board of Directors. APLE operates in accordance with its Statute, which outlines its mission, objectives, and operational guidelines. Each board member plays an essential role in the governance of the organization, contributing their unique skills and expertise to the decision-making process They ensure that the organization effectively fulfills its mission and meets the needs of the communities it serves. The collective efforts of the Board of Directors are crucial in guiding the organization toward its goals and in making a positive impact.



## **FUTURE STRATEGIES**

As APLE looks to the future, our strategies will focus on reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding children through innovative approaches in capacity building, case management, our reporting hotline, and advocacy initiatives.

**Capacity Building**: Strengthening the skills and knowledge of law enforcement and judicial professionals will remain a cornerstone of our strategy. APLE plans to expand its training programs, incorporating cutting-edge investigative techniques and trauma-informed practices to ensure that child protection systems are both effective and sensitive to the needs of victims. By fostering partnerships with international experts and organizations, we aim to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance the global response to child exploitation.

**Case Management**: Our approach to case management will continue to emphasize a multi-disciplinary and child-centered method. By coordinating closely with government agencies, NGOs, and community stakeholders, APLE seeks to provide comprehensive support to child victims and their families. This includes expanding our psychosocial services and legal assistance to ensure holistic care and facilitate successful reintegration into society.

**Reporting Hotline**: The APLE Internet Hotline will be further developed to enhance its accessibility and effectiveness. By integrating advanced technology and data analytics, the hotline will provide a secure and anonymous platform for reporting child sexual exploitation. Our goal is to increase public awareness and engagement, encouraging more individuals to report suspicious activities and contribute to a safer digital environment.

**Advocacy**: Advocacy will remain at the heart of our efforts, as we work towards influencing policy and legal reforms that align with international standards. APLE will continue to advocate for stronger legal frameworks, emphasizing the importance of child rights and protection in all legislative processes. By engaging with policymakers, civil society, and the private sector, we aim to foster a collaborative approach to ending child exploitation and creating a protective environment for all children.

Through these strategic initiatives, APLE is committed to advancing the fight against child sexual exploitation, ensuring that every child is free from harm and able to thrive in a safe and supportive world.

