

## Terre des Hommes Netherlands - Project WATCH (Working Together Actively for Children) - Cambodia

### Project summary

Watch Cambodia is a 3-year project that is implemented in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville. The project strategies include: Promotion, Prosecution, Provision and Prevention.

### Project Overall Objective:

To prevent and tackle Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, Cambodia. To contribute to this objective, there are 4 outcomes below:

- **Outcome 1:** Government coordinates efforts of multi-stakeholders for prevention of and response to SECTT.
- **Outcome 2:** Government institutions relevant to criminal justice system have capacity to undertake child-centric investigations for better protection of SECTT victims and SECTT witnesses throughout the criminal justice process.
- **Outcome 3:** Child victims have access to appropriate support services through better coordination between NGOs, police, court and government agencies.
- **Outcome 4:** Communities monitor and prevent SECTT risks in their communities.

The following Direct beneficiaries and actors will be reached throughout the three-year project period:

- Government officials (relevant ministry staff) = 25 officials
- Law Enforcement/Judiciary = 1,970 officials
- Children = 350 children (Female 200/Male 150)
- Communities = 20,000 people

## Context

### Context Analysis

Cambodia ranked 143rd out of 188 countries in the U.N.'s latest Human Development Index (HDI), a composite measure of development incorporating health, education and living standards. According to the World Bank (2016), the population was 15.76 million, and the country attained lower-middle income nation status, with a GNI per capita of \$1,070, in part due to the garment, construction & services sectors. Poverty is on a downward trend, albeit at a slow pace. In 2012, 17.7 percent of Cambodians were living in poverty, almost 90 percent of whom lived in rural provinces. The country has halved poverty rates since 2009, helping achieve a MDG, although many of the families exiting the category were only doing so marginally. "The vast majority of families who escaped poverty were only able to do so by a small margin, thus around 8.1 million people are near-poor". (World bank 2016). World Bank stats also showed, however, that healthcare and access to resources remained a widespread problem, with 32% of children under five were stunted, while 79% of Cambodians (12.3 million) – did not have access to a piped water supply.

Significant growth in travel & tourism has been observed, with Cambodia welcoming more than 5 million tourists in 2016, compared to less than 2 million in 2006, (MOT, 2017), with Southeast Asia recognised as the fastest growing region for tourism in the world (ECPAT, 2017). Arrivals in Cambodia have witnessed a shift in recent years with increasing numbers of Asian tourists, led by China, with

arrivals increasing 31% in the first four months of 2017 (MOT). Increased tourism brings many benefits but also leads to increased risks in terms of sexual exploitation. While Thailand & the Philippines, continue to attract those who seek to abuse and exploit children, countries such as Cambodia have become a target. Evidence suggests this is the result of improved preventative efforts in more traditional hotspots such as Thailand (ECPAT, 2016). In Cambodia specifically, this is linked to the combination of the sharp increases in tourism, poverty, child vulnerability and low likelihood of detection.

Western offenders receive the most attention in the media & arguably from many protection efforts, but domestic/regional travellers are increasingly recognised as real & potential offenders (ECPAT, 2016, TIP 2017). Evidence from CSOs on the ground indicate a growing threat from Asian travellers, and also report challenges in protecting children where Asian offenders are concerned, as they are harder to detect with existing mechanisms in many communities, designed primarily with Western offenders in mind. A need exists for more research to inform developments and keep pace with the changing situation. Reports from APLE (2013-2017) indicate an overall 30% increase of suspected cases referred to APLE in that time.

Cambodia's legal and policy framework for prevention of VAC is closely linked to the ratification of the UNCRC in 1992 and other relevant international conventions. Articles 31 and 48 of the Cambodian Constitution require the state to recognise and respect human rights conventions and the right to life, education and freedom from economic and sexual exploitation. Gaps in international treaties exist and do not always allow for exchange of relevant information (Green Notices).

## **Children**

Accurate information on children affected by sexual exploitation is limited, though research indicate it to be a serious issue. The 2014 Cambodia VAC Survey revealed 5.5% of Cambodian girls/boys aged 13 - 17 are affected by sexual violence, though may underestimate the extent of sexual violence due to strong cultural stigmas & limited legal/social redress opportunities. Helplines exist, though there is a lack of adequate services for referrals, especially in rural areas, including Siem Reap. Additional problems include lack of adequate referral systems/case management processes, under resourced services, with staff lacking adequate knowledge and skills. An opportunity to establish a team of Social workers/counselors in Siem Reap to fill significant gaps in service provision therefore exists. **The 'Provision' strategy** will be comprehensively implemented, closely collaborating with NGOs, police, court/government agencies ensuring victims have access to appropriate support services including legal aid and coordinated long term support.

## **Families & Communities**

Insufficient awareness on SECTT exists in Child Protection Groups and networks, resulting in child protection mechanisms lagging behind developments, contributing to continued vulnerability of children. **The 'Prevention' strategy** will address understanding of communities, children/young people, duty bearers and community based informant networks on SECTT, enabling them to monitor and identify children at risk, report SECTT cases and engage with appropriate individuals/CSOs to provide services/support. These groups will also contribute to community awareness raising initiatives. The project will liaise with CSOs with an established presence in communities (WVI, PLAN, Care, SCI etc).

## **Government**

Cambodia launched a VAC NAP in 2017 although government capacity to implement the plan is a challenge, exacerbated by lack of coordination amongst government departments including CNCC, NCCT and related ministries. Specific awareness of SECTT is limited, partly due to a paucity of accurate data collection systems, and subsequently, data on prevalence/ incidence. This can result in a lack of strategic focus/planning of SECTT related activities. Consultation with CSOs also indicates the

need for immigration laws to be more creatively used to prevent convicted abusers entering the country, linked with improvements notification systems of foreign police forces. To address the problems, the project implements the **'Promotion' strategy** to work closely with government and also lobby, advocate to coordinate efforts of multi-stakeholders for prevention and response to SECTT. This will also be informed by a situational analysis carried out in Siem Reap & Sihanoukville, exploring emerging themes, trends, vulnerabilities and risks, including those posed by Asian travellers.

**Law enforcement** lack sufficient capacity (child friendly procedures, confidentiality, slow to investigate and respond to reports of SECTT). The need to improve collaboration between international/national law enforcement and sharing of information and/or evidence is significant. (Including inconsistent sharing of Green Notices by many countries). The lack of (bilateral) Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with many countries also hampers progress. A clear need for accurate information and development of systems of measurement that also reflects national/regional offenders exists. In terms of criminal justice systems, key issues include capacity of prosecutors, common use of out-of-court settlements, and lack of protection for child witnesses.

To respond to the problems, the project implements the strategy **'Prosecution'** to strengthen relevant government institutions capacity to undertake child-centric investigations for better protection of victims/witnesses throughout the criminal justice process. The project will work closely with international law enforcement, build national capacity and address information exchange gaps.

#### **Track Record (1000 characters)**

APLE (implementing partner) is a specialised organisations with a track record in SECTT. This WATCH project will further built a strong reputation/track record and enduring partnerships with government agencies/Ministries, Judiciary, Law Enforcement Agencies, Tourism Industry and the NGO/CSO sector. In 2017 APLE investigated 102 cases with 209 victims; provided legal support to 239 clients and provided training to 298 Police, CSO staff & community leaders. TdHNL will strengthen its collaboration with other Child Protection agencies, and will contribute to expanding the pool of social workers in Siem Reap to fill identified gaps in service delivery for victims, including community awareness raising/provision of psychosocial services. It will also continue to contribute its technical support by supporting research alongside SCI and government.

#### **Added value (1000 characters)**

Considerable gaps exist in relation to capacity, availability and quality of services to victims of SECTT. Siem Reap specifically, is greatly underserved in relation to CP services, with few specialist NGOs present, lack of trained social workers and overall, limited capacity to respond to the needs of children. Long waiting lists are common, resulting in many victims not receiving appropriate help. Project activities are likely to result in an increase of demand for services, and the establishment of a team is considered an appropriate and responsible approach. A great opportunity exists for TdH to enhance understanding and contribute significantly to the existing child protection community of practice. Collaborating agencies are members of the FCFC initiative, so opportunities to build on that momentum and 'gain traction' is increased. The research will shed light on an otherwise hidden issue, namely the threats and risks related to the increase of Asian tourist and travellers.

#### **Stakeholders**

**Children:** Quality child protection services are required for child victims to recover from their traumatic experience. Many children struggle to trust adults after they have been abused. Therefore, the project will ensure the provision of 'child friendly' services (child-focused legal support, medical care,

age/gender appropriate psychosocial counselling and other supports), based on assessments of risk and need. The importance of engaging with families/caregivers to support recovery (also addressing vulnerability/protective factors for males/females) is recognised, and services will address these. Effective partnerships (MoUs identifying clear roles/responsibilities) with social service providers will be strengthened, ensuring *all* victims receive appropriate support. Quality of services provided to children will be thoroughly monitored, through regular visits, project reflection meetings and case reviews. Consultation with children & rigorous evaluation of project activities will be carried out to ensure continual relevance, responsiveness and ownership. The awareness raising component of this project will also specifically target “at risk” communities and children, working alongside existing CSOs/youth groups etc.

**Families & communities:** Preventing children from falling victim to exploitation is a first step to the elimination of sexual abuse/ exploitation. The root causes are many but include lack of understanding about the risks related to SECTT, often leaving children vulnerable, facing discrimination and isolated from support. The complex and evolving nature of SECTT requires preventative strategies to be comprehensive, and both proactive and responsive to emerging trends. The project will address prevention through a variety of means, collaboration with existing CSOs/youth groups and include community awareness raising/training (including children/young people at risk of SECTT and their families). Maintenance of confidential hotlines/reporting mechanisms, linked to law enforcement and child protection services, ensure that anticipated demand for support is met. An area of prevention often neglected, is for child protection services to actively engage with children & families at most risk, providing support services that directly address risk/vulnerability (e.g. family violence), so partnerships will address these issues.

**Government:** The project will enhance existing engagement with the Cambodian government and relevant Ministries. TdH will therefore work closely with and provide support to the CNCC to raise specific awareness on SECTT related issues, thus providing added value to the development of the recently launched VAC National Action Plan, ensuring that SECTT related issues are addressed meaningfully within it. Coordination mechanisms will be established with the CNCC to ensure regular dialogue and collaboration across ministries, also contributing to establishment of best practices in the long term. There is also a need to collect accurate evidence and data relating to offenders and victims, and this will be addressed and be enhanced by the situational analyses to be carried out in Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** Improving offender-oriented approaches & implementing victim-focused approaches to addressing SECTT, from reporting, intelligence gathering, throughout the court process in order to achieve convictions - and following release - are high on the agenda. This will be achieved through the development/facilitation of capacity strengthening of LEAs, addressing proactive policing techniques, and the strengthening of community based reporting and referral mechanisms to ensure children’s best interests are served throughout the process. The likelihood of reoffending is addressed by the promotion of international data sharing and development of offender registers. SECTT and offender related data gaps identified by research are addressed by the development of offender data gathering systems.

## Partner Contract design

General information about the project approach/design

This 3-year project consists of 4 outcomes and will be implemented by TdH and APLE. The elaboration of Intermediate Outcomes (IO), Responsibilities of TdH and APLE are described under each actor and outcome below.

**Overall Objective:** To prevent and tackle Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

#### **Government**

**Outcome 1:** Government coordinates efforts of multi-stakeholders for preventions of and response to SECTT. TdH leads on this outcome.

- IO 1.1: A national government committee has capacity to prevent and respond to SECTT.
- IO 1.2: A national government committee monitors situational SECTT trends and interventions.

#### **Law enforcement agencies**

**Outcome 2:** Government institutions relevant to criminal justice system have capacity to undertake child-centric investigations for better protection of SECTT victims and SECTT witnesses throughout the criminal justice process. APLE leads on this outcome.

- IO 2.1: National police have child-centric investigation skills to ensure adequate protection, child-friendly procedures, confidentiality and best interest for child victims and witnesses of SECTT during the investigations.
- IO 2.2: National police implement child-centric investigation standards in close coordination and collaboration with international law enforcement agencies on SECTT investigations.
- IO 2.3: National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Persons (NCCT) members have greater knowledge and commitment to sensitise and promote effective response towards SECTT.

#### **Child victims**

**Outcome 3:** Child victims have access to appropriate support services through better coordination between NGOs, police, court and government agencies. APLE leads on IO 3.1 and IO 3.2 while TdH leads on IO 3.3.

- IO 3.1: Child victims receive immediate psycho-social assistance at crisis intervention stage after their rescue, or after their victimisation confirmed by police.
- IO 3.2: Child victims receive quality free of charge, impartial legal aid services including legal advice, representation and assistance.
- IO 3.3: Child victims and families receive long-term coordinated psycho-social assistance.

(The staff in Siem Reap field office will provide psychosocial services facilitate awareness raising events and activities, and continues to host APLE investigators, strengthening gaps identified by the APLE evaluation (2017) and other evidence described above)

#### **Communities**

**Outcome 4:** Communities monitor and prevent SECTT risks in their communities. APLE leads on IO 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 while TdH leads on IO 4.4.

- IO 4.1: Young people, duty bearers, professionals and hospitality employees have capacity to monitor, report and prevent SECTT
- IO 4.2: Community based informant network has stronger capacity to monitor, report and prevent SECTT
- IO 4.3: Community based child protection workforce comprised of awareness/training participants and informants is actively promoting a robust child protection system
- IO 4.4: Communities have a good understanding on SECTT risks and how to mitigate risks.

**Downward accountability:** Research and experiences within TdHNL and Cambodia specifically, show

that projects that integrate beneficiary needs are more effective than those that do not, and that failing to incorporate downward accountability may have negative implications for the project's effectiveness. Therefore, the design draws on existing experiences and APLE evaluations/consultation to incorporate participation for ownership and M&E mechanisms to achieve this this will be incorporated. A commitment to ensuring meaningful child participation in all activities is will also be integrated, as described below in the CCI section.

Start date	1st January 2018
Expected end date	31st December 2020
Proposed lead partner	Terre des Hommes Netherlands
Responsible co-partner(s)	APLE Cambodia

### Selected output indicators

Revised Output	Actor	Strategy	Donor Specific	Used in this PC?	Target			
					2018	2019	2020	Total
# of documents presented to government	Government	Promotion	TdHNL	YES	1	1		2
# of judiciary and police staff trained in child protection and child friendly interview techniques/child friendly justice/reporting or releasing press statements on convicted cases of child exploitation	Law enforcement agencies	Prosecution	TdHNL	YES	500	1,000	470	1,970
# of exploited/abused girls received legal advice	Children	Provision	TdHNL	YES	50	100	50	200
# of exploited/abused boys received legal advice	Children	Provision	TdHNL	YES	50	50	50	150
# of girls reintegrated	Children	Provision	TdHNL	YES	50	100	50	200
# of boys reintegrated	Children	Provision	TdHNL	YES	50	50	50	150
# of community members with children vulnerable to exploitation participated in awareness raising activities	Families & Communities	Prevention	TdHNL	YES	5,000	10,000	5,000	20,000

### Activities under selected output indicators

Output	Actor	Strategy	Donor
# of documents presented to government	Government	Promotion	TdHNL
<b>Outcome 1: Government coordinates efforts of multi-stakeholders for the prevention of and response to SECTT in country.</b>			
<b>Intermediate Outcome (IO) 1.1: A national government committee has capacity to prevent and respond to SECTT</b>			
Strengthen capacity of national government committee to implement the NAP related to CSEA as a form of Violence Against Children (VAC)			
Establish and maintain project database on foreign SECTT offenders and SECTT victims to be shared with relevant government and law enforcement agencies.			
Promote regular dialogue, collaboration and coordination on SECTT between relevant ministries, civil society organisations and			

private sector (including media)			
Establish international and regional cooperation between relevant government and law enforcement agencies to track down foreign SECTT offenders			
<b>IO 1.2: A national government committee monitors SECTT trends and interventions.</b>			
Carry out an Action Research on specific risks/vulnerabilities related to the growth of Asian tourists in two geographical locations (Siem Reap/Sihanoukville)			
Develop and implement relevant advocacy strategy and interventions based on findings and recommendations of the Action based Research.			
Monitor the implementation of the Action Research recommendations			
# of judiciary and police staff trained in child protection and child friendly interview techniques/child friendly justice/reporting or releasing press statements on convicted cases of child exploitation	Law enforcement agencies	Prosecution	TdHNL
<b>Outcome 2: Government institutions relevant to criminal justice system have capacity to undertake child-centric investigations for better protection of SECTT victims and SECTT witnesses throughout the criminal justice process</b>			
<b>IO 2.1: National police have child-centric investigation skills to ensure adequate protection, child-friendly procedures, confidentiality and best interest for child victims and witnesses of SECTT during the investigations.</b>			
Develop effective training materials and teaching manuals for trainers with specific focus on child sexual abuse and exploitation on-off-line cases, and child- centric investigation standards			
Conduct training of trainer (ToT) sessions for provincial deputy commissioners and chiefs of AHTJP police units in target provinces, using the developed manuals			
Develop a joined training program and budgetary plan for provincial deputy commissioners and chiefs of AHTJP units to deliver training to their officers			
Support the conduct of training by chiefs of AHTJP units with their own police officers with specific focus on applying child-centric investigation standards			
Monitor the effectiveness of training programs and conduct review with trainers and senior police leadership			
Organise national training workshops for police and judicial officials to exchange lessons learnt and share best practices on CSEA			
Organise international training workshops for law enforcement, judiciary and government officials to share knowledge and to promote information sharing and collaboration			
Organise exposure learning visits for national police champions to regional/international specialised agencies dealing with CSEA investigations			
<b>IO 2.2: National police implement child-centric investigation standards in close coordination and collaboration with international law enforcement agencies on SECTT investigations.</b>			
Conduct proactive and reactive preliminary investigations, collect information of suspected on-offline CSEA cases and to receive reports for various services			
Operate 24/7 web-based Internet and phone hotlines for children and the general public to report concerns of CSEA and receive reports for various services			
Analyse online reports under local and international laws and submit notice/takedown requests directly or through INHOPE ICCAM system to responsible agencies for action			
Liaise with international law enforcement agencies for consideration of extra-territorial collaboration with national police			
Monitor investigative responses towards child sexual abuse and exploitation on-offline cases and conduct technical review meetings with senior police leadership			
Set up and launch child-friendly interview rooms within police space			
Develop child-friendly room user's guide manuals for distribution to the right targets			
Sensitise and lobby national police towards to use child-friendly interview rooms for conducting interviews with child victims and witnesses			
Monitor and report on the use of child-friendly interview rooms by trained national police			
<b>IO 2.3: National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Persons (NCCT) members have greater knowledge and commitment to sensitise and promote effective response towards SECTT</b>			
Organise national workshop with NCCT to sensitise and lobby for integration of specific priorities concerning on-offline CSEA priorities into the NAP			
Support development of NAP that includes on-offline CSEA priorities for dissemination			
Conduct regular dialogues with provincial NCCT committees to develop technical capacities to implement NAP in general and the CSEA plan of action in particular			
Develop a joined strategy with provincial NCCT Committees to implement and promote NAP against CSEA			

Support provincial NCCT Committee's capacity building activities			
# of exploited/abused girls received legal advice	Children	Provision	TdHNL
# of exploited/abused boys received legal advice	Children	Provision	TdHNL
<b>Outcome 3: Child victims have access to appropriate support services through better coordination between NGOs, police, court and government agencies.</b>			
<b>IO 3.1: Child victims receive immediate psycho-social assistance at crisis intervention stage after their rescue, or after their victimisation confirmed by police.</b>			
Provide immediate psychological counselling, emotional preparation, welfare assistance, medical care, and safety for child victims, witnesses and families			
Conduct risk and needs assessment of child victims, witnesses and facilitate referrals to families or appropriate rehabilitation service providers			
<b>IO 3.2: Child victims receive quality free of charge, impartial legal aid services including legal advice, representation and assistance.</b>			
Provide quality legal advice, representation and assistance for child victims, witnesses and families at pre-, during- and post-trial stages			
Collaborate with national and international law firms through formal partnership to bring criminal and/or civil cases to foreign court's jurisdiction			
Provide legal advice, tools and support to law firms and legal aid organisations who deal with child victims and witnesses of CSEA			
# of girls reintegrated	Children	Provision	TdHNL
# of boys reintegrated	Children	Provision	TdHNL
<b>IO 3.3: Child victims and families receive long-term coordinated psycho-social assistance.</b>			
Develop Case Management and Referral System to collect data and effectively coordinate victim services and support.			
Develop and disseminate User's Guide for Case Management and Referral to relevant organisations.			
Establish and train a professional team of social service practitioners in Siem Reap to support SECTT victims identified by the project.			
Provide psychosocial services to victims of SECTT in Siem Reap and/or refer to other specialised service providers in the province.			
Coordinate and manage data entry into the database and regular follow up with victims on services provided by to them.			
Organise regular case management meetings with member organisations to share updates and identify solutions to practical challenge for improving victim services			
# of community members with children vulnerable to exploitation participated in awareness raising activities	Families & Communities	Prevention	TdHNL
<b>Outcome 4: Communities monitor and prevent SECTT risks in their communities.</b>			
<b>IO 4.1: Young people, duty bearers, professionals and industrial companies) have the right capacity to monitor, report and prevent SECTT</b>			
Conduct skill training for selected young people, duty bearers, professionals and industrial companies			
Conduct roundtable meetings with selected key stakeholders (young people, ISPs, MoEYS, Pre-/In-service teacher, youth focused organization)			
Develop and promote formal partnership between government, civil society organisations and private sector			
Recruit celebrity as a goodwill ambassador to promote Internet safety and collaborative industrial solutions			
<b>IO 4.2: Community based Child Protection network has stronger capacity to monitor, report and prevent SECTT</b>			
Identify at-risk communities of CSEA for awareness, training and prevention programmes			
Expand the existing community based informant network to other geographical locations through recruiting and capacitating			
Organize follow-up group meetings with informants to raise awareness of the issue and identify concrete actions			
<b>IO 4.3: Community based child protection workforce comprised of awareness/training participants and informants is actively promoting a robust child protection system</b>			
Develop capacity of Sangkat councils and Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC), and support their further distribution of awareness			
Disseminate information and awareness raising of CSEA through information campaigns and mass media (Radio, TV, Newspaper, Social Media)			
Conduct skill training for youth, carers, tourism supply chains and authorities on how to monitor, report and prevent			
Monitor and report the effectiveness of training and awareness raising programmes			
<b>IO 4.4: Communities have a good understanding on SECTT risks and how to mitigate risks.</b>			
Strengthen the capacity of existing community-based groups (children's clubs, child protection committees, school committees,			



CSO/CBO's etc.)
Conduct public awareness campaigns to promote understanding of people on CSEA, highlights of SECTT, and to change negative public perceptions of victims
Implement child protection initiatives in schools in collaboration with teachers: Conduct awareness raising on SECTT with students; integrate SECTT learning materials in school curricula

## Approach and Impact

### Sustainability approach

The partnership is determined to ensure that outcomes of the project contribute to long-term, sustainable change beyond the funding window. It therefore brings together strong and experienced partners and local expert knowledge within the field, as a foundation of planning and project development. This will enable the partnership to develop culturally and geographically specific (and appropriate) strategies (and identify specific outcomes, outputs and activities) that draw on existing strengths, increasing the likelihood of success in the long term. Increasing knowledge, and transforming of attitudes and protective behaviours will also contribute to long term change, through focused raising awareness of at risk children and their communities. Capacity building of law enforcement, judiciary and social service provider organisations (through informal and formal methods) will also positively influence and embed positive attitudes and behaviour. Activities will also enhance government structures within country, advocate for and contribute to the adoption and implementation of effective policy, legal frameworks and national plans of action.

The situational analysis on specific risks and vulnerabilities in two sites (Siem Reap and Sihanoukville) will continue to inform the improvement of all project strategies, shedding light on previously unaddressed issues, namely the risks and threats posed by Asian travellers and tourists. This will also contribute to the development of IEC and training materials, resources and tools for government, law enforcement agencies, social service provider organisations, children and communities. This will also contribute significantly to embedding new data and insights into long term preventive and protective policies, mechanisms and behaviour change related to SECTT.

Effective PM&E, which will be incorporated in project activities enables modifications, improvements/recommendations to be implemented throughout and beyond the life of the project. The PM&E system will be reinforced by the project team taking time to reflect, critically analyse activities and experiences, alongside partners and others working in the field, and feed lessons learned into future planning and action in the long term, well beyond the life of the specific project.

A unique aspect of the project is the commitment to learning, (through effective monitoring, evaluation and research) and this will enable project priorities and its outcomes to be shared and mainstreamed across a wide range of partnerships, including the USAID funded 'Family Care First' initiative (FCF), based in Cambodia (and managed by Save the Children), and will mainstream research and practice opportunities in both prevention and response across at least 30 leading child protection agencies, many of which work in the selected target areas.

A quick assessment in 2016 identified the need for TdHNL to support the Victim support by training and placing a team of social workers in Siem Reap. The WATCH project will identify victims in need of immediate psycho-social support. The current capacity of social workers in Siem Reap reveals a waiting list for newly identified victims of all sort of abuse and exploitation. To relief this burden. TdHNL will work close with other professional service providers in the province (currently identified only three of those agencies) and will aim to identify options of sustainability. This could include but is not limited to spinning off this department or incorporating into an existing structure.

## Risk Analysis

### Identified Risks:

1. Government bodies may not be as active as expected in contributing actively to the fight against CSEA/ SECTT
2. Insensitive investigation and prosecution risks re-traumatising child victims
3. Programs may uncover victims and survivors of multiple forms of abuse and exploitation. This may result in unintended enhanced visibility, with concurrent safety risks.
4. Activities may identify additional and significant numbers of victims, this increasing the demand on existing service providers, who may be unable to meet demand for services and supports.
5. Children with disabilities who are exploited and seek help and support may not be able to access adequate child protection related support.
6. Increased scrutiny of potential offenders may result in them moving to other parts of Cambodia.
7. Exploitation of children also occurs in many settings, including orphanages and schools, where offenders volunteer or establish social programmes - and potential abuse and exploitation remains hidden.

### Mitigation Strategies:

1. Two strategies to mitigate risk: (i) Develop and implement lobby and advocacy strategy; and (ii) Engage and develop strong and trusting relationships with government representatives at all levels.
2. Two strategies to mitigate risk: (i) Strengthen capacity of law enforcement on child-focused investigations and (ii) Strengthen the use and expansion of Child-Friendly Investigation Spaces.
3. Three strategies to mitigate risk: (i) Build and enhance relationships with NGO/CSO service providers in target areas, establishing referral pathways, including development of MoUs where required (ii) Strengthen capacity and provide mentoring of service providers on providing the most appropriate crisis, medium and longer term services for victims in child-focused manner, with an emphasis on physical and psychological safety (iii) Promote and encourage more active engagement with parents, caregivers and supporters of children affected by exploitation, to encourage more proactive support strategies.
4. In Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh, services exist and are considered able to respond. This is not necessarily the case in Siem Reap, where limited services, high demand and long waiting lists currently exist. The project will therefore establish a Child Protection team, which once established will be able to receive referrals.
5. In Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh, several NGOs currently providing support services (with established MoUs with APLE) are members of a Disability and Child Protection Working Group, thus improving the opportunities for receiving support. In Siem Reap, two potential (informal) partners are also familiar with the Working Group, and one specialist agency exists to provide disability services. The team in that city will therefore work closely with others when and where required, and also facilitate learning opportunities related to TdHNL's cross cutting issues - highlighting issues related to CWDs.
6. It is largely unknown how project activities (e.g. awareness raising) will influence potential offenders behaviour, but where specific risks are identified, information sharing between partners will lead to increased vigilance.
7. Outreach and awareness activities will include communities, schools etc., and the project will also work closely with other projects with a focus on this issue (e.g. FI "Children are not a Tourist Attraction" activities, FCFC child protection initiatives etc.) and share relevant concerns.

## Research

Regional research (ECPAT 2016/17) and evidence from NGOs working on the ground in Cambodia, indicates a significant growth of Asian tourists that make up the majority of travellers within country. To date the majority of existing research, projects/strategies have been based on data gained in relation to primarily Western travellers, leaving considerable gaps in knowledge, ensuring that specific risks & vulnerabilities are unknown. Therefore a situational analysis (Action Research) will be carried out in two sites (Siem Reap & Sihanoukville) to identify issues and emerging threats, informing refined project strategies, enhancing existing prevention, protection & support services. The study will also identify opportunities and challenges to meaningfully engage with law enforcement from Asian countries, similar to that that has been established in the last decade with predominantly western agencies.

### **Learning**

Consultation and Learning: This PC has also been influenced in its design by reflection and discussions with APLE following a recent evaluation carried out by an external consultant, which identified specific strengths and areas of improvement required. Additional learning contributions have been made following consultation with key individuals and organisations working in this area, including Friends International (Siem Reap), M'Lop Tapang (Sihanoukville), Save the Children Cambodia and the World Childhood Foundation (Sweden), who support a number of child protection projects across the country, including APLE. Overall, the design of the project is influenced the need for a closer relationship between action, reflection and learning - and utilising those processes to feed into further planning and action. (Action learning Cycle)

### **Marketing and communication**

A considerable portion of this project is a situational analysis on specific risks and vulnerabilities of a significant growth of Asian tourists in two sites (Siem Reap and Sihanoukville). As the donor, the consortium lead and one of the implementing partners, TdH NL will be in a position to publish the report and use it to inform the next phase of its future's project design, which will ultimately be utilised to establish 'buy in' and commitment from donors for continued funding support. The research will also be of interest to others within the field of international development and prevention of exploitation, especially in the region. Effective PM&E will also result in the production of additional knowledge, tools and educational resources, providing numerous opportunities to promote and share progress/achievements within the TDH Federation and wider NGO community in country and the region. APLE and TdHNL Maco team will work closely together to identify communication opportunities (Press Releases, media visits etc).

### **Capacity Building (1000 characters)**

APLE last undertook a PCAT assessment in 2016, and this will be carried out to identify specific capacity building needs. In addition, following recruitment of the team in Siem Reap, a Learning & Training Needs Assessment will take place, identifying additional learning/support required to enable them to function effectively. Where necessary, collaborating NGOs & APLE staff will be involved to ensure effective implementation. Training and technical support will be provided by TdH NL staff and others within the child protection community in Cambodia, with additional support provided from other sources. To ensure effective project implementation, the project will conduct quarterly reflection meetings amongst the project team to reflect on strengths, weaknesses and improved strategies. This process also aims to strengthen the capacity of the team on quality planning, monitoring and evaluation which ultimately will result in quality project management.

### **Cross-Cutting issues**

APLE currently have working practices in place that address the requirement for active child participation, meeting specific needs of children with disabilities, and gender inclusivity, and closely reflect the CCI requirements. These practices ensure that the specific needs of each child are assessed at an early stage and specific referrals made to partner agencies when & where required. For example, referral pathways are already established with specialist disability NGOs, and those with expertise supporting boys/girls. As this project will involve children receiving social supports, following assessments of risk and need (unless safety is compromised), children will remain within family based settings. Where this is not possible, and as a last resort, children will be placed in shelter type accommodation, with providers that meet the AC Minimum Standards. Cases will be reviewed on a regular basis and reintegration take place according to best practice guidelines.

While practices and policies exist, it is acknowledged that there is room for improvement & strengthening. The TdH team based in Siem Reap will also require training & support to ensure all CCIs requirements are met. Therefore, a CCI learning needs assessment will be facilitated & training provided, ensuring all CCIs are fully implemented in work plans & activities. The project is committed to ensuring that all CCIs and minimum requirements are addressed by all and shared with specific partners & others involved. As a key partner, APLE will also become actively engaged in working towards advancing the cross cutting issues internally (With support from TdH NL), and subsequently advocating for these issues within their work. Realising this will also involve active participation in locally based initiatives to advance these issues, including but not limited to FCFC meetings (Furthering Alternative Care related issues) and attendance at the (NGO) Disability & Child Protection Mainstreaming Working Group .