

2017 ~ 2018

IMPACT REPORT



APLE

www.aplecambodia.org

APLE IN BRIEF

SUSTAINABLY PROTECTING CAMBODIAN CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION SINCE 2003

Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE Cambodia) is a local child protection NGO dedicated to strengthening the social and legal mechanisms for the protection of children at risk of or affected by child sexual abuse and/or exploitation.

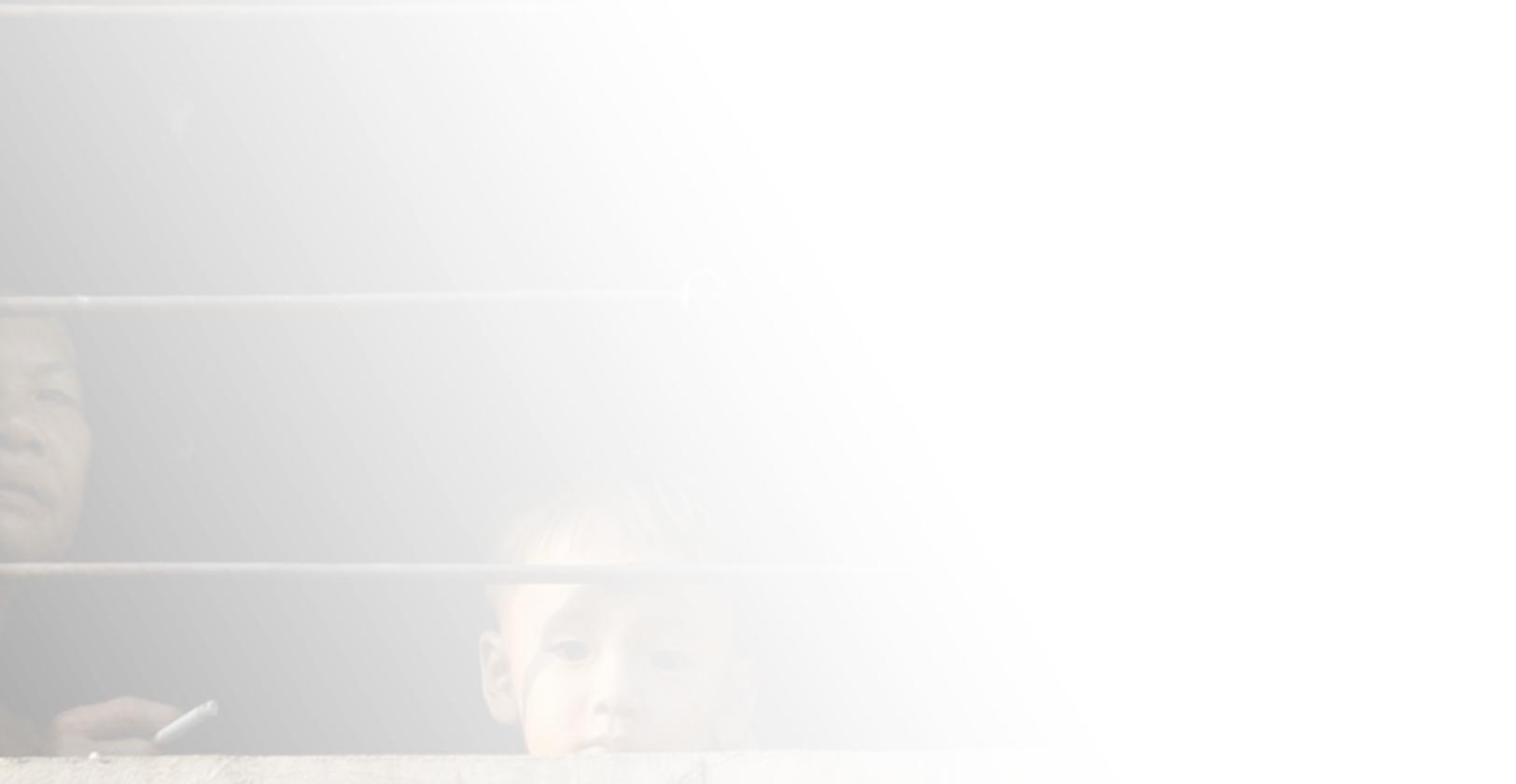
We seek to provide victims with the opportunity to rebuild their lives and develop their full potential towards a healthy future.

OUR VISION

A community with robust social and legal justice in which all children are safe from child sexual abuse and exploitation

OUR MISSION

To strengthen national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of children at risk of, or affected by, child sexual abuse or exploitation



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WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. EVELYN DYKES, Chairman of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of APLE Cambodia, I am delighted to introduce our Impact Report for 2017 ~ 2018.

These have been important times for APLE as we worked to implement and strengthen our strategic focus on partnership and capacity-building to ensure sustainable improvements in the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation throughout Cambodia and the wider world.

As this report shows, APLE staff continue to work tirelessly and successfully in the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation of children. There have been many changes in the local, national and global arenas in which we operate, and APLE activities have necessarily changed too. Examples include a relative shift from street-based to online abuse and exploitation, which requires a different, more technologically-based and internationally-collaborative approach to combat successfully.

While our main aim remains the prevention of abuse, APLE continues to strive on behalf of those children who have already fallen victim to abusers. We have continued our capacity-building work with Cambodian law-enforcement and judicial agencies, strengthened our lobbying and advocacy activities both nationally and overseas, and introduced new initiatives to lessen the impact of potentially traumatic criminal justice proceedings on child victims and their families. The recent introduction of child-friendly rooms in law-enforcement establishments is a small but very important development which we believe will have a long-term beneficial impact for many victims.

In line with our strategic pledge to underpin our activities on a strong evidence base, APLE has also undertaken and collaborated in a number of research projects. These have provided important new data about the nature, extent, characteristics and consequences of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) in Cambodia, which is of value to all agencies working in this field.

APLE is widely acknowledged to be a leading authority on CSAE in Cambodia, and has been invited to contribute to important national and international forums on many occasions.

Our staff have also been recognised for their untiring commitment to child protection; we were proud to receive a prestigious international Child 10 award by Reach for Change Sweden in 2017. Our Executive Director, Mr. Samleang Seila, also received a Medal from the Government of Cambodia and an award from the King of Cambodia in 2017.

Attaining sustainable and recurrent funding to enable us to work effectively and efficiently remains a challenge in times of economic austerity and increasing competition for funds.

It is a testimony to our hard-working team that our annual budget has increased from 2017-18 and that we have achieved several new long-term commitments. We record our deep gratitude to those who have supported APLE Cambodia financially over the last two years and hope they will be reassured and inspired by what we have achieved.

There have been a number of staff changes during 2017-18 and I thank those who have left us for their contributions and dedication over many years. We are delighted to welcome some new faces to important new roles and congratulate those who have achieved promotion within the organisation.

I also wish to pay tribute to my colleagues on the Board of Directors, who have provided immense support in steering APLE Cambodia through some challenging times in the last few years. In 2018, we were sad to say goodbye to Andy Wells and Kate Richardson, who have both been with us from the start and have provided valuable insight and guidance throughout their tenure. In their places I am delighted to welcome Sarah Nihjolt and Duncan Craig; both have extensive and varied experience which will be invaluable to the Board.

Lastly, I would like to thank our hard-working Executive Team and all the staff of APLE Cambodia. Without your efforts none of the achievements which are described in this report would have been possible and many more children would still be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

With gratitude,



DR. EVELYN DYKES
Chairman of the Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Supporters:

It is a pleasure to share with you our Impact Report 2017 ~ 2018. If you have been tuning in on APLE's work for the past few years, you know that in 2016 we welcomed our new five-year strategic plan 2016 – 2020 under a revised mission statement: to strengthen national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of children at risk of, or affected by, child sexual abuse and exploitation.

More than ever before, we are dedicated to creating sustainable change that keeps all Cambodian children safer, and this new strategic plan is a testimonial.

During 2017 ~ 2018, we've seen remarkable achievements and positive development within APLE and those we work for. This was only possible with the support of our long-standing generous donors, NGO partners, friends and especially our dedicated staff and fellow board members without whom we could not have achieved this. I thank them for their magnificent support and tireless efforts. APLE's human resources are our capital asset.

Our Court Support program continued working with affected children and families to rebuild their lives, assuring that they have stable lives 18 months after receiving APLE's services. During this period, the team provided crisis intervention and psycho-social supports to a total of 644 child victims, vulnerable children and their families; most of whom also received our legal assistance and representation while simultaneously participating in the justice seeking process.

We also welcomed our new lawyer into the team in 2018, maintaining our ability to provide high quality legal services and advocate on behalf of the child victims at every stage of the court proceedings. As a result, we've seen 25 convictions of sex offenders in total and an increased number of compensation orders handed down by the various courts.

More importantly, we've seen the return of beautiful smiles back on the face of our children and heard of their life-changing stories.

In 2017, we received a fantastic grant from World Childhood Foundation, mainly investing in our court support program, which is still continued nowadays.

During this period, 100 children were rescued from abuse and exploitation, while 35 offenders were arrested by the police with whom the Criminal Justice Development program team has been closely collaborating. The team also trained 408 police and court officials on child-centric investigation standards as part of their capacity building activities that aim to strengthen skills and willingness of the criminal justice actors to effectively engage with children in a child-sensitive manner. While our training programs have been very well received by the police across Cambodia, the assistance we've provided to our international law enforcement partners has been much appreciated and had positive impact on their own initiatives back home.

APLE's Community Engagement program continued to focus on community based child protection and prevention. Its activities have increased in quantity and quality over the years. During 2017 ~ 2018, 912 participants (police officers, NGO personnel, parents, teachers, local authorities, hotel/travel agency staff and children) were reached through the awareness raising and training events, while 23 other awareness raising sessions were conducted specifically with children and youth, and 10 radio talk shows joined by the program team leader to disseminate knowledge to the wider range of audiences.

In 2018, our Research and Advocacy program released two research reports. The first research was carried out to understand the perceptions of child sexual abuse and exploitation trends in the country's five main touristic provinces. The second research, which was about the nature and extent of online child sexual exploitation in Cambodia, was led by APLE and conducted by consultants to explore the risks of online child sexual exploitation and develop an evidence based plan of action to tackle the problem. These research studies enabled us to build evidence based knowledge and provide statistical information and analysis necessary for the government institutions and other child protection stakeholders to better protect children. In 2018, we used our knowledge from research to comment on the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) for Cambodia and co-submitted the report with ECPAT International to the UN's Human Rights Council.

I'm very proud of what we have done over the last two years, but I also believe there is much more to do. With the strength and dedication of the APLE team, I am confident that 2019 is going to be a year of growth and vibrant impact in achieving our mission to strengthen national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of children at risk of, or affected by, child sexual abuse and exploitation. Once again, we are grateful for all your support and hope to have you by our side for the coming years.

Warm regards,



Seila Samleang

MR. SEILA SAMLEANG
Executive Director



OUR APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES

APLE intervenes with four inter-related key programs: Criminal Justice Development, Court Support, Community Engagement and Research & Advocacy. Each program is crucial to successful long-term prevention of and in ensuring efficient and effective responses to child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE).

Criminal Justice Development

This program ensures government institutions relevant to criminal justice system develop a stronger capacity to strengthen national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of CSAE victims, witnesses and families throughout the criminal justice process. This includes national police possessing better skills in child-centric investigation standards relevant to child interviews, engagement with child victims/witnesses and families, crisis intervention support and child safety.

Court Support

This program provides direct support to CSAE victims and their families from the crisis intervention stage through the completion of the legal process, and facilitates long-term coordinated psycho-social assistance. This program provides CSAE victims and their families quality, free of charge and impartial legal aid services which include legal advice, representation and assistance in order to ensure their full participation in all stages of the criminal justice process.

Community Engagement

Through this program, APLE engages key members of at-risk communities and the public in the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation by disseminating knowledge, building a committed civil reporter network and running hotlines (phone and Internet) where the public can report suspicion of abuse anonymously and confidentially. Reports of abuse will be disseminated to the police and/or partners for action, ensuring victims are properly identified and offenders face justice.

Research and Advocacy

APLE provides a strong base of evidence and facts to advocate for the best practices to be implemented in order to protect children. This program conducts research and uses the knowledge acquired to advocate for positive changes in laws and the criminal justice process. It also provides transferable knowledge to governments and NGOs, serving the Community Engagement Program with the provision of intellectual and factual documentation.

Envisioning two years of unabating work to protect Cambodia's children



2017

%

2018

%

58 children rescued from sexual abuse and exploitation

239 child victims and families provided with legal support

346 child victims and families provided with psycho social support

63 cases reported via the Internet Hotline

18 suspects arrested

12 offenders prosecuted

15 skill training to prevent CSAE among communities, law enforcement and NGOs

3 awareness sessions conducted

208 police and judicial officials trained on child-centric standards

42 children rescued from sexual abuse and exploitation

148 child victims and families provided with legal support

298 child victims and families provided with psycho social support

97 cases reported via the Internet Hotline

17 suspects arrested

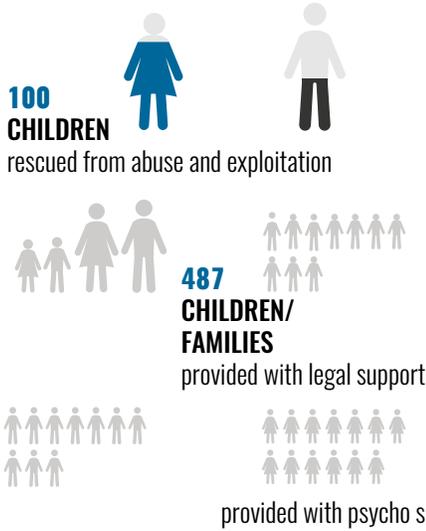
13 offenders prosecuted

13 skill training to prevent CSAE among communities, law enforcement and NGOs

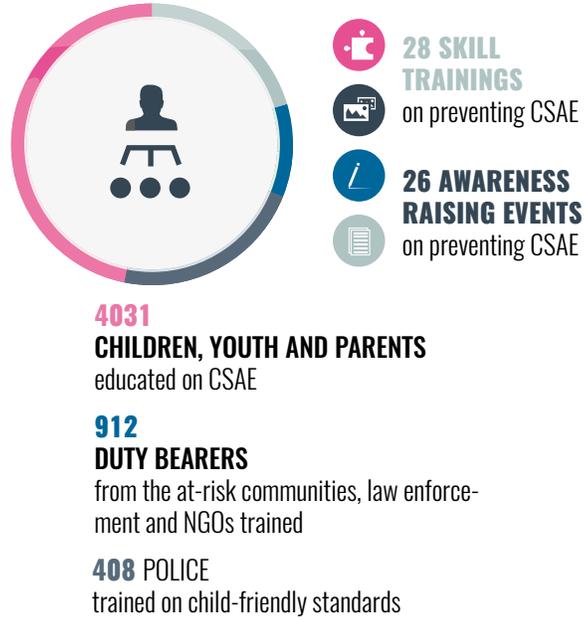
23 awareness sessions conducted

200 police and judicial officials trained on child-centric standards

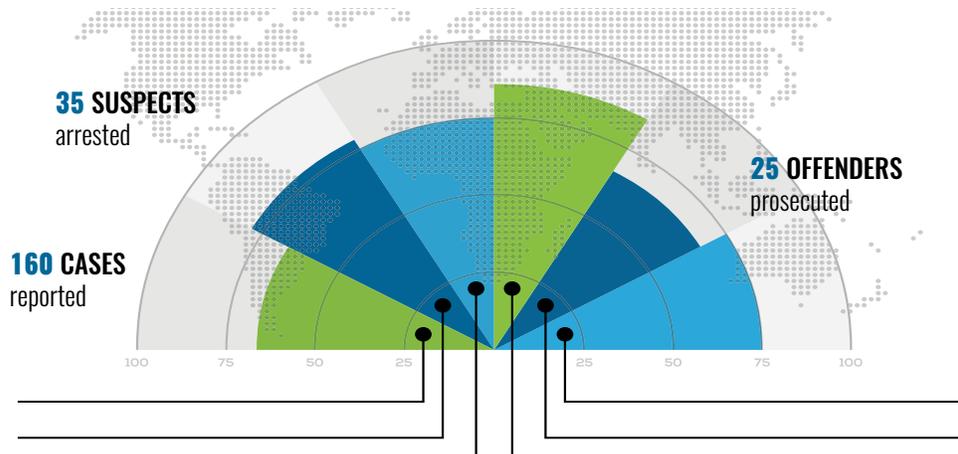
CHILDREN RESCUED AND SUPPORTED 2017 ~ 2018



PEOPLE EDUCATED AND TRAINED 2017 ~ 2018



CASES REPORTED AND HANDLED 2017 ~ 2018



Child 10 Award 2017 Stockholm, Sweden

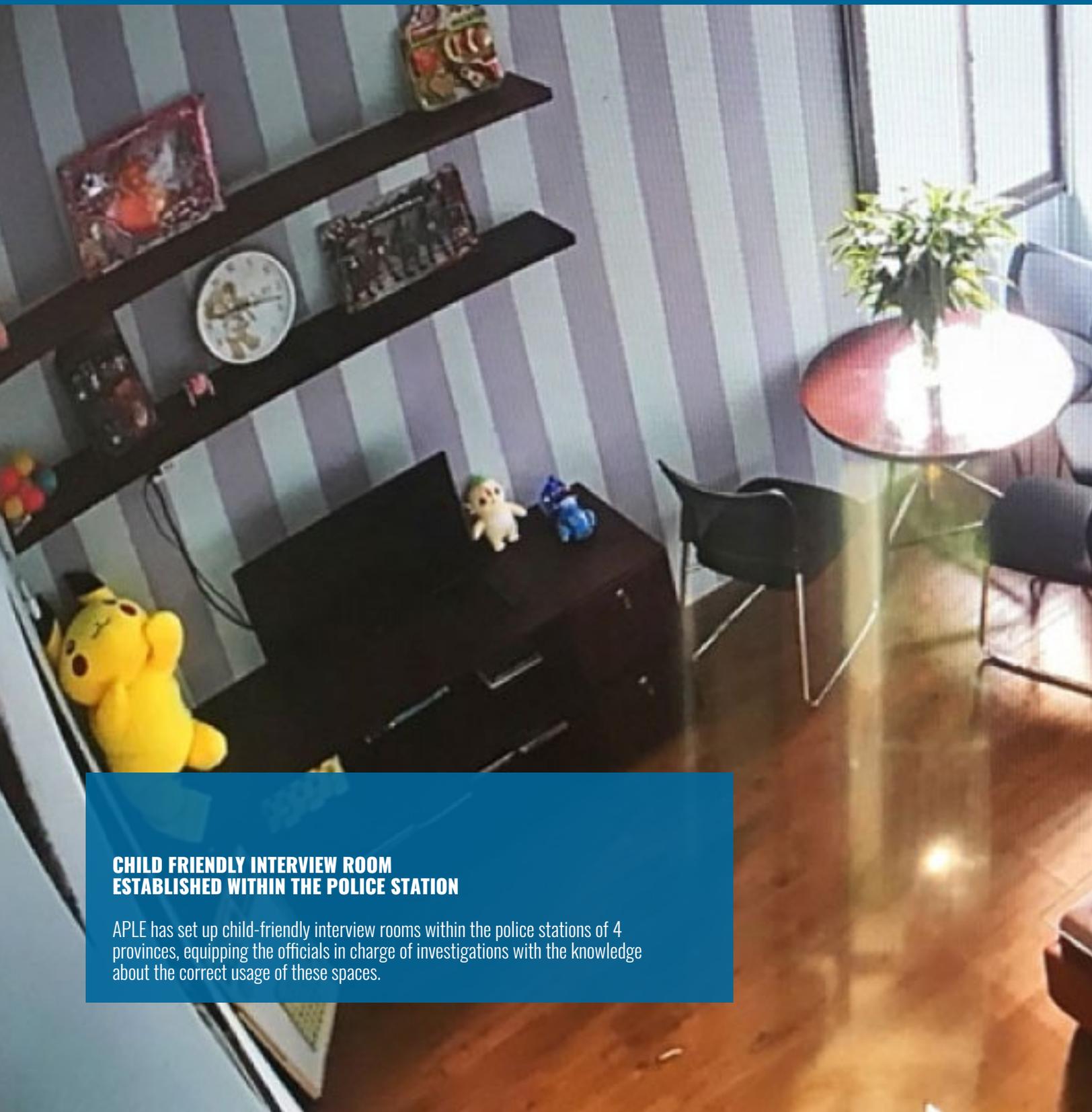


“
When building the capacity of the National Police to undertake timely and child-centric investigations, we believe that justice for child victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation and protection for children at risk will easily follow.”

The Criminal Justice Development Program is developed and governed by the belief that strengthening government institutions relevant to the criminal justice system is crucial to achieve long-term sustainable change.

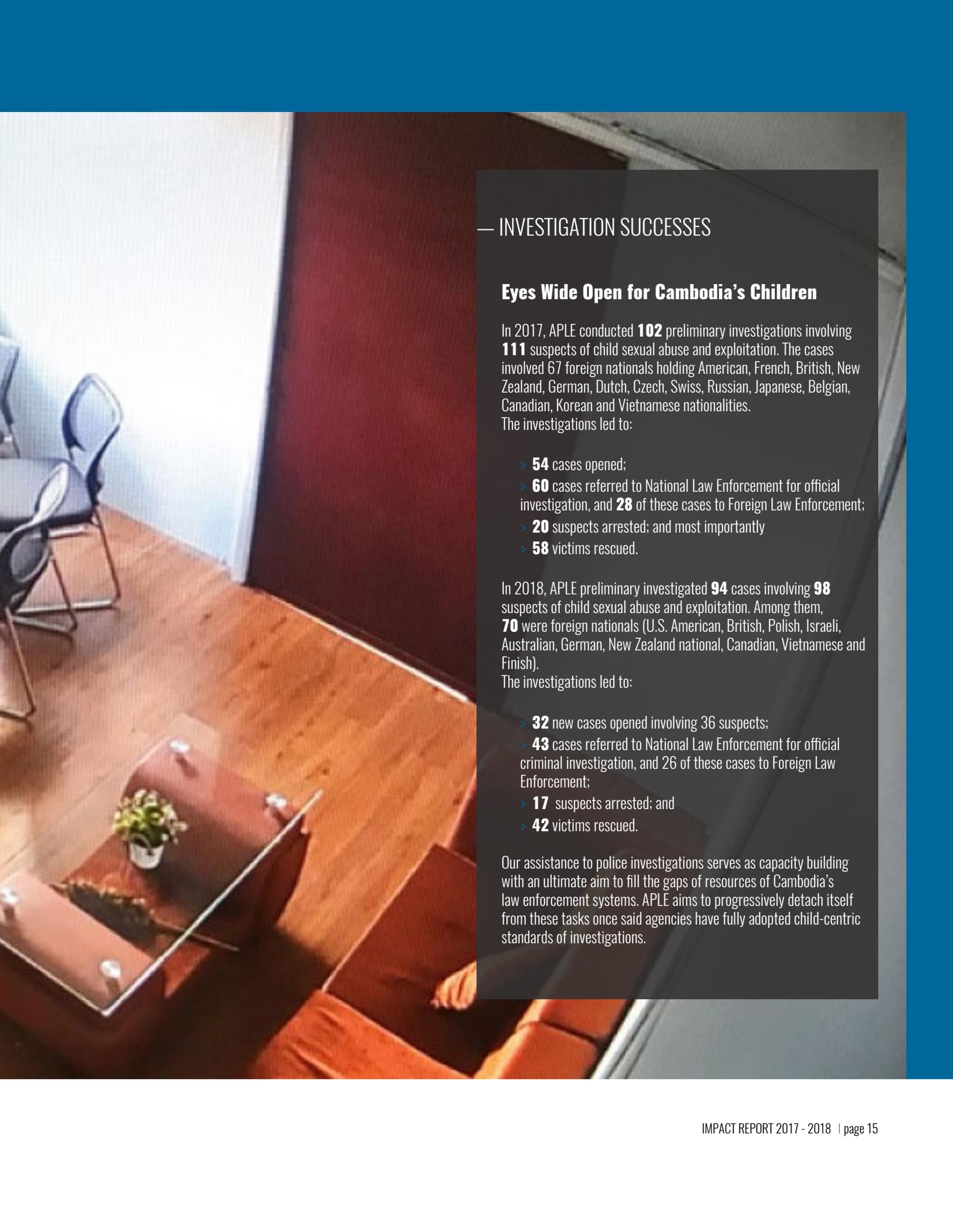
This program aims to strengthen the capacity of government institutions relevant to the criminal justice system in order to improve the national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of CSAE victims, witnesses and families throughout the criminal justice process.





**CHILD FRIENDLY INTERVIEW ROOM
ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE POLICE STATION**

APLE has set up child-friendly interview rooms within the police stations of 4 provinces, equipping the officials in charge of investigations with the knowledge about the correct usage of these spaces.



— INVESTIGATION SUCCESSES

Eyes Wide Open for Cambodia's Children

In 2017, APLE conducted **102** preliminary investigations involving **111** suspects of child sexual abuse and exploitation. The cases involved 67 foreign nationals holding American, French, British, New Zealand, German, Dutch, Czech, Swiss, Russian, Japanese, Belgian, Canadian, Korean and Vietnamese nationalities.

The investigations led to:

- > **54** cases opened;
- > **60** cases referred to National Law Enforcement for official investigation, and **28** of these cases to Foreign Law Enforcement;
- > **20** suspects arrested; and most importantly
- > **58** victims rescued.

In 2018, APLE preliminary investigated **94** cases involving **98** suspects of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Among them, **70** were foreign nationals (U.S. American, British, Polish, Israeli, Australian, German, New Zealand national, Canadian, Vietnamese and Finish).

The investigations led to:

- > **32** new cases opened involving 36 suspects;
- > **43** cases referred to National Law Enforcement for official criminal investigation, and 26 of these cases to Foreign Law Enforcement;
- > **17** suspects arrested; and
- > **42** victims rescued.

Our assistance to police investigations serves as capacity building with an ultimate aim to fill the gaps of resources of Cambodia's law enforcement systems. APLE aims to progressively detach itself from these tasks once said agencies have fully adopted child-centric standards of investigations.

The Court Support Program focuses on providing high-quality and timely legal and social support for victims of sexual abuse, thus enabling them to pursue justice while minimizing the risks of exposure to 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 at all levels to establish child-friendly procedures during the entire judicial process.

Advocating for child-friendly practices in court, along with the Criminal Justice Development Program's Training of Trainers protocol, aims to extend international child-friendly standards throughout the Criminal Justice Proceedings beyond the window of APLE initiated cases.

In 2017, a total of **239** clients, including **109** victims, **104** family members, **24** witnesses and **2** vulnerable children received pro-bono impartial legal support from APLE.

A next level of achievement was the conviction of child sex offenders. **13** offenders were convicted by Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chang and Kompong Speu courts of first instance. **2** foreign offenders were ordered to be deported from Cambodia and **1** foreign offender was deported. **4** child victims were awarded compensation amount 250\$-2000\$.

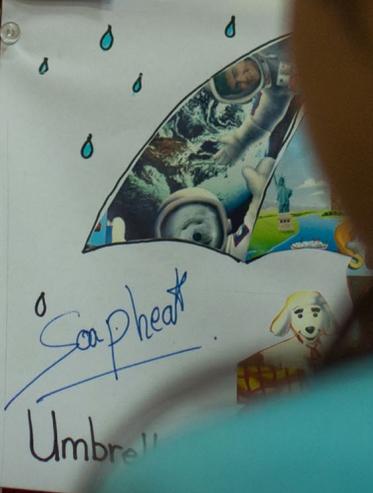
In 2018, **298** clients received legal support. This number includes include **171** victims, **11** witnesses, **8** vulnerable children and **108** family members.

15 offenders (8 Cambodian and 7 foreigners) were convicted by Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang and Takeo Province courts. One foreigner was convicted by a U.S. Court, and one convicted foreign offender was deported. **6** child victims were given a compensation of \$5,000.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS THROUGHOUT THE LEGAL PROCESS

The legal support APLE provided the child victims and families with included legal counseling, legal representation and legal assistance prior to, during and after their participation in the criminal justice process. In some cases, APLE collaborated with the international pro-bono law firm partners to seek civil remedies on behalf of the victims under the jurisdiction of the offender's country of origin.



SOCIAL SUPPORT IMPACT

In 2017, a total of **346** clients received psycho-social supports from APLE. These clients include **209** victims of child sexual abuse, **125** family members and **6** vulnerable children and **6** witnesses.

In 2018, **298** clients received psycho-social support, including **171** Child victims and **107** family members, **11** witnesses and **8** vulnerable children.

The support clients received include crisis kit, medical examination and care, assessment of needs and appropriate referrals to aftercare organizations when needed, emotional counseling, preparation and assistance during investigation interviews and follow-up in order to make sure the victims achieve a stable life and have the emotional opportunities to develop their full potential.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT — EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Lack of community understanding about how to protect children from sexual abuse leaves the latter group vulnerable to this heinous crime.



APLE's Community Engagement Program focuses on disseminating knowledge throughout the general population, identifying key members of communities and providing education about how to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

This program also works in building a committed informant network and equipping the public with free of cost, 24/7 available phone and Internet hotlines to report abuse anonymously and confidentially. APLE's Community Engagement boosts the informal social protection mechanisms to prevent and eradicate sexual abuse and exploitation of children by involving the general population of Cambodia with the protection of their children. Educating and involving the general public in the protection of children will yield long-lasting, sustainable results.





ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM 2017 ~ 2018

In 2017, APLE's Community Engagement Program organized a total of **18** training sessions to spread knowledge about CSAE and its related topics, including those of investigation, CSAE suspicion, child-friendly interview processes and best practices. **3** of those were Community Awareness sessions on preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation online and offline.

Through all the events, **208** police officers and government officials, **49** NGO staff members and **118** parents gained knowledge on how to better protect their children; while **82** children were educated on how to stay safe from abuse.

In 2018, with great improvement in our program's finances, **23** awareness raising sessions on preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation online and offline (20 more than in the previous year) were delivered.

APLE also carried out **13** skill trainings on the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

In total, the **36** sessions (awareness raising and skill trainings) reached **4,470** participants, out of which **178** were students, **45** teachers, **369** NGO personnel, **53** private sector representatives, **18** ISP, **153** law enforcement officials, **3,331** community members and **323** local authorities.

APLE also disseminated knowledge to the general public through **10** live radio talk shows, which were broadcasted and shared on Facebook.



— KEY TO PREVENTING CSAE



CIVIL REPORTERS NETWORK

Mr. Sok San (a pseudonym), one of APLE's civil reporters based in Phnom Penh, has volunteered for several years to be vigilant and report any suspicion of child abuse to APLE Cambodia.

Mr. Sok has attended APLE's trainings and regular update meetings about child sexual abuse and exploitation.

With the knowledge acquired, he is able to report any irregular activity to our agents timely and correctly.

Mr. Sok and every other community member that has volunteered to be an APLE's civil reporter exemplify the importance of community engagement to combat CSAE.



“
I volunteered to be a civil reporter because I want to help keep children in Phnom Penh safe; I want to be able to help society while I work on as a tuk-tuk driver.”

— Mr. Sok.

Veasna's Story

The Importance of Awareness Raising

Veasna* is a 14 year old boy living in a small rented house in the Veal Village of the Siem Reap province with his parents and 3 younger brothers.

His father is a tuk tuk driver, his mother a seller, both with limited time to spend with their offspring. The income his parents earn doesn't respond to the basic daily expenses, therefore, apart from attending school, Veasna works for a relative at a small photo printing shop for a small extra income to the household. He enjoys his work, given that computer technology, along with swimming, is a big hobby of his.

Veasna wanted to speak English fluently, so he attended an English course at a private school where he met Dara*, another boy who quickly became his friend. In 2017, Dara introduced Veasna to two British men. Since then, Veasna often visited the house they rented. Veasna enjoyed going to their house because he was able to swim in their big pool and practice his English with them. In their house, Veasna also enjoyed watching TV and playing videogames with his friends, as he was allowed to bring them with him. One of the suspects started sponsoring Veasna's school fee of \$15 per month.

Having built a solid ground through these grooming techniques, one of the British men sexually abused Veasna and his friends.

In March 2017, APLE received a report from an NGO in Siem Reap, as the partner organization had suspicions about the activities taking place at the foreiner's residence. APLE immediately alerted the Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police (AHTJP) police in Siem Reap for their investigation and assisted them in the evidence-gathering process.

After a long investigation, the police identified a total of 12 boys who were groomed, lured and exploited by the British men. The men were arrested in February 2018 and were charged with indecent acts against a minor under fifteen years in accordance to the Article 43 of the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation by the Siem Reap provincial court.

Veasna and other eleven boys were rescued by the AHTJP police in Siem Reap. Eight of them decided to pursue a court case. APLE's legal team offered them free of charge legal aid. APLE's social team, after providing crisis support to the boys,

coordinated other services from First Step Cambodia (FSC) for the boys and their families.



Veasna, his friends, and families testified on the trial before the Siem Reap Provincial Court. In October of 2018, one of the two accused men was convicted of the aforementioned crime. He was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison and ordered to pay a compensation of a total of 2,000 USD to 6 civil plaintiffs. The other suspect's charges were dropped due to lack of evidence.

In October 2018, APLE conducted a training session to the families in order for them to detect signs of sexual abuse and exploitation as well as protective care and supporting victims during their rehabilitation. Veasna's father was satisfied with the tools acquired during the trainings, and shared the lessons learned with his wife, relatives and neighbors. He now talks more to Veasna, his son, and advises him to be more cautious.

The positive impact of this trainings are reflected in an anecdote Veasna shared with us. Months after the incident, Veasna was asked by a foreign, unknown adult to work in his home providing Information Technology services, as the boy had learned about it in his work at the printing shop. Veasna, following his father's advice about being cautious with strangers, declined the request.

In December of 2018, Veasna attended a child group activity arranged by APLE's Court Support team. This activity allowed the boy to make new friends and learn methods to cope with stress and negative emotions. ■

**Names changed for anonymity purposes.*



Kosal's Story

Kosal and other 21 boys rescued from sexual exploitation

Kosal* a 14 year old boy, lives with his older brother & mother, goes to school and helps the household with farming and fishing.

One day in 2015, one of his friends introduced him to a foreigner. This man, getting closer to them as time went by, would take them to swim at a lake close to their neighborhood, taking their photographs.

At first, Kosal was happy having his photographs taken. However, the man started instructing them to pose naked, and would pay the boys 2 or 3 USD each time they went swimming. Both Kosal and his other friends didn't know they were being exploited, thus chose to continue to meet the man.

In December 2016, a man of Kosal's community, skeptical about the foreign man's activities with the children, reported his suspicions to APLE.

APLE alerted the Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection (AHTJP) police in Siem Reap and assisted with their investigation; however, the suspect was not located. The police identified a total of 22 boys who were groomed, lured and exploited by the suspect.

In April 2017, the same man who initially reported the case to APLE called our agents again, informing that the Dutchman had re-appeared at the community.

Following APLE and the National Police's immediate action, the suspect was arrested and formally charged by the Siem Reap provincial court with production of child pornography, a charge which carries a punishment of 5-10 years of imprisonment.

Kosal and other twenty-one underage boys were rescued by the police. The families and the victims decided to pursue the court case, and APLE offered them free of charge legal aid. APLE's court support social team, after providing crisis support to the victims, coordinated other services from the partner organizations Hagar and First Step Cambodia (FSC) for the boys and families.

To educate and assist the families during their legal proceedings and the rehabilitation of their children, APLE conducted two training sessions in the community on detecting signs of sexual abuse and exploitation and its protective care, as well as how to support victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. In addition, APLE's court support team also organized one child group activity for 22 child victims, where Kosal participated and learned how to cope with stress and manage difficult emotions.

During and after the training, APLE used pre-and post-tests to evaluate the community's knowledge and found that participants had increased knowledge on the topics. Participants also demonstrated a strong commitment to support their sons throughout the rehabilitation processes.

To protect the dignity of the victims, APLE's Internet Hotline analyst has been keeping a close eye on the internet in order to identify photos of the victims and remove them from the internet in the case they are disseminated ■

*Name changed for anonymity purposes.

Agenda

Introduction

ICCAM Release

Next ICCAM

LUNCH Break



— INTERNET HOTLINE CAMBODIA

Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) is a growing concern for those committed to child protection in Cambodia, given the rapid growth of internet access and the constantly changing and adapting environment of sexual predatory modus operandi.

To respond to the problem, APLE offers a platform to the public for the reporting of any illegal activity to help make the internet a safer environment for children. The reports through www.internethotlinecambodia.org and our telephone hotline are made confidentially and anonymously.



PHONE HOTLINE STATS

From January to December of 2018, APLE's phone hotline received a total of **97** reports.

Out of these,

- > **23** reports concerned child grooming and suspected activities;
- > **24** reports concerned child sexual abuse and exploitation, including child rape and child sex- trafficking;
- > **8** reports were related to domestic violence against children and women; and
- > **42** others related to other domestic issues and follow-up call from reporters.

INTERNET HOTLINE CAMBODIA STATS

Between January and December of 2018, the APLE's internet hotline received **67** reports. **53** of them were cases related to online abuse and **12** of them were about offline cases.

Out of these,

- > **28** reports concerned child abuse material posted online, and **17** contents, fully classified as CSAMs, were immediately removed from the internet.
- > **13** cases reported were related to sextortion and child sexual exploitation offline,
- > **13** reports were related to illegal adult pornography materials online and **13** others included requests to remove inappropriate images.





Sophearoth's Story

Retrieving from Suicidal Thoughts and Moving on towards a Life Full of Hope

Sophearoth* was 15 years old when she befriended an unknown male on Facebook who requested her friendship, appearing to be around her same age.

Over the days, communication grew between the two through private Facebook messenger conversations. In addition to messages, Sophearoth also exchanged photographs with whom she believed was her new friend.

The photographs did not contain any sexual content. However, the "online friend" started to edit her photographs, combining them with naked body-parts of other pictures likely found on web pornsites. The offender sent the edited photographs of her appearing naked and threatened her with spreading them across the internet if she would not send real naked photos of her. Afraid of the fake photographs reaching her Facebook friends and family members, Sophearoth decided to send half-naked photographs of her to the offender.

The offender, after receiving the half-naked photographs, continued to threaten Sophearoth and ask her for more photographs. Sophearoth, disturbed, proceeded to send more of her naked photographs. At some point, the offender requested an off-line meeting. This provoked a strong distress in the girl, who decided to commit suicide. After attempting to cut her wrists and having written a letter to her loved ones, she was fortunately rescued.

In early April 2018, APLE's Internet Hotline Cambodia received an anonymous report about Sophearoth's abuse story. APLE could manage to communicate with the source and intervened to help Sophearoth.

APLE's social work and investigation teams provided immediate counseling and support. APLE's investigation team and hotline analyst assisted Sophearoth and her family in filing a complaint before the Ministry of Interior's Anti-Cybercrime Department, The social work team provided emotional support and referred Sophearoth to a French NGO in Phnom Penh for long term emotional care.

The Anti-Cybercrime Department has opened the case for further investigation. APLE's Hotline Analyst closely monitors the Facebook account of the suspect and Sophearoth. There is no leaking of her naked photographs to any online platform.

**Name changed for anonymity/confidentiality purposes.*

AFTER THE INTERVENTION,

Sophearoth has made significant progress with her emotional difficulties and trauma, and has stopped considering suicide, thanks to APLE social team and the NGO partner for the successful recovery.

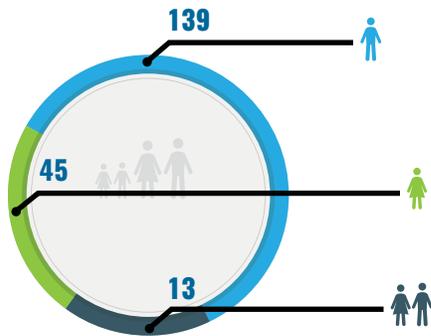
“THEY HAD PICTURES OF ME”

National Study on the Nature & Extent
of Online Child Sexual Exploitation
in Cambodia

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

A comprehensive situational study on OCSE in Cambodia

APLE Cambodia, with support of Save the Children Hong Kong and Terre des Hommes Netherlands, conducted a nation-wide study on the nature and extent of Online Child Sexual Exploitation in order to develop an evidence-based plan of action to tackle this problem.



The research development involved:

- > 13 learning workshops
- > 139 online surveys
- > 45 in-depth interviews

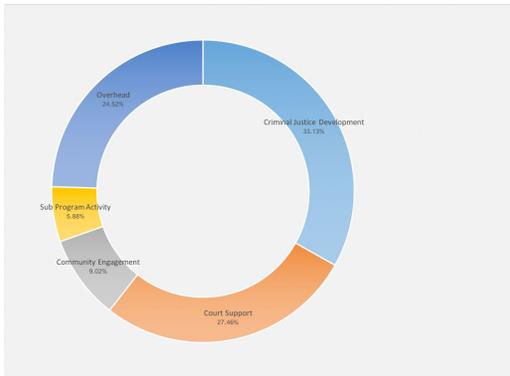
“They Had Pictures of Me” —

“They Had Pictures of Me” was developed into a comprehensive analysis that evaluates and answers the most pressing questions about online abuse, which include identifying risks (such as online grooming, distribution of child sexual abuse material and live-streaming of sexual content), platforms that involve greater risks, reporting mechanisms, challenges and possible mitigation.

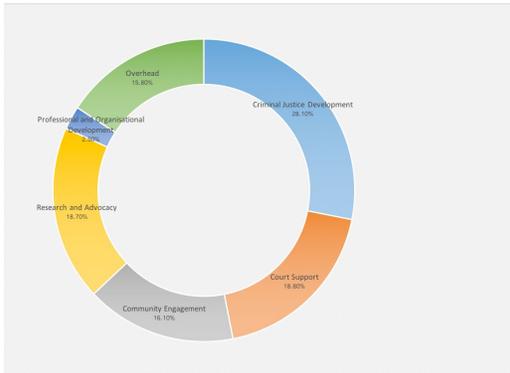
The research concludes with broad recommendations for follow-up action in which APLE plans to partake. The recommendations include provision of online safety training and awareness raising to children and teachers as well as the immediate development of a multi-disciplinary government-led body responsible for protecting children in an online environment and a specialized unit to deal with OCSE referral, investigation and collaboration at all levels.

In addition to this very important research, APLE conducted another research in 2018 in order to understand the perceptions of child sexual abuse and exploitation trends in the country’s five main touristic provinces and co-submitted one report (Universal Periodic Review or UPR) with ECPAT International to the UN’s Human Rights Council.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017 ~ 2018



>> financial % breakdowns in 2017



>> financial % breakdowns in 2018

EXPENDITURE 2017

Total expenditure	422,931 USD
> Criminal Justice Development Program	124,144 USD
> Court Support Program	102,874 USD
> Community Engagement Program	33,918 USD
> Sub program activity and equipment	65,277 USD
> Overhead	91,774 USD
> Professional and org development	4,944 USD

EXPENDITURE 2018

Total expenditure	528,610 USD
> Criminal Justice Development Program	148,488 USD
> Court Support Program	99,345 USD
> Community Engagement Program	85,184 USD
> Research and Advocacy	98,926 USD
> Overhead & equipment	83,685 USD
> Professional and org development	12,982 USD

Every dollar spent by APLE in the past two years has been invested in the fight against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and the mission of keeping Cambodia's children safe. Our accounts are audited independently and we make sure our activities are as much cost-effective as possible.

We are committed to transparency, and the resources that our partners trustfully bestow on us is monitored and well-spent in alignment with our mission. APLE Cambodia is a fair employer, and does not charge any beneficiary for the services provided.



FUNDING SOURCES

APLE received the funds for the years 2017 ~ 2018 from the following sources:

- > Terre des Hommes (TdH) Netherlands
- > Bread for the World (BfdW)
- > World Childhood Foundation (WCF)
- > Ecpat Sweden
- > Save the Children Hong Kong
- > Peter Bennett Foundation
- > New Day Asia
- > Stars Impact
- > Stop Exploitation Now
- > APLE Switzerland

SOURCES BY COUNTRY

Netherlands
Germany
Sweden
Hong Kong
United Kingdom
United States of America
Switzerland

FACES BEHIND APLE



OUR STAFF ARE OUR CAPITAL ASSET.

APLE is strongly Cambodian in nature. We have 28 staff members, out of which 26 are Cambodian, making our approaches in community engagement, lobbying and support to victims and families culturally sensitive.

Gender equality is an imperative value of our organization, and is reflected in the 15 female staff members (more than 50% of our staff) who are doing empowering, critical work.

Our staff is highly professional and well-trained, and we prioritize their professional development and personal welfare.

During 2017 and 2018, we held 45 professional enriching activities, which include staff training events, retreats, internal trainings, capacity building from external stakeholders, skills training and participation in national and international workshops, forums and trainings.

APLE'S DYNAMIC TEAMS



APLE strategy also details the organisation's commitment to staff professional development and welfare, transparency of internal and external work, and sustainability.

It is only through maintaining high professional standards

in these areas that staff will be able to fully implement the strategic plan to the required high levels.

NEW HIRES



MEET AVIGAL, OUR RESOURCE DEVELOPER

After completing her Masters degree in International Development in 2015 from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Avigal moved to Cambodia and worked in various organizations and institutions related to the education of children and their protection. This set the ground for her work as the Resource Developer at APLE, which she started in August 2018.

As the Resource Developer, she is responsible for building training resources and awareness raising materials to prevent children from child sexual exploitation and abuse, for both the internal use of APLE and external use. She has since developed training of trainer manuals used by APLE's team members, an online course for professionals working with children on online child sexual exploitation, an online resource center for children, various IEC and awareness raising material for trainings, and more.



MEET KUNTHEA, OUR NEW SOCIAL WORKER

Kunthea is a 24 year old strongly committed social worker from the Takeo Province. Before working at APLE, Kunthea dedicated 4.5 years of her professional career to the field of child protection, specifically working with girl victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

“My motivation to do social work comes from my community. I myself come from a poor community, and the desire to help my own community launched the desire to help more poor communities in Cambodia”

MEET NIMOL, OUR TRAINING OFFICER

Nimol has an academic background in English Literature from the University of Cambodia. After being fully immersed in the world of teaching through her work experiences as an English mentor to children in private schools and in one-on-one sessions, she found herself drawn to APLE’s training officer role posting. As someone who loves children, she is now committed to their protection, and has been working in APLE since June 2018. In her role, Nimol facilitates the lessons in our Trainer of Trainers model, as well as in schools and communities about CSAE.

THANK YOU FOR READING
OUR IMPACT REPORT 2017 ~ 2018





On behalf of APLE's staff, thank you for your vouch of trust and your help in keeping children of Cambodia safe.

Every little APLE achievement over the past two years has been a product of our tireless work to protect the Children of Cambodia and the commitment of the following foundations:

- > Terre des Hommes (TdH) Netherlands
- > Bread for the World (BfdW)
- > World Childhood Foundation (WCF)
- > ECPAT Sweden
- > Save the Children Hong Kong
- > Peter Bennett Foundation
- > New Day Asia
- > Stars Impact
- > Stop Exploitation Now
- > APLE Switzerland

SUPPORT US | MAKE A DONATION

Please consider making a donation to help us protect the children of Cambodia.

Global Giving Profile: Action Pour Les Enfants - APLE Cambodia
For any other donation, please get in touch at info@aplecambodia.org

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

-  [aplecambodia.org](https://www.facebook.com/aplecambodia.org)
-  [aple_cambodia](https://twitter.com/aple_cambodia)
-  [aplecambodia](https://www.instagram.com/aplecambodia)
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