



# Dammok Toek

(Goutte d'eau)

**To assist vulnerable children and their families**

**Annual Report 2013**



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# 1.0 Message from the Director

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Dear Donors, Partners, and Network,

I believe that studying is the pathway to the future of children. It is only through study that one can realise our dreams of life. Damnok Toek, since the beginning, provides a chance for children to access education. Nowadays, many children and youth are studying at non-formal education, general education at public schools, and acquiring vocational training skills or pursuing to university study.

**We hope to encourage more children to believe in their capacity to pursue higher level education**

Since 2012 the first four Damnok Toek students graduated from the 12th grade in Public School and joined Damnok Toek's scholarship programme to study at University for a bachelor degree. This is the first "University group" of Damnok Toek. This is a good model for the next generation, and we hope that it will encourage more children to believe in their capacity to pursue to higher level education. Five new youths will soon be passing their 12th grade exam. They are now committed to study as hard as possible to access to university, partly thanks to the successful example and inspiration set by their peers' achievements so far.

Empowering these young people to transition to a more independent life and supporting them to manage their new freedom is crucial in this important phase of their lives. As part of this transition we launched a new pilot a project in November 2013 called "Independent Living Home". The group shares a flat together as roommates, in town, outside of Damnok Toek's centre without daily supervision. We support them with close social follow-up, regular communication, material support, and assist them in finding a job which further promotes financial independence. We designed this project to help students who come from Damnok Toek's centres in the provinces to study in Phnom Penh. Through their shared experiences, history and identity, they are able to live together as a supportive and collaborative autonomous peer group in Phnom Penh.



I feel we are on the right track towards bringing children to achieving their best possible futures and integrating them into society, through job placement and living collectively as brothers and sisters.

Thank you to all our staff, technical advisors and donors who were dedicated to make this project happen. They gave a lot of thought, encouragement, support, vision and input. Without their involvement and efforts, this would not have been possible. Seeing how successful this has been in such a short time strengthens our belief on how positive this project is, and we would love to see more and more children have the opportunity to access education with good, high quality and care. We hope to give more and more opportunities to children in the years to come.. Fingers crossed!



Dr. Sovannarith Sam  
Executive Director, Damnok Toek

Phnom Penh, May 2014



## 2.0 About Damnok Toek

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### 2.1 Vision and mission

Damnok Toek, which translates to "drop of water" in English and "goutte d'eau" in French, is a Cambodian organisation working with vulnerable children and their families.

#### Vision

Our vision is to assist all vulnerable children, particularly:

- trafficking victims
- street working or street living children
- young people living with a physical or mental disability and
- victims of any kind of exploitation or abuse.

#### Mission

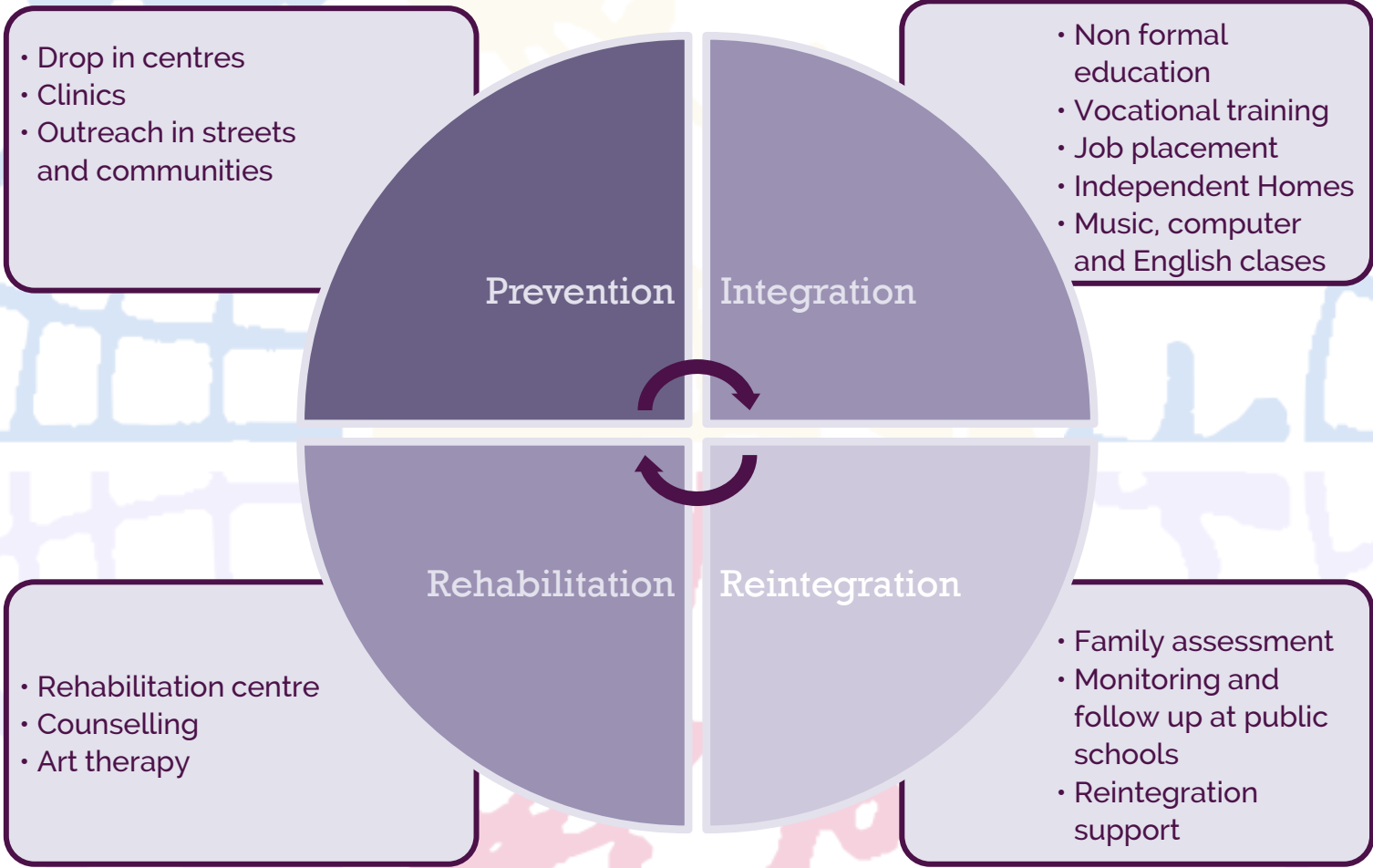
Our mission is to enable each vulnerable or marginalised child to realise his or her rights, to have all of their basic needs met and an opportunity to develop individual capacity. With the support of communities, government and civil society representatives, DT identifies and implements responses to enhance the access to a better future for the children most in need.

Our purpose is to ensure a sustainable reintegration of the children into their families and to prepare them for an independent life. To deliver on this commitment, in 2013 we dedicated our resources to the following activities:

- preventing child abuse, substance abuse and child trafficking both internally within Cambodia and across borders
- rehabilitating young substance abusers and traumatised children
- integrating neglected children and street children into Cambodian society through informal education at DT's day care centre's and vocational training facilities and formal education at public schools
- reintegrating trafficked and runaway children into their communities, their villages and, when possible, their families of origin.







## 2.2 History

1997.

Goutte d'eau Switzerland started work in Cambodia and established a centre for vulnerable children in Neak Loeung.

1999.

Following a request from the government, Goutte d'eau implemented a project to rehabilitate children using substances and reintegrate victims of trafficking in Poipet.

2001.

The project in Neak Loeung was localised and ran independently as a local NGO registered with the Ministry of Interior under the name Damnok Toek Cambodia.

2003.

The project in Poipet was registered as a Cambodian NGO, at the Ministry of Interior, with the local name Damnok Toek Poipet.

2003.

Damnok Toek Cambodia and Goutte d'eau opened a shelter for children with disabilities in Phnom Penh.

2012.

Damnok Toek Cambodia and Damnok Toek Poipet merged into a single organisation called Damnok Toek (Goutte d'eau). Officially operating under the new entity as of January 2013.





## 2.3 Where we work

Damnok Toek (DT) works in three main locations throughout Cambodia; Neak Loeung, Poipet and Phnom Penh.

### Neak Loeung

37 staff and carers  
(15 are women)

371 children daily

Since 1997, Damnok Toek has been running a drop in centre and a residential shelter in Neak Loeung. These facilities

provide vulnerable children both from communities and DT's residential centre with access to counselling, non-formal education, vocational training and medical care.

### Poipet

58 staff and carers  
(25 are women)

550 children daily

Beginning work in Poipet in 1999, DT has been assisting vulnerable children and their families through a range of

targeted health, education and vocational programs. Located in the north west of Cambodia at the main border crossing to Thailand, Poipet can be an exceptionally hazardous place for children.

### Phnom Penh

20 staff and carers  
(8 are women)

29 children daily

The significant number of children living with a disability (CWD) combined with the lack of specialised structures in

Cambodia led us to open a centre in Phnom Penh centre in August 2003 for children and y with youth with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.



## 3.0 Highlights of 2013

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Milestones

- ❖ New project launched for youth studying in Phnom Penh "Independent Living Home"
- ❖ Opening of a new Community Kindergarten in Neak Loeung

**Independent Living Home** 2013 saw the launch of a new pilot project called "Independent Living Homes" which aims to encourage and provide the opportunity of independence to those young adults that can't be reintegrated back into their families and/or are studying in Phnom Penh. The scheme started in November 2013 with an initial three university students that were living at the centre and one student referred from Neak Loeung that only started his studies this year. The four young adults now live together in an independent room outside the centre. All four are studying at University as well as working and living an independent life with support from Damnok Toek. As part of this weekly individual and group meetings take place with the coordinator of Phnom Penh Centre in order to ensure an optimal and gradual transition.

**Community kindergartens** Following a survey done in communities in Neak Loeung in it was revealed that a significant number of young children were out of school and often left to themselves all day. In response to this Damnok Toek identified the need to develop a pilot Community Kindergarten project in Preksay B Village, Peam Ro District, Prey Veng Province. This first kindergarten classes opened in on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Damnok Toek runs the classes each morning providing teachers as well as didactical materials. The classes are imparted by two teachers for two hours a day, between 8:00 and 10:00am. After completing one year the children will be referred to Public school near their house or to DT's non formal education programme. By providing access to early childhood development, we hope to facilitate the children's progression into grade 1 and reduce the drop-out rates in public school. Additionally, given the street-working context in Neak Loeung, the parents will have someone to take care of their babies and younger children so they will not work on the streets with their parents.



## 4.0 Project achievements in 2013

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Our focus.

- ❖ Child Protection
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Prevention
- ❖ Alternative care
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Income generation
- ❖ Disability

### 4.1 Child Protection

All Damnok Toek's projects are geared toward the goal of protecting children and serving their best interests. We however have specific activities with explicit aims of reinforcing child protection in Cambodia.



#### **Nation-wide partnership programme aiming to strengthen child protection in Cambodia**

Implemented with our partner Friends International, with UNICEF's support, the 3PC project aims to strengthen child protection in Cambodia, improve cooperation within child protection organisations, as well as with local authorities. This is done through a network of nine organizations in five different provinces of in which Damnok Toek takes part.



## ChildSafe Network and Hotline

*Poipet/Neak Loeung*

ChildSafe®



The international ChildSafe network consists of individuals, businesses and groups who protect children from abuse and prevent them from being placed in abusive situations ([www.childsafe-international.org](http://www.childsafe-international.org)). The network aims to reduce the number of children living and working on the streets and improve the protection of children from all forms of abuse, whilst increasing society's involvement in this. "ChildSafe members" are people in the communities and are trained by Damnok Toek's staff on child protection and how to distinguish at-risk children. This takes place in strategic locations like the border area in Poipet or the ferry terminal in Neak Loeung. Trained members are street sellers, Moto taxi drivers, policemen or security guards. They are monitored by Damnok Toek's social workers and follow regular refresher trainings and meetings. In addition, a ChildSafe Hotline enables ChildSafe: members, partners, or any person in need to call a 24 hours/7 days a week to report if a child is seen in an at-risk situation. The calls Poipet and Neak Loeung teams received in 2013 were mainly related to domestic violence, children that had lost their way, traffic accidents, and referrals to hospital.





## 4.2 Education



**Enabling children to access education to build their future lives and break the cycle of poverty**



## Non-formal education

*Neak Loeung/Poipet: 24 staff including project coordinators, teachers, social worker, teaching assistant, cooks, guards, driver.*

497 children attending  
273 new children  
62 children  
reintegrated public  
school  
128 drop outs

The Non-Formal Education (NFE) program provides access to education to vulnerable community children that are not in school for different reasons: they may be working on the streets to contribute to the households' income or the

families may not have the means to pay the school material and informal school fees required by the public school system. The aim is to offer the children, from grade 1 to 6, a catch up programme, based on the curriculum of governmental public school that will eventually allow them to reintegrate into mainstream public school. Damnok Toek will then support the families' with the costs of school material, uniforms, and a bicycle to enable the child to go to school each day. We will also

**In January 2014, Damnok Toek received a certificate of appreciation from the Provincial Department of Education Youth & Sports of Bantay Meanchay Province in appreciation of our work**



guarantee close follow up to ensure that the children continue attending school, through close cooperation with teachers and home visits if the child misses three consecutive days of school. This is key to enable the children to accomplish a full cycle of primary education and continue to secondary school.

## Vocational Training

*Neak Loeung/Poipet: 7 staff, including project coordinators, teachers and a project coordinator, teachers, a water producer*

DT's vocational training programme provides skills training to

85 students  
20 graduates  
19 apprenticeships  
5 found employment

vulnerable youth from age 15 from communities as well as to young people that live in Damnok Toek's residential centres. Youth attending public school are also welcome to attend VT on a part time basis to begin to build skills they can

use after completing their studies. Damnok Toek offers courses in tailoring, mechanics, hairdresser/barber, beauty and carpentry, and water purification business. Internships, job placements, and support to set up a small business are offered to the students after graduating.



## Community kindergartens

*Neak Loeung: 1 project coordinator, 2 teachers*

This project began as a pilot in 2013 and was designed to provide access to early childhood education to young children from the communities, keeping them away from the streets and of any kind of possible risk, whilst aiming to foster a better development and preparation towards formal education in public schools.

Damnok Toek opened a first kindergarten class for 25 children aged between 4 and 5. The class is located in the village in Peam Ro District in a public space within the pagoda. The class is supported by a committee which comprises local community leaders, parents and Damnok Toek coordinators, and meets regularly discuss on-going progress and meets regularly to discuss ongoing progress.

Damnok Toek provides a 2-hour class each morning and well as didactical materials. Following on from the success of the pilot, we will expand further in 2014. One kindergarten will be opened in June 2014. This follows a request of the local authorities that observed 50 out-of-school children under 5 years old in the

village and asked DT for support. The local authorities will contribute by building the structure and partially covering the teachers 'salaries. Damnok Toek is providing technical expertise to ensure the kindergarten is a child-friendly space, and will train the kindergarten teachers. .



## 4.3 Prevention

### Drop-In Centres

*Neak Loeung/Poipet: 17 staff, including project coordinators, social workers, day educators, night educators*

DT's Drop-In Centres are a key part of our programmes, as they are often the first contact a child has with our staff and sometimes an adult they can trust. The centres offer a safe and child-friendly space for street living or working children for them to take a break of their daily work. Children can also benefit from a daily two-hour literacy and numeracy class. This helps them access some form of basic education. Outreach takes place regularly in the streets, directly in communities and where the children work on the Thai/Cambodian border in Poipet and the ferry terminal in Neak Loeung. Each month workshops are organised in communities to sensitize children, youth and adults on topics affecting the communities such as trafficking, the importance of education, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and sexual

exploitation. Specific outreach also takes pace to target children using drugs.

- 176 family tracings and family assessments
- 461 follow up visits to public schools were conducted
- 3658 meals were prepared for community children
- 81 families (monthly average) supported with rice scholarships
- 3732 contacts made during outreach
- 24 mobile library events took place (community prevention)
- 12 parent workshops (average participation :33 parents)
- 12 sexual and reproductive health workshops took place with 1259 attendees run in conjunction with our peer educators
- 143 children referred into Non Formal Education



## 4.4 Alternative Care

“Alternative care” refers to children living in a different setting than their immediate families. This is sometimes an option, as in some cases children are at risk of re-trafficking or abuse in their family settings. Sometimes the child’s family also cannot be traced. Damnok Toek offers mid to long term shelter to vulnerable girls and boys that need a safe place to live. Our recovery shelters are destined primarily to children and youth that were victims of trafficking to Thailand and of child labour, or to children living on in the streets that were using drugs. These centres welcome children for between 6 and 12 months, and emphasis is put on counselling, trauma rehabilitation and family tracing. Our longer term shelters offer the possibility for the children to re-build their lives education whilst we focus on finding an alternative living solution. Each placement within a shelter is carefully weighed out and discussed within our teams, as we believe institutionalisation must come as last resort, and only if it is in the best interest of the child.

### Rehabilitation centre

*Poipet/ 7 staff, including project coordinator, educators, social worker and cook*

24 children  
16 new residents  
7 referred to other programs  
4 reintegrated  
6 left the program

Since 1999, the Rehabilitation Centre in Poipet is specifically designed to rehabilitate substance abusing and street living boys. The most popular substances are glue and “yama” (amphetamine replacement). Individual and group counselling, creative art therapy and drama are the main tools used to rehabilitate the children and enable

them to overcome their trauma and addictions, combined with a structured schedule to support the boys to re-adapt to life off the streets. Damnok Toek signed an agreement with the Department of Art and Culture of Banteay Meanchey In province.in September 2013, confirming local authorities support to our awareness-raising drama tour.

**A memorandum of understanding was signed in 2013 with the Department of Art and Culture of Banteay Meanchay ensuring increased cooperation with the authorities**





## Reception centre

*Poipet/ 9 staff, including project coordinator, educators, cook, guards*

40 children  
30 new residents  
7 referred to other  
programmes  
6 reintegrated

The Reception Centre opened Poipet in 2001 as part of the *Return and Reintegration of children trafficked to Thailand-Project*, supported by IOM, focused on repatriating Cambodian children from Thailand and referring them to different childcare organisations through the government-run Poipet Transit Centre. It was set up to prevent the immediate re-trafficking of children who are repatriated by Thai authorities to Cambodia. DT's Reception Centre aims to ensure a safe repatriation process for trafficked children and to provide direct assistance to deported/repatriated and at-risk children until a safe reintegration with the family of origin can be ensured. This process is ensured by DT's staff.

## Residential care

*Neak Loeung/Poipet:16 staff, including project coordinators and educators*

78 children  
8 new residents  
6 children  
reintegrated  
143 family visits

Our longer-term shelters are for the children that are unable to presently return to their families as the situation has been evaluated as unsafe (risk of re-trafficking or/and forced labour, domestic violence, alcohol related harm...). DT's centres aim to provide to the children and youth a safe and family like environment whilst aiming for their autonomy, for their reintegration within their families or to be able to live an autonomous life outside of the centres. Family tracings, assessments and visits are key aspects of our work and are regularly undertaken to ensure that family reunification is done when possible and in the best conditions.

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**Damnok Toek established an agreement in 2013 with the Bavet Transit Centre located on the Cambodian/Thai border in Svay Rieng province. Damnok Toek now also welcomes children victims of trafficking and unsafe migration to Vietnam when they cannot reintegrate their families.**

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## Independent Living Home

*Phnom Penh/ 1 social worker*

This pilot project opened in 2013, and aims to encourage independence of those young youth that can't be reintegrated back into their families and/or are studying in Phnom Penh. Four university students previously living in DT's residential centres now live together in an independent room outside the centre. Weekly individual meetings focusing on individual needs take place to ensure an optimal and gradual transition, as well as monthly group meetings to discuss issues relating to collective living. Three students have found jobs that they pursue during their studies, and are now contributing to their expenses. Gradually, they will be able to become financially and socially independent from Damnok Toek, and continue living as roommates together if they choose to do so. We aim to expand this project to Poipet and Neak Loeung during 2014 and 2015, also for youth that are not in university but engaged in vocational training or that have a job.

**Supporting youth to transition towards living outside of the centres**



## 4.5 Health

### Clinics

*Poipet/Neak Loeung: : 2 doctors, 1 medical assistant*

Damnok Toek's clinics treat all children attending DT projects as well as poor children from surrounding communities. The main health concerns treated by our clinics are non-existent or unhygienic sanitary facilities, poor quality drinking water, malnutrition and little or no awareness on illness and disease. Damnok Toek's medical staff also goes directly in poor communities to provide basic care directly on-site. Damnok Toek's covers transportation costs when patients need to be referred to other health services – this is important as many families do not access health care due to the cost of going to the nearest clinic.





## Rotha's story

Rotha is 22 years old. He was born with polio and suffers from deformation in his lower limbs. He was sold by his mother when he was five years old and trafficked to Thailand. He arrived in Damnok Toek's Reception centre in Poipet in 2002. A year later, when DT opened in Phnom Penh its centre for children with disabilities, he moved there up until November 2013, when he moved to an Independent Living Home.

"I don't know what happened in my family, but my parents moved me to stay with my elder aunt in Phnom Penh, when I was 4 years old. I lived there around half a year. Then my mother brought me to Poipet, where my parents were living, to meet a fortune teller. The fortune teller said that if I didn't stay at home I would be lucky. So my mother sent me to stay with the neighbour. I know the neighbour had a lot of people at her house, around 10, who were leaving to Thailand with a trafficker and I was to go with them.

The trafficker brought me to Thailand through the forest, around 9 or 10 o'clock at night. It was quiet and they didn't allow anyone to talk. We crossed the border through a ditch, river, and hills as well a minivan was waiting for us on a small path. After that we all separated in different ways. Only I went with the trafficker and was brought to a house in Bangkok. She taught me the words I should answer if someone asked me something, for example 'where are you from? What is your name?', I should just say 'I don't know, I don't know'. And if people asked me if I was hungry or if I wanted to eat, I was meant to say 'no I'm not hungry, I don't want to eat'. I lived with the trafficker and her older son in a rented room, and gave all the money I earned for her.

*'If I couldn't earn money, they beat me with a stick, and sometimes they used electricity to hurt me'*

The first time they sent me to go begging they gave me a simple breakfast and

lunch, and the first few days they gave me enough food. But after a few days they sent me to different places, for example the fish market, the royal gardens and other areas to beg from morning until evening, and they didn't give me any food. Although I was hungry, for one week I still told people in the market 'I'm not hungry' when they asked me. I listened to the trafficker and respected what she had said. But I was very hungry, so sometimes I took food from the rubbish. When I wanted to defecate I just did it outside, around the market, as I had no toilet or bathroom. I was begging in the market, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, and sometimes I fell asleep. I would wake up and beg again. After a few weeks around the market, the sellers knew me and when they offered me food, I decided to eat. They tried to teach me some words in Thai. If I could earn money, they gave me food, one plate of rice. But if I couldn't earn money, they beat me with a stick, and sometimes they used electricity to hurt me. Sometimes when I was begging on a bridge there were



gangsters that took my money. During that time I was beaten a lot, once they beat me so much that I couldn't go out begging, I had to stay at home for two days, and they didn't give me any food.

I just remember that during the Water Festival in Thailand the Thai police arrested me and they brought me to jail. At the time I was small, I was around 8 years old, so they put me with the girls. But after a while they moved me to the male jail. There were adults in there including gangsters, but I was lucky because they took care of me and also helped and defended me as I was smaller. I stayed in the jail around half a year, with other Laotians, Burmese, and Cambodians.

After that I was brought to a centre (Thai government centre for children) They gave me a stick there and taught me to walk with it. They helped me, carried me to the meal room, brought me my food and cleaned my dishes. I wasn't doing the Thai classes because I was small so I

tried to learn looking through the window of the class. The woman teacher saw me and called me to come in the class so they allowed me to learn Thai language as well. I was very happy there.

When they informed me that I would be sent back to Cambodia, I was very sad. I wondered if there was any centre like this one in Cambodia. After they repatriated me they put me for two days in the Poipet Transit Centre. I remember I missed my friends in Thailand a lot, and I was crying. I was then referred to Damnok Toek in Poipet. I was happy because I saw two other boys I had met in the centre in Thailand. I remember activities, in the morning we would all meet together, then we would have lunch, the educator would allow us to sleep after lunch. I got up around 1 o'clock and after that the educator taught us literacy and numeracy. I had three meals a day, breakfast lunch and dinner. At first I didn't feel so happy, but then I made a lot of friends in the Reception Centre and also others. I studied and played with them. I

also got the chance to visit Angkor Wat in Siem Reap. I studied at the Reception centre for a while and then I went to non-formal education (NFE) classes at Damnok Toek. At the NFE, it was difficult because the children looked down on me because I was disabled. In the Reception Centre they didn't though, they were close friends. One day, Veth [Reception centre's project coordinator] asked me where I was living before, where was my home. I told her the name of my village so she could find my house, and she found and brought my parents to meet me. At that time I was happy to see them, because I didn't know that they had sold me.

In 2003 I was referred to Damnok Toek's centre in Phnom Penh centre [note: the centre in PP for children with disabilities was created in 2003]. I went to study at Lavalla School until grade 6. I also got a prosthesis made at Veterans International. In DT's Phnom Penh centre I was happy; there is nothing that I was upset about. It was easier than before



because other people also had a disability.

After a while, my father told my elder aunt from Phnom Penh where I was. She came to visit me at the centre. She told me: 'your mother sold you, that's why you were in Thailand'. I was 14 years old. I felt unhappy with my mother. At the time, when she sold me, my father didn't know because he went to work in another province. My aunt told me that my father came back and saw I was gone, and that there was a conflict with my mother. He even gave money to another person to find me in Thailand.

The staff of DT asked me if I wanted to visit my home. I wanted to, so my elder aunt gave me my mother's phone number. I went to visit them, that first time I went with an educator, and I spent only one night with my mother and father. Even though my mother was there, I felt happy because I saw my siblings and my father. I went back, twice in one year. When I arrived there I only said two

words to my mother: "hello" and "goodbye".. But I talk more with my father and siblings.

I never talked with my mother about what happened. I used to have arguments and ask her why she sold me. She became angry, and I was also angry. Now I have one close friend, and I talked to him about this. He advised me not to be angry with my mother, and I'm no longer so angry. This friend helped me a lot, because his family let me join private extra classes with him to study.

Around grade 10, some friends were surprised that I studied because I was disabled. But I explained to them that my grades were high enough and I studied because I want to have a good job, and be able to use my intelligence rather than a manual job. However I sometimes still felt ashamed. Around grade 12, I tried to become stronger, I didn't want to sit on a wheelchair anymore, but I wanted to walk. I would feel less ashamed because I could do the same as others. Now I feel

the same as other persons, I can walk like other people [with prosthesis]. Now I am at university, I feel simply the same as other people; I can walk to school the same as them.

*"I feel happy to have moved because I am now living independently, working and studying"*

I am working part time in a company now, my job is working on Photoshop, to edit photos I work to get experience, my salary is only 50 US a month, and that is what I spend a month, sometimes a bit more. I feel good because my work place is happy with me, they don't discriminate against me. There is no problem. The first time they just asked me 'you are disabled, do you have the capacity to work?' We always share food and eat together.

I feel happy to have moved [in an independent living home], because I am now living independently, working and studying. At first I was a bit nervous. The



first month and a half it was a big change. In the centre, there was always a father or mother [educators] to wake me up, and to make food. But in the independent home, I have to do everything myself, set my alarm clock, go to the market. The first month was a bit difficult to adapt. But after that it became simply daily life.

At first when I stayed at Damnok Toek, I thought I would study maybe only to grade 6. I was not hopeful that I could study until university. After that, I thought that after grade 12 I would stop. But I feel my life changed because I accessed university. I have a job, and I thought I would never find a job. When I was in grade 6 I thought I would study vocational training to do radio or TV repairing, and one day I would earn 2500 riels [approx.. 50 cents] a day or something like that. But now I don't think the same. I feel hopeful.

I chose to do IT. I can do websites, and when I graduate I can earn around 800 dollars a month.. I have hope. I would like

to start a family and have my own children in the future.

*"Now I go to university, I know outside society, not only life in the centre. I am very proud"*

I have shared my advice and experience with my friends at school that seem not to have hope because they were poor, and they seemed stronger to study after that. I told my detailed story, about my mother selling me, only to two close friends though. I asked them if they feel ashamed when they walk with me because I have a disability and they said no. But others do, so I don't see them anymore.

I would like to say that 'if you stay under the shadow of the tree, you must take care of the tree'. We shouldn't destroy things or do anything bad; if the tree falls down we have no shadow to protect us from the sunshine. So I try and do good things, try to respect others and struggle and learn myself. I am thankful towards

all staff, specially the educators, because they try to help the children; they are patient and give advice. They tried to explain things to me, motivate me, encourage me, and persuade me to study. I can be like I am now thanks to them.

I would like to tell children like me: you should try to study. An organisation cannot help you until you die. We can help ourselves. I appreciate and am grateful to Damnok Toek that helped me start from zero. Now I go to university, I know outside society, not only life in the centre. I am very proud. I have a plan with my friends to share money and to buy something for the children here, orange juice and cake, for International Children's Day on 1 June."



## 4.6 Income generation

### Home based production

*Poipet/ 3 staff, including project coordinator, skills trainer, social worker*

9 families

38 beneficiaries

118 family visits

2 families left the project

We aim to create opportunities for vulnerable mothers in Poipet to gain a regular income to ultimately reduce the risk of households resorting to their children's labour to gain additional income. Participating families commit to send their children to school, to take good care of them and to prevent them from working on the streets. Mothers are trained in basic sewing skills to produce products such as bags, purses, or toys and sold in our shops or partner's shops in Siem Reap, Battambang and Phnom Penh. . During 2013, each producer made an average monthly income of 100 USD through this activity..





## 4.7 Disability

*Phnom Penh / 20 staff, including team leaders, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, educators, cook, driver*

29 children and youth  
5 new children  
2 reintegrated within  
their families  
2 referred to other  
specialist services

Persons living with a disability are amongst the most vulnerable of Cambodian society. Few services exist in-country, and people living with an intellectual disability are specially stigmatized and discriminated against within communities. Damnok Toek's Phnom Penh centre shelters up to 30 children and young people living with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Many of the children are former street children, as well as children who were abandoned or trafficked. Residents benefit from medical care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psycho-social support, and also attend school outside the centre when appropriate. We aim to support the children to help develop skills and enable them to progress in their daily

lives, aiming towards autonomy and re-integration when possible, and a better quality of life in all cases. Damnok Toek is a member of the government-led Disability Action Council (DAC)

Staff capacity building in disability

Taking care of children with disabilities is a demanding job. Staff development remains essential for the improvement of the centre's daily activities, and Damnok Toek regularly send our staff to trainings to improve their capacities. 2013 has seen staff access a variety of development opportunities by partner organisations, this has included Damnok Toek staff following a monthly training in child development and counselling since July 2013.





## 5.0 Networks and collaborations

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Damnok Toek believes in working closely with a wide range of partners, including the with authorities, public services and other non-governmental organisations. Damnok Toek (Goutte d'eau) is a member of the following networks:

- Banteay Meanchey Quality of Education Support Team , a group regrouping 17 NGOs with main goal main to improve the quality of education in partnership with the provincial Department of education Youth and sports.
- Border Issue Group on Children regrouping NGOs, Thai and Cambodian authorities working for the protection of children at the border
- Border Victims Support Team a cross-border joint outreach team consisting of Cambodian and Thai NGO
- Cambodia's Street Children Network
- CYTI Alliance an international network of NGOS, coordinated by Friends International, committed to protecting children
- COSECAM Coalition to Address (the sexual) Exploitation of Children in Cambodia – a network including 24 NGOS which aims to advocate for improvements and work to assist children in need
- Disability Action Council -a national coordination and advisory body on disability to the Royal Government of Cambodia and provides recommendations for the rights of persons with disabilities in Cambodia
- Goutte d'eau - a child support network, regrouping Cambodian NGOs working on child protection with main objective is to transfer knowledge and know-how, as well as financial support by connecting local NGOs with potential donors
- NEP for non-government education –promotes active collaboration between NGOs working in education and advocates on behalf of its member organizations in policy meetings and discussions with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports



## 6.0 Financial report

Damnok Toek has undergone an audit for the year ended 31 December 2013. You can review the organisation's financial position below.

DAMNOK TOEK (GOUTTE D'EAU): Statement of receipts, disbursements and fund balance year ended 31 December 2013 (All figures are in US dollars)

	Total 2013	Total 2012	Variation	
Grant receipts	488,136.00	676,061.00	(187,925.00)	-28%
Other donations	2,402.00	2,535.00	(133.00)	-5%
Other income	20,137.00	9,959.00	10,178.00	102%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>510,675.00</b>	<b>688,555.00</b>	<b>(177,880.00)</b>	
General Costs	347,962.00	351,005.00	(3,043.00)	-1%
Project Costs	294,472.00	234,131.00	60,341.00	26%
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>642,434.00</b>	<b>585,136.00</b>	<b>57,298.00</b>	



## 7.0 Perspectives for 2014 and beyond

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Reintegration of the children and youth into their families, and in Cambodian society, is the one main objective of Damnok Toek. Our social workers try their best to achieve this and help prepare our young residents with the skills and education to be able to either continue in further education or find a job. This task still remains a challenge for us. Indeed, the economic situations of families remain very low, and this leads them to having difficulties accepting to take care of their children. Also, some families disappear or migrate, so we lose track of them, despite our best efforts, and we therefore need to re-start the process of family tracing. We plan to increase our direct support to families through income generation activities, tackling poverty as one root of the problem. We will provide a grant that will be used by families for starting a small business, animal raising, or whatever activity suits the location and situation of the families. We will offer them training and close support to ensure the business is sustainable. We will complement this by offering sessions on skilful parenting for parents to raise awareness on how to take care of their children and make a good atmosphere in the family. This will start in July 2014.

The success of our Independent Living Home scheme means we are expanding the opportunity to other Damnok Toek children. Indeed, 5 youth across the centres are preparing to take their final exams soon with a desire to continue their studies via the scheme. It is with great pride that we are able to offer such opportunities to youth who from their disadvantaged backgrounds would never have thought accessing higher education was ever possible. We will also open the Independent Home Scheme to youth that studying vocational training.



Damnok Toek has run a centre for children with disabilities since 2003 that now includes adolescents with disabilities that cannot be reintegrated into their families, often because they were abandoned or trafficked. The challenge we face is having both children and young adults living together. Another challenge is the increasing requests for referrals of children and youth to our centre from other organisations or individual families that don't know how to take care of children with disabilities. We will explore with our partners in 2014 how we can respond to the needs of adults living with disabilities, as well as developing further our services of training and support to other NGOs and direct families.

We also recognise the importance of getting involved earlier. We will aim to develop, in addition to the services we offer, a strategy that further increases our preventative and community engagement work as a whole which will also assist in reintegrating children away from long term alternative care. We aim to do this by working closely with communities and through education and training build capacity within them. This will complement the positive relationships we already have and further empower the communities ensuring that we work together to identify and address needs to offer earlier intervention to vulnerable children and their families. One example of this is some staff that has recently followed comprehensive training on facilitating groups on parenting skills in communities, and we will integrate this element in our activities in 2014.



# 8.0 Thank you

Damnok Toek is grateful for the generous support of the following partner organisations.

We also appreciate support given by To Holding As, Jonglerie Diffusion as well as all the contributions from our private donors.

We look forward to continuing these partnerships in 2014 and beyond.

Photos: Stéphane Combre, Amy Fellows, Jenny Holligan, Skateistan - our warm thanks to them.





## 9.0 Contact and donation details

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Damnok Toek is able to continue its work protecting children thanks to the generous support of both large and small donors. If you would like to contribute you can deposit directly to our bank account using the details provided below. Please email us to advise of your donation so that we may confirm.

Account holder	Damnok Toek
Account number	09 00 306 000 160
Bank name	Canadia Bank Ltd.
Bank address	No. 265 – 26, Ang Duong Street, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Bank SWIFT code	CADIKHPP

If you have questions regarding the contents of this report or the work of Damnok Toek please get in touch with us at one of the addresses below.

PP.

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