



Dammok Toek

(Goutte d'eau)

To assist vulnerable children and their families

Projects and Achievements 2014



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1.0 About Damnok Toek

1.1 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

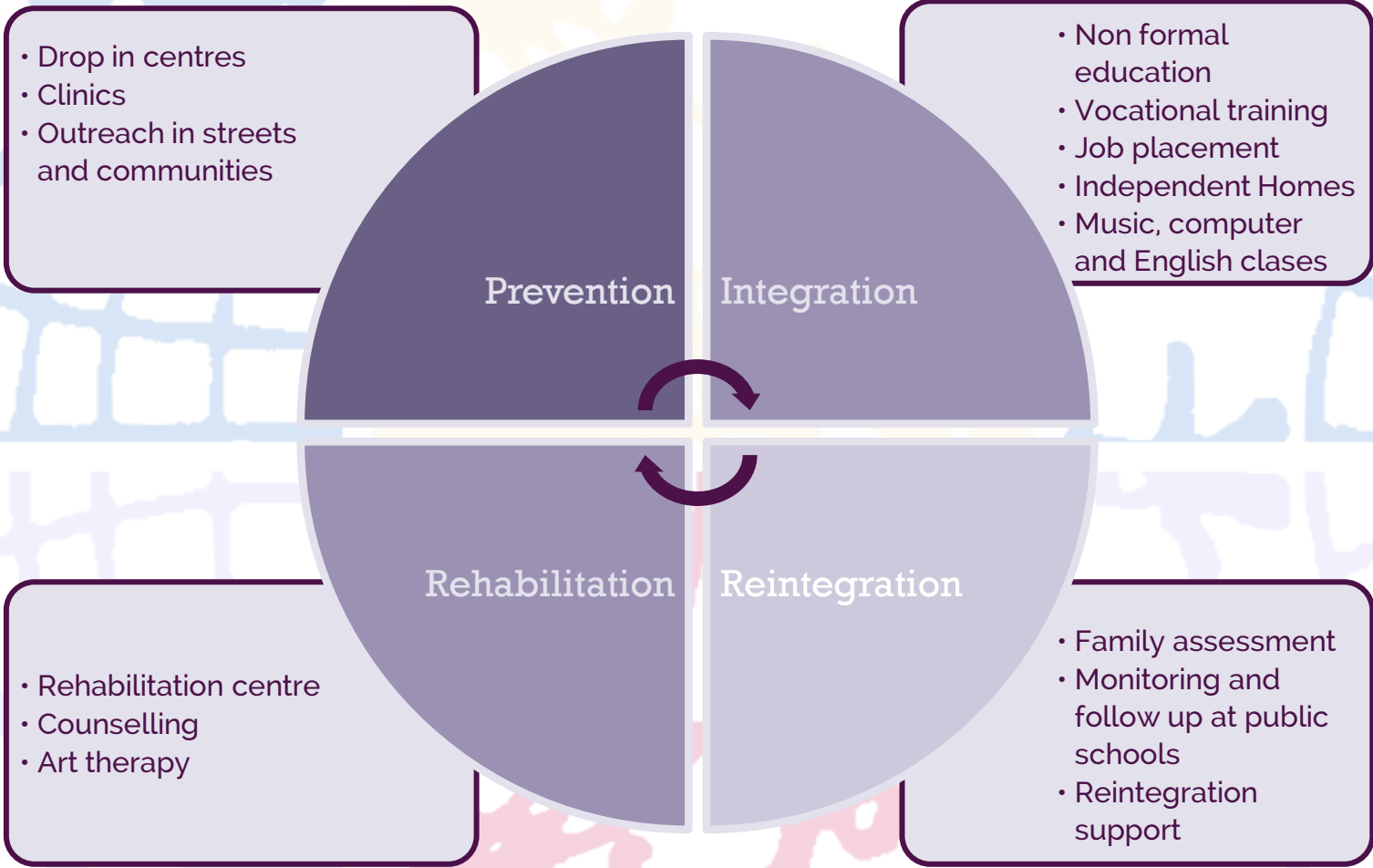
Our mission is to enable each vulnerable or marginalised child to realise his or her rights, to have all of their basic needs met and an opportunity to develop individual capacity. With the support of communities, government and civil society representatives, DT identifies and implements responses to

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.





1.2 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.



1.3 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)

378 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)

30 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 in August 2003 for children and youth with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.



2.0 Highlights of 2014

Milestones.

- ❖ New project launched to help families gain a regular income "Income Generation Activity Scheme"
- ❖ Opening of an additional Community Kindergarten in Neak Loeung
- ❖ Opening of two "Independent Living Home" in Battambang and Phnom Penh

Income Generation Activity Scheme In July 2014 we piloted in Neak Loeung a new project which aims to help families gain a regular income to ultimately reduce the risk of households resorting to their children's labour to gain additional income. The Participating families committed to send their children to school, to take good care of them and to prevent them from working on the streets. Through increasing direct support to families through income generation activities, tackling poverty as one root of the problem. We provided a grant of a maximum of \$300 that was to be used by four families for starting a small business as well as offering them training and close support to ensure the business is sustainable.

Community kindergartens Following on from the success of the pilot, with Aide et Action's support, we were able to expand further in 2014. We opened the additional kindergarten on 1st June 2014 in Veal Veng Village Peam Kos Commune Peam Ro District. This followed 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.

Independent Living Home The Pilot launched in 2013 has proved a great success. In 2014, we opened two additional Independent Living Home in Phnom Penh and Battambang to welcome 6 students who finished their exams and wished to continue their studies via the scheme.



3.0 Project achievements in 2014

Our focus.

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

3.1 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



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). 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.

In 2014, the calls Poipet and Neak Loeung teams received were mainly related to domestic violence, children that had lost their way, traffic accidents, and referrals to hospital.

Poipet

31 Community
Members Trained
89 Calls Received

Neak Loeung

30 Community
Members Trained
70 Calls Received



3.2 Education

Damnok Toek regularly conducts surveys in Neak Loeung and Poipet every two years, the last one occurring in December 2013.

This survey took in the views of 216 Street Children of which an average of 48% of the total number of children stated that they were going to school every day. In Neak Loeung the number is even lower for girls, as only 44% go to school each day, whilst 57% of the boys go to school every day. This however remains a high amount of out-of-school children, as there is a majority of interviewed children that are not accessing education.

The number of children that replied that they "used to go to school" is also high, and concerns a majority of girls (54%) and 40% of boys. This means that they have not completed a full primary school cycle, and that one can assume that their literacy level is very low. Girls in particular are more likely not to be in school.



Non-formal education

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

482 children attending
158 new children
61 children reintegrated
public school
168 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

In 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

also 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 vulnerable youth from age 15 from communities as well as to

77 students
57 graduates
12 apprenticeships

young people that live in Damnok Toek's residential centres. The skills offered are tailoring, mechanics, hairdresser/barber, carpentry, beauty and water producing.

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 graduation.



Community kindergartens

Neak Loeng: 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 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 expanded further in 2014. after 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. 2 more are planned over 2015-2016 in Poipet.

50 children attended the
Kindergarten daily



3.3 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 place to target children using drugs.



6 886 Children & Parents seen

94 children referred into Non Formal Education

30 children referred to DT projects (Residential, reception or rehabilitation centre)

131 tracings and family assessments

429 follow up visits to public schools were conducted

4304 meals were prepared for community children

21 families (monthly average) supported with rice scholarships

136 participants, in average monthly, attended mobile library events (community prevention)

57 parents, in average monthly, attended workshops



3.4 Alternative Care

"Alternative care" refers to children living in a different setting than their immediate families. This is sometimes the last option, as in some cases children are at risk of trafficking or abuse in their family settings or in cases where the child's family 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

16 children
19 new residents
11 referred to other programs
2 reintegrated
76 family
tracing/ assessment/ visits

Since 1999, the Rehabilitation Centre in Poipet in 1999 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.



Reception centre

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

41 children
23 new residents
12 referred to other programmes
9 reintegrated
104 family tracing/ assessment/ visits

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

74 children
17 new residents
11 children reintegrated
109 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.



SN'S STORY - 13 YEARS OLD RESIDENTIAL CARE POIPET

SN. is a 13 year old girl with Khmer nationality and Buddhist religion who is residing at the Damnok Toek Residential Centre based in Chankiri Village approximately 7KM from the main town Poipet. Her family is originally from Banteay Meanchey province and she has two older brothers. Her parents separated when she was 9 years old due to the constant conflicts and episodes of domestic violence.

After having suffered with her parents' separation process, SN decided to run away from her family at the age of 11, and escape the conflicts and abuse and started living in the streets of Poipet, together with her two brothers, and working as a scavenger and beggar near the border area to earn money for food.

In December 2012 she was met during outreach by the Damnok Toek Drop In Center social work team while she was begging on the streets alongside her two brothers. After close follow up and counseling sessions done by the Drop In social workers, it was decided to transfer her to the Reception centre on the 12th of January 2013.

While staying in the Reception centre SN, participated in the daily activities like literacy classes, dancing, handicrafts and sports with other children for more 6 months whilst her situation was assessed and reintegration with her family explored as well as receiving counselling and support around her family issues. Here she took part of the Damnok Toek NFE (Non Formal Education) Program (attending grade 6).

During the time SN stayed in the centre, the coordinator did regular family assessments to evaluate if

reintegration could be possible for SN. But the family's situation had got even worse making the father sell the little land they owned and their house and move to other area within Poipet. It was decided to refer SN To the Residential Centre in July 2013.

Following on from completing grade 6 successfully in 2013 she transferred into Public School and is currently in grade 8 and also attended DT tailoring classes in her spare time at the centre to learn new skills. SN. has always showed very good behavior, care for her hygiene and proved to be a very hard worker both in her daily chores as well as at school.

At the moment, she has been living at the Residential centre for 3 years and, according to the family assessments carried out by the coordinator of the Residential centre, she still cannot be reintegrated back because the socio economic situation of the family



remains the same. However SN is happy within the centre and the supportive family like environment within it. She has many friends there and the programme has positively impacted on her.

Now she is attending grade 8 in public school thanks to the intervention of the programme. Where once she knew a life of only chaos and the daily survival of scavenging and begging with little hope or concern for the future since being in the Damnok Toek Residential

Centre this has enabled her to access the support she needs. She has managed to deal with the trauma of her early life through accessing appropriate counselling within the centre.

Living in the centre she is surrounded by her friends and her two brothers, has a healthy, balanced diet and has a supportive and safe family like environment that encourages her to do her best. Though having these interventions SN has transformed her

life and given her hope and opportunity for the future which would have been inconceivable to her four years ago without Damok Toeks Interventions.

SN's case, like so many other children, shows that with the right targeted interventions and services that sustainable, effective and long lasting positive change can occur giving children and young people a hope of a better future.

"Since coming to Damnok Toek my life has changed for the better. Before there was a lot of problems at home so we just had to leave to escape it all. It was just me and my brothers working on the street. When we met the worker from Damnok Toek, we weren't sure they could help us like they said. Now this is my home and being with my friends make me happy. I love going to school and learning, I practice English a lot and in the future I want to help people and become a doctor, like Doctor Heng (the Centre's Doctor) or maybe English. It's with the help of Damnok Toek I can now think of this instead of worrying about getting enough money to eat each day translator" SN



Independent Living Home

Phnom Penh and Battambang/ 2 social workers

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.

The Pilot launched has proved a great success. In 2014, we expanded this project to another one in Phnom Penh and one in Battambang.

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

10 young adults lived
independently



3.5 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.

10664 consultation appointments

6421 out patient

4243 in patient

1694 new patients

703 referrals

457 Sexual Reproductive Health Consultations
(Neak Loeung)

48 dental referrals

63 powder milk
support



3.6 Income generation

Home based production

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

6 families
28 beneficiaries
142 family visits
1 family left the project

We aim to create opportunities for vulnerable mothers in Poipet to gain a regular income to ultimately the risk on 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.

This project is currently being reviewed to increase the number of beneficiaries and sustainability



Income Generation Activities

Neak Loeung/ 3 staff, including project coordinator, skills trainer, social worker

To increase our direct support to families through income generation activities, we launched a new pilot in July 2014. The project aims to 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 offered them training and close support to ensure the business is sustainable. We complemented 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.

Since July 2014, four families received relevant training including budgeting skills, and although 6 months is a short time to truly evaluate the impact of such a project as income generation, in terms of its medium to long term impact the key things that have gone well so far are:

- Families have respected the contract and worked hard to develop their businesses.
- The families have reported a significant increase in income

- All Children in the families have accessed education regularly through attending either the DT Non Formal Education Programme, Kindergarten or Public school
- Debt within the families has decreased, there is no need to borrow money for food, household bills etc.
- All businesses are still in operation and have continually Increase their income as their businesses improved



3.7 Disability

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

27 children and youth
4 new children

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.

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 tries to send staff regularly to trainings to improve their capacities. 2013 has seen staff access a variety of development opportunities, this has included Damnok Toek staff following a monthly training in child development and counselling since July 2013, provided by Indigo. Staff have also attended inclusive education training by Rabbit School and first aid training by the Cambodian Red Cross.



4.0 Networks and collaborations

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.





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