



ជួយកុមារទាមទារចង្រ្កោះ
និងគ្រួសាររបស់ពួកគេ

To assist vulnerable
children and their families.

Annual Report

2020-2021



**ជួយកុមារងាយរងគ្រោះ
និងគ្រួសាររបស់ពួកគេ**

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Message from the Executive Director



“

Unfortunately, there is no foreseeable end to the coronavirus pandemic which is increasing the vulnerability of children and families across Cambodia, especially as millions of children cannot attend school. The global crisis is not only affecting vulnerable children but every child across the world regardless of their socio-economic background. Although a new education system was designed for online learning, what happens to the children who cannot access online education?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our social workers, teachers, and educators who have worked every day on the front line throughout 2020 and 2021. They have shown they are committed to fulfilling their duties by ensuring the safety of children and providing access to education, even for those children living in remote areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of Damnok Toek's staff for their effort and ongoing commitment to providing the best possible care for the children, through education and emergency support.

I also wish to thank the governmental agencies, donors and partner organisations that together worked with us in collaboration to help children and their families in these very difficult circumstances under the Covid 19 lockdowns.

I hope we can continue working together to help the most vulnerable children and their families to overcome this difficult time and to bring children back to classes when the situation will be better. To do so, we will need to strengthen our work with governmental agencies, the private sector, NGOs, IOs and especially communities and individual people. Together we can do it!

**-Dr Sam Sovannarith, Executive
Director**

”

Who We Are

**24 years of
operation**

**112 local staff
and 1
international
staff**

**4 location sites:
Neak Loeung,
Kep, Poipet,
and Phnom
Penh**

**700
vulnerable
children and
their families
assisted**

Our Vision

For every child and youth in Cambodia to have their rights equally respected and their basic needs met.

Our Mission

To provide protective services for children and youth, including those with disabilities, to mitigate the risk of harm or abuse.

Our Approach

1

PREVENTION

Of child abuse, child abandonment, substance abuse, and trafficking of children both internal and external to Cambodia.

2

PROTECTION

Of children who are at risk of abuse or exploitation by utilising outreach and education.

3

REHABILITATION

Of children and youth from trauma, substance abuse, and rehabilitative therapy for children with disabilities.

4

REINTEGRATION

Of trafficked, disabled, and runaway children into their families of origin when possible, or otherwise into their communities or villages.

Where We Work

Poipet



300 children



46 children



1,656 people reached



1,153 children registered



4,314 beneficiaries



85 beneficiaries

Neak Loeung



160 children



19 children



47 children



28 children

Phnom Penh



8 staff

Kep



21 residents



21 residents



Non-Formal Education (NFE)



Future's Office (FO)



Social Business



Drop-In Center (DIC)



Disability Program



Alternative Care (RC, TCF, GH)



Outreach



Small Group Homes (SGH)



Child Migrant Office (CMO)

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How We Help



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Child Protection

Child Protection is at the heart of DT's work. All programs are designed to provide support to both children and families to ensure they are accessing their basic rights.

Sustainable Development Goals





Child Safe Alliance

The ChildSafe Alliance was created by Friends-International in 2005 and works to prevent street living and street working children and youth from falling victim to all forms of abuse. Damnok Toek is one of the leading organisations of the 3PC ChildSafe network, which trains ChildSafe Agents who are local members from the community (tuk-tuk drivers, market vendors, teachers, etc.) in child protection so they are able to identify and respond to unsafe situations.

DT ChildSafe agents were on the frontlines, responding to an increase in domestic violence, street involvement of children, and other issues exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In Poipet, ChildSafe Agents set up 16 'mini Drop-in Centers' in their own homes to facilitate access to support for children, youth, and families from their communities whose livelihoods were heavily impacted by the pandemic.

BE CHILD SAFE



**ChildSafe
MOVEMENT**
TOGETHER, PROTECTING CHILDREN

If you notice any suspicious activity where a child might be in harm send an email to:
report@thinkchildsafec.org
 Damnok Toek operates two 24/7 hotlines in Cambodia to report suspected abuse:
 Neak Loeung: (+855) 89 500 008
 Poipet: (+855) 95 960 303

Poipet	Neak Loeung
556 calls answered by the ChildSafe Hotline	70 calls answered by the ChildSafe Hotline
92 cases followed-up from the ChildSafe Hotline	22 cases followed-up from the ChildSafe Hotline
89 ChildSafe agents active in Poipet	20 ChildSafe agents active in Neak Loeung
17 new ChildSafe agents trained in 2021	2 new ChildSafe agents trained in 2021
68 ChildSafe agents received refreshment training in 2021	11 ChildSafe agents received refreshment training in 2021



Drop-In Center

The Drop-In Center (DIC) provides a safe space for street-involved children, substance abusers, or victims of domestic violence or trafficking. Through the DIC they receive education, counselling, medical care, a place to sleep, and daily activities.

During 2020-2021, the DIC was considered an essential operation and was allowed to remain open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. However, to comply with local regulations aimed at reducing the spread of Covid-19 among beneficiaries and the community, the DIC had to reduce its hours of operation by closing at night-time.

2021

4,314 Direct Beneficiaries

including

- 3,060 in Mobile Library
- 712 in day classes
- 22 in Mobile Rehab



Outreach

Outreach is the most important avenue we have to reach the most vulnerable children and families. Our social workers conduct outreach missions 4 times a day, 7 days a week. Our social workers also refer community members to other DT programs that offer sustainable solutions to ensure long-term family stability and child protection.

During 2021, our social workers noticed different trends among the population. Before Covid, most street-involved children had been abused, abandoned, or were substance abusers. During the Covid-19 pandemic, social workers found that a high number of children from our NFE program, who usually come from poor but stable households, were now having to go out on the street at night time to help earn money for their families. Unfortunately, as well, social workers and ChildSafe agents responded to more calls reporting cases of domestic violence and rape, a phenomenon experienced worldwide during the pandemic.

2021

1,656 Direct Beneficiaries

- 16,331 services provided

Peer Educator Program

The Peer Educator (PE) Program engages older youth in the community to serve as role models for younger, more vulnerable youth. Peer educators are either previous beneficiaries of DT programs or members of the community with a passion for social causes.

2021

57 Peer Educators

Mobile Rehabilitation

The Mobile Rehabilitation project targets children and youth using substances or who are at risk of using them. Social workers engage children in sports and activities to provide positive, constructive ways for them to channel their energy, cope with past trauma and recover from substance abuse.

The Mobile Rehab project was significantly impacted by the pandemic. Pools, parks, and courts where sports and leisure activities were conducted have been closed since the beginning of 2020. In addition, restrictions on gatherings have prevented social workers from conducting group activities, which are essential to the success of the program.

2021

22 Beneficiaries

Our clinic in Poipet focuses on reducing child malnutrition and child mortality by providing milk powder to mothers and families who are unable to breastfeed their children. The project also educates children and youth about sexual and reproductive health which is typically a taboo topic in Cambodia.

The clinic remained open throughout most of 2021, having to close only during the lockdowns. In response to the pandemic, DT's doctor paid regular visits to the communities in the dump site and slums to train families on health and hygiene practices (washing hands and body regularly, sanitation, access to clean water, and COVID-19 prevention) and provide information on how to access free basic health care at public health facilities. In addition to medical care, our team provided vulnerable families in these communities with emergency food support and hygiene supplies including soap, washing detergent for clothes, dishwashing detergent, and face masks.

2021

22 Beneficiaries

- 528 Patients
- 304 from dumpsite
- 45 Breast Milk Substitution



Skillful Parenting Workshops

These sessions are run by our ChildSafe agents and provide education to parents on positive parenting and disciplinary strategies, and the roles and responsibilities of parents. Social workers offer information about safe migration practices, the impact of substance abuse, how to identify exploitative situations, and child protection.

Unfortunately, we were unable to maintain the Skillful Parenting groups for the majority of 2021, with long gaps between meetings due to several COVID-19 outbreaks. Despite this, we still managed to adapt the program to reach necessary individuals.

The workshops conducted in 2020-21 trained 71 parents and had a proven impact on 182 indirect beneficiaries, helping to improve family relationships, reduce domestic violence, prevent family separation and child homelessness.

2021

23 Beneficiaries

• 10 new referrals



Alternative Care

While family reintegration is our first solution for children who come into our care, we recognize that this is not always a realistic or safe option for the child. To accommodate children in these situations, we established, with support from Manos Unidas, centers of alternative care to provide immediate care, shelter, education, and resources to children as we assess the possibilities for family reintegration. Children receive both group and individual counselling sessions and are taught different techniques for recovering from past trauma. Our alternative care program is divided into three facilities to best provide for the needs of children in a range of situations.

Children and young adults in our Alternative Care Program receive support depending on their age and needs from three projects: [the Reception Center](#), [Transitional Care Facility](#), and [Group Homes](#).

Scan the QR code for more information



Reception Center (RC)

The RC provides immediate and emergency care to children under 16 years old who have recently been returned to Cambodia from Thailand. The RC offers the short-term provision of necessary services while options for family reintegration are being assessed by social workers.

During 2020-21 daily educational and recreational activities followed a regular schedule in order to maintain the routine and minimise the risk of anxiety in children. In November 2021, with the easing of restrictions on social gatherings, our social workers were able to resume their work in family tracing and reintegration.

2021

30 beneficiaries

- 15 families located
- 10 children reintegrated

Transitional Care Facility (TCF)

The TCF provides the same services as the RC but to children under 16 years old for whom family reintegration is not a viable option. Social workers continue to assess the viability of family or kinship reintegration; however, children at the TCF receive care that is focused on long-term recovery from trauma and the development of life skills to facilitate their individual societal reintegration process.

With restrictions on social gatherings in place for most of the year, the children and youth were unable to leave the TCF, which increased frustrations, especially among the older children. Our staff responded by organising innovative educational and recreational activities and conducting more in-depth group counselling sessions.

2021

23 Beneficiaries

- 10 new referrals

Group Homes (GHs)

GHs provide a semi-independent living arrangement to adolescents over 16 years old who are enrolled in either school or vocational training. While living in the GHs, they remain under the supervision of social workers who ensure they are keeping up with their studies or training. Damnok Toek continues to support these young adults until they either graduate from higher education or secure a stable job.

During the pandemic, adolescents from the Group Homes enrolled in school continued their classes through online learning, and all residents participated in weekly group counselling sessions and had their individual psycho-social counselling on an as-needed basis.

2021

6 Beneficiaries



Disability

Our disability programs seek to destigmatize disability and empower those living with disabilities around Cambodia by pursuing a progressive, hands-on approach.

Sustainable Development Goals





Neak Loeung

The disability program in Neak Loeung was established in July 2018 following the closure of DT's disability center in Phnom Penh. The program offers support to children and youth with intellectual and physical disabilities through three main projects:



Small-
Group
Homes



Day-Care
Center



Outreach

Small-Group Homes (SGHs)

Our SGHs in Neak Loeung are open to children with both intellectual and physical disabilities, many of whom were victims of trafficking, former street-involved children, or were abandoned by their families and were unable to be placed in any other form of kinship or foster care. These homes provide children with disabilities (CWD) full-time care and a family-like environment as they grow up with other CWD and parent figures.

There are three SGHs constructed; however, only two are currently in use. In 2021, with the support of the GHR-Challenge Fund and the World Childhood Foundation, Damnok Toek was able to successfully renovate all three SGHs in order to provide a safer, more stable, and family-like environment for the children with disabilities (CWD) living there.

The physical space of the SGHs has been reshaped and the role of educators has been redefined in order to resemble a family household as much as possible. Each of the 16 children currently living in the 2 SGHs now has their own bed adapted to individual needs, as well as their own personal space consisting of a wardrobe/storage space, toys and games, and other personal belongings.

In November 2021, the children from the SGHs were taken on a trip by the team of educators (acting as 'parental figures') to visit the Kep Farm Project, as some of the children from the SGHs will likely move to live at the farm once they turn 18. They were delighted to meet the Farm's residents, participate in recreational activities and educational games with their peers, and even go on a group trip to the beach.

2021

19 Beneficiaries



Day-Care Center (DCC)

The Day Care Center (DCC) provides rehabilitative therapies, educational and leisure activities for CWDs and respite care for their families. The DCC is open to children from the SGHs as well as children from the community.

Due to restrictions on social gatherings, the DCC was forced to close to the community for most of 2021; however, children from the SGHs have still been able to access its services during this period. In the meantime, DT staff from the Outreach Project (OP) have been providing support to children with disabilities (CWD) and their families in the community through regular phone calls to follow up on the wellbeing of each child, check that they are completing their rehabilitative exercises, and discuss any other issues.

2021

47 Beneficiaries



Outreach Project (OP)

The Outreach Project was implemented in Neak Loeung as a pilot project in 2021 in collaboration with ECHO. The project aims to identify families with CWDs from the community to ensure that these children have access to the services they require. The Outreach Project also provides basic food support to the families along with counseling for the parents. Currently, the OP serves 24 children, by providing rehabilitative therapies and a comprehensive follow-up to improve their quality of life, and plans to support 8 more throughout 2022.

In 2021, due to the government restrictions on social gatherings, the Outreach Project had a very limited capacity to visit and identify CWD from the community and their families. However, DT was able to provide individual support to the most vulnerable CWD in the form of rice donations, awareness sessions on hygiene and hygiene supplies, and child protection information.

2021

28 Beneficiaries

Kep

The disability program in Kep was established in 2016 in response to the need for a safe environment for people with disabilities (PWD) who have outgrown youth-focused alternative care programs as they turn 18 years old. Due to their disabilities and the disenfranchisement they have experienced, the beneficiaries have not been given the opportunities to develop the skills required to perform roles in society that would allow them to live unassisted.



Kep Residence

Since the residents are currently unable to live independently, we established a residence on the property that provides accommodation, nutritious meals, life-skill education, and necessary medical care according to their needs, including psychosocial and educational support.

The pandemic in 2021 was less severe in Kep than in the rest of Cambodia. Therefore, with fewer restrictions, the residents were able to maintain their regular work and leisure schedules and continue their excursions to the local beach and trips to the mountain – all whilst following strict COVID-19 personal hygiene measures. The residents used the time to build more seedling beds in order to plant more seeds for a higher yield, harvest flowers and leaves to produce tea and prepare it for sale.

The farm uses the concept of forest farming to produce organic vegetables and tea. Residents receive training on the entire process of growing and harvesting vegetables, raising chickens as well as the production and cultivation of tea. The farm is designed to provide all residents, regardless of their level of disability, with meaningful work so they can develop skills and contribute to society.

In 2022, the Kep Farm project is set to undergo a significant rebranding and renovation, with support from Goutte d'Eau, that will showcase the property and the products produced at the farm. DT plans to build a teahouse where customers from the community coming to visit the Farm will be able to enjoy a wide range of organic teas produced by our residents. In addition, DT will construct a set of semi-independent living arrangements (5 bungalows) to accommodate 10 adults with disabilities, and a food forest – a sustainable organic garden with diverse edible plants, mimicking the natural forest ecosystem.

2021 23 Beneficiaries



Scan the QR code for more information



Disability Training Program

Throughout 2021, Damnok Toek, in collaboration with nine other NGOs and with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi, provided specialised training sessions focused on working with PWD for practitioners nationwide. This training was aimed at educators, caregivers and other professionals working with PWD that do not hold a formal degree of education in the field.

The intention is that this training will increase the interest of professionals to work with PWD and raise awareness of the importance of working with PWD more broadly. In this way, DT believes we can further destigmatize disability and improve the care that is given to PWD across the country.

This training is an 11-month program split into 6 modules. The workshops were designed to build capacity through a hands-on approach and collaborative feedback. The training was scheduled to begin in 2020; however, due to Covid restrictions limiting social gatherings at the time, the decision was made to postpone the training until June 2021 so it could continue as originally planned.

Currently, the training program has 27 participants from both the NGO sector and the government attending sessions. The remaining three sessions in the training will be held throughout the first half of 2022, concluding at the end of July.



Safe Migration

DT's migration programs seek to address issues related to migration that is exploitative or places children in situations where their rights are violated and their safety is put at risk.

Sustainable Development Goals



Safe Migration

Child Migrant Office (CMO)

The Child Migrant Office provides support to children and youth victims of unsafe migration through identification and emergency management on a case-by-case basis. It is run through the Poipet Transit Centre (PTC), which is the main point of entry for Cambodian citizens deported from Thailand. DT works in collaboration with Friends International and Krousar Thmey at the CMO to identify unaccompanied children and provide them with case management. Through case management, these children are either reintegrated into their families or, if family reunification is not a viable option, referred to Damnok Toek's Reception Centre or to other partner NGOs.

In response to increasing numbers of returning migrants from Thailand testing positive for COVID-19, Cambodia enforced a mandatory 2-week quarantine at government-operated facilities (schools, training centres, and a former brick factory). DT collaborated with local authorities to identify and support families during the quarantine period (including ensuring that no harm was done to them) and upon release.



2021

1,153 child beneficiaries

- 1,125 children and families helped during quarantine

Outreach

The Covid-19 pandemic had catastrophic ramifications for families in the Poipet area. For a time, the city was classified as a “red zone”, meaning people were banned from leaving their homes under any circumstance. Fortunately, Damnok Toek social workers were considered essential personnel and were still allowed to conduct outreach missions during the day. However, nightly curfews and the implications of red zone protocol had a negative impact on their ability to reach vulnerable populations.

Between October and December 2021, DT received support from Caritas to collaborate with local authorities and other NGOs to support 30 migrant families with food support to help ease their reintegration to Cambodia.



Safe Migration

Future's Office (FO)

The Futures Office provides support and advice for those seeking employment as well as soft skills and vocational training to adults and young people in Poipet. The goal of this project is to increase job skills capacity among the population in Poipet to reduce dependency on migratory labor, which in turn, mitigates many root causes of human trafficking.

With major businesses – including casinos, factories, KTVs, restaurants and construction – limiting their activities or closing down in Poipet amidst the pandemic, 2021 was a particularly busy year for the Futures Office with most beneficiaries seeking job opportunities in the construction, hospitality, garment and NGO sectors.

DT staff assisted 13 young adults in finding vocational training placement. Having observed an increase in reported cases of domestic violence spurred by the socioeconomic decline resulting from the pandemic, Damnok Toek staff decided to offer counselling support alongside a small stipend to cover travel and food costs for students in our vocational training programs to encourage them to complete their training.

2021

599 Beneficiaries

- 90 job placements
- 16 apprenticeships/vocational training

Income Generating Activity (IGA)

IGA provides professional support and a small stipend for beneficiaries to start a small business. To participate in the program, applicants must complete a training course, in which DT staff help them create a business plan and provide capacity building in business management. DT social workers conduct follow-up visits with IGA recipients to ensure their business plan is still viable and that the IGA is still providing for their families as expected.

Due to drastic job losses in the Poipet area during the pandemic, demand for IGA increased massively in 2020 and 2021. In previous years, our IGA program assisted between 50-60 clients. In 2021, 83 people accessed support through this program.

2021

83 Beneficiaries



"I would like to say thank you to Damnok Toek because today I have a small business. I now have food and money to support my children." -IGA beneficiary

Education

DT provides education to Cambodia's most vulnerable children with the goal of ensuring that every child can access a basic education.

Sustainable Development Goals



Non-Formal Education (NFE)

The Non-Formal Education (NFE) program provides access to education for vulnerable children who are unable to attend public school in Neak Loeung and Poipet, often due to their families' socio-economic circumstances. By providing NFE, Damnok Toek helps to ensure vulnerable children receive an education and thus mitigates the risk of these children becoming victims of exploitation, trafficking, and abuse.

The NFE center in Neak Loeung welcomes children in Grades 1-3 while the center in Poipet continues until Grade 6, allowing children to complete their primary education. After graduating from the NFE program, children are supported in the transition to public school with DT providing school supplies, transportation such as bicycles, and follow-up support from social workers to ensure students are not falling behind in their studies.

The Covid-19 pandemic had significant ramifications on the NFE program as schools were forced to close from February 2020-November 2021. Damnok Toek staff were able to adapt the program to an online setting with teachers traveling to the homes of students to provide school material and instructions.

In Poipet, schools were also forced to close; however, due to its designation as a red zone, students were prohibited from leaving their houses. Therefore, teachers, who were deemed essential workers, traveled to the homes of individual students to provide lessons, worksheets, and one-on-one instruction. This system was proving to be unsustainable as the pandemic continued. Fortunately, to respond to this increasing problem, Aide et Action generously donated ICT material to DT, including tablets, which were distributed to students to facilitate online learning.

Unfortunately, as many parents lost jobs during the pandemic, many NFE children had to work to assist their families financially. In order to support families, many of which lost their primary source of income since the start of the pandemic, DT donated 25kg bags of rice monthly to every student, under the condition of either a 50% attendance rate in online classes or returning completed homework.



Scan the QR code for more information

2021

525 students enrolled

- 365 Poipet
- 160 Neak Loeung
- 226 reintegrated into public school

Community Kindergartens

In Cambodia, kindergarten is not mandatory. This project gives children living in remote areas access to education before the age of 6 years old. Damnok Toek works with the local authorities in Neak Loeng and Poipet to identify at-risk children under 5 years old and provide them with preschool education.

The project takes a three-step approach aimed at empowering the community by gradually turning over ownership and control of the kindergartens to local authorities over a three-year period.

Kindergartens in Cambodia were the last schools to reopen after the Covid-19 pandemic as children under the age of five were the final age group eligible for vaccinations. The vaccination campaign for this age group began in December 2021, allowing for a slow reopening by the very end of the year.

No new kindergartens were constructed in 2020-2021, due to the pandemic. However, Damnok Toek provided ongoing support to the five existing kindergartens.



2021 1,490 Beneficiaries

- 368 Poipet
- 1,122 Neak Loeng

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library program is run through the Mini Drop-In Center in Poipet. Social workers and ChildSafe agents conduct bi-weekly sessions with rural children aged 5-17 years old as well as community members about the importance of reading and study preparation. In addition, staff provide awareness about the risks and consequences of child trafficking and unsafe migration in addition to education about child rights.

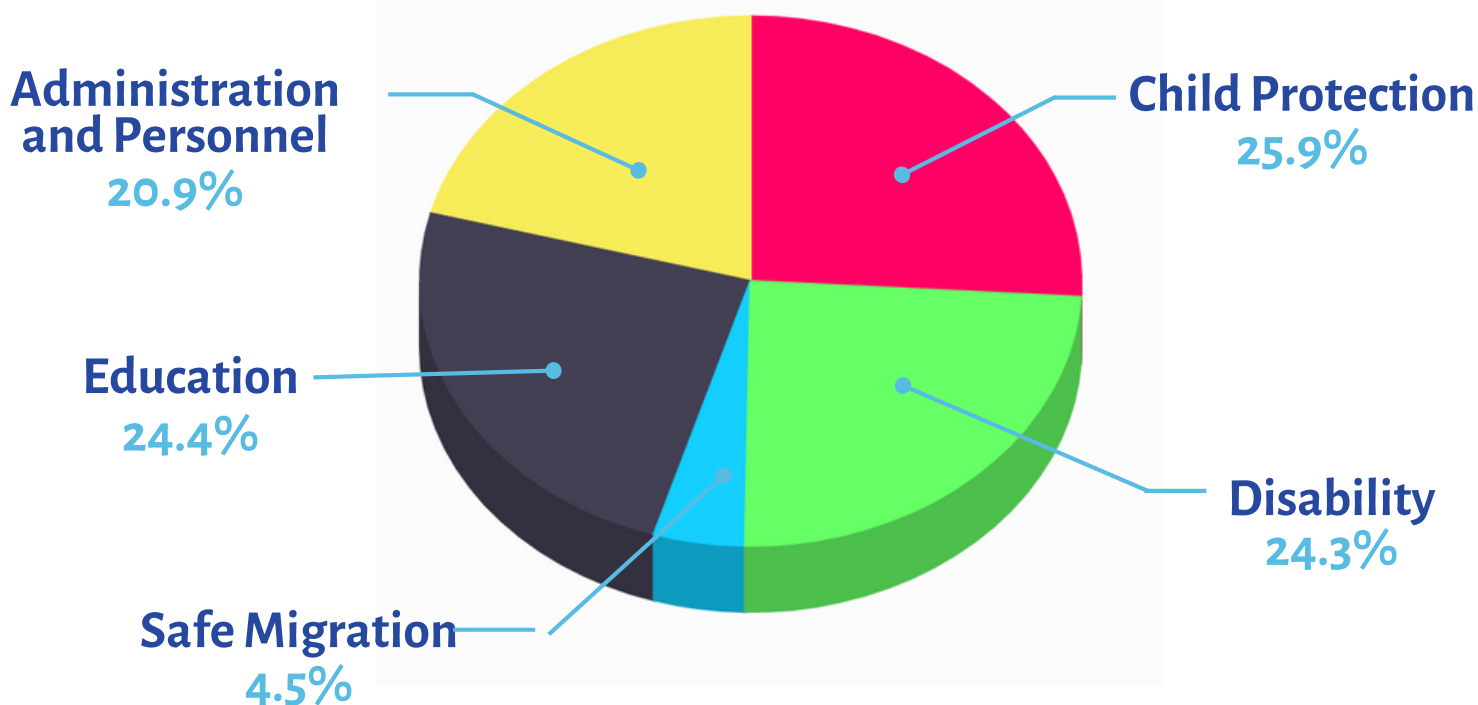
Throughout 2021, the Mobile Library program was able to continue with strict enforcement of government regulations including limitations on attendees, mask-wearing, and social distancing.



2021 3,060 Beneficiaries

Financial Report

INCOME	Total 2021	Total 2020	Variation
Grant Income	891,230.00	776,870.00	13.71%
Other Income	14,056.00	6,316.00	75.99%
TOTAL INCOME	905,286.00	783,186.00	14.46%
EXPENDITURES			
Project Cost	555,480.00	210,297.00	90.15%
Administrative Expense	489,277.00	446,816.00	9.07%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,044,757.00	657,113.00	45.56%
SURPLUS OVER EXPENDITURE	139,471.00	126,073.00	10.09%



Donors



Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report or the work of Damnok Toek, please get in touch with us!

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Damnok Toek is able to continue protecting children thanks to both large and small donations.



Damnok Toek
Goutte d'Eau
001 515 929

Thank you!



ជួយកុមារងាយរងគ្រោះ
និងគ្រួសាររបស់ពួកគេ

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