



# Annual Report 2022



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# About Us

Damnok Toek (DT) was founded out of the efforts of Goutte d'Eau - a child support network (GEcsn), a Swiss organization looking to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Cambodia. GEcsn became aware of the rampant poverty and problems associated with it in the border province of Prey Veng when working in Cambodia in 1997. Determined to make a lasting and meaningful impact in the lives of the affected children, GEcsn teamed up with local professionals and volunteers to officially become Damnok Toek.

The initial project in Prey Veng was so successful, it attracted the attention of government officials interested in having DT replicate the program in Poipet, a major border town between Cambodia and Thailand notorious for issues of trafficking and poverty. The project in Poipet grew to incorporate programs addressing issues with unsafe migration, education, and child protection with the mission of ensuring that every child has access to essential services and has their rights respected.

Working in these areas, DT noticed the most difficult cases to address were those involving children with disabilities (CWD) due to the lack of programs and resources dedicated to helping this particularly vulnerable group. It was out of this necessity that DT's Disability Program was established in 2003.

Since then, DT's scope of work has continued to adapt to the changing needs of Cambodia's most vulnerable population. Our work focuses on family and community-based care, as well as providing sustainable services to families to help them build futures for themselves. Our programs are now operational in 3 provinces in Cambodia and serve 5,000 beneficiaries annually.

Throughout our 25 years of operation, we have developed a reputation as a leader in the field of disability and child protection, specifically providing services in education, safe migration, alternative care, and family reintegration. Our work relies on the collaboration between multiple actors including other NGOs, local and national authorities, community members, and specialised partner institutions. It is this network and the dedication of our tireless staff that allow us to continue to improve the lives of thousands of youth and their families each year.



## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

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

## Our Approach



### Prevention

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



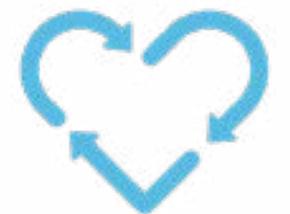
### Protection

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



### Rehabilitation

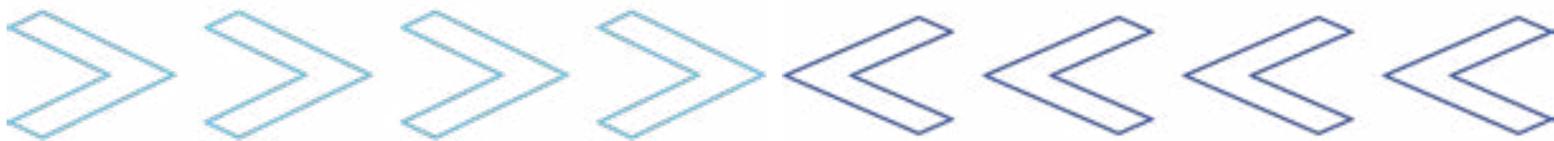
Of children and youth from trauma, substance abuse, and rehabilitation therapy for children with disabilities.



### Reintegration

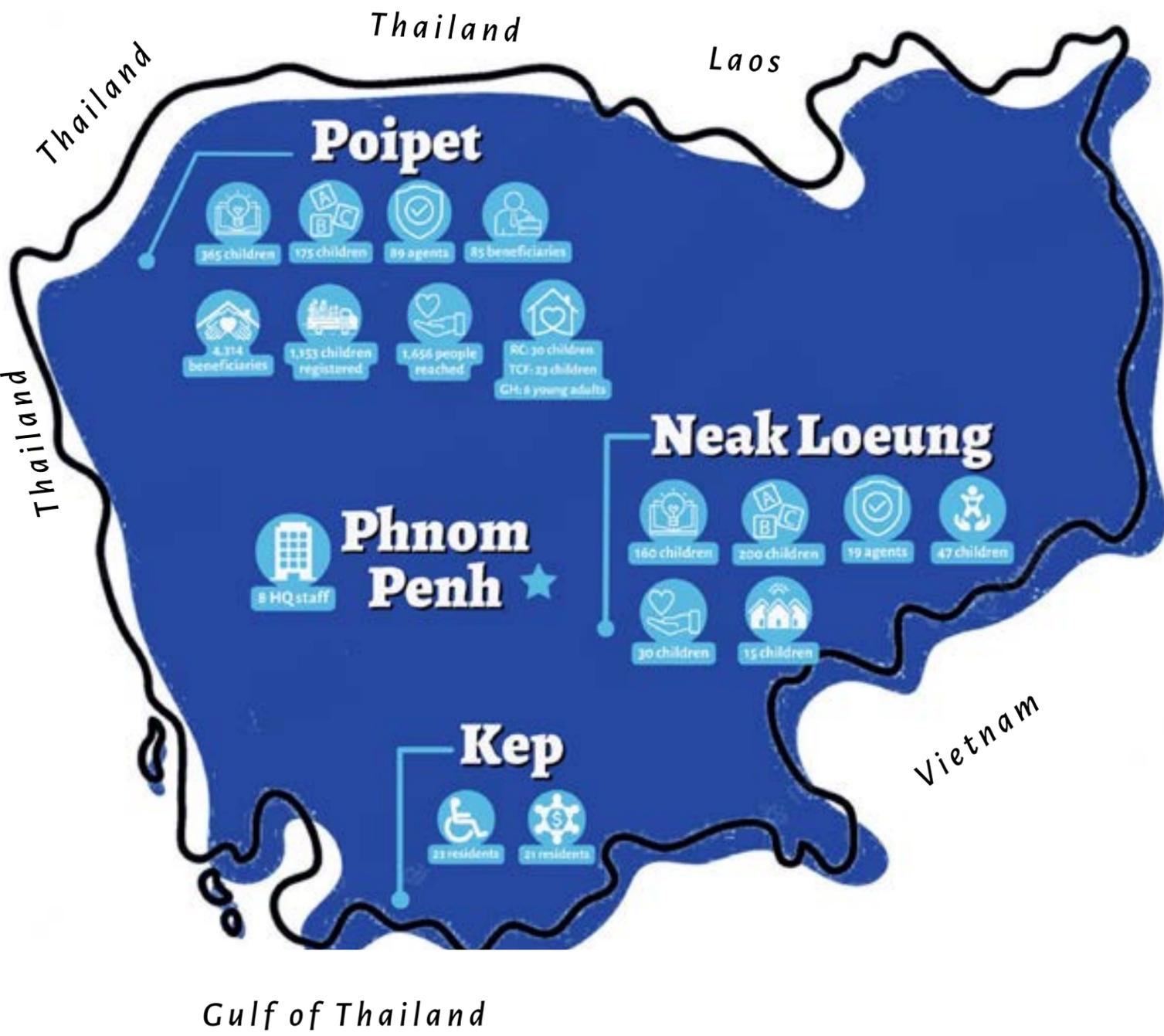
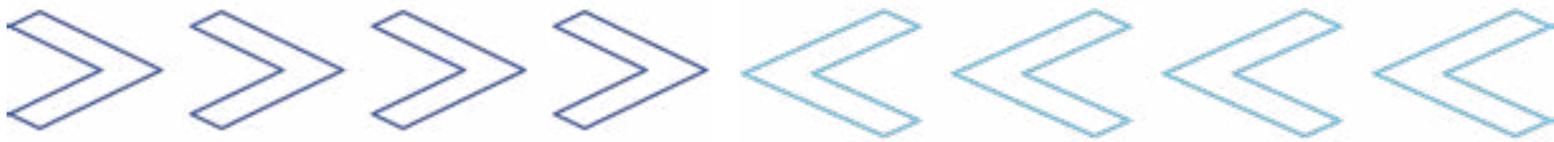
Of trafficked, runaway and children with disabilities into their families of origin when possible, or otherwise into their communities or villages.

# Where We Work



## Program Key

Non-Formal Education (NFE)	ChildSafe Agents	Small Group Homes (SGH)
Alternative Care (RC, TCF, GH)	Outreach	Social Business
Community Kindergarten	Head Office	Drop-In Center (DIC)
Future's Office (FO)	Disability Program	Child Migrant Office (CMO)
Day Care Center (DCC)		



**Our activities are organized into four main programs:**

## SDGs Addressed



**Disability**



**Education**



**Child Protection**



**Safe Migration**

# Message from the Executive Director

“ Hello friends, development partners, donors, relevant ministries, local authorities and all stakeholders. 2022 marks the 25th year of Damnok Toek's operation. As we conclude this monumental year, we are reflecting on how our programs have contributed to improving the lives of vulnerable children in Cambodia. Over the past 25 years, what we have experienced, what has improved, and what is being developed is evident. We have expanded our efforts to three provinces in Cambodia and have continued to provide quality care to children who have experienced and experience abuse, deprivation, poverty, and disability.

2022 marked a major year of renovation and expansion of projects sites. With the support of the Japanese Embassy, we were able to completely rebuild our Day-Care Center, which will allow us to provide better quality rehabilitation services to children with disabilities in Neak Loeng.

A brand-new Lifelong Learning Center was constructed in Poipet with the support of Aide et Action and Manos Unidas, which will accommodate more students in our NFE program and will also allow DT to host youth programs and other workshops to benefit the community.

This year, DT extended our cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for 3 years until 2025. At the same time, we are preparing to review the achievements with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to continue the project for another three years. The continuation of these two projects ensures that thousands of vulner-

able children will continue to have access to safety, education and other services, which we hope will provide a peaceful return to their families and society.

To continue this humanitarian mission, DT has further developed and built its human resources by establishing new senior management positions at HQ. Strengthening our top-level management team will allow DT to maximize the efficiency of service delivery to our beneficiaries and improve and expand existing programs.

Over the next few years, we will reach out to new networks and partners to increase our visibility both in Cambodia and internationally. We are reevaluating our programs, especially those in Alternative Care, to stay current with emerging data and research in this field to provide better quality of care and education to our beneficiaries.

We are grateful to all of our existing donors who have supported our projects over these 25 years. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the new donors and partners who chose to support our projects in 2022 and we are looking forward to a fruitful and productive collaboration together. As always, we would not be able to provide the quality of care to our beneficiaries without our network partners and our staff who tirelessly dedicate themselves to improving the lives of vulnerable children.

  
-Dr. Sovannarith SAM





# Disability

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

2022 was an important year for the disability program and DT achieved several milestones that will help continue to pave the way of being a leader in the field of disability in Cambodia for years to come.

## Neak Loeng

The disability program in Neak Loeng was established in July 2018 following the closure of DT's former disability center in Phnom Penh. The program offers support to children and youth with intellectual and physical disabilities through three main projects: Outreach, the Day Care Center, and the Small Group Home project.

### Outreach (OP)

The Outreach Project (OP) was implemented in Neak Loeng as a pilot project in 2021 in collaboration with ECHO. The project aims to identify families with Children with Disabilities (CWD) 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 counselling for the parents.

The OP has been functioning in its full capacity since January 2022, after the restrictions on social gatherings were finally lifted by the Cambodian government at the end of 2021. As a result, our social workers continue to conduct monthly visits to families of CWDs in the community. This form of family support is necessary to support parents in caring for their child's needs and to prevent abandonment. The sup-

port groups work as a form of advocacy for the rights of CWDs, allowing parents and caregivers to engage and discuss the challenges they face in caring for a child with special needs and share good practices.

Between 15th August and 31st December 2022, 16 new children were integrated into the program, bringing the total number of children to 32. Capacity has now been reached for the outreach program but social workers continued to run the program during 2022 and will do the same for 2023.



**32**  
Beneficiaries

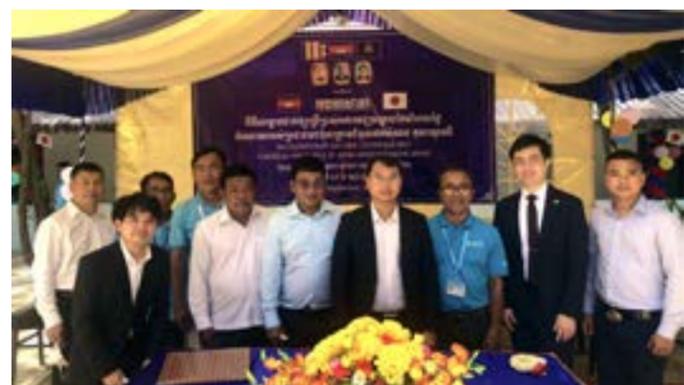
## Day Care Center (DCC)

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

In 2022, the DCC underwent a complete renovation supported by the Kusanone Grant awarded by the Japanese Embassy. The new building includes a new physical therapy room and sensory therapy room, an expansion to the education center, and a meeting room for parents of CWD, which will host support group sessions for parents to discuss and share their experience of raising CWD in the community. The facility can accommodate capacity-building training and workshops for DT staff and other disability healthcare professionals.

The inauguration ceremony of the new DCC was held on 9th September 2022, in the presence of local authorities and representatives from the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia – the donor of the renovation works.

With all Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the DCC was able to resume regular parenting workshops throughout 2022. Workshops were held once a month with two groups of parent participants (16 in each group). In addition, a full session with all 32 parents occurred once



DT board members and staff and representatives from the Japanese Embassy attend the new DCC inauguration ceremony.

every 4 months. The workshops underwent a restructuring in 2022 to make them more efficient and productive by breaking up each meeting into shorter sessions with time for discussion among parents in between.

The new DCC also hosted the final session for the Damnok Toek Disability Training Program which began in 2021, supported by Goutte d'Eau - a child support network, Don Gnocchi, and the Swiss Development Cooperation. Ultimately, 26 out of the 27 original participants completed the training and received certificates that were issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs.



**47**  
Beneficiaries



Representatives from Don Gnocchi lead the final session in the Disability Training Program.



## Small Group Home (SGH)

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.

The SGHs project, supported by World Childhood Foundation and Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst (GHR) Foundation, currently accommodates 15 children, living in 3 houses, with a total of 18 educators serving as 'parent figures'. The third SGH, which was renovated in spring of 2022 with the support of World Childhood Foundation, is now housing 4 children (3 girls) since August 2022.

In 2022, DT began assessing the entire alternative care program offered to CWD through the SGHs. Initially, SGHs 1 and 2 were to be used for the children who are accommodated by DT on a more long-term basis, while the SGH 3 would serve as a temporary solution for children who are awaiting a possible reintegration into their family or other forms of care (kinship or foster care, etc.).

However, this initial redistribution of children created an issue for the team of the 18 caregivers working at the SGH due to an unequal ratio of children to caregivers. In order to redistribute the workload more evenly, 1 child was moved from SGH 1 to SGH 3. However, this transition was not simple for the child herself, who had to



Children living at the Small Group Home in Neak Loeung sit outside and share a laugh.

readapt quickly to a new environment with new parental figures. Luckily, the child coped well with the changes and is now healthy and happy in her new home.

This has been an important lesson learned for Damnok Toek: redistributing children between the SGHs, after they have been placed in one of the homes, is usually not in the best interest of the child. The DT team has taken a decision that there will be no more transitions of children from one SGH to another.

To increase the parental nature of the care given to children at the SGHs, 6 new caregivers were hired in February and March 2022 to bring the total number of parent figures to 18. All received comprehensive training during 2022 on how to provide appropriate care and act as parent figures to the children in the SGH.



**15**  
Beneficiaries



**3**  
Children reintegrated  
into family/ community

For more info on  
the SGH program,  
scan the QR Code  
here



# Chantha\*



Chantha was born with a birth defect resulting in shrunken or deformed limbs. In Chantha's case, he was born missing both of his arms and one of the bones of his left leg. Doctors told his mother at birth that he wouldn't survive. Unaware of how to properly care for a child with disabilities and overwhelmed by the prognosis, she left him at the hospital. Unable to locate any of his other family, the hospital staff referred Chantha to Damnok Toek's SGH program.

Chantha thrived in the SGH program; however, DT social workers continued to perform family tracing in the hopes of finding family members who would be willing and able to take Chantha back into their care. DT utilized its extensive network of NGOs to help with the family tracing efforts and finally, thanks to the work of Mith Samlanh, Chantha's biological grandparents were located.

DT social workers provided instructions to Chantha's grandparents about caring for a child with a disability; however, they quickly came to realize Chantha was more than capable of caring for himself.

His grandfather recalls when Chantha first came to visit, he would constantly ask to do his own chores instead of getting assistance. "Having Chantha here actually relieves a lot of our burden because he can help take care of his younger cousins and help with daily tasks."

Chantha is happy and loving life with his family. He is enrolled in Grade 1 at the local primary school, where he has also impressed his teachers with his abilities. His grandfather hopes that he will continue his education through Grade 12 and get a good job in IT. His main concern is affording the increasing cost of school as Chantha progresses in his studies but he has no doubt about Chantha's abilities.

Read Chantha's full story here!



\*name has been changed to protect identity



Chantha and his cousins play in the yard of their grandparents' home where they live together.

## 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

Due to the severity of their disability or a lack of life-skills due to societal exclusion, most of the residents at DT Kep are currently unable to live independently. The residence was established to provide accommodation, nutritious meals, life-skills education, and necessary medical care according to the needs of residents, including psychosocial and educational support. Residents also go on excursions twice a week to nearby beaches or to the Kep National Forest.

The Kep Residence is staffed by parent figures who provide care, education and support to residents. They help residents understand communal living to better equip them with the life-skills necessary for independent living. Although many will never be able to live independently due to their disability, DT Kep's main goal is to provide each resident as much autonomy as their disability allows.

Currently, there are 23 residents living at DT Kep. The residence can accommodate 24 people and one new resident will arrive in 2023 bringing the residence to capacity.

There will be major changes at the Kep Residence in 2023 as DT begins the Semi-Independent Living

Arrangement (SILA) (see page 18). In the first quarter of 2023, three residents will move to this new housing, which is an exciting step for both the residents themselves and DT's disability program. However, even though DT plans to ultimately move 9 residents into a Semi-Independent Living Arrangement, DT has planned to not increase the capacity for residents at the Kep Residence. As semi-independent living is a new program and an important goal for DT, maintaining the current number of residents will allow staff to focus their energy on providing a smooth and successful transition to SILA for the nine residents who will move there throughout the year.



**23**  
Residents

## Kep Farm

While the Kep Residence provides life-skills education in a domestic environment, the Kep Farm provides skills training in a work environment. 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.

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, caring for chickens as well as the production and cultivation of tea.

Throughout 2022, DT staff worked with design company ADA Asia to create a name and a brand for the new chapter of the Kep Farm, which will be known as **La Farmidable**.

The aim of La Farmidable is to provide residents with another avenue of mobility and more opportunities for professional and personal development. La Farmidable will be registered as a social business and will supply local clients with products from the farm.



Residents will also sell these products at the local market once a month to establish deeper connections with community members. In the future, a tea house will be built on the Kep property, which will allow residents opportunities to increase their capacity in hospitality trades such as restaurant work.

In 2023, DT will begin a new partnership with Bern University's HAFL program. The Swiss university will send an intern to the Kep Farm to conduct research for their thesis on produce that can be dried and repurposed into different products.



“

*While living at DT Kep, I learned how to care for chickens and ducks, which I now love doing. I know this skill will help me in the future to support myself.*

-Chandara\*, age 22

”

\*name has been changed to protect identity

## DT Begins Semi-Independent Living Arrangement Program

In August 2022, construction began on 3 new Semi-Independent Living Arrangement (SILA) houses funded by Goutte d'Eau- a child support network. The SIL project has been a goal of DT's since the launch of the program in Kep and represents a major milestone in DT's disability program as a whole.

Each SILA house has a private ensuite room that can accommodate 2 residents. There is also a shared kitchen space and common area. Residents in SILA will have freedom of movement and will be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements. They will be responsible for all of their daily tasks and chores including laundry and preparing meals.

DT plans to gradually move 8 residents to SILA over the course of 2023. The goal is for the 8 selected residents to have a smooth and successful transition to SILA that will equip them with the necessary life skills to hopefully continue to fully independent living in the future.

To further facilitate this transition, DT partnered with LEV, a Danish “association and community for people with developmental disabilities and their families”. The partnership will explore different avenues to self-advocacy including workshops and training that will be held on site in Kep beginning in 2023.

To ensure the safe and smooth transition to the SILA, DT staff conducted base assessments for all nine res-

idents to measure their current understanding of basic rights and how those apply to independent living. DT staff will conduct follow-up conversations with residents throughout 2023 to properly measure the success of the SILA and identify any areas that need improvement for the future.



The first four residents now living in the new SILA in Kep.



Construction begins on the SILA houses in Kep.



The three SILA houses after construction. In 2023, DT will transform the lawn into a lush common area.



# Education

**In Cambodia, a significant number of school-age children have no access to education, of whom many are street-involved. National capacity to develop and maintain public systems such as schooling and job training remains limited. This contributes to issues of poverty for many of Cambodia's children and youth. As such, these realities and the limitations in Cambodia's social structures have contributed to issues of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and unsafe migratory behaviours amongst the country's most vulnerable children.**

**2022 was the first year after the Covid-19 pandemic that all schools were fully reopened. Our teachers worked hard to ensure the transition back into the classroom was smooth for the students. Unfortunately, many children needed to work during Covid-19 to help support their families and so our social workers stayed busy travelling to the communities to ensure parents re-enrolled their children in schools.**

## Essence of Learning (EOL)

Essence of Learning (EOL) is a style of education that is child-focused, hands-on and is used when children are in need of education in emergency or crisis situations. The approach tailors learning to each child's needs and takes into account that different children will be at different stages in their education due to the circumstances they are currently facing.

EOL has been an effective technique adopted by educators of DT's NFE program, especially during and after Covid-19 when schools were closed and attendance rates fluctuated drastically.

EOL is an initiative sponsored by Caritas under the Safe Migration in Cambodia (SaMiCa) partnership, which began 1st January, 2022. Throughout the year, 29 teachers in the NFE programs in Poipet and Neak Loeung participated in EOL refresher training sessions.



NFE teachers refresh their EOL skills during a workshop in Poipet.

# 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.

NFE is a popular program of DT as it provides an avenue to education that the children in the program would otherwise not receive. The project is sponsored by Manos Unidas, Aide et Action, Educate A Child, and Caritas Switzerland.

After nearly two years of schools being closed, students were finally allowed to return to the classroom for the 2022 school year. While it was an exciting time for both students and teachers, staff worked extra hard to ensure there was a smooth transition to learning in an in-person setting after so much time away. In addition, social workers conducted many community visits to encourage parents to re-enroll their children in school.

In 2022 the NFE Center in Poipet had an influx of students due to families returning to the area after borders reopened and job opportunities returned to Poipet. A total of 623 students (264 girls) enrolled in the NFE Centres in Poipet and Neak Loeung, representing 121% of the set target (514 students). Likewise, the DT team successfully enrolled as many as 159 children (79 girls) from communities in Poipet and Neak Loeung into public school, slightly exceeding the set target of 150 (106%).

The main event of the NFE program in 2022 was the construction of the Lifelong Learning Center in Poipet, which is described in detail on the following page. This new building will allow DT to welcome more students into the NFE program for the 2023 school year. In addition, the building was used to conduct EOL training sessions and other workshops throughout 2022.



Sin Saroeun, an NFE teacher in Neak Loeung, helps a student with her alphabet.



**623**

**Students enrolled in NFE in Neak Loeung and Poipet**



**156**

**Students reintegrated to public school in Neak Loeung and Poipet**

# Lifelong Learning Center (LLC)

In partnership with the Cambodia Consortium for Out of School Children (CCOSC) led by Aide et Action (Action Education) and Manos Unidas, DT celebrated the official inauguration of the newly constructed Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) on 2nd September 2022. The new building will help expand the effort to promote non-formal education for street children and reduce the risk of exploitation and trafficking among children and youth on the Thai-Cambodian border.

The LLC will provide access to education for vulnerable and out-of-school children with the aim of reintegrating them into the public school system. The new facility will feature three classrooms accommodating 40 new students in grades 1 to 3, with the capacity to integrate 80 more children in the 2023 school year. The facility will also serve as a venue to conduct youth-related activities, workshops and training sessions, and community events.



Original two-classroom NFE building  
2003



New Lifelong Learning Center  
2022



Children in DT's NFE program attend the inauguration ceremony for the new Lifelong Learning Center in Poipet on 2nd September 2022.

# Community Kindergartens

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

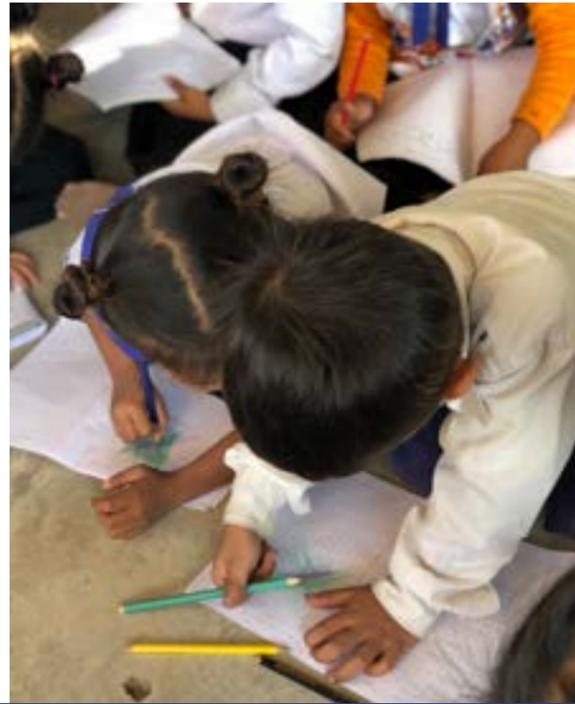
The project, sponsored by Educate A Child, Les Amis de l'Enfant du Monde and Aide et Action, takes a three-step approach aimed at empowering the community by gradually turning over ownership and control of the kindergartens to local authorities over a three-year period.

During this time, DT supports the construction of the kindergarten, the training of teachers and the provision of schooling material. In the third year, the kindergartens are turned over to the community with DT continuing to provide refresher training for teachers as needed.

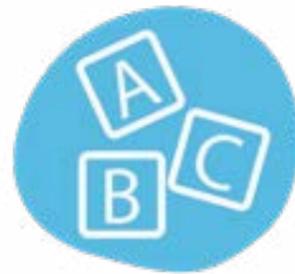
In 2022, DT supported three existing community kindergartens, two of which are in their second year of operation and one of which was handed over to the community in November.

Construction completed on a new kindergarten in Neak Loeung on 30th April, 2022. This kindergarten services the Sambor village of Prey Sdach and accommodated 28 children throughout the year.

In 2023, DT plans to build two new community kindergartens, one in Poipet and one in Neak Loeung. A generous donation from Les Amis de l'Enfant du Monde will support the full three-year cycle, including the construction, of the kindergarten in Neak Loeung.



Children at a community kindergarten in Poipet practice arts and crafts.



**15**  
Community Kindergartens in Neak Loeung and Poipet supported by DT

# Public School Enrolment Campaigns

Damnok Toek's work in education seeks to strengthen existing institutions in order to make education more accessible to all children.

While the NFE program is necessary for certain students who cannot access public school, the ultimate goal of the program is reintegration of students into the public school system so they can continue their education alongside their peers. DT works directly in the community and with local authorities for annual enrolment campaigns to encourage parents to register their children for school.

This campaign also helps DT identify which students are the most at-risk and might qualify for enrolment in the NFE program or whose families might be in need of additional services from DT.

In collaboration with the government in both Poipet and Neak Loeung, DT organized 2 public enrolment campaigns across 16 communities between November and December 2022. 616 students (317 girls) participated in Poipet and 1,470 students (317 girls) at Neak Loeung. The project achieved 100% of the planned target areas but will undertake door to door campaigns to reach more children in 2023.



**2,086**  
Students enrolled in Neak Loeung and Poipet



Children from the NFE program join the fun during the enrolment campaign.

For more info about this year's enrolment campaign, scan the QR code below!





# 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.**

**In 2022, DTs work in child protection focused on reacclimating staff and beneficiaries to working post-Covid-19. While employment rates rose throughout the year and financial stability was more assured for most families, the road to full recovery is still ongoing and children and families are still reeling from the affects of the pandemic.**

## ChildSafe 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 organizations 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.

### ChildSafe Hotline:

DT operates two 24-hour ChildSafe hotlines, which are available nationwide for civilians to report cases of suspected child abuse or unsafe situations for children.

Out of the 1,075 calls received by Damnok Toek team in 2022, 86 cases (53 boys and 33 girls) received emergency response from DT staff. The majority of these cases were children who were lost or separated from their family of origin, who had suffered physical abuse or neglect from family members, and/or who were malnourished and in urgent need of food.



# 108

**ChildSafe Agents active in Neak Loeung and Poipet**



# 1,075

**Calls answered on DT's ChildSafe Hotlines**



# 86

**Cases that received emergency response by DT**



# 10

**Cases of violence against children that required intervention**

## Drop-In Center (DIC)

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.

Various DT programs are conducted under the umbrella of the DIC including the Mobile Rehab, Outreach, Mobile Library, and Medical Clinic. The DIC also provides DT staff the opportunity to identify at-risk children and refer them and their families to other DT programs for support.

In 2022, the numbers of children accessing the DIC steadily increased and after a while, the DT team struggled to accommodate all the children in the limited space available. To cope with the increasing demand, DT set up two safe spaces for children to play and benefit from the educational sessions within the centre.



Sameth, a DIC social worker leads a meditation exercise during a Mobile Rehabilitation session.

## Mobile Rehabilitation

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

In 2022, the local swimming pool and football field raised their entrance fees. Therefore, DT had to find new areas around Poipet to take the children to play football and began incorporating more meditation sessions to compensate for the loss of pool access.



## 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.

As part of the outreach activities, DT holds awareness raising sessions on key social topics: safe migration, positive parenting, child protection and child

rights, the dangers of drug abuse, and how to identify and report cases of abuse or violence against children.

In 2022, DT social workers reached a total of 1,153 beneficiaries (491 women) in their outreach activities. Among the most challenging factors was locating families who had been displaced either due to weather conditions (heavy rain and floods) or who had been evicted from their homes (as some of them were illegal dwellers) by the local authorities.



For more info  
about DT's DIC  
efforts, scan the  
QR Code here



## Mobile Library (ML)

The Mobile Library program is run through the Mini Drop-In Center in Poipet. Social workers and Child-Safe 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.

Resuming its full operational schedule following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mobile Library successfully reached a total of 1,448 children (774 girls) in communities located in Poipet, O'Chrov and Malai districts with key messages on the importance of education, reading, safe migration, and health & hygiene practices. Children attending the ML sessions were able to access a wide range of literature (children's literature, story books, non-fiction books, school books on different subjects) as well as educational games and quizzes to stimulate their interest in

learning and encourage their commitment to education after a long period of educational disruption throughout 2021 due to Covid-19 nationwide school closures.

To promote the services of the Mobile Library and increase participation, DT staff collaborated with the local authorities to distribute their contact cards and other promotional material (posters and leaflets) with key information about the Drop-in Centre and the Mobile Library in the target communities.



# Emergency Alternative Care (EAC)

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 and Caritas, a center for Emergency Alternative Care (EAC) to provide immediate care, shelter, education, and resources to children as we assess the possibilities for family reintegration.

The EAC program has two phases: the Reception Center and Transitional Care Facility. Children in both phases of EAC receive both group and individual counselling sessions and are taught different techniques for recovering from past trauma. In addition, DT provides education, medical care, group activities, and nutritious meals to children in EAC while family or community reintegration is assessed.

## Reception Center (RC)

The RC is the first phase in DT's EAC program and provides immediate and emergency care to children under 16 years old who have been separated from their families. The RC offers the short-term provision of necessary services while options for family reintegration are being assessed by social workers. Children receive education, medical care, and learn daily life skills such as learning to live together, respecting each other, etc.

With Covid-19 restrictions having eased since January 2022, the RC resumed all activities according to schedule throughout 2022. Overall, 26 children (14 girls) were housed at the RC in 2022. All children housed at the RC engaged in recreational activities including handicrafts, home gardening, traditional Khmer dancing, meditation, and sports in the morning. In the afternoon, they attended classes in numeracy, literacy, Khmer language and English.

In 2022, 7 of the children housed at the RC were reintegrated into their families. The family tracing operations and family reintegration process for children at the RC is often complicated and time-consuming since many children who left for Thailand at a young

age may not remember their home address or even their hometown or native province upon returning to Cambodia. To help with these efforts, DT relies heavily on the 3PC network of NGOs working in child protection. Scattered around the country, this network collaborates to piece together any information returning children may have in order to locate family members who are viable for reintegration.



A generous donation from our donor, First Hand Volunteers, provided the children at the RC with a brand new wardrobe for 2022.

## Transitional Care Facility (TCF)

The TCF is the second phase of DT's EAC program available 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.

Over the course of 2022, a total of 35 children (13 girls) were housed at the TCF, a number slightly below the capacity of 40 children. The slight underachievement is due to the decrease of unaccompanied minors arriving at the Child Migrant Office (CMO) since the Thai-Cambodian border reopened (for reasons explained above, please see section on CMO), therefore impacting the number of referrals to the RC and the TCF.

### Plans for 2023:

One issue with the current EAC arrangement is the wide range of ages (5-16) that DT accommodates. It can be complicated for the younger children to adjust to living with older youth in a new setting. To address this, DT's team will use a personal coaching approach to educate the younger children in the RC who will be integrated into the TCF to prepare them in advance so that they will gradually become more independent and ready for the transition.



**69**  
Beneficiaries in EAC



**22**  
Children reintegrated into family/community

## Group Home (GH)

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.



**9**  
Beneficiaries



## Alternative Care Program Excursion to Pursat

From the 19th to 21st of September, 32 children from the Reception Centre (RC) and from the Transitional Care Facility (TCF) participated in a 3-day trip to explore the landscapes and waterfalls in Phnom Mouy Pan Brahma mountains, located in western Cambodia, around 270km south of Poipet.

The objective of the trip was to allow children to experience hiking and camping in the mountains, to provide children with life skills, and to learn about subsistence farming in the mountains. For most of the children at the RC, it was the first leisure trip of this kind that they had participated in and a unique opportunity

to explore and learn about Cambodia's biodiversity.

Excursions are an important aspect of DT's Alternative Care program as they allow children to experience part of the country that they otherwise would not be able to access. In addition, the excursions provide the experience of a family holiday which is therapeutic and enjoyable for both children and staff.

The excursion to Pursat was the first major trip in two years the children were able to take following the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions nationwide.



## 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.

### Plans for 2023:

DT will shift the focus of Skillful Parenting Workshops to Neak Loeng, where the set target of 10 parents could not be reached due to cash flow constraints (due to priority being given to workshops for parents with children with severe disabilities).



# 38

Parent and Caregiver Participants



Try Mao, Outreach Team Leader in Neak Loeng, leads a Parenting Workshop.

## Medical Clinic

DT's medical clinic in Poipet focuses on reducing child malnutrition and child mortality. We work directly with mothers in the community to provide education about nutrition. Our clinic also educates children and youth about sexual and reproductive health which is typically a taboo topic in Cambodia.

DT's has a brick-and-mortar clinic at the main center in Poipet where clients are able to come directly to receive support and services. This is also the clinic that services the children in Alternative Care.

In addition, DT's medical team also conducts community outreach, providing essential services and

education to community members who otherwise would not have access to medical services.

Unfortunately, DT had to close all of the programs of the Medical Clinic in 2022 due to the doctor retiring and there were challenges finding someone to replace her, as well as funding. Currently, DT is referring children to local hospitals, which is working well. DT will continue to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of the referral system and if there is a need for a medical clinic.



# 33%

of newborn deaths in Cambodia are preventable

- Angkor Hospital Cambodia



# Safe Migration

After a two-year closure following the breakout of Covid-19, the border crossing between Poipet (Cambodia) and Aranyaprathet (Thailand) – which was previously open only for shipments of goods amid pandemic restrictions – was finally reopened on 1st May 2022 following a push from the Thai authorities.

However, undocumented border crossings to Thailand remained prevalent throughout the year. In the case of the target beneficiaries of Damnok Toek, the vast majority of whom are undocumented migrants without the resources to pay for legal migration documents, the reopening of the border has not had any significant impact on unsafe migration flows thus far.

## Child Migrant Office (CMO)

The CMO 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 2022, a total of 31,727 irregular migrants (14,564 girls and women – 45.9%) transited through the Poipet Transit Centre (PTC). Out of those, 3,700 were children and youths (1,857 girls) who received support from the CMO for their basic needs (food, hygiene supplies) and transportation costs to allow them to return to their homes. Finally, 18 among them were unaccompanied minors (6 girls).

In 2022, only 5 children were referred by the CMO to Damnok Toek's Reception Centre (RC), compared to the annual capacity of 20 children. This is due to the decrease in the number of children transiting alone through the Poipet Transit Centre (PTC) in 2022 due to more children being accompanied with family and shifts in the Thai policy toward migrant children.



**3,700**  
Beneficiaries



**18**  
Unaccompanied  
Minors

## Future's Office

The Futures Office (FO) 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 in Poipet – including casinos, factories, KTVs, restaurants and construction – slowly reopening after the Covid-19 measures have been lifted, 2022 was a particularly busy year for the Future Office which saw a total of 604 beneficiaries (290 women) registered, seeking for job opportunities primarily in the construction, hospitality, garment, and NGO sectors. Over the course of 2022, FO successfully found a job placement for 111 clients (61 women), in the

following sectors: construction, gardening, security, laundry & cleaning services, cooking, garment factories, private tutoring, teaching in schools, as well as in the NGO and bank sectors.

In 2022, the Future's Office moved to a new and more central location. The site is closer to popular landmarks in Poipet, making it easier for beneficiaries to locate. In addition, the new building is much larger with greater capacity to host workshops and classes.



**604**

Beneficiaries



**111**

Job Placements

## 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.

In 2022, the FO office has provided funding to 30 families, out of which 19 are families of the children studying at DT's NFE centre in Poipet. Most of the small businesses set up by the families are selling

mobile food, buying and selling scrap, and raising chickens and pigs. FO staff have also provided ongoing training to help the target clients strengthen their business and sales skills, customer service, money management, and the quality of their products.



**30**

Beneficiaries

For more info  
about DT's IGA  
efforts, scan the  
QR Code here



## Vocational Training (VT)

VT is available for youth aged 16-24. The program places participants in apprenticeships where they learn certain trades from local professionals. DT covers the cost of the apprenticeship.

The aim of the program is to support those who do not wish to or cannot continue their education to increase their job skills in a trade that will help them gain better employment in the future. Currently, DT has active partners and supports VT in beauty salons, barber shops, and mechanic shops.

DT staff assisted 10 young people (3 women) under the age of 18 to find a vocational training placement: generally speaking, men tend to choose motor repairing or welding training programs, and computer courses, whilst women opt for hairdressing, tailoring/sewing. However, staff have observed many of the youth involved with vocational training need to be monitored as family issues can strongly impact their attendance and performance. Having observed an increase of reported cases of domestic violence spurred by the socioeconomic decline resulting from the pandemic, Damnok Toek staff decided to provide counselling support alongside a small stipend covering travel and food costs to students in our vocational training programs in order to encourage them to complete their training.



**10**

Youth Participants



## Vuthy\*

When the Covid-19 pandemic forced Vuthy's parents to migrate to Thailand in search of work, he dropped out of school to move with them. The conditions were tough for a 15-year-old: he worked manual labour for very little money and often went hungry. When the border between Cambodia and Thailand reopened, Vuthy decided to move back with his sister.

It had been three years since Vuthy had attended school and he felt he had fallen too far behind in his studies to re-enrol. However, he knew without a degree or versatile work skills, he would never be able to progress professionally past the construction site.

He learned about DT's Vocational Training program from a friend and was taken on as a mechanic's apprentice. Vuthy is now one month into the job, he is learning new skills and now hopes to one day open his own garage to fix bikes and support his family.

*“ I like working here. I am learning new skills to be able to support myself in the future. ”*

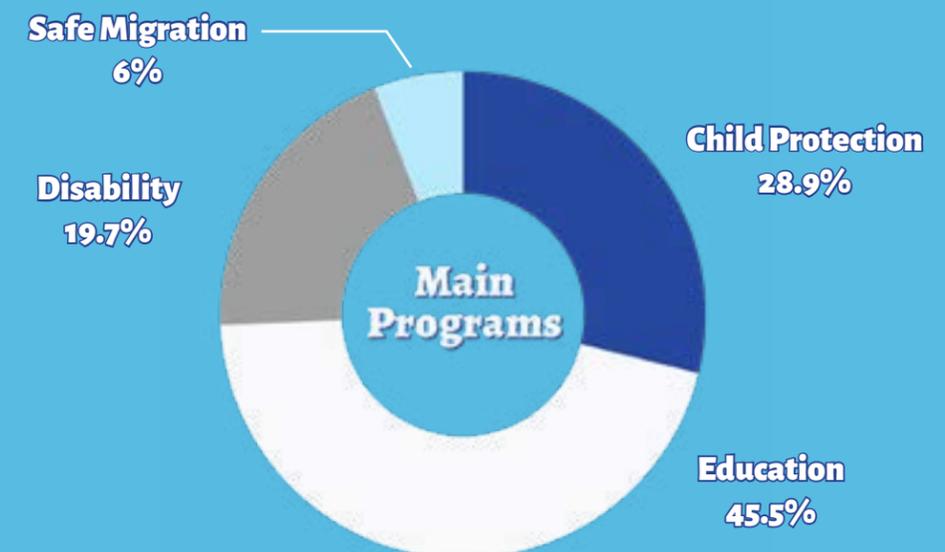
-Vuthy, age 17

\*name has been changed to protect identity



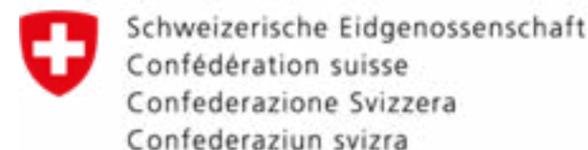
# Financial Report

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Annual Grant Income	\$1,119,292	\$891,636
Other Income	\$19,141	\$13,897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,138,433</b>	<b>\$905,533</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Project Costs	\$423,517	\$553,334
Direct Personnel Costs	\$514,917	\$455,222
Administrative Expenses	\$197,821	\$29,898
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,136,255</b>	<b>\$1,038,454</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,178</b>	<b>(\$132,921)</b>



# Special thanks to:

## Our Donors



## Our Network



# Contact Us

## Damnok Toek Organization

LayAnn Building, Street 192, Tuek L'ak Bei,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## Enquiries

### General

admin\_hr@damnoktoek.org

 [damnoktoek.org](http://damnoktoek.org)

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និងគ្រួសាររបស់ពួកគេ

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To assist vulnerable  
children and their families.

**damnoktoek.org**

**2022**