

Damnok Toek Annual Report 2024



សម្ព័ន្ធនាយកដ្ឋាន
នៃគ្រួសារមេស្តតូក

To assist vulnerable
children and their families.

Table of Contents

About Us	2
How We Help	4
Message from the Chairman of the Board	5
Message from the Executive Director	6
2024 Highlights	7
Disability Programme	10
Safe Migration Programme	15
Financial Report	23
Special Thanks	24
Donate - Contact Us	25

About Us

Damnok Toek (DT) is a Cambodian NGO specialising in disability, child protection, education, and safe migration. DT works in various locations to ensure the most vulnerable children and their families have their basic needs met and can access their full potential. Since our founding in 1997, DT's scope of work has continued to adapt to the changing needs of Cambodia's most vulnerable population. Our work focuses on providing sustainable services to vulnerable children and their families to help them build a better future for themselves. Our programmes are operational in three provinces in Cambodia and serve 5,000 beneficiaries annually.

Throughout our 28 years of operation, we have developed a reputation as a leader in disability and child protection, specifically providing services in education, safe migration, alternative care, and family reintegration. Our work relies on collaboration between multiple actors, including other NGOs, local and national authorities, community members, and specialised partner institutions. This network and our tireless staff's dedication allow us to continue improving the lives of thousands of children, 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.



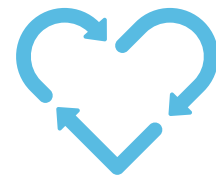
Protection

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.

DT is committed to the following SDG - 2030:



How We Help

Child Protection

Refers to measures and actions taken to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children. **To protect vulnerable and marginalized children, DT has developed outreach, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs.** DT's educators reach out to children and their families and refer them to DT or other organisations' programs to ensure their safety.

Safe Migration

To prevent unsafe migration of children and their families between Cambodia and Thailand as well as human trafficking, DT has developed **prevention programs including capacity building, job-skills training, and education about the dangers of unsafe migration.**

Disability

To respond to the lack of advocacy, support, and programmes for children and young adults with intellectual and/or physical disabilities in Cambodia, **DT has developed innovative projects including adapted residential care, rehabilitation, formal training for people working in the field of disability, support for families as well as outreach and awareness raising in the communities.**

Education

To help children and their families access a better future, DT has developed **non formal education classes for out of school children as well as apprenticeships for teenagers and young adults** to learn their skills from local professionals (beauty salons, barber shops, mechanic shops).



Message from the Chairman of the Board

As we reflect on another year of impactful work and progress in our 2024 Annual Report, I am filled with immense gratitude and optimism for the future of Damnok Toek (DT). This year marks a significant moment in our journey, characterised by both heartfelt farewells and exciting new beginnings.

Firstly, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors and the DT family, I wish to extend our deepest and most sincere appreciation to Dr. Sam Sovannarith. Having known Dr. Sovannarith since the very early years of DT's inception, it is with a profound sense of respect that I acknowledge his extraordinary 27 years of unwavering dedication and visionary leadership. He has decided to step down from his role as Executive Director, and his commitment has been the bedrock of DT's success, transforming countless lives and building a legacy of compassion and resilience for vulnerable children and their families. His tireless efforts have shaped DT into the impactful organisation it is today, and for that, we are eternally grateful. We wish him all the very best.

As Dr. Sam Sovannarith moves into a new role as DT Senior Advisor, we are equally thrilled to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Im Norin, who joined us as our new Executive Director in October 2024. Mr. Norin's appointment represents a generational change for the Executive Director position, bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to lead DT

into its next phase of growth. We are confident that his leadership will build upon Dr. Sovannarith's remarkable foundation, guiding DT to even greater heights in our mission.

Furthermore, I am delighted to welcome a distinguished group of individuals who have joined our Board of Directors in 2024. Their willingness to dedicate their time, expertise, and passion to our cause is truly inspiring. Please join me in extending a heartfelt welcome to our new board members: Ms. Neou Reaksmey, Ms. Megan Clavier, Ms. Cristina Masso Riera, Mr. Thai Bunthek, Mr. Hem Panha, and Mr. Chan Savoeung. Each of them brings unique strengths and a profound commitment to our mission. Their decision to join us is a powerful demonstration of their dedication and good heart to help vulnerable children and their families thrive.

The collective wisdom, experience, and passion of our renewed leadership and Board will undoubtedly strengthen DT's capacity to address the evolving needs of the communities we serve. Together, we look forward to continuing our vital work, fostering hope, and creating lasting positive change.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Warmest regards,


Rofich Yeb
Chairman, Board of Directors, DT



Message from the Executive Director

It is with immense excitement and a profound sense of honour that I address you for the first time as the Executive Director of Damnok Toek. Having officially joined this remarkable organisation in October 2024, I have already witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication and impact that defines our work.

Serving in this role is not merely a job for me; it is a profound privilege that aligns perfectly with my passion. I have always been deeply committed to the principles of social justice, to safeguarding the most vulnerable among us, and to ensuring that every individual is afforded their fundamental rights, dignity and opportunities. To be able to contribute to these vital endeavours through Damnok Toek is truly inspiring. I commit to doing whatever I can to help Damnok Toek not only sustain its vital operations but also to grow and expand its reach, ensuring an even greater positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

Though I have only been with Damnok Toek for three months, I have already had the invaluable opportunity to meet with our dedicated staff across all branch offices. What I have encountered has

been nothing short of inspiring: a collective spirit brimming with passion, unwavering commitment, and incredible energy for the work they do every single day. I am truly thrilled to join such a devoted team and look forward to working together with each one of them as we strive towards our shared goals.

As you delve into the pages of this 2024 Annual Report, you will discover the key highlights of our achievements. These successes are not just statistics; they are a testament to the resilience of the communities we serve, the dedication of our staff, and the invaluable support of partners. These accomplishments are rooted in our shared commitment and dedication.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am filled with optimism and a clear vision for the future. We will continue to build upon our strengths, innovate our approaches, and deepen our commitment to creating lasting change.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in our mission.

Warm regards,


Im Norin
Executive Director, DT



2024 Highlights

Strengthened Safeguarding policies to ensure best standards of care

DT underwent a **comprehensive revision process of its Safeguarding Policy and principles** under the leadership of a team of consultants, including an experienced international consultant with substantial expertise in safeguarding and with organisations working with people with disabilities. As a result, DT **reviewed and updated its Safeguarding Policy and produced a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, including a Whistleblower Policy**, which have been approved by UNICEF as compliant with its own standards for PSEA — a requirement for their grantees. As part of strengthening the safeguarding processes, DT created a **Safeguarding Committee**, which is responsible for responding to and assessing any suspicions of abuse, and will be providing training to all staff in 2025/26. This comprehensive approach underscores DT's commitment to safeguarding children and young adults and promoting a safe culture of accountability and transparency.



UNICEF has approved DT's Safeguarding, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Whistleblower Policies

In our concerted efforts to strengthen safeguarding, DT also sponsored DT's Safeguarding Focal Person, to participate in the **G. Barrie Landry Child Protection Professional Training at Harvard University in the United States of America**. The week-long training provided the DT representative with a deep understanding of child protection issues and of the leadership and negotiation skills relevant to building and sustaining effective child protection systems, both at organisational and national level.



Development of DT's Disability Strategy 2025-2030

After 20 years of working in the field of disability, with the Cambodian context changing, DT identified the need to **develop a Disability Strategy 2025-2030 to enhance its work, expand its programming to reach more direct and indirect beneficiaries, and maximize its impact** finding a balance between deinstitutionalization, inclusion, autonomy, and center-based work.

The process included a mapping of all actors in the disability field in Cambodia to understand how DT's work can better complement and respond to the real needs of people with intellectual disabilities in Cambodia today.

DT decided to concentrate on intellectual disabilities as it is what is most needed in Cambodia and where DT's expertise can bring an important added value.

A specific focus will be given to the role of female carers of children with intellectual disabilities, considering their specific vulnerabilities and increasing DT's support at community level, as well as on using DT's field work for advocacy purposes with the aim of changing the legal and political framework in Cambodia towards a more inclusive one that represents the needs of all.

The development of the Disability Strategy 2025-2030 contributes to strengthening the quality and sustainability of DT's disability programmes.

In this annual report we would like to present in more detail the core outcomes and achievements of the two main pillars of DT's work:

A- Disability Programme

B- Safe Migration Programme

A- Disability Programme



People with disabilities remain among the most marginalised groups in Cambodia. Cultural misconceptions, limited public awareness, and the lack of inclusive services contribute to their social exclusion and vulnerability to discrimination and rights violations. Despite government commitments, access to essential services such as education, healthcare, employment, and social protection remains severely limited. DT's innovative projects respond to these conditions including outreach, shelters, rehabilitation, support for families, raising awareness among the population, and formal training for people working in the field of disability.

It is essential for DT to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, through its programmes in Neak Loeung and Kep which together form a continuum of care from early childhood to adulthood, promoting autonomy, inclusion, and the full participation of people with intellectual disabilities in the Cambodian society:

Neak Loeung Rehabilitation & Day Care Centre (DCC):

Offers therapeutic and development services which include physiotherapy, sensory stimulation, occupational therapy, etc. to children with disabilities living in the Transitional Small Group Homes (TSGH) and to children in the community living with their families.

The **TSGH** offer family-like residential care to children with complex disabilities who cannot be taken care of by their families. Each child has a personalized individual development plan which addresses its needs in terms of development and rehabilitation. When suitable, children are supported to reintegrate into their families or transition to the Kep residence and farm to continue developing life skills in a more independent setting.

53 Children with disabilities received care at the DCC

Neak Loeung Outreach Programme:

Supports the families taking care of their children with disabilities at home, offers respite care to the families, and strengthens family involvement by intensifying activities in the outreach programming and peer support group, including advocacy training. It also serves as a preventive measure by stabilising family dynamics, reducing the risk of neglect or abandonment, and enhancing the overall well-being, protection and inclusion of children with disabilities. In 2025, DT will continue to identify new families to benefit from the Outreach Programme.

31 Children and their families were supported through home based care.

Kep Farm and Residence:

Provide long-term, holistic support to young adults with intellectual disabilities. The Residence delivers 24/7 care to beneficiaries who require constant support in a safe, structured environment, while the **Semi-Independent Living Arrangement (SILA)** supports young adults in building life skills through daily routines and self-advocacy training.

When possible, residents transition from one living environment to another: In 2024, 4 residents moved from the Residence to the SILA and 4 residents moved from the SILA to community-based living. When living in the community under the supervision of the Kep team, they continue to engage in part-time farm-based activities, gaining practical and social skills.

27

Young adults with intellectual disabilities live at the Kep farm

Augmentative and Alternative Communication tools to safeguard children with disabilities in Neak Loeung

In 2024, DT strengthened its child safeguarding efforts by introducing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) training in Neak Loeung's disability programmes. **In collaboration with Organisation to Improve Communication (OIC Cambodia), this initiative equipped staff and caregivers with practical tools to help children with intellectual and communication challenges express concerns related to situations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.** As a result, 45 children with disabilities benefited directly from the use of AAC tools, enhancing their ability to communicate and participate in safeguarding processes. In addition, four families received support and tools to better understand their children's needs and improve daily communication. DT will now **embed these approaches into its broader programmes in all three locations to ensure all children cared for by the organisation** have the same rights and abilities to share concerns around safeguarding and child protection issues.

Advancing inclusive care and employment skills for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities in Kep

DT expanded its capacity to support adults with intellectual disabilities in Kep by focusing on communication and vocational readiness. This was made possible through the technical expertise of OIC Cambodia and a specialist in disability-inclusive employment and job coaching. **Training sessions in safe and empathic care were organised for 18 staff members and three residents, focusing on independence, hygiene, and behaviour management.** A follow-up training on pre-vocational skills was held at the beginning of August for 15 participants, including both staff and residents. This training facilitated the development of individualised support and learning plans to better prepare residents for employment.

Together, these efforts have greatly improved DT's ability to support young adults with intellectual disabilities through person-centred care and skills development, creating stronger pathways towards inclusion and independence.

Impacting lives



Channy's journey to greater autonomy and inclusion

Channy* is a 15 years old boy living with cerebral palsy in Prey Veng Province. When Channy lost his father in 2012, he was raised by his mother. Due to the family's limited income and lack of experience in caring for a child with disability, Channy faced significant challenges. He was undernourished, immobile, unable to sit or sleep comfortably due to a spinal deformity (scoliosis) and had never gone to school.

In 2019, following an assessment carried out by local authorities, Channy and his mother were referred to DT's Rehabilitation & Day Care Centre in Neak Loeung. There, he and his mother received medical and psychosocial support, and benefitting from DT's partner services, he

underwent a complex spinal surgery at the Children's Surgical Center in Phnom Penh. Since the surgery and continued physical therapy, Channy has made huge progress: he can now sit independently, bathe himself, move around with his wheelchair, and even help with small household tasks. His mother gained valuable experience from DT's physical therapists and received training in disability care through the family peer support groups, which improved support at home. Inspired by his progress and independence, nowadays, Channy has developed a passion for learning English. "I want to become an English teacher and a story writer", Channy shared, highlighting his motivation to contribute to his community and express himself through education and storytelling.

“ I want to become an English teacher and a story writer ”

His journey illustrates the positive impact of inclusive care, timely medical support, and continued encouragement. With access to appropriate services, children like Channy can stay in their community, gain greater independence, develop their potential, and participate more fully in society.

**The name has been changed in order to protect his identity.*



Rathana's transition to living in the local community

Rathana*, a 32 year old woman with multiple disabilities, is known for her nurturing spirit, self-reliance, and strong sense of responsibility. Originally from Kampong Chhnang province, she faced significant hardships, including family separation and limited opportunities for education and employment. In 2018, she was found by a government official in poor health conditions and was referred to DT for long-term residential support at the Kep Farm.

Rathana initially lived at the main residence at Kep, participating in the daily activities in the residence and farm and demonstrating her very sociable and caring personality through her interactions with fellow residents and staff. The Kep team developed a long-term individualised development plan to help her achieve her optimal level of autonomy and independence. Over time Rathana was able to move to the Kep Semi-Independent Living Arrangements (SILA).

In 2023, Rathana started working part-time at a guest house close to the Kep residence. However, she struggled to adapt to the working environment, feeling insecure and isolated, and it was decided that she needed more support to better prepare her for employment. DT worked with an expert to develop capacity building tools to develop pre-vocational and community living skills and attitudes which enabled Rathana to move from the SILA to independent living in Kep community with another female resident in October 2024 (under the supervision of the Kep team).

At the same time, Rathana started an internship at the Kep Farm where she is responsible for cleaning the offices and the common areas, assisting the cook, and supporting the staff to organise and lead daily social and creative activities for the other residents. Rathana also participates in workshops and peer support groups to further build her self-advocacy skills and confidence.

Over time, Rathana has become more self-sufficient, independently commuting between her home and the Kep residence for work and managing her daily tasks with ease. Driven by her desire for greater independence, her next goal is to secure employment at a local guesthouse or hotel.

**The name has been changed in order to protect her identity.*

B- Safe Migration Programme



Much of DT's Safe Migration work occurs in Poi Pet due to its proximity to the Thai border. Poi Pet remains a highly challenging environment; the informal labour market and the multitude of casinos and online gambling locations mean many jobs remain unstable, fostering an environment of unsafe migration and trafficking. Many Cambodians choose to cross into Thailand in search of more lucrative job opportunities. Unfortunately, many individuals move their families with them, which often results in children leaving school to work or beg in order to help support the family. In 2024, 73 children received support from the Child Migration Office (CMO) either through family reunification or referrals to other services. **Child protection** and **education** are key to support the work of DT in the field of Safe Migration:

Child Protection

Child protection is at the heart of DT's work. Implemented projects provide immediate services to children in unsafe situations and help strengthen families to mitigate situations that put children at greater risk. In 2024, DT enhanced the alignments of its projects in Poi Pet to optimise synergies between programmes and maximise their impact on the lives of children and families.

- The Drop-In Centre played a key role in identifying 780 at-risk children in the community and provided them with a safe space, life and social skills support, and child protection services.
- DT's Alternative Care programmes offer a safe place to live and get care for a temporary period to children who are unstable or unsafe to stay with family due to trafficking, abuse or exploitation. In 2024, DT provided care to 64 children through its Alternative Care facilities.

Education

Education is crucial to support children and their families. Thanks to DT's awareness programme, **186 children were directly referred and enrolled in public schools and 160 new children joined DT's Non-Formal Education (NFE)** programmes offering classes to help children (re)integrate public school as soon as they are ready, and no later than after Grade 6.

623

623 children followed NFE classes in Poi Pet and Neak Loeng

124

124 children were reintegrated from NFE to public school.



Futures Office

As a cross-cutting service to all Safe Migration projects in Poi Pet, the Futures Office offers support, soft skills, and vocational training to teenagers and young adults. It strengthens families economically and socially to prevent unsafe migration, mitigate child labour, and/or allow children living in residential care to reintegrate their families. In 2024, the FO provided a variety of services to 260 family members of children benefitting from DT's programmes.

192 192 beneficiaries found a job

51 51 beneficiaries opened a small business

External evaluation of DT's Safe Migration interventions in Poi Pet and Neak Loeung

An external evaluation of the 'Safe Migration Cambodia' project (SaMiCa 2022-2024) conducted mid-2024 confirmed that **DT has been effective in the achievement of multiple targets with a direct positive influence on 1,137 children and their families.**

Non-formal education continues to be an effective prevention intervention for unsafe migration

Enrolment of children into Non-Formal Education (NFE) in Poi Pet and Neak Loeung has far exceeded expectations, with promotion rates for students remaining high. These children are victims of unsafe migration, child labour, and other kinds of exploitation, which prevented them to enrol or have led them to drop out of public school. The external evaluation highlighted the quality of teaching and support at the NFE centres in Poi Pet and Neak Loeung. DT was successful in retaining 863 children in its NFE programming during the period of the SaMiCa project, exceeding the target number for individual students by 38% and annually more than 80% of the students in Poi Pet and Neak Loeung NFEs were promoted to the next grade through successful completion of annual exams. Enrolment into public schools also significantly exceeded targets with a total of 448 children enrolled in NFE successfully integrated into public schools during phase 1 of the SaMiCa project and 395 children directly enrolled into public school.

Although DT aims to reduce child labour to zero, 4% of the children attending NFE in Poi Pet reported engaging in income-related activities (e.g. waste collection, begging, etc.) outside of their school hours. This underlines the importance for DT to continue strengthening its work to reduce child labour and unsafe migration in Poi Pet's complex context of extreme poverty.

The external evaluation report also confirmed the **significant impact of the ChildSafe Hotline with 2,883 calls received, a network of 101 trained and active ChildSafe Agents (CSA), and 15 Peer Educator-led youth clubs that reached 3,103 children.** The hotline and partnerships with community-level governance structures provide DT's beneficiaries with information and access to services that can address and alleviate underlying causes of unsafe migration, child abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and neglect.

Child protection: a key component for children at risk of unsafe migration

Under the protection component, DT has been effective in reducing family separation and long-term residential care of children. Indeed, DT has improved its capacity to provide care and support pathways for children and their families. As a result, separation has been avoided and DT has provided safe family-based care and support options in alignment with the Ministry of Social Affairs' policy. This shift towards family-based care demonstrates an evolving understanding of the benefits of reducing residential care for children. However, when it is unsafe for the children to live with their families, they join DT's alternative care facilities. The external evaluation report shows that children residing at DT's alternative care facilities in Poi Pet express high satisfaction with the quality of care and services they receive.

While reintegration has remained challenging, the external evaluation highlighted the strong performance of DT in managing the safe and sustainable reintegration of children into their families. In 2024, 64 children lived in DT's alternative care facilities: **18 in the Reception Centre and 46 in the Transitional Care Facility while 25 children were successfully reintegrated into their families or another form of family-based care.**

Futures Office: providing income-generation opportunities as prevention from unsafe migration

The Futures Office services were strengthened in 2024 becoming more integrated and coordinated with DT's other projects in Poi Pet. The external evaluation recognised that the Futures Office is essential for reducing unsafe migration, the vulnerability of children, and family separation, and that its services improve and sustain better livelihoods for children and their families.

DT also built up its Income Generating Activities (IGA) in 2024. An assessment conducted with 20 IGA recipients (19.5% of the total number of beneficiaries) showed impressive outcomes with **85% of respondents reporting improved income levels, 90% reporting skills development following the IGA training, and 70% reporting that they considered their IGA to be sustainable without any further support.**

An exchange visit about Community Kindergartens best practices and lessons learned

DT believes that when families and communities prioritise child education, including early childhood education, it is a key factor in mitigating unsafe migration. Thus, as part of DT's Safe Migration programmes, support is provided to establish and run community kindergartens for a start-up period of two years, after which the community takes full responsibility.

In December 2024, an exchange visit was organised for a Poi Pet delegation to visit the Neak Loeung kindergartens which have proven to be long-term, successful, and sustainable in their operations. The Poi Pet delegation (community leaders, kindergarten teachers, and DT Poi Pet staff) got a first-hand opportunity to observe the kindergartens in operation and to meet and talk with teachers, children, and local community leaders.

The kindergartens in Prey Veng shared valuable information such as the importance to establish a community kindergarten support committee to secure long-term sustainability after DT's support ends. This committee must demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting the kindergarten, teachers, and parents in planning, securing sufficient resources, and maintaining close dialogue to address challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, collaboration and communication between all relevant community kindergarten stakeholders are key to the successful operation of the kindergartens. Indeed, community kindergartens are grassroots-based with voluntary and self-support from community members and local authorities which requires a strong mindset and a shared commitment from an active civil society.

The exchange visit was very successful, and the Poi Pet delegation returned with new inspiration and ideas to continue providing community kindergarten services to children and their families in Poi Pet and surrounding communities. For DT, it was a valuable experience to facilitate cross-learning between its branches and their target communities.



Since 2021...

3 new community kindergartens have been established in Prey Veng province

1 new community kindergarten was established in Poi Pet

Impacting lives

A Migrant Family and DT's Continuum of Support Approach

Married couple Mrs. Sokly and Mr. Meng* originally from Battambang Province, faced severe hardship after Sokly was injured by a landmine in 1993 causing a permanent disability. Having returned from Thailand in 1998, Meng remigrated to Thailand in 2001 this time accompanied by his wife and children. In 2017 the family experienced a tragedy when one of their children died in a road traffic accident. The family decided to return to Cambodia with the help of a broker. The lack of employment and income opportunities led the family to a debt of \$10,000. They had to sell what little land they had in Battambang to repay some of the loan and decided to relocate to Poi Pet to find employment opportunities.

The situation impacted significantly on Meng and Sokly's children who all dropped out of school before completing their primary education. This concerned both parents who realized that without completing their studies, their children would not be able to find good employment and would themselves be vulnerable to unsafe migration and exploitation, hence continuing the poverty cycle of the family.

In April 2024, Sokly attended a community awareness activity conducted by DT's Outreach team. DT Social Workers learned about the family's situation and the impacts on both Sokly's mental health and wellbeing Meng's increasing reliance on alcohol to cope with the anxiety of the family's situation. Over a seven-month period, DT's social workers visited Sokly and her family 17 times to discuss and analyze their strengths and challenges, and to develop a plan to enable them to overcome the issues impacting all family members.

The plan included enrolling the youngest child in DT's NFE program while his elder sibling was referred to the Futures Office for career counselling. The young man expressed interest in learning motorcycle maintenance and the team supported him in finding a training placement with a motorcycle garage business in Poi Pet. An allowance enabled the young man to contribute to the income of the household while learning the skills he would use in his future employment.

Sokly found employment as a cleaner, doubling the family's monthly income enabling the family to cover household costs and make loan repayments of \$90 per month. By the end of 2024, the family had saved enough money for Sokly to purchase a motorbike for her commute to work each day, reducing her travel time and enabling her to spend more time with her youngest child after work. Sokly plans to establish a mobile business selling Thai and Khmer street food and over time the family plans to save enough funds to enable them to purchase their own home.

Sokly has become more confident in her family's future. She and her family members have developed skills to analyse their problems and find solutions together and know how to access resources and services that can help them achieve their individual and shared objectives and goals.

**All names have been changed to protect the anonymity of beneficiaries*

“ Peer educators play a critical role in the prevention of child exploitation, abuse, and neglect in the community ”



Ensuring Child Protection through Peer Educator Intervention

Denh* is an eight-year-old boy from Banteay Meanchey Province, who is studying Grade 2 at local primary school and lives with his parents and three siblings. His family has experienced many challenges including lack of employment and income and chronic health conditions due to prolonged alcohol dependence.

DT has known Denh for some time as he enjoys attending the mobile library activities with his siblings. One of DT's peer educator (Sambath) reported in 2023 that Denh's family financial situation was very precarious and that Denh and his siblings were extremely vulnerable. A social worker from DT's Outreach programme immediately visited Denh's family to conduct an assessment and organise an emergency food support package for the family.

In May 2024, Sambath met Denh and quickly noticed that he did not look healthy and seemed very withdrawn and sad. Knowing that he could trust the peer educator Denh explained that he had dropped out of school because his father was forcing him to work very long hours during each day and night. Denh also shared that he was very afraid of his father who would physically harm him if he did not earn at least 15000 to 20000 Riel (\$3.75-\$5) every day.

Realising that Denh was extremely vulnerable and at risk, Sambath contacted the Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC), the authorities, and DT via the ChildSafe Hotline to report his concerns. DT immediately mobilised its social workers and, in collaboration with the CCWC representative and the village leader, visited Denh's family. When meeting with Denh's father, DT's experienced team quickly understood that to ensure that Denh and his siblings were no longer at risk and that Denh was able to

return to school, the whole family would need support to overcome the economic and social issues that had been impacting them. The following key actions contributed to turning around Denh's family situation showing the importance of multifactorial interventions to address situations of such extreme vulnerability:

- Sambath and other peer educators regularly visited Denh and his siblings to provide counselling and support and to encourage their interest in studying by arranging activities such as library and reading events.
- DT and the local commune authorities encouraged Denh's parents to participate in sessions on positive parenting to help them understand the causes of their challenges and develop strategies and approaches to overcome them in order to create a safe and supportive environment for their children.
- Denh re-enrolled at school and received support for school materials and uniforms. He initially struggled to resume his studies, but with encouragement from Sambath, his teachers, and his parents he is regaining his confidence in learning and is making good progress.

As a result of DT's intervention and support, Denh's father has found more stable employment increasing the family's income and Denh regularly meets with Sambath to discuss his studies and plans for the future. Peer educators play a critical role in the prevention of child exploitation, abuse, and neglect in the community as well as in providing vital information to DT and local authorities about vulnerable and at-risk children who require protection interventions.

**All names have been changed to protect the anonymity of beneficiaries*

Financial Report

In 2024, DT secured income for a total of **1,025,621 USD** from a variety of institutional donors, Foundations and other partners. This represents an increase of **11%** from 2023, a significant achievement DT is very proud of, considering the increasingly complex donor landscape in Cambodia. In 2024, DT secured **partnerships with three new funders**, contributing to a more diversified and stable donor portfolio.

INCOME	2024 in USD	2023 in USD
GRANT INCOME	1,003,343.00	915,216.00
OTHER INCOME (INDIVIDUAL DONORS, IN-KIND)	22,278.00	12,534.00
TOTAL	1,025,621.00	927,750.00
EXPENSES		
PROJECT COSTS	253,663.00	239,218.00
DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS	618,723.00	576,051.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	139,207.00	104,778.00
TOTAL	1,011,593.00	920,047.00
BALANCE	14,028.00	7,703.00

Special Thanks

Our Supporters



Our Partners

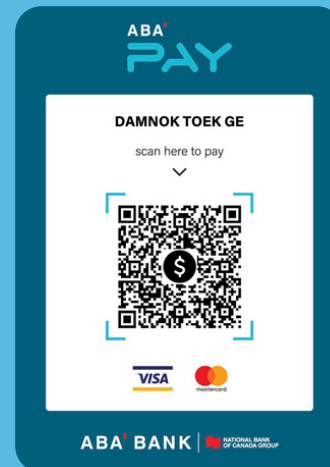


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