

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016









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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Welcome to our 2015-2016 Annual Report, looking back over a pivotal year and looking ahead to This Life Cambodia's tenth anniversary.

I feel honoured as Chair of This Life Cambodia's Board of Directors to be able to highlight our achievements over the past 12 months.

One of This Life Cambodia's major strengths remains our ability to respond to emerging community issues, with a continued focus on children within the context of their families and communities.

In 2015-2016 we focused on expanding the scale and scope of our programs and deepening the meaningful collaborative relationships that will help make this work sustainable.

Partnering with both Government and Civil Society Organisations enhances better-coordinated responses to issues affecting children, families and communities. The This Life Cambodia team continued engaging with key networks and working groups, including Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, NGO Education Partnership, NGO Forum, and the Siem Reap Social work Network, to name just a few. Our partnerships with long term supporters of This Life Beyond

Bars enabled the program to continue in 2015-2016 while we worked on developing a direct partnership with the General Department of Prisons and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will see the expansion of This Life Beyond Bars to Phnom Penh. Continued partnerships with school communities in Siem Reap Province through the Lower Secondary School Development Program resulted in increased capacity of School Support Committees to mobilise resources in their community as well as to access external resources.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of This Life Cambodia in 2017, we also want to thank our global community of supporters – the new additions to our community as well as those of you who have been with us from the very beginning. We are very pleased to announce that this year This Life Cambodia achieved Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status in Australia which will help us build up our community of support. Over the next year we'll be reaching out to you with new ways to engage in the work that we do.

Thank you for your ongoing investment and trust in us. We couldn't achieve the impact that we do without you.

Claire Coxon







# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The momentum is building and you can join us in listening to, engaging with and advocating alongside children, their families, and their communities in Cambodia as they define and act on their own solutions.

In March 2016, when our team retreated to the seaside at Kep to develop our 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, I was inspired again to hear just how much This Life Cambodia's mission informs our work every day, whatever our role. From social workers to drivers to finance staff, we are all working to keep our organisation flexible and responsive to the needs of the children and families we work with, and to help build stronger communities in Cambodia.

Three months earlier, in December 2015, I had the honour of accepting the Stars Impact Award on behalf of the This Life Cambodia team and all those we work alongside. Winning a Stars Impact Award brought This Life Cambodia into a global community of high impact organisations who are delivering cutting edge programs for children, while also achieving high standards in organisational governance.

For our team at This Life Cambodia, the Stars Impact Award is

recognition of our commitment to community-led programming. Working side by side with communities, listening to their insights and acting on their input, we have developed a range of programs that provide direct services to children and families while also supporting whole communities to take action on their priority issues.

The Stars Award funding also allowed us as an organisation to sustain our efforts in a critical year as we came to the end of the current Strategic Plan. We invested in transportation to keep our team safely on the road, filled gaps in program funding, and invested in communications, marketing and networking to help us grow.

In 2015-2016 This Life Cambodia programs directly reached 747 children and 559 adults directly, and a further estimated 10,290 children and 5,371 adults indirectly. This reach was smaller than the previous year, while we honed in on our core programming and laid important groundwork for future growth. We stepped up our efforts to engage government stakeholders in the This Life Beyond Bars Program in preparation for the passing of the Juvenile Justice Law. We started up a brand new Vocational Training Social Enterprise project that we aim to grow from year to year. And after seven years of successful programming and support from commune and district authorities, we continued implementing the Lower Secondary School Development Program in the two current partner schools while



exploring opportunities to implement at a larger, more strategic scale than ever before.

We also reinforced the links between This Life Cambodia programs and important national initiatives in juvenile justice, education and child protection. With momentum growing on these issues in Cambodia, and alongside partners and colleagues, This Life Cambodia programs continue to equip community members and local government leaders to tackle complex and inter-related issues facing families in Cambodia.

This Life Cambodia would like to thank our own community: the individuals, foundations, government agencies, fellow NGOs and local government leaders who work alongside us. We know that community development is challenging: it takes time, resources, patience and flexibility. But community members are of course the experts: they live the challenges and they know their priorities. This is true anywhere in the world, and it's an approach that we want to see much more of in Cambodia. The momentum is building and you can join us – alongside children, their families, and their communities.

With thanks for your support and collaboration,  
Billy Gorter





# ABOUT THIS LIFE CAMBODIA

Established in 2007 in Siem Reap, This Life Cambodia empowers Cambodians to make an impact on complex social justice issues, using grassroots community consultation approaches, community development techniques, and strengths-based case management for direct service provision to children and families.

This Life Cambodia's programs evolve organically, building upon our knowledge and strengths in service delivery and filling gaps as communities identify them through participatory processes, resulting in complimentary and interlinked programs.

Our strong and emerging partnerships with government and civil society partners enhance both our credibility and capacity to assist in addressing development priorities and policies of the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. While we continue to engage at the commune level in areas of greatest need, This Life Cambodia is also shifting focus to work more closely with the District level, in recognition of the capacity of district leaders to lead collaboration and promote sharing of resources across their districts.



## VISION

This Life Cambodia's vision is for vulnerable children, families and communities in Cambodia to be supported to access and create opportunities in this life



## MISSION

To listen to, engage with and advocate alongside children, families and communities as they define and act on their own solutions to complex social challenges





## VALUES

- Respecting local culture and local expertise
- Utilising rights-based and strengths-based approaches
- Contributing to evidence-based good practices
- Planning for sustainability, with clear entry and exit strategies
- Acting with Integrity, accountability and transparency



## This Life Cambodia reach 2015-2016

2015-2016 focused on continuing direct service provision and community capacity building, while laying important groundwork for future growth.

559

ADULTS

747

CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE

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DIRECT REACH

5,371 10,290

ADULTS

CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE

---

INDIRECT REACH

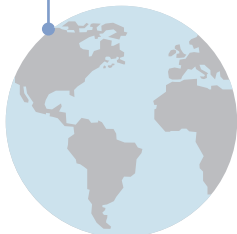
# 2015-2016 IN REVIEW



## 1st October 2015

Moto Doctor vocational training social enterprise project opens its doors in Siem Reap, offering real world training and case management support to 18 students

## SEPTEMBER 2015



## 25th September 2015

The world adopts the Sustainable Development Goals, a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

## 1st November 2015

The 2015-2016 public school year begins, along with the third year of the Lower Secondary School Development Program cycle in Chi Kraeng Songkhem and Preah Theat lower secondary schools.



## Stars Impact Award Winner 2015

## 9th December 2015

Stars Foundation announces This Life Cambodia as a 2015 award winner in recognition of high impact programming for children and high standards in organizational governance.

## In the news: 18 January 2016

"When a parent is imprisoned, the dynamics of families change...The effect of this increased family stress ranges from emotional distance between children and their parents to actual family separation in more serious cases" - TLC's Billy Gorter, in an Al Jazeera article on mothers behind bars in Cambodia.

[Read more](#)



## In the news: 29 December 2015

"We encourage the government to give priority to drafting and establishing a justice system for juveniles in Cambodia, because children deserve better" Deputy Director Chhin Se in a radio interview with Voice of America.

## 12th December 2015

Stars Impact Awards ceremony is held at the Château de Versailles in Paris. Executive Director Billy Gorter accepts the Award on behalf of This Life Cambodia, along with our fellow Cambodian award winners APLE Cambodia.





#### 26th January 2016

TLC participates in the first convening of grantees of the GHR Foundation Children in Families initiative, supporting projects that strengthen families, respond to children without family care and drive further evidence of innovative, pro-family approaches.

#### In the news: 30th May 2016

Cambodia's Juvenile Justice Law is passed by the National Assembly.

[Read more](#)



#### 1st July 2016

This Life Cambodia begins implementing the new This Life in Family Program, aiming to demonstrate replicable practices for family preservation and family support, with an initial focus on families with a parent in conflict with the law.

#### 15th April

This Life Cambodia participates in the World Childhood Foundation Regional Workshop in Siem Reap, sharing experiences with fellow grantees in the region.

[Read more](#)

#### June 2016

This Life Cambodia opens our first office in Phnom Penh, helping us stay better connected at national level.

## AUGUST 2016

## JANUARY 2016



#### 8th March

This Life Cambodia celebrates International Women's Day in Chi Kraeng Commune.



#### 28-31st March 2016

This Life Cambodia's Strategic Planning and Staff Retreat is held by the seaside in Kep, exploring our shared mission and vision for future programming.

#### In the news: 19th May 2016

An MOU signing ceremony formalises the new partnership between This Life Cambodia, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the General Department of Prisons to deliver programs for 14–18 year olds serving sentences in Phnom Penh's Correctional Centre 2.

[Read more](#)



#### 8th – 11th August 2016

RUN TLC, This Life Cambodia's biggest fundraiser of the year, as part of the City2Surf in Sydney and the Angkor Empire 10K Run. Thanks to those who ran with us and those who helped get us over the finish line!

#### 20th July 2016

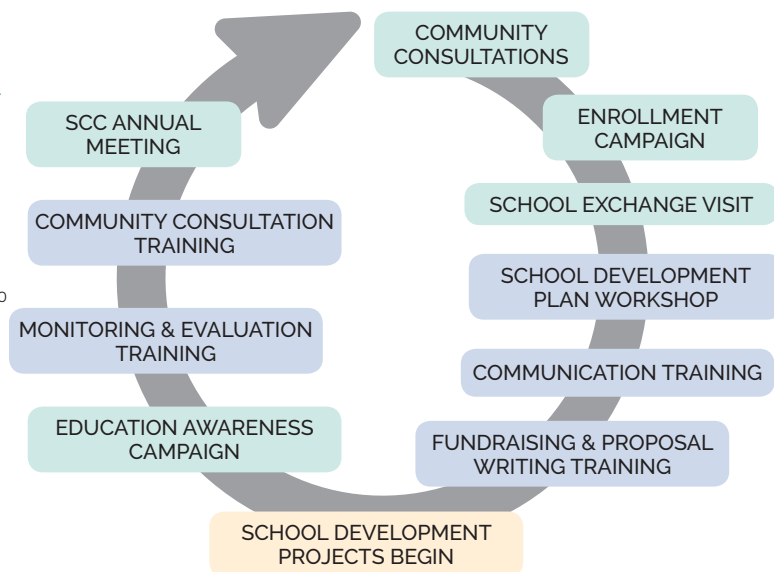
This Life Cambodia is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) in Australia, making it even easier for friends in Australia to join our community, for children, families and their communities in Cambodia!

# LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A unique, action-oriented, three-year program, the Lower Secondary School Development Program responds to one of the highest priority challenges for rural communities in Cambodia: access to quality education for children, close to home.

The Lower Secondary School Development Program supports government-mandated School Support Committees to mobilise home grown solutions to local challenges, bringing their community together to improve their local lower secondary school (Grades 7-9).

The program follows an annual Action Learning Cycle that includes training for School Support Committee members and school community events. Activities such as enrollment campaigns and community consultations provide platforms for community input into the process, while promoting awareness about the importance of education and reinforcing community ownership of the public school.



*"I have no official position in the village, but I am a mother and volunteer. Once I started raising money for the school, I found that people would contribute because I could clearly explain our purpose for fundraising...I will keep working to support the school until it no longer needs me"*

- Mother & School Support Committee member





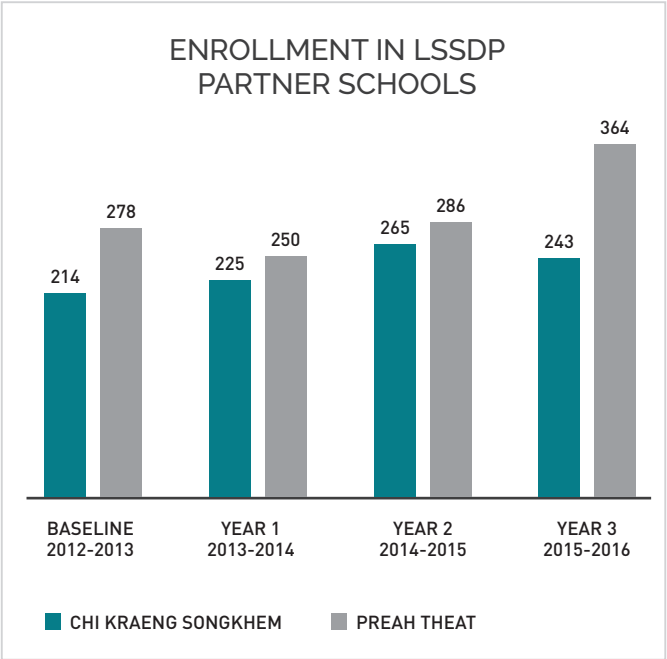
In this third year of the three-year program cycle in two partner schools, School Support Committee members in Chi Kraeng Songkhem and Preah Theat Lower Secondary Schools stepped up to lead the process of consulting their community about education-related priorities, designing strong school development plans, and taking action to meet their targets.

Rather than carrying out the full list of Action Cycle activities as in previous years, this phase-out year was more flexible, allowing the School Support Committees to prioritise their time and energy to focus on school improvement and student/teacher support initiatives.

A highlight of 2015-2016 was the knowledge sharing and mutual support between the two partner communities. School Support Committee members in both schools regularly shared their strategies and lessons learned, such as the importance of regularly attending meetings of the Commune Council and Commune Committee for Women and Children to make sure education issues are on the agenda, or strategies for engaging with the District and Provincial Offices of Education.

Improving school infrastructure has again proven to be a high priority for School Support Committee members, students, teachers and parents in both schools. A safe and child-friendly school environment is an important first priority for extremely disadvantaged schools struggling with a severe lack of resources. Prioritising improvements in infrastructure such as toilet blocks, school fences, land leveling to prevent flooding, or establishing libraries, means prioritising the safety, health and comfort of students and teachers, while reinforcing the community's ownership of a public institution that they take pride in. Improvements in infrastructure at both schools over the past three years have demonstrated the School Support Committee's commitment to their community, and motivated school stakeholders to work towards further school improvement together.

With major improvements in the school environment, School Support Committees this year also reached out to individual students and



families within their community. In their role as village chiefs, Commune Council members and neighbours, School Support Committee members responded when teachers identified students struggling with attendance or at risk of dropping out.

This Life Cambodia would like to thank our supporters around the world, in particular Brisbane Planetarium Rotary Club, Project Happy Feet, Saga Charitable Trust and the B1G1 community, who have helped support core programming costs but also directly supported the school development projects prioritised each year by the School Support Committees and their communities.



*"The school makes it known to all teachers and students that if any student has a problem getting notebooks or pens, they can propose [to the school] to provide these, and this reduces dropout." - Teacher*

## Chi Kraeng Songkhem Lower Secondary School

The Chi Kraeng Songkhem School Support Committee proudly report that every activity prioritised in their 2015-2016 School Development Plan was successfully completed, aside from the most ambitious project: the construction of an additional school building. School Development Plan projects this year balanced infrastructure improvements with initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning, such as hygiene initiatives, classroom set up, and strategies for monitoring student success. The School Support Committee members also mobilised their group to reach out to students and their families when struggling with attendance. All School Support Committee members reported visiting school regularly, and the majority also regularly visit families in their own villages to discuss students' education, actively listening and asking questions to understand the challenges, and suggesting responses.

## Preah Theat Lower Secondary School

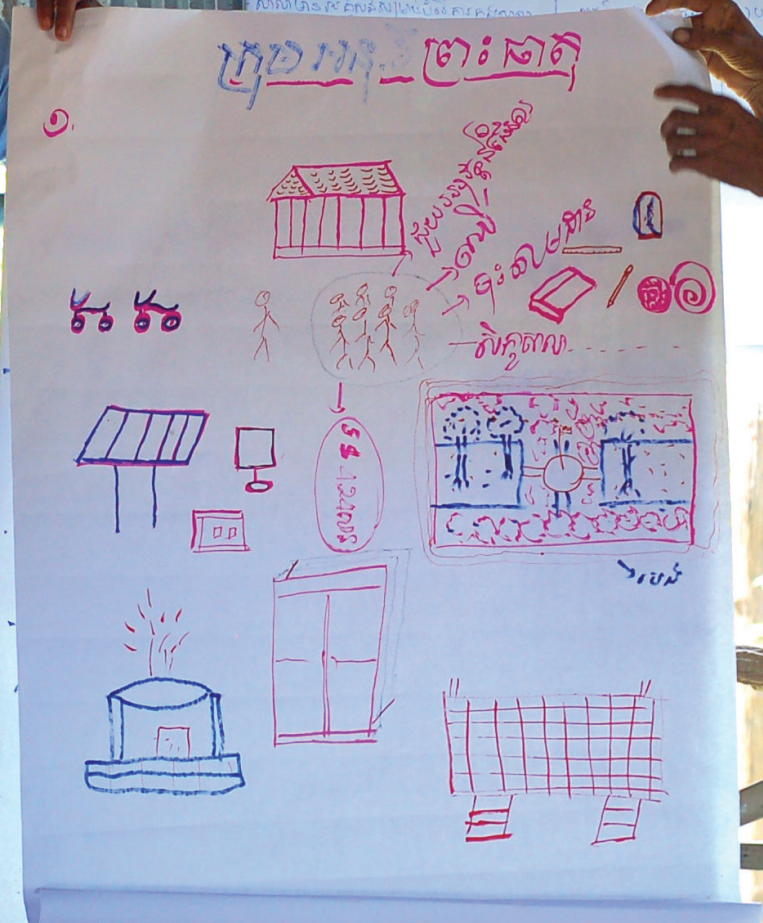
The teachers of Preah Theat Lower Secondary School have shown excellent engagement with the program since the first year, and a strong commitment to improving the situation in this challenging remote school. Through partnerships with This Life Cambodia and the Commune Council, the School Support Committee succeeded this year in constructing four rooms of accommodation for teachers, who previously stayed in the neighbouring wat or boarded with families in the community. The teacher accommodations will prove invaluable to teachers, and are a strong gesture of support from the community for their work.





① ការវាយតម្លៃស្តីពីក្រសួងស្រូវ  
 + ការគោរពបញ្ជីលក់ស្រូវបាន

លក្ខណៈលក់ស្រូវ	បញ្ហាប្រឈម	ដំណោះស្រាយ	ផល
+ ការបង្កើនដំណើរការ - មានស្រូវបង្កើនដំណើរការ (៦០-៧០%) + ស្រូវត្រូវបានដាំដុះក្នុងកម្រិតខ្ពស់ - បង្កើនលក្ខណៈស្រូវ (ស្រូវ ៤០០០)	- ខ្វះសម្ភារៈស្រាវជ្រាវ - ខ្វះបច្ចេកទេសស្រាវជ្រាវ - ខ្វះប្រាក់បៀវត្ស - ខ្វះប្រាក់បៀវត្ស	- ការគ្រប់គ្រងស្រូវ - ស្រូវត្រូវបានដាំដុះ - បង្កើនលក្ខណៈស្រូវ	- ផល - ផល





# 13

PEOPLE (2 WOMEN) - PT

# 14

PEOPLE (3 WOMEN) - CKS

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SCHOOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

# \$1350

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RAISED BY  
CKS FROM  
WITHIN THEIR  
COMMUNITY,  
FOR SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENT

# \$540

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RAISED BY  
PT FROM  
WITHIN THEIR  
COMMUNITY,  
FOR SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENT

# 607 — [ 268 BOYS 339 GIRLS

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STUDENTS (GRADES 7 – 9) REACHED BY  
THE LSSDP IN 2 SCHOOLS IN 2015-2016

# 9852 — [ 5354 BOYS 4498 GIRLS

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CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, BENEFITING FROM  
INCREASED VALUE OF EDUCATION IN THEIR  
COMMUNITIES (2 SCHOOL COMMUNITIES)

## Looking Ahead

The Lower Secondary School Development Program begins phasing out when School Support Committees are confident to continue leading the way in school development initiatives to address the needs of students and families in their community.

The program has now phased out in Chi Kraeng Songkhem Lower Secondary School, but the team will remain in touch to follow up with the School Support Committee there, and to support linkages to external resources whenever possible. The highest priority in this school remains the construction of additional classrooms for the growing student population.

The student population will also continue to grow in Preah Theat Lower Secondary School, which will expand to offer grade 10 in the new school year. In consultation with the School Support Committee and Commune Council in Khvav Commune, This Life Cambodia has decided to extend our partnership with this school for an additional year, in order to help support this transition and to reinforce community responses to the challenges faced in this particularly disadvantaged and challenging school community.

Through the Lower Secondary School Development Program This Life Cambodia supports better education opportunities for children close to home. The Lower Secondary School Development Program is set for exciting expansion in 2016/17, and will again be partnering with multiple schools per district to promote local sharing of knowledge, strategies and resources. Under This Life Cambodia's new Strategic Plan 2016-2019, the program will also continue to explore and reinforce connections with our Children & Families section programming, working to support better-connected families, and stronger communities.







# VOCATIONAL TRAINING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROJECT

In 2015 This Life Cambodia kick started a new vocational training social enterprise project in partnership with Lotus Relief Charitable Trust. The project's first enterprise, Moto Doctor, provides motor mechanics skills training and on-the job-experience in a real world setting, supporting students through their transition to adulthood and independence.

Thanks to a growing base of loyal customers – individuals, businesses and fellow NGOs alike – Moto Doctor has quickly established a reputation for high quality, convenient service in Siem Reap town.

Moto Doctor revenues support the project's social programming for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who come from struggling rural families, were referred to the program by other NGOs, or are currently living in residential care. Studying at Moto Doctor gives them additional support as they set out on their paths as independent young adults. The first cohort of students is now nearing completion of their 12 month, government-certified vocational training program in mechanics repair skills.

This Life Cambodia believes in supporting more resilient young people, better-connected families, and stronger communities. Close engagement with students' families has proven to be a key component of the program. Using a strengths-based approach, our Case Manager supported each student to develop a case plan in close consultation with their family. Through regular meetings the Case Manager kept families updated on the student's progress and encouraged parents to support students' full participation in the course. Engaging with families has helped strengthen a support system of family and community members for each student, helping to reinforce their positive progress during the program. Parents have responded positively to the program and are excited to see their sons developing practical and personal skills. Multiple parents have also been able to save money to help their sons start their own small business initiatives after graduation.

One-on-one case management is also essential to help keep students motivated and to help them navigate challenging situations. Some students are balancing pressures to work to contribute to the family income, or dealing with challenging relationships in their family. The Case Manager helps encourage students to understand that many young people are also facing these kinds of challenges. Setting clear goals can help them to focus on their own work and future



independence, and work towards supporting their families in future if this is their goal.

Personal Development classes give students frameworks and strategies for coping with challenges and planning for their future, with topics like effective communication, goal setting, alcohol & drug abuse, and nutrition. Students report positive changes in their personal development and relationships, and their parents and community members have noticed their improved behaviour too.

As the VTSE program prepares to close out its first year, the program team and students are preparing for the transition out of training and into employment, or planning the set up of enterprises of their own in their communities. Families are of course involved in the process. Though some students are nervous about the change, they will continue to have the support of their Case Manager and the Vocational Training Social Enterprise project's Business Manager for another 6 months to help them get on their feet.

*"I plan to rent a location to open his shop on the main road, and plan to spend some money that I have saved and sell a buffalo for the rest. My son already has a plan that if I cannot help him, he will buy a cart to transport his materials to the main road and provide services there. But he is confident he can make money from this job, and I will support him with the shop location." - VTSE Parent*





The first vocational training social enterprise powered by a partnership between This Life Cambodia and Lotus Relief Charitable Trust

VTSE TEAM

- 1 BUSINESS MANAGER
- 1 CASE MANAGER
- 2 VOCATIONAL TRAINERS/MECHANICS
- 1 INTERN BOOKKEEPER

12 MONTHS

LENGTH OF THE GOVERNMENT-CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

15-23

AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS

THE FIRST STUDENT COHORT TO COMPLETE THEIR COURSE AT MOTO DOCTOR

(6 referred from Siem Reap NGOs or residential care, 7 recommended by village authorities in rural Siem Reap districts)

13

GRADE 6

AVERAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED BY STUDENTS

PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

6

OPEN MY OWN BUSINESS

7

SEEK EMPLOYMENT OR ANOTHER APPRENTICESHIP



## Looking Ahead

The Vocational Training Social Enterprise project supports young people to set and meet their personal goals, which often include financial independence and the ability to contribute financially to their families. The project also aims to start a multiplier effect, where graduates can, in future, support other young people as apprentices in their own businesses.

The multiplier effect is also built into the project's social enterprise business model: the project aims to expand to new enterprises in the coming years. Project partners are now evaluating the business model and scoping potential for new enterprises, in order to ensure sustainability of the venture.

"Before, I had no work, no money, didn't know where to go. But since I started in this course I feel confident I can have a better life, because I have mechanics repair skills." - VTSE Student

# THIS LIFE BEYOND BARS

After more than a decade in draft form, Cambodia's Juvenile Justice Law was finally passed in June 2016, a huge step towards a separate Juvenile Justice System with child-friendly procedures.

The passing of the Juvenile Justice Law does not signal the end of specialised programs such as This Life Beyond Bars just yet however, as Cambodia is now taking on the challenge of full legislative implementation and mobilisation of the resources required to protect and rehabilitate children under the new legislation. In 2015-16 This Life Beyond Bars focused on partnerships for service delivery, laying the groundwork for meaningful collaboration in the years to come.

Working across the North-Western Provinces of Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Oddar Meanchey, and with a recent expansion to Correctional Centre 2 in Phnom Penh, This Life Beyond Bars supports those affected by the legal justice system in Cambodia by promoting and addressing their rights within the context of their communities. Through two projects, Vocational Training and Family Support the program ultimately aims to:

- Increase the skills, knowledge and family connection of children in prison to aid integration into their families upon release.

- Increase the resilience and connectedness of families with a parent in prison.
- Build the capacity of communities to address their own human rights issues through community development.

Aligning with the newly-passed Juvenile Justice Law as well as the General Department of Prison's 2014-18 Strategic Plan, the This Life Beyond Bars Vocational Training Project fills the gaps by providing results driven vocational training, personal development, family visitation, reintegration and post-release support for juveniles in prison.

The Family Support Project works to mitigate the impacts of separation between children and their incarcerated parents and further serves to enhance their educational outcomes via scholarships and strengthen the resilience of the family as a whole through income generation activities.

Knowing the long-term psychosocial impacts of institutionalisation and separation, TLBB works to understand and conciliate these experiences through robust case management and support interventions. By assessing the needs of an individual or family and providing support through goal orientated, solution focused problem solving, coordination, and advocacy, the program provides an organised







and structured approach from intake to case closure. Through their work in the communities, the This Life Beyond Bars team also builds awareness to help reduce the stigma associated with those in conflict with the law, who are often the most vulnerable and marginalised.

## Achievements

Now in its sixth year of delivery, This Life Beyond Bars continues to be an essential support mechanism for children and families who come into conflict with the law in Cambodia. Building on the structural integrity developed in the previous year with a newly developed program manual and Case Management System, the onset of 2015/16 brought a growth in confidence for the team. Building on this momentum, in 2015/16 the program fostered meaningful collaborations and strategic partnerships for program delivery as well as advocacy for the rights of children and families in conflict with the law in Cambodia.

Program delivery is dependent on successful engagement of prison authorities for advocacy purposes, but equally important is the aim of promoting and supporting the positive implementation of government responsibilities, those being to uphold the rights of children and families within the prison system. This year has brought great developments in this area.

In Siem Reap, through the generous support of the Direct Aid Program of the Australian Embassy in Cambodia, the program increased its direct engagement with prison authorities in program delivery. Facilitated by the translation of relevant sections of the This Life Beyond Bars program manual into Khmer, This Life Beyond Bars trained Education and Rehabilitation Officers and supported their engagement in the student selection and intake processes as well as the personal development course. Education and Rehabilitation Officers responded positively, and found it valuable to engage in these processes in order to have an understanding of the background and family situations of those in their care. This strong collaboration and support for the program by the prison authorities has been reinforced

by the Deputy Director of Siem Reap prison, who hopes to one day see the program implemented in every prison across Cambodia.

Further, our on-going partnership with World Childhood Foundation allowed the continuation of the program while looking towards expansion. The third consecutive year of World Childhood Foundation funding, secured in July, has allowed us to act upon a request from prison authorities to broaden our delivery of the Personal Development Training to an additional cohort of 40 children (separate to those participating in vocational training) across both Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey prisons. From a strategic advocacy standpoint, engaging juveniles in Personal Development training, in collaboration with Education & Rehabilitation Officers, allows the program to explore the potential to empower these Officers to recommend reduced sentences for children who demonstrate positive behaviour change.

Finally, early 2016 saw the program embark on a strategic interagency project alongside the General Department of Prisons and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), enabling the This Life Beyond Bars Vocational Training Project to expand its reach to Correctional Centre 2 in Phnom Penh, with hopes that the good practices established through the partnership will be applicable in prisons across Cambodia. The project directly involves relevant government stakeholders through the establishment of an MOU and such relationships have allowed us exciting opportunities to access and engage with national level stakeholders.

This Life Beyond Bars is now operating at scale within the three prisons with the highest population of child detainees, who together make up approximately 62% of the roughly 615 juveniles currently incarcerated in prisons throughout Cambodia. Upon successful, evidence-based outcomes and strategic partnerships, This Life Beyond Bars has thus positioned itself as an easily adopted model for a rights-based approach to rehabilitation and reintegration, in accordance with the intention of Cambodia's newly passed Juvenile Justice Law.









CHILDREN WITH A PARENT IN PRISON  
RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS TO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL, OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT THEIR  
PARENT IN PRISON, AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
PROVIDED TO THEIR CAREGIVER IN 2015-2016

— [52

42] — CHILDREN IN PRISON WITH ACCESS TO  
CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT, VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AND REGULAR VISITS FROM THEIR  
FAMILIES (INCLUDING THOSE RELEASED  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR) IN 2015-2016

22

PRIMARY CAREGIVERS  
RECEIVING INCOME  
GENERATION,  
HEALTHCARE AND/OR  
EMERGENCY SUPPORTS  
TO STRENGTHEN THEIR  
FAMILY RESILIENCE AND  
MEET BASIC NEEDS OF  
THE CHILDREN IN THEIR  
CARE WHILE A PARENT  
IS IN PRISON

19

CHILDREN RELEASED FROM  
PRISON WHO PARTICIPATED  
AS STUDENTS AND WERE  
SUPPORTED TO REINTEGRATE  
TO THEIR LIFE BEYOND BARS  
(BUSINESS START UP, FAMILY  
REINTEGRATION & CASE  
MANAGEMENT) IN 2015-2016

RECIDIVISM RATE OF THIS LIFE BEYOND  
BARS GRADUATES (WITHIN SIX MONTHS)

— [2%

80

THIS LIFE BEYOND BARS  
PLANNED CASELOAD OF  
STUDENTS FOR 2016-2017,  
ACROSS PROJECTS IN THREE  
PROVINCIAL PRISONS

615

JUVENILES CURRENTLY  
INCARCERATED IN  
PRISONS THROUGHOUT  
CAMBODIA



## Looking Ahead

### This Life Cambodia's new Children & Families Section

Early 2016 was an opportune time to 'unpack' the This Life Beyond Bars program into three distinct, but mutually reinforcing programs. Each of the three programs now aligns under an integrated Children & Families Section, driven by dedicated Program Coordinators and overseen by a Section Lead. With an overall goal of protecting and supporting children to remain within or return to their families and communities, This Life Beyond Bars now focuses on programming for juveniles in conflict with the law; This Life in Family supports and preserves vulnerable families at risk of separation by coming into conflict with the law; and This Life in Community aims to mobilise community support for children and families at risk of separation. Both new programs began implementation in 2016.

### This Life in Family

With an initial focus for 2016/17 on families with a parent in conflict with the law, this expanded program will aim to demonstrate replicable practices for family preservation and family support. Families with a parent or caregiver in conflict with the law are particularly vulnerable to the risk of family separation, and research has documented a reliance in Cambodia on pre-trial detention and an almost complete lack of options for the care of children at the initial point of a parent coming into conflict with the law. There is also a well-documented lack of services for the children and families left behind when a parent is incarcerated. In response, this program comprises short-term, early intervention responses at the point of coming into contact with the law, as well as longer-term family support for families with a parent in prison, including education, income generation and emergency supports.

### This Life in Community

Through participatory planning and community consultation processes, training of key commune-level committees and authorities, and awareness raising activities, This Life in Community will aim to mobilise community support for children and families at risk of separation due to a range of pressures. The program also seeks to foster strengthened cooperation between service providers and community-level child protection gate-keepers, to prioritise community based care options over institutionalisation. In recognition that the lack of access to education for children close to home is a major driver of family separation and institutionalisation of children in Cambodia, this project will be implemented in a district where This Life Cambodia's Lower Secondary School Development Program is also working, giving program staff the opportunity to collaborate with local authorities and further explore the connections between the two community-led program models.

*"When a parent or juvenile is incarcerated for a small crime, it can result in the separation of families, the loss of education opportunity for children, and families falling further into poverty. I'm proud to be leading a dynamic team to respond at the point when a juvenile or parent comes into conflict with the law, to help identify familial networks of support and community based care options for children, and to provide strong case management and advocacy for families".*

*- Ven Sam, This Life in Family Program Coordinator*

# COMMUNITY RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY PROGRAM

By investing in monitoring, evaluation and learning, by critically engaging with priority community issues, and by sharing our ways of working, the Community Research & Consultancy Program is key to enacting This Life Cambodia's core values.

Since 2011 the CRCP program has been monitoring, evaluating, and communicating the impact of This Life Cambodia programs to improve program delivery and share good practices across the NGO sector in Cambodia.

The program also provides an important feedback loop for partner communities, children and families to share their experience of the programs they participate in, and to help inform future practices. This in depth understanding of program outcomes allowed us to present evidence for growth of our programming, notably the expansion of This Life Beyond Bars to the three programs under the Children & Families Section for 2016-2017.

The Community Research and Consultancy Program is also a way for This Life Cambodia to engage as an active member in civil society networks on collaborative new initiatives. Building on experience with the Lower Secondary School Development Program, the CRCP team

participated in training by NGO Education Partnership (NEP Cambodia) in newly developed methods for Social Audit Forums in public school communities. Four other NEP member organisations also carried out Social Audit projects in their target schools, and shared knowledge across the network about effective strategies for community engagement in education and for promoting meaningful dialogue between the supply and demand sides of public education provision.

CRCP was also selected by Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) as a partner organisation to participate in the Digital Data Collection and Visualization for M&E Project, funded by the USAID Development Innovations initiative, which developed a cloudbased data collection platform for monitoring and evaluation in Cambodia. The project was an opportunity to collaborate with CCC and other NGO colleagues to contribute to the development of new tools.

With the exciting collaborations and new programming included in This Life Cambodia's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, CRCP looks forward to continuing the essential work of understanding, documenting and sharing lessons learned from programs working for children, families and communities in Cambodia.







# LOOKING AHEAD 2016-2019



This year, with the help of Possibilities World Training Group, our team retreated to the seaside in Kep to reflect on our achievements, troubleshoot the roadblocks we sometimes face, and clarify our vision for the next three years. Consultation started early in our office prior to the retreat, with individual and team reflections on the tools and support each of us needs to succeed in our role.

From the targets set by each program team, we developed an overarching Strategic Plan for 2016-2019. The major feature of the new Strategic Plan is the creation of three separate but complementary programming sections: Children & Families, Education, and Research & Consultancy. Our goal is to remain flexible to scale up and widen the scope of our programs in response to community-identified needs, while also exploring and reinforcing the links between our programs.

In the new Strategic Plan we have set goals for operations and sustainability, and made commitments to continue empowering the This Life Cambodia team.

Thank you to all who have supported us to reach this point in the evolution of This Life Cambodia! You can find out more here: [www.thislifecambodia.org/about-us/goals-and-mission](http://www.thislifecambodia.org/about-us/goals-and-mission).



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**THIS LIFE BEYOND BARS (TLBB)**

**THIS LIFE IN FAMILY (TLIF)**

**THIS LIFE IN COMMUNITY (TLIC)**



**EDUCATION**

**LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (LSSDP)**

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE (VTSE)**

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (INTERNS)**



**RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY**

**COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND  
CONSULTANCY (CRCP)**

# WHAT MOTIVATES US



"I strongly appreciate that This Life Cambodia implements a Community Research and Consultancy Program because I believe research is the best way to identify real issues and new knowledge to improve programs. Working in the Community Research and Consultancy Program is like pursuing a Masters degree in research, while also being able to contribute to the Kingdom of Cambodia through program evaluation and research".

Ngam Kimsorn, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer



"When I was young I didn't have a clear direction. If I did not persistently stick with education, I cannot imagine how my life would be today. Having all this experience and background, and having met both successes and challenges in life, it really inspires me to work with these young people and share this with them".

Seng Mongheng, Vocational Training Social Enterprise Business Manager



"The Vocational Training Social Enterprise project is important because it provides vulnerable youth from different backgrounds with a package of practical and sustainable skills, allowing them to earn money on their own for their independent life. I also believe the program is doing its part to help reduce unsafe youth migration".

Ream Saroth, Case Manager



"I feel proud that the This Life Beyond Bars program continues to expand to benefit more and more children. The program is so important for children who are in prison and are looking to us for help: we have the opportunity to help strengthen their strengths, and to help them reflect on and make changes in their lives".

Chenchhouet Kimchhean, Vocational Training Case Manager





"When a parent or juvenile is incarcerated for a small crime it can result in the separation of families, the loss of education opportunity for children, and families falling further into poverty.

I'm proud to be leading the team to respond at the point when a juvenile or parent comes into conflict with the law, to help identify familial networks of support and community based care options for children, and to provide case management and advocacy for families".

Ven Sam, This Life in Family Program Coordinator



"The LSSDP is an important program because it helps strengthen each community's capacity to help students and increases the resources available to school communities. I feel proud to work for the LSSDP and inspired to help the younger generation of children in Cambodia who want to learn and continue their education like I was able to do".

Oeur Saloeurn, Lower Secondary School Development Program, Project Officer



"In Cambodia, around 45,000 children live in institutions because of many issues including domestic violence, lack of education opportunity in rural areas, poverty, and limited social protection. I am proud to be working on the new

This Life in Community program, which works to engage and build the capacity of local authorities while also mobilising community-wide support for children and families, so that communities can lead the response to these issues."

Hong Sarith, This Life in Community Program Coordinator



# FINANCIALS

## 2015 - 2016

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claire Coxon, Chair  
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Karla Cooper, Secretary  
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### AUDITORS

APV Cambodia Co. Ltd., Certified Public Accountants

### MAJOR PROGRAM DONORS

Direct Aid Program (DAP), Australian Embassy in Cambodia  
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Lotus Relief Charitable Trust  
Project Happy Feet  
Saga Charitable Trust  
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### VALUED PARTNERS

B1G1 Business for Good  
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NGO Education Partnership  
Rotary Australia World Community Service  
UNCLE May Clothing  
Art for Heart

Thank you to our major donors, partners and our global community of individual supporters.



01 SEPTEMBER 2015 -  
31 AUGUST 2016

01 SEPTEMBER 2014 -  
31 AUGUST 2015

<b>Support &amp; Revenues</b>		
Grant income	219,397	132,743
General donations	119,331	87,651
Other income	13,871	31,515
Internal charge M&E	15,045	0
Revenue from service	17,365	0
Income released from capital grants fund	920	0
	<b>385,929</b>	<b>251,909</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Central office and core costs (Organisational promotions and capacity fund, assets and equipment, operational salaries and capacity building)	28,500	20,849
Programs	346,386	241,698
	<b>374,886</b>	<b>262,547</b>
<b>Net changes in assets</b>	11,043	(10,638)
<b>Net assets, beginning of the year</b>	42,706	57,746
<b>Adjustment</b>	4,795	0
<b>Prior period adjustment</b>	0	(4,402)
<b>Net assets, end of the year</b>	<b>58,544</b>	<b>42,706</b>

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This table provides a summary of the Statement of Activities or 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016. This Life Cambodia is externally audited each year. The full Audit Report for 2015-2016, including cash flows and breakdown of expenses by program is available at [www.thislifecambodia.org](http://www.thislifecambodia.org)

# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

For children, their families, and their communities in Cambodia.

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