

THIS LIFE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

STAKEHOLDERS | COLLABORATION | PARTNERSHIPS



THIS LIFE



CONTENTS

Executive summary.....	2	Programs of Action - Communities	46
About Cambodia	5	This Life Without Violence	46
Vision Mission Objectives.....	6	This Life in Schools	48
Collaboration & Partnerships.....	8	Vocational Training and Social Enterprise (Edith House).....	50
Governance of This Life	9	Impact Learning & Effectiveness	52
Message from the Chair.....	13	Research and Policy	52
Message from the Executive Director.....	15	Capacity & Partnership Development	54
Progress Report on Strategic Objectives	17	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning	56
Organisational Structure.....	21	Shared Services	58
Annual Highlights.....	23	Finance & Administration	58
16-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END GBV	26	Human Resources (Inc Volunteers & Interns)	58
Significant Events.....	28	Shared Learning & Experiences	59
Awards & Recognition.....	29	A Message To Our Funders	60
Research Reports.....	30	Financial Reporting	61
Programs of Action - Children & Families.....	32	Compliance & Regulations	65
This Life Beyond Bars	32	The Future.....	66
This Life With Choices.....	34		
This Life in Families	36		
This Life Without Bars.....	38		
This Life Reimagining Care.....	40		
This Life New Horizons	42		
Child Sensitive Livelihoods Assistance.....	44		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Life is an Australian registered Charity operating in Cambodia. Based in Siem Reap, it has again demonstrated value, purpose and performance. Despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has delivered services and outcomes to some of the poorest children, women, families and communities. It has crafted these meaningful and practical solutions based on conversations and consultations with communities. The following programs of action and teamwork indicate the work that has been undertaken. Furthermore, achievements detailed in this report have been accrued in a challenging and unprecedented period, where economic opportunities contracted in unimaginable ways.

This Life operates from a grounded vision alongside a mission and core values that communicate its intent. It has delivered programs of action that are transformational for those who have engaged and participated. In 2021-22, This Life produced programs of action that have directly benefitted Children and Families. This work has also had collateral impact on extended families and the wider communities in which people live.

This Life Beyond Bars (TLBB)

The program provides skills and knowledge to children and young people in prison, helping them successfully reintegrate into their communities after their release. The program also helps fortify family relations when family members are incarcerated.

This Life In Family (TLIF)

This Life In Family supports and preserves vulnerable families at risk of separation. This program provides short-term early intervention responses for children and parents at the point of coming into conflict with the law. In addition, it offers service provision and family support for children of incarcerated parents.

This Life With Choices (TLWC)

Using a public health prevention approach, This Life with

Choices aims to increase awareness among the community's most vulnerable members of the risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse. The project also helps improve access to addiction-related services.

This Life Reuniting Families (TLRF)

In recent years, residential care in Cambodia has been increasingly common, and many children have been unnecessarily separated from their families and placed into institutions. This Life Reuniting Families reintegrates children from orphanages with their families and communities. The team uses a strength-based holistic case management system following international best practices.

This Life Without Bars (TLWB)

This Life Without Bars provides a ground-breaking alternative pathway for children and young people who have committed nonviolent misdemeanour crimes. This community-based approach preserves education and promotes learning. This project helps young people avoid the hazards and risks of an overcrowded prison system.

Vocational Training and Social Enterprise (VTSE)

This Life operates a Vocational Training Social Enterprise that supports young people with valuable commercial skills and knowledge. In the near future, this program will include activities and community development work that will also improve the natural environment and neighbourhoods in which people live.

This Life Reimagining Care (TLRC)

This Life Reimagining Care aims to identify and engage Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) and reintegrate children into their families and communities.

This Life New Horizons (TLNH)

The program supports older young people who have since left residential care facilities. Often carrying challenging experiences, the project provides them with group support, personal development services and information that helps them navigate their future ambitions and careers.

This Life Without Violence (TLWV)

This program advocates for safer communities by working with individuals and groups and by providing information, training and guidance that can help reduce the incidence of violence against women and children.

This Life in Schools (TLIS)

This Life In Schools is transformational. It supports head teachers and develops leadership skills. It encourages and helps students to take democratic roles and activities in school councils. It supports communities and enables parent-teacher associations, creating a sense of pride in the school as a community asset. It supports schools in producing development plans that improve the education of students. It demonstrably helps reduce dropout rates among students.

Internships & Volunteering

This program provides internships to high school graduates from low-income families. This delivers an opportunity to access a university course and gain valuable work experience. Many young people benefit from this opportunity and remain with This Life after graduation.

Research and Policy (R&P)

This team provide rigorous, high-quality, and ethical research that helps guide the development of evidence-based policies and future projects. This supports learning, change, and innovation within and beyond This Life's work. The research team has seen its work published and seen how a persuasive evidence base can transform public policy.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability. Learning (MEAL)

This team monitors and evaluates the implementation of This Life's projects to assess their status, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. The MEAL team provides a direct link of accountability to donors and investors and has been innovative in using data visualisation techniques and adopting performance management dashboards.

Capacity & Partnership Development (C&PD)

The Capacity & Partnership Development team provides organisational development and capacity-building support to local organisations working in the development sector to maximise the impact and sustainability of interventions. This is crucial to This Life's commitment to supporting Cambodia's community and non-profit sector. Given the broader achievements this report will communicate, This Life continues to explore new opportunities in line with conversations and consultations with local communities. This provides the mandate from which programs of action are designed, developed and delivered. However, an essential element of the work that This Life undertakes can be seen in the collaboration and partnership between community-based stakeholders and local and national government. This collaborative approach helps unlock many obstacles in the pursuit of change.

In 2021-22, This Life delivered direct opportunities, advantages and improvements to over 10,000 children and adults. It also provided indirect support to over 118,000 children and adults.

In collaboration with local communities and in partnership with local institutions and agencies, this annual report celebrates another year of success for This Life.

ABOUT CAMBODIA

Cambodia is one of several countries that rests on the mainland of Southaast Asia. Cambodia is primarily a land of plains and great rivers and lies amid important overland trade routes that linked China to India and Asia. The influences of many Asian cultures, alongside those of France and the United States, can be seen in the capital, Phnom Penh, one of a handful of urban centres in the largely rural country.

For 2,000 years, Cambodia's civilisation absorbed influences from India and China and, in turn, transferred them to other Southeast Asian cultures. From the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms of Funan and Chenla (1st–8th century) through the classical age of the Angkor period (9th–15th century), it held sway over territories that are now part of Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.

The Khmer (Cambodian) empire reached its apex in the 12th century, a time marked by the construction of the massive temple complexes known as Angkor Wat and Bayon and the imperial capital of Angkor Thom. Following 400 years of decline, Cambodia became a French colony and, during the 20th century, experienced the turmoil of war, occupation by the Japanese, post-war independence, and political instability.

Between 1975 and 1979, the country was devastated by the reign of the Khmer Rouge, a rural communist guerrilla movement. During the Khmer Rouge period, at least 1.5 million Cambodians lost their lives to a political ideology, a monumental tragedy from which the country still suffers. Cambodia began the recovery process under the Vietnam-backed regime of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (1979–89). In the 1990s, Cambodia regained political autonomy, re-established a constitutional government and instituted free elections.

The Cambodian economy has steadily improved, and the country seems to be living by the words of the Cambodian proverb, "Fear not the future, weep not for the past."

Cambodia aspires to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050. This aspiration will require sustaining and building on the current high level of economic growth for another 30 years.

However, beyond this, the road ahead contains some significant obstacles. New approaches and innovative ideas will be needed to reduce the widespread inequalities that permeate society - and often exist side by side among Cambodians within both urban and rural communities. Such inequalities span essential areas of human development, such as health and education and serve only to compromise people's rights to access affordable, quality public services. Inequalities spoil and stymie human existence.

Within this space, This Life engages with children, women, families, and communities to develop new and dynamic ideas that help reduce inequality. In doing so, we are motivated to work in partnership and collaborate with others who share our vision to develop community-led pathways that can influence change and deliver a more diverse, valued, and meaningful quality of life.

VISION MISSION OBJECTIVES

Our **Vision** statement sets out what This Life is trying to achieve in the near future – it’s a snapshot of what drives both our organisation and our people on a daily basis. This Life’s **Mission** statement summarises and embodies our organisation’s goals and values. Here, we attempt to communicate to you what our organisation is fundamentally about.

Our **Values** describe the critical principles we adopt to help us achieve our goals.

Vision

To ensure that children, women, families, and communities are supported to access and create opportunities in this life.

Mission

To listen to, engage with and advocate side by side with children, women, families, and communities as they define and act on their solutions to complex social challenges.

Values

- **We Listen.** Listening is our foundation value, whether listening to people we seek to support in communities, each other as staff, or our supporters, donors, and partners.
- **We Collaborate.** We recognise that our talents and abilities are amplified when we work together. By understanding diversity and expertise and respecting each other’s contribution, we are confident and comfortable in challenging each other to achieve and deliver more.
- **We Have Integrity.** We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards. We are open and accountable to each other, authorities, donors, and beneficiaries about what, when, why and how we do things.
- **We Balance.** We are mindful of our personal lives and health, so we pledge time to look after each other, ourselves, and our families, as well as our physical and mental health.



7,846
Direct
child beneficiaries

39,905
Indirect
child beneficiaries



2,295
Direct
adult beneficiaries

78,818
Indirect
adult beneficiaries

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

It would be remiss to think that we live in a world where its constituent parts exist in isolation. Where people, relationships, interdependence, purpose, and meaning are secluded and insulated from one another. Far from it. The nature of the world that shapes and defines both our experience and existence today is one borne from the consequences of cooperation.

Cooperation exists everywhere. To share a smile and acknowledge another human face requires cooperation. To feed a child involves cooperation. To talk, to listen, to learn and communicate requires the same thing. To appreciate, to value, to care and love all require expressive forms of cooperation.

Cooperation can be influential and powerful. Blended with human sentiment, it can be magnetic and transformational. Desire, curiosity, commitment, and belief are just a few elements that can help amplify the utility of cooperation. In this regard, cooperation contains a game changing capability..

Cooperation also exists in our natural environment. It is a mechanism that makes our planet blue and green; it is the midwife that supports life, defines meaning, and delivers opportunity.

Cooperation is also an observable process that can be understood and adopted as a skill. A core life skill can be defined as the act or process of combining effort or working together to achieve or get something done. Blended with respect, cooperation can thrive between known people, new people, diverse people – even strangers. Teams can work together, cooperatively and achieve more together than either might have ever believed. Kinship, mutual benefit, and solidarity are the benefits that spill over from acts of cooperation.

This Life embraces both engagement and cooperation. It adopts and describes engagement and cooperation under the guise of collaboration. It communicates collaborative working relationships as partnerships. It talks about shared agreements as the means by which to pursue a common purpose. Collaboration is evident throughout the programs of activity that this annual report communicates to the reader.

Through its staff teams, This Life is committed to working with local people - listening to their experiences and understanding what defines their lives. It works via cooperation, by addressing the pinch points and pressures that impact upon individuals and communities.

In many cases, it is the unfair circumstances and unhelpful systems that restrict individuals and communities from engaging in society, in ways that others can benefit from and do. In other cases, it is custom and practice that wilfully distinguishes one from another. The desire for inclusive opportunities is a claim that describes the presence of inequality. To accept that essential services and human provisioning is forfeited is to acknowledge social exclusion.

It is an inconvenient truth that in Cambodia today, poverty, inequality and social exclusion exist side-by-side. The systems and circumstances that craft this are complex. In this regard, This Life works wilfully with passion and desire in the pursuit of new, innovative, and practical solutions that are inclusive and equitable. What can be more communal than leaving nobody behind?

It is within these terms and conditions that we work with and adopt collaborative practices with those stakeholders who share our values and ambition.

GOVERNANCE OF THIS LIFE

This Life is an Incorporated Association governed by its Constitution, which establishes the Board. The Board is a Board of Governance rather than a Board of Management, and is made up of ten Directors, and two Sub-committee members.

In 2022, the Board met monthly to discuss a set agenda of topics and performance against the Strategic Plan 2020-25. Each Board member contributes a distinct set of knowledge, skills, and experience to support and provide guidance to the Management Team and operational program areas. The Board annually reviews its own performance using a self assessment tool. This process includes a skills matrix to identify the best mix of skills required to govern the activities of This Life.

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak body for Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) involved in international development and humanitarian action. This Life continues to strive for the highest standards of compliance and governance.

The Chair and Board Members of This Life are:



Chair - Hayley Lee Allen

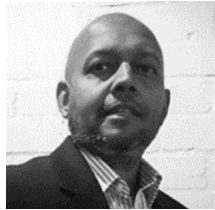
Hayley specialises in the arts, cultural, not for profit and NGO sector, delivering on corporate governance, policy, strategic planning and performance, ESG strategy and outcomes, reconciliation action planning, audit and risk management, project management, procurement, and business case development for State Government funding. Hayley has worked with premier Australian cultural institutions NGV, Melbourne Recital Centre, Bendigo Art Gallery, State Library Victoria, and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria across governance, capital projects, driving venue utilisation and revenue, philanthropy, corporate partnerships, and major arts events and festivals.

Hayley was appointed to Chair of the Board of This Life International in 2021 after 2 years as Vice Chair. She also Chairs Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Ltd.



Vice Chair - Matthew Lucas

Matthew is a senior executive with experience across diverse organisations in challenging global markets. He has held management positions in multi-billion-dollar companies, including Expedia Inc and Carsales.com, and has been responsible for aspects of financial reporting and regulatory compliance in businesses across the globe



Treasurer - Navaka Arachchige

Navaka is a finance, governance, and corporate services professional and is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. He has over 20 years experience in finance, management, and corporate leadership in practice within the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.



General Member - Anthony O'Brien

Anthony is a senior human resources executive experienced in leading complex organisations and workforce transformation programs to deliver business value. He is passionate about human capital and workforce performance, and enjoys supporting people in their development. He has extensive experience in organisational strategy, talent and resource management, leadership development and workforce performance. Anthony holds a Masters of International Business; Masters of Human Resources Management and is currently studying an Executive Masters of Business Administration at HEC Paris.



General Member - Jessica Erhart

Jess has been building and managing brand communities for 10 years, with a particular focus on the tech sector. She started her career in the non-profit sector as a volunteer for youth leadership organisation AIESEC, becoming an Australian Director and organising youth conferences in Tunisia, Malaysia, and Jordan.



General Member - Louise Crowe

Louise is a management consultant with professional experience working in education, medical research, and financial services sectors. She has delivered a range of projects including operating models, strategy design, implementation reviews and Government evaluations. Louise has a passion for Indigenous rights, gender equality and environmental protection.



Secretary - Emer Purdon

A passionate advocate for social and climate justice, Emer is an international development professional with extensive experience in the not-for-profit, private and public sectors. Emer's current role is with Cardno International Development as Contractor Representative for a range of large, complex, and multi-disciplinary DFAT-funded facilities in Indonesia.



General Member - Stephanie Stephens

Stephanie Stephens is a clinical psychotherapist with 10 years' NFP and service delivery management experience. She has worked in education, mental health, youth, family and alcohol and other drug settings. Stephanie's current Canberra-based role, as Directions Health Services' Director of Service Delivery



General Member - Damon Martin

Damon Martin is a qualified social worker and mediator with over 23 years of experience and commitment to ensuring the rights, safety and wellbeing of children are paramount.

Based in Sydney and employed as the Deputy CEO of International Social Service Australia, Damon leads a team that delivers child protection and post-adoption services.



General Member - Suresh Rao

Suresh has extensive experience as an IT management professional in a range of sectors, including Government, not-for-profit, energy, finance, and health. Recent roles include eight years as CIO at The Smith Family where Suresh transformed the organisation using innovative award-winning enterprise-wide IT solutions.



Chair of People and Culture Committee - Mihajlo Starcevic

Mihajlo is the Chair of the People and Culture Committee.

Mihajlo joined the Board of This Life in 2012 and was Chair from 2017 to 2021. With an MBA and an Engineering background, Mihajlo is an experienced executive focused on helping organisations unlock potential and deliver results.



Chair of Strategic Engagement Committee - Sonja Krivacic

Sonja is a Researcher & Strategic Innovator with a focus on creating new value opportunities in program development, community engagement, change management, monitoring & evaluation, and strategic partnership development. Sonja's experience in aid & development spans 15 years, with a further decade in senior executive roles.

In addition to Board Meetings, members are also engaged in several Sub-Committees, which add value and expertise to the wider function of the Board - ensuring that key areas of operational management are supported and directed with policies, guidance and advice that are sector specific and quality driven by substance.

The **Audit Risk and Finance Committee (ARFC)** is a sub-committee of This Life's Board. The ARFC (the Committee) is a non-statutory body that the Board has formally established as per its Standing Orders.

Meeting on a quarterly basis, the Committee ensures that This Life's Board in carrying out its corporate governance and oversight duties regarding financial reporting, risk management, internal controls, external audit, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and codes. The purpose of the ARFC is to outline the Board's duties, authority delegations, reporting requirements, and meeting procedures in relation to:

- This Life Policies and Procedures
- Financial reporting
- Risk management and internal control
- Compliance and assurance

The **Strategic Engagement Committee (SEC)** is a sub-committee of This Life's Board. The purpose of the SEC is to provide expertise and advice on both fundraising strategies and activities, as well as methods that can help open networks and make new developmental introductions where possible. Among wider methods, it accomplishes this by:

- Providing strategic advice and recommendations on fundraising, philanthropy, and events
- Reviewing and making recommendations for Board approval on strategies for achieving fundraising objectives
- Helping solicit potential corporate and individual sponsors and donors
- Assisting in identifying a list of potential sponsors, funders, and supporters of pro-bono support or gifts in kind

The **People and Culture Committee (P&CC)** is a sub-committee of This Life's Board. The purpose of the P&CC is to oversee the creation and continuous implementation of the organisation's Fair, Safe, and Just Culture; ensuring that all employees have a positive working environment and enhanced health and wellbeing. It accomplishes this by monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the culture and organisational development to the Board. It's remit covers:

- This Life Policies and Procedures
- Health, Safety & Well-being of staff
- Development and improvement of staff, via training and development
- Promoting an open and inclusive culture that nurtures leadership and creativity
- Partnership development



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the Constitution of This Life and in compliance with our regulatory bodies, the Board is proud to present the This Life Annual Report for 2021-22. This is my first report as Chair of the Board. I accepted the appointment to Chair after former Chair Mihajlo Starcevic stepped down in December 2021. I acknowledge the time and commitment Mihajlo offered This Life, over 11 years, as Treasurer, then as Chair of the Board. Mihajlo oversaw an incredible growth trajectory at This Life, and throughout that transition he guided the organisation with warmth, clarity and a steady hand. Thank you, Mihajlo.

I am proud to lead the Board of This Life and endeavour to promote and further embed a culture of empathy, innovation and best practice in my time as Chair. On behalf of This Life, I would like to sincerely thank our Board members for their expertise and time supporting This Life's vision and mission, and for steering our team towards best practice and fit for purpose governance. Your work does not go unnoticed and is highly valued.

We are unable to do any of our work without our donors and supporters, particularly those that have committed to This Life across numerous years to support our beneficiary programs, research work, and building capability in the team. I encourage exploratory discussions with our donors and investors, with a view to adopting new long term collaborative working relationships that facilitate maximum impact, and that address the complex problems our communities face. We consistently strive to improve our program design and reach, responding to the needs identified through community driven dialogue.

Thank you to World Childhood Foundation for supporting the kindergarten pilot in Siem Reap Prison and for the continuation

of funding to further support this work for an additional 12 months beyond the pilot.

We acknowledge and thank GHR Foundation for their funding of This Life as lead partner in the consortium to deliver the Phase III Collaborative Support Program. This Life will deliver a conference for grantees to access development opportunities which aims to elevate and optimise collaboration across seven GHR Foundation partners in Cambodia.

This Life is grateful to Manan Trust for their considered and attentive support of various penal reform and youth programs. I acknowledge and thank Phoenix Foundation and WISE as two key investors supporting the work under our This Life in Schools program. This support has enabled This Life to develop a proof of concept that is recognised by Cambodian education authorities which encompasses years of work

Similar to many organisations in the international development space, This Life experienced the knock-on effects of COVID-19 over the last year. We remained connected to our community and beneficiaries and due to these strong connections, we were able to assess the impact and identify emergency response needs that arose for our beneficiaries. Through careful management of programmatic activity and funds, This Life has remained resilient and agile. It is this flexibility that we need to take stock of, and work together with our stakeholders to maintain an agile approach in the years to come. The pandemic taught us much about our resilience as an organisation and a community, and we believe this translates to how we operate now.

Notwithstanding these challenges This Life has made significant progress over the last year and continues to build profile and respect as a high impact organisation.

Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Pablo Kang, participated in our campaign against gender-based violence, Virtual Reality: Violence is not a game. Several influencers also shared their reaction videos and support with the Cambodian public. The film received 2.5 million+ views. The Facebook post reached nearly 4.5 million people. This is more than a quarter of the Cambodian population. Importantly 14,000 clicks revealed a deep interest and uptake of linked resources on women's rights and available support mechanisms.

This Life has been recognised globally again this year for our outstanding work in the campaign space to end gender-based violence against women. While these accolades support the profile of This Life and provide opportunity to meet new funding partners and connect to important international development networks, at its core these campaigns allow us to share the key messages that underpin our work – this is and always will remain our key driver. The sheer number of Cambodians that access essential information through these campaigns is the goal. A digital presence is an essential and cost effective platform for This Life to reach those in need.

This Life signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. A result of 10 years of research into juvenile justice in Cambodia, this cooperation commits to implementing a program focused on the diversion of children in conflict with the law. Young people in the program will spend time at Edith House, learning new skills, instead of being exposed to the Cambodian penal system and overcrowded prison settings.

This year marks This Life's second year of accreditation with the Australian Council for International Development. The ACFID Code is a benchmark for best practice of Australian NGOs, aiming to continually improve international development and humanitarian action outcomes and increase stakeholder trust, by enhancing transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The Code is also an organisational effectiveness and learning tool.

Looking forward, you can expect that This Life will continue to deliver our high impact programs, strive to identify innovative ways of delivering these programs and further promote the status of women. The influence and voices of women – in the home, the workplace and in society in general – can help measure our progress. The need for change is unequivocal, and we will do well to encourage these voices to actively influence our shape in the years ahead.

Addressing poverty and reducing inequality is essential. However, if we fail to value our natural environment and assess our climate resilience, these aspirations will be for naught. I am keen to see This Life lean into and discover what the community concerns are surrounding climate change.

The Board offers our thanks and gratitude to the Executive Director, his Executive team, and all staff at This Life. The passion and dedication displayed by the team is the cornerstone of our impact in the communities in which we work. It is this team that makes This Life what it is, and while the Board leads from a positive culture standpoint, it is the daily actions of the team that demonstrate the integrity, collaboration, commitment, and focus required to create change and realise the vision of the organisation. You are our values. Thank you.

Hayley Lee Allen



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's always a personal privilege to draft the opening words for each Annual Report that This Life produces. It gives me the opportunity to reflect in a cooler hour of the day, on the activities that have defined This Life and an opportunity to share comments with all those involved in our future.

This Life is an organisation with purpose. It is an organisation that seeks solutions to community problems. This community business couldn't work without a workforce dedicated to the activities that define it. As such, I am proud to say that I have once again witnessed a year in which high levels of energy, enthusiasm and groundbreaking innovation have been given, from a unique and reflective workforce, that I know is committed to both confronting inequalities and reducing poverty in Cambodia.

I have witnessed a workforce adept at articulating the needs of our local communities and translating them into plans of action that support the development and delivery of change. This is what lies at the heart of This Life, and its capability to pursue and deliver advantage. To the workforce of This Life, I simply say Thank you. Thank you for your belief in This Life and for giving your time, skills, and imagination, to help us achieve everything that we do, for the communities that we serve.

It is without a doubt that this unique capability helps us draw and attract both positive attention and confidence from donors and investors – without whom, our ideas, aspirations and desire for change could not draw flight. To those who believe in This Life and share our ambition for change, I say a big Thank you.

The only thing in life that you can probably bank on, is change. At This Life, we embrace change. We see it for what it is – an

opportunity to do things differently, using inclusive methods, that deliver better outcomes for all.

In line with this, I can proudly say that This Life has made significant steps in both leading, influencing and promoting change. Change that is both long overdue, timely, and welcomed. For example, our efforts to communicate and develop Youth Diversion pathways within and across Cambodia's Juvenile Justice environment are recognised for having identified, amplified and acted upon an issue that was in urgent need of change.

Youth Diversion pathways provide alternative outcomes for young people in conflict with the law. They provide pragmatic alternatives to incarceration, which avoids the inherent health risks and toxic culture associated with prison. Through research, advocacy, trust and collaboration, This Life has been able to deliver on a key community-based concern. This Life has crafted a solution that contains mutual benefits. It has established a model that has utility for others and can be expanded into the future. This is a significant achievement that has been made possible by listening to, and working together with others. To everybody that has collaborated with us on this journey, I say Thank you.

As we move forward, we will lengthen our stride and take a deeper view of what it means to develop and deliver more activities that contribute to community safety. We will do well to invest time and effort in engaging with more communities, in new ways, that help reduce violence against women and children in both domestic and school settings.

This will invariably be a long and transformational journey that will require new, long-term commitments from all those that are involved. It will no doubt be a transformational journey for those who dare to engage and see beyond those customs and practices that exist to disguise inequality. It will require a new proactive mindset and age-old courage to take those bold and progressive steps that are needed.

Today, I have no reason to believe that we cannot do this and deliver more community driven solutions in both these and other important areas in the future.

Billy Gorter



PROGRESS REPORT ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A central future guiding document that supports This Life in its endeavours is our 2020-25 5-Year Strategic Plan, which highlights the five key strategic objectives which the organisation has set for itself. In recent years COVID-19 has hindered these in many ways, however, using innovation and alternative approaches to community engagement, This Life has made demonstrable progress. The following graphic illustrates the timelines and delivery points for each strategic objective.



1. Increase **Research Capacity**: develop existing skills and knowledge in conducting research to produce high quality work to engage and convene policy makers at least three times by 2023 and to contribute to informing the design of national policy in Cambodia at least once by 2024 - **On Track**

Research Delivered:

- No Place For A Child: Alternatives to imprisoning children in Cambodia (2021 - Published)
- Gender, Criminalisation, Imprisonment and Human Rights in Southeast Asia (2022 - Published) *
- Early Years Childcare & Ageing in Cambodia’s Prisons - Inequalities from the cradle to the grave (2022 - Published) *
- TLIF Scalability & Replicability Study (2022 - Published)

Research Conducted: Conducted 2022 - TBP by Q3 Y3

- Recreational Drug or Clinical Addiction pathways to prison
- Formal and Informal Debt in the Community
- Foster Care & Adoption - Practice in Cambodia
- Government Decentralisation Provincial Analysis CR Phase 2
- Children Young People & Violence in School Settings
- Case Study - Barriers to alternatives to incarceration

Research in Progress:

- Where are all the Disabled Children - Disability & Inclusive Education

Convened Policy Makers:

- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- No Place For A Child
- Diversion (MoU)
- Ongoing technical assistance to the Ministry’s YRC
- Ongoing policy contribution via Child Justice Network
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- This Life in Schools Model
- Design of policy for School-Based Management

This Life Staff Training & Development Plan

- This Life conducted a workforce skills audit and mobilised a cost saving training plan and list of training conducted scheduled.
- Report Writing Skills training

Developing existing Skills and knowledge:

- MoU signed with DI University (Battambang)

2. Increase **Communications Capacity**: build existing expertise in communications and campaigning to deliver at least eight mass awareness campaigns by 2022, and develop a core base of individual givers providing regular financial support by 2025 – **On Track**

Campaigns:

- Not Her Fault (16-day campaign)
- Virtual Reality (16-day campaign)
- Goodbye My Love (16-day campaign)
- Sok’s Story (A child’s experience of prison in Cambodia)

- International Women’s Day (2022)
- Why Cash Transfers? 7 Reasons
- Voice - Linking and Learning
- A Moment of Truth (scheduled for February 2023 release)

3. Develop **Diversion Programming**: conduct research to inform the development of a framework for diversionary measures in Cambodia by 2022 and implement a pilot program in Siem Reap to begin by 2023 – **On Track**

Research Conducted and Published:

- No Place For A Child - Alternatives to imprisoning children in Cambodia (published in February 2021)

This Life Without Bars:

- Trained 228 judicial police and local authorities
- This Life Without Bars has reached 70 young people as at 1st January 2023
- Has prevented custodial sentences for 44 = children (on misdemeanour charges) average age being 15

4. **Double down in Cambodia**: conduct scalability and replicability studies and gather data and recommendations to inform the expansion of This Life in Families, This Life Without Bars, This Life with Choices and This Life Reuniting Families by 2023, and expand at least two of This Life’s programs into new locations in Cambodia by 2025 (priority programs include those listed here, This Life in Schools and This Life Without Violence) - **On Track**

Scalability and Replicability Studies Completed

- TLIF Scalability & Replicability Study (2022)
- TLWV Scalability & Replicability Study (2022)

Programs Expanded:

- This Life Reimagining Care (Banteay Meachey Province, SR)
- This Life New Horizons (Banteay Meachey Province, SR)
- This Life in Family (Child Friendly Space - Siem Reap)

5. **Expand Internationally**: conduct research to inform the design of at least one new program focused on supporting children in conflict with the law, identify and secure at least one partner with whom to implement, and begin implementation in at least one new country in the Asia region before 2025 - **On Track**

Operational work has been undertaken to help build collaborative networks within SE Asian Regional areas.

- Inspire is a program that This Life delivers across SE Asia in relation to drug and penal reform activities and gender-sensitive issues.
- ILE are also part of the SE Asia Symposium on Human Rights, Penal Reform and Prisons

- Exploratory preparation frameworks have also been developed to help understand and analyse cost, value and other relevant implications associated with establishing a legal identity (Branch Office) within a second SE Regional setting.
- Further legal and financial information is to be gathered and analysed. An outline report / discussion document will be available by the end of Q3 Year Three

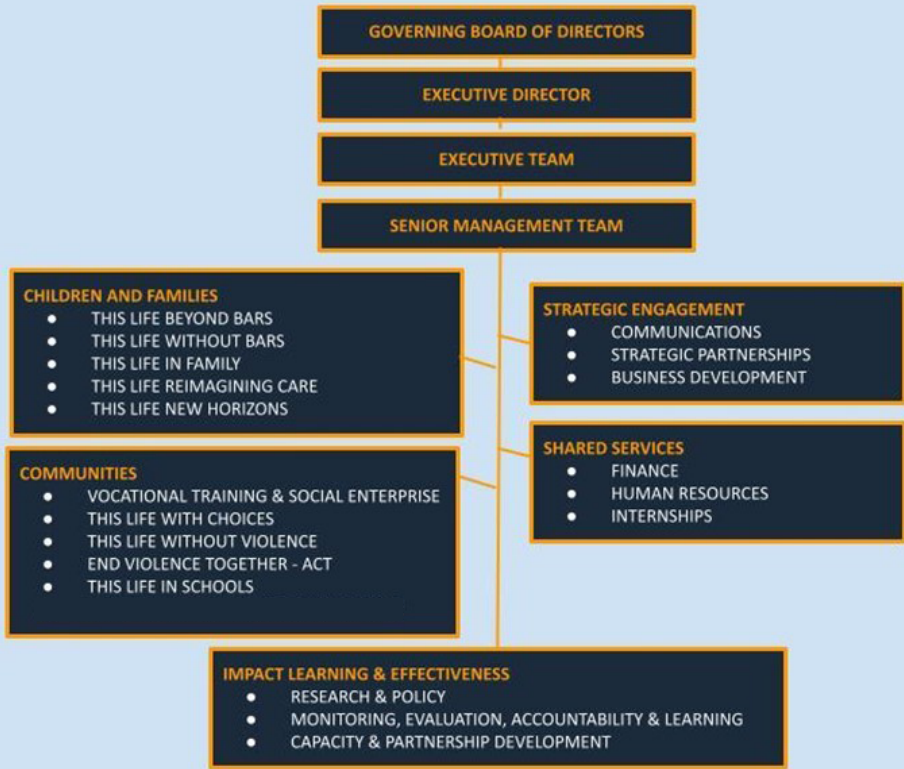


ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

This Life is organised into a range of teams, that work collaboratively, to:

- Engage and understand community needs
- Develop and deliver mutual solutions in line with identified needs
- Identify, secure and liaise with appropriate funding bodies that work in partnership with This Life.
- Ensure the organisation is legally compliant and transparent in line with Khmer law and other appropriate standards

The following graphic illustrates how This Life is organised, by structure and team, as of the end of the financial year 2022.





ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Flood Relief

This Life released its groundbreaking research into diversion opportunities for children in conflict with the law. The report was presented to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth and was warmly received.

VTSE

The Moto Doctor is a social enterprise that provides vocational training in motorbike repair in a fully operational repair shop. By dividing their time between the classroom and the shop floor, students develop the skills to ultimately start their own businesses or find work in their community. We recruit vulnerable young people from orphanages, from communities where we run other programs and through partner NGOs. In 2022, twelve of our graduates started their own businesses, up from 5 last year.

Child Friendly Space in Siem Reap Prison



This Life In Families launched a new program called Child Friendly Space, which has been implemented in Siem Reap Provincial Prison. The program aims to provide opportunities for pregnant women, mothers, and children in prison to receive care and resources for development. To date, 25 children have participated, receiving access to counselling and regular teaching, toys, books, stationery, and learning materials.

Women's Rights Forum

This Life Without Violence successfully held a Women's Rights Forum event in Angkor Chum district. Participants included students, teachers, local authorities, and community members.

In addition to promoting women's rights, the event also included anti-domestic violence advocacy and informed women of the services available to them. The event also had lively debates and discussions around girls' education, gender roles, and women in leadership.

Strategic Engagements

As part of our forward planning agenda, including the strategic objective to increase our communications and campaigning capacity, we took bold steps to establish a new Strategic Engagement Team. Philip Gover took over as Director of Strategic Engagements in September, having previously served as Section Lead for Impact, Learning, and Effectiveness. We also welcomed a new communications team, a strategic partnerships manager, a new business development manager, and three Australian volunteers.

This Life In Schools Exchange Visit

This Life In Schools program organised an exchange visit for principals from 16 target schools. Key stakeholders attended the visit, including representatives from the Provincial Office of Education (POE), the District Office of Education (DOE), and over 30 participants from different locations. Extensive discussions about their learnings were held. Participants expressed an eagerness to implement some of the innovations they discovered to elevate the learning and teaching environments of their own schools.

Emotional Intelligence Workshops



Working remotely and in partnership with This Life, The Emotional Intelligence Company <https://eicompany.co/> Gary Hosey created and delivered new learning opportunities for This Life Senior Staff, to understand the value of emotional intelligence in the workplace. Big thanks to Gary for openly sharing his time, knowledge and know-how with us. We loved every minute of it.

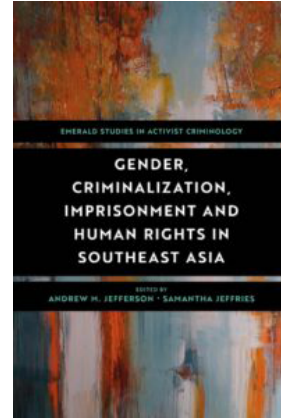
Media Coverage

This Life continued to receive extensive coverage across media. This includes Radio, TV, and major newspapers such as the Phnom Penh Post and the Khmer Times.

CEDAW Conference In Thailand

Borany Chea, our Communities section lead, went to Thailand for a conference hosted by CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). This was an invaluable opportunity to meet other NGOs working in this area and to share knowledge. CEDAW has proved invaluable in opposing the effects of discrimination, which include violence, poverty, and lack of legal protections, along with the denial of inheritance, property rights, and access to credit.

Research Publication



This Life contributed to the book: Gender, Criminalization, Imprisonment and Human Rights in Southeast Asia. It features contributions from activist scholars grappling to understand and alleviate the suffering of women and LGBTIQA+ persons as they encounter Southeast Asian criminal justice systems.

As a result of this initiative, new and essential contacts have been made across SE Asia, which has since resulted in the development of the SE Symposium on Prison Reform, which This Life also presented at in Bangkok, in late 2022



INSPIRE Bali Workshop

As stakeholders working in partnership with NGOs across Southeast Asia, This Life participated in a workshop hosted by INSPIRE in Bali. INSPIRE's focus is on drugs, social justice, justice reform and support for women incarcerated for drug abuse. We had members attending from This Life Without Bars and Impact, Learning & Effectiveness. Each member country has a particular focus, and it was an excellent opportunity to glean insights, share knowledge, and exchange ideas.

RUN TLC 2022

Having been suspended for two years, as a direct result of COVID-19, RUN TLC was back. Our biggest annual fundraiser returned \$5200.

Over 40 staff members participated in the 7th Khmer Empire Marathon in Siem Reap. It was great to see such a great turnout. We also had Board members and supporters participate in City2Surf, a 14km fun run from Sydney CBD to Bondi Beach.

Juvenile Diversion Progress

This Life, in collaboration with the Siem Reap Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking Secretariat (P.C.C.T), completed four capacity-building training courses on juvenile diversion. Each course lasted two days and had 175 participants from the community and relevant government bodies. Collaborators included the Deputy District Governor for the Social Affairs District Office & Social Welfare, Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors of the Royal Gendarmerie, and Chiefs of Administrative Offices in 12 local districts.



16-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

As part of the annual international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, This Life ran its own comprehensive campaign tackling the issue. It was centred on a powerful call to action, encouraging everyone to Reach Out, Check In, and Act, to ensure that women are safe. Our Virtual Reality campaign video depicted the often tragic consequences of domestic violence.

The campaign also included calls to action, support, guidance, and resources for those affected by domestic violence. We are so thankful to the International ambassadors and local influencers who came on board to spread the message.

The response exceeded our wildest expectations. The Virtual Reality film created a national dialogue around gender-based violence. The short film received over 2.5 million views, exceeding This Life's ambitious target of 2 million views. This represents a 66% increase in views of our previous campaign, Not Her Fault.

Due to Facebook's popularity in the country, our campaign on the platform was comprehensive. Interlinked with the video, the campaign included 35 posts over an 18-day period, reaching close to 4.5 million people. For context, that is over a quarter of the Cambodian population. The campaign received strong engagement, including more than 1 million reactions and 11 million impressions. Additionally, 14,000 people clicked on additional linked resources to learn how to act.

The campaign received thousands of comments, messages, and emails from people for whom the message resonated and supported the call to end violence against women. The campaign created a national conversation, and many women came out and shared their stories, some for the first time in their lives.

The campaign would not have been as successful without the support and participation of foreign dignitaries such as the Ambassadors to Australia and the UK and several Cambodian Influencers.

The 'Virtual Reality' campaign achieved considerable national and international coverage across different mediums, including TV, radio, online, and print. This included interviews with women dealing with violence, conversations with the This Life social workers who help them, and the rest of the team advocating for women's rights in the community alongside local authorities, community leaders, and other organisations.

Watch the 16 Days of Activism Short Film



Budget
\$6,000

Views
2.5 million

Reach
4.5 million

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Connecting Up Conference



Executive Director Billy Gorter and Chair Hayley Lee Allen presenting at the Connecting Up conference

Thanks to our track record of consistently delivering award-winning viral campaigns, our Executive Director, Billy Gorter and chairperson, Hayley Lee Allen, were invited to present at the 2022 Connecting Up Conference. This is Australia's premier not-for-profit technology event empowering the sector to get the most out of technology and deliver a more significant impact. They shared insights about our award-winning social media campaigns, including how to capture audiences, create powerful calls to action, and make a massive impact with a limited budget.



MOU Signing for Diversion

This Life, represented by Deputy Director Se Chhin, and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY) of Cambodia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signing of the MOU occurred at the offices of MOSVY in Phnom Penh, and underscored the shared willingness of both parties to work together towards a reduction of imprisonment of children and adolescents in Cambodia. The MOU will enable This Life to conduct its diversion program across Siem Reap province. The pilot program consists of activities in seven thematic areas that together will provide a holistic service to children who have come into conflict with the law. The thematic areas include case management, community involvement, promotion of diversion, support for families, practical and logistical assistance, capacity building, and ongoing monitoring and research.



MOU Signing with Dewey International University

With the interest and value of building Research capacity being This Life's number one strategic priority, a new collaborative working relationship was sealed with Dewey International University, from Battambang. This exciting agreement provides a shared opportunity to pursue joint research activities, secure research funding and develop a digital journal that focuses upon North West Cambodia, its regional economy and innovations within health and social care.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2022

Awards for Virtual Reality: Ending Gender-based violence against women

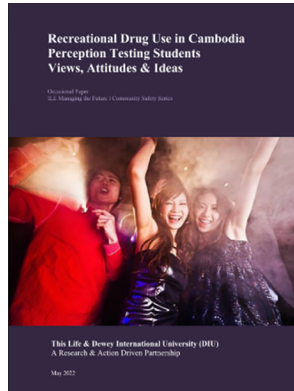
- Asia-Pacific Stevie® Awards – Gold Award for Innovation in Non-Profit/NGO Websites
- Hermes Creative Awards: Platinum award for Strategic Campaigns | Communication Campaign
- Hermes Creative Awards: Platinum award for Interactive Media | Social Media Call to action
- Hermes Creative Awards: Platinum award for Interactive Media | Nonprofit
- Hermes Creative Awards: Platinum award for Interactive Media | Video Creativity |Directing
- Shorty Awards: Call To Action
- Shorty Awards: Small Non-profit Of The Year
- Global Good Awards 2022: Silver
- Muse Creative Awards 2022 – Integrated Marketing – Nonprofit: Gold
- Dragons of Asia – Best Campaign by Country (Cambodia)
- Dragons Of Asia – Best cause, charity marketing or public sector campaign: Bronze

2021

Awards for Not Her Fault campaign

- Not for Profit Technology Awards – Best Social Media Campaign of the Year
- Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards – Gold Award for Innovation in Non-Profit/NGO Websites
- Festival of Media Global Awards – Best Integrated Campaign: Silver Award
- Shortlisted: Festival of Media Asia Pacific Awards – Best Integrated Campaign
- Shortlisted: Festival of Media Global Awards – Impact Award
- Global Good Awards – Ethical Angel & CAF Community Investment Award
- Social Media Marketing Awards – Best Integrated Campaign

RESEARCH REPORTS



Following consultation with the GHR Grantees, This Life's Research & Policy Team conducted and delivered a range of research projects, covering pressures that impact individuals, families and poor communities in Cambodia. Urban and rural alike, these issues compound the day-to-day problems that exist within communities across Cambodia. In line with reporting on the legacy of COVID-19, GHR Grantees were keen to identify

and understand how this cluster of issues impacted the lives of people already in need. This research agenda forms part of a wider initiative that seeks to develop heightened levels of collaboration amongst GHR grantees and further develop the agenda associated with practical welfare reform and innovation. The research work that was undertaken sought to understand:

Adoption & Foster Care Practice

What can Cambodia learn from other nation states when considering Adoption and Foster Care Policy. How can this insight be used to reduce the burden of demand for Residential Care Institutions?

Provincial Analysis

How can Cambodia decentralise the provision of its health, social care and welfare services more effectively and efficiently. What are the problems, where are the roadblocks and what is hindering the transition from central to provincial provision? This paper discusses the issues as identified by a range of stakeholders.

Consumer Debt

Debt is endemic across Cambodian families and communities. A significant number of families, from both urban and rural settings find themselves cornered in debt. What is the root cause of this, and why does it appear out of control? What can be done to arrest the problem of consumer debt and improve household incomes?

Recreational Drug Use in Cambodia

Drug use is the primary pathway to prison in Cambodia, both for adults and young people. However, the association between drugs and drug addiction may be misunderstood. Many young people take drugs for recreational purposes. How does this change our understanding of young people and youth culture? Is incarceration the only answer?

Inclusive Education

Where are all the disabled children in Cambodia? Who is teaching them, where are they being taught, why are they segregated from other children? Contemporary thoughts suggest that inclusive education can provide a more comprehensive approach to learning. What is happening in Cambodia today, and what is being planned?



One of our tutors proudly watching over one of our students at Moto Doctor - our flagship vocational training social enterprise.



Families taking the opportunity to stay connected with and visit their child in prison

125



Young people released from prison supported in their reintegration into society

62



Reoffending rate of TLBB program graduates

0%

PROGRAMS OF ACTION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This Life Beyond Bars

Children and young adults who are known to have been to prison often fall into a vicious cycle of reoffending. Stigma makes it difficult to secure employment, and friends and family often view the individual with indifference. Rehabilitating and reintegrating back into communities is difficult. This has long-term ramifications for individuals, partners, families, and their communities. Ex-prisoners often have no direction upon release due to limited access to education, training, family, and community support. As a result, they often fall back into patterns of deviant and risk-taking behaviour that landed them in prison in the first place.

Collectively, these circumstances have shaped TLBB and provide a focal point for rehabilitative activities on young men and women who are nearing release. This Life Beyond Bars (TLBB) works to promote and defend the rights of children, families and communities affected by the legal justice system by working with young adults in prison who are in need of support and training, to overcome the discriminatory customs and practice that impact upon them.

TLBB evolved from conversations with community members about their concerns related to children who were in conflict with the law, and how their futures could be managed for the best. The program has worked with young people in Siem Reap prison since November 2010, and Banteay Meanchey prison since 2012.

This Life Beyond Bars aims to support children and young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who are, or have been, in conflict with the law. The goal is to ease their reintegration into their communities by providing case management, vocational and life skills training and strengthening their family connections by facilitating family visits. The goal of the program is to ease the reintegration of young adults into their communities by providing support in three key areas: objectives of This Life Beyond Bars include

- Case management, including post-release support;
- Vocational and life skills training; and
- Strengthening family connections by facilitating visits.

Whilst many young people are held for lengthy periods of time on pre-trial detention, most end up being sentenced. Given this, the program uses a case management system for developing and recording the support that young people receive. Some of the essential and valued services we provide in prison include:

- Drug and alcohol counselling sessions to combat addiction and abuse
- Legal advice, particularly around rights
- Support referral and advocacy to reduce sentences for children and young people in conflict with the law.

The program also provides capacity-building training and development for prison staff, communities, and other NGOs. This helps create broader and more widespread awareness of the needs of individuals once a sentence is served.

Whilst the services and support we offer are valued, it is unfortunate that the number of children and young people entering prison has increased considerably in Siem Reap and nationally. However, the TLBB team has been able to help more families in the community and children and young people in prison.

Across 2021-22, the number of children in prison with access to TLBB case management support, vocational training, personal development, and regular visits from their families has increased by 146%. As a result of new community diversion-based flexibilities, there has also been a 17% increase in the number of young people released from prison and in receipt of reintegration support.

As such, the program has helped support:

- 125 young people use the opportunity to stay connected with and visit their child in prison.
- 62 young people received direct support on their release from prison, and
- Recidivism rates amongst those with whom we work is now understood to be 0% within six months of release.



Beneficiary families members
receiving direct support

282



Open case management for
juveniles engaged in harm
reduction interventions

25



Structured one-to one drug
and alcohol focused sessions
with juveniles

53

This Life With Choices

In Cambodia, access to new and powerful synthetic drugs and inexpensive alcohol is an evolving and dangerous problem. Combined, the government recognises and acknowledges the epidemiological association between patterns of excessive consumption, addiction, and long-term health problems.

This Life With Choices (TLWC) aims to expand access to drug and alcohol interventions and increase opportunities for treatment for drug and alcohol addiction and dependence. Currently, TLWC has three main touchpoints:

1. To provide health education and promote behaviour change among young people engaged in drug and alcohol consumption.
2. To build knowledge and capacity among young people to help influence harm reduction.
3. Provision of training and capacity building to social workers to help support and ensure continuous improvement in the quality of drug and alcohol interventions.

Raising awareness among communities is an essential component of this program, as well as case management and one-to-one personal development sessions with young people (14-19). TLWC staff also collaborate with various public and community sector partners and deliver effective training and education programs that address drug and alcohol issues.

Given this, TLWC staff now form part of a specialised working group that shares international best practices and promotes continuous professional development and learning. Throughout the year, TLWC collaborated with:

- Women and Children Consultative Committees (WCCCs),
- Department of Social Affairs, Veterans & Youth Rehabilitation (DoSVY)
- Commissariat Of Siem Reap Province Police
- Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC),
- Consultative Commune Members (communal administration, police, school directors, teachers, and prison officers).

In terms of achievements, TLWC has supported.

- 60 children through intensive case management,
- 1,766 children received drug and alcohol training and awareness-raising sessions, and
- 282 families received direct support from our team.

Other achievements include:

- A 278% increase in structured one-to-one drug and alcohol-focused counselling and therapy sessions with children compared to 2021.
- Training of 20 Family Care First (FCF) and Responsive and Effective Child Welfare Systems Transformation (REACT) partners.
- Training of 60 local authorities (34 men and 26 women) from the Puok and Angkor Chum districts
- Trained 487 youths in the drug rehabilitation centres in Siem Reap on 'drug, alcohol, and addictive desire management skills.
- Drug and alcohol awareness training to 2,516 secondary school students (1,510 girls) from three schools across five districts in Siem Reap.
- Developed a new drug and alcohol curriculum for local authorities in partnership with Friends International, Kaliyan Mith and M'lop Tapang.
- Conducted training with children in prison.

In line with This Life's strategic plan for 2020-2025, TLWC would like to see more exposure of its resources to a broader-based audience. This education-based and remedial approach could help inform more young people about the dangers of addiction and substance misuse and act as an essential prevention-based measure that supports and promotes health and community safety.




Primary Caregivers supported to
create income generating activities
54


Children supported to remain
within family care
288


Family members supported through
arrest and/or detention
484

This Life in Families

The conviction of a family member has devastating ramifications for both families and the wider community. It often plunges the family deeper into poverty, and children face considerable challenges and an uncertain future. The aim of This Life in Families (TLIF) is to support and preserve vulnerable families who are at risk of separation and to safely remain together. The core outcomes of the program are:

- To support and build the resilience and connectedness of families separated from a primary caregiver in prisons in Cambodia
- Preventing unnecessary child-family separation for those in conflict with the law
- Implementing a community model of early intervention and response for preserving families

TLIF facilitates prison visitation to ensure that those in prison maintain bonds with family members, reintegration efforts to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, income generation support and case management.

The team strives to ensure that children and young people are raised within a family-based or community-based environment. Comprehensive research has shown that this is where they thrive the most. Additionally, we advocate for our beneficiaries' rights by collaborating with key stakeholders at the provincial and national levels, including:

- The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)
- The Provincial Committee for Counter-Trafficking (PCCT)
- The Provincial Child Protection Working Group
- The Provincial and district Women and Children Consultative Committee (WCCC)
- The Commune Committee (CC)
- The Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC)

Since 2011, the program has supported nearly 500 families with case management and capacity building to mitigate against the challenges highlighted above.

We provided scholarships to almost 1,500 children and young people to pursue their education and build a better future for themselves. In the last year, TLIF was actively working with 85 cases. 54 Primary Caregivers were supported to create income-generating activities. Two hundred eighty-eight children were supported in ways that enabled them to remain within family care. Four hundred eighty-four family members were supported at the point of arrest and/or detention.

In this year, we also welcomed support from the World Childhood Foundation, which helped fund the development of child-focused kindergarten inside Siem Reap Prison.

From a desolate, empty, and redundant space, This Life worked in collaboration with Siem Reap Prison to create a new child-friendly space filled with children's toys, books, stationery and learning materials. Using the UK Early Years Learning Framework, it now provides a focus for a range of health, education, child protection and creative learning sessions. Social workers are on hand to provide supervision and guidance. This initiative has dramatically lifted the spirits and mental health of imprisoned mothers and given a demonstrable advantage to those children living in and through challenging conditions.

This ground-breaking facility now offers early years education to those children accompanying their mothers during a prison sentence. It provides a platform to provide health and well-being advice to pregnant women and expecting during their sentence. The Child-Friendly Space is an integral part of TLIF; to date, 25 children have participated.

The Siem Reap Prison Director was overwhelmed and noted:

"I am happy to see new opportunities developed and delivered by This Life for children who had no other choices than to accompany their mother."



A critical training session with key prison and judicial officials, who are essential to the programs success.



Juveniles in conflict with the law who received support during the sentencing process

38



Juveniles in conflict with the law who received full support during the diversion plan implementation

17



Police and commune leaders who received training on juvenile justice law and protection

185

This Life Without Bars

Children and young people end up in prison for various reasons. In the absence of alternatives, pre-trial detention and incarceration have been the default response by the Cambodian government.

This Life Without Bars (TLWB) is a program that has challenged this norm and is now seeing an opportunity to operationalise change in government policy by creating and coordinating mutually beneficial dialogue and developing practical solutions, frameworks and guidelines.

By working in partnership, This Life has been able to propose, shape and implement a framework for Community-based diversion. Here young people in conflict with the law can avoid pre-trial detention and incarceration altogether. This facility primarily targets young people who have committed minor infractions and non-violent misdemeanours.

Community Youth/Juvenile Diversion is a new policy instrument gaining significant traction within Cambodia's Juvenile Justice system. Such changes can in part, be attributed to the research and advocacy work of This Life. At present, the administrative systems are evolving within Juvenile Justice departments. This Life is helping to improve that by delivering training and awareness to crucial actors in the Justice environment. To date, This Life has given legal training and information to the police, lawyers and other key members involved with crime and disorder.

This Life has developed a purpose focussed centre (Edith House), that acts as a hub for the delivery of community-based diversion orders. Here, social education, personal development and the use of practical employment-enhancing skills are delivered instead of idle incarceration.

This program aims to ensure that young people, and women with children in conflict with the law, can access alternative measures.

This approach can help stem the increasing flow of people into Cambodia's prison system, and with time and utility, impact the overcrowded nature of the system entirely.

During 2021-22 the program has welcomed:

- 44 participants
- 2 Young Women
- 42 Young Men
- The average age of participants was 15

This facility also has the capacity and capability to deliver community-based projects that improve the physical aesthetics of public spaces. Groundwork-related solutions are already being planned, and This Life looks forward to the days when diverted young people engage in town-based environmental work and improve our local communities' natural environment.



Families who received emergency support

14



Follow up visits conducted to reintegrated children

298



Families who received support to set up small businesses

2

This Life Reimagining Care

The use of orphanages by Cambodian families has escalated in recent years. Yet at the same time, it is understood that 80% of children in orphanages, or Residential Care Institutions (RCIs), have at least one living parent. Why so many families place children in residential care is a phenomenon. Poverty and misconceptions of outcomes are perhaps the main reasons. Some families believe that their children will benefit from a better education by attending an orphanage, while others highlight their extreme poverty and the financial pressure that falls on them in times of crisis. We have seen this to be far from true through extensive consultations with care leavers. Some of the challenges they highlighted include:

- Young people who used to live in institutional care (also known as care leavers) are highly disadvantaged compared to their peers
- They often experience lengthy episodes of loneliness and isolation
- They are often discriminated against based on their lack the training, life skills, and emotional maturity to function in the real world

This Life advocates that children should grow up in family-based settings or registered and approved community-based care. This Life Reimagining Care is a distinct program of action that aims to work alongside care leavers, NGOs, and government bodies, to help redefine and transform the institutional care sector.

We have increased the knowledge and capacity of our social workers, equipping them with the skills that are needed to support care leavers to the highest standards. And knowledge to deliver best practices for the reintegration, transition, and closure of RCIs in alignment with Child Protection principles.

Our team also provides case management support during the reintegration and follow-ups to meet their needs. Furthermore, we are having extensive consultations with care leavers to establish a resource centre. This will help care leavers find the necessary information to reintegrate into society successfully. We are also working to amplify their voices, so they can share their experiences with the Government and parents of children who may be considering putting their children in RCIs.

The success of our program is only possible with some key relationships we have established. We work collaboratively with:

- Save The Children
- USAID
- Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (DoSVY)

In the last year, our team successfully:

- Reunited four children from RCIs to family-based care and delivered reintegration training to 91 RCI staff
- Identified three RCIs who appear willing to transition to non-residential care, with one fully engaging in the transition process
- Providing case management support to 45 children who have been reintegrated during the last year.

In line with This Life's Strategic Plan 2020-2025, we want to grow and expand our reach with RCIs and promote the most appropriate solutions. We also want to engage more with families that are experiencing extreme poverty and view orphanages as a viable option. In this sense, we believe that we can create and supply the support that is needed to maintain close family ties.



Former foster care children at a workshop giving their input on future policies



Local authorities who received training on RCI impact & prevention of children from family separation.

73



Identified Care leavers in targeted locations that have agree to join groups

88



Care leavers referred to vocational training

1

This Life New Horizons

In Cambodia, young children are placed in Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) for a variety of reasons. Most are connected with poverty and misconceptions about access to primary services such as education and healthcare.

Institutionalising children in poor settings can often produce and result in negative consequences for children. Their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development can all be placed at risk, under the wrong circumstances. Some institutions have been less supportive of children than one might imagine, and with a lack of surveillance, protection and support, children have suffered. Children who have lived in and left RCIs often feel lonely and isolated, and they possess and carry a range of unhelpful emotional fears that impact their daily lives.

With funding from USAID via Save the Children, This Life implemented a project called This Life New Horizons (TLNH) with three groups of care leavers, located in Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, and Banteay Meanchey provinces. This two-year program started in August 2021 and provides an opportunity for care leavers to come together, share ideas and benefit from adult and professional support. Working together voluntarily and collaboratively, they are provided with a platform through which they discuss issues, develop themselves and seek out their own pathways and potential.

During the year, This Life shared the project's aims and objectives with key local authorities, such as the Department for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth and other agencies (DoSVY), WCCC, RCIs, communities, families, and care leavers. The program enrolled participants and engaged them. The program has built and maintained close working relationships with local stakeholders and RCIs within the target provinces.

TLNH will strengthen its capacity and knowledge of care leaver needs. The project team worked closely with DoSVY and RCIs in the targeted provinces and identified 31 individuals, including 14 females of care leavers in the Kampong Thom and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

These care leavers have benefitted from the project and are active participants in it, advocating for more awareness and support for this niche minority group.

The program team also conducted face-to-face induction meetings, explaining in more detail, its work and results, with the Deputy Director, 10 DoSVY staff (3 females) and two officers located in branch offices in Kompong Thom and Siem Reap. This has resulted in mutual recognition and support for the process underpinning the project.

To date, the care leavers have benefitted from the project in a number of ways. They have:

- Shared their knowledge and experiences.
- Accessed counselling, mentorship, and other forms of personal development-related support
- Gained access to new education opportunities

During 2021-22 the program has welcomed:

- 85 participants
- 37 Young Women
- 48 Young Men
- The average age of participants was 19

As the groups further establish themselves, leadership work will be developed, and there is hope that an independent platform can emerge from which they can amplify their voice and communicate their needs. This is important if the care leavers are to have the confidence, skills and acumen, and benefit from equitable opportunities within the marketplace. This will help them to secure jobs, livelihoods and create meaningful ways in which to develop relationships and families.

During the implementation of the program, the team faced some difficult challenges, particularly COVID-19. This hampered young people from travelling and fully participating in the overall program of planned events and activities. In response, the program team used a variety of methods in which to maintain interest and secure participation, using IT solutions, such as smartphones and messaging apps such as Telegram and Zoom.



Community members enjoying food support.



Households supported with cash & input support to start new businesses



Households that received training on debt negotiation as part of the soft skill training



Households that received mentoring to improve their livelihoods activities.

Child Sensitive Livelihoods Assistance

COVID-19 has had a demonstrable impact on Siem Reap. Being fundamentally a tourist destination, the local economy was decimated. Families whose household incomes depended on international travel, witnessed the cancellation of flights and the closure of airports. Domestic tourism also contracted as restrictions on the movement of people became further enforced. The supply chains, the hospitality industry, the restaurants, the tuk-tuk drivers and all the agricultural stakeholders that would have otherwise kept this tourist town fed and watered, all saw their trade evaporate too. The net result of this on local people was an economic crash never before seen.

Poverty manifests in many forms, and for individuals, families and communities, this can quickly manifest into hopelessness. The second phase of the Child Sensitive Livelihoods Assistance Project started between the 15th July 2021 and ended in March 2022. This Life was an implementing partner that delivered this project, which translated into practical training and development opportunities for desperate families in need of ideas, support and opportunities. These circumstances were exacerbated by COVID-19, which at the time, was escalating within Cambodian communities and forcing communes into lockdown.

This project distributed \$60,497 as part of a relief program to arrest growing and escalating pressures associated with families declaring no incomes and no employment prospects. The project's major achievements were:

- 64 households have been supported with cash and input support to Start New Businesses
- 66 households received training on Debt Negotiation as part of the soft skill training
- 66 households received coaching/mentoring support to improve their livelihoods activities – Raising and caring for animals

In addition to the 66 households, the project delivery team accepted one late household referral from the local authority and after the confirmation of the referral information received in early December 2021. The number of caseloads during this reporting period has increased to 67 households.

The Child-Sensitive Livelihoods Assistance Team continued to work with other livelihood partners in Siem Reap. It reached out and worked with 3 partners: HURREDO, Samaritan's Purse and World Vision International, and learned about the support inputs that they had provided to households

The project team continued to work and engage with local authorities such as the Village Chief, CCWC and commune leaders as they assisted the process of providing support to those households who had engaged and developed new businesses and/or established small livelihood activities.

This collaboration work with local officials was essential and proved to be highly motivational for program participants. In addition, new relationships were formed that would go on to serve the wider shared interests of This Life.

The local authority accompanied the project team's Social Worker to deliver input support to clients. They encouraged households to try their best, and generate income to support the children. The project team continued to engage and communicate with the Stray Poukphal Meanchey Agricultural Cooperative, and other chicken farms to seek information and consultation around an emerging issue of chicken deaths.

The project also engaged with the Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking and were able to inform them on the progress of the project. In summary, the project was practical, it was personal, and it was supported by a range of collaborating stakeholders.



This Life staff members and community partners at a Women's Rights Forum


Family members who received
support through case management

325


Community members who
attended advocacy events

891


Local leaders trained in proper
domestic violence response

61

PROGRAMS OF ACTION COMMUNITIES

This Life Without Violence

Today, the sad reality is that violent partners kill five women an hour within domestic violence settings. Furthermore, 40% of this global and preventable burden rests in Asia.

Gender-based violence remains a serious problem in Cambodia. A third of Cambodian men admit to being perpetrators, only 24% of victims ever seek help, and only 8% of the population are even aware that domestic violence is a crime. One in five women in Cambodia has reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, and the incidence of violence increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Life Without Violence (TLWV) began in 2014 and seeks to address the problem with practical methods, which include case management across Siem Reap province. It adopts a multi-dimensional approach to addressing violence against women and children in targeted districts, communities, and lower secondary school settings. The program aims to reduce violence against women and children in Cambodia and prevent the collateral damage it creates within families and communities.

TLWV is part of the Gender-Based Violence Technical Working Group, managed by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. This Life provides leadership in this area and holds the position of Chair within the Violence Against Children Working Group. In this forum, NGOs provide mutual input and support by sharing best practices. TLWV focuses on building community responses to violence against women and children and increasing awareness of child protection issues and rights.

The program also focuses on capacity building in ways that strengthen both local authorities’ young people’s knowledge which can help prevent future episodes of sexual and gender-based violence.

The program aims to reduce risk factors, enhance protective factors, improve community-based responses to prevent domestic violence, and improve child protection. This approach is enhanced by providing

case management support to vulnerable families or families experiencing a crisis.

TLWV has undergone an incredible year, delivering:

- Awareness-raising training to almost 7,500 students and 300 teachers.
- 480 local leaders were trained on the impact of domestic violence and domestic violence law.
- 1688 Community members attended events focused on preventing violence against women and women's rights
- 160 community support groups for domestic violence have been established. Cumulatively, this has increased from 107 in the previous year.
- 61 local leaders trained in advanced domestic violence response

Program partners span all government tiers. We have an MOU with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. At the district and provincial levels, we work closely with the Women and Children Consultative Committee (WCCC). At the commune level, we partner with the Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC). We also collaborate with various key NGOs, including Legal Aid of Cambodia.

Vutha Phon, Program Officer, Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) Programme, UN Women (2019), stated:

“You (TL) have a great team. All of them have wonderful commitment and offer a hand to support each other. I do learn a lot from your team. It is credit to everyone for the wonderful achievement over your campaigns and This Life’s work as a whole. I hope that UN Women can collaborate more with This Life on GBV”



This Life In Schools

Ask almost any Cambodian parent what they want most for their children, and you will hear, ‘A good education.’ However, with the pressures of poverty and deprivation, good quality education is not always accessible. There are also problems with the fabric of schools and their teaching practices. Many schools can be considered overcrowded and typically under-resourced. For these and other reasons, many children drop out of school, which fundamentally inhibits their chances of ever achieving their full potential. As such, schools need support to deliver relevant and engaging lessons.

In Cambodia, only 41.5% of children complete grade 9, and 18.2% of lower secondary school students drop out. Many drop out to supplement their family income or search for work away from home, particularly in the most rural and disadvantaged communities.

As part of a three-year program, This Life In Schools (TLIS) works to empower communities to recognise and take ownership of their state school and to drive forward the improvements that are needed at a local level. TLIS aims to improve both access to and the quality of education that occurs by engaging community members in school development. Developing a mindset that sees the school as a community asset is key to the program.

The TLIS program conducts community-driven dialogue, mobilises School Support Committees (SSC) and helps empower Student-led Councils (SCs).

It delivers essential training to members of Local Authorities and supports schools in the planning, fundraising and production of a local development plan. Training is also delivered to school staff, including Teachers and Directors. Action-based research is also undertaken to help understand the influential causes of students dropping out of school or displaying poor attendance.

The TLIS team had a stellar year, with all its targets met or exceeded. The TLIS team supported 16 schools and delivered leadership training to 476 members of the SSC and SC. As the quality of education improved, they were able to reach 4,118 children who benefitted from community-led school development.

Thanks to the effort of the TLIS team, the communities raised \$103,451 for the betterment of the schools, a massive increase from the \$86,000 raised in the last financial year. The program also saw a 23% increase in community members and parents consulted on education and school development through events and forums we hosted.

In addition, there was also a 16% increase in the number of school development activities completed (Workshops, Training, Meetings, Awareness Campaigns)

Mrs Chan Ron, Deputy Governor of Kralanh District, said:

“Thanks to This Life for helping to support and develop our schools. This Life is an important development partner and is active in supporting the Provincial Education sector. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for the help and support in establishing SSC members who work together with commitment and inspiration. We all must play a part in strengthening education and reducing student absenteeism.”

TLIS works in collaboration with the Department of Policy, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. The Department of Policy and Planning has held online meetings with TLIS staff to understand and review progress on our achievements. As such, This Life will be invited to participate in education policy reform at the national level.

In alignment with This Life’s strategic plan for 2020-2025, we want to continue to improve access to quality education in the country by expanding the delivery of the TLIS program to other provinces. We have conducted scalability and replicability studies and are in a position to institute much wider reform across provinces. Our commitment remains steadfast - we aim to empower communities with the knowledge and capacity to improve school development for all Cambodian children.



One of our tutors mentoring some of our Moto Doctor students



Number of participants employed
after program completion

46



Number of participants supported
to set up their own business

12



Number of participants currently
enrolled in the program

61

Vocational Training and Social Enterprise (Edith House)

Children and young people from impoverished backgrounds face numerous obstacles; the lack of access to a good education, poor support systems, and a lack of access to resources and guidance. As a result of the vicious cycles in which poverty manifests, they are invariably vulnerable to acts of petty crime and crimes of desperation. This type of risk-taking behaviour can be devastating, not only to themselves but to their future and to their families and community.

With a focus on youths aged 15-24, the Edith House program is evolving as a new and ground-breaking facility where young people who come into conflict with the law can receive a community-based diversion order. Youth diversion has been a goal of This Life for over a decade. This youth-focused diversion program offers three distinct advantages:

- It eliminates the destruction of young people's rights and access to formal education
- It reduces the debilitating health effects of living in a Cambodian Prison
- It reduces pressure on an otherwise overcrowded prison system

Edith House provides a second chance pathway for young people to associate with This Life staff and benefit from personal development and professional employment training. Personal development training involves informal education and training in distinct life skills, including health, financial management, safe migration, substance abuse, and relationships. Students also benefit from mentoring, which places them at the centre of development.

Currently, the program offers young people opportunities to learn practical mechanical motor repair and tailoring skills.

To maximise the youths' chances of success, the program also works closely with their families, engaging them to learn about mutual support and outcome-driven motivation.

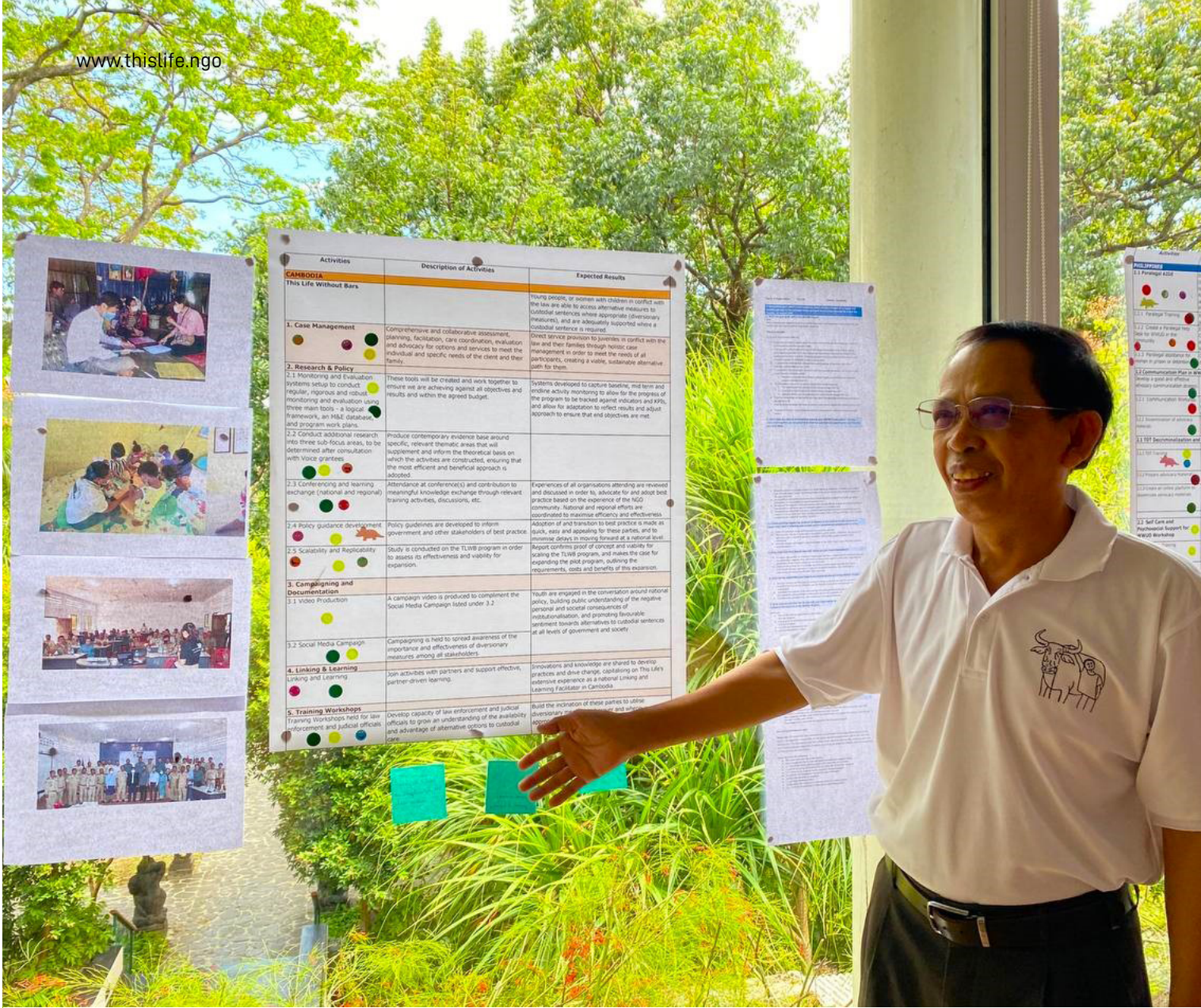
In 2021, we saw a 177% increase in program enrollment. Graduation rates rose by 32%, while the number of participants employed after program completion almost doubled from last year. Beyond this, the number of graduates who accessed and benefitted from business start-up funds and set up their businesses more than doubled. In the last year, we also saw:

- 61 participants enrol on the program
- 46 participants employed after participating and graduating from the program
- 12 participants who set up their own businesses with the support of the program

In line with This Life's strategic plan for 2020-2025, we want to grow the program by identifying new vocational training opportunities and choices. These opportunities will be harmonised and reconciled with local market needs.

In this regard, we envisage new opportunities to include electrical engineering, carpentry, and other construction-based activities, as well as beauty, catering, agricultural, horticultural, and IT-based workshops; each providing new and exciting training opportunities to young people.

The program looks forward to working in partnership with local technical colleges and universities to diversify and accredit its future training opportunities



Data collection tools and database systems for programs developed

10



Power BI dashboards developed for 9 active programs

15



Databases developed for monthly monitoring

144

IMPACT LEARNING AND EFFECTIVENESS

Research and Policy

There is clear evidence that Cambodia is engaged in transformational growth and change. However, the information and evidence that underpins the nature of changes that matter to some children, women, families, and communities are not always readily available.

With the absence and deficiencies in crucial data collection systems, coupled with a lack of freedom of information, it can be difficult for women, children, families and communities to establish a reasonable basis for change. Given this, This Life is fortunate to have a dedicated Research & Policy Team that conducts community-based primary research and establishes a credible knowledge and evidence base.

Research and Policy development is central to all of This Life's operational activities. This capability has been established as the organisation's principal strategic objective. The focus of the Research and Policy team is mainly in line with the general remit of This Life's scope of work.

The Research and Policy team aims to conduct rigorous, high quality and ethical research that informs the development of evidence-based policy and programs that support learning, innovation and change.

In line with this, This Life has subsequently discussed new collaborative opportunities and signed an MOU with DIU University (Battambang). It will continue to ensure that in partnership, our shared and proactive interests follow local communities' current and future needs.

With the team's expansion, new areas of active interest include Public Health, Penal Reform, Drugs, Addiction & Society, Consumer Debt, Adoption and Foster Care and Disability and Inclusive Education.

Across 2021-22 the research and policy team, in partnership

with a range of stakeholders, conducted research that was either accepted, presented, or published at academic conferences:

- Online - World Congress on Justice with Children (2021)
- Bali – Oxfam Inspire Research Program – Women, Prison & Punitive Drug Policies (2022)
- Bangkok – SE Asia Symposium on Prison Reform (2022)
- Kuala Lumpur - International Conference on Social Science (2022)
- Key research activities that were either adopted, contracted, and peer-reviewed* include:
- No place for a child: Alternatives to imprisoning children in Cambodia (2021)
- Gender, Criminalisation, Imprisonment and Human Rights in Southeast Asia (2022) *
- Early Years Childcare & Ageing in Cambodia's Prisons - Inequalities from the cradle to the grave (2022) *
- TLIF Scalability & Replicability Study (2022)
- Recreational Drug or Clinical Addiction pathways to prison (2022)
- Formal and Informal Debt in the Community (2022)
- Foster Care & Adoption - Practice in Cambodia (2022)
- Government Decentralisation Provincial Analysis CR Phase 2 (2022)
- Where are all the Disabled Children - Disability & Inclusive Education (2022)
- Children Young People & Violence in School Settings (2022)
- Case Study - Barriers to alternatives to incarceration (2022)

As we move forward into the future, it is likely that a new research prospectus will evolve that can be delivered in partnership with local stakeholders and universities.



Data collection tools and database systems for programs developed

10



Comprehensive reports and publications

15



Academic Book Contributions

1

Capacity & Partnership Development

Community development can be understood as that simple, yet invariably complicated process of associating people with similar interests or shared concerns. However, with the skills, knowledge and developmental activities that follow, the true magic of community development can be realised.

For a range of credible reasons, many children, women, families, and communities in Cambodia face various difficulties that inhibit, limit, and preclude them from fully participating in society. For those affected, this creates inequality and disadvantage.

In this regard, This Life has a dedicated Capacity & Partnership Development program that focuses on developing the capacity of community development practice. This team works with local communities and established groups to help support them in transforming community-based problems and aspirations into opportunities and advantages.

The team also aims to provide organisational development and capacity-building support to groups of organisations working in the development sector, to maximise the impact and sustainability of collective interventions. In this sense, the Capacity and Partnership Development program offers tailored and dedicated support to organisations via:

- Research & Policy development
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL)
- Community focussed communication
- Program management
- Collaborative working practice

Across 2021-22, the Capacity and Partnership Development team has undertaken a wide range of partnership-based projects with various NGOs across Cambodia.

This work has helped support collaboration, grant-making and reflective learning capacity building. These activities have helped support organisations that use community development practices to extend their reach, maximise their impact and improve the sustainability of their interventions.

This work has also helped produce inter-agency collaboration, mutuality, and interdependence. In addition to this, further work that has engaged the Community & Partnership Development team includes:

- Mobilising group work activities with GHR grantees as part of a 4-year collaboration-building project
- The development of a biennial standing conference focussing on welfare reform, planned for 2023 and 2025
- Mobilising partnership development plans with DI University (Battambang)
- Sector-wide development of existing Residential Care Organisations

Following attendance at a research training and skills course, joint research and development activities were undertaken with stakeholders in the following thematic areas:

- The nature of residential care in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia
- A literature review of domestic violence and communication methods
- A review of contemporary adoption and foster care practice in Cambodia



One of our tutors mentoring some of our Moto Doctor students



New Research Activities funded for development (GHR & Oxfam Inspire)

7



Research project completed

2



Local Universities engaged for MOU collaboration

1

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

Given the widespread complexities in which development work occurs, it is not uncommon, for a range of credible reasons, for project plans and activities to unfold as initially intended. As such, This Life benefits from an independent Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning team (MEAL) that helps ensure that project activities are optimised and run effectively and efficiently.

This team, the largest in the Impact Learning and Effectiveness section, ensures that project plans are designed and developed using a clear theory of change. Theories of Change represent a hypothesis of how we think change occurs. Creating a Theory of Change allows project delivery teams to reach a consensus on the underlying assumptions of a problem, as distilled by community-based conversations.

Tiered levels of assumptions are identified and used as building blocks from which to develop actions and activities that engage and seek impact.

Log frames are typically used as a method for recording and tracking development. As such, the Theory of Change aims to understand the conditions in which some things work and for whom. The MEAL team aims to monitor systematically and routinely:

This approach helps measure the status, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of delivered activities. The collected Data is typically used to produce dashboards of performance-driven visual representations of key achievements and goals. This helps

- Contribute to projects achieving planned objectives, goals, and impact, as defined by key stakeholders and commissioning donors
- Projects achieve or exceed stated indicator targets
- Produce high-quality reports for key stakeholders and commissioning donors.

Monitoring and evaluating action results in continuous improvement in the design and delivery of field projects via learning, insights, and research-based activities. It has also

helped promote ongoing consultation, engagement and dialogue with community stakeholders and key partners who have a structural and influential role in collaborating with communities.

Across 2021-22 the MEAL Team worked with a range of This Life's programs and projects, notably:

- This Life Without Bars
- This Life Beyond Bars
- This Life in Families
- This Life Reimagining Care
- Vocational training and social enterprise
- This Life with Choices
- This Life New Horizons
- This Life Without Violence
- Cash Transfer Programs
- This Life in Schools
- Internships and volunteering
- Research & Policy
- Community Capacity Building

The MEAL team ensures that meaningful aspects of a project are monitored and evaluated, and information is readily available to This Life's field-based project teams.



SHARED SERVICES

The Shared Services team incorporates Finance, Administration, and Human Resources. Internships are also coordinated within this section. Shared Services collectively provide This Life with those core functions, standards, and governance capabilities that enable This Life to operate as a functional, legal organisation.

Shared Services has an inward-looking function and an outward-facing purpose. Together, they cooperate with stakeholders and enable the organisation to function efficiently, providing financial support in addition to recruiting and retaining high-quality professional staff that are governed by appropriate and progressive policies and standards.

Shared Services also enable career pathways for external volunteers to gain experience, skills, and knowledge.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Finance & Administration team provides strategic and operational assistance to This Life in delivering services to local communities. These teams provide financial, logistical, operational, and strategic support.

The team also provides standardised accounting procedures for all the investments and expenditures that This Life engages with and authorises. The adopted financial systems help ensure that This Life has corporate awareness of its financial circumstances, including liabilities and risks. This includes external scrutiny and other audit-related activities to which This Life is subject. The Finance team also provides a bespoke service to This Life's Project Teams, enabling staff to understand and monitor financial expenditure as determined by donor-supported activities.

Our Finance team members play an essential role in forecasting future costs and expenditures, allowing us to take a strategic approach to external funding and investment applications. In collaboration with HR, Finance plays a central role in maintaining staff pay and staff savings.

HUMAN RESOURCES (Inc Volunteer & Interns)

This Life's Human Resources team aims to recruit, support, and maintain a productive, talented, creative, innovative, and collaborative workforce. Using key technologies, the HR team maintains workforce and organisational development systems. It provides vital legal advice given Cambodia's corporate and employment laws. Contracts and procurement are also managed by Human Resources, who ensure that the best value and probity lie at the heart of our expenditure approach

SHARED LEARNING AND EXPERIENCES

Young Cambodians face difficulties in securing employment when employers typically ask for demonstrable periods of experience. At the beginning of your career, obtaining such experience can be problematic – a problem akin to a Catch-22 situation. Given the nature of this known barrier, This Life has and will continue to provide internship and working opportunities for undergraduate students from local universities. Working collaboratively and in partnership with local universities, internship opportunities offer additional capacity to This Life and provide the student with valuable learning opportunities that could only be gained through regular employment. This Life also provides a stipend honorarium to interns. This funding helps reduce the pressure on students who typically rely on casual and uncertain work in the informal economy, which can often be a distraction and detract from studying and learning.

Internships are long established at This Life, and many participants go on to secure employment with us. Typically, This Life accepts eight interns per year, and they work in both administrative and project delivery areas. This 'field-based' and 'real-world experience' provides valuable insights, develops confidence, and supports their overall learning journey.

Volunteers are also associated with This Life via the Australian Volunteer program, which places Australian volunteers with global NGOs. This year, This Life welcomed Suresh as an Australian volunteer. Suresh worked remotely from Australia and provided This Life with a complete organisational review and IT development strategy. This strategy served This Life well and helped us develop a deeper understanding of our dependence and relationship with IT. Suresh left as a volunteer after six months, but after a short break, he returned to This Life, taking up a role as a Board member.

Other forms of volunteering also play an essential role at This Life. At any point in time, we have volunteers working with us on various projects.

Last year we welcomed William Grear, an American Fullbright Scholar working with the University of SE Asia. William worked within our ILE team and provided a range of supporting roles, helping ILE with proofreading, report writing and facilitating skills development with the broader community. This type of volunteering offers value to both This Life and the volunteer. William left This Life at the end of his scholarship, returning to the USA to take up an important teaching role in a deprived area of New York.

Other volunteers have also provided This Life with valuable skills and energy. In February 2022, This Life welcomed Soraya, a Spanish student studying International Development at Paris University. Soraya supported staff in delivering early years education to infant children who accompany their parents in prison. This additional capacity resulted in more children being exposed to new and dynamic learning. After running the Angkor half marathon in This Life colours and coming third, Soraya left This Life in December, having completed her second master's degree, to take up a PhD program in Migration, Gender & Human Rights at Madrid University.

In May 2021, This Life welcomed six volunteers from Wharton Business School who enjoyed 14 days teaching Business Start Up tutorials to social workers and local social entrepreneurs.

This Life also benefited from voluntary work with EI Company www.eicompany.co, a global leader in teaching emotional intelligence to staff and organisations. Three free workshops were hosted, and 24 members of staff benefitted from 6 hours of valuable informal learning.

Volunteers are always made welcome at This Life, whether they associate full-time or part-time. We see volunteering as a collaborative arrangement and understand that if both parties work together and expectations are managed, the experience gained can be mutually beneficial and transformational.

A MESSAGE TO OUR FUNDERS

At the heart of This Life is our standing commitment to listen to, engage with people, and advocate side by side, to support those most deprived, and to define and act on their solutions to complex social challenges. This Life envisages a collaborative, productive, mutually beneficial future by articulating with communities a portfolio of ideas that gravitate around this core theme [add full stop].

‘For This Life, we want to add years to life and life to years. For This Life, justice begins where inequality ends.’ The repeated sentence structure makes this read overly dramatic.

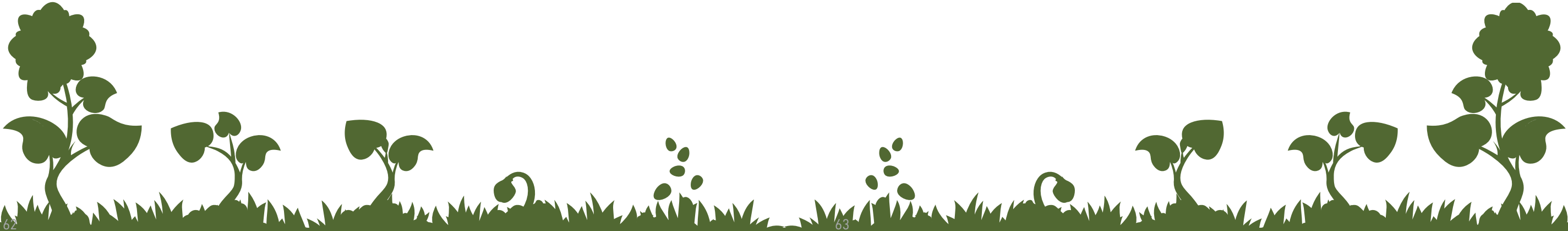
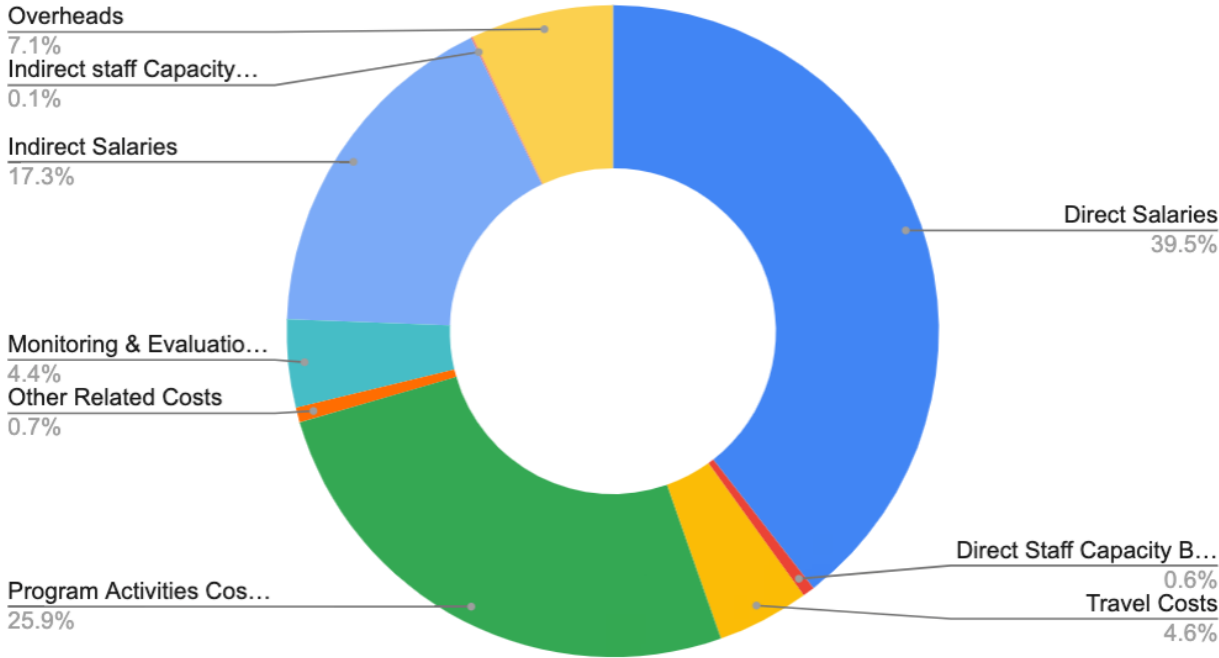


FINANCIAL REPORTING

For the Year Ended 31 August 2022						
	2022			2021		
	AUD	USD	KHR'000	AUD	USD	KHR'000
Support and Revenue						
Grant Income	1,807,909	1,247,819	5,083,615	1,991,382	1,495,792	6,084,882
Monetary Donations And Gifts	22,534	15,553	63,363	113,849	85,516	347,879
Monitoring & Evaluation	99,249	68,502	279,077	55,797	41,911	170,494
Consulting Service Income	11,663	8,050	32,796	52,654	39,550	160,889
Motor Doctor Income	14,050	9,697	39,506	16,901	12,695	51,643
Other Income	55,784	38,502	156,857	37,547	28,203	114,730
Income Released From Capital Grants Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Support and Revenue	2,011,189	1,388,123	5,655,214	2,268,130	1,703,667	6,930,517
Expenses						
Central Office And Core Costs	154,335	106,523	433,975	137,335	103,158	419,647
Programs	1,990,963	1,374,163	5,598,340	1,896,451	1,424,487	5,794,814
Surplus Of Revenue Over Expenditure	(134,109)	(92,563)	(377,101)	234,344	176,022	716,056
Other Comprehensive Income						
Foreign Currency Translation	7,574	0	0	6,716	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income For The Year	7,574	0	0	6,716	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income For The Year	(126,535)	(92,563)	(377,101)	241,060	176,022	716,056

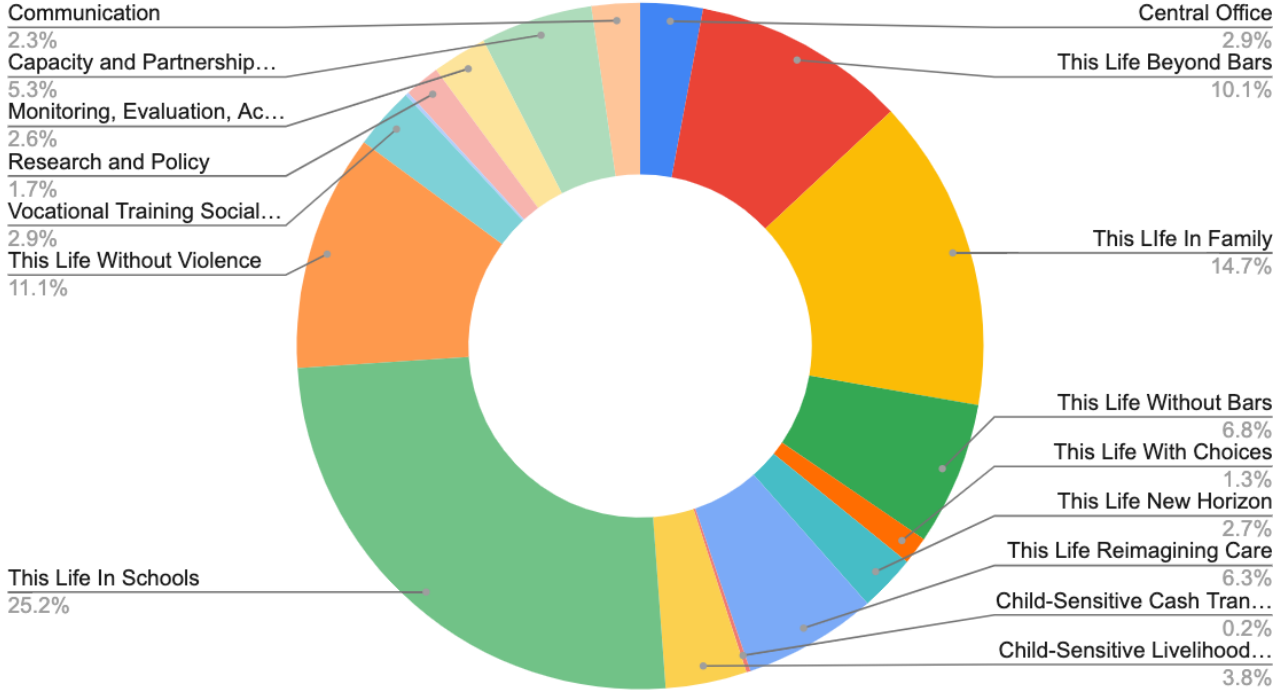
SUMMARY BY BUDGET ITEM

SUMMARY BY BUDGET ITEMS



SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

Amount - USD





COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION

This Life is a proud member of The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak body for Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) involved in international development and humanitarian action. We comply with the ACFID Code of Conduct, a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development and humanitarian action outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing signatory organisations' transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

This Life fully is fully compliant with ACFID's requirement to provide information on an annual basis demonstrating our continued compliance with the Code of Conduct. We do this by submitting annual audited financial reports each year, and by submitting a Code Self-Assessment (CSA) at a minimum of one in every three years.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the regulatory authority for Australian charities and not-for-profits. They are responsible for ensuring that charities and non-profit organisations comply with Australian law and keeping a public register of registered organisations.

This Life submits an Annual Information Statement and an annual audited financial report to the ACNC as part of our reporting obligations. Further obligations include keeping financial and operational records, notifying ACNC of changes to our details, complying with the ACNC Governance Standards and with the External Conduct Standards (applicable to Australian charities operating overseas). This Life complies with all the legal and financial reporting standards and regulations set by the Accounting and Auditing Regulator (ACAR) in Cambodia.

This Life is currently in the process of acquiring accreditation with ANCP (Australian NGO Cooperation Program). This has involved implementing various measures to update and modernise our procedure base.



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Although this is far from comprehensive, here is just a small list of some of the steps we have taken:

- An amendment of our Child Protection Policy in compliance with The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Child.
- Drafting a new Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) policy - in accordance with DFAT policy
- An amendment of our Program Operation Plan amended to include CP DFAT-compliant risk assessment procedure.
- Comprehensive revision of our Child Protection Policy

This is just a handful of over a dozen steps we have taken as part of our ethos of continuous improvement in everything we do, particularly policy, compliance, and procedure. Additionally, audited the financials independently in three currencies USD, KHR & AUD.*



THE FUTURE

This Life has delivered a productive year across all its program activities. This productivity results from the passion, commitment and innovation adopted by the wider staff team. Equally, success can be linked to innovations at Board level. Collectively, this has relieved deprivation and helped improve the quality of life for members of the public in Cambodia.

No more so is this evident than in the development and outcomes associated with This Life's Child-Friendly Space (kindergarten) within the grounds of Siem Reap Prison. This project, amongst many, pays a testament to the power of collaboration and the desire to work in partnership. Without this, the lives of pregnant women and mothers, especially those mothers whose children accompany them in prison, would be significantly more deprived.

As This Life enters the third year of its five-year strategic plan, we will review what has been achieved and what activities have eluded us, given the restrictions and legacy associated with Covid-19. With this mid-term review, This Life will seek to clarify its strategic goals and define those activities that will help us orient our programs of action, in response to the post-COVID landscape.

We will look to our staff, stakeholders, and donors to help us with this process, as we see their perceptions as both valuable and central to developing a balanced outlook. In this exercise, new discussions and conversations will be conducted, resulting in new ideas and challenges being discovered, appreciated, and adopted. We want our future to be defined by relationships. Relationships that are open, honest and productive.

This Life is keen to understand if its future rests with more donor-led service provision. Alternatively, our future may involve more advocacy that calls for and supports the development and diversification of government-led commissioning. Other semi-commercial opportunities, such as training, education, and consultancy work, may also represent new pathways for the future.

As we look to the future, what can be guaranteed is that children, women, families and communities will play a central role in defining the key areas that help move us forward. At the heart of This Life is our standing commitment to listen to, engage with people, and advocate side by side, supporting those most deprived to define and act on their solutions to complex social challenges. This Life envisages a collaborative, productive, mutually beneficial future by articulating a new portfolio of ideas around this core theme alongside communities.

For This Life, we want to add years to life and life to years. We believe that justice begins where inequality ends. In this regard, the future will invariably involve more community consultations, and the extent of these conversations will help determine the steps that we take in the future.

In this approach, This Life will support communities to realise those practical aspirations that transform poverty, inequality and disadvantage into outcomes that deliver equity, access, and opportunity.

This Life Cambodia Incorporated

Board's Declaration

The Board of This Life Cambodia Incorporated declares that in the Board's opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that This Life Cambodia Incorporated is able to pay all of its liabilities, as and when they become due and payables;
- (b) the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements give true and fair view of the state of affairs of This Life Cambodia Incorporated as at 31 August 2022 and the true and fair view of all income and expenditure of This Life Cambodia Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 August 2022;
- (c) the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012 and the Australian Accounting Standards AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements; and
- (d) This Life Cambodia Incorporated has exercised essential internal controls, which are adequate, appropriate, and effective in accounting for all income earned and expenditure incurred for the financial year ended 31 August 2022.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60-45(3)(b) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012 and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013 and full adherence to Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Code Compliant Financial Statements.



Hayley Lee Allen

Chair

Date: 26 February 2023



Independent Audit Report to the Board of This Life Cambodia Inc.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of This Life Cambodia Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2022, the statement of profit or loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by the Board.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We did not undertake the audit of the financial report of This Life Cambodia Inc. as at 31 August 2021, as we were appointed in December 2022 and therefore we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the comparatives.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board and Those Charged with Governance

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW), and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deanne Firth'.

Tactical Super
Deanne Firth FCA (52264)
Dated this 24th day of February 2023



Postal Address: PO Box 7013 Geelong West Vic 3218 | Office Address: 105 Lovely Banks Road Lovely Banks VIC 3213

Email: admin@tsaudits.com.au | Web: www.tacticalsuper.com.au | Phone: 03 5222 2006

Tactical Super Pty Ltd ATF The Tactical Super Unit Trust ABN : 93 803 606 281
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



AUDITOR’S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SUBDIVISION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

TO THE BOARD OF THIS LIFE CAMBODIA INCORPORATED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year end 31 August 2022 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirement as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Tactical Super

Deanne Firth FCA (52264)
Dated this 24th day of February 2023



Postal Address: PO Box 7013 Geelong West Vic 3218 | **Office Address:** 105 Lovely Banks Road Lovely Banks VIC 3213
Email: admin@tsaudits.com.au | **Web:** www.tacticalsuper.com.au | **Phone:** 03 5222 2006

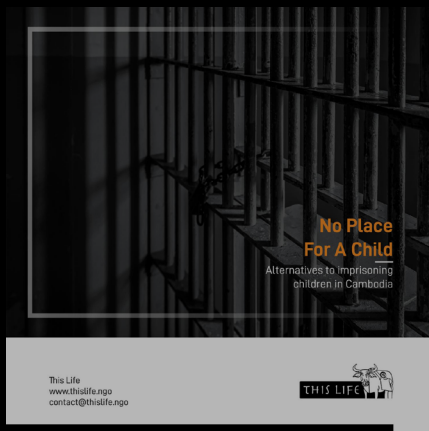
Tactical Super Pty Ltd ATF The Tactical Super Unit Trust ABN : 93 803 606 281
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

**This Life is actively engaged in community-led development.
We welcome new opportunities to partner and collaborate with shared interest groups.
Work with us and help make the world a happier, healthier, and fairer space.**



Read in Khmer - Read in English



Contact

Cambodia Office address: House 463 Group 10, Taphul Village, Sangkat Svay Dangcum, Siem Reap

Cambodia Office Phone: +855 (0) 63 966 050

Office hours: Monday to Friday; 8am – 5pm (UTC/GMT + 7 hours)

Post: PO Box 93190, Siem Reap Angkor, Cambodia

contact@thislife.ngo
thislife.ngo

Australia Office address: 2 Audley St, Petersham, 2049, New South Wales, **Australia Office Phone:** (+61) 4168 24486

Office hours: Monday to Friday; 9 am – 5 pm Contact name: Damon Martin

