

# Factsheet

# THE ECONOMIC BURDEN

## OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

### VIOLENCE IS COMMON IN THE LIVES OF MANY CAMBODIAN CHILDREN



#### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

**1 in 2 boys and girls under the age of 18 have experienced physical violence**

**PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE** include being slapped, pushed, punched, kicked, whipped, beaten with an object, choked, smothered, tried to drown, burned, scalded, injured or threatened with a weapon such as a knife or other weapon.



#### EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

**1 in 4 boys and girls under the age of 18 have experienced emotional violence**

**EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE** refers to a pattern of verbal behaviour over time or an isolated incident that is not appropriate for a child's development and that has a high probability of damaging a child's mental health or physical development. Emotional acts of violence include such things as being told you were not loved, someone wished you had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.



#### SEXUAL ABUSE

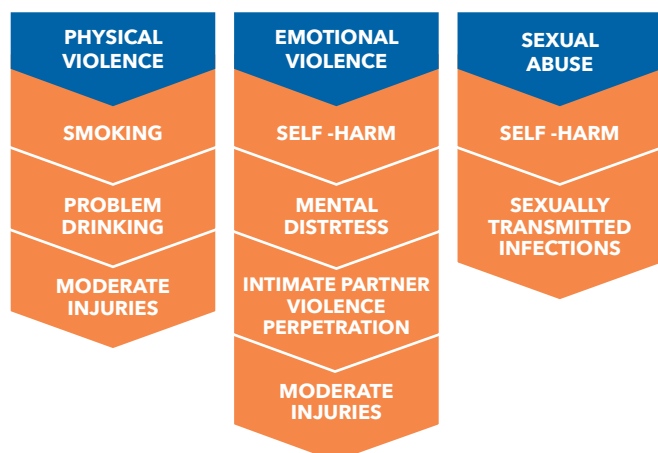
**1 in 20 boys and girls under the age of 18 have experienced sexual abuse**

**SEXUAL ABUSE** includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children such as completed non-consensual sex acts (i.e., rape), attempted non-consensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact (i.e., unwanted touching), and non-contact sexual abuse (e.g., threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, verbal sexual harassment).

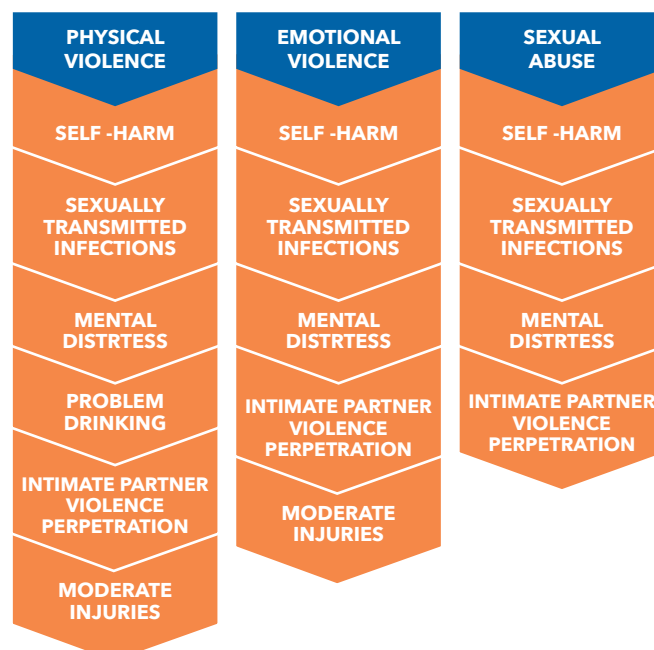
### CHILDHOOD VIOLENCE CAUSES POOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND RISK BEHAVIOURS



For boys childhood violence is linked to



For girls childhood violence is linked to



# ECONOMIC BURDEN

- The social and economic impacts of violence against children include added burden on the health care system due to excessive use of health services, and in extreme cases, disability and death, as well as increased levels of violence and criminality.
- The study looked into a number of health consequences of violence and its economic impacts.



**AT LEAST  
US\$168  
MILLION LOST IN  
2013**

AS A RESULT OF SELECT  
NEGATIVE HEALTH  
CONSEQUENCES  
CAUSED BY VIOLENCE  
AGAINST CHILDREN

Childhood violence  
resulted in  
**US\$83.3  
MILLION**  
lost productivity  
in 2013

This is only a tip of the iceberg, as only a select number of health consequences were identified and their financial costs assessed for the purpose of this study

The economic burden  
of the selected health  
consequences of violence  
against children accounted for  
**1.10% OF CAMBODIA'S  
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

Loss of productivity  
due to childhood  
violence accounted for  
**0.55% OF CAMBODIA'S  
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**



- There is an urgent need to invest in the national child protection system to ensure that every child and young person who has experienced violence has access to the best possible care, as well as responses that will help ensure recovery and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Preventing violence against children has great human and economic benefits for the entire Cambodian society. Children who grow up in a non-violent environment will have a better chance of reaching their full potential and becoming healthy and productive adults.
- Investing today is more cost-effective than not investing. **PROTECTING CHILDREN IS NOT ONLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT IS THE SMART THING TO DO!**