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PROJECT BRIEF



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, VETERANS AND YOUTH REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (3PC) Phase III (2016–2018)



Statement from Excellency Vong Sauth, Minister for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

“ The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) is committed to protecting the children of Cambodia and providing social welfare services to vulnerable children and their families through a comprehensive and efficient child protection system. As the Minister, I would like to share our work regarding the protection of Cambodian children. We recognize that the child protection challenges are enormous and we have limited systems and resources available. I take this opportunity to thank all the partners, including USAID. I hope you will find this brief about 3PC useful in learning about our achievements and plans for the next three years. ”

H.E Touch Channy, Director General, MoSVY.

“ Children in Cambodia are increasingly protected by improved legislation and services, especially in alternative care. However, Cambodian children face numerous risks, such as violence and placement in residential institutions, which puts them at a greater risk of violence, exploitation and neglect. MoSVY is happy to enter into the third phase of this partnership so that more children can access safe and protective environments. ”

Foster Care for Sorya

The story shows how 3PC partners collaborate. The referral is from AHC (network partner), the foster placement is managed by Kaliyan Mith (implementing partner), the placement is approved by the government, while UNICEF (with USAID's contribution) provides technical and financial support.



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Ms. Sareth and Sorya have a unique bond.

Three-year-old Sorya (name changed) was born with cerebral palsy. His parents did not feel confident enough to care for him and he was abandoned at Angkor Hospital for Children when he was around nine months old. In the first initiative of its kind, Kaliyan Mith (3PC partner) and AHC (3PC network partner) piloted foster care placements for children such as Sorya, instead of sending them to residential care, while planning their long-term placement.

Although taking care of Sorya has been challenging at times, Ms. Sareth, who has been fostering him for almost two years, says it is all worth it: "Sometimes I call his name from the other room and he recognizes my voice, he lifts his head and I can see him searching for me," she says. "That makes it all worth it, my heart is full every time I see him."

Reintegrating children from 'orphanages'

This story reflects the spirit of the 3PC partnership, where, we take the role of enforcing policies and civil society partners work with MoSVY workers to provide services on the ground.

After his father died, Chet was sent to live in an "orphanage" in Siem Reap by his mother who believed he would receive good food, shelter, education and an opportunity to learn English from foreigners. A MoSVY inspection in 2014 found the orphanage was under-performing and failing to provide food and essential care. After it was closed down, UNICEF and its partners started work on a case management of Chet and 35 other children who were later reunited with their families. Chet is now happily enrolled at a local school. However reintegration is more than just a reunification with the family and requires a long-term social and psycho-social support. This is provided by the NGO partners. Chet's mother said residential care does more harm than good to families. "I will not send my son to live in any residential care institution again. I will stop believing those who persuaded me to send my son to such institutions as they have done more harm to me and my son."

Evidence of success

A 2015 independent evaluation commissioned by USAID found that 3PC achieved significant results at all levels of the alternative care system in Cambodia. This was evidenced by a stronger regulatory framework and delivery of direct services to significant numbers of vulnerable children and families (31,587 children in 2015). The project expanded family and community-based alternative care services (including developing and improving foster care programmes which have not been widely implemented in Cambodia) and reintegrated children from residential care institutions into family and community-based care. With UNICEF's support, MoSVY inspected residential care institutions, closed those that were sub-standard, and mapped the number of institutions and institutionalized children across the country.

Goal

To strengthen systems for child protection in Cambodia to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse and unnecessary separation

Objective

To provide immediate and long-term assistance to children at risk of, or exposed to, violence and unnecessary family separation with the aim of contributing to reducing violence against children by 30 per cent and safely returning 30 per cent of children in residential care to their families by 2018.

Strategies

1. System building (national and sub-national capacity),
2. Systematic collaboration between MoSVY, UNICEF and the NGO sector (coordination, networking and referral; 3PC partners have different expertise and complement each other; a successful initiative of one partner is replicated by other partners),
3. Strengthened community capacity (behaviour change campaigns to promote positive child protection norms at the community level).

Programme name: Partnership Programme for the Protection of Children (3PC) Phase III

Project duration: May 2016 - December 2018

Locations: Battambang, Kandal, Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng provinces

Key targets by 2018:

- 24,000 children at risk or exposed to violence receive preventive and responsive child protection services
- 3,500 children from residential care reintegrated into family- and community-based care
- 2,500 children reached with remedial/non-formal education
- 2,150 children reintegrated into public school
- 130,000 people reached through the international campaign on harmful effects of orphanage tourism and 'voluntourism'
- 198,000 people reached through the behavioural change campaign to prevent and respond to violence against children and family separation

Helping vulnerable young people find hope again

Bona (name changed) was forced to run away from his family home in Stung Treng province three years ago due to constant domestic violence. After living a miserable life, roaming and begging on the streets of Phnom Penh, Mith Samlanh finally rescued him.

"Life was worse than I had expected...but my life took another turn when I met an older boy who took me to Mith Samlanh, an organization which provided services to help street children like me become independent."

Bona graduated from a cooking course in April 2016 and is working as a cook at a restaurant in Phnom Penh. He is now able to support himself and his family.



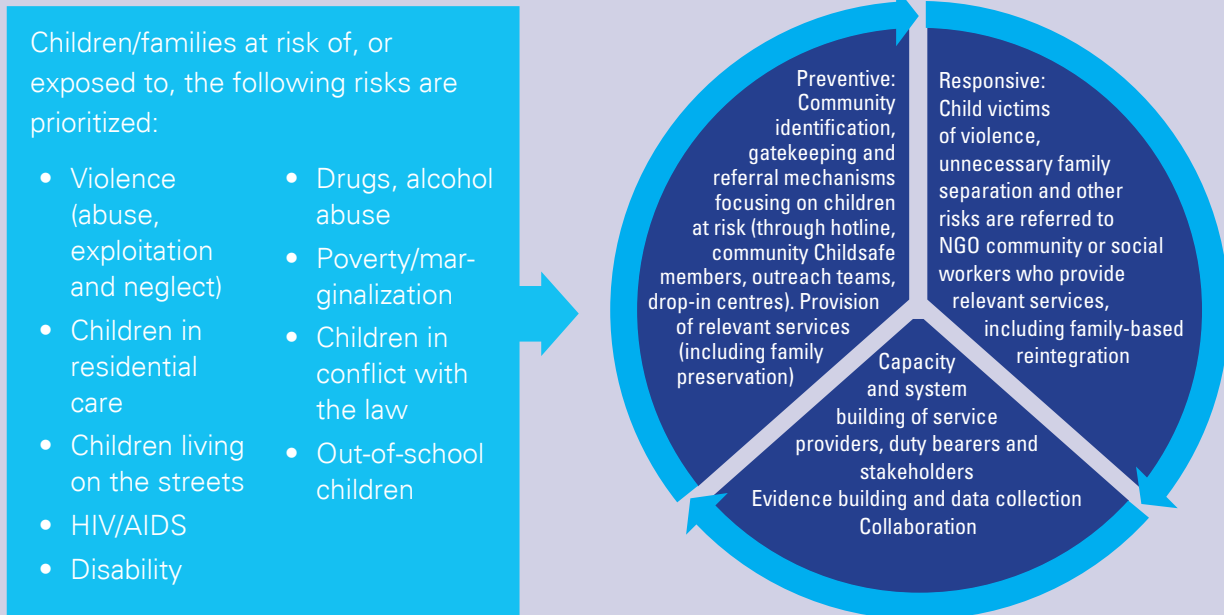
Young people in a cooking class at Mith Samlanh's vocational training centre in Phnom Penh.

©Mith Samlanh/Cambodia/2016

3PC Programme Approach

The overall programme approach is to identify a child before s/he gets into harm, and continue to support and reintegrate the child, in case s/he is being harmed. The entry point for support can be at any level. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: 3PC Programme Approach



Preventive and responsive services

Recognizing that vulnerability is multi-dimensional, 3PC operates a comprehensive range of services to ensure that children and their families can be pulled out of the vulnerability trap.

- Community identification, gatekeeping and referral mechanisms
 - ▶ Outreach, including visits to hotspots with a high number of vulnerable children
 - ▶ Hotlines (more than 2,000 calls are received by the seven hotlines every year)
 - ▶ Community child protection networks (More than 5,000 community ChildSafe members, outreach workers and more than 400 peer educators)
- Income generation (vocational training, internships, job placement, income-generation activities)
- Provision of basic needs (medical, food, shelter)
- Education (non-formal education, remedial education and reintegration into formal schooling)
- Counselling/psycho-social support
- Positive parenting support, parent-child activities
- Family reunification
- Life-skills information
- Drop-in centre and comprehensive services centre
- Establishment of self-help groups on alcohol abuse, domestic violence
- Transitional home: six transit homes are currently operating
- Alternative care: foster care, kinship care, group home, independent living arrangement



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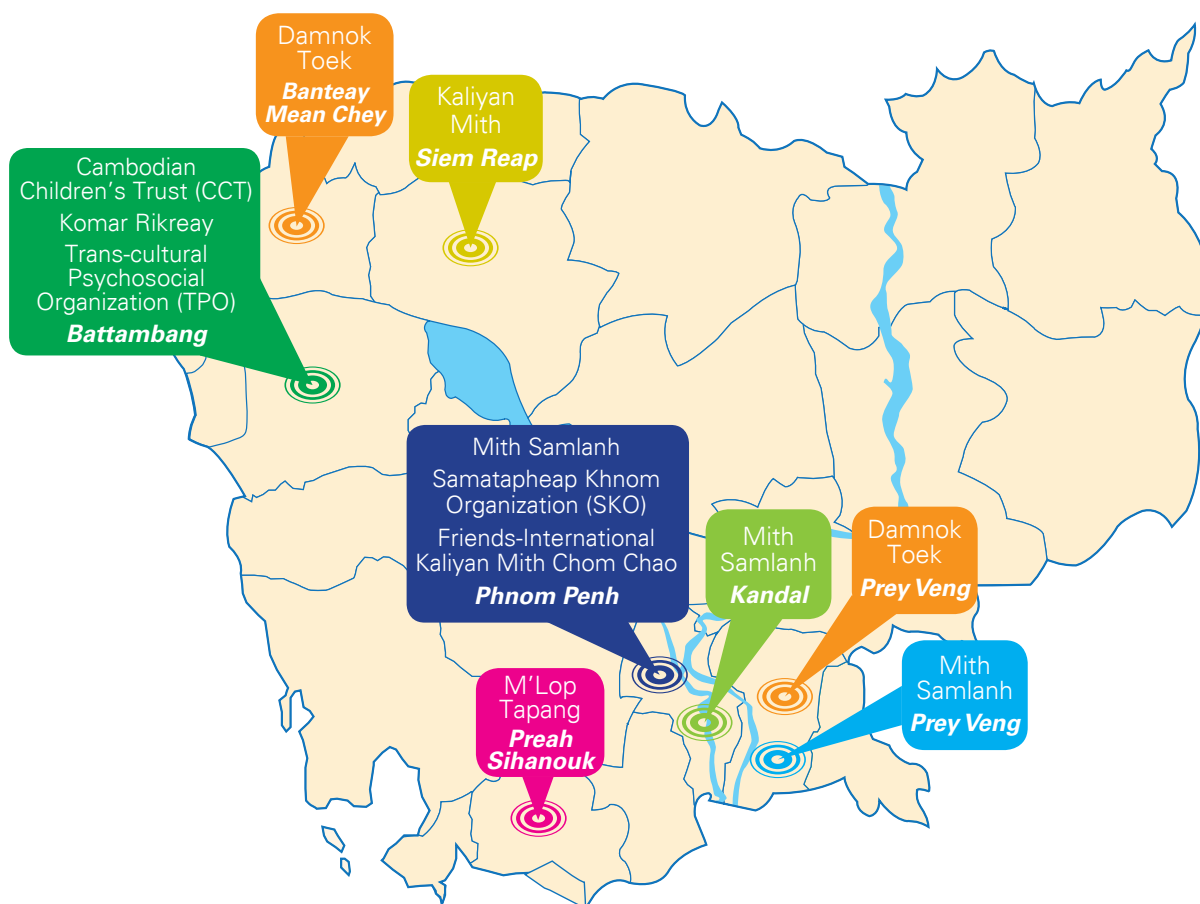
Participants at the launch of the 3PC Phase III event

The 3PC is implemented through a tripartite partnership between MoSVY, UNICEF and Friends-International. In addition, FI coordinates an umbrella of nine additional civil society organizations (implementing partners) to implement field-level activities. They in turn liaise with 40 community-based organizations (network of partners) to provide services. There are also six technical partners who provide specialized services on a contractual basis.

Figure 2: Role of national-level partners

MoSVY	UNICEF	Friends-International
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide guidance in planning, monitoring and implementing the programme's overall direction • To facilitate coordination of the 3PC partners with sub-national authorities and other government agencies • To lead development of government systems and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To leverage resources and co-fund 3PC Phase III • To provide technical assistance, with a focus on advocacy, knowledge generation, monitoring and evaluation, data management, documentation and technical reviews • To liaise with donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To coordinate with the implementing partners for effective implementation and quality assurance of the field-level programme • To provide technical assistance to the implementing partners on all aspects of the programme • To collate data and provide regular reports

Figure 3: Geographical coverage of 3PC implementing partners



Selection of partners:

The selection of implementing and technical partners is done by Friends International and approved by UNICEF and MoSVY. Additional new partners can join 3PC Phase III if their programmes are considered pertinent and useful to reaching the expected targets of 3PC Phase III.

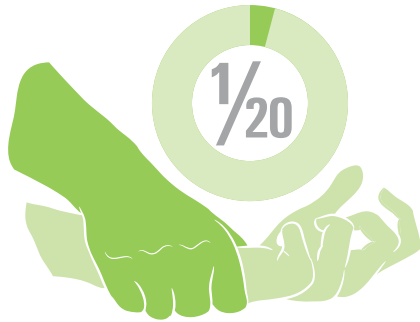
Monitoring and evaluation

Joint bi-annual field review missions and quarterly review meetings are conducted by MoSVY, UNICEF and Friends International of all the partners in each of the five priority provinces to discuss progress, solve bottlenecks and provide further inputs into the programme. Case file reviews and beneficiary visits are also conducted.

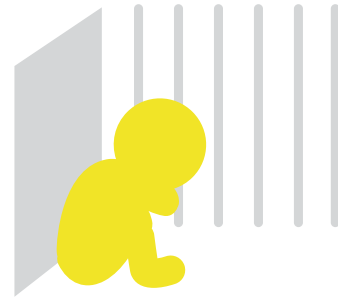
The recommendations from the 2015 independent evaluation have been incorporated into the third phase of 3PC to strengthen the project. Specifically, these include strengthening the foster care and adoption regulatory framework and services, improving the monitoring system of the 3PC partners, stronger enforcement of the Minimum Standards on Alternative Care for Children, implementation of the Sub-Decree on the Management of Residential Care Centres, strengthening the system for responding to reports of violence from residential care institutions, scaling up the reduction of the number of children in institutional care, strengthening reintegration approaches, and increasing the focus on children with disabilities in residential care institutions.

Fast Facts: Child Protection

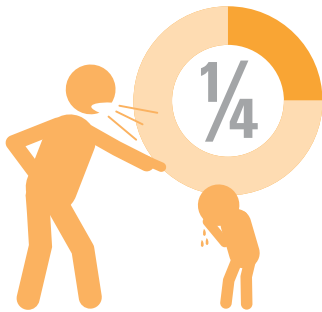
3PC operates within an environment of immense hardships and violence experienced by Cambodian children.



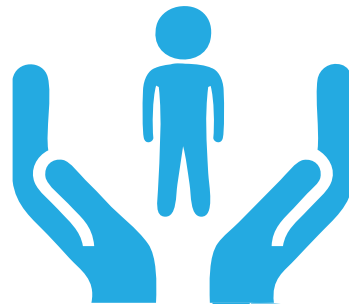
1 in 20 girls and boys under the age of 18 have been sexually assaulted



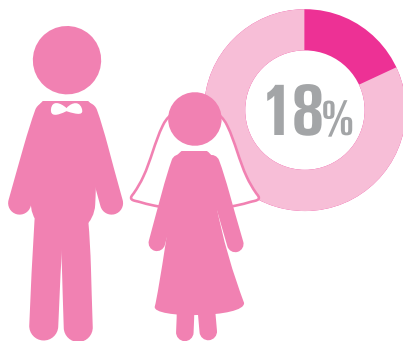
9 in 100,000 children are in detention



1 in 4 children have experienced emotional abuse



Social services, particularly for the abused and poor children remain ad hoc, fragmented and insufficient.



18 per cent of women (aged 20-24) are married by the age of 18



The institutionalization of children has reached a tipping point, with a total of 16,579 children (47 per cent girls) under the age of 18 living in 406 residential care institutions in the country, but three in four of these children have at least one living parent. Placing children in residential institution puts them at greater risk of violence, exploitation and neglect.

Source: Cambodia violence against children survey (CVACS), 2013; Cambodia Child Protection Toolkit, May 2016



Social Workers from the provincial Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (DoSVY) in Kandal with Ms. Mich's family, who were happily reunified after MoSVY engaged with the residential care institution, where one of her children was living, to reunify and reintegrate children with their families.

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