

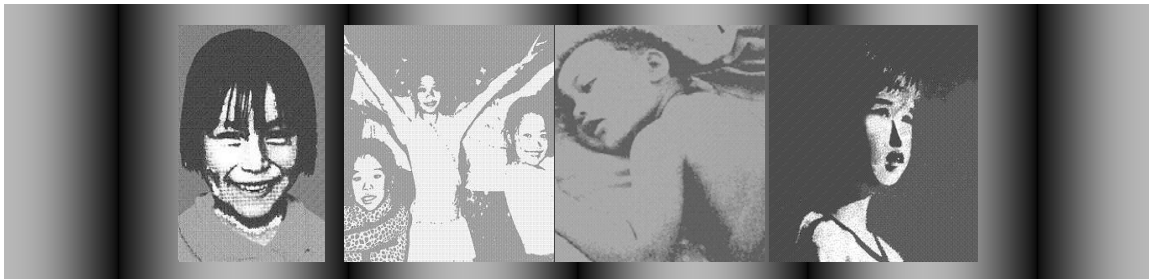


Post-Yokohama Mid-Term Review of the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

8–10 November 2004
Bangkok

CAMBODIA

Country Progress Report



I – BACKGROUND

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children is a global phenomenon. Cambodia is one of the countries affected by this issue. This phenomenon is relatively new in Cambodia. While isolated instances of trafficking can be dated back approximately to 1970, this crime was virtually unknown until the 1990's. Since then, trafficking in Cambodia has increased markedly, facilitated by many factors including a growing sex industry arising from the arrival of thousands of UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) staff, uneven economic development, economic liberalization, the Asian economic crisis, the relaxation of border controls and increased tourism¹.

Trafficking of women and children is not limited to trafficking for prostitution. Recent evidence suggests that hundreds of children have been sold into domestic servitude in the capital Phnom Penh². Cambodian boys and girls are trafficked across national boundaries to both Thailand and Vietnam. They work on the streets primarily begging or selling flowers in circumstances which leave them highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation³.

Quantitative data on trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia are scarce and unreliable. The rare data available are indicative only, as surveys are often small-scale and can hardly be extrapolated to the national level.

In 1992, researchers estimated that there were 20,000 sex workers in Phnom Penh⁴. Although this number was nearly cut in half after the departure of UNTAC personnel, the numbers seem to have rapidly climbed to previous levels in the following years. In 1997, a National Assembly Report estimates that there were over 14, 000 sex workers in Phnom Penh, among them, one thirds (1/3) are aged between 12-17 years old. 40-60% of sex workers in Cambodia said they were forced or tricked in to the business. Other young girls turn to the sex industry as they have few viable alternatives. Poverty, social upheaval, a lack of education, an under-developed legal infrastructure, and weak law enforcement are all contributing to the rapid growth of the sex industry.

A recent study by a statistician estimates that there are now an estimated 18,256 sex workers in the country, of whom 66% are Khmer and 33% are Vietnamese. Of those, an estimated 20% were classified as trafficked, either due to their current contractual status through debt bondage or due to being under-age (meaning under

¹ United Nation Inter-Agency Project against Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Cambodia Country paper for the sub-regional inter-ministerial consultation on human trafficking, 2004.

² National Institute of Statistics, Survey Report: Child Domestic Workers Survey, Phnom Penh, 2003

³ International Organization for Migration (IOM) and MOSALVY, Database Report on Children Trafficked from Cambodia to Thailand, 1 September 2000 – 31 December 2003; IOM, Needs Assessment and Situational Analysis of Migration and Trafficking from Svay Rieng Province Cambodia to Vietnam for Begging, 2004.

⁴ UNICEF, The Trafficking and Prostitution of Children in Cambodia: A Situation Report (1995).

age 16, as per the current Cambodian law on trafficking)⁵. While spread of HIV/AIDS remains a major concern, the Royal Government of Cambodia issued a policy of "100% condom use" which is aimed to help control the infection rate among sex workers.

Cambodia has become a sending, receiving and transit country for trafficking of women and children. There are an estimated 88,000 Cambodian women in Thailand⁶. Trafficking networks are well organized and profitable. Due to a range of factors including the increased mobility of the world's population and the effects of globalisation, the problem of trafficking in persons is increasing at an alarming rate.

1. THE NATIONAL 5-YEAR PLAN

Cambodian Government is deeply concerned about the magnitude of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) and trafficking of children and commits itself to implement the Stockholm Agenda for Action in 1996. As a follow up, the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC) developed a Five-Year Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in cooperation with all concerned ministries and in consultation with relevant NGOs. The plan was adopted in March 2000 by the Council of Ministers. The 4 main programs, objectives and strategies of the plan are summarized as below:

1.1. Prevention - Prevent children from being trafficked and involved in prostitution through the following strategies:

- Multi-media awareness raising for the general public.
- Prevention within schools, in particular through integration of the UN CRC, sexual exploitation and sexual education into the school curricula.
- Awareness raising/Sensitization of government officials and professional staff.
- Mobilization of communities to develop local monitoring system.
- Awareness raising through informal education programmes and mobile libraries.
- Child-to-child programmes.

1.2. Protection – Protect children by:

⁵ Steinfatt, Thomas M. "Measuring the Number of Trafficked Women and Children in Cambodia: A Direct Observation Field Study. Part III of a Series." 6 Oct 2003. Page 25.

⁶ Second Five Year Socioeconomic Development Plan (2001-2005) page 23.

- Review of legislation and development of new laws relating to child protection.
- Review and strengthening of implementation mechanisms.
- Training for government staff on improved mechanism.
- Public education on laws and mechanisms against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Improvement of complaints and legal support system.
- Establishment of special protection system.
- Improvement of international and regional co-operation to combat trafficking of children.
- Development of special measures against child pornography.

1.3. Recovery and capacity development– Promote recovery of children through:

- Support services for victims/ survivors.
- Training for relevant ministry and institutional personnel on assistance of victims in recovery process.
- Non-formal education and skill training.
- Monitoring and planning of services.

1.4. Reintegration – To facilitate full reintegration of child victims into their families and communities through:

- Family reunion.
- Explorations of options (resettlement/alternative care).
- Assistance with finding employment.
- Establishment of community support system.
- Monitoring and follow-up.

2. CAMBODIA FIT FOR CHILDREN

Cambodia translated the specific goals for children as set out in "A World Fit For Children", into local action by integrating them in to key national policies, plans and strategies. In an attempt to highlight the important work being done and to summarize the priorities that require on going attention, the Cambodian National Council For Children (CNCC)⁷, with the support of government, line ministries, NGOs, and international agencies, produced "A Cambodia Fit For Children" (issued in May 2004) focusing on 4 priorities:

- 1) reduction of maternal and infant mortality,
- 2) quality education and reduction of gender disparities,
- 3) fight against HIV/AIDS and
- 4) child protection, particularly against trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

Initiatives undertaken to address child trafficking as set in priority 4 are:

- Strengthen the system of civil registration to ensure the registration of every child at or shortly after birth;
- Legal protection against trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse through the enforcement of existing laws and justice system for children;
- Plan of Action against Hazardous Forms of Child Labour;
- Protection measures for children with disabilities;
- Develop of plan of action against the worst forms of child labour and National Plan of action against trafficking and sexual exploitation for the next five years;
- Promote measures for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of vulnerable children and child victims, including the establishment of minimum standards of alternative care.

II – PROGRESS ON THE EAP REGIONAL COMMITMENT AND ACTION PLAN AGAINST CSEC

A Five Year Plan Against Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (2000-2004) was developed and launched by the CNCC, and is being implemented by the concerned ministries and organizations. After the Yokohama Congress, the Cambodian Government with its partner agencies and NGOs have undertaken many activities and achieved the following:

⁷ The CNCC is the inter-ministerial coordinating body, which monitors the implementation of the CRC and brings together the key government agencies working on trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

A- Action for Child/Young People Participation

- Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has created a Bureau of Child Safe Tourism with participation of the NGO Child Assistance for Mobilization and Participation (CAMP). The organization is created and headed by children. Children from the organization were involved with many activities concerning the fight against sex tourism, trafficking and CSEC. They participated in planning, and training of staff of MoT, children selling cakes and souvenirs nears resorts.
- Cambodia was represented by a girl from Child and Youths Movement against CSEC, at the Conference on Children's and Youths Participation in the Fight against Trafficking and CSEC in Japan on 26-27 August 2002.
- A National Children Forum on Promotion of Anti-Trafficking Action in Cambodia was organized on 09-10 September 2004 by CNCC, CC, CRF (Child Rights Foundation), CLA (Children Love and Association), and supported by ILO/IPEC, UNICEF, IOM (International Organization for Migration), World Education. Participants in the forum were former child victims and young child rights activists. They chaired, facilitated and discuss among themselves with support from adults. Many recommendations were made to Government and civil society, which were considered to be included in new five years plan of Action against Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (2005-2009). The children also elected 5 representatives to participate in the Mekong Sub Region Children's Forum to be held in Bangkok in October 2004.
- The NGO Coalition to Address Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM) conducted the series children workshops, with participation of 30 former children victims of sexual exploitation and 10 children representative from children and youth clubs. These children discussed among themselves ways to stop trafficking of children and women, and reviewed the conclusions of the provincial workshops. Their recommendations were shared with NGOs and Government representatives for integration in their plan especially in the new NPA against TSEC (2005-2009).

B- Action for Coordination and Cooperation

Cross-border trafficking out of Cambodia is also a serious concern. Many children are trafficked into Thailand and Vietnam and some to more distant places such as Malaysia, Macao, Taiwan, Europe and USA. Women and girls are commonly trafficked for sexual exploitation and but also for other types of exploitative labour, such as begging or domestic work. There have been positive developments in efforts to improve cooperation between Cambodia and other countries, especially those in the Mekong region. Examples are:

- Cambodia signed extradition treaties with the Lao PDR, Thailand and China.
- The MOU between Cambodia and Thailand on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking, signed in 2003.
- The on-going process of establishing similar MOUs with Vietnam and (early discussions) with Malaysia.
- During the 8th ASEAN Summit, held in Phnom Penh in 4-5 November 2002, ASEAN leaders including Cambodia, signed a Framework Agreement on ASEAN Cooperation in Tourism, which contains a provision : "Steps will also be made to deter tourism-related abuse of the cultural heritage and natural resources of regional countries especially the exploitation of women and children".
- The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) process was designed to poster concrete cooperative arrangements between the six Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) governments-Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam- to counter human trafficking. Initiated by the Government's themselves, the COMMIT process will result in a COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be agreed by the six government's, laying out principles and areas cooperation. The COMMIT MOU will also provide for the creation of a sub-regional action plan, and clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. For this process the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) will serve as a secretariat, as requested by the GMS governments. The Cambodian COMMIT Task Force comprised of representatives from 6 ministries and presided over by a senior official of the Ministry of Women Affairs, has demonstrated continuous commitment in the course of the drafting process of the regional MOU, which is due to be signed on 29 October 2004 in Yangon.
- With technical support and encouragement from ILO/IPEC, the draft Resolution on the Prevention and Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was prepared by the Committee on Social Matters of the National Assembly and adopted by the 25th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), held in Phnom Penh, 12-17 September 2004.
- There are several in-country coordination mechanisms, whether for concerns generally involving violence against women or specifically against trafficking and sexual exploitation.

- With the signature, in 2000, of the first National Plan of Action against TSEC, the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC) was established. CNCC is the national body for coordination, advocacy and monitoring the implementation of UN Convention on the Right of the Child, and is chaired by the Minister of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY).
 - The CNCC's Sub-Commission on CSEC composed of 14 members from deferent ministries, and chair by Secretary of State of Ministry of Interior. Its role is to coordinate and to monitor the implementation of the National Plan of Action against TSEC.
 - The CNCC's Sub-Commission on Child Labor and Other form of Child Exploitation composed of 18 members from deferent ministries and other institutions, and chair by MoSAVY. Its role is monitor the implementation of policies, programs related to the eradication of child labour.
 - The CNCC's Sub-Commission on Law Review composed of 14 members from deferent ministries and other institutions, and chair by Secretary of State Ministry of Justice. The role and responsibility are to review existing laws and draft new laws regarding the protection of children.
- The United Nation Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) was established to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam). The project involves and extensive network of governments, local NGOs, UN organizations and donors throughout the 6 countries, with links to similar networks around the world. The UNIAP-Cambodia provides a forum and system for sharing of information, analysis, strategies and action among the various players on trafficking issues in the country.
- NGOs have established several networks, such as ECPAT-Cambodia, CAMBOW, and COSECAM. The latter network is composed of 18 local NGOs: The Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), Cambodia Defender Project (CDP), Cambodian Women Crisis Center (CWCC), Health Care Center for Children (HCC), Wathanakpheap, Cambodian Children Against Starvation Violence Agency (CCASVA), Cambodia Women's Development Association (CWDA), Cambodia Center for the Protection of Children's Rights (CCPCR), CRF, World Vision-Cambodia (WV-C), Seva Kapea Komar (SKK), PJJ, Pteas Tuk Dong (PTD), CAMP, GOUTTE DE'AU NL, SCCO, Krousar Thmey (KMR), LSCW. Its goal is to address Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia, by implementing the NPA against TSEC.

- UNICEF is hosting quarterly meetings to coordinate awareness raising efforts undertaken by UN agencies and NGOs in Cambodia.
- COSECAM and ECPAT-Cambodia conducted a conference to review the achievements made since the adoption of the NPA against TSEC in August 2004. One hundred NGO participations joined the conference, which was supported by ILO/IPEC and Unicef.

C- Action for Prevention

Prevention activities focus on awareness raising and information dissemination campaigns by both government and NGO sectors.

- In 2002 CNCC conducted 3 workshops at provincial level to raise awareness on CRC and children issue including on TSEC.
- In 2000, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) launched a 3-year project on the *Prevention of All Forms of Trafficking in Women and Children in Cambodia*, in cooperation with the IOM and the Government of Finland. This phase had 3 components, namely legal literacy, information dissemination and awareness raising campaign, policy advocacy. Recently, a second phase started which builds on the success of the first phase and adds a fourth pilot component: financial support and vocational training.
- Early in 2003, MoWA commenced a three-year project in cooperation with IOM on "Information Campaign to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children in Cambodia". Its three components relate the following: to providing information to vulnerable groups on the dangers and consequences of trafficking and possibilities for regular migration; to assist in developing community-based networks including a database on household information concerning human trafficking; and to undertake policy and advocacy action on counter-trafficking and migration issues⁸.
- MoWA also provides awareness through the media, and supports the provision of small credit and alternative livelihoods to poor families in at-risk areas⁹.
- The Ministry of Interior has developed formation a video film "The Victim," initially produced as part of the training materials for police through the LEASETC project¹⁰ that was aired in major television networks in the country.
- MoSAVY with its partners has developed vocational training to provide alternatives to migration for vulnerable people. Also, recognizing that improved channels for safe migration can greatly reduce opportunities for traffickers, MoSAVY has represented the government in making agreements

with several countries, such as Malaysia and South Korea, to work abroad legally. Since 1998, approximately 3,000 Cambodian workers have been sent to work abroad.

- In cooperation with MoSVY and CNCC Sub-Committee on Child Labour, ILO/IPEC has piloted a project to prevent trafficking in children and women in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng and Sihanouk Ville districts. Phase one has been completed in 2003, and has been extended with phase II after a National Stakeholders Ownership Exercise held in Phnom Penh in March 2004. Phase II will run until 2008. The project is targeting in the trafficking source areas of Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Kampong Cham; the receiving areas: Phnom Penh, Siemreap and Sihanouk Ville; as well as both sending and transit area: Banteay Meanchey.
- With supports from the United Nations Inter-Agency Project in the Mekong Sub-Region (UNIAP), the Department of non-formal Education of the Ministry of Education Youths and Sports has produced two national non-formal education books with the contents of suppression of trafficking and sexual exploitation. 56 trainers were invited from 5 provinces and cities to a National Workshop on Training Methodology in August 2002. 5,000 books were distributed nationwide and 1,200 villagers were trained.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in cooperation with WV-C, created Committees on Child Safe Tourism at national and provincial level. The committees have organised trainings to children, teachers and authorities in Cambodia's main tourist destinations and disseminated 13,000 copies of the booklet entitled: "Safe Tourism in Cambodia¹¹".
- MoT with support of UNIAP and British Embassy in Phnom Penh and in cooperation with WV-C produced 13,000 pamphlets dealing with trafficking dangers associated with child sex tourism and conducted 9 sessions of training to MoT's, tourism police, tour operators, tourism associations, tourism travel groups, individual tourism facilities. It's also conducted 8 sessions to aware 596 people, including parents, commune council members, village leaders, and teachers, on dangers, on their own responsibilities and on how to protect the children from trafficking for sexual tourism and sexual exploitation in three main tourism locations, namely Phnom Penh, Sihanouk Ville and Siem Reap.
- Community-based Child Protection Networks have been set up with the support of UNICEF in villages Battam Bang and Banteay Meanchey network or not longer functional, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and the city of Phnom Penh. A network of community social helpers, teachers, monks, health workers and social workers at district level form a network to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, ensure early detection of suspected cases, and refer child victims to appropriate services. At the moment, the model is being

⁸ UNIAP, 2004.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Law Enforcement Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children.

revised to link it more to the Commune Council structure and to focus on increasing access to basic services at community level.

- Cambodia has recognized a sex workers' union, giving commercial sex workers added leverage for the protection of their rights.
- NGOs have also done several activities concerning awareness raising. For example:
 - The CWCC, Women Media's Center and also UNICEF have created and broadcasted several television spots and documentaries about trafficking.
 - Kruosar Thmey and LICADHO have both run poster campaigns completed by shadow puppet shows and cartoon books respectively.
 - Goutte d'Eau implemented a program in which child victims of trafficking produced and performed plays;
 - NGO-CRC, a coalition of NGOs, has started to organise children's workshops on trafficking of children, and has produced and distributed a brochure detailing the conclusions of the young people who participated in the first one;
 - The Cambodian Migration Development Committee in Battam Bang province provides vocational training to "beer and wine girls", who may be especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation;
 - World Education, in partnership with Kampuchean Action for Primary Education, Care-International and the Asia Foundation, is implementing OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Education through Education in Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Bantey Meanchey provinces. The Project reaches victimized children at at-risk children, and trains teachers as special facilitators for life-skills programs.
 - COSECAM organized a Tour campaign against exploitation of children in Cambodia from 21-28 May 2004. The campaign drew 110 participants from NGOs and Government. The campaign raised awareness on child trafficking, discussed lessons learned and problems encountered, and made recommendations for the next NPA against TSEC.
 - COSECAM also conducted 13 workshops in 13 provinces with 195 participations from NGOs and Government department, among them police, Judges, teachers, district chiefs, social workers.
 - Many other NGOs such as ADHOC, CAMP, CCPCR, CRF, CWCC, CCASVA, CWDA, KMR, LSCW, PTD, SCCO, Wathnakpheap, WV-C

¹¹ UNIAP, 2004

conducted awareness raising campaigns to prevent child trafficking. Wathnakpheap is working in 113 remote villages, 940 activists including children and youths to educate people on CRC and other child rights issues through small meetings. They also integrate CRC in the non-formal education and mobile library system. 539 youths received life skills training and 1903 people were trained on food production.

- ECPAT-Cambodia organized a TV program for children on June 1st 2004, with 60 children participated. The objective is to provide an opportunity to former child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, street children, and other children from the community to express their views regarding matters concerning their lives and to recommendations for the improvement of their lives. Posters on CSEC were disseminated to ECPAT's members for distribution to the local community.

D- Action for Protection

1- Legislation

- The Cambodian Government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 2 January 2002.
- The Ministry of Justice has recently completed the draft revised law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. The draft law comprises number of provisions relating to child protection, and is under review by the Council of Ministers. Other relevant laws that are now in various stages of drafting and going through the steps of approval, include the Law on Domestic Violence, Law on Justice for Minors, Law on Intercountry Adoptions, and Revised Criminal Code, Civil Code and Civil Code Procedures.
- CDP, ADHOC, CWCC, PJJ, KMR, LSCW have provided assistance for free legal consultation and representation to child offenders and victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. They also provide legal training and assisted in the publication of training material on children trafficking.

2- Law Enforcement

- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) oversees services including law enforcement and thus is mainly responsible for the prevention, investigation and protection of trafficking cases. Under the LEASETC Project, supported by UNICEF, IOM, the office for the High-Commissioner for Human Rights and WV-C, the following achievements have been realised:

- Creation through Sub-Decree N^o 40, 13 May 2002, of a department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection. The Department is mandated to provide specialised services in the field of prevention and suppression of all acts of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, rape and debauchery. The department is under the authority of the General Commissioner of the National Police, and comprises a central office, seven bureaus in key provinces and municipalities, and a special section and each of the other 17 provinces and municipalities in the country. From January-December 2003, the Department reported 257 cases of suspected human trafficking, of which 227 were confirmed. 271 perpetrators were arrested and sent to the courts and 427 victims were rescued¹².
 - Improved cooperation between police, with border police and international authorities, dissemination of information about relevant laws and trafficking issues;
 - Police training on different levels (deputy, commissioners, middle management at provincial and district level) in 13 provinces. On-the-job training has been provided to the AHTJP department and to police officers working in the field on child interviewing techniques, collection of forensic evidence, how to use the internet in trafficking pedophiles and how to improve a criminal case file to be sent to court.
 - Police also receive assistance in following-up cases of trafficking and sexual exploitation;
 - A database and specific forms for data collection has been developed to monitor the number of reported cases on TSEC and the number of arrests;
 - A 24 hours Hotline and response unit was established under the MoI and now in the central AHTPJ Department, and has been in operation since October 2000. The Hotline is supported by UNICEF and World Vision. Potential victims, their families and third parties can report cases and receive information about referral options. In 2003, the DATJP received 257, of which 177 were received through the Hotline.
 - The MoWA has commenced a campaign to increase public condemnation in court cases relating to trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The Ministry also worked closely with embassies for effectively prosecuting foreign perpetrators, and preventing and protecting trafficking and sexual exploitation. Main examples are the following:
 - The Ministry has recently worked closely with the Embassy of Australia to obtain the extradition of an Australian pedophile perpetrator active in Siem Reap Province.

¹² UNIAP, 2004

- The Ministry has led the campaign to extradite a British former glam rock star and lobbied to list his name on the sex offender's register.
- The Ministry has worked closely with Embassy and police of Belgium for a Belgian perpetrator, who raped an underage girl in Cambodia, to be punished under Belgium's extra-territorial law.

3- Judiciary

- In July 2004, the first Training of Trainers of CRC training to lawyers has been held, supported by UNICEF. Ten lawyers has been trained as trainers.
- There have recently been some cases with progressive work by prosecutors and judges. Some videotaped evidence from undercover police work has been allowed, and in some cases it has not been required that child victims be present in the court to present testimony.
- There are plans for joint training of current prosecutors and judges, together with police, on human trafficking and the use of victims as witnesses.
- Discussion with the new Royal School of Judges and Prosecutors is including significant training on trafficking have started. The training will include definition, the law, and investigation skills for investigating judges—in its curriculum.
- Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with UNIAP and ARCPPT, is establishing a court case database in the department of Criminal Affairs (planned, has not been done yet).

4- Special Services and Initiatives

- Legal advice and representation are provided to child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation by a team of trained lawyers at the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, NGOs such as AFESIP, CDP, LAC and CWCC also provide legal advise and representation to victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

E- Action for Recovery and Reintegration

- MoSAVY, which is mandated to assist vulnerable groups, has done the following main activities:
- **An orderly repatriation system with Thai Government was agreed and currently followed with support from IOM.**

- MoSAVY with technical assistance from IOM, has been running a transit center at the Poipet border crossing Battam Bang reception center no longer operates for victims of trafficking/CSEC. **While family tracing and assessment is being carried out victims are provided with reception care by a network of NGOs.** Victims in need of long term rehabilitation that can not be immediately reintegrated, or referred to NGO and Government facilities from here.
- **Where reintegration is possible MoSAVY staff collaborates with NGOs to follow-up and support victims for at least 12 months.**
- **Since 2003 a system of orderly repatriation for Cambodian victims of trafficking to Vietnam is being developed with technical assistance from IOM.**
- MoSAVY with the assistance of IOM, has developed a database on trafficking victims returned from Thailand. This information has been used to monitor partners of trafficking, track the outcome of efforts to combat trafficking and develop appropriate trafficking program;
- Since 1999, MoSAVY with assistance of UNICEF has been gradually building up a system to monitor and follow-up the reintegration process of vulnerable children who have returned to their communities of origin, following their participation in recovery and reintegration programs run by NGOs. It also maintains a case management system. Information collected not only informs service provision strategies, but is used for awareness raising purposes and policy advocacy and development.
- The Government has cooperated with IOM, LICADHO, CCPCR, AFESIP and World Vision to repatriate Vietnamese people who have been trafficked to Cambodia. IOM plays a major role in assisting repatriation to and from Cambodia, including the facilitation of diplomatic negotiations and coordination of authorities, the legal custodian of the victim and the community or family of the victim¹³.
- Aside from government programs, several NGOs provide social services such as counseling, therapy, vocational training and literacy classes. The Cambodian Women's Crisis Center has centrally located drop-in centers and shelters which are either providing first contact points of assistance as well as recovery and rehabilitation services.
- Cambodian Children and Handicap Development Organisation (CCHDO), with the support of UNICEF and IOM, has set up a Child Protection Border Team in 2001. The team is posted at the Poipet border crossing 24H per day/7 days per week to assist children crossing the border and to bring them to the transit centre and if necessary the Reception centre, from where their

families are located are they are referred to NGO services. The Border team is made up of MoSAVY social workers, police and NGO staff, and works in close cooperation with Thai-Cambodia border police and the anti-trafficking and juvenile protection police.

- CCASVA, CCPCR, LICADHO, Sok Sabay, CWCC, CWDA, Goutte D'EAU, HCC, Krousar Thmey, PTD, SCCO, SKK, Wathnakpheap, WV-C have all been implementing rehabilitation and reintegration services which typically include providing safe shelter, food, distribution health care, life skills, counseling, Khmer and foreign language literacy and vocational training (weaving, sewing, hairdressing). Some of the assisted children have been integrated in their families and communities, or have been employed in places where the market fit to their skills.
- Under the auspices of the National AIDS authority, several NGOs provide AIDS education and health services to sex worker through local clinics: there is also at least one NGO working to educate small teams of sex workers to give “peer counseling” to other sex workers, and, where appropriate, provide information to the NGO to obtain assistance for a sex worker who wishes to leave the brothel.
- COSECAM has established the “Vocational Training Scholarship Fund for about 300 Children Survivor of Exploitation” the objective is to expand the life option for the survivors and at-risk children and women. Three NGOs networks were established in Phnom Penh, Battam Bang and Siem Reap Provinces to assist children and women victimised or at-risk for job placement and training. The NGO networks also conducted market research, job counseling and monitoring.
- Several NGOs or involved in repatriating and reintegrating victim the include AFESIP, CWCC, CWDA, Krousar Thmey, **Phtea Teuk Dong** who support both women and children. CCPCR, Goutte d'Eau, **Meato Phum Komar, Komar Reak Reay, KNK, Don Bosco**, Mith Samlahn and House of Hope focus on services specifically for children^{14,15}.
- **Training to improve the capacity of NGOs and government staff to provide effective psycho-social services and improve the quality of care to recovering victims of trafficking is being provided by two IOM projects “Long Term Recovery and Reintegration assistance to Trafficked Women and Children” and the “Psycho-social and Material Support Project”.**

III- Monitoring System

- The Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), which is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Five-Year NPA against Trafficking and the

¹³ UNIAP, 2004

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, has facilitated the establishment of provincial child protection working groups to coordinate activities in this field, with assistance from UNICEF, UNIAP and ILO/IPEC (Unclear. Planned, not conducted yet).

- TSEC bureau of CNCC cooperated with UNICEF to include the regional TSEC-info database into the larger CamInfo database.

IV – Conclusion and Recommendations

Trafficking and sexual exploitation of children has received a fairly substantial degree of attention from the Royal Government of Cambodia. Non-governmental and international organizations. Despite the challenges and identified gaps and weaknesses, important results have been achieved, and efforts have been stepped up. Reducing trafficking and sexual exploitation of children requires—among other things—ensuring the arrest and effective prosecution of perpetrators, breaking the culture of silence in communities and fighting impunity in society. Keys areas for improvement are:

- The adoption of important draft laws, notably the draft law on inter-country adoption, on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, and on Justice for Minors, to disseminate and implement these laws widely and continually.
- To develop legislation on subjects such as the protection of children such in public places, and child labours;
- To adopt and ratify Convention 182 on the Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labours;
- To reinforce cross-border cooperation with regard to information sharing on trafficking issues. There is a need to strengthen existing structures, such as ASEANPOL, interpol, and links between local and interantional NGOs and the central police.
- To develop a clear policy defining child prostitution as well as the procedures to be followed in terms of protection, prevention, rehabilitation, and punishment for officials who know of but do not report child prostitution or do not take any actions.
- To encourage proactive data gathering by police and NGOs; much of the current information gathering is reactive. There needs to be ongoing monitoring of sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children, including detailed information as whether or not they are voluntary or forced to work, whether or not they are underage, etc. In particular, there needs to

¹⁴ UNIAP, 2004

¹⁵ IOM 2003

be consistent monitoring of places where trafficking or sexual exploitation is suspected and increasing interventions to stop a flow of drugs.

- To provide further training to polices, lawyers, prosecutors, and judges – both separately and jointly- including in the collection and use of forensic evidence and in working with victims as witnesses.
- To address the demand side: initiate activities that address clients of the victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- To develop a witness protection program in Cambodia to provide protection to victims of trafficking. Victims and their families need protection because they are vulnerable to intimidation, and their testimony is essential for prosecuting the crime. This is particularly important considering the fact that trafficking, unlike many other crimes, is linked to an organized crime networks of persons who benefit from the existence of the trafficking; in this way, the victims face formidable barriers to obtaining justice.
- To change society's and male behaviors and attitudes towards women in general and towards victims of trafficking/CSEC by encouraging people to recognize, respect and regard the victims/survivors equally.
- To promote the participation of children in prevention to peers and adults, and child victims in their own recovery and reintegration.
- Increase schools, in particular primary and secondary high school education, in remote area, and provide skill training in at-risk communities to vulnerable out-of -school children.
- Increase opportunities for alternative employment.
- Extend access to the Hotline telephone number at local level and initiate alternatives to telephone when no telephone is available.
- Continue assist communities to help themselves by offering education to vulnerable children, income generation activities, and community-based mechanisms to prevent and respond to trafficking and sexual exploitation of children;
- Set up clear strategies and mechanisms to monitor the internet that is currently being used to propagate trafficking/CSEC information from Cambodia to other countries.
