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The ChildSafe Alliance (CSA) is a global partnership program that gathers organizations with a desire to build futures for marginalized children and youth, their families and their communities with high standards of direct services to beneficiaries, administration and transparency. CSA certification guarantees a high quality of service provision and operation and is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Currently we have partners in Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam.

All our CSA partners get access to specific training/coaching and they enjoy increased collaboration with other partners within their country of operation. Furthermore, they can participate in ChildSafe awareness campaigns and/or can be involved in the implementation of common projects.
WHAT IS 3PC?

3PC (the Partnership Program for the Protection of Children) is the Cambodian subprogram of CSA and is powered by Friends-International (FI), with the technical support of UNICEF and under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). Launched in 2011, its development, and expansion is based upon a thorough assessment of gaps and existing responses at sub-national level. In order to protect Cambodia’s children and strengthen the system, 3PC works to:

1. Improve coordination among NGOs
2. Strengthen collaboration between stakeholders
3. Raise the quality of services, and
4. Facilitate engagement between government and NGOs

FI, MoSVY and UNICEF collaborated on the design of the program, including the selection and monitoring of NGO partners. 3PC is currently operational in seven provinces across Cambodia and has a network of 10 implementing partners working collaboratively with more than 40 ChildSafe Alliance (CSA) partners. All 3PC partners work alongside local government units.
HOW WE WORK

3PC’s added value lies in its implementing strength on the ground. This, combined with the strong commitment and collaboration of MoSVY, UNICEF and FI, makes the network an important part, and driver of, the child protection system in Cambodia.

We use the following approaches to operate within the network of 3PC:

**Coordination**
- Quarterly directors meetings
- Specialist groups

**Collaboration**
- Joint research and projects
- Shared case work
- Advocacy
- Joint monitoring visits

**Quality**
- Training
- Coaching
- Exposure visits
- Sharing of tools

**Engagement**
- Participation in national and sub-national meetings
In order to improve the situation for marginalized children and youth in Cambodia, FI, UNICEF and MoSVY work with 3PC and CSA partners to provide children, youth and their families with protection, support and an opportunity to thrive together.

Although the main target group of 3PC is children and youth, we understand that issues of protection are often rooted in families, communities and society and thus a holistic approach is necessary. 3PC work aligns with three main thrusts: 1. “Saving Lives” encompasses all services that directly protect children, their families and their communities; 2. “Building Futures” supports beneficiaries to build a better future and dream beyond tomorrow; and 3. “Quality” supports 3PC NGO partners to improve their operations on all levels ensuring they are running effectively and efficiently. This creates a network of quality partners contributing to a strong child protection system across the country. Each of these categories contains 7 areas of focus as below:

### 21 Areas of Intervention of 3PC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saving Lives</th>
<th>Building Futures</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. HIV / AIDS</td>
<td>3. Family + (Family-Based Care/Alternative Care)</td>
<td>3. Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. CSEC / Sex Work / Entertainment</td>
<td>5. Education / NFE / School Reintegration</td>
<td>5. Board / Management</td>
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WHERE WE WORK
Our grateful thanks go to UNICEF and all other donors of our implementing partners who enable us to make a difference for children, youth, their families and communities in Cambodia.

- 36,058 Number of different individuals-direct beneficiaries
- 18,272 Number of children (0-18 years) reached
- 8,050 Number of youths (19-24 years) reached

- 975 Children were directly protected from violence (physical, emotional, sexual and neglect)
- 1,911 Youths were enrolled in vocational training or supported for employment
- 341 Children reintegrated to family based care
- 3,885 People reached with safe migration awareness and other migration-related activities
- 10,737 People were reached through drug and alcohol prevention and support activities
- 1,160 Children with disability were cared for / supported
- 20,777 People received health care services or training
- 10,723 Children were supported to reintegrate to public school
There are very often multiple issues impacting families who are trying to combat poverty. Often there is no ‘one solution’, but a range of interventions that are needed to support families facing these challenges. As an example, take Chorn Tom, a 45-year-old widow who lives in a small village in the Sangkae district of Battambang province. She is a mother of four daughters and struggles to support her family through their financial difficulties. She has taken on several jobs to earn money, but these are not long term jobs – life is most often hand-to-mouth when you are raising chickens or doing casual labor in the construction field, neither of which bring in significant earnings.

The KMR outreach team was referred to this particular family when a neighbor called them with some concerns for their well-being. As often happens, difficult family circumstances were leading to violence. Tom had heard that one of her daughters was often missing school. This made Tom very angry, and as a result, she beat the girl. The KMR outreach team intervened and identified a number of ways they could assist the family in staying together and improving their situation. Helped by KMR social worker Nika, they first received some valuable counseling support. Additional food to help their situation was provided, as were school materials for the children. Working alongside Habitat Cambodia, a new and better house was constructed for the family, something they are all very happy about.

Tom is still employed as a construction worker and she can earn around 20,000 riels (US$5.00) a day from this work. All the children go to school, except one daughter who works at a nearby drinking water factory. Very importantly, the support from KMR is still there and the social worker regularly monitors and follows up on the family situation, ensuring the right kind of support can be brought in if needed to keep this family strong and together.
42 year-old Chea previously lived with her husband and three children in Prey Veng province. Due to poverty, the family decided to try their luck in Phnom Penh. They finally found shelter in an abandoned house somewhere in Steung Meanchey. To make a living, Chea worked as a vegetable vendor and sometimes as a fortune teller. But her jobs weren’t secure. Often she earned less than $1.50 a day. With such a low income she couldn’t support her family’s basic needs. In addition to that, she got into arguments with her husband and they finally separated.

Chea wasn’t able to handle the financial pressure and the responsibility for all three children alone, so she asked them to quit school to help her with work. Chea became depressed and started to drink alcohol in the hope of releasing stress. She became irresponsible and left her small children unattended at the shelter while she was working. After Chea got sick she borrowed money to provide the family with food and to go to the doctor. The $125 debt that resulted was an additional burden on her shoulders.

In June 2018 the outreach team of SKO met Chea and her family and assessed their needs. The social workers helped her with counseling and information about partners who can help her. With this support, Chea was able to make decisions on her own to improve her family’s situation. While her older children were reintegrated to school her one-year-old son, Virak, has been referred to SKO for home-daycare. Chea herself joined vocational training to become a chef. She now has a regular job with a salary of $300 per month. This income means she can support the family and pay back her debts. With the help of Mari Stopes Cambodia, she has recovered from her sickness. She also received several counseling, life skills and problem-solving trainings from the social workers. Chea is now a very strong woman able to independently and properly care for her children.
VANTHY’S DEPORTATION AND THE SUPPORT OF DAMNOK TOEK (DT)

Vanthy is 12 years old and the son of the former village chief of a village in the western Cambodian province of Pursat. His mother died soon after his birth, and his father remarried. His stepmother already had four children, and she had two more in the following years. This large family was very poor, so Vanthy’s dad left them and traveled far from home to look for work that would support his family.

Vanthy’s stepmother decided to go to Thailand to beg when one of her neighbors in the village told her it was a good way to earn money. She paid 3000 Baht ($100) to a middle-man, who helped take her, Vanthy, who was seven at the time, and two of her daughters to Thailand. When they arrived Vanthy’s stepmother forced him to beg every day. Vanthy couldn’t go to school and his stepmother was very harsh with him. She would beat him if daily takings were not what she expected, and as Vanthy now recalls his health was suffering in other ways. “I was given only a small box of rice to eat every day,” he told us. He was very malnourished, and his growth was affected.

Vanthy recalled “When I was in Thailand, I had to sit (for a) full day on the bridge to beg for money. Usually, I earned between 300B and 500B (or $9 to $15) per day”, all of which was taken by his stepmother. That changed the day he was arrested. “One day when I was on the bridge doing my job as usual, four men appeared climbing from both sides of the bridge and arrested me. They took me to the police station and finally sent me to Ban Phum Vet Center.”

Vanthy spent more than two years at the center before the Thai authorities decided he would be sent back to Cambodia. He was moved by the Thai social department to the Poipet Transit Center (PTC), on the busy Thai/Cambodia border. There, Cambodian authorities referred Vanthy to NGO Damnok Toek’s reception center as they were unable to reunite the boy with his family. Vanthy’s situation of forced labor, abuse and exploitation was one of the most serious identified by the PTC.

After he moved to DT’s reception center, social workers counseled him, hoping to give him a warm welcome that would help him to adjust to life at the center. DT’s staff supported him to join activities and classes, however, his first week was very difficult. Staff recall a boy who was very scared, one who had difficulty speaking Khmer and stayed mute most of the time. One day he sat down and cried telling the staff that he wanted to go back home, that he missed his stepmother and sisters. The staff worked hard to provide him additional and appropriate counseling.
After a few weeks, things slowly changed. Vanthy looked better and was much happier. Now he talks to other children at the Center and has started learning Khmer. He also participates in handicraft activities and often joins activities with other children. “I am so happy because I can speak and write Khmer now. I also feel better because people love me and take care of me”, he said.

The DT social work team has begun the process of tracing his family or other relatives. They will travel to Vanthy’s hometown to try and find out if there are any relatives there. Vanthy now has some hope for the future and is trying hard to study for that future. He has ambitions to be a successful chef in a top restaurant one day. There is one other thing that he wishes for, one which the team of DT hopes they will be able to help him realize very soon. “I want to see my family, my sisters, and especially my father. I want to live with them again”
The 3PC partnership has been instrumental in strengthening Cambodia’s child protection system. Support provided through this partnership has been found to make a meaningful difference to beneficiaries’ lives and reduced the likelihood of violence and separation. Emerging success stories show that the systematic partnership modality between government and NGOs is not only feasible, but also necessary, for resource constrained contexts like Cambodia. UNICEF looks forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

Lucia Soleti, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist
What are the biggest challenges that you face in your work?

Currently, MT’s biggest challenges stem from a rapidly changing setting in Sihanoukville due to Chinese Investments. These developments have had many negative impacts on our beneficiaries, staff and operations. The main challenges are that many beneficiaries that we work with are being forced out of employment, out of their rental homes and their family income has dropped significantly. Some youth are dropping out of education programs to work in less safe employment such as Casinos, and many are underage. Their families need the income and there is a lot of pressure for young people to work, not study, as the cost of living increases so rapidly. As well as this, operational costs have increased greatly, both from the need for staff salaries to increase, as well as inflation in rentals, goods and services. The Chinese and Khmer communities are not yet well integrated. Chinese communities have very little knowledge of child protection issues, and there is a higher risk of sexual exploitation, child labor and other forms of abuse.

How does 3PC support you with those challenges?

This is a new experience for all concerned, and 3PC have jumped in from the start to listen to our challenges and respond with ideas. 3PC is such a close collaborative network, we feel so comfortable to ask for support. The network makes us feel stronger and more resilient, as well as feeling better supported to negotiate new strategies through this changing environment. Being part of 3PC helps us feel less isolated and more confident to embrace the challenges!
What are the strengths of 3PC?

Our collective network brings a whole range of skills and experiences that are shared and strengthened by working together. As the 3PC partners are such close working partners, whether it be new or old partners, we all know exactly who to go to for advice and support, and the process is super efficient with no delays. Our communications are clear and simple, if we need support on issues relating to disabilities, ChildSafe, foster care or independent living etc., we know exactly who to go to directly. There are no delays or bureaucratic processes or meetings to overcome, we are too closely connected for this to ever happen! Our partners have developed close professional friendships which are strengthening child protection systems in Cambodia on a daily basis. We can react with speed and efficiency in 3PC. Another strength is there is no competitiveness between partners, we have a shared goal and want to achieve it collectively.
What are the biggest issues your specialist group faces?

There are two main issues that arise in our everyday work. The first one is the discrimination in communities and from members of the law enforcement. The second one is a lack in funding.

In communities there is strong discrimination towards people that consume alcohol or other drugs. Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness of drug addiction and its impact. The reintegration of drug and alcohol users in communities leads to more successful outcomes due to increased support from other community members. However, at the moment law enforcement and stigmatization in the provinces makes it difficult for us to run support groups and to sensitize people. There are a lot of people that are afraid to take part in support groups because they are frightened that the police will arrest them. In spite of that there is a big demand for the support groups. The demand is so high that we split up groups into smaller units so we could properly support our clients. But due to lack of funding, time and resources are limited to provide these services. Funding constraints also forced us to change our approach and impacted the participation of different organizations and the time each of us could allocate for our specialist group.

Why is it important to have a specialist group on alcohol and drugs?

The number of people that use drugs and alcohol in Cambodia is rising making it an important issue to tackle. The specialist group of 3PC supports each organization within the network to share knowledge, experience, skills, tools and materials. Furthermore, it connects different NGOs so they can help each other with difficult cases. The 3PC specialist group on drugs and alcohol enables us to focus on the direct support of our clients in our everyday work and to elaborate consistent strategies within 3PC. Better funding would allow us to allocate the time and resources to develop improved approaches and strategies for our future work.
## A LOOK TO 2019

Although we will continue to operate in all 21 areas of intervention. The focus of our work in 2019 will be in the following four areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reintegration</td>
<td>• Working with Residential Care Institutions (RCI) to close or transition to community-based care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reintegration and family-based placement of children from RCI’s, transitional home's and other sources in collaboration with the Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth (DoSVY)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Development of gatekeeping mechanism in each province, family preservation services and campaigns to keep families together</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs and Alcohol</td>
<td>• Running a harm reduction program with intravenous drug users to prevent the spread of HIV and promote behavior change</td>
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<td>• Detox centers, support groups and individualized case work to help people using drugs or alcohol to reduce/stop and build a future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
<td>• Better identification of children who are victims of violence through hotline, ChildSafe Agents, and outreach</td>
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<td>• Improved capacity to respond – emergency support, referrals and long-term case management for victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Migration</td>
<td>• Training communities on safe migration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Being a gatekeeper for illegal migration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protecting children who are deported at the Poipet border and supporting children left behind</td>
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