

M'LOP TAPANG



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Annual Report

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VISION & MISSION

VISION

M'Lop Tapang envisions an environment where all children are allowed to grow up in their families feeling safe, healthy and happy; a society where all children are respected and treated equally; a community where all children are given choices about their future.

MISSION

M'Lop Tapang strives to provide a safe haven for the vulnerable children of Sihanoukville, offering care and support to any child at risk. We offer access to education, reintegration with families, life-skills training and creative and recreational activities, while ensuring protection from all forms of abuse. Our efforts allow underprivileged children to embrace their childhood so they can become responsible adults as well as positive, independent members of society.

M'Lop Tapang is a local non-profit organization that began in 2003 and is registered with the Ministry of Interior, Cambodia.



In 2020, M'Lop Tapang provided services to 5,358 children and 2,706 families living in the local Sihanoukville area.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

2020, a year which shocked and disoriented many of us as it unfolded, and the potential global impact of COVID-19 became apparent.

Cambodia was fortunate to have largely avoided the devastating community health impacts of COVID-19, cases were very low in 2020 and there were thankfully zero deaths attributed to COVID-19.

There was however a serious overall economic shock to Cambodia, which reverberated throughout communities as their businesses shuttered and livelihoods were lost. The impacts were felt greatest by the communities M'Lop Tapang works with, the most vulnerable and economically fragile, who had little ability to absorb the impact of loss of income and livelihoods.

The closure of schools and M'Lop Tapang's education facilities had a serious impact on children's education, in addition to placing an additional burden on struggling families, where additional child minding needs, restricted further any potential income generating activities from parents.

Whilst M'Lop Tapang's educational facilities were suspended, our community outreach program continued to operate. M'Lop Tapang's social workers identified that the lack of income was creating serious food security risk for fragile families. This situation required M'Lop Tapang to shift from its traditional philosophy and strategy of income generation and small business support, instead of handouts, to one of food distribution for families in need.

Over the course of 2020, M'Lop Tapang continued to support the Sihanoukville's most vulnerable and supported over 1,100 families with daily food support. This effort ensured that children and their parents were able to access food, during this period of severe economic hardships.

This effort would not have been possible without the commitment of M'Lop Tapang's teams and management who rose to the occasion and shifted strategy in the midst of the lockdown and pandemic. Further, it would not have been possible without the generous support and flexibility of donor partners who supported this effort, whom on behalf of the board I extend our thanks and sincere gratitude.



John McGinley

on behalf of the M'Lop Tapang Board

M'Lop Tapang's Board of Directors

Mr. John McGinley (Chairman)

Dr. Andrew Rowland

Mr. Hong Sovann

Mr. Martin Reimann

Mr. Khieu Chetra

Ms. Soksophea Suong

Mr. Yi Moden

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

IMPACT ON CAMBODIA & M'LOP TAPANG



Vulnerable families already living in poverty have been especially hard hit by the pandemic. 97% of the families we interviewed in our Economic Survey reported a decreased income.

In late January, 2020, Cambodia confirmed its first case of COVID-19. By the end of the year there had been 374 confirmed cases and 0 deaths.

Although fortunate health-wise, the social and economic impacts of the pandemic for the people of Cambodia have been extensive. COVID-19 has had a negative hit on Cambodia's main drivers of economic growth - tourism, manufacturing exports, and construction - which together account for more than 70% of the country's growth and almost 40% of paid employment. A policy brief by the UNDP, '[COVID-19 Economic and Social Impact Assessment in Cambodia](#)', (October, 2020) reported that the likely consequences of the

pandemic would include more people clustering around the poverty line, potentially large increases in the poverty headcount, and high levels of household indebtedness.

As is most often the case, it is those already living in poverty, the kinds of families that M'Lop Tapang works with, that have been most adversely effected.

The COVID-19 crisis arrived on the back of a series of already bad economic news for the region. Until just a few months prior to the start of the pandemic, Sihanoukville had been experiencing a development and construction boom fueled by massive Chinese investments in the hotel and

casino sector. The boom suddenly turned to bust in mid-2019, when the government unexpectedly announced that Cambodia would ban online gambling. Construction projects came to a halt, hundreds of businesses closed, and thousands lost their jobs. The economic impacts of COVID-19 in 2020 further exacerbated the economic downturn.

In May, 2020 our teams conducted a survey amongst the families we work with: '[M'Lop Tapang Economic Survey](#)'. The feedback we gathered in that survey confirmed what we had already suspected, that already vulnerable families were struggling more to meet the basic needs of their children because of increased financial hardships.

OUR PROGRAMS

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES



"Building a trusting relationship with the clients we work with is important. If there is a good trusting relationship they will open their heart and tell us their story. People need someone to talk to when they have problems."

- Theary, MT Counselling Team Leader

Child Protection has always been at the core of what M'Lop Tapang does and that didn't change in 2020. We were very aware that the school closures, social isolation, and economic hardships could lead to an increased risk for child abuse and neglect.

One of most evident impacts of the pandemic was, when education and training programs were suspended, a significant increase in the number of children and youth on the streets and beaches. Many, some very young, were out alone at night time trying to earn money for their families by selling flowers or trinkets, collecting cans and bottles, and begging.

Our teams are responding to this by reorganizing schedules to ensure more social workers are in the areas and at the times that these vulnerable children are frequenting. A schedule of morning, afternoon, and late evening shifts resulted in us meeting many of these children to conduct assessments and monitor the situation, provide information about M'Lop Tapang, promote our 24-Hour Hotline numbers, deliver emergency care when needed, and assist with referrals to services.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

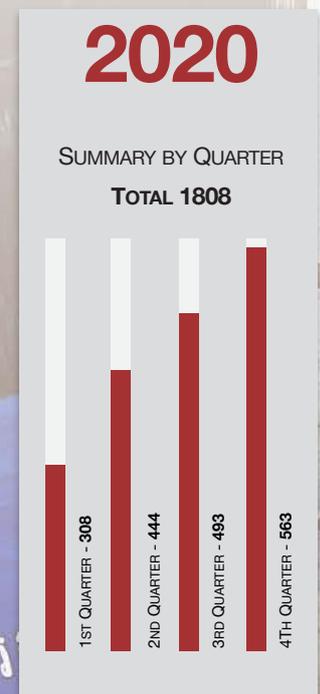
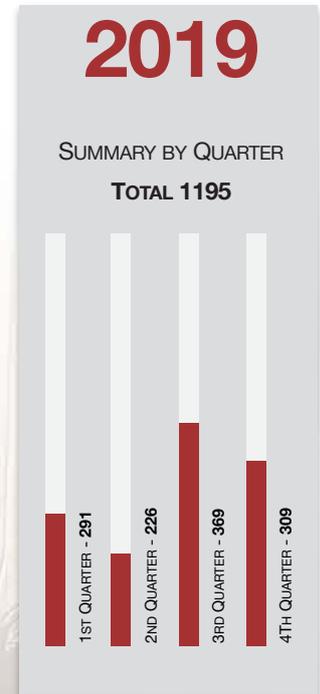
CONT'D

HOTLINE SURGE

M'Lop Tapang is very proud to remain the implementing partner of the ChildSafe program in the Sihanoukville region. Learn more about the [ChildSafe Movement](#).

Our community ChildSafe agents include hotel/guesthouse staff, village chiefs, taxi drivers, beach sellers, and travel agents— all of whom are in an ideal position to be on the lookout for children in dangerous situations.

M'Lop Tapang's 24-Hour Confidential Hotline is publicized widely through Sihanoukville and remains an easy way for local community members to contact our teams if they see children in danger or needing help.



20

96

We recruited, trained, and certified 96 new community ChildSafe agents.

20

64

youth participated in MT's Kid's Beach Network.



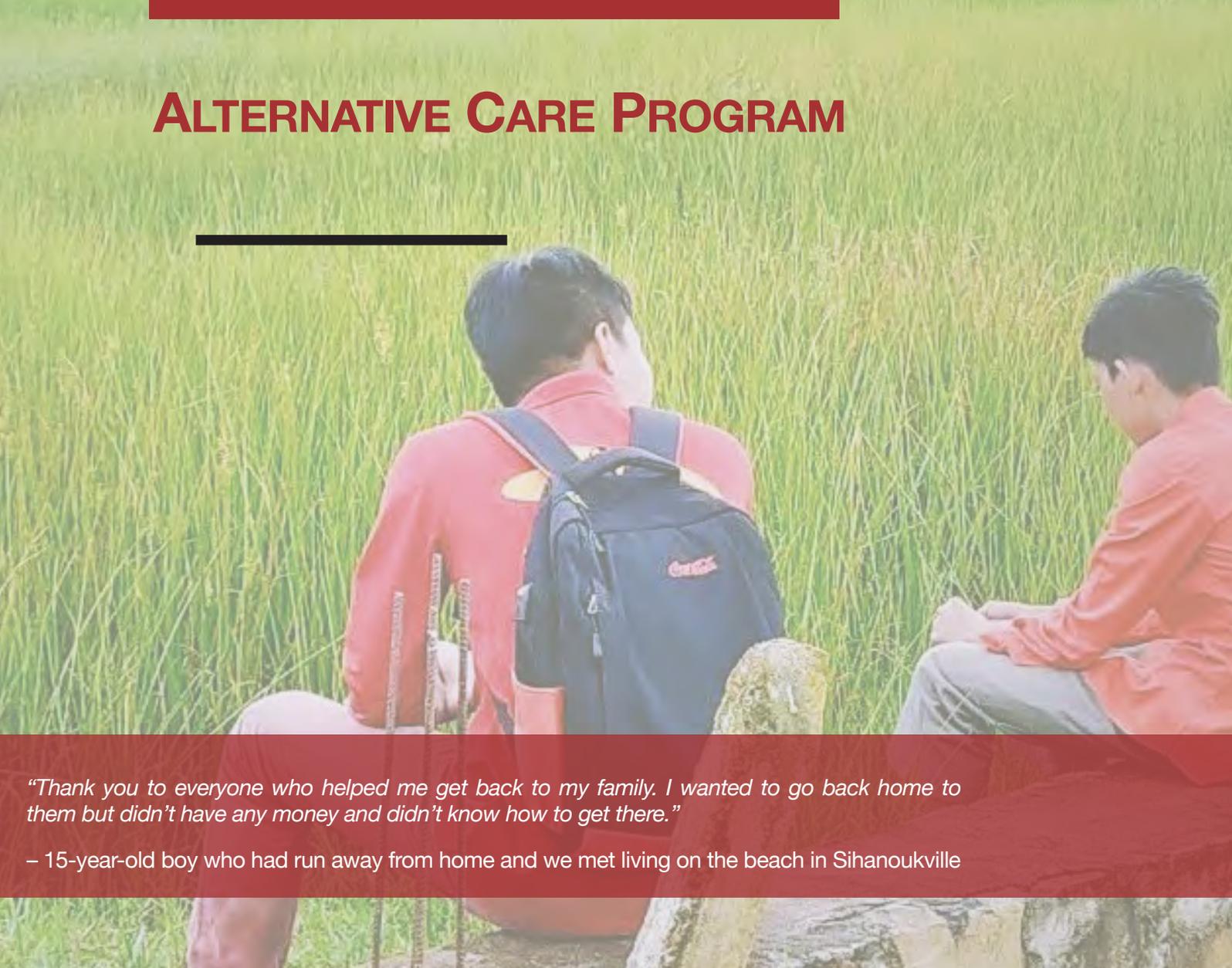
50%

In 2020 there was about a 50% increase in the number of calls as compared to 2019. The increased calls were mostly related to families seeking food support.

KIDS' BEACH NETWORK

"Youth Protecting Youth" is the motto of our Kids' Beach Network, a peer group of youth between the ages of 12-18 years' old. These boys and girls are trained on what to do, and who to report to, if they are in danger or see a friend in danger and are followed up regularly by our Child Protection and ChildSafe teams.

ALTERNATIVE CARE PROGRAM



“Thank you to everyone who helped me get back to my family. I wanted to go back home to them but didn’t have any money and didn’t know how to get there.”

– 15-year-old boy who had run away from home and we met living on the beach in Sihanoukville



children were reintegrated back into their families.



children/families were supported in our Foster Care and Kinship Care program.

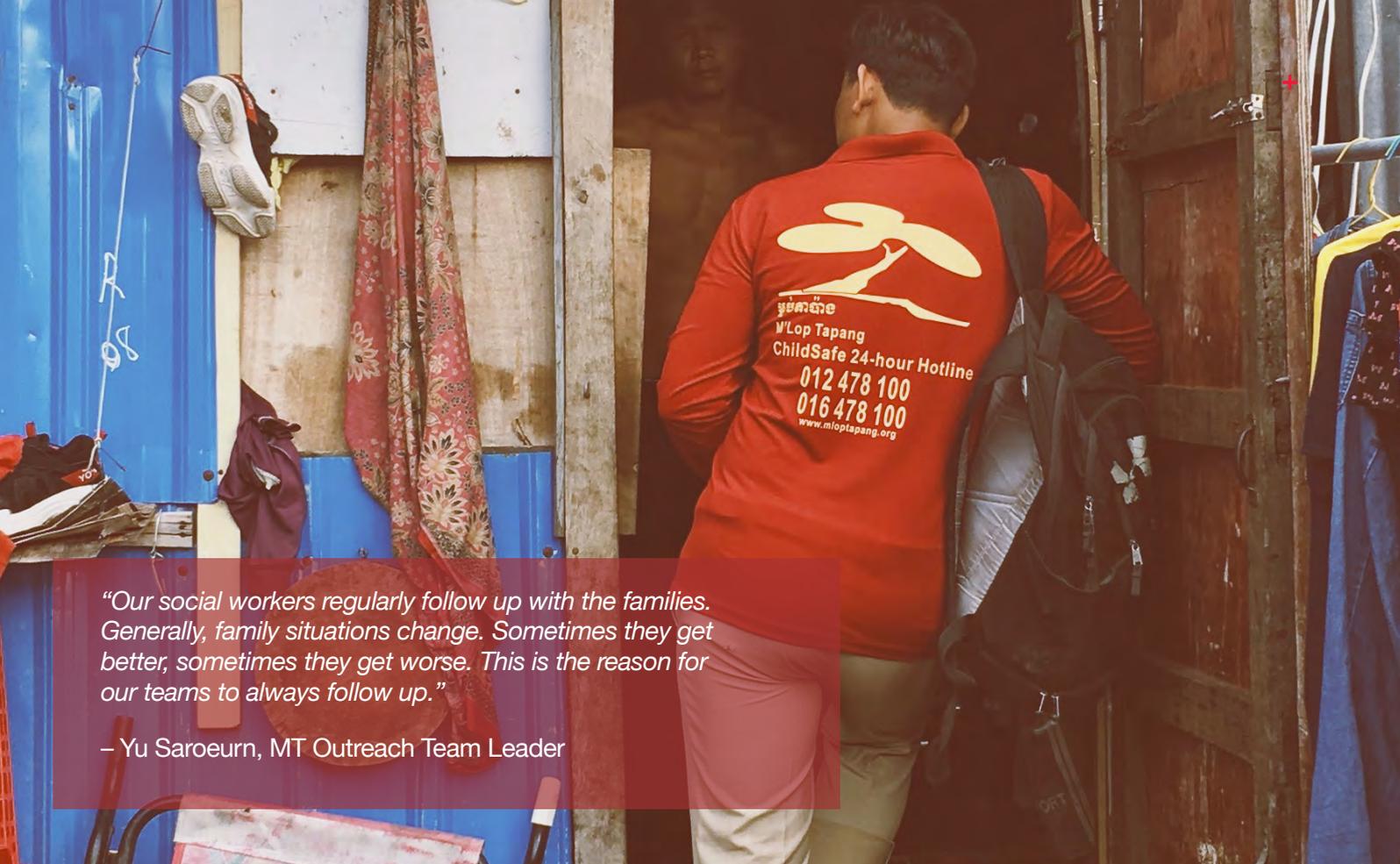


youth were supported in our Independent Living program.

M’Lop Tapang believes that the best place for children to grow up is with their families, and if this is not safe, then in an alternative family-like setting.

When a child has become separated from her/ his family, or if a child is in immediate danger of violence, neglect or sexual abuse, a safe shelter is needed for the child to remain protected whilst our reintegration team finds a solution to reintegrate the child to their family/ community. M’Lop Tapang has a Transitional Home, providing safe nighttime services to boys and girls that need immediate shelter on a temporary basis.

31 In 2020, our teams provided safe, secure housing for 31 children/youth in MT’s Transitional Home (note: the number of children staying in the TH at any one time is usually about 15).



“Our social workers regularly follow up with the families. Generally, family situations change. Sometimes they get better, sometimes they get worse. This is the reason for our teams to always follow up.”

– Yu Saroeurn, MT Outreach Team Leader

OUTREACH & FAMILY STRENGTHENING

M’LoP Tapang’s Outreach social workers work with children, their families and the community. Our approach is always to partner with families, helping them to identify problems that are affecting their children’s development, and to work alongside them to find lasting solutions to these issues.

Our social workers provide from practical interventions small businesses to repairs so the family can more psycho- social counseling, building lessons, alcohol and drug solving within relationships.

In 2020, already vulnerable financial difficulties due to pandemic. Reduced security for many. It has half of households in back on the size and quality of meals at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of the help from the social worker and the help of M’LoP Tapang, I have everything I need and I feel warm inside. First, my children go to school, and secondly, I can have enough materials and tools to start my business. With their help, with food support and materials, like by little, I know have a better life.

- Father of three young children

many family support services, such as training, setting up increase income, urgent house safely live in their homes, to support services such as confidence, skillful parenting support services, and problem

families experienced greater the economic impacts of the incomes led to a lack of food been estimated that more than Cambodia have needed to cut

Our teams responded to the greater needs of local families by increasing outreach support to local children and families, specifically in the area of food security. In 2020, our Outreach and other teams distributed more than 32,000kg of rice (along with other food and hygiene supplies) to more than 1,100 local families in need.

OUTREACH & FAMILY STRENGTHENING

CONTINUED



In October, our teams completed a follow up survey with 150 of those families that we had been providing increased emergency food support to. 100% of those families reported that the support is helping significantly. Among other findings, nearly two-thirds of the families reported that their children had enough to eat because of M'Lop Tapang's food support. 68% said that they would have to borrow money if we stopped delivering food, and 34% reported that their children would have to miss some meals. Read summary of survey results: ["Impact of Emergency Food Distribution During COVID-19 Pandemic."](#)

While addressing the immediate emergency needs of families, our Outreach team also began to increase efforts in helping families set up small income generating businesses. These small business ventures lead to a more longer-term, sustainable way for families to earn an income and provide for the needs of their children. View video: ["M'Lop Tapang: Strengthening Families and Communities"](#) (Oct, 2020).



Helping families provide for their children's basic needs during times of crisis

2020

Our Outreach Team social workers provided services to more than **1,800** children and more than **1,200** families (including **321** new children this year).



38

families were assisted with urgent house repairs.



47

families were assisted with small business set up ventures through Outreach and 'Futures' programs.



2000

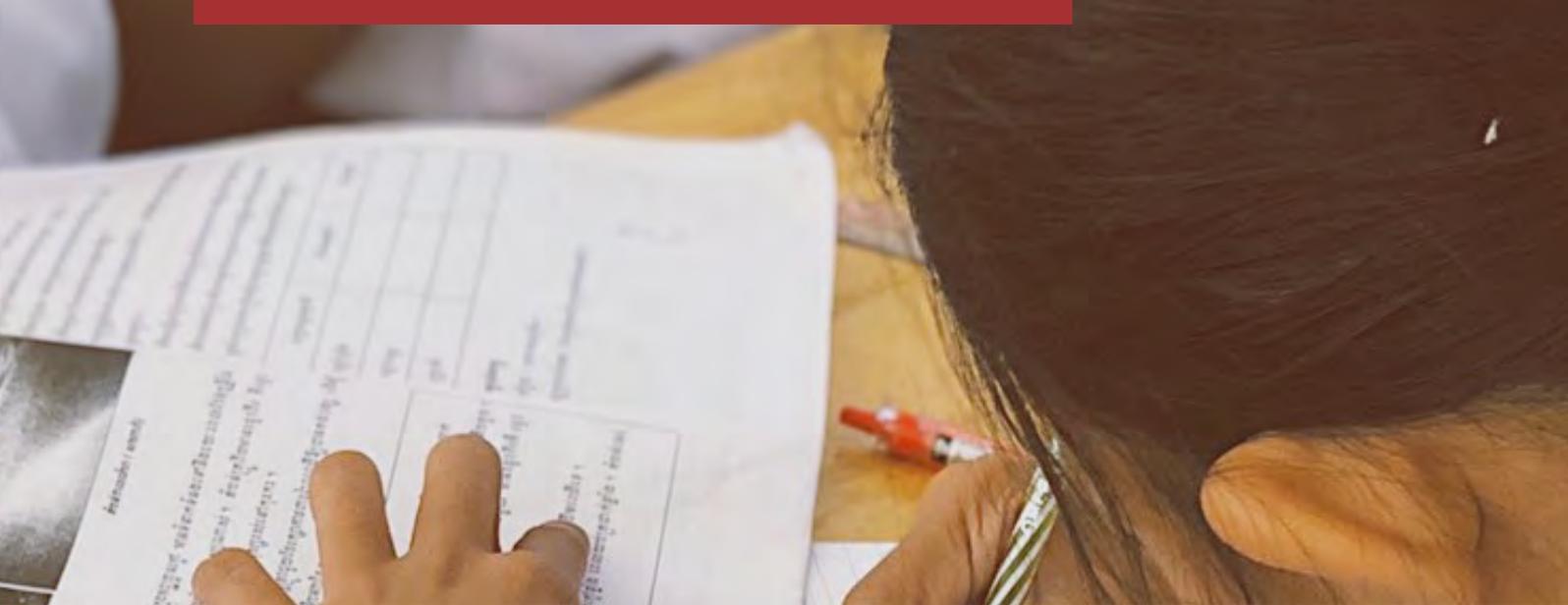
Advocated for more than 2,000 vulnerable families to be provided with government issued ID Poor Cards.

“Right now families are even more vulnerable than before because many have lost their jobs and income due to COVID-19 and other factors. There are many families that have no income right now but still have children to feed every day.” – Um Chamroeun, Outreach Program Manager





In response to increased need of families, our teams distributed more than 32,000 kg of rice (along with other food and hygiene supplies) to local families.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Education is key to helping children build a better future for themselves and their families. M'Lop Tapang continues to provide a variety of education programs for disadvantaged children including remedial classes to help children to catch up with their studies and support for students to stay in school.

MT's Non-Formal Education (NFE) program helps children and youth who have never been to school (or have been out of school for a long time) catch up with their studies. The goal is one day they will be reintegrated into the local public school system at a grade level suitable for their age.

Our 'Back to School' (BTS) program assists families who cannot afford to send their children to public school. Although public school is officially free for all Cambodian children, families are still required to pay for school uniforms and supplies. For many of the poorest families, these costs prevent them from sending their children to school.



2020

583

children/youth participated in the non-formal education program at our Education Center.

1,051

children/youth were supported through MT's "Back to School" program.

156

children/youth attended classes at MT's Community Education Center.

*during times when classroom activities were allowed

CASE STUDY

18-year-old Ravy has been supported to attend school for the last 6 years through our BTS program. Like all the students being helped through the program, she comes from a poor family. It hasn't been easy for Ravy, but she has been determined to finish her education.

"I almost quit school last year because my family really wanted me to find a job to earn money. Without support from M'Lop Tapang I knew I would have ended up quitting school to find a job because all the people in my family never encouraged me to study. When I needed school supplies and school uniforms, M'Lop Tapang gave them to me. If I asked my family for those supplies they would only push me to work and not to study"

Ravy officially graduated from high school in 2020. Her goal in the future is to be a teacher.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CONTINUED



WATCH: “MT Youth Talk About COVID-19” (July, 2020)

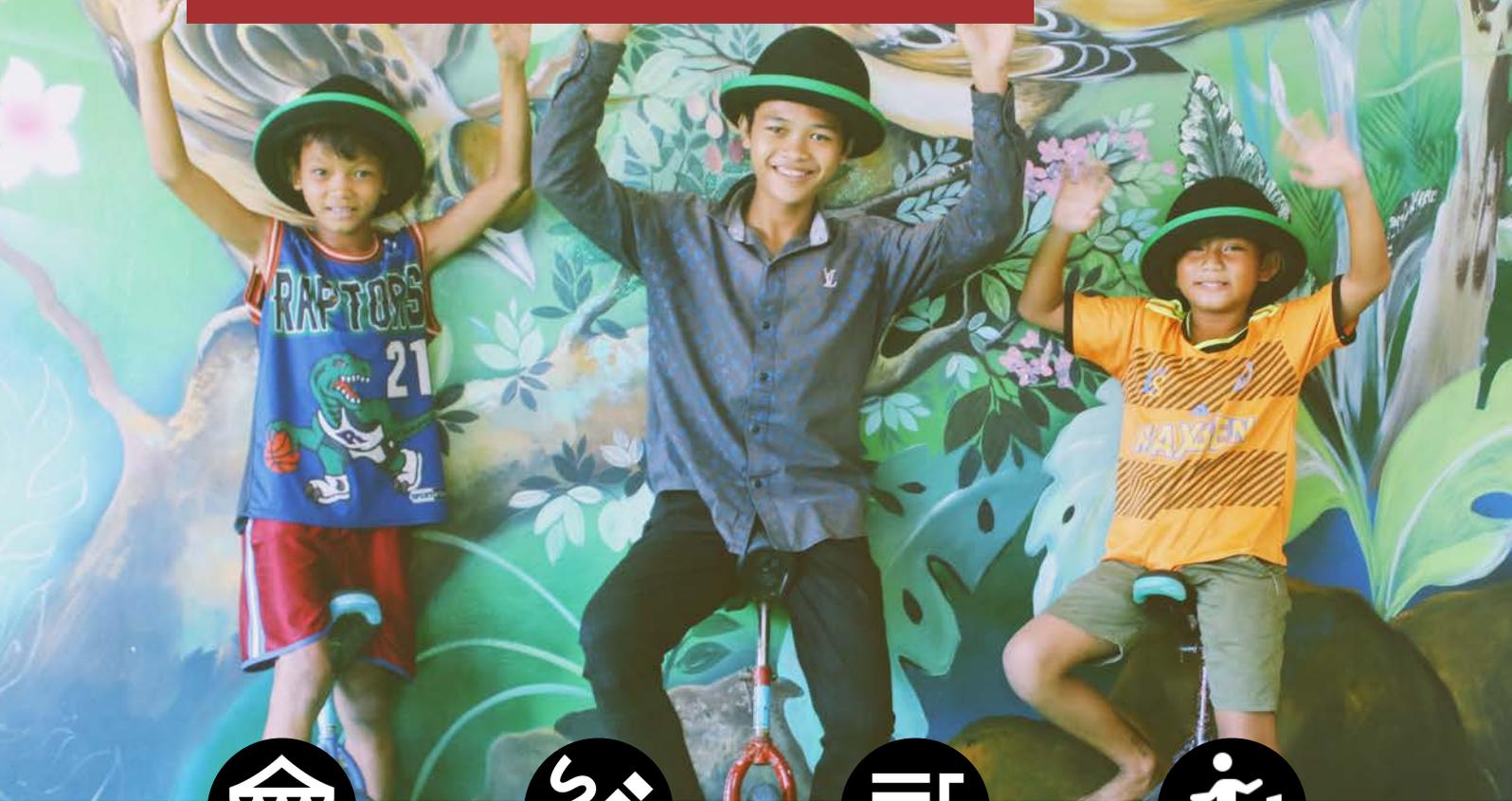
In 2020, all of our education programs were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were extended periods of time that students were unable to study. The government first ordered the national closure of all education and training programs in March 2020 and this lasted until September 2020 when education programs were allowed to resume. However, following another community outbreak, education programs across the country were suspended again in December 2020 for another month.

These closures impacted students attending the non-formal education programs at MT’s main Education Center, our Community Education Center (located in the neighborhood of Village 35), as well as those being supported to attend local public school through MT’s ‘Back to School’ program.

When the education programs were closed, we knew that without a regular place to come every day, vulnerable children were not only missing classroom learning, but were also cut off from access to daily nutritional support, hygiene and free medical care, and a safe environment. We proactively worked with local authorities for permission to allow MT’s Education Center and Community Center to re-open for a limited number of very high-risk children with the focus to be on social services and recreational activities rather than classroom education. The result of this was that we were able to provide vital wellbeing services to a total of more than 300 very at-risk children and youth during times of mandated school closures.



I am happy to be back here now because my father is drunk a lot. Sometimes I am afraid at home and when I am here I feel more safe and relaxed. At home I always worry.



35

children/youth participated in circus classes.



434

children/youth participated in drawing/painting classes.



84

children/youth participated in music classes.



392

children/youth participated in dance classes.

ARTS ACTIVITIES

Arts have always played an important role at M'LoP Tapang. We believe that through arts, children have the chance to express their feelings; gain confidence and increase self-esteem; improve focus and concentration abilities; and make friends and improve socialization skills.

In 2020, for several months, arts activities took on an even bigger role at M'LoP Tapang than they had before. In March, when education classes were suspended across the country, M'LoP Tapang received permission from the local authorities to allow a limited number of the most high-risk children to return to our Education Center for non-education focused daycare services (social support, nutrition, hygiene, medical care, and recreational arts activities).

In the absence of being allowed to provide education, arts took over the classrooms at M'LoP Tapang's Education Center. Whereas once arts classes were a wonderful assortment of extracurricular activities, for about six months of 2020 they became the primary happenings for children coming to our Center. What is normally a kindergarten classroom turned into an impromptu singing and music room, a first grade classroom transformed into a circus class, another classroom used as a dance studio, and two other classrooms repurposed into drawing rooms. When school education programs were allowed to reopen, arts activities reverted to being held at our Arts Center.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Our Medical team of Khmer doctors and nurses provide free health care services at MT's Medical Clinic as well as in the community. The most common conditions treated are related to those diseases and illnesses often associated with living in poverty: malnutrition, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, skin infections, and minor trauma.

Although we never had to close our Medical Clinic in 2020, the number of children seen and the volume of services provided decreased significantly from previous years. Overall, the number of services provided was down by almost 30% from 2019. Significant drops in children and youth being seen in our Clinic can be directly related to the mandated closure of MT education and training programs (March and December) which had offered ready access to services.



In 2020...

16,297

medical services provided at our medical clinic.

1,551

medical services provided in the community through our medical outreach program.

43

children benefitted from the services of MT's Baby Care programs at our Main Center and at our Community Education Center.



57

children and youth diagnosed with learning and behavioral difficulties received services through MT's Special Needs program.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



120

students participated in vocational training programs.

M'Lop Tapang's vocational training programs (bicycle and motorbike repair, electrics and plumbing, and cookery and hospitality) were also impacted by the pandemic in 2020. Training programs across the country were first directed to close in March, but after about three months students were allowed by the local Department of Labor to return in small groups. Training/education programs were ordered to close again in December following another community outbreak of COVID-19.

In those times of no training, many of the students returned to their home provinces to be with their families. For those that remained in Sihanoukville our teams maintained contact and followed up with them, providing them and their families with emergency food support as well as theory training support.

'Futures', our employment services program, did not have to close at any time last year and continued operating as usual. The program continued to assist individuals with linking them to available employment opportunities, referrals to training programs, providing skills assessments, and other assistance such as helping with CV's.

Not surprisingly, in the face of financial difficulties brought upon by the pandemic, the number of people seeking and receiving 'Futures' services in 2020 increased by about 45% from 2019.



273

individuals were directly assisted in securing safe employment in 2020

I am so happy to have a job now. Now we have enough food for my family and I can save some money for my future too.

— 18-year-old girl who graduated from MT's cooking program and was helped to find full time employment at a local hotel.

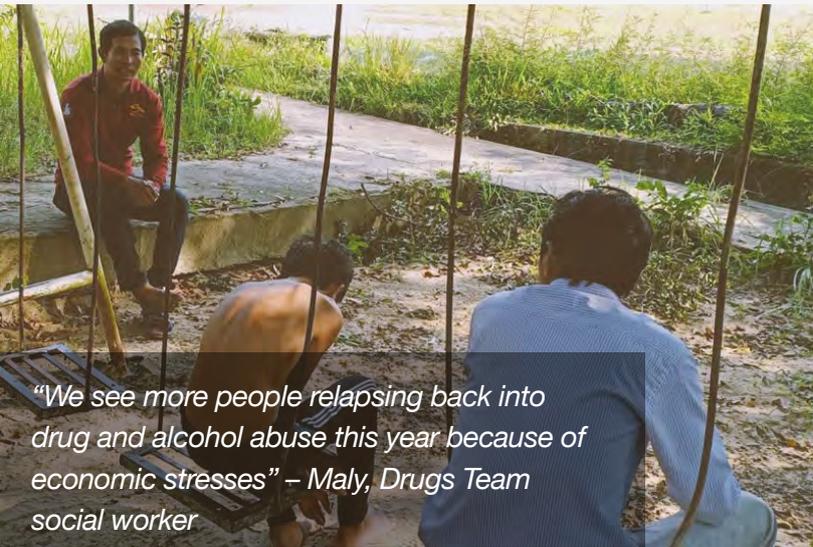


SANDAN TRAINING RESTAURANT



Like restaurants all over, Sandan, our vocational training restaurant for vulnerable youth, was hit hard in 2020 by the pandemic. With no international tourists as customers, Sandan's revenue decreased by almost 60% from the previous year.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS



"We see more people relapsing back into drug and alcohol abuse this year because of economic stresses" – Maly, Drugs Team social worker

Like other programs, our Drugs and Alcohol team also had to adjust their activities as COVID-19 started to impact the way things were done in Cambodia.

The team did continue to follow up with known drug using youth/young adults in the local community as well as members of our Alcohol Support Group, but because of social distancing guidelines, large community meetings were suspended. For several months, we were also restricted from visiting local prisons to provide relapse prevention activities to youth inmates.

Following government COVID-19 directives, 'Pteah Romchang', M'Lop Tapang's Detox/Rehab Center was closed in March 2020 and did not reopen

until mid-May. Clients that did have to be sent home because of the closure were followed up by our social workers.

Video: "Pteah Romchang: A brief look at M'Lop Tapang's Drugs and Alcohol Detoxification and Rehabilitation Center."

500+

youth community members attended awareness training sessions (most of this prior to March, 2020).

225

youth/young adults incarcerated in local prisons were provided with relapse prevention support (done prior to March 2020).

143

known drug using youth/young adults in the community received harm reduction services.

40

clients received services in Pteah Romchang.

42

caretakers received support through our Alcohol Support Group.

"When I met the teachers from M'Lop Tapang, they supported me to stop using drugs. I decided to enter Pteah Romchang. I was successful in the program. I now have a job with a good salary and a place to live." — graduate of MT's detox and rehab program

OUR TEAMS & PARTNERS



M'LOP TAPANG'S MANAGEMENT TEAM

(from left to right) **Iv Sok**, Admin & HR Manager; **Roth Chanphalkun**, Co-Director; **Maggie Eno**, Co-Director/Founding Member; **Lao Bunnary**, Senior Financial Officer; **Dom Sinat**, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

In such a challenging year, we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our team here at M'Lop Tapang. Their efforts and stamina ensured that M'Lop Tapang never fully closed during the pandemic and that we continued to provide services for the most vulnerable children and families.

We could never do what we do by ourselves and are grateful to have many invaluable partners. M'Lop Tapang continues to partner with the local and provincial authorities, local commune and village chiefs and community leaders, police, and ministries, in particular the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans & Youth Rehabilitation. We also continue to collaborate closely with other child-focused NGOs and remain partners in the UNICEF-funded 3PC program of experienced child protection NGO's in Cambodia, the GHR Foundation's network of partners in Cambodia, and the ChildSafe Alliance Network.

**MT is an equal opportunities employer. MT does not discriminate against anyone including because of age, disability, gender reassignment status, marriage status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.*

208
EMPLOYEES

98%
STAFF ARE
CAMBODIAN

50%
STAFF ARE
FEMALE



OUR PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL PARTNERS

ADM Capital Foundation

Mike Avery and Jo Ann

Sappington

Carraresi Foundation

DAK Foundation

Dorrie Alcock Memorial Fund

Edrington

Epic Foundation

European Union

Firetree Asia Foundation

Friends-International

Fueling M'Lop Tapang

GHR Foundation

Hartmut Giesecke

GB Net

GlobalGiving

Jeanine Kappé

Kids Unlimited Trust

Luff Foundation

Manan Trust

M'Lop Tapang N. Ireland

MT Social Businesses

Partners For Equity

Jean-Francois Peterbroeck

Foundation

Planet Wheeler Foundation

Redlands School

Ride Expeditions

Ripple Foundation

SicKids

Sipar Cambodia

Sovereign Art Foundation

Taminda Holding Limited

UNICEF

Virginia Yee

Wise Philanthropy

World Childhood Foundation

Our sincere appreciation to the many individuals, groups and organizations that donated funds and in-kind products in 2020. These acts of generosity not only helped to ensure that we had the resources available to support vulnerable children and their families, but also served to motivate and inspire our staff. Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and support

OUR OPERATING EXPENSES

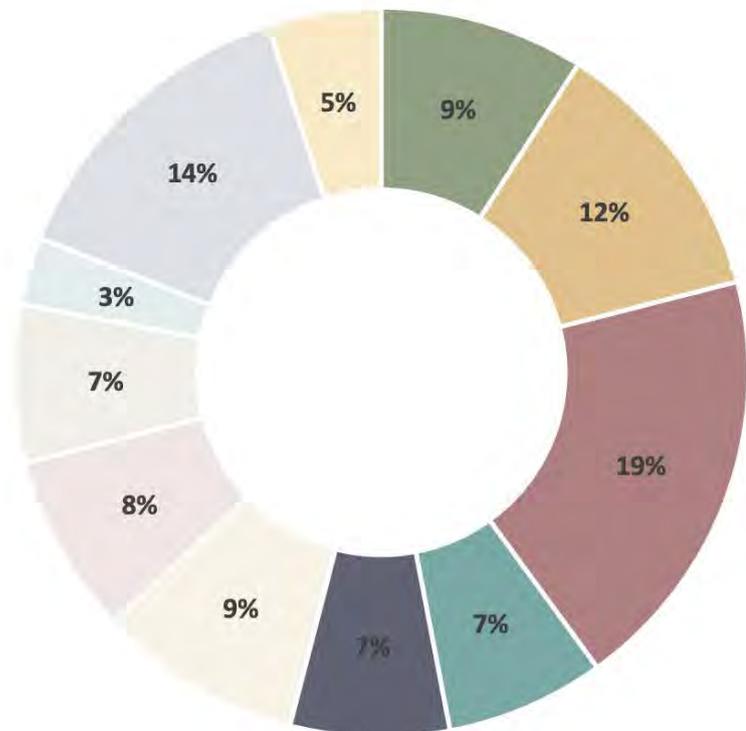
In 2020, M'Lop Tapang's Operating Expenses were

\$1,657,163.05 USD

(approximately 5% decrease from 2019)

How we used these funds:

- Child Protection
- Outreach & Family Strengthening
- Education
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Vocational Training & Employment Services
- Medical
- Alternative Care
- Sandan Restaurant
- Arts
- Program Support
- Administration



External audits of M'Lop Tapang's finances are conducted annually. Our 2020 audit will be conducted later in 2021.

MT is very proud to maintain our NGO Governance & Professional Practice (GPP) recertification from the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC). The aim of CCC is to promote professionalism and good practice within NGOs operating in Cambodia. Certification is voluntary and looks at Good Governance, Communications, Financial Management, Accountability and Transparency, Quality Assurance, and Human Resource Management.



LESSONS LEARNED DURING COVID-19

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. That was certainly the case for our teams here at M'Lop Tapang. However, in the face of the challenges we have gained experience and knowledge that have made our organization even stronger and better prepared for the future. Among the top lessons learned along the way:

LESSON 1

Be flexible. As much as we can plan ahead, there are times that the unexpected happens and we need to just keep pushing forward and finding alternatives to deliver support services to families and children in need.

LESSON 2

Be attentive to the needs and the concerns of the staff. Our staff is our greatest resource but it has been important to recognize that not all staff handle crisis situations/change as well as others.

LESSON 3

Maintain collaboration with local authorities to confirm that actions are not being duplicated in the community. As well, proactively advocate on behalf of vulnerable children and families to ensure that they are receiving the services they need to ensure their safety and well-being.

LESSON 4

Keep partners updated, as some planned activities may need to be postponed/ cancelled and project funds may need to be allocated to more immediate needs. Fortunately for us, M'Lop Tapang's partners have been wonderful during these trying times.





FOR MORE INFORMATION



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