



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.

OUR MISSION

M'Lop Tapang strives to provide a safe haven for 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.





5,532

received services

in 2018

families received services

in 2018



MESSAGE FROM BOARD & MANAGEMENT OF M'LOP TAPANG

In 2018, M'Lop Tapang achieved the proud milestone of 15 years of successful operations, as together with our staff we worked tirelessly to serve our community's most vulnerable. During this period M'Lop Tapang has served 1000's of children and their families with a wide variety of services, including child protection, health and education.

Within the last 15 years vast change has occurred within our community. The population and the urban environment have expanded extremely rapidly, which has in turn created opportunities, as well as additional pressures and strains on the city's infrastructure. Through this developmental shift, M'Lop Tapang has continued to stay highly focused on its core mission and purpose, while maintaining a degree of flexibility in order to adapt our approach when necessary to maximize our impact in a rapidly changing environment.

Whilst the challenges presented by the structural shifts occurring within Sihanoukville society, created through the rapid investment flows into the hotel and casino industry are widely reported, the benefits of this development have not been evenly distributed. The social and environmental costs have largely been borne by the poor. That said, M'Lop Tapang and its management team have chosen to embrace and work within, rather than resist the challenges, in order to navigate a stronger outcome for the children our community.

To support this effort, in 2018 M'Lop Tapang, with representatives from the Board, staff and students engaged in a new comprehensive review and strategic plan for M'Lop Tapang 2019 -2022, to ensure our activities and efforts were being delivered in the most effective and efficient manner to the community.

We began by asking ourselves the fundamental question: Why do we exist? This resulted in the following shared conclusion:

M'Lop Tapang believes that children must be protected from exploitation, harm and neglect through education, healthcare and support them, whilst growing up in a safe, family setting.

It was further agreed that the core activities of M'Lop Tapang belong to four main components and areas of focus.

- 1. Child protection
- 2. Education, training and employment
- 3. Healthcare provision
- 4. Drugs/ alcohol/ harm reduction

Throughout this review process, with the support of the Board, it was also decided that a new separate initiative and working group would be established to assist M'Lop Tapang to work in a more productive and meaningful manner with the new Chinese community in Sihanoukville. The working group is titled "Tau Pi" or "Two lions", the name which holds significance in both Khmer and Chinese culture. It has a specific mandate to develop stronger links, both as partners and donors with the Chinese residents and the business community. Tau Pi has been resourced and charged with refining and developing this strategy further, through activities such as:

- Building Chinese speaking capabilities within M'Lop Tapang.
- Hiring Chinese staff to focus on community engagement, outreach, child protection awareness & relationship building.

We intend to share further updates on this important initiative going forward.

Finally, whilst there remain many challenges, what we believe is most important is the success stories of the children and families we are working with, who are benefiting from M'Lop Tapang's efforts. These are our most important relationships, and we will always prioritize them above all else. The Board of M'Lop Tapang would like to acknowledge and thank all the donors and Government partners, who make M'Lop Tapang's work possible, as well as thank and recognize all of M'Lop Tapang's staff and management team for their continued commitment to deliver protection, health and educational services to our partners in the community.

Best Regards

John McGinley on behalf of the Board



Pin SokhumChairman, Board of Directors



John McGinley
Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors



Roth Chanphalkun Co-Director, M'Lop Tapar



Maggie Eno Co-Director, M'Lop Tapang



2018 was a year marked with changes and challenges. Sihanoukville, the once quiet tourist beach town, is transforming at an unprecedented pace being fueled by Chinese investments in casinos and hotels. In 2018, there were 297 buildings being constructed with the budget of more than 1 billion USD.

In 2015 there were 15 casinos operating in Sihanoukville. As of the end of 2018 there are 88, and many more expected to be in operation within the next few years. (To put this in perspective, there are approximately 40 casinos in Macau and just over 100 in Las Vegas.) In 2018, we witnessed changes in demographics as the Chinese population in Preah Sihanouk province has risen to an estimated 75,000. There is an expected further 20,000 Chinese moving to the province in coming months.



In this current construction boom there has significant **changes in costs of living** as property prices have soared as much as 400% and rents are reported to have risen by 5-10 times. A lack of city planning to manage the breakneck speed of development has resulted in **changes in standards of living** in having to deal routinely with broken roads, daily power cuts, lack of clean water, and insufficient garbage collection services. The extraordinary number of new construction sites through the city also resulted in **changes to the local environment** as one after another, natural drainages sites were being filled in to make way for new development and in 2018 M'Lop Tapang experienced our worst flooding ever.

These changes have had, and are having, a dramatic impact on M'Lop Tapang's beneficiaries, staff, budget, programming and all operations. Thank you to all of our partners, donors, and friends for the continued support and encouragement in helping us manage the changes as Sihanoukville evolves. Having a clear strategic plan to deal with the changes we confidently look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.





42

child victims of abuse provided with support



53

children reintegrated back to families or Foster/Kinship care



33

children provided temporary housing at our Transitional Home



500+

community members reached by awareness activities

Poverty, combined with low education, leaves children vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. It can also lead to family breakdown, with children becoming street-connected, and more vulnerable to being exploited.

Safeguarding children remains the highest priority of M'Lop Tapang. Our designated **Child Protection** Team works with individual children and their families, with local authorities, and with community members. The focus of child protection services is on prevention, response, support for victims of abuse, recovery, and reintegration.

The recent developments in Sihanoukville are having an impact on all of our programs, including Child Protection. With the number of casinos being built there are increasing risks of a variety of social problems, including child labor (seen in construction sites and casinos as opposed to before it being more street/ beach based), children dropping out of education or training programs to work in Chinese businesses, and human trafficking cases.



"This is my first time to join this kind of training. I have no violence in my own family but the information will help me to explain to other families when I see them fighting."

-38-year-old mother of 3 young children.

M'Lop Tapang's Child Protection team regularly provides teaching and awareness raising sessions in local communities about domestic violence and other issues impacting children.





calls received on 24-hour hotline



new ChildSafe community agents certified



number of children trained in Online Saftey

M'Lop Tapang is proud to continue as the implementing partner of the **ChildSafe Movement** program for the Sihanoukville area. (Learn more about the ChildSafe Movement and what you can do to help protect children)

Our ChildSafe team recruits, trains, certifies, and follows up on network agents. ChildSafe members include individuals and businesses that are in ideal positions to be on the lookout for children in dangerous situations and include hotel/ guesthouse/restaurant staff, taxi drivers, beach sellers, and travel agents. Although we did add new members in 2018, unfortunately we lost 8 or our previously ChildSafe certified hotels partners when these businesses were sold to new owners. Our 24-Hour Confidential Hotline enables members of the whole community to participate in protecting children in an easy and effective way. As well as emergency cases and information about possible abuse situations, we also receive calls alerting us to new migrant children to the city and requests for information about our training and education programs.



In this digital age it is important for children and youth to be aware of the dangers of the internet from various online threats. They can be exposed to inappropriate content, come into contact with people they don't know, share personal information with strangers, or provide contact details after clicking on pop-up messages. Our ChildSafe team is continuing to work with our own Education team as well as local area public schools to teach children and youth about online safety.





families supported by Outreach activities



1/6 new families supported in 2018



families assisted with small income generating businesses



times families provided with emergency support



61 families assisted with urgent house repairs

M'Lop Tapang's social workers work with children, their families and the community to ensure that children are growing up safely with loving families and that the rights of the child are being respected.

Our approach is always to partner with families, helping them to identify problems that are affecting their children's development, and work alongside them to find lasting solutions to these issues. Our teams provide many family support services, from practical interventions such as training, setting up small businesses to increase income, urgent house repairs so the family can safely live in their homes, to more psycho- social support services such as counseling, building confidence, skillful parenting lessons, alcohol and drug support services, and problem solving within relationships.

With the rapid development in Sihanoukville, hundreds of poor families from the countryside are moving to the city to work on local construction projects. Many families bring their children and most live in crowded, makeshift housing camps at the sites with little access to appropriate sanitation, clean water, health care, education, or other basic social services.



In 2018, the Outreach Team concentrated more on regularly visiting these construction sites to ensure that the children living in these places are safe and encouraging them to join the education and health programs at M'Lop Tapang. With development continuing in the city this will be one of our priorities in 2019.

As planned, a Social Work Technical Assistant (TA) was recruited in 2018 to assist MT's social work teams. With her guidance, our Outreach and Child Protection teams have worked hard on improving their social work skills and gained new knowledge in working with at-risk children and families.

One of the new resources our social workers have learned to use is the **Child Status Index** (CSI) tool to assess and track priority services a vulnerable child needs. Our teams have been using the CSI tool to more effectively recognize and respond in making plans to deal with complex family situation cases they are routinely involved in.



Improving social workers' skills has also been accomplished through training in the use of the "Signs of Safety" method. The staff have already begun integrating elements of this method in response to those cases with a high risk of harm, such as in the case of Sreytouch*, a 5-month old baby born to young mother living in a poor area near the railway tracks. The mother is HIV+. As the baby was severely underweight our team has been following up with mother and baby regularly.

After learning and applying the Signs of Safety approach, our social workers discovered that there were many underlying problems with the mother that we did not know before, specifically a history of domestic violence. Having a clearer understanding of the issues, the Outreach Team has now coordinated with our Child Protection Team to provide Sreytouch's mother with more targeted support and information.

*name changed for confidentiality

Our **Mobile Library** team conducts morning and afternoon visits to poorer neighborhoods and villages in the Sihanoukville area, providing informal education, age appropriate books, as well as games and toys.

The Mobile Library team's goal is to work in those neighborhoods that have a significant number of children living in poverty, a lack of basic services, and no other organizations working in that area. In 2018, we start working in 2 new areas: the first is a location close to the Sihanoukville prison, an area that many families have moved to in the last year because the land prices and rental prices are lower than in other parts of the city; the second new location is in Village 2 at one of the new construction sites in the city.

VIEW A VIDEO OF M'LOP TAPANG'S MOBILE LIBRARY





578 children and youth benefited





Back to School Program

Children from poor Cambodian families continue to face barriers in receiving an education, including challenges associated with family migration, the hidden costs of attending public school, and attitudes towards children with disabilities. M'Lop Tapang continues to provide a variety of education programs for disadvantaged children including remedial classes to help children catch up with their studies and support for students to stay in school.

classes at MT Education Center

The "Bridging / Non formal Education Program" at our Education Center 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 program uses a curriculum developed in collaboration with the Department of Education. The goal remains that these students will be reintegrated into the local public school system at a grade level suitable for their age. The Education Team works with M'Lop Tapang's social workers to ensure that those children being reintegrated

into the public school system are not only ready academically but also possess the maturity and family support to make the transition. The Education Center also houses classes for preschool and kindergarten aged children.

partnered with

VIEW A VIDEO OF M'LOP TAPANG'S EDUCATION CENTER



distance education

The "Back to School 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.

Our **Distance Education** program supports learning for students in three schools located outside the Sihanoukville area through providing material and technical support.



PHNOM KIEV COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Our **Community Education Center** is located in Phnom Kiev, an area where many children living in poverty reside and cannot easily access MT's main Education Center. The Community Education Center offers preschool/early childhood classes, nonformal education classes for older children, as well as evening-time English language classes. The Baby Care program there provides support and day-time care for vulnerable young children under the age of five years old. The center is also a local gathering site for neighbors to come together to celebrate Khmer holidays and festivals.

children benefited from services at M'Lop Tapang's Community Education Center in 2018

LUNCHTIME

Eating a nutritious meal has important health and educational benefits for children, it can improve their diet and increase their concentration during



216,108 hot meals provided lessons. The breakfasts and lunches we provide to children and youth in our training and education programs may not be fancy, but they are healthy and nutritious.

All of the children and youth we work with come from disadvantaged home lives and for many these are the most

substantial meals they will have each day.

VIEW A VIDEO OF LUNCHTIME AT M'LOP TAPANG'S EDUCATION CENTER





400+



SPECIAL NEEDS

M'Lop Tapang's Special Needs Program provides daily classes at our Education Center for children with physical, behavioral and developmental

disabilities, offering regular medical care, nutritional support, organized sports activities, as well as group and individual learning programs. The program is the only one of its kind in the Sihanoukville area. For children unable to attend these daily classes home visits are

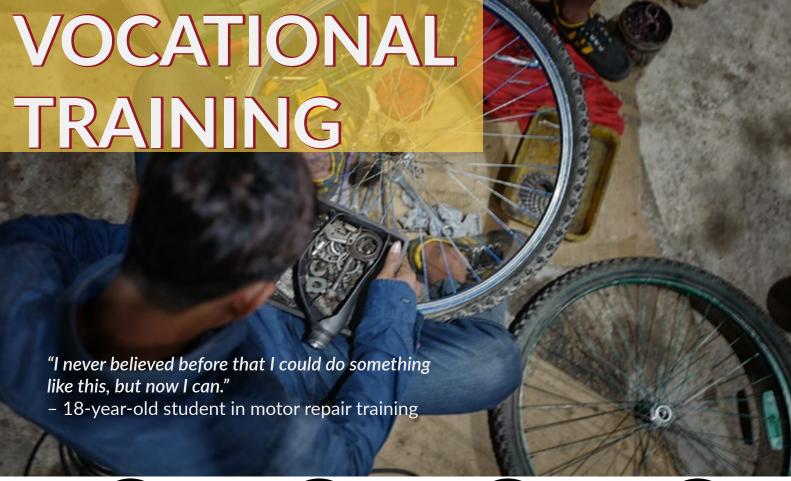


54
clients in Special
Needs Program

provided on a regular schedule that includes social and medical support, physical therapy, and parental education.

VIEW A VIDEO OF M'LOP TAPANG'S SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM







36 students in motorbike repair



10 students in sewing



54 students in cooking/hospitality



students in electrics and plumbing

M'Lop Tapang's **Vocational Training Programs** help vulnerable youth (aged 15 years and older) secure decent work that will allow them to lead a more dignified life. Direct beneficiaries are Cambodian youth who are either unemployed or in menial jobs; not in full time education; victims of abuse; or former drug users. Areas of training include sewing, bicycle and motor repair, electrics and plumbing, and cookery and hospitality.

Length of training is dependent on individual students' abilities, but generally takes from 12-months. Once a student is confident in their abilities and has completed the required training, our Jobs Placement Officer assists him or her to find a safe work placement and provides postemployment follow-up. In partnership with local authorities, all graduates receive an official certificate of completion from the Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training.

In June, 2018 an external evaluation of our Vocational Training Programs and Employment Services was completed that provided valuable feedback and recommendations for our teams in moving forward.

In late 2017 we unexpectedly had to relocate Sandan, our training restaurant, when the landlords decided to rent to new clients at a higher cost, and in 2018 we had to move our Vocational Training Center (VTC) for the same reason. The VTC has now be relocated to a site that M'Lop Tapang owns to avoid this problem again in the future.

In 2018, we have added daily Chinese language classes to the training curriculum for VTC students. This was implemented due to the changing job market in Sihanoukville and will increase the employment opportunities for graduates.

VIEW A VIDEO OF M'LOP
TAPANG'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAMS



HOME BASED PRODUCTION PROGRAM

The Home Based Production Program helps poor families develop a steady, safe source of income generation. Parents completing a sewing training program are provided with sewing machines to work with from their homes. The products they produce are sold in the Tapang's Shops and other outlets. In 2018 the Home Based production program partnered with a local company to use recycled materials to be made into school bags for children. This resulted in more income for the home-based mothers, and a great eco model to follow.



17 mothers in Home Based **Production Program**



SANDAN

M'Lop Tapang has had to adapt and innovate in many of our programs to meet the challenges of the changing demographics in the city. An example of this has been at Sandan, our vocational training restaurant. To attract the growing Chinese customer market, the restaurant has begun using WeChat (the most popular Chinese language messaging and social media app), designed new Chinese language menus and advertising materials, added more items to the menu favored by Chinese customers, and are providing basic Chinese language classes to our staff and students. These measures seem to be paying off as the number of Chinese customers at the restaurant continue to

Sandan is proud to be a member of Tree Alliance, a global association of training restaurants.



FUTURES

"Futures" is an employment program for young people and their caretakers. The program was designed partnership with Mith Samlanh and Friends-International and provides participants with skills and needs assessments, social support, employment training and technical support (job readiness, microenterprise, tips on becoming a top employee, staying in jobs, preparing CV's, job searching, interview techniques), and connections to reputable employers.



individuals assisted



individuals provided with securing employment services at "Futures"





23,752
medical treatments provided in
Clinic (children)



1,456medical treatments provided in Clinic (adults)



1,461medical treatments provided in the community (children)



1,009medical treatments provided in the community (adults)

Families living in poverty are at a higher risk for health problems but often have decreased access to appropriate health care services. The goal of the M'Lop Tapang's Medical Program is to ensure that poor and disadvantaged children and families living in the Sihanoukville area have access to free, high quality health care.

Our team of Cambodian nurses and doctors, along with visiting volunteer medical professionals, provide medical and dental care at MT's Medical Clinic. Additionally, medical services and health education are also provided directly in the community through regularly scheduled visits to poor neighborhoods in the local area.

The most common conditions our doctors and nurses treated in 2018 were related to those diseases and illnesses often associated with living in poverty: malnutrition, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, skin infections, and minor trauma.

In 2018, we conducted a small research project that looked at the impact of providing free medical care to the clients we work with.

READ A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT



M'Lop Tapang's' **Baby Care Program**, under the direction of the Medical Team, works with children under the age of 5-years old who attend a daycenter at the Education Center. The program provides intensive care for children that have been identified as suffering from neglect or severe malnutrition and offers supervised care, healthy food, hygiene and medical care for the children and as well as education with the parents. In 2018, 20 children benefited from attending the Baby Care Program.





137 number of known drug users worked with



35 clients in detox/rehab program



parents in alcohol support group



children/youth received drug awareness education

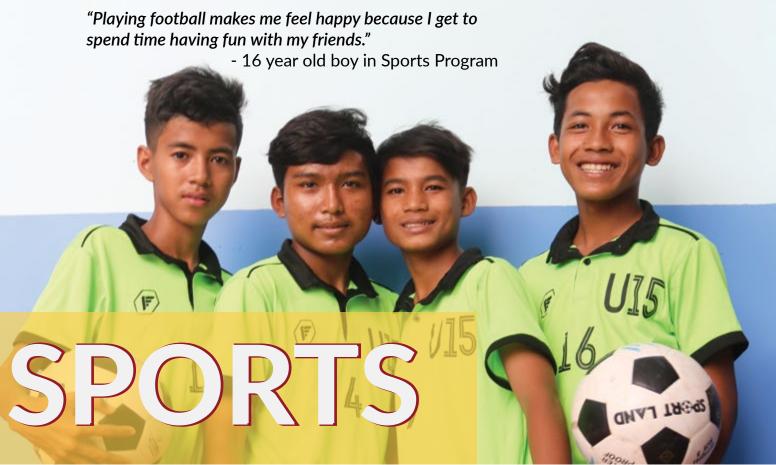
M'Lop Tapang runs **Prevention, Harm Reduction** and Relapse Prevention services for drug and alcohol users. These are delivered in the community, in prisons, and at our detox and rehab center. We aim to provide a continuum of care through careful case management, including family reintegration, emotional support, referrals into education or vocational training and eventual job placement into safe employment.

The **Drugs Team** regularly works with known drug using youth throughout the Sihanoukville area on the streets, beaches, and in the communities and neighborhoods. The team also provides preventative education to the general community about the dangers of using drugs. Further, the team works with young offenders currently incarcerated in the local prison with a known history of drug abuse and offers relapse prevention services, and link the youth to other services when they are released from prison.

'Phteah Romchang', our Drugs and Alcohol Detoxification and Rehabilitation center has been open for one year now. It continues to be the only medically supported detox center in the area. Our teams also continue to organize and lead an **Alcohol Support Group** for parents suffering with alcoholism. The support group helps drinkers come to terms with their addiction, identify the problems their addictions are causing, understand the negative impacts on their families' economic situation and health, and eventually reduce intake and try to give up their addiction.



Our Drugs Team provides drugs awareness education to students in M'Lop Tapang's program's as well as to children and youth in the community and at local public schools.





organized sports activities

713



children and youth participated in of tournaments MT students participated in

M'Lop Tapang believes every child has the right to play.

In addition to the health benefits, we also believe that organized sports activities provide opportunities for children and youth to learn important life skills and values, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, and provide motivation for new street-based children to join M'Lop Tapang's programs.

In 2018, we conducted a survey of 100 girls and boys participating in organized M'Lop Tapang sports activities:

- •100% reported that sports made them feel healthier and stronger
- •100% reported that sports helped them to make new friends
- •100% reported that sports made them feel better about themselves
- •100% reported that sports made them better at listening to other people
- •99% reported that sports made them more interested in coming to school
- •99% reported that sports help them to work better with others of a team
- •99% reported that sports helped them to learn they can do things they didn't think they could do before
- •98% reported that Participating in sports helps me to keep out of trouble and better at saying "no" to things I know are wrong:
- •97% reported that sports helped them to get along better with other people their age
- •96% reported that participating in sports makes them care more about other people's feelings
- •84% reported that sports help them to be better at solving problems
- •43% reported that participating in sports helps them to become more of a leader





children/youth parcipated in drawing painting lessons



children/youth partcipated in circus class



children/youth partcipated in dance



67
children/youth partcipated in music lessons

The aim of M'Lop Tapang's **Arts Program** is to stimulate the healthy development of children through exposure and engagement in a variety of arts activities.

We understand that arts can help to boost confidence and increase self-esteem among disadvantaged children; that arts can be used as a means for engaging children and youth with behavioral problems and special needs; and that arts can be used a healing therapy for children having gone through traumatic events.

In 2018, our designated Arts Team provided instruction in dance, music, drawing/painting, and circus at M'Lop Tapang's Arts Center and at our Education Center.

"VIEW A VIDEO OF STUDENTS IN THE ARTS PROGRAM PERFORMING TO THE SONG "THIS IS ME".

View a video of students in the arts program performing to the song "This Is Me". The song was chosen specifically because of the lyrics and how the words resonate with many of the children and youth we work with.

VIEW A VIDEO OF 2018 ARTS CONCERT





2018 was also a year about increasing inclusivity. This year the Arts Team collaborated with our Education Team to introduce arts to children in M'Lop Tapang's Special Needs Program. Twice a week, with different children in each group, children with special needs now spend time at the Arts Center.



One of the consequences resulting from the massive development in Sihanoukville have been the increase in trash around the city. It is common to see piles of trash the beaches, on the streets, and in streams that run through the city. The increase in uncollected garbage is not only an eyesore but poses health risks as well.

In 2018, we continued to work with our staff, beneficiaries, and the local community in raising awareness about the environment. This included:

- •Conducting scheduled beach and community clean-up days with our students
- •Implementing a 'no-plastic straws' policy as well as changing to eco-packaging at our restaurant Sandan and at our canteen.
- Holding art contests to encourage students to illustrate the impact of trash on the environment
- Stopped purchasing snacks in individual 'clam-shell' containers for any group meetings/workshops
- •Using 'environmental awareness' as the theme for our 2018 Annual Carnival and Street Parades
- Working the government authorities to expand the drainage system near are Education Center.







OUR STAFF

One of M'Lop Tapang's greatest resource is our staff. It is their commitment and dedication that ensures we are providing the best possible services to the children and families we work with.

One of our staffing priorities for 2019 is to recruit and hire Chinese staff to assist in helping to build relationships with new businesses in the city.



220 number of staff



50% female staff

OUR VOLUNTEERS

"I've been to M'Lop Tapang a dozen times now, it's easy to return as it's such an amazing organization that is so well run and adapts quickly to the changing environment and needs of the local impoverished community."

- Dr. Malcolm McLean, Dental Volunteer

For child protection reasons, M'Lop Tapang does not accept a huge numbers of volunteers. Those that we do accept have specific skills, such as medical or dental professionals, who work alongside our Cambodian staff. Our sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who helped make M'Lop Tapang stronger in 2018.





OUR PARTNERS

M'Lop Tapang partners with the local and provincial authorities, 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.

Key organizations we partner with include Friends-International, Save the Children Cambodia, Mith Samlanh, and the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, University of Salford, All Ears Cambodia, and Horseware Cambodia. M'Lop Tapang remains a key partner in the UNICEF-funded 3PC program, the ChildSafe Movement, GHR Foundation's network of partners in Cambodia, the Family Care First network, and the ChildSafe Alliance network.



ADM Capital Foundation Mike Avery and Jo Ann Sappington Carraresi Foundation **DAK Foundation Dorrie Alcock Memorial Fund** Edrington **Epic Foundation** Fondazione Alta Mane Italia and Fondation Alta Mane. Geneve Friends-International Fueling M'Lop Tapang **GHR Foundation** Hartmut Giesecke **GlobalGiving** Jeanine Kappé **Kids Unlimited Trust Manan Trust** M'Lop Tapang N. Ireland **MT Social Businesses Partners For Equity Peter Bennett Foundation** Planet Wheeler Foundation Pink Umbrella Foundation **Redlands School Ripple Foundation** Save the Children Hong Kong through Save the Children in Cambodia SicKids Sipar Cambodia **Smart Sovereign Art Foundation SV International Swiss Philanthropy Foundation (SPF) Taminda Tondo Foundation** UNICEF Virginia Yee Weldon UK Charitable Trust Wise Philanthropy

World Childhood Foundation



