



## **M'Lop Tapang 2017 Mid-Year Report (January – June, 2017)**

With your support 2017 is shaping up to be another impactful year at M'Lop Tapang. Your generosity is allowing us to continue our holistic range of programs to deliver to thousands of vulnerable Cambodian children, youth and families in Sihanoukville.

The following report highlights some of M'Lop Tapang's key achievements in the first half of 2017. We hope you find this report informative in learning how your donations are helping us to make a difference in children's lives, but as always if you have any questions we hope you won't hesitate to contact us for more detailed information.



Children grow up best in a safe, loving environment. M'Lop Tapang works together with families and in collaboration with local authorities to ensure every child we meet that has been separated from their immediate family is, if at all possible, reintegrated back into their immediate family, extended family, or family-environment foster care in their neighborhood.

Our teams have been working with 12-year old *Navann*\* and his family for several years. Navann's father died a few years ago and he was being raised by his mother here in Sihanoukville. Navann attended public school through M'Lop Tapang's 'Back to School Program', his mother was a member in our alcohol support group, and our Outreach team helped with emergency food and other supplies when necessary. Navann also had medical problems that needed addressed and was being provided with ongoing treatment at our clinic. When his mother died last year, the young boy moved into M'Lop Tapang's [Transitional Home](#) until he finished his treatment of medical care and our social workers could locate appropriate extended family that could care for him.

Earlier this year, Navann was helped to move to another province to live with one of his aunts. He is now back in a family atmosphere, happy and healthy, and continuing to go to school. Our social workers are conducting follow up visits him routinely to make sure he is doing well.

**\*all names and photos in this report have been changed for confidentiality**



## Children and Youth

With your help, M'Lop Tapang continues to provide services that help keep local children safe and healthy, as well as opportunities for them to build the foundations for a better future. We are very happy to share a few stories demonstrating the impact your support has made on the lives of children we've worked with this year.



10 year old *Lavouch\** had never gone to school before. From an early age his parents noticed that the young boy had difficulty learning and were always afraid to send him to school because they were concerned that he

would have problems with the other children and get into fights. He is now attending classes at our Education Center and learning to read and write. [Read more about Lavouch's story.](#)

The [non-formal education programs at our Education Center](#) are focused to help children who have never been to school (or have been out of school for a long time) catch up with their studies.



17 year old *Pech\** had dropped out of school at an early age. Coming from a poor family, having little education and no formal skills, his prospects for safe employment were limited.

He is one of the top graduates so far this year from our Vocational Training Program and now has the abilities and confidence to start a new chapter in his life.

[Read more about Pech's story.](#)

[View a short video of M'Lop Tapang's Sandan Restaurant.](#)

[View a short video of M'Lop Tapang's Motor and Bicycle Vocational Training Program.](#)

### M'Lop Tapang January – June, 2017:

- **2,070** children benefited from education activities
- **97** youth were engaged in vocational training programs
- **33** child victims of abuse, violence, neglect, or being reported missing were supported
- **42** boys and girls were provided temporary shelter in our Transitional Home
- **14** children have been successfully reintegrated back to their families or foster care. There remain **64** open cases that our teams continue to work with.
- **139** known drug using youth in the community benefited from Drugs and Harm reduction services.
- **500+** children participated in organized sports and arts activities

[View a short video of M'Lop Tapang's Arts Programs.](#)

- More than **16,000** medical services were provided in our clinic and in the community
- More than **126,000** meals have been provided

[View a short video of Lunchtime at M'Lop Tapang's Education Center](#)

M'Lop Tapang is leading the "Online Safety Specialist Group" within the [3PC network](#). In 2017 we created tools to raise awareness of the risks of using the internet. We designed IEC to do this, with 7 Key lessons. We have trained our 3 PC partners and have so far this year delivered direct training to **137** children and youth at M'Lop Tapang and in local public schools.



## Families

For many families living in poverty it can be a struggle to provide for their children’s needs. Your funding is allowing our teams to work with disadvantaged families, enabling parents to better care for their children.



Finding affordable and safe child care is an issue many working parents struggle with, whether living in a developed western nation or in a country like Cambodia.

For families like *Dara’s\**, the Baby Care Program at our Community has allowed both her and her husband to work outside the home and increase their income knowing that their children are safe and being cared for. [Read more about Dara’s Story.](#)



When *Veasna\**, a father of two young children, was in a bad car accident years ago and the injuries resulted in him being unable to walk and unable to work. His young son had to drop out of school at age 11 years

old to stay home to look after his father.

After meeting our Outreach team and Medical teams this year, arrangements were made for him to travel to Phnom Penh to have the surgery he needed.

*“I am so happy that I can walk again, I feel like I am a new born person”.*

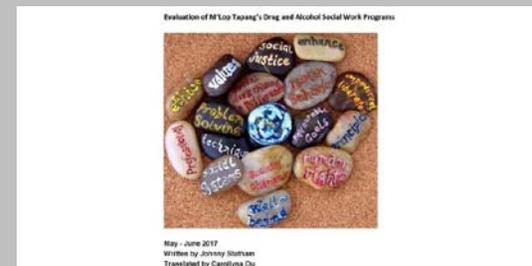
Now that he can walk again, his son no longer needs to stay home to look after him and has returned to school. With assistance from our Futures team, Veasna has now found employment working as a security guard and earning an income to support his family. [Read more about Veasna’s story.](#)

## M’Lop Tapang January – June, 2017:

- Our Outreach Team worked with **1,850** local families so far this year.
  - **257** of these families are new to us in 2017.
- **24** families were helped to set up small income generating businesses.

Our internal research team has begun a small research project to look at the impact of our Outreach Team’s small business set-up activities for families. The study will be completed in the second half of 2017.

- **20** families were helped with urgent house repairs
- Emergency support (food, clothing, materials) was provided to vulnerable families **775** times.
- Legal and social support was provided to parents in helping obtaining birth registration for **20** children
- **29** parents with alcohol abuse issues attended regular Alcohol Support Group



In June, 2017 an external evaluation of M’Lop Tapang’s Drug and Alcohol Social Work Programs was completed.

[View the complete report](#)

Results from the report confirm the need to plan the opening of a small Detox and Recovery centre later, and this is planned for November, 2017.



## Communities

Engaging the local community is an integral part of M'Lop Tapang's mission to provide a safe haven for vulnerable children of Sihanoukville, offering care and support to any child at risk.



Earlier this year 12 year old Ravy\*, who has a slight intellectual disability, ran away from her home in Phnom Penh and took a bus to Sihanoukville. A police officer working in the area saw Ravy get off the bus and noticed there was

something a little unusual about the quiet young girl traveling alone. After approaching and talking with Ravy briefly, the officer then called over a ChildSafe certified motorcycle taxi driver who was also working nearby. The motorcycle called M'Lop Tapang's [ChildSafe 24-Hour Confidential Hotline](#). [Read more about Ravy's story.](#)



84 year old Sreymom\*brings seven of her grandchildren, ages 1 year to 14 years old, to the M'Lop Tapang Community Shelter every day.

*“If not for here, there wouldn't be a place for them to study or play.”*

Our Community Shelter is also a place for the whole neighborhood to gather together to celebrate special occasions, such as [Khmer New Year](#). Located in one of the poorer areas of Sihanoukville, it is also an ideal environment for our teams to provide residents with information on topics such as health care and disease prevention, child protection, drugs awareness, domestic violence, and the importance of sending children to school.

### M'Lop Tapang January – June, 2017:

- Our Child Protection Team and Outreach Team provided more than **760** community members with information on child right's related issues.
- Drugs Team provided awareness and prevention education to more than **500** community members
- **117** new community ChildSafe members were trained and certified
- **2** new local hotels were ChildSafe certified
- **424** calls were received on our 24-Hour ChildSafe Confidential Hotline
- There were more than **200** visits by our Mobile Library team to local impoverished neighborhoods

[View a short video of M'Lop Tapang's Mobile Library Program](#)

### Community Feedback on M'Lop Tapang's 'Futures' program.

In June, 2017, two evening workshops were organized with local foreign and Khmer businesses. The goals of the workshop included: to receive feedback from the businesses on ways we can improve our employment services, to learn about their (businesses) new and emerging needs as employers, and to explore ways in which we can collaborate together even more.

37 local business owners and managers attended the workshops. One of the interesting things that came out of the event was learning that the majority of these local businesses were interested and willing to help strengthen M'Lop Tapang's training program by donating their time to talk to our students as well as to offer visits/internships of students in their businesses.



During this first half of 2017 we have also made a few changes that we hope will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs:

- An external financial audit was completed by the firm of KPMG for the year 2016. We would be happy to send you a copy of the report if you would like to review it.
- We are very pleased to welcome **Mr. Hong Sovann** as the newest member of M'Lop Tapang's Board of Directors. We know that his years of experience working in the area of vulnerable children as well drugs issues in Cambodia will be a great asset to our teams.
- With the support of **Children In Families**, our IT Team is working with our social workers on developing new a digital Case Management System (CMS). This is a significant undertaking but when completed, it will result in increased efficiency in case management and in being able to track data more accurately.
- Our social work managers and senior social workers are starting to learn about the **Signs of Safety Child Protection framework**. They are currently engaging in a year's long training and supervision from our partners at Children's Future International. This tool is already being used by our teams on complex, high risk child protection and neglect cases. <https://www.signsofsafety.net>.
- M'Lop Tapang has worked hard to engage more effectively with key stakeholders in the local government (such as Director of Dept of Social Affairs, CCWC and Police) on high risk child abuse cases. Case conference meetings are now well attended and taken seriously. This process has been well supported by UNICEF and Friends International.
- There were no major changes in management team during the reporting period; however we are planning for the change to happen in the second half of the year. Our Director, Eve Saosarin, will be leaving to complete a Masters Degree in Melbourne, Australia. We have been actively preparing for this through internal promotions of existing staff to assume some of his responsibilities when he leaves, as well as hiring additional staff.
- Excited to have new partners in 2017 including **Save The Children** (Hong Kong), the **Manan Trust**, and the **Ripple Foundation**



Our behalf of all the staff and children here at M'Lo Tapang, thank you for the continued support and partnership in helping to improve the lives of disadvantaged children, youth, and families here in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Sincerely,

Eve Sao Sarin  
Director

Maggie Eno  
Coordinator

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