

CHILD EXPLOITATION SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS CAMBODIA 2023

BRIEFER



Terre des
Hommes
Netherlands

BACKGROUND

The study was undertaken in the context of our Listen Up! Strategy to be a catalyst for systemic change.

In addition, we wanted to collect evidence on the situation of children in Cambodia after the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESEARCH SCOPE

We did a literature review on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, Child Trafficking and Migration and Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Primary data was collected on situation of Sexual Exploitation of Children in link with Travel and Tourism as well as forms of child exploitation related to unsafe migration and trafficking.



Phnom Penh, Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat and Sihanoukville

COLLECTED DATA

Key informant interviews
26 representatives of NGOs and UN agencies and 11 government and law enforcement officials.

Informal interviews

Conducted with 28 workers of the entertainment and travel industry and with 25 local community members, including street sellers, tuk tuk drivers and local leaders.

Focussed Group Discussions

6 children and youth representatives engaged in peer group activities

Major Findings

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

It does not appear to be a systemic issue in the visited provinces due to previous successful efforts and reduced travel due to COVID-19. There still exists risk for children especially in travel, tourism and entertainment sectors due to lack of regulation. Exploitation has shifted from offline to online.

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND MIGRATION

Children above 10 are left behind with their grandmothers in most cases who are not able to take care of them. Children under 10 migrate with parents and live in terrible conditions, increasing their risks to health issues and exploitation. Reduction in begging but still exists in cities and slums.

OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

Children in conflict with the law face exploitation in detention centres. Poor migrant children who live on the street are highly vulnerable.

Way Forward

To build context-relevant quality programmes. At the same time, we recognize that the findings are mostly qualitative and do not comprehensively reflect the situation of child exploitation in Cambodia.

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1. Contribute to development of legislations, policies and guidelines in travel, tourism and entertainment industries.

2. Prevent child exploitation of Left behind children and migrant children through strengthening national and sub-national child protection policies systems and developing the capacity of specialised NGOs and government agencies who provide services to children to be inclusive of the most vulnerable children.

3. Disseminate findings on broader identified child protection issues within the sector, and partner with key NGO & government stakeholders to reduce the risks of child exploitation for children living and working in the street and children (potentially) in conflict with the law by promoting a rights-based approach by mainstreaming a trauma-informed care approach.