

Child Position Paper:

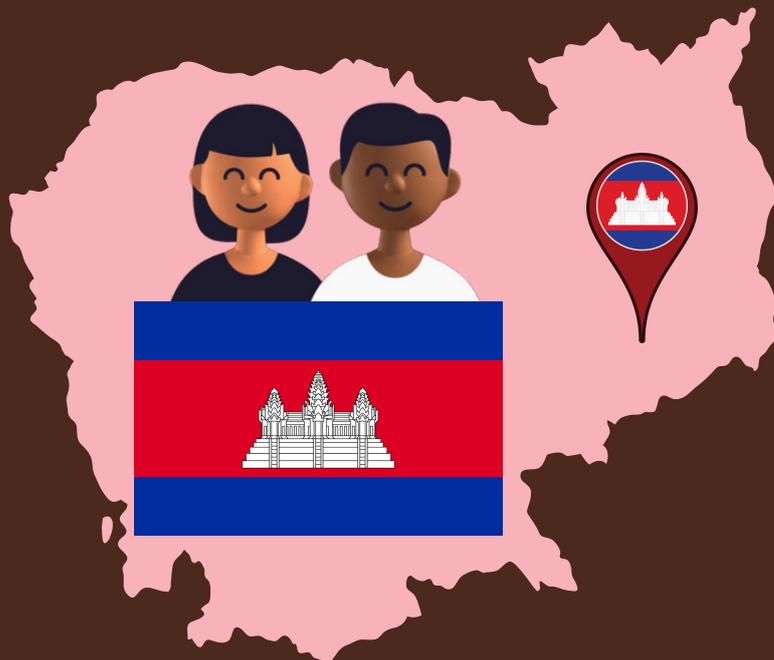
CAMBODIAN CHILDREN'S VOICES AGAINST ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Terre des
Hommes
Netherlands

Background

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is a global child protection organisation working in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. We protect children and prevent child exploitation, empowering children to make their voices count. We tackle issues at the roots by enabling systemic change with the support of grassroots-level implementing partners. We ensure that children are at the centre of our initiatives.



Listening to children's voices workshop: To facilitate a national consultation with representatives of children in the context of the kick off of the Mid-Term Review of the OCSE NAP 2021-2025.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands has been implementing the Safety for Children and their Rights OnLine (SCROL) project since October 2022 in Cambodia which will be rolled out for three years.

Project implementing partners include two NGOs: AusCam Freedom Project and APLE Cambodia; and two government partners: the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPTC).

On November 30, 2024, a workshop was held to amplify the voices of children and youth with 20 children representatives (F:17), NGO and government representatives through the partnership with the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) who is the Secretary of the Royal Government, with the role of coordinating and consulting on activities related to children.

The six key strategies of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to OCSE 2021-25 were discussed:

(1) Policy and Governance

(4) Society

(2) Criminal Justice System

(5) Private Sector

(3) Victim Support

(6) Media

Recommendations by Children and Youth



(i) Policy and Governance

Accelerate Child Protection Law: Children and youth call for urgent adoption of Cambodia CP Law.

Curriculum Integration: They called for the inclusion of Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in the national curriculum with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to leverage OCSE knowledge to children nationwide.

Simplified Communication: There is a need for better access to information about OCSE, with a recommendation to simplify the language used so that it is easy for children to understand.

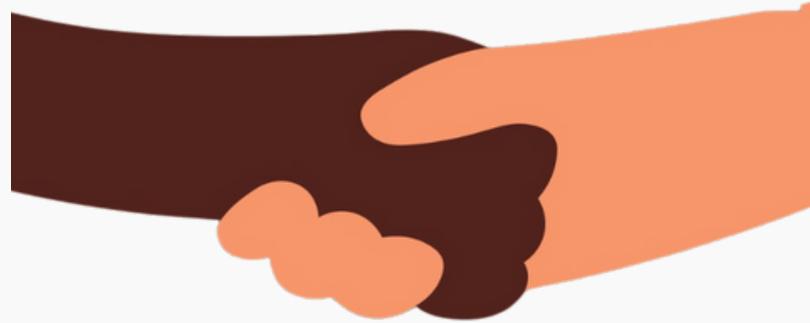
Removing Harmful Content Tool: Children and youth stressed the importance of creating and enforcing tools on social media to block access to pornography, viewing it as essential for their online safety and well-being.



(ii) Criminal Justice

Stricter Penalties: Children and youth call for tougher punishments for OCSE offenders and better collaboration with social media companies to remove harmful content.

Child-Friendly Practices: Children and youth called for the response to OCSE to become more systematic, and for more child-friendly practices (including the increase in the number of female frontline officers), so that children and youth feel supported throughout reporting and investigation processes.



(iii) Victim Support

Accessible Reporting: Children and youth need clear channels to report OCSE to trusted adults and hotlines. There must be effective solutions and support for victims after they report incidents. It is very important to protect victims' confidentiality.

Awareness and Capacity Building: Children and youth also called for large-scale awareness initiatives and training for community stakeholders which is essential to support victims effectively.

Support Networks: Children and youth also call their families, friends, and local authorities for support, and psychological counselling. It is very important to create a supportive environment and stop the victim-blaming culture.



(iv) Society

Children Empowerment: Children and youth want more opportunities to participate in prevention initiatives and peer education. Additionally, they also call for increasing support for peer-to-peer education to enhance awareness of OCSE.

Information Dissemination: There is a need for more child-friendly information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to empower children to seek help confidently and understand OCSE.



(v) Private Sector

Content Regulation: The children and youth also call for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to regulate internet use by age and provide filtering options for inappropriate content, including adult pornography and child sexual abuse materials (CSAM).

Data Security: Children and youth also call for better protection of personal data, simplified terms and conditions in Khmer, and easy reporting mechanisms in Khmer.



Educational Initiatives: They noted that mobile operators could send SMS messages to raise awareness about OCSE, similar to efforts against drug abuse, especially during national holidays and they also want ISPs companies to create educational games focusing on OCSE.

(vi) Media

Reporting Pathways: Children and youth urged the media to enhance the visibility and accessibility of information about online child sexual exploitation (OCSE). They also called for collaboration to develop more effective reporting channels for victims and the public.



**Together, we can
create a safer online
environment for all
children!**

Way Forward

This document aims to present the inputs collected from children and youth who contributed to the workshop. It is expected to serve as a reference for the mid-term review of the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to OCSE 2021-25 and the development of the National Against Plan to End Violence Against Children 2025-2030, so that children's voices receive the highest consideration for the effective prevention and response to OCSE in Cambodia.

Need more information? Contact us!

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