

Annual Impact Report 2021





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Who We Are

Cambodian Children's Trust (CCT) is a Khmer-led organisation with an upstream approach to community development called the Village Hive.

Our Village Hive approach combats and prevents the structural root causes of multidimensional poverty. It is grounded in a Frierian praxis of development, built on a foundation of trust and a process of collaborative community engagements.

In Battambang, Cambodia, the Village Hive is integrating prevention and early intervention services into public facilities to build a robust social protection system that is owned and operated by local communities. The approach mobilises community-wide action, resulting in stronger family relationships, less domestic violence, less demand for crisis services and resilient, self-sufficient communities.



Our Shared Vision

To dismantle
neo-colonial systems
of development and
ignite local wisdom to
eradicate poverty.



Our Shared Mission

To create a sustainable and scalable social protection system by integrating prevention and early intervention services into community-owned spaces and mobilising local action to protect children and strengthen families.



Our Journey

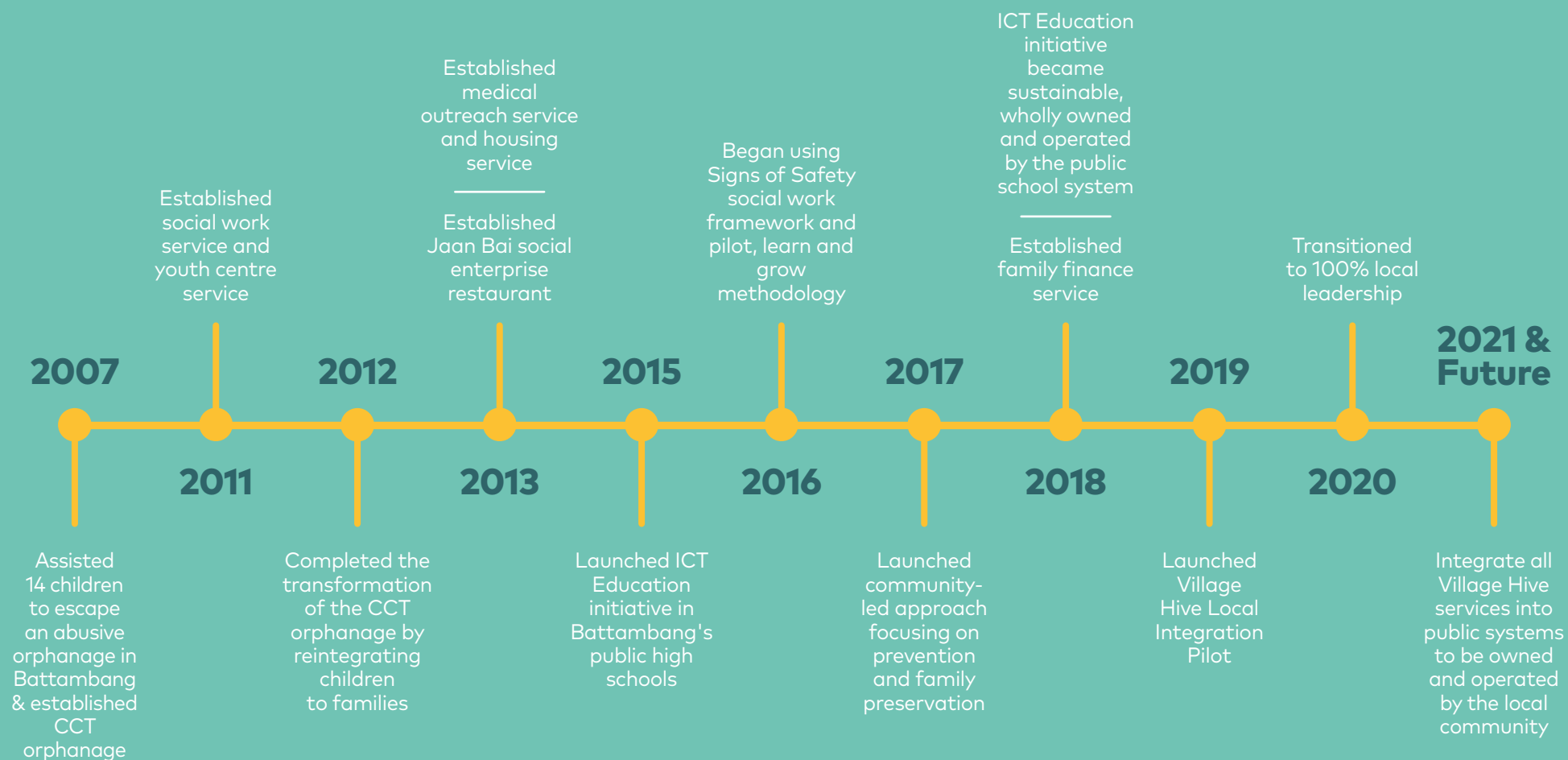
In 2007, Tara Winkler and Pon Jedtha established CCT to help 14 children escape from a corrupt and abusive orphanage in Battambang, Cambodia.

CCT was initially set up as an orphanage to provide the children with a safe new home. Upon discovering that the children were not orphans, they started the challenging journey of reuniting them with their families.

CCT was the first organisation in Cambodia to transform from an orphanage to a community empowerment approach, called the Village Hive, that protects children by strengthening families and promoting local agency and sovereignty.



14 Years of Evolution



Global Impact

Since CCT's establishment in 2007, our impact has extended beyond Battambang, Cambodia. Our trail-blazing story of transformation has reached a global audience via numerous media platforms, including TED Talks, ABC Australian Story, 60 Minutes, a published book 'How (NOT) to Start an Orphanage,' and our testimony at Australia's Parliamentary Inquiry into Modern Slavery.

Watch TED Talk, *Why we need to end the era of orphanages, 2016*



Watch ABC Australian Story, *The House of Tara, 2014*



Listen Testimony at the Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into Modern Slavery, 2017



Listen

Read book, *How (Not) to Start an Orphanage*



Read

2021 Highlights

129 villages across Battambang Province with access to prevention and early intervention services, which represents a **24% increase** in reach from 2020.

469 families, comprising 2,178 people accessed CCT prevention and early intervention services and were empowered to escape multidimensional poverty.

1,136 children were prevented from being separated from their families.

50% fewer referrals than in 2020 and only 3% of new cases were referred for crisis services, proving the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention.

0 households reported violence in the home when they had access to prevention and early intervention services, which is especially significant in a year categorised by increased domestic violence globally due to the stressors of the pandemic.

10 communes & 62 villages in Battambang District signed on to the Village Hive Local Integration Pilot.

223 families were given unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers to a value of **USD \$135,354** to reduce the risks of children and their families falling into extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic.

194 families were coached in financial literacy to strengthen the households' capacities to prioritise their expenditure and budget effectively.

172 families built sufficient resilience to safely exit from CCT support into independence.

2 youth centres are now successfully integrated into public schools to achieve long-term sustainability, enabling a CCT privately-run youth centre to close.

1 academic study was published on decolonising tourism and development, featuring CCT.

Introduction from our Co-founder, Tara Winkler



CCT is on the cusp of undertaking a significant transformation. In 2012, we took an incredible leap as the first orphanage in Cambodia to transform into a family-based care model. Today, we are once again pushing back against the status quo and striving towards exciting new horizons. This report will take you on a journey covering what we achieved in 2021, how we achieved it, and why we are confident that we are on track to create revolutionary change in Cambodia.

The Global North's international development sector is a trillion-dollar industry. Yet it has yielded limited results in alleviating poverty in the Global South. More than twenty years have passed since world leaders established the Millennium Development Goals, focused in part on eradicating poverty. The United Nations (UN) claims that great progress has been made toward the newest iteration, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the proportion of people living in extreme poverty halved at the global level.

However, recent research shows that the international poverty line set by the World Bank in 2011 at \$1.90 per day is not sufficient for basic human health or even survival. It is a very low bar when it comes to aspirational aims for a more just and equal world. Even at a meagre \$1.90 per day, we are set to fall short of the SDG's first target to eradicate poverty by 2030. In 1981, the number of people living in poverty was about one billion.

Today, there are still one billion people living in poverty. There has been no improvement in over thirty-five years.

This underwhelming progress is consistent with the realities I've seen on the ground in Cambodia over the last fifteen years, where three-quarters of the population hover just above the poverty line on less than \$3 per day. Most families struggle to put food on the table, and communities remain dependent on external aid.

It is not an accident that we are failing to move the needle on global poverty. The international development sector perpetuates a system of dependency due to a widespread preferencing of what I call 'downstream development'.

Downstream development occurs when charities invest the lion's share of their donations into end-stage crisis services and run private programs in parallel to public systems. Downstream development is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, which alleviates the symptoms of poverty but never addresses the root causes.

This absence of funding for prevention and early intervention services leads to increasing numbers of children and families in crisis, which leads to more investment in downstream development. The result is a culture of dependency and an endless need from children and families in crisis.

A real-world example of the over-investment in downstream development is the orphanage boom seen in Cambodia between 2005 and 2010 when the number of orphanages increased by 75%.

These orphanages were full of children who were not orphans. 80% had at least one living parent, and the remainder mostly had other relatives still alive.

It may appear as though families made a conscious choice to place their children in an orphanage, but an absence of prevention and early intervention services meant that entrusting their children into the care of an orphanage became the only choice for families living in poverty.

The orphanage boom could have been avoided altogether if donations had been invested in 'upstream development'. Upstream development is an investment in prevention and early intervention services that are integrated into public systems.

In my experience over the last fifteen years at CCT, sustainable development isn't difficult. All that's required is an upstream approach, with a shift in power that places communities in charge of their own development.

Today, everything we do at CCT works toward one vision; to dismantle downstream systems of development and ignite local wisdom to eradicate poverty.

We have set sail towards this vision with the launch of a big, audacious pilot in partnership with the District of Battambang. The pilot's mission is to create an upstream system of social protection by integrating the prevention and early intervention services into public systems and facilities where it will be delivered sustainably by the local Battambang community, creating a clear exit pathway for CCT.

We estimate it will take about five years to realise this vision. Partnerships with universities around Australia are helping to build the evidence base for the Village Hive and prove it's possible to build upstream systems of development.

A short story by Johann Hari about how the knowledge and wisdom to solve complex social problems lives within local communities.

A South African psychiatrist named Dr Derek Summerfield was in Cambodia in 2001 when they first introduced chemical antidepressants. The local Cambodian doctors had never heard of antidepressant drugs and asked Dr Summerfield what they were. He explained, and one of the Cambodian doctors responded, saying, "We don't need them; we've already got antidepressants." Dr Summerfield thought they would tell him about some herbal remedy, like St. John's Wort or Ginkgo Biloba. Instead, they told him a story.

There was a farmer in their community who worked in the rice fields. One day, he stood on a land mine left over from the war with the United States, and he got his leg blown off. So he got an artificial leg. After a while, he went back to work in the rice fields, but he struggled. Standing on his artificial limb underwater while working in the rice fields was causing terrible physical pain, and he was also suffering PTSD working in the field where he got blown up. The farmer started to cry all day. He refused to get out of bed and developed all the symptoms of classic depression.

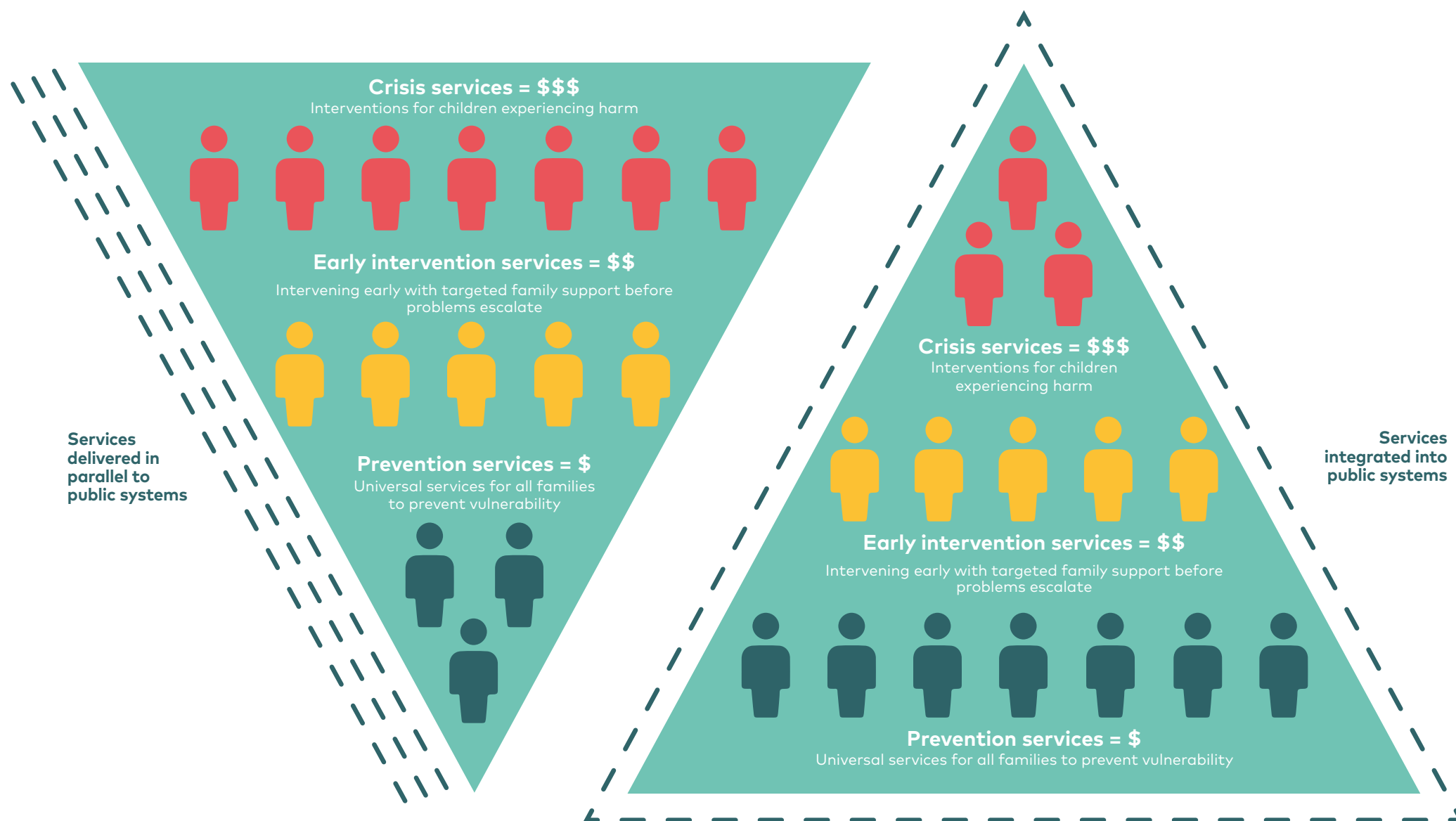
The Cambodian doctor said, *"This was when we gave him an antidepressant."* Dr Summerfield said, *"What was it?"* He explained that the community went and sat with him. They listened to him. They realised that his pain made sense – it was hard for him to see it in the throes of his depression, but actually, it had perfectly understandable causes in his life.

After talking to the people in the community, one of the doctors suggested they buy this farmer a cow so that he could be a livestock farmer instead, and he would no longer have to go and work in the rice fields. So they bought him a cow. Within a couple of weeks, his crying stopped. Within a month, his depression was gone. They said to Dr Summerfield, *"So you see, doctor, that cow, that was an antidepressant, that's what you mean, right?"*



Downstream Development

Upstream Development



Our 'What', 'How' & 'Why'

The philosophy that underpins the Village Hive pilot is grounded in an upstream approach to development, which stems from the work of Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire. The five fundamental principles of our upstream approach are: trust and empowerment, conscientisation, co-creation, prevention and local integration.



Trust & Empowerment

Radical trust in the capacity of all stakeholders is an essential prerequisite to commencing development work as equal partners and allies as it creates opportunities for local ownership and control. The local CCT team has complete faith in the capacities of the local community to achieve our common goals.

Conscientisation

The practice of conscientisation is a process of developing a critical understanding and awareness about issues of power in relation to privilege and oppression in order to transform both coloniser and colonised mindsets. Conscientisation unpacks the unequal power dynamics between the Global North and Global South, specifically between foreign-funded NGOs and local communities. This awareness supports local stakeholders in stepping into their rightful role as leaders of the work.

Co-creation

To work in solidarity with the local community, we recognise the inherent knowledge and wisdom that exists within local communities. We resist the urge to 'do for' and instead 'do with' in the spirit of allyship instead of leadership. Collaborative and co-created engagements, led by local stakeholders, inform every stage of project design and execution.

Prevention

The majority of funds and resources are invested into tangible actions that address the structural root causes of poverty, oppression and injustice, i.e. the fence at the top of the cliff, rather than the ambulance at the bottom.

Local Integration

Projects are integrated into public systems and operate out of community spaces where local communities retain control and ownership, providing a clearly defined exit strategy for CCT.



What is the Village Hive



The Village Hive is an upstream model of social protection and child protection. It has two primary activities. It brings prevention and early intervention services into communities and cultivates community networks.

Prevention and early intervention services – such as the hotline, social work, youth centre, education, healthcare, housing, and family finance – play an essential role in untangling the complex web of challenges that keep families trapped in multidimensional poverty. Families often require more than one service to safeguard their children and strengthen their families. Prevention and early intervention services enable vulnerable families to reduce their risks and strengthen their protective factors, thus preventing escalation to higher intensity crisis services.

At the heart of the Village Hive approach and its success is the power of community networks. Community networks help foster long-term resilience in families by building healthy ecosystems around vulnerable families whereby trusted networks of relatives, neighbours and friends provide practical support to help families meet their goals and address issues of social isolation.

These networks of relatives and voluntary kin are central to creating a robust system of safety for children. The ultimate result is that families depend more on each other and less on external services to reach a resilient future where they can provide for their children independently.



Village Hive Services



Hotline Service

The Village Hive hotline operates 24/7, providing an immediate response to calls about children at risk. It is a confidential service, allowing community members to ask for help or alert Village Hive social workers to a child protection concern. Immediate emergency support ensures children are safe. Children requiring more extensive support are referred to Village Hive social workers for longer-term case management.



Social Work Service

Village Hive social workers partner with families to co-create case plans. The case planning process assists families with accessing essential services and with cultivating an ongoing support network of trusted relatives, neighbours and friends. They do this by helping families, and their extended network of kin, identify their existing strengths, think through their problems, arrive at their own solutions and set their own goals. They use a strengths-based, three-column framework called the Signs of Safety and a technique called appreciative inquiry to engage families in self-determined change.





Youth Centre Service

Village Hive youth centres are a 7 am to 5 pm service, open six days a week. They are a safe place for high-risk children who cannot be cared for at home during the day when they are not at public school. They provide nutritious meals, before and after school care, daycare, clothes washing facilities, sanitation facilities, remedial tutoring and life skills to children while Village Hive social workers work with their families towards their long-term goals. Youth centres prevent child-family separation in cases where carers are elderly, have a disability, or have a chronic physical or mental health condition. Children from these vulnerable families can access all their essential needs while living with their family and kin, preventing them from requiring alternative care in orphanages or foster care.



Education Service

Village Hive social workers partner with vulnerable families to ensure all children have access to education. Children are equipped with school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, textbooks and schoolbooks and are assisted with transportation to and from public school. Where necessary, children can access extra tutoring classes with their public school teachers or at a Village Hive youth centre.



Health Service

Village Hive nurses conduct home visits to provide basic family health assessments, facilitate connection to hospitals and specialty health services and co-create healthcare plans with families that address acute and chronic conditions and family planning. When nurses see health trends in a community, they conduct preventative health workshops. They also provide hygiene supplies, personal protective equipment, safety information and access to vaccinations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.





Housing Service

Village Hive housing service works with families to repair, renovate and build homes and sanitation facilities, connect utilities, and find affordable rentals. These services overcome major barriers to child protection where families don't have:

- durable housing that can be locked and protects against weather conditions
- sufficient living space and live in overcrowded environments that expose them to increased health risks
- access to safe water
- access to sanitation in the form of a private toilet
- security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.



Family Finance Service

Families are coached in financial literacy to track their spending, maintain a budget, develop a savings plan, and grow their income through child-sensitive livelihoods or access to employment. Families are empowered to look beyond their immediate needs and set long-term goals to achieve financial freedom. The coaching is geared towards women who have proven to be the best poverty fighters, using income to benefit their families.



Local Integration Pilot



In 2020, we launched a pilot to integrate the Village Hive into public systems and facilities where it will be delivered sustainably by the local Battambang community, creating a clear exit pathway for CCT. The pilot aligns with the Royal Government of Cambodia's action plan on decentralising child protection services.

CCT's Director, Pon Jedtha, presented the concept for the Village Hive Local Integration Pilot to 116 Government stakeholders in Battambang District. This resulted in all ten communes and 62 villages in Battambang District signing on to the pilot to implement the Village Hive into their communes' public systems and facilities. Focusing the pilot in one district means we will have a model that can be replicated and scaled, district by district, providing an evidence base for an upstream social protection and child protection system in Cambodia.

The rollout of the pilot began in Ou Char Commune in 2020. A Village Hive youth centre was established in October 2020 in a public school in Ang Village, Ou Char Commune. This involved building toilets and hand-washing facilities at the public school, building a new classroom and storage facilities, connecting utilities, establishing a community garden and general maintenance of the school grounds. Ang School Youth Centre has enough capacity to service all six villages in Ou Char Commune. Following nine successful months of operations, CCT expanded the Ang School Youth Centre with the construction of a road, preschool, and computer labs.

CCT conducted a focus group evaluation of the Ang School Youth Centre in 2021. Community stakeholders reported feeling confident that the Ang School Youth Centre was delivering value to the community in Ou Char Commune above and beyond the expected outcomes. They identified improvements in school enrolments and a significant decrease in domestic violence within the wider community. They put this down to the indirect effect of greater community cohesion and stress reduction in families.

In February 2021, a second youth centre was integrated into the public school in Rotanak Village, which services all eight villages in Rotanak Commune. This involved constructing a preschool building, storage room and hand-washing facilities, renovating four classrooms, connecting utilities and setting up a computer library.

The opening of the Rotanak Youth Centre enabled CCT to officially close one of our privately-run youth centres in March 2021. 73 children were successfully transferred to Rotanak public school to access youth centre services from their local public school. These children previously attended public schools close to CCT's privately-run youth centres. Since the children have enrolled at their local public school, where they also access the youth centre service, they have reported improved grades and attendance and stronger friendships.

The closure of one of CCT's privately-run youth centres has reduced costs to CCT, including transportation costs, as the children can now walk to their local school and youth centre. In addition, CCT is no longer required to pay rent and utilities as the public schools have absorbed these costs.

In 2021, 124 children attending the Ang Youth Centre and Rotanak Youth Centre received before and after school care, daycare, nutrition, hygiene services, sanitation services, remedial tutoring and life skills.



As a result of improved facilities at Ang and Rotanak public schools, enrolments at the schools have increased. The implementation of computers in the schools has improved the administration for 35 teachers, allowing them to digitally record students' marks and access online learning materials provided by the Ministry of Education during school closures through the pandemic.

In addition, Ang Youth Centre and Rotanak Youth Centre have provided hygiene, sanitation, and computer literacy classes to all 597 children who attend the Ang and Rotanak public schools.

While CCT covered the costs of the improvements to the infrastructure of the public schools, the Ou Char Commune Council contributed to the partnership by covering the costs of improving the infrastructure of other buildings that are key to the delivery of the Village Hive Local Integration Pilot. The Ou Char Commune Council has been empowered to source the funding for the upgrades of the commune office and the commune health centre from the relevant government ministries and other civil society organisations.

In May 2021, operations commenced integrating a third youth centre into the public school in Kammeakkar Village to service the four villages in Svay Pao Commune. This involved constructing six classrooms, a kitchen, storage facilities, connecting utilities, building a compost garden, and setting up a computer library. Construction will be completed in April 2022.

The opening of the public school youth centre in Kammeakkar Village will mark a milestone whereby all children previously enrolled in CCT's privately-run youth centres will access the same services from their public school youth centre instead. At this point, there will no longer be any need for CCT to operate its privately-run youth centres as the need will be met by the public system in Battambang District. This represents an important stepping stone in CCT's 5-year exit strategy.



Pilot Objectives

The first objective of the pilot is co-creating the operating frameworks, including signing a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with relevant ministries, drafting fiscal policies, conducting training in child protection, anti-corruption and fraud, mapping existing public services and identifying service gaps.

The second objective is to integrate the Village Hive early intervention services previously delivered by CCT into the district's public facilities, including assisting the communes with recruiting any necessary staff or infrastructure improvements and providing training in service delivery.

The third objective is to strengthen universal public services, including the facilities and human resources in the public schools, village health clinic, commune office and council.

The fourth objective is to establish community-based crisis services, such as foster care and crisis accommodation.

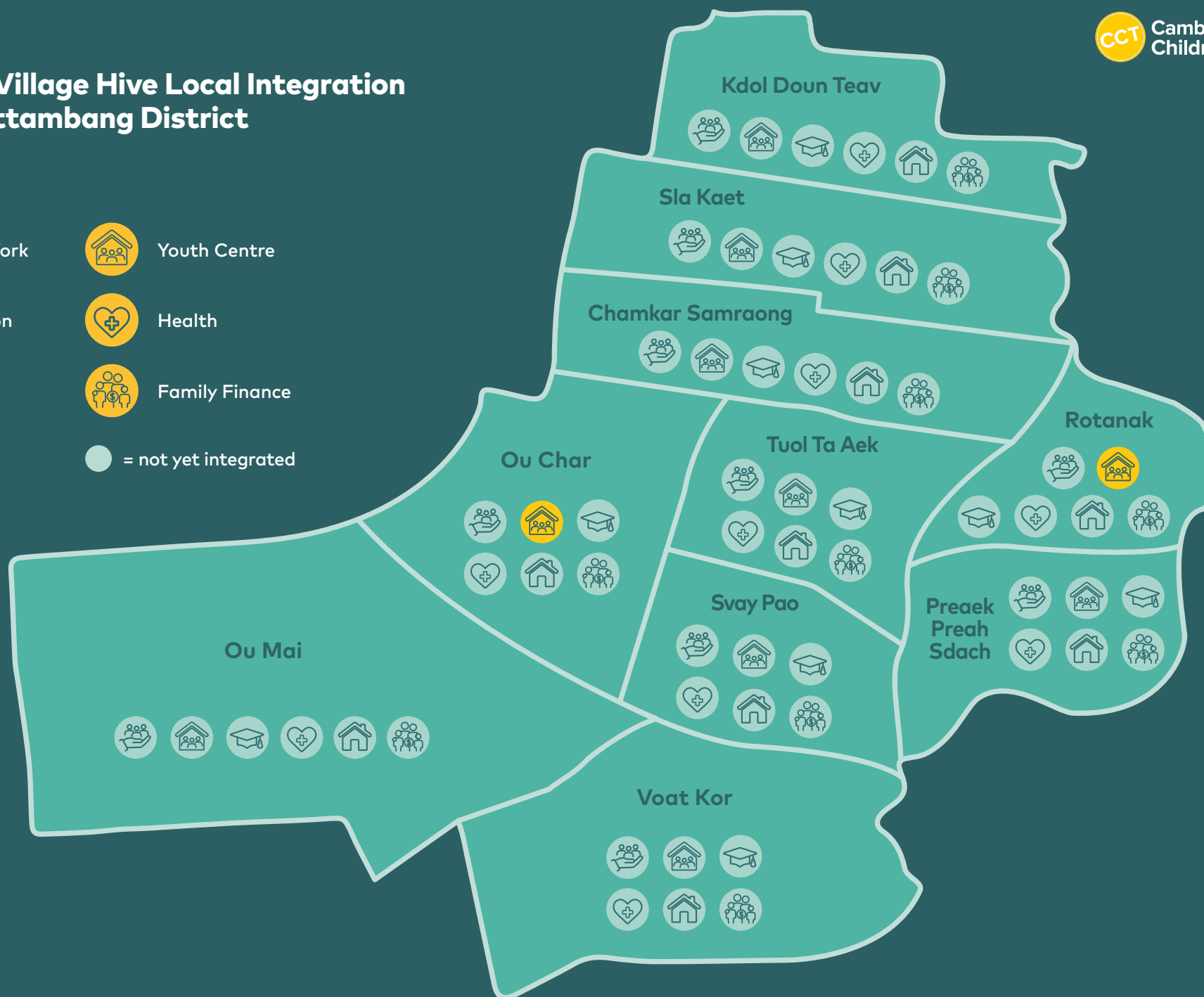
Battambang District is a municipality of Battambang Province in northwest Cambodia. It is the provincial capital with a population of 116,793. The district is subdivided into ten communes and 62 villages.

Khum (Commune)	Phum (Villages)
Ou Char	Ou Char, Prey Koun Sek, Kab Kou Thmei, Andoung Chenh, Anhchanh, Ang
Tuol Ta Aek	Ou Ta Kam Muoy, Ou Ta Kam Pir, Ou Ta Kam Bei, Tuol Ta Aek, Dangkao Teab
Preaek Preah Sdach	Preaek Preah Sdach, Preaek Ta Tan, Dabbei Meakkakra, Ou Khcheay, La Edth, Num Krieb, Baek Chan Thmei, Chamkar Ruessei
Rotanak	Rumchek Muoy, Rumchek Pir, Rumchek Bei, Rumchek Buon, Rumchek Pram, Souphi Muoy, Souphi Pir, Rotanak
Chamkar Samraong	Chamkar Samraong Muoy, Chamkar Samraong Pir, Voat Lieb, Voat Rumduol, Phka Sla
Sla Kaet	Sla Kaet, Dam Spey, Chrey Kaong
Kdol Doun Teav	Chong Preaek, Kdol, Ou Ta Nob, Ta Pruoch, Ta Koy, Kantuot, Thkov
Ou Mal	Ou Mal, Dak Sasar, Sala Balat, Prey Dach, Kouk Ponley, Voat Roka, Koun Sek, Andoung Pring, Boeng Reang, Prey Roka
Voat Kor	Voat Kor, Chrab Krasang, Ballang, Khsach Pouy, Damnak Luong, Kampong Seima
Svay Pao	Preaek Moha Tep, Kampong Krabei, Mphey Osakphea, Kammeakkar

Rollout of Village Hive Local Integration Pilot in Battambang District

Services

	Social Work		Youth Centre
	Education		Health
	Housing		Family Finance
	= integrated		= not yet integrated



Impact 2021

One year after the Local Integration Pilot was launched, 10 focus groups and reflection meetings were conducted with over 100 local stakeholders, who identified the following observations:

"Reduced domestic violence."

"There is more opportunity for marginalised children to access public school. These children have a safe place to be during the day when they are not at school, while their guardians have an opportunity to find employment."

"Stronger family relationships."

"The community admires the developments at Ang Public School and is proud that the project is working well. The children like to come to Ang Public School now because the school is improved, making it a warmer place for children and teachers. Absenteeism has been reduced because youth centre services are closer to the children's homes."

"Reduced migration in the commune and a stronger sense of community."

"There has been positive involvement of the relevant departments, resulting in improved child protection in the commune, enabling us to assist more children."

The outcome of these meetings was a co-created action plan to inform the ongoing rollout of the pilot in 2022, which will ensure that everyone is working towards a common goal and feels engaged and empowered to take ownership of the delivery of their Village Hive.

One year impact at Ang Youth Centre in Ou Char Commune

"Since the partnership with CCT started, I've seen a lot of improvement in my commune. First, we've seen a reduction in violence in the community. Second, it has enabled children to access education and prevented them from dropping out of school," said Meun Vibol, Chief of Ou Char Commune.

"Before, we didn't have a program that children and families living in poverty could rely on. But now, it has completely changed. I would like to thank CCT for having the heart to help my commune. I wish to work in partnership with CCT into the future."

Integrating our youth centre model into a public school means vulnerable families in Ou Char Commune have access to the support services they need. This reduces stress on families and prevents children from needing care in orphanages.



Watch

56

partnership meetings were held with the Ou Char Commune Council to co-create the design and implementation of the Village Hive Local Integration Pilot.

23

stakeholders in Ou Char Commune including government social workers, local authorities, Health Centre staff, and School Principals were trained to monitor and regulate child protection services.

55

community members in Ou Char Commune were trained in six workshops on topics including child protection, basic computer literacy, project budgeting, and trauma-informed training.

103

coaching visits with 71 government social workers were conducted to upskill them to deliver the Village Hive services.

Local Integration helped Chenda get top marks at School

"I'm really happy when our youth centre came into my school, which is near my house. My studying has changed a lot. Before, my youth centre and my school were in different places, I only had a few friends and I was ranked 20th in class," said 13-year-old Chenda, who attends the Ang Youth Centre.

"Now, my youth centre and school are in my community, so I have a lot of friends and I love to study. My school and youth centre teachers always support and encourage me and this year I got first in my class."



Public School Youth Centre garden grows local leaders

"I am really excited when I grow vegetables at my youth centre and I want to do it more. The garden in our youth centre has taught me how to grow a tree and tend to it. It is an important skill for my life and it has also taught me to love nature and be responsible. People in my community who see our garden ask how we do it, so they can do it in their community as well," said 13-year-old Brosmern, who attends the Ang Youth Centre.



Integrating a second youth centre into public facilities in Battambang

In 2020, we partnered with a local community and together we successfully embedded a youth centre program into a public school. Now we have done it again by partnering with the community in Rotanak Commune in Battambang, Cambodia.

"CCT has partnered with Rotanak Primary School to place a youth centre in the school. Every day, the youth centre provides food and extra tutoring. I have enjoyed collaborating with CCT and the school and teachers feel the same. They have also enjoyed the partnership, even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," said Uoch Piseth, principal of Rotanak Primary School.

The new public school youth centre in Rotanak Commune means the most vulnerable children can access all their basic needs like nutrition, healthcare and education from within their own community.

Most importantly, it will ensure children from Rotanak Commune can remain living with their families and not require care in an orphanage. Integrating our youth centre program into public schools is a vital step in handing over our Village Hive model to the community to run it by themselves.



124

children received before and after school care, daycare, nutrition, hygiene services, sanitation services, remedial tutoring and life skills from the Ang and Rotanak public school youth centres.

597

children who attend the Ang and Rotanak public schools have benefited from improved facilities and infrastructure from the Youth Centres.

73

children were successfully transferred from CCT youth centres to access youth centre services from their local public school.

Operations Report from CCT's Executive Director, Pon Jedtha



To achieve sustainable development outcomes, we must align internal NGO processes with external goals and values. In 2021, one of our main operational focuses was reviewing and developing our social work practice to strengthen the quality of our case management and the supervision of all social workers.

This review involved restructuring the social work team. First, we revised the job descriptions of the social work manager and the three social work team leaders. Next, we redistributed cases to ensure all social workers had manageable caseloads and worked to their strengths. We established a new format for our regular meetings to share cases, ensuring new intakes are divided equally, and case management maintains a high standard. We promoted a new social work manager, and I provided mentoring, coaching and supervision to ensure they are confident in their new role.

I then coached the entire social work team to demonstrate to new social workers how to move away from transactional social work toward relational-based social work that supports families towards long-term resiliency. I coached them for many months, doing collaborative case reviews, reflection sessions, and individual mentoring through field practice. We refreshed the training on the tools to help social workers work collaboratively with families.

We reviewed the case management database and found that it was too hard for many social workers to use efficiently. They wasted too much time on paperwork, taking away from the time they could spend with families. We simplified the system and provided additional training on the database to all social workers. We developed a five-column framework, extracting three columns from the Signs of Safety tool, to assist families in achieving self-determined goals within a specific timeframe. This new tool helped the families be in control of their own plans.

The coaching I provided has ensured every member of the social work team has the skills to work collaboratively with families. It has assisted our social work team to close more cases because more families are self-reliant and no longer need assistance from CCT.

With more cases being closed, we implemented new case closure meetings to ensure that all cases closed met the criteria for long-term resilience, meaning the family has achieved their goals, is financially independent, and can confidently overcome future challenges without relying on CCT's assistance.

Along with the review and development of our social work practice, we focused on conscientisation workshops in all-hands staff meetings so they could more deeply understand CCT's direction and vision, our commitment to the upstream approach, working in collaboration and shifting the power to our Cambodian communities.

Case closed after Village Hive social workers empower family to become self-sufficient

Bot is a single mother of four children, living deep in the Cambodian jungle. When we first met Bot, she was struggling to make ends meet. Unable to provide for the family on her single wage, Bot's children had to quit school and start work.

After a call from local authorities, CCT social workers came to visit the family and see what emergency support they wanted. The family shared their goal to start a farm growing vegetables and raising chickens, so our family finance team provided them with the business and practical skills needed to make their dream a reality.

It did not take long for Bot and her family to start seeing the benefits of starting their own business. She was able to afford food and healthcare and started saving money that she could invest back into her business. Bot's success meant her children were able to quit working and return to school.

The family achieved their goals and are now able to sustainably support themselves. After a few years of support, CCT social workers felt confident the family could overcome any future challenges they faced and closed the case.



Watch

Prevention & Early Intervention



CCT is the leading child protection agency in northwest Cambodia. This means CCT accepts the majority of child protection and social protection cases referred in Battambang Province via the government, local authorities, the child protection hotline, and the wider community.

CCT's child protection and social protection work reach 129 villages, 69 communes and 29 districts. 469 families, comprising 2,178 people, accessed prevention and early intervention services in 2021 and were empowered to escape multidimensional poverty. 1,136 children were prevented from being separated from their families.

In February 2021, the spread of COVID-19 in Cambodia began increasing exponentially. By March, all public schools in Battambang had closed and remained closed for nine months. The CCT youth centres were forced to close alongside all schools. Travel and community gatherings were restricted, and many businesses shut down. This presented an unprecedented challenge for families in Cambodia. CCT's prevention and early intervention services were mobilised to respond to the crisis.

CCT's health service provided training on COVID-19 prevention and awareness. This included information on vaccinations to 996 families during home visits and community workshops. They provided 73,300 face masks, 740 litres of hand sanitiser and 1,958 bars of soap to help families survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, including during the months of lockdown,

CCT nurses conducted 289 home visits to assist 712 people in 142 families with basic health assessments, connection to hospitals and specialty health services and co-created healthcare plans that addressed acute and chronic conditions.

CCT's youth centre service prepared safety plans for vulnerable children to access crisis accommodation, hygiene, food, and education support throughout the months of lockdowns. In addition, youth centre drivers were deployed to help deliver emergency supplies directly to family homes. Many children weren't able to access online learning. Without printed home learning materials, they would have been at risk of dropping out of school. To ensure these children could continue their education while schools were closed, the CCT youth centre team acted as the conduit between students and the public schools. Six days a week, they picked up lessons and homework from the public school teachers and delivered them to the homes of 143 children, along with nutritious meals.

The economic strain of lockdowns meant families could not afford food, rent, education, housing, and essential health services. CCT's social work and family finance services assisted families who had lost some or all of their income and livelihoods with a phased approach.



First, they provided emergency support of unconditional and unrestricted cash transfers to 223 at-risk families to a value of USD 135,354, preventing families from falling into extreme poverty.

Second, a recovery phase restored families' livelihoods and incomes. This included understanding the family's current financial situation, understanding their strengths and skills, identifying their business or livelihood goals, understanding risks, developing risk mitigation strategies, and providing technical support and training. This enabled families to establish a 3-month food security plan, a 6-month stability plan, and a 12-month sustainability plan.

The CCT housing service enabled 70 families to access safe and secure housing, protecting the health and well-being of their children. This included working with families to repair, renovate and build homes, connect utilities, build sanitation facilities and find affordable rentals.



97%

of cases referred in 2021
required prevention or early
intervention services.



144

new children and youth from
77 families were referred
for prevention and early
intervention services in 2021.
The cases ranged in age from
1 to 21 years old.



389

families accessed
counselling services.

Impact 2021

Across the globe, there has been an increase in families requiring crisis services since the pandemic began. Australia saw a 20% increase in demand for child protection services (SVA, 2020). UNICEF called COVID-19 the biggest global crisis for children in recent history, with a staggering 100 million more children plunged into poverty.

Throughout 2021, the CCT team braced for an increase in family crises. However, we saw an anomalous effect across the 129 villages with access to prevention and early intervention services.

243 families across these villages were surveyed about the impact of the pandemic. While the families did report losing income and experiencing increased stress, access to CCT's prevention and early intervention services meant there was less domestic violence, stronger family relationships, and better decision making. No children dropped out of school despite schools being closed for nine months.

Co-creating financial plans with families resulted in remarkable outcomes in mitigating the negative ramifications of the pandemic. 100% of families reported that the support was effective in helping them to meet their children's basic needs, reduce stress, and improve relationships within their families.

Overall there was less demand for crisis services across all villages, with 50% fewer referrals for early intervention services than in 2020 and only 3% of new cases referred for crisis services. This proves that focusing on prevention and early intervention effectively builds community resilience that is robust enough to withstand a global catastrophe.

The fact that communities in northwest Cambodia fared better than much of the world demonstrates the effectiveness of investing in prevention and early intervention.



264

people were coached to
execute their livelihood
plans via the Signs of
Safety framework.

194

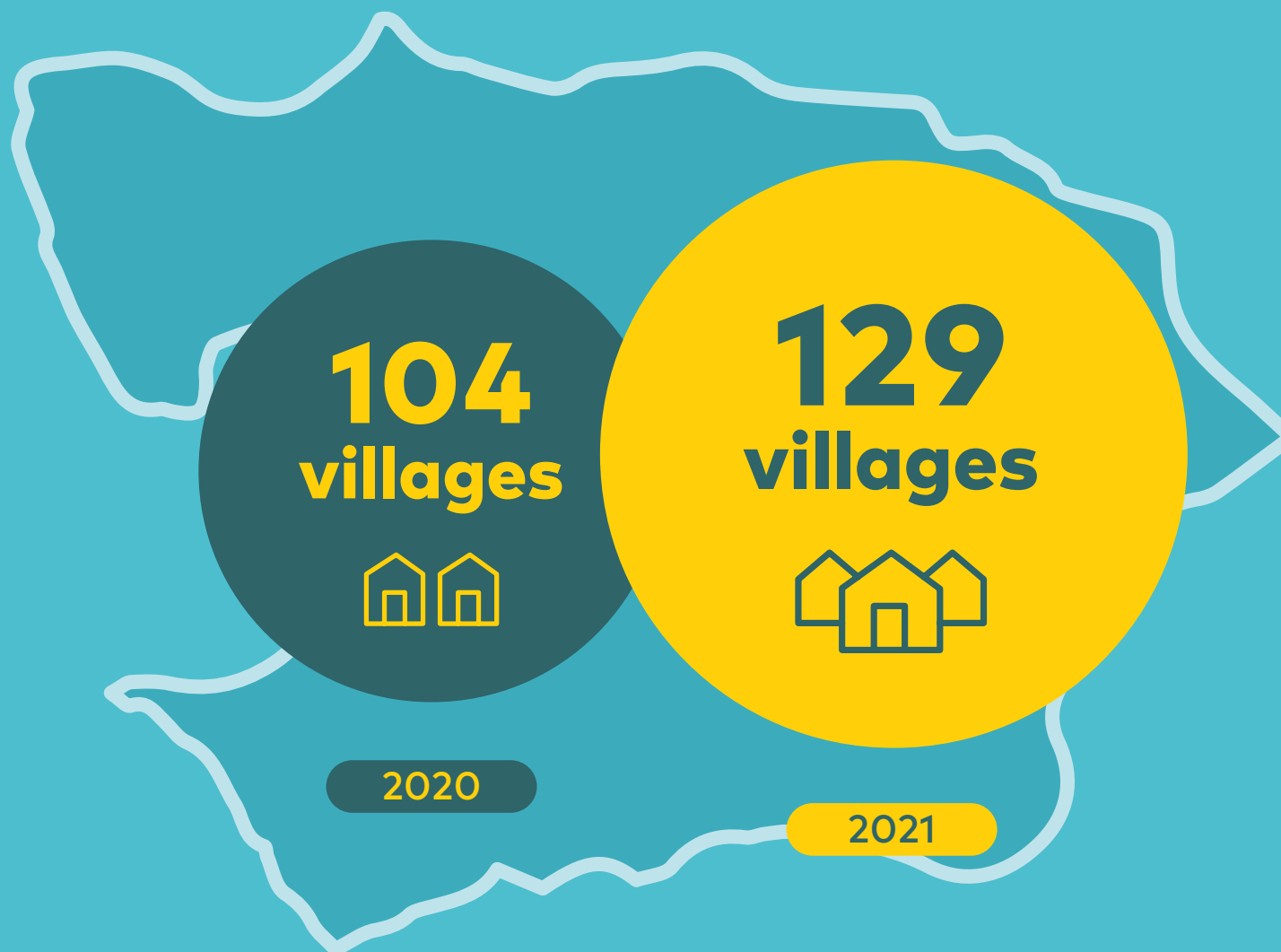
families were assisted to
re-establish or select new
livelihood pathways.
87% of families were
female-headed households.

901

active case plans
were co-designed
with families.

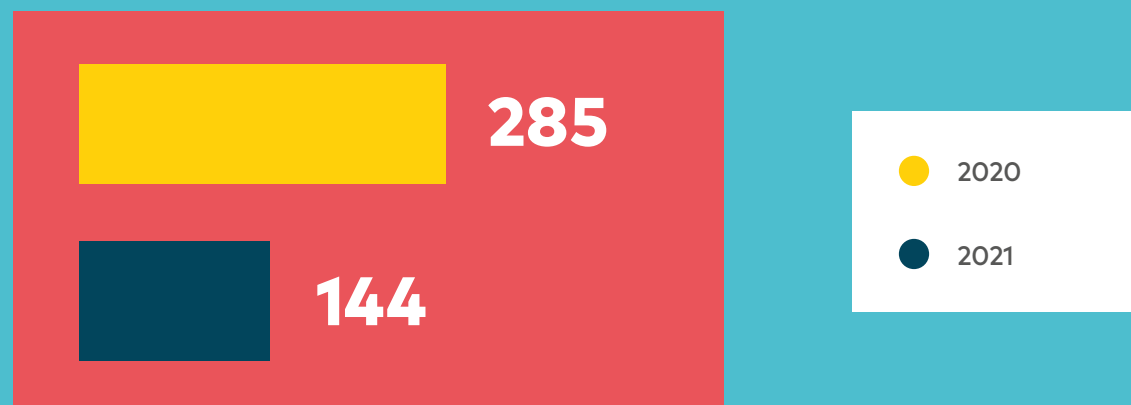
CCT is reaching more families in Battambang

Number of villages in Battambang Province with access to CCT services:

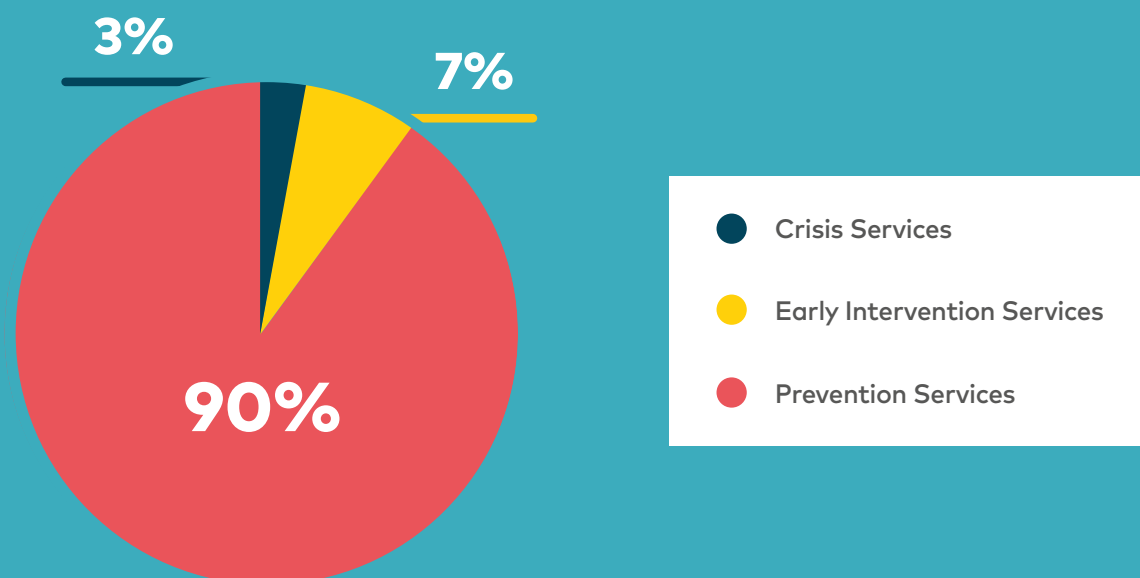


2021 IMPACT

Less cases are referred as communities become resilient



Access to CCT's prevention and early intervention services reduces incidence of crisis in families



Effects of unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers on families

Children have more food to eat	<div></div>	81%
Supported children's education	<div></div>	63%
Enjoying more time together	<div></div>	46%
Was able to afford health services	<div></div>	43%
Less anxiety in the household	<div></div>	42%
Less stress in the household	<div></div>	24%
There has been some violence in the home	<div></div>	0%

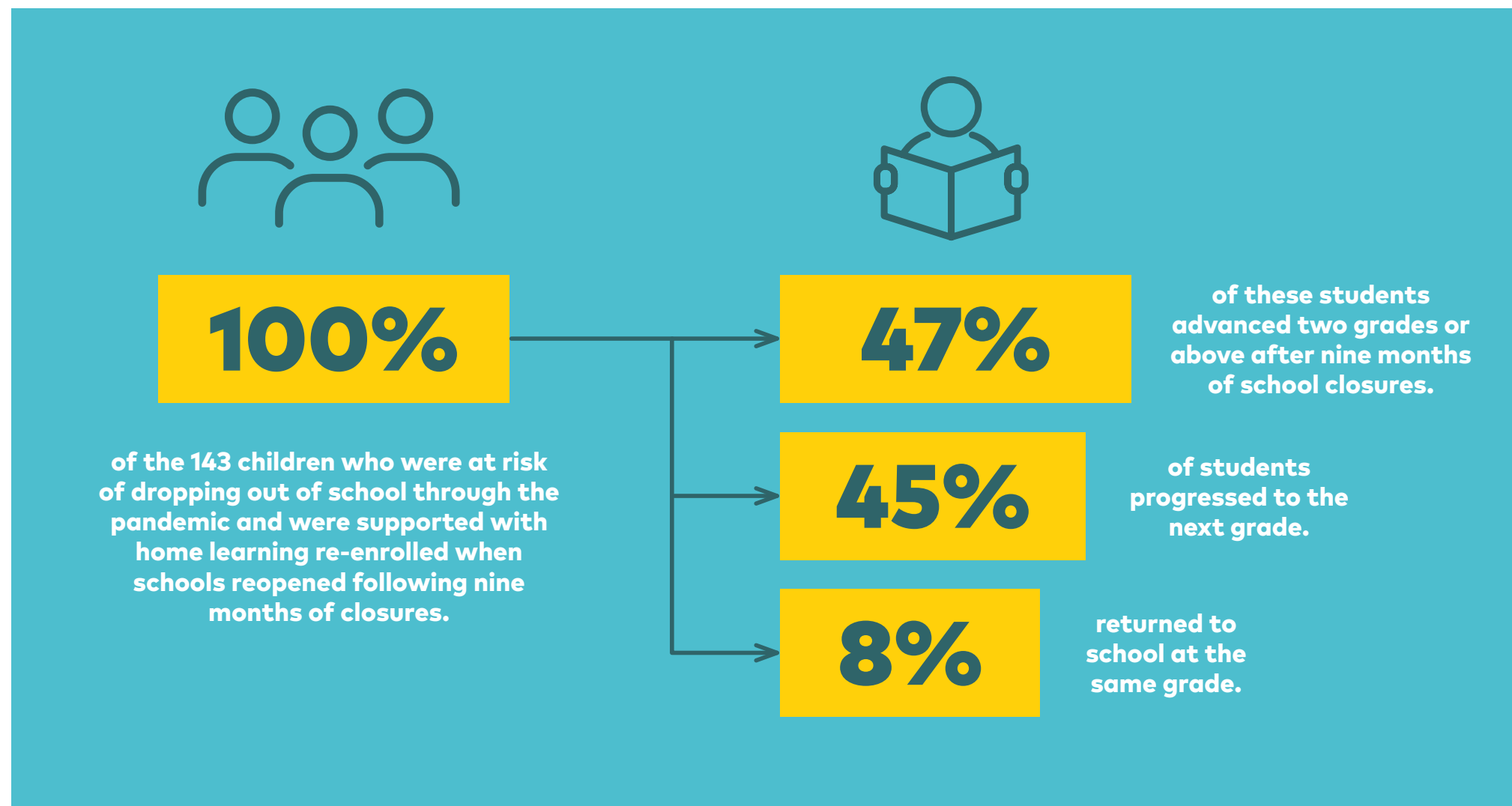
223

at-risk families were given unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers to a value of USD \$135,354 to reduce the risks of children and their families falling into extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic.

100%

of families reported positive effects of the unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers and was an effective method to help them to meet their children's basic needs in the short-term. 0% of these families reported violence in the home.

100% of children re-enrolled in public school after 9 months of closures





A grandmother's sustainable livelihood leads to self-sufficiency

Sokha is raising her three grandchildren alone in a remote village far from the city. When we were contacted by the local authorities, she was struggling to make ends meet on a small labourer's wage. *"I used to chop cassava plants, collect corn and pick cashew nuts. Life was difficult. I had no money and I couldn't afford for my grandchildren to go to school,"* said Sokha.

Sokha had worked as a cook for most of her life. For her family to have a sustainable income, she wanted to start a small business selling porridge and noodles. CCT supported her decision by providing coaching from our family finance team and helping her to build a small street food stall.

Now that her small business is doing so well, Sokha can provide for her three grandchildren without the help of CCT. *"I feel so happy. I have never had this feeling before,"* said Sokha.



Watch

68

families completed training in hard skills and soft skills such as family financial literacy, debt awareness, basic marketing, business planning, business process management, agricultural techniques and market pricing.

194

families were coached in financial literacy to prioritise their expenditure and budget effectively.

70

families were supported to improve their housing, including repairing, renovating and building homes, connecting utilities, ensuring they had proper sanitation facilities and finding affordable rentals.

Three siblings prevented from ending up in an orphanage

Chinnat, 13, Chinny, 11, and Phanna, 6, live in a remote village with their mum and dad. Mum and dad earn just \$2.50 a day working on a farm and are in serious debt. When their employer needs them to travel for work, they have no choice but to leave their children at home alone, sometimes for days at a time. If they don't go, their children won't have food.

Without supervision from their mum and dad, Chinnat, Chinny and Phanna spent their days living on the streets. They began begging and stopped going to school, putting them at serious risk of being put in an orphanage. The local community leaders alerted CCT, who immediately took action to support the family. Social workers came to provide counselling and family strengthening support and nurses checked on the children. We got in touch with Mum and Dad and supported them to come home.

Mum and Dad wanted a secure income that would keep their family safe and allow them to stay permanently in Battambang. So, CCT's family finance team helped them start their own business. We purchased the materials so they could build a chicken coop on their property, and then started intensive financial coaching about saving, budgeting, reducing debt, identifying needs versus wants and running a sustainable business.

We supported the family to obtain the government documents they needed to enrol the children in public school and for the family to access free health care. Now, Mum and Dad have a secure and sustainable income and they are able to stay permanently at home with their children in Battambang.



Watch

151

calls were made
to the child
protection hotline.

351

new children were referred
for services via the child
protection hotline
predominantly requiring
access to basic needs.



Access to specialist health services helps young student return to school

When Chorvy, 54, separated from her husband she was left with no job and no money to support her 13-year-old daughter, Siranuth.

Siranuth had kidney disease from a young age which was untreated as it was expensive. She experienced bullying from other kids and became too afraid to leave the house in case there was an accident. She stopped going to school and Chorvy felt deflated, believing she would never be able to access the treatment to help her daughter get better.

When CCT's Village Hive nurses were contacted by the Village Chief, they brought Siranuth to a hospital in Siem Reap where she could access specialist nephrology services. With treatment, Siranuth's condition began to improve and she soon had the confidence to return to school. With her daughter's condition being treated, Chorvy was able to return to work.

"CCT has helped me so much. They have uplifted my daughter and me and they have helped us overcome so many problems. I will never forget how much CCT has helped me," said Chorvy.



Watch

139

times families were supported to access government and specialised healthcare facilities for treatment.

74

families were supported to obtain legal documents to access universal services

996

children and adults were given training on COVID-19 prevention, awareness and support, including information on vaccinations.

A family excited to have electricity for the first time

Sreynith and Sith live with their grandmother, Oun. Life at home is difficult. They live in a small house that floods when it rains and has no running water, electricity or bathroom. Oun does not have a stable job, so she cannot afford to send Sreynith and Sith to school.

When we met Oun, we asked what support she needed to ensure Sreynith and Sith were safe, healthy and accessing public school regularly. Our social workers and family finance team partnered with Oun to help her build her own small business selling porridge, rice and noodles. Oun then partnered with the Village Hive housing service who rebuilt her house, connected it to water and electricity and built a new bathroom. On the first night the family had electricity, Sreynith and Sith were so excited to have light that they couldn't sleep all night.

Our financial literacy and business coaching helped Oun build her business so that she is now self-sufficient. She is able to feed the family and send Sreynith and Sith to school without CCT's support. The grandchildren are safe, healthy and happy.



Watch



Home renovation, healthcare and social work help a family get back on their feet

"Since my husband and my oldest son have experienced mental illness, we have fallen into so much debt. All responsibility is on me now. I just want the best for my children," said Roth.

Roth and her husband live together with three of their children in a small house with no clean water or electricity, no toilet and a roof filled with holes. Her husband, Samnang, and eldest son, Ri, both have a serious mental health condition that requires full-time care and professional support. Every night, Roth and her younger children need to go out to the rice fields to hunt for snails, frogs and crabs so the family has enough to eat. When we were alerted to Roth's situation, our social workers and nurses responded immediately by delivering food supplies and medical care to the family at home.

Roth told us her house was unsafe and that it flooded whenever it rained, but she couldn't afford to fix it. The Village Hive housing team fixed the holes in the roof and now when it rains, the family is safe and protected.

10-year-old Vin and 14-year-old Makara are Roth's 2 youngest children. When we first met them, they had never been to school. We purchased school uniforms, school shoes, books, backpacks and helped them to enrol in public school for the first time. We will provide tutoring and any extra educational support they need to catch up to their peers.

Our nurses assisted Roth to seek out professional mental health services for Samnang and Ri. They are both receiving support from professionals and regular home check ups from our nurses and they are improving. Roth's family no longer requires monthly food deliveries from CCT and are on their way to becoming strong and resilient.

73,300

face masks were provided to help families survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

740

litres of hand sanitiser were provided to help families survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

1,958

bars of soap were provided to help families survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

289

home visits were conducted by CCT nurses to provide 712 people in 142 families with basic health assessments, connection to hospitals and specialty health services, and to co-create healthcare plans that address acute and chronic conditions.

51

healthcare plans were co-created with CCT nurses to help families manage acute and chronic medical conditions.

Preventing children from losing their education because of COVID-19

In 2021, child protection agencies across Cambodia became concerned that thousands of children would not return to school following 14 months of school closures since the pandemic began. The pandemic had created a digital divide, placing students who were not able to afford computers and the internet at serious risk of losing their education.

Our incredible team at CCT devised a novel way around this crisis to ensure the most vulnerable children could continue their education. Our teams travelled across Battambang every single day, personally delivering paper-based learning materials to hundreds of children at home. We coached families in financial literacy so the children didn't have to drop out of school and start working to support their family. And importantly, we ensured year 12 students had access to computers so they could complete their final exams online.



Watch



143

children accessed home learning support along with nutritious meals six days a week while schools were closed for 9 months.

497

children were provided with school uniforms and school supplies to support them in returning to public school when they reopened after lockdown.

87,297

meals were provided to 206 children, including nutrient-dense supplements, fruits and snacks to encourage growth and development and boost immunity.



Addressing social isolation and loneliness as students navigate COVID-19

"My biggest challenge through COVID-19 is that I couldn't go to school because it was closed. When my teacher gave me schoolwork to do at home, it was difficult to learn. I really missed school and my friends," said 13-year-old Vanna.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, CCT supported me to go to their youth centre. I was able to use the internet there to study, which made it easier to communicate with my teachers and helped me understand my homework better. When I have questions I could ask the teachers there too. Now schools are open again and I can go to school and meet my friends, I'm so happy. CCT supported me with uniforms, school books and a school bag.

My dream when I grow up is to be a nurse."



Watch

Youth centre service allows single mum to start her own business

After leaving her husband, single mum Sreyleap and her four young children found themselves on the streets. They lived near an old train station on what used to be a garbage tip. During the rainy season the whole area would flood with rubbish and sewerage from the nearby village. The environment was so toxic that her children were often sick with diarrhea, skin rashes and coughs. To provide for her children, Sreyleap worked several jobs. Yet no matter how hard she worked, she still couldn't save enough to send her kids to school.

In 2019, their Village Chief alerted CCT about the family's situation. The first priority was to improve their living conditions and get the whole family medical and nutritional support. With regular visits from our nurses and social workers, their physical and mental health started to improve. The children started attending their local youth centre every day and the older kids were enrolled in public school. Sreyleap then partnered with our family finance team to be coached in financial literacy and identifying a job that would support her family.

"I never thought in my life that it was possible for me and my children to get out of this toxic environment and have a healthy life elsewhere," said Sreyleap.

The children accessed nutritious meals and healthcare at the Youth Centre and were supervised six days a week by CCT staff, which took the pressure off Sreyleap and allowed her the time to set up a small business selling fruit and vegetables. Her business is going so well that she is working with the family finance team to expand to selling hot food. Sreyleap says that getting up in the morning and seeing her children in their school uniforms gives her the energy to keep on fighting for the best future possible for herself and her family.



Watch

113

meetings were held with public school teachers to facilitate remote learning during school closures and a safe reopening.

10

public schools were provided with PPE, hygiene supplies and access to vaccinations.

Early childhood program supports healthy development

CCT established a preschool as a part of our youth centre in 2013 after seeing a major barrier for students attending public school. Older students were often skipping school to look after their younger siblings while their single parent was working.

The youth centre preschools operate out of local public schools and are open six days a week. The program ensures children have daycare, nutritious meals, clean water and hygiene facilities. CCT's early childhood educators focus on creating safe, positive learning environments.

Opportunities to build strong cognitive, social and motor skills are created through free play, socialisation, exercise, education and games. This program gives young children the best start in life while ensuring their older siblings can study and their parents can maintain a secure livelihood.



Watch

Unconditional cash transfer provides a boost to single mum's business

"My family was poor. When I separated from my husband I decided to leave my daughter, Bormey, with my mother, so I could find work and support my family by sending money back every month," said mother of two, Sreymom.

Bormey was just two years old when Sreymom left to look for work. Knowing that her own mother could act as a caregiver for Bormey made leaving to earn money seem like the best choice for her family.

When Sreymom returned to Cambodia to visit the family while on a break from work, she was shocked to find that Bormey was not in the family home. Even with Sreymom's financial support, her mother was unable to meet the basic needs of Bormey and the four other grandchildren in her care. At the advice of a neighbour, the grandmother decided to take all five grandchildren, including Bormey, to live in an orphanage.

"I went to visit my daughter at the orphanage right away. I brought Bormey some food and she ate it all immediately, so I knew she was hungry. I saw a lot of children in the orphanage who looked hungry and unhealthy. I saw around 80 children living in the orphanage with only two house-mums to take care of them all."



I was shocked. I asked myself, 'How can they do it? How can they take care of my daughter when there are so many children here?'" said Sreymom.

Sreymom made the decision to get Bormey out of the orphanage as soon as possible and swore to Bormey, *"No matter how hard it is, I will take you away from this place"*.

The day that Bormey was told she would be returning home to live with her mother she was overjoyed. *"I felt so excited and happy. I really missed my mum and I wanted to spend all my time with her. I get real love from my mum,"* she said.

CCT social workers partnered with Sreymom to support her family with monthly food deliveries, rental assistance as well as education support for both children. The family finance team began work with Sreymom to help her plan a sustainable future for her family.

She started her own small business, selling street food from a cart every day. Along with her coaching in financial literacy, Sreymom was able to access an unconditional cash transfer from CCT. This has been an invaluable boost to her business, which is now thriving.

For Sreymom and Bormey, talking about the time when they were apart is deeply emotional. These days, Sreymom, Bormey and little brother Kimoun live together as a family. The love and support Bormey receives from Sreymom is essential to her wellbeing.

"I don't want to be away from her again. I know she's working really hard to support me, and I love her so much," said Bormey.

91%

of families required support to increase their incomes or recover their livelihoods as a result of the pandemic.

274

families were supported to obtain ID Poor cards in their communes and access the government's cash transfer programme.

52

CCT social workers were trained in family finance, allowing them to incorporate the training into their case management practice.

Crisis Services



Reintegration and Foster Care

CCT's primary focus is on prevention and early intervention services to reduce the need for crisis services, such as alternative care in orphanages. Reintegration and foster care have been crucial to undoing the damage done by an over-investment in downstream development that led to Cambodia's orphanage boom between 2005 and 2010.

Reintegration

The role of CCT's social workers and reintegration team is to partner with families to help them think through their problems and design their own solutions to reach a future in which they can provide for their children independently.

The reintegration process is given the greatest chance of success by addressing the root causes of child-family separation and facilitating access to prevention and early intervention services. Follow up support is required to ensure the long-term success of the child's transition to family care.

In 2021, CCT supported **41 families and 61 children** and youth after assisting the children with leaving the orphanage and reuniting with their families.



4 children were reintegrated into their biological families from orphanages in 2021. All four children were placed in orphanages due to poverty, stress and other social challenges related to living in multidimensional poverty.

Social workers will continue to work with all four families to address the root causes of family separation. This includes assisting with safe housing, ensuring the siblings are all in school, coaching the parents in financial literacy and establishing a sustainable livelihood.

22 meetings and coaching visits were conducted with **18 staff at four orphanages**. Coaching topics included tracking and assessing children living in orphanages, case management, family tracing, risk assessment, reunification and reintegration plans. In addition to these skills, the orphanage staff are trained in some soft skills such as counselling.

Nationally, the number of orphanages has **decreased by 43%** over a four-year period after implementing the government's Action Plan for Improving Child Care. The number of children in residential care has **decreased by 59%** over the same period.

Foster care

CCT's social workers use a non-paternalistic, strengths-based framework that places children and youth requiring foster care in the driving seat, ensuring their voices are paramount in their case planning process.

CCT supported **19 children and youth in 5 foster care homes**, ensuring they have detailed care plans that are co-created with their support networks. These care plans are targeted to meet their specific needs with a goal to move towards permanency.

Throughout 2021, **5 children from two families** required short-term placements in foster care. Case reviews were conducted on all children in foster care resulting in **7 children** transitioning from foster care into family-based care.

Children and youth in foster care are invited to join CCT's Care Leaver Network, ensuring they are supported during the transition from alternative care to family-based care or independence.

Care Leaver Network

In Cambodia, young people who have returned to their community of origin following placement in an orphanage are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and are highly disadvantaged compared to their peers. Some young people return to their biological families, while others are reintegrated into foster care.



The care leaver experience has been neglected and under prioritised in Cambodia, resulting in poor long-term, social and developmental outcomes for many care leavers. Additionally, their voices, perspectives and experiences are missing from legislation, strategic plans, and policy around care reform.

The unique perspective of care leavers in Cambodia can provide a powerful voice to influence policymakers and service providers to better understand the challenges faced by children and young people who have been separated from their families and to raise awareness of the need for care reform.

Sinet Chan, CCT ambassador and orphanage survivor, established a Care Leaver Network in 2021. The network provides support, encouragement, mentoring and counselling to young people in Battambang Province who have spent some or all of their childhood in an orphanage.

The network offers a safe environment for care leavers to share their stories and the issues, discrimination, and challenges they faced when they were separated from their families, and to promote better guidelines to prepare and support young people transitioning out of care.

The network ensures care leavers know their rights, have a voice, and receive training and skills to help them develop and prosper, building their resilience and self-reliance and to empower other care leaver youth to live a fulfilled life.

In 2021, the Care Leaver Network met **23 times** to provide training and workshops on various topics to **26 care leavers**. **10 care leavers** completed training on financial literacy, writing a CV and cover letter, applying for a job in the future and basic ICT skills.

Father moved to tears when his daughter returns home from an orphanage

Sinat placed his daughter, Chantha, in an orphanage as he believed it was her best chance in escaping poverty. "I used to work as a labourer and I didn't earn enough to cover my children's education. So, I decided to place my daughter in an orphanage so she could go to school," said Sinat.

After Chantha had been living in the orphanage for five years, Sinat found out that she wasn't attending school at all. *"The orphanage wasn't what I expected. I was told my daughter wasn't happy and wasn't doing well in school. I worried a lot and wanted her to come home."*

In 2021, CCT social workers supported Sinat to bring Chantha home. Sinet Chan, CCT's ambassador, was one of the CCT team members who accompanied Chantha as she left the orphanage and made the journey back to her family.

"Chantha's parents sent her to live in an orphanage in the hope she could access her basic needs and a higher education, but it wasn't the case. Her younger sister, living at home with her parents, had a better education than she did growing up in the orphanage," said Sinet Chan.

The family has accessed the CCT housing service and the family finance service. We have provided Chantha and her two younger siblings with school uniforms, backpacks, school shoes and bicycles to make their journey to school easier. CCT is providing continued support to the whole family to prevent child-family separation from occurring again.



Watch



Conscientisation & Co-creation



Co-creation and Conscientisation are practices of what Brazilian philosopher and educator, Paulo Freire, calls dialogical action. Intentional conversations that raise critical awareness about issues of power, oppression, inequality, neo-colonialism, orphanages and institutional care enable CCT and local communities to arrive at common goals.

Importantly, these practices also support and empower local stakeholders to rise to the challenge of leading the development in their communities. We are proud of the teamwork, partnerships, and collaborations that have resulted in better and more sustainable outcomes for children, families and communities.

In 2021, over 316 co-creation and conscientisation meetings were held with over 510 participants in both Cambodia and Australia. 19 partnerships and collaborations were maintained throughout 2021.



Advocacy raising critical consciousness

CCT's Co-Founder and Director, Pon Jedtha, was a guest panellist on a radio program led by the Cambodian Government on unnecessary family separation as part of the Strong Family Campaign called PROTECT. CCT is an implementing partner on PROTECT: A Communication Strategy to End Violence and Unnecessary Family Separation in Cambodia, led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) with support from UNICEF.

The strategy aims to address the social and cultural norms that legitimise violence against children and normalise the belief that residential care facilities are beneficial to a child. According to UNICEF, the project has reached **10.5 million** children, parents, caregivers, and community members (August 2021).

Sinet Chan, CCT Ambassador, was invited to speak at the United Nations Day of General Discussion about the harms of institutional care, drawing from her own experience growing up in an orphanage. **Over 1,000 people** attended the sessions from **120 countries**.

"Many care leavers, like myself, have lived through exploitation, abuse, neglect and have been used for profit in care. While our stories are deeply emotional, one thing us care leavers share is that we don't share our stories for pity. We want change. We want justice."

"The support of orphanages has created a thriving industry in which children were separated from their families and subjected to terrible abuse and neglect, as I was, being used as a commodity to generate funding."

This support must be redirected towards supporting families and family-based care. Children around the world have the right to grow up knowing the love and belonging of their family," said Sinet.



Link

Watch Sinet's powerful presentation



Ngath Sophorn, CCT's Research and Development Manager, was a panellist at the BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (BICON) on *"Workforce Development and Systems Strengthening: Community and Cultural Approaches to Child Protection and Safeguarding"*.

Sophorn strongly emphasised how vital community-led child protection is to the children, families, and communities. **Over 390 people** attended the sessions from **19 countries**.



Link

Tara Winkler's Ted Talk
"Why we need to end the era of orphanages"
has reached over **1.2 million views**.



Academic advocacy

In 2021, CCT engaged with academics at universities across Australia to develop the evidence base for the decolonisation of international development via the Village Hive approach.

Dr Freya Higgins-Desbiolles from the University of South Australia published an academic paper on "Decolonising tourism and development: From orphanage tourism to community empowerment in Cambodia," using CCT's Village Hive approach as the case study.

Dr Bhanu Bhatia, Lecturer in Economics and Business at Charles Darwin University has supported the development of a framework to collect the evidence base for the Village Hive, incorporating elements of effectiveness, efficiency and administrative burden (how hard is it to implement).

Dr Freda Hui Truscott from the University of Wollongong is collaborating with CCT on research about the localisation of CCT's Village Hive approach. The study aims to evaluate the outcomes achieved with localisation and the effectiveness of the transition to local governance of Village Hive services.

It will also evaluate the prevention and early intervention services delivered by the Village Hive to improve the well-being and welfare of children in Cambodia.

National, Subnational and Local Authority co-creation

To support the implementation of the Cambodian Government's Action Plan for Improving Childcare, CCT has continued to engage and work in partnership with:

Provincial Governor

**Department of Social Affairs,
Veterans and Youth (DoSVY)**

**Commune Council for Women
and Children (CCWC)**

**Women and Children's
Consultative Committee
(WCCC)**

Local authorities

**Office of Social Affairs,
Veterans and Youth (OSVY)**

UNICEF

Friend's International

Save the Children

CCT collaborates with national, provincial, district and commune authorities to ensure that child protection services are complementary and coordinated with government systems. Challenges and proposed solutions are discussed at these workshops and meetings, and complex cases are presented.

CCT has assigned senior social workers to co-case manage high-risk cases with OSVY's social workers to build their capacity. Collaborating with the local authorities is part of systems-building with the ultimate aim of creating a sustainable national child protection system.

30 workshops and meetings

were attended at the national and sub-national levels to consult and co-create the National Child Protection plans. A decision was made to decentralise child protection to the district and commune levels.

34 meetings

were then held at the district and commune levels to co-create the implementation plans. CCT is well placed to assist with the implementation as the Village Hive provides a comprehensive social protection and child protection system delivered from the commune level.



CCT continues to strengthen our relationship with WCCC, CCWC and local authorities through capacity building and co-creating programs and services to support vulnerable families that complement public services and existing child and social protection mechanisms.

CCT is an implementing partner in Cambodia's FCF|REACT and 3PC child protection networks.

CCT has attended **88 meetings/workshops/training/learning summits** with 3PC and FCF|REACT child protection networks and other civil society organisations working in child and social protection.

These meetings aim to ensure that child protection services provided by NGOs are complementary and coordinated. These meetings also provide opportunities to share learnings, best practices, achievements, and challenges in service provision.

CCT staff have met with other service providers, such as the Department of Education, the Ministry of Health and other civil service organisation providers, **59 times.**

Networks and partnerships

We believe that best practice is achieved through teamwork, partnerships, and collaboration. We harness the power of collaborative networks of non-government organisations, government ministries and organisations, public service providers, universities, and the community themselves.



ICT Education



In 2015, CCT partnered with the public schools in Battambang, the Ministry of Education and the Teacher Training College to embed quality Information Communications Technology (ICT) education into the public high school curriculum.

This provided children in Battambang the chance to learn crucial computing skills they need to gain employment and break free from the cycle of poverty. The course teaches children everything from the basics of computer hardware, email and word processing to mastering programming and robotics.

Since 2015, **26,857 ICT students** have enrolled in the course.

In 2021, **228 students** were trained in advanced ICT, and **285 new teachers** were trained to deliver the ICT curriculum.

4,577 public school students enrolled in ICT education in 2021, which is a **22% increase** in enrolments from 2020.

1,055 students and **1,388 teachers** have been trained in advanced ICT since 2015.

From high school in Battambang to university in the USA

By Samnang Thon, a former ninja student who studied with CCT's ICT program at high school in Battambang and is now studying at university in the USA.

"I'm a former student of Preah Monivong High School in Battambang. I'm currently living in the United States, majoring in Computer Science at Northern Virginia Community College, with the help of CCT.

The organization collaborated with my high school. I had an opportunity to study plenty of computer programs during my high school years, such as basic ICT Literacy, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Flash for Animation, Python, Web Design with Html and CSS, and Robotic programming with Lego. Thanks to this opportunity during my high school years, I found what I'm passionate about in life.

The program provided by CCT is an excellent opportunity for Cambodian high school students to explore their passion and learn this essential information for the coming future of technology. The program has helped me a lot with my college academic years.

I learned the fundamental skill of basic ICT literacy, which helped me with my college research papers, web surfing efficiency, and using the right tool to complete assignments. My coding experiences in high school also made sure I didn't fall behind any of my friends here in the US, as they also studied programming in high school.

To those who are currently in high school and having access to this program started by CCT – it is your chance to explore this field and grab the crucial knowledge that will benefit your future academic years in any major you choose.

I am thankful for CCT and the supporter of this program that gave our Cambodian students the chance to study this excellent standard of this education."



Jaan Bai Social Enterprise Restaurant

Jaan Bai, meaning "rice bowl" in Khmer, is a social enterprise initiative of CCT. The restaurant provides employment for Cambodian youth, who benefit from a profit-share arrangement; 51% of profits go towards supporting CCT's work.

Jaan Bai was established in 2013 thanks to the generous support of Vittoria Coffee. The menu showcases the simplicity of well-crafted and nourishing traditional Khmer cuisine. Seasonal produce is sourced from local farmers and the neighbouring market. Every meal keeps families together.

Jaan Bai has generated a total USD 12,240 to support CCT's Village Hive. It employs seven Cambodian staff who also own a share of the business. Tourism in Cambodia declined significantly from March 2020 due to COVID-19.

During the height of the pandemic in 2021, businesses, schools and restaurants in Battambang, Cambodia were closed. No support was provided by the local government to support small businesses during lockdowns.

Jaan Bai implemented various strategies to remain open for the past two years and cover costs. These included adaptation of the menu to cater for local customers, selling street food, opening for breakfast, home deliveries and catering for functions once the restrictions were lifted.

The young Cambodian team leading this social enterprise are very proud of the successful pivot to keep Jaan Bai's doors open.



Team



In such a challenging year, we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our passionate team.

CCT Cambodia

Social Workers - **44**
 Youth Centre - **40**
 Finance & Administration - **16**
 Leadership - **5**
 Medical Outreach - **4**
 Communication & Advocacy - **3**
 Human Resources - **3**
 Housing Services - **2**
 Family Finance - **2**
 Research Monitoring & Evaluation - **2**
 Translation - **1**
 Information &
 Communication Technology - **3**

100%

Khmer nationals

61%

Female

88%

Retention rate

CCT has reviewed the organisational structure to ensure that teams and services reflect our mission. Under the direction of Pon Jedtha, the CCT team is thriving and creating lasting systemic change for Cambodian Communities.

CCT Board of Directors:

- Dr Meas Nee (Chairman)
- Pon Jedtha
- Chan Sinet
- Tara Winkler
- Ros Chor Vivorn

Financial Statement 2020/2021

Statement of profit and loss for the year ended 30th June 2021

Income reduced by 9% from the previous financial year, mainly due to a reduction in corporate funding and the economic impacts of COVID19. However, due to the wonderful generosity of our loyal donors and supporters, we have continued to fund our core work.

Income	USD
Donations received directly to CCT	39,245
Exchange rate gain, asset sales and interest earned	1,344
Funds received from CCTA	449,755
Grants and Restricted Funding	530,627
Interest and Other	334
Total Income	1,021,305

Expenditure	USD
Housing	18,457
Family Finance	15,334
Foster Care	36,758
Medical Outreach	35,570
Village Hive Local Integration Pilot	19,783
Social Work	331,426
Youth Centres	231,678
Subtotal Direct Services	689,006
	USD
ICT Education	5,376

Support Services	USD
Advocacy	10,931
Communications and Donor Support	26,568
Monitoring and Evaluation	20,581
Program and Project Directors	67,287
Translator	5,352
Subtotal Support Services	130,718

Cambodian Operations	USD
Administration	52,264
Finance	53,842
Human Resources	17,078
Subtotal Cambodian Operations	123,184

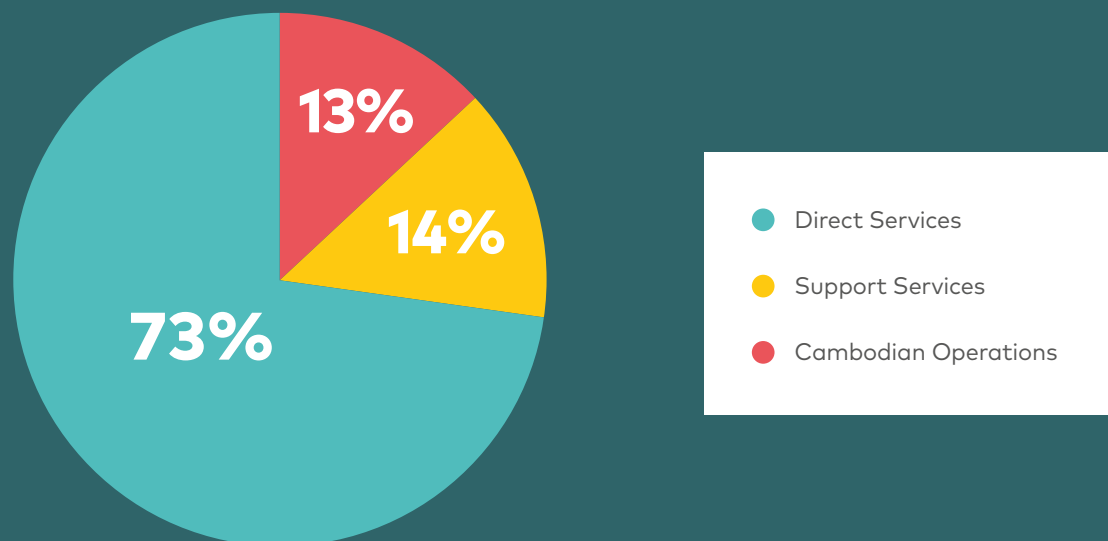
Total Expenses	948,283
Net Deficit/Surplus	73,022

Despite increasing support services for families due to the socio-economic impact on families, CCT reduced its expenditures by 18% from the previous financial year.

This is due to the internal restructure of the organisation. In addition, cost savings have been realised through the implementation of the Village Hive Local Integration Pilot.

Embedding the prevention and early intervention services into public facilities means that costs are reduced as resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, and our response is aligned and coordinated with existing systems.

Expenditure FY20/21 USD



We All Have a Role to Play



It is essential to recognise that we all have a role to play to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal of ending global poverty. It is also crucial that these efforts are led and driven by people in the Global South, with people in the Global North supporting as allies and partners.

By redistributing wealth from the Global North to the Global South, the inherent knowledge and wisdom that lives within local communities will be ignited, empowering local people to rise to the challenge of transforming their world.

CCT donors play a vital role in realising our co-created vision. By investing in the Village Hive upstream development approach, we can collectively prove it's possible to decolonise international development, the only pathway to achieving sustainable development.



cambodianchildrenstrust.org



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/cctcambodia](https://twitter.com/cctcambodia)

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was generously sponsored
by APR Creative.**



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