



## Final Progress Report

**Prepared For:** Dinning for Women (DFW)  
**Reporting Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018  
**Report Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*This report provides a snapshot of how Dinning for Women has helped change the lives of marginalized girls through its partnership with Mith Samlanh.*

You make all that we do possible – on behalf of our beneficiaries,  
**thank you!**

## 1. Project profile

a. Organizational Name	Mith Samlanh (MS)
b. Project Title	Transitional Shelter for Marginalized Girls in Phnom Penh
c. Grant Amount	\$ 50,000
d. Contact Person	Ms. Map Somaya, Phone: +855 23 220 596 E-mail: <a href="mailto:somaya@mithsamlanh.org">somaya@mithsamlanh.org</a> , website: <a href="http://www.mithsamlanh.org">www.mithsamlanh.org</a>
e. Address	#215, Street 13, Sangkat Chey Chumneas Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## 2. Outline of the project

**Project goal:** *To empower marginalized girls to secure their rights to family, education and employment*

The project's Transitional Home (TH) facility is designed for girls who are separated from their caregivers. This includes girls who are separated on the streets, in marginalized communities, in prisons, and in exploitative orphanages. During the grant period, the project intended to directly benefit 120 urban marginalized female children (0-14) and youth (15-24).

The main outcomes of the project are as following:

- R1. Girls are able to stabilize at the TH and receive education during the family reintegration process
- R2. Girls access safe shelter at Group Homes and are able to attend vocational training classes
- R3. Girls are reintegrated into family-based care or alternative care
- R4. Girls have access to education and training during their transition period
- R5. Girls are supported to overcome emotional barriers, access individualized services and sustain the benefits of the project in the long-term

## 3. Project outcomes summary

- With the support of this grant, Mith Samlanh provided safe accommodation to a total of **119 girls** who are separated from their families.
- Among the 119 girls, **63 girls** staying at TH also received support to enroll in training at the Mith Samlanh's Vocational Training Center, Mith Samlanh education center and were supported to reintegrate into public school. The rest of the girls were/are provided with education for a short period of time until their reintegration/reunification process was completed.

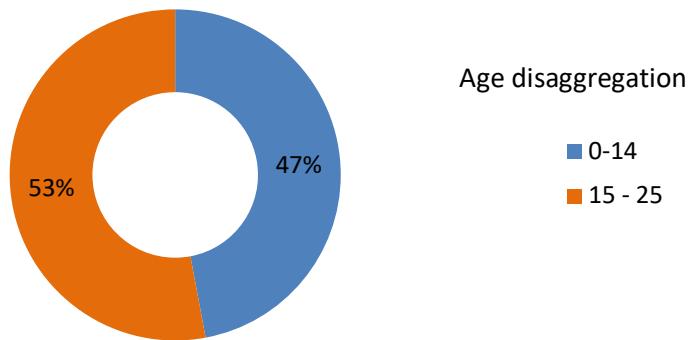
- In addition, a total of **31 girls** were reunified or reintegrated into direct family, and placed in family-based care, e.g. foster care, until a more permanent family placement is found.
- In addition, the grant also supported 15 girls to live independently in a group home settlement.

**4. What was accomplished in connection with this project? Please address each stated objective. If any project objectives were changed, please also explain the circumstances leading to the modification of the objective(s).**

**Objective 1: Marginalized girls access transitional shelter facilitating their social reintegration**

One of the main achievements of the project was the provision of shelter to girls who were at risk of abuse and/or are separated from their families. The target proposed was 120 girls provided with short term accommodation, which was successfully achieved. A total of **119 girls** were supported over the course of this project period. Among these, 56 girls were ages 0-14 years old and 63 girls were over 14 years old.

### Girls in Transitional Home



The majority of these girls have little or no education or skills and often undertake undignified and unsafe work on the streets, such as begging, scavenging, petty crime and sex work. The TH has also been accommodating children separated from their families, as well as children referred from the government shelter to be reintegrated into their families. A significant number of girls are migrants from rural areas searching for economic opportunities and a lot of the time they are exposed daily to risks of disease, abuse and exploitation. In TH, the girls have the opportunity to stabilize and receive education until they are ready to go back to their families or be placed in jobs.

The TH is equipped with hygiene facilities, bathrooms, a kitchen, a recreational space and a dining area where the daily meals are provided. The girls live in shared rooms and have their own bed and storage space. As many of these girls have no possessions, they are provided with clothes, sanitary equipment and everything they need. The TH program is run by 12 home parents. All the residents are responsible for house chores, homework, and have access to diverse activities inside and outside the center. Meetings with children are held every week in each center

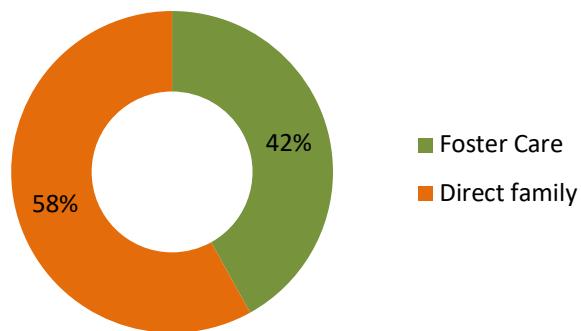
so that children can raise concerns about the services and deal with them instantly. Medical services are also available every day. Counseling and case management support is provided by social workers and home parents to assist children when they have problems in the TH or in their classes. During this year, 1 girl with minor mental disability was referred to TH from hotline. The girl was from Kampong Chhnang province and was living in a slum community in Phnom Penh with her child and husband. Her husband was arrested by the police and she didn't have anywhere to go. For a short period of time, the girl was supported to stay at TH and soon after she was reunited with the biological family in the province.

In addition, the grant also supported 15 girls to live in one Group Home, which is similar to a small family arrangement of around 2-5 young people under the supervision of a case manager. The goal of a Group Home is for the girls to build relationships in the community, to transition living on their own, to develop living skills in a supportive environment, and to learn how to live safely in the community and adapt to adulthood. All the girls living in the Group Home are currently studying cooking, beauty, and sewing skills at Mith Samlanh's vocational training and receive the same services as all the other students in the center.

### **Objective 2. Marginalized girls are reintegrated into families, education, skills training and employment**

All (100%) of the girls who lived and continue living in TH have a case management opened, which allows the children to receive a personalized support and together with the social worker design a future plan. A big achievement for the project was the reintegration of **33 girls** into their families or alternative family-based care – 13 girls were placed in foster care and 18 girls in direct family. Mith Samlanh's reintegration team of case managers worked to trace their family members, assessing family environments and prepare for the girls' reintegration into a caring and stable family.

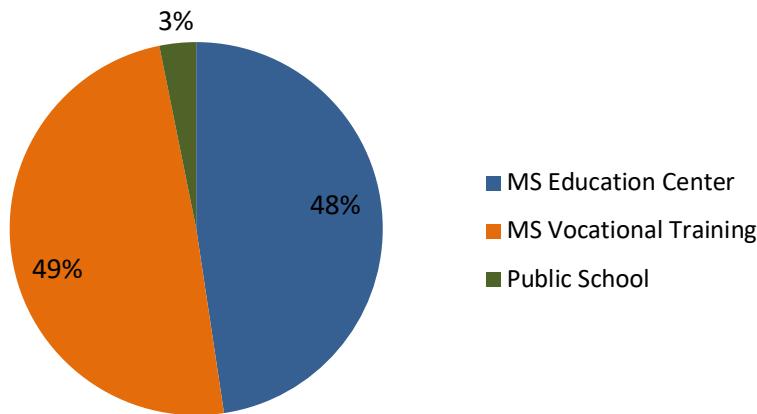
### **Girls Reunified/Placed in Family Based Care**



Among the 119 girls, **63** of them have also accessed or continue to access to education (for ages 6-14) and vocational training (for ages 15-25), at Mith Samlanh education and training center. Thirty young girls attended remedial classes at the Mith Samlanh Educational Center, 2 girls were supported to attend local public school, and 31 girls attended training workshops at the

Mith Samlanh vocational training center (cooking, beauty, hairdressing or tailoring). In addition, two girls after attending the vocational training were placed in a job. Some of the girls continue to attend the classes at Mith Samlanh.

## Girls Supported with Education



### 5. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refers to the original numbers in your grant proposal under number of women and girl directly impacted and population indirectly impacted.

- **Target – 120 girls directly impacted.** The project has supported 119 girls directly.
- **Target – 240 indirect beneficiaries.** Approximately 350 indirect beneficiaries benefited from the grant. The indirect beneficiaries are the caregivers of direct beneficiaries, who benefited from direct beneficiaries' education and skills training.

### 6. What challenges did you face in connection with this project? How did you address these challenges?

- As mentioned in the previous report, Mith Samlanh intended to open a new group; however, the team encountered challenges in finding suitable girls who are stable enough to live independently in group. This had an effect on reaching the target set up at the beginning of the project, reaching 15 girls out of 20 girls intended. According to Mith Samlanh's criteria, girls are eligible for Group Home if they are over 16 years old, are currently engaged in vocational training or education, are able to care for themselves and demonstrate the ability to live in a group. Priority is given to girls who are currently living in the TH. The project will continue to identify girls who are able to be part of the Group Home program.
- Mith Samlanh has experienced some barriers to inclusion of children with disabilities. From time to time, children with disabilities are referred to the TH, as there are very few organizations or government services supporting children with disabilities. It can be quite challenging to find long term suitable reintegration options for children with mental and physical disabilities. Children with special needs also take a lot of staff time and attention

leaving less time to work with the other children. During this project period, there was one girl with disability accommodated in TH, as well as a few male children. All of them were referred to partner NGOs which specializes in mental and physical disabilities and placed in families. Regular and specialized trainings are necessary for TH team to improve staff awareness on disability and ensuring a supportive environment for all children. This year, 3 TH staff attended the mental health counseling workshop, organized by UNICEF in order to learn how to provide consultation to girls with mental health problems and mental disabilities.

- The TH is located in a very quiet and remote neighborhood surrounded by nature on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Although this is a great location for the children and youth, there have been some problems with the amount of mosquitoes at night in the center, also due to the raining season. Extra mosquito nets and sprays have been purchased to protect the children from getting dengue fever or malaria.

## **7. Is your organization or project situation different than presented the approved proposal?**

As mentioned in the previous report, there had been some changes in the project as DFW was informed in November 2016. Mith Samlanh had faced some funding shortages in 2016 due to the end of support from its major donors. In order to save funds on operating costs, Mith Samlanh merged its two TH into one house. Mith Samlanh took the appropriate measures to maintain its high standard of care for the girls staying at the TH. Girls had separate living quarters, hygiene facilities and a common area of their own on the second floor of the building, separated from the boys' area at all times.

## **8. What were the most important lessons learned?**

- The Group Home program is great initiative for girls to transition to independent living. Mith Samlanh has a strong support from the local authorities for the implementation of the independent living program. From the staff perceptions and oral feedback from the students, living in group is a good way for the students to transition to adulthood and independent living. Some youth say that they create good relationships with their flat mates and neighbors and like to live in a group. Nonetheless, it's important that the selection of the girls is done in an accurate manner to minimize any problems and conflicts.
- Weekly meetings with children/youth at the Transitional Homes are a good initiative to improve children/youths' behavior. They seem to better respect the rules in THs, and the conflicts between children/youth have reduced. Weekly meetings are therefore important to address different issues occurring in TH, listen to children and youth requests and needs.
- Throughout the project, Mith Samlanh staff experienced the importance of close collaboration with local authorities, NGO partners and Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation in other provinces for reintegrating children and youth into their society. When reintegrating children into families, it's vital to work closely with Department of Social Affairs (DoSAVY), local authorities and other NGO partners in Phnom Penh and Provinces where children are reintegrated. The local authorities have an important role to follow up of

children reintegrated to make sure that the children are at safe and the families receive the necessary support.

## **9. What has changed within your organization as a result of this project?**

As stated above, the project's objective was to empower marginalized girls to secure their rights to family, education and employment through safe accommodation and access to education and vocational training. In order to ensure that this objective is achieved, this year a great focus was laid on improving the process of referrals of beneficiaries to the TH, as well as staff's capacity on case management and data recording. New improved referrals process was designed to ensure that everybody follows the same guidelines of referrals and the process is monitored. New data recording forms have been introduced in order to collect better and more accurate information about the beneficiaries' background situation and services received from Mith Samlanh. In addition, all staff from the TH have received refresh training on how to fill the case management forms, parenting skills and hygiene and nutrition training. Meetings have also been introduced with the girls from TH and Group Home to discuss challenges they face and to build trusting relationships between them.

## **10. Describe the unexpected events and outcomes, including unexpected benefits.**

One unexpected outcome appeared during the second half of the project period when the Phnom Penh Social Affairs Department (DoSAVY) referred 8 mothers with 9 children and 12 street working/living girls to Mith Samlanh. They were referred from the Phnom Penh Social Drop in Center (Prey Speu) and Oka Khniom. These two centers are notorious "detention" sites where the "undesirable" people such as drug-users, sex workers and street people and their children are routinely rounded up by the police and local authorities. As a result of this event, the reintegration team worked very hard to develop future plans for all the girls, caretakers and their children. The majority of the mothers were supported to return back to their provinces while others returned back to the streets. Concerning the girls, 3 of them were supported to stay in TH and access vocational training, 1 of them were supported to stay in TH and access remedial class at the Mith Samlanh education center, 1 girl was placed into a job and 1 was reintegrated back into family in the province. This was an unexpected event which required immediate action and collaboration with other Mith Samlanh teams, and local authorities. The outcomes were extremely positive taking into account the lack of time, resources and nature of this event.

## **11. Did you change your strategy as a result of obstacles you encountered? How will you address these challenges in the future?**

The overall strategy for the TH within this grant remained the same. However, some adjustments were made over the year. The biggest change was of course the arrangement of the 2 THs into one. This required a change in the strategy to ensure that the high quality of care continued and that any

child protection risk was mitigated. In addition, all the staff from the TH underwent a series of trainings to reinforce the quality of services.

Since barriers of inclusion for children with disabilities is a recurring problem, in 2018 Mith Samlanh's strategy is to adapt the TH and vocational training facilities to accommodate children with physical disabilities. Additionally, opportunities for developing new vocational trainings courses will be explored and focus will be given to improve the capacity and knowledge of staff on how to care for children with disabilities. For severe mental and physical disabilities Mith Samlanh will expand its partnerships to find long term placement around Cambodia.

**12. Approximately how many lives have been touched, both directly and indirectly, by the project?**

Through this project Mith Samlanh directly reached 119 girls and indirectly impacted more than 350 beneficiaries from Phnom Penh and other provinces in Cambodia.

**13. What are the measurements used to monitor success and how was this information measured (e.g., surveys, observation)? Be specific and include measurable results.**

To monitor the success of the project implementation, Mith Samlanh has a data management system to record both project activities and beneficiaries. A detailed monitoring plan was developed to track achievements in project activities. Performance against indicators were measured and reported upon internally on a regular basis to determine whether the project is on track to meet the objectives. Data is compiled into monthly reports where detailed information on each program activity is summarized, including number of beneficiaries, services provided. In addition, the program coordinator and reintegration program manager conduct regular visits in TH and Group Homes in order to observe the processes and activities implemented.

**14. If the project is ongoing, provide plans and expected results, including projected timeframe.**

Mith Samlanh will continue implementing this program with the current TH and one Group Home for girls. In the next year, Mith Samlanh looks to expand the Group Home project and potentially open a new group. We also plan to increase the focus on better data and monitoring system, and there are plans to start using a new digitalized case management system. We also intend to strengthen the capacity of our staff on how to care for children with disabilities and make our facilities more disability friendly. We hope to continue our partnership with DFW in some capacity and empower this generation of young girls to become productive citizens of their country.

**15. Provide a detailed list of all expenses incurred during the grant cycle which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.**

Financial Report is attached as a separate file.

**16. Did this grant and relationship with DFW assist your organization in obtaining other funding, partnerships with other organizations, or public recognition in some capacity?**

Yes, DFW provided support for the project at a crucial time of funding shortage when the future of the TH itself was threatened. Through its grant, DFW has ensured the TH, a flagship project of Mith Samlanh, survived and continues to play a large role in vocational training projects funded by donors such as the Fossil Foundation and family reintegration projects funded by donors such as UNICEF.

## **Annex 1. Case Stories**

### **Case Story: Keun Sreykhouch (21-year-old, Tboung Khmom Province)**

Both of my parents passed away from HIV when I was a child, so I became an orphan and I also have HIV which I received from them. After they passed away I was living with my god-parents until I was 8 years old and at that time our living standard was difficult.

The only breadwinner of the family was my god-father, who worked as a construction worker. But he could only earn 15000-20000 Riel (\$3.25-\$5.00) per day. I liked school and I went for a while but not very often because we couldn't afford it.

My god-father sent me to live with Arun Resh Organization, an orphanage, until I was 13 and ran away. I lived on the street for a while, but eventually returned to my god-parents and lived with them for a year. But I didn't get along with them and I left to live in Phnom Penh. There I got a job, but I soon fell sick, because I hadn't been taking my medicine.

That was when a lady I knew called a social worker from Mith Samlanh to come help. She consulted with me about my sickness and later sent me to a hospital, where I got medical treatment. After that Mith Samlanh helped to get train in sewing and while I stayed at the Group Home while I was studying.

If I hadn't met Mith Samlanh, my life wouldn't be like it is now because HIV is a disease which needs to be supported with a special treatment. Today I live independently, running my own tailoring shop in Phnom Penh.

### **Case Story: Ket Sreynuch (8 years-old, Phnom Penh)**

I lived in a difficult and poor family on the street. My parents didn't have specific job and I had never gone to school because I needed to follow my parents for plastic scavenging. Sometimes they had fights and hit each other, especially when they used drugs and weren't able to earn money.

Both my parents are the breadwinners of the family and made their income by scavenging. Because I was a little girl and couldn't earn money I looked after my youngest siblings at home. My parents were only able to make 1000 to 2000 riel (\$.25-.50) per day, so I wasn't able to go to school.

My parents became drug traffickers in a group to earn more money and one day they were caught by the police and put in jail. My sibling and I were the same as refugees with no family to support us.

At this time, I met Mith Samlanh's social workers and told them our situation. They let us stay in the TH and helped us to start school. Now I go to school every day and am waiting for my parents to get out of jail. If I hadn't met Mith Samlanh me and my siblings would still be on the streets and I don't know what would've happened.

## **Annex 2. Photos**

Top to Bottom: (1) Girls taking a break in the TH bedroom; (2) Play time at the TH; (3-6) Girls practicing during vocational training in beauty.





