ABOUT MITH SAMLANH

A program for street children, their families and communities.

Mith Samlanh means ‘Friends’ in Khmer. Mith Samlanh is a Cambodian non-governmental organization that runs programs for street children in Cambodia, working with up to 1600 children and youth every day. We are non-religious and non-political. Mith Samlanh’s aim is to reintegrate children and youth back into school, their families and communities so they become active and productive citizens of their country. Since 1994 Mith Samlanh has been working with children and youth to develop the best possible services to give them opportunities to go to school, learn a trade and move away from life on the streets. We help them to return to public school, recover from drug addiction, find employment, return to their families, become productive citizens of their country, to discover their own culture and to express themselves.

The Mith Samlanh center in Phnom Penh is the hub of all our activities. There we teach up to 550 young people in 11 vocational skills, including mechanics, beauty training, welding and sewing. The primary school educates around 450 children everyday and the medical center provides essential health care. There is also a huge recreational area for the students to play sport, learn Khmer dancing and music and create wonderful pieces of art.

As well as the activities in our center, Mith Samlanh also has teams working directly with youth and families on the streets of Phnom Penh. Staff on the streets support children affected by HIV, drug addiction, children forced to work and families who have lost their homes and have been forced to live on the streets.

Every Year, MITH SAMLANH HELPS:

Around **400 children** to be reintegrated into their families, over **75 young people** into independent living and **5 children** into Foster care with Cambodian families.

**300 children** to return to public school.

**Over 100 young people** to successfully go through a drug rehabilitation program.

**Over 800 children** to receive direct support from the ChildSafe Network.

Mith Samlanh’s businesses provide **44 per cent** of the organization’s funding for its projects. The goal is for Mith Samlanh to be financially independent by **20xx**.

**80 families** earn regular income from Mith Samlanh’s Home Based Production project, with **319 children benefiting directly** by being able to go to school instead of working to support their families.

Every day:

- **500 children and youth** living and working on the streets are given support by the Outreach team.
- **300 children and youth** are given a safe place to stay while the Mith Samlanh team tries to find more permanent accommodation for them with families.
- **700 children and youth** receives education at the Mith Samlanh center.
- **22 children and youth** are provided with treatment or harm reduction education from Mith Samlanh’s Drug team.

It’s our 15th Anniversary

We are celebrating our 15th anniversary with a series of events and activities throughout the year until August 2010. Visit www.mithsamlanh.org to find out more about our work and the highlights of our history. Become our partner so that together we can continue to build futures and protect Cambodia’s children.

Mith Samlanh is a Friends Program

Mith Samlanh was the first project established by Friends-International. In 1999, Mith Samlanh became a local Cambodian NGO, and is now run entirely by Cambodian staff. Friends-International continues to provide us with technical support and advice: www.friends-international.org
OUTREACH

The Mith Samlanh Outreach team has regular contact with 3,500 street children and youth in Phnom Penh each year.

Mith Samlanh’s Outreach Project has a team of 21 case managers, educators, doctors and drug harm reduction specialists. The outreach staff work directly on the streets to meet and build relationships with children, youth and their families living and working on the streets in 54 different locations around Phnom Penh. The outreach project helps children and youth living on the streets to live safely, while encouraging them to move away from street life.

The team builds confidence and trust with children, youth and their families to provide counseling, basic health care and non formal education (the mobile library and mobile school, sports and games). The team also shares information about life skills (HIV/AIDS, drugs, reproductive health, STDs, road safety, hygiene, child rights and safe migration). The team works both day and night and staff from the team are available 24 hours a day.

Boarding House (BH) / Drop-in Centre for Boys

The Boarding House is a Drop-in Center for boys between 14 and 24 years of age who work at night. It offers them a safe place to rest during the day, life skills education, counseling and case management support. For a small fee, they can have a place to sleep and receive meals. On average, 50 boys receive support in this center every day.

Friendship House

The Friendship House in central Phnom Penh was opened to provide young women under 24 years of age and boys under 14 years with a safe place to stay and receive meals during the day. Most of the youth hear about these services through street taxis and bus stations.

Last year, 596 young women and boys accessed life-skills education, counseling and case management support at the Friendship House. Hygiene

A STORY FROM OUTREACH

I am 18 years old and I live in Andoung Village, Korkraka commune, Dongkor District, Phnom Penh.

I have 7 brothers and 3 sisters. I'm the fourth child in my family. We used to lived in Boding Village but in June 2006, the government moved my family to Andoung village. After my father died, the situation of my family worsened and my mother decided to take my two brothers to live with a family in Kandal Province.

But my family life was still difficult and my mother decided to remarried to help relive the burden. However, my new stepfather was always drunk and hit my mother. She decided to move back to Phnom Penh with me, where we sold river clams to make money.

My mother missed my two brothers so much, she asked the family who were looking after my brothers to send them back, but we were told we had to pay $300 for one child or $600 for two children to reimburse the family for feeding them.

We had no idea where to earn this sort of money. We talked to our neighbour about it and a few days later someone asked me to work as a sex worker for a week. They said if I did that I would earn $500. While I was thinking about it, one of our neighbours spoke with Mith Samlanh staff because she was worried. The Mith Samlanh staff talked to me and explained the disadvantages of sex work. I realised that I didn't want to do it.

The Mith Samlanh team helped my family by providing them with food support and giving them a job with Home Based Production project. Mith Samlanh in collaboration with DSAVY and the local authorities in Kandal helped my brothers to come home without having to pay the family any money.

Today, I study cooking at the Mith Samlanh training center and my family is happy.
facilities, places to rest, health care facilities and snacks were also provided to them. An average of 21 girls and 13 younger boys receive care and support in the center every day. The teams identified young women ‘at risk’ through outreach activities on the street to protect them from being at risk of trafficking, sexual abuse or child exploitation and provided them with comprehensive information on how and where to access safe information such as hotlines, ChildSafe Network members and drop-in centers.

Each year, over 100 young people at risk are provided with different services including:

- Support to return to their families
- Referrals to Education Center or Vocational Training Center.
- Support to receive hospital treatment.
- Referrals to other NGOs for children and youth with specific needs.

**DRUGS**

The Mith Samlanh Drug program is one of the few holistic programs for drug using youth in the world. It provides drug using street children and youth high quality services to help them to recover from addictions and return to normal life. Mith Samlanh’s Drug project was the first established in Cambodia to respond to the growing need for drug programs for street youth.

This program responds to new trends in substance use among street children and youth through:

- **Prevention:** including street-based and community-based education, situation monitoring and collaborating with the Government to design policies for drug prevention.
- **Harm Reduction:** Young Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) are provided with information about harm reduction and offered harm reduction services.
- **Detoxification:** Young addicts are assisted with symptomatic detoxification at Mith Samlanh’s formal treatment center.
- **Rehabilitation:** A specific social rehabilitation program designed to return former drug users to their families, the public school system and into vocational training leading to job placement is provided. Services to prevent and respond to relapse are available.

**Drug Harm Reduction Outreach**

This team identifies and responds to the new trends in substance use among street children and youth, provides information about harm reduction and offers harm reduction services to them.

This drug outreach team working on the street and through the Mobil Drop in Center reaches out to nearly 1000 drug using youth including nearly 200 intravenous drug users, providing them with information about how to reduce their risk of harm.

In one year, through drug outreach and the mobile drop in center a total of:

- 57,660 needle/syringes
- 2,605 tying off
- 58,469 sterilized water
- 34,590 cotton pads with alcohol
- 4,976 Vaseline tubs
- 58,537 condoms
- 10,500 straws
- 6,600 shampoos
- 5,700 toothpastes and
- 5,700 toothbrushes were provided to drug users on the street.

A total of 1,212 disposal cans, containing 47,796 used needle / syringes were accepted from the clients, collected from the street, or incinerated at the hospitals.

**Relapse prevention/aftercare**

The team provides counselling sessions to prevent young people from relapsing and returning to drug use as well as conducts follow up visits to former drug users who have returned to their families and communities.

**A STORY FROM DRUG OUTREACH**

When I was about 15, my friends talked me into trying drugs. I didn’t know about drugs but they taught me to snort ketamine. I started to use drugs like yama, ice and ketamine regularly from then onwards. My parents heard about my drug use and were very angry. They wouldn’t let me come home one night so I decided to leave home and moved to Phnom Penh with my friends. We stayed in a slum and lived on the streets. We made money by scavenging or whatever else we could do for work. Living on the streets was difficult and I had to work very hard to get enough money for drugs and food. I was sometimes in dangerous situations. In the slum my friends and I met the staff from Mith Samlanh who came to help kids there and they treated me like their friends. With them I could talk and tell them my problems. They gave us life skills training and told us about how to use drugs safely so that we don’t get sick. The staff encouraged me to give up living on the streets and to stop using drugs. I decided to do that and change my life. I attended the detoxification/rehabilitation program for 2 months, which I successfully completed. I am now at Mith Samlanh’s training center, studying to be an electrician. Everything has changed for me now, I’m happy and hopeful about my future.
**A STORY FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER**

I am a 13 year old girl and I study at level 3 in Mith Samlanh’s Educational Center. My parents and I live near Stoeung Meanchey Bridge. There are ten members in my family. My father passed away one year ago. I live with my mother and my eight siblings. Before coming to Mith Samlanh to study, my life was difficult. I had never eaten a full meal like other children. I had just worked and worked to earn money.

One day when I was begging on the street it rained. I didn’t know where to go because I was frightened to go home because my mother told me that, “If you can’t earn money for me I will hit you till you die, don’t forget this”. Fortunately that night I met someone from Mith Samlanh. He asked about my story and explained to me about Mith Samlanh’s services and later came to visit my family. My younger sister and I decided to come to study at Mith Samlanh.

On my first day at Mith Samlanh, I was so glad because I could see more children the same as me. So now I can eat until I am full. I have clothes and have some friends. In the future I want to be a hairdresser because I can use my skill to earn money to support myself and my family.

Mith Samlanh also supported my mother to start a small business at home to produce some products to sell and now she can make enough money to support my entire family.

**TRANSITIONAL HOME**

The Transitional home provides former street children with a safe and home-like place to stay for the duration of their training and studies, while the Mith Samlanh team is preparing the reintegration of the child to their families or finds more permanent accommodation for them. On average, 300 children and young people stay at the Transitional Home in the evenings, during the weekends and holidays. During the day, they attend vocational training or schooling at Mith Samlanh, while a few study at partner organizations or at public schools.

There are four transitional homes, three for boys and one for girls and younger children. Each home can accommodate 60 to 80 children, cared for by house parents and social workers and supported by medical staff. Each home has a cook who prepares fresh meals every day.

On arrival all children are provided with basic supplies (shampoo, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste) and dormitory equipment (beds, mats, blankets, pillows, mosquito nets and lockers). The children are divided into different groups and are responsible for chores, homework, taking care of younger children, and organizing activities in and outside the Center. The children can participate in various activities and outings organized for them by the team.

Group meetings with the children are held every week in each house to allow the children to raise concerns regarding the residential services, allowing the team to address these issues immediately. The weekly food menu is chosen by the children in the meetings and is prepared fresh every day by the cook in each center. Special food is prepared for children with special needs (HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, etc.)

Medical services are available every day. Counseling and case management support is provided by the house parents and social workers to support children when they have problems in the house or in their classes.

**EDUCATION**

**Non Formal Education**

Non Formal Education allows children to participate in activities that help them to reconnect with their culture and their society such as dance, music, traditional crafts, traditional drawing and to develop and express themselves personally though sports and other art activities.

Mith Samlanh’s Non Formal Education program is designed to help street living children, street working children and very poor children who are unable to attend school to get an education. The objective is to eventually reintegrate these children into the public school system.

Some achievements:

- Each month, an average of 1132 children (641 girls) access non-formal education activities provided by Mith Samlanh (both in the centers and on the streets).
- Over 250 new students (104 girls) are enrolled in the Educational Center each year.
- An average 296 students (68 girls) receive literacy, numeracy, general knowledge and life skills education at the Training Center each month.
- Each academic year, Mith Samlanh supports over 1300 children (595 girls) to study at public schools both in Phnom Penh and other Provinces.
- Over 50 students (30 girls) receive non formal education each month at Mith Samlanh’s community centers.

**Vocational Training/Training Center**

The Training Center is a part of the Education Program at Mith Samlanh and provides vocational skills to former street youths from age 15 to 24 years. Former street youth are supported with realistic options to achieve gainful employment through vocational training.

Students can choose between 11 training options: cooking, welding, beauty, sewing, electricity, electronics, car mechanics, motorbike mechanics, men’s hairdressing, laundry, and agriculture. To increase their business knowledge, students also have the opportunity to study small business management as well as their chosen skill.

As part of their studies, students can also choose to take other subjects such as: Khmer literacy, English language, life skills, art, cultural activities and sport.

**Some Achievements:**

- There are an average of 320 students per month (75 female) studying at the Training Center.
- Nearly 200 students (40 girls) graduate from vocational training each year.
- Over 120 students (42 females) are placed into employment on average each year.

Mith Samlanh works with street children, their families and their community.
A STORY FROM THE TRAINING CENTER

I am 20 years old and I have 7 siblings (3 brothers and 4 sisters). My home town is in Preyveng Province. My family is poor. We only have a small bit of land for farming, so my family’s economic situation is not good enough to feed the family. So I decided to come to find a job in Phnom Penh in November, 2006. When I reached Phnom Penh, I worked as a porter at Phsa Deumkor, and then moved to work as a construction worker at Steung Meanchey. One month later, I got seriously sick and spent all my money on medicine. I met a Mith Samlanh staff member near my work place who told me about Mith Samlanh’s services. I decided to start studying car mechanics in February 2007. I studied hard and graduated on 9 May, 2008. My case manager helped me to find a job in a private garage in Phnom Penh.

A STORY FROM CLUB FRIENDS

I am 19 years old. I have 6 siblings. I am the sixth child in my family. My father died and my mother lives with my oldest sister in Thailand. I left home because of my poor family situation and the fact that I was unable to go to school. During that time (3 years), I lived on the street. I was a scavenger, shoe shiner and also sniffed glue with my friends. I would often have problems with Bong Thom (gang) who fought with us, threatened us and stole our money. Finally, I got information from some of my friends about Mith Samlanh. One day, I came to Mith Samlanh by myself. I decided I wanted to learn hairdressing. I’m happy because if I do well it will be easy for me to find a job.

In the class, all of my friends are interested in me and they guide me. We always go to Club Friends, it helps us relax and have fun. I like singing and sport activities such as karate. I even received the 2nd prize medal at a competition on May 25, 2008. I was very happy to get it. After graduating, I want to be a hairdresser in Phnom Penh. If I have enough money, I want to open my own shop.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Mith Samlanh provides children from the center and the streets with cultural and entertainment activities that allow them to express themselves and perform to the audiences through reading, team dances, singing, painting, theatre and sports.

Recreational activities are essential to a child’s physical, emotional and social development and can play an important role in social integration and familial reintegration. Recreational activities encourage team work and build trust and self-esteem by providing coping mechanisms and they encourage creative thinking and problem-solving strategies.

PREVENTION

The Prevention project is designed to protect children and youth from all kinds of abuse and to prevent them from coming to live and work on the streets. To do this the team provides life skills education and access to income generating activities for families.

Mith Samlanh’s prevention project works with 45 communities in Phnom Penh city. The prevention team is made up of Case Managers in communities, two Youth Centers, a Mobile Youth Center (Wise Bird), a Day Care Center and also the income generating Home Based Production project.

Case Managers are social workers and provide a range of services to children and families in vulnerable communities. They support vulnerable families and children by providing non-formal education, life skills education, prevention of substance use, counselling and emotional support. They also provided food and milk support, access to medical services and referrals to other services. The Home Based Production project helps parents to increase their income so their children can go to school instead of having to work on the streets.
Home Based Production project:
The project has expanded successfully and now has 80 participants in Phnom Penh and Kompong Cham. Families of vulnerable children are provided with training and materials so that they can produce bags and accessories that are sold through Mith Samlanh and Friends-International shops. The income they make allows them to support their families and their children can go to school instead of having to work.

Products are sold at the Mith Samlanh shops, including Friends’n Stuff and Toot Toot as well as being exported through Friends-International to Europe, Australia, the USA and Canada. 71 per cent of the income is paid directly to the producers and the rest of the profits are used for a health insurance fund for the families and are reinvested into other Mith Samlanh projects. Participants in Phnom Penh receive an average of $130 each month and in Kompong Cham they make about $64 a month.

A STORY FROM PREVENTION
I am 18 years old. I have eight siblings and I am the oldest girl. My family moved from Svay Pak to live at Anh Chanhm community. My family is very poor; my father is labourer and my mother stays at home because she is often sick. We were living in difficult conditions, so I decided to stop my study at level 3 and find a job cutting fish to support my family. As that did not improve much for my family, I wanted to change my work but I have no skills which made me very sad and I did not know how to obtain skills and how to change my job. One day when I was walking on the street I saw a bus with a nice picture, and I wondered what that was. It turned out to be the mobile youth center “Wise Bird” of Mith Samlanh.

I met with Mith Samlanh staff; they explained their work to me and gave me a lot of information especially about vocational training with Mith Samlanh. I asked them if I could learn sewing skills and so the Mith Samlanh staff went to meet my parents to discuss my study with them. A few days ago, I started the sewing course, so now I go to study and come back home in the evening with a bus that comes to pick up the children/youth at Ang Dong and Ang Chan communities every day. Now I am very happy and I hope that when my study is finished, I can get a good job and help my family better.

THE CHILDSAFE NETWORK
The ChildSafe Network involves key members of society in actively protecting children and youth from all forms of abuse, by training them to recognize and respond to dangerous situations. Mith Samlanh implements the ChildSafe Network in Phnom Penh and trains strategic community people such as tuk-tuk drivers, moto-taxi drivers, internet cafes, hotels and guest houses as well as family members, chiefs of villages, police, etc.

In addition, the organization supports the international Child Safe campaign, that encourages businesses, communities and travelers to look at how their behaviour can impact children and to help create supportive environments where children are protected. People and organizations currently involved in the ChildSafe Network include airports, banks, tour guides, travel agencies, and travelers.

BUSINESSES
In order to increase Mith Samlanh’s sustainability and to provide former street youth more opportunities for their futures, Mith Samlanh runs a range of income generating activities. They include: training businesses where students from the Vocational Training Center gain experience in a real business environment; social businesses where parents are provided with income generation support so that they can send their children to school rather than to work in the streets. These activities are also income generation ventures with profits used to fund other projects and contribute to the purchase of Mith Samlanh’s main center.

Mith Samlanh is able to fund 44 per cent of its own financial needs directly from the income from these business ventures.

A STORY FROM THE CHILDSAFE NETWORK
I am 14 years old. After my parents were divorced, I was sent to live with my grandparents who were farmers. My grandparents always forced me to work hard and they didn’t send me to school.

One day I was sick and I could not work so my grandparents beat me and kicked me out of their home. In the early morning, I left on my bicycle and went to Phnom Penh even though I didn’t know anyone there. At about nine o’clock at night I went to a pagoda to sleep and then continued to Phnom Penh.

When I arrived in Phnom Penh, I met a gang who were trying to make me give them my bicycle, but fortunately a Motodop and Tuk Tuk driver helped me to escape from them. I was in front of the Royal Palace and I met Mith Samlanh’s child rights staff who told me about the difficulties of living on the street and he also told me about Mith Samlanh and what they do there. I decided to go and study with them.
TOOT TOOT

Toot Toot, in the Russian Market, which sells products made by parents in the Home Based Production project, so that their children can go to school instead of working on the streets.

FRIENDS ‘N’ STUFF

Friends ‘n’ Stuff – located next to Friends the Restaurant, sells second hand clothes and books, products made by parents in the Home Based production program and by former street youth in training. Beauty students also run the Nail Bar in this shop, providing manicures, pedicures and nail art.

FRIENDS@240

Friends@240 - a clothing store providing training to students in the sewing class at Mith Samlanh.

COOKBOOK

The cookbook ‘Best of Friends’ sold in Mith Samlanh’s restaurants and shops also generates income for the organization.

FINANCE

Mith Samlanh aims to be financially self-sustainable by running its vocational training programs as real businesses. This gives the students the opportunity to gain hands on practical skills and also helps Mith Samlanh to fund its own activities. Proceeds from these businesses are reinvested back into Mith Samlanh’s training programs, allowing more students and families to take part in these programs and improve their futures.

Mith Samlanh is now achieving a 46% rate of self-sustainability. (calculated by taking the business income figure as a percentage of total expenses).

Mith Samlanh’s current most urgent financial need is repaying its loan to buy the Mith Samlanh Centre. The current mortgage balance owing amounts to $1,135,000. While the purchase of this center is crucial for the long term sustainability of Mith Samlanh and its ability to provide services to children and youth, all Mith Samlanh’s surplus funds are being exhausted by this mortgage, leaving little flexibility for other needs.

Mith Samlanh strives to keep it’s administrative costs to a minimum, while not compromising it’s effect. Currently, administrative costs are 5% of total expenses. Annually, Mith Samlanh has an annual financial audit conducted by internationally recognised and independent auditors. Audited financial statements are available upon request by emailing info@mithsamlanh.org

OUR DONORS

Please support our “Friends. Building. Futures.” appeal to help Mith Samlanh to secure the Mith Samlanh Center in Phnom Penh.

Our Mith Samlanh Center is situated in the heart of Phnom Penh:

- It has access to 1800 street children everyday
- It is the base for all our outreach programs and services, reaching to 20,000 children living and working in the streets of Phnom Penh
- It provides a complete range of essential support services including: hygiene, health care, vocational training, primary education, counseling, food, emotional support and cultural activities

In 2006 Mith Samlanh was informed that the land owners had decided to sell the premises used by Mith Samlanh for its main center of operations. After much careful consideration and assessment of all our options including a spiraling property market, Mith Samlanh decided to buy the property. This option would ensure that Mith Samlanh would remain in the heart of Phnom Penh, in a location near the children we serve. Fortunately, we were able to secure financing for the purchase and have met all repayment deadlines with much help from our donors and sponsors. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to make these payments of loan principle and interest and, at the same time, to meet growing demands for service from the children we serve.

It is vital that Mith Samlanh continues its work to help the ongoing development of the children of Cambodia.

Please donate to our Mith Samlanh Center Campaign to secure our site and the work we are committed to in Phnom Penh.

Donations can be made directly using:

1) our project bank account
2) country office bank accounts using the keyword: Mith Samlanh Futures
3) our on-line donation account

Please instruct your bank to use the following payment routing method:

We advise that you incorporate these payment instructions on your invoice or provide an extract of this advice to the remitter.

United States Intermediary Bank (IBK):
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., New York
Fedwire Number: 021000021
SWIFT: CHASUS33

Beneficiary's Bank (BBK):
ANZ ROYAL BANK OF CAMBODIA LIMITED
Swift Code: ANZBKHPP
Beneficiary (BNF):
Account Number: 282314
Name: Mith Samlanh Futures

If you wish to support us, we welcome donations by cash or cheque (made payable to Mith Samlanh), or made directly to our bank account:

Bank: ANZ Royal Bank
Acct name: OPERATION ACCOUNT
Acct number: 389084

Bank: Foreign Trade Bank of Cambodia (FTB)
Acct name: Mith Samlanh
Acct number: 39-400-808

For donations to Mith Samlanh please refer to www.mithsamlanh.org for details. We also welcome donations of unwanted/commodities such as clothes, shoes, electrical goods, books, and anything else you no longer need for the children at the training center and the transitional home.

Thank you for your support.