

**FIRST STEP CAMBODIA**

*Every child is free from abuse*

**2021**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



# A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



*Dear Family,  
Dear Partners,*



2021 has been a year full of change in many aspects. We have now new projects and new partners !

I am extremely proud of every member of our organization who put effort and determination to achieve our objectives despite the uncertainties and challenges.

In 2021, First Step Cambodia managed to significantly contribute to a stronger child protection system in Cambodia. We supported children and families affected by sexual abuse and sexual harmful behaviors, prevented sexual abuse in rural communities, built the capacities of the national social workforce for improved social work practices, and advocated for gender-inclusive services for survivors of sexual abuse at the national and regional level.

In addition, we designed a new strategic plan for the next three years, with updated vision and mission statements.

2022 looks very promising for First Step Cambodia. With new partners, we have started projects with the ambition to continue to protect children from violence, abuse, and neglect and ensure that local and inclusive mechanisms are in place to protect children in our areas of intervention.

I want to thank all of you for your contribution to achieve the vision we share: in Cambodia and everywhere, every child should be free from abuse.

*Warm regards,*

**YAIM CHAMREUN**

Organizational update-

# NEW STRATEGY PLAN

## NEW VISION

*Every child is free from abuse*

## NEW MISSION

FSC works in partnership towards strong child protection mechanisms, empowering children to be free from sexual abuse and living in safe and nurturing families. We advocate for and engage with boys to address harmful social norms and gender issues affecting boys.



# SINCE 2015 ...

**117** CHILDREN SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR AFFECTED BY SHB SUPPORTED EVERY YEAR

**98** FAMILY-MEMBERS OR CAREGIVERS SUPPORTED EVERY YEAR



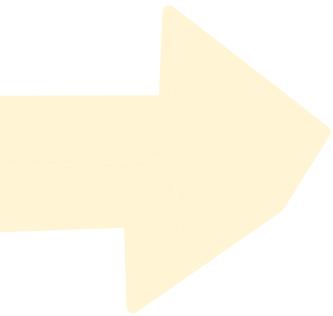
**6886** RIGHT-HOLDERS AND DUTY-BEARERS DIRECTLY REACHED THROUGH OUR PREVENTION WORKSHOP

**348** WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

**1077** DUTY BEARERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS BENEFITED FROM HIGHLY SPECIALIZED CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING COURSES

**66** TRAINING COURSES DELIVERED





# IN 2021, FSC



provided holistic support including but not limited to therapeutic services and financial assistance to **270** children and families affected by sexual abuse and sexual harmful behaviors



through **52** prevention workshops reached out a total of **1191** participants. **88%** of them significantly increased their knowledge and capacity to identify and protect themselves from sexual abuse



through specialized training courses built the capacities of **286** members of the social workforce to better protect children from abuse and exploitation. **90%** of them significantly increased their understanding of child protection issues and reported that this would positively affect their social work practices.



distributed a total of **3752** highly specific informative and educational materials, including posters and leaflets on sexual abuse and sexual harmful behaviors to key stakeholders: children, schoolteachers, community members, and local authorities.



co-wrote a research that will be published during the first semester of 2022 *Bridging the gap: laws and practices in child protection with a focus on sexual violence against boys*”.



# DIRECT SUPPORT



## Supporting survivors of sexual abuse and children displaying sexual harmful behaviors

In 2021, FSC social workers in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap supported 137 children affected by sexual abuse and sexual harmful behaviors. A total of 31 children, exclusively boys, displayed sexual harmful behaviors. The rest of the children were 106 survivors of sexual abuse with among them 34% boys. To support these children and empower the families we have also worked with 133 families and supporters.

In 2021, 93% of the children and 95% of the family members and caregivers we supported reported the support provided responded to their needs.



## Responding to families' struggles in times of pandemic

A vast majority of the families we work with face poverty issues that in some cases have been exacerbated by the pandemic. As a response, FSC has provided a specific cash assistance to 50 families and helped many others to access safe shelter, increase their level of food security. 25% of the families receiving the cash assistance started a new income-generating activity with the hope to generate income on the long run.

FSC's social workers were able to respond to the specific needs of the families and 100% of the families were able to cover the basic needs of their children in 2021.



# PREVENTION WORKSHOPS

*Workshops for right-holders and duty bearers to prevent sexual abuse to happen*

In 2021, through 15 film workshops and 33 poster workshops that focus is on sexual abuse and boys' specific vulnerabilities, we respectively reached out to 530 adults and 621 children.

In addition, we delivered workshops to support community members in their local effort to protect children; a total of 4 workshops took place, gathering 40 participants, 66% of them being women. FSC also organized a workshop with our close partners to discuss how to improve disability mainstreaming in the field of child protection.



*5 partnerships with public-government schools in the province of Siem Reap*

**"I LEARNED THAT SEXUAL ABUSE IS SERIOUS, CHILDREN NEED SUPPORT OR THEY WILL SUFFER FOREVER "**

**"I LEARNED THAT SEXUAL ABUSE IS NOT ONLY RAPE AND THAT IT CAN ALSO HAPPEN TO BOYS"**

*Schools are becoming our privileged partner for preventing sexual abuse*

In 2021, we have delivered 5 workshops directly in schools and involving schoolteachers. In addition, updated and sensitive informative and educational materials, including informative posters on sexual abuse and leaflets on sexual harmful behaviors, have been distributed.



# BUILDING CAPACITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO A STRONGER CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

## Delivering highly specialized training courses

In 2021, we delivered **7 training courses and training need assessments to 138 members** of the social workforce, including local authorities and NGO's partners' staff. As a result, **90 %** of the participants increased their knowledge and were confident they would improve their practices in regards to what they learned in the training course. The training courses we delivered this year were:

- Social work case management practice
- How to support families affected by psychosocial issues?
- How to support people with alcohol issues?

These training courses were delivered online, and participants were committed to share their knowledge within their organization. FSC, as a member of the National Institute of Social Affairs, has a long-term goal to transfer some of these specific training courses to the NISA, contributing directly to the strengthening of the national social work curriculum.



## Building the capacities of specific organization on child protection

In 2021, we delivered **training courses to 4 distinct organizations, reaching out to 148 participants** (64% of women). 90% of the participants increased their knowledge on child protection issues. The participants learned on the following topics:

- Child Rights and Child Protection
- Child Development
- Signs, causes, and effects of Sexual Abuse
- Grooming Technique, Consent, and Power
- Child Sexual Development
- Competency of Helpers, Skills for counseling, Listening with empathy
- Reporting Mechanism and Initial Response for children sexually abused

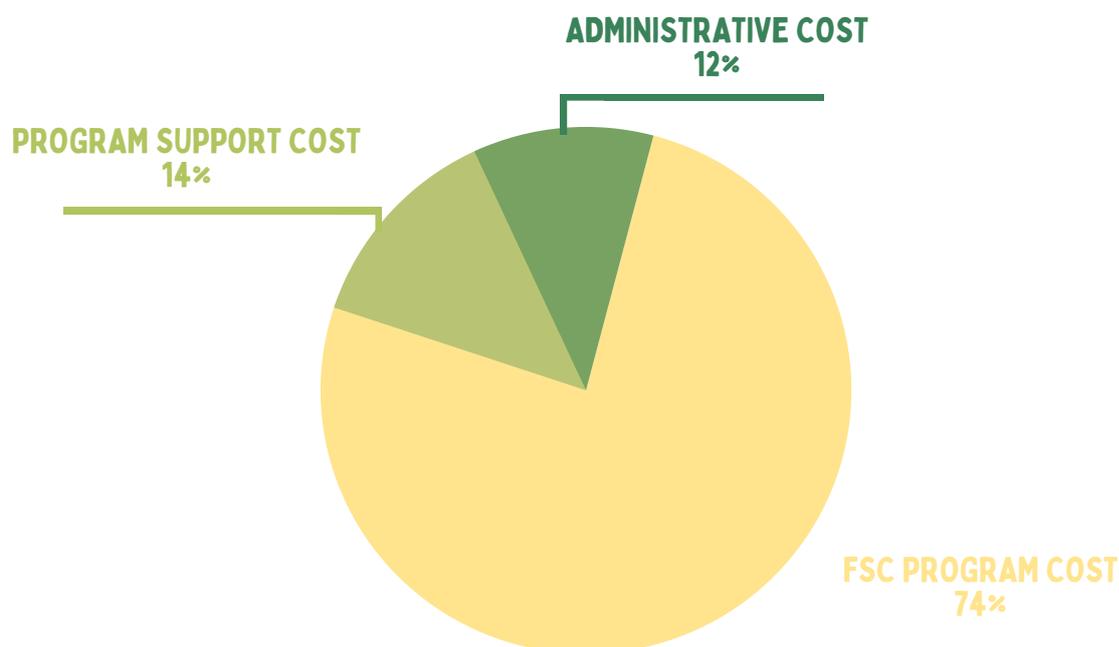
In addition to the training courses, we provided these organizations specific recommendations and steps to follow to enhance the protection of children in their practices and policies within their organizations. By improving their practices, these organizations will represent a model for other CSO's, strengthening the child protection system and creating safe environments for children.



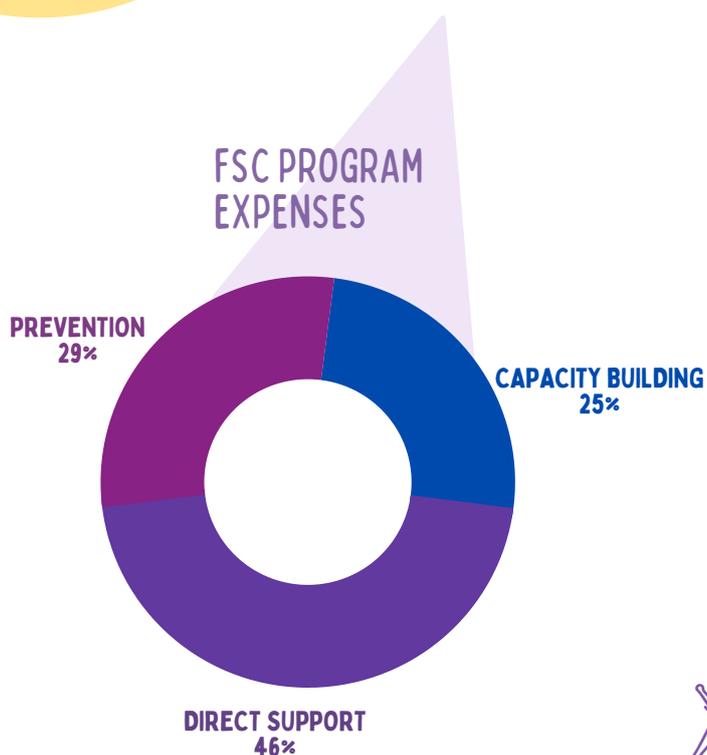
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2021, First Step Cambodia was able to provide its wide range of services on a budget of 338 632 USD. Our organization receives a yearly external audit to ensure transparency and high standards financial procedure. Beside we receive programmatic audits and visits from our funding partners.

## EXPENSES OVERVIEW 2021



**TOTAL EXPENSES:**  
**338 632 USD**



In 2021, 96% of our funds came from grants provided by our multi-year partners. The remaining funds came from income generation (3%) and individual donations (1%).



# UPDATES ON PARTNERSHIPS

## New partners and new projects

In 2021, FSC established 2 new partnerships. Firstly, with **PLAN INTERNATIONAL** to support the implementation of our new project “Child protection and social change” in the province of Siem Reap. We have also been selected to pilot a project by the **CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION** in cooperation with a local partner, *A Place to be Yourself* working to support individuals who identify with LGBTIQ+ groups in Siem Reap province. The project “Enhancing LGBTIQ+ inclusion in child protection services” will encompass direct support, capacity building, and advocacy activities.



## We are grateful to all our partners

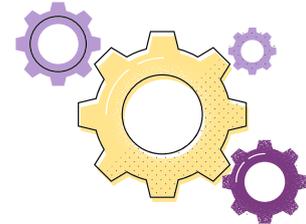
In 2022, two of our funding partners will not be able to support First Step Cambodia. USAID has decided to prioritize other projects following a transparent and consultative process managed by Family Care First, to which FSC has highly contributed. FELM, one of our historical partners who work in stretch collaboration with the Lutheran church, has updated its strategy and give priority to faith-based actors and climate change related projects for 2022. However, this is not the end of the collaboration, and FSC will continue to work closely with these two partners.



# 2022 - THE WAY FORWARD

## Improving our organizational capacities

In a changing environment FSC is continuously building on the skills of our social workers and trainers around sexual abuse and child protection. In 2022 together with specialist agencies working to support children affected by sexual abuse and with the support of 3PC, we will deliver a comprehensive training course on sexual abuse that could in the future be provided to a large number of professional involved in the field of child protection. This opportunity will allow our trainers to build their skills on new aspects linked to child sexual abuse so they can for instance respond to online forms of abuse and support access to legal aid for survivors of sexual abuse.



*Cash voucher assistance and CP*  
*Online sexual abuse*  
*Legal aid & access for survivors of SA*  
*Mainstreaming disabilities in CP*

## Research & Finding dissemination



Presentation of the research *Caring for Boys in Quebec* at an international congress "*Caring communities to enhance child and family well-being*" March 2022



*"Bridging the gap – Laws and practices in child protection with a focus on sexual violence against boys"* March 2022



*Exploration of sexual harmful behaviors prevalence and realities in Cambodia* - New research project in 2022





ស្រួចស្រួល

Happy New Year

2022

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**Family**  
for every child



**HEINRICH  
BÖLL  
STIFTUNG**



**Save the Children**



អរគុណច្រើន

**MANY  
THANKS**



ជំហានដំបូងកម្ពុជា  
**FIRST STEP CAMBODIA**