



Cambodia's Statement

Cambodia became a pathfinding country in October of 2019. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation of the Kingdom of Cambodia has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Strengthen laws, policies and regulatory framework and ban all forms of violence against children.
2. Strengthen child protection data and monitoring.
3. Strengthen evidence-based strategies; Support Parents and caregivers to keep children safe as well as Make schools safe, non-violent and inclusive.
4. Make the internet safe for children.





Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans
and Youth Rehabilitation
No. 010 MOSVY

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

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**Cambodia's Statement of Commitment
To the
2021 End Violence against Children (EVAC) Solutions Summit**

Protecting children and adolescents from violence is critical for their long-term well-being and development, but also for the future of the nation.

Violence against children is avoidable. We have the evidence and the tools to prevent it, and we are strengthening political, legal and juvenile justice system to increase protection.

We will honor our existing commitments and continue accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, in particular 16.2 to end violence against children by 2030. To achieve this goal, we will:

1. Ban all forms of violence against children

The Royal Government of Cambodia has intensified its efforts in law, policies, and regulatory frameworks to address all forms of violence against children.

The National Child Protection System Policy 2019-2029 represent the government's commitment to further strengthen the national child protection system. These existing policies and legal frameworks support systemic prevention of all forms of violence, while responding to any children who have been victimized through abuse, exploitation and any form of violence. The draft Child Protection Law and Child Protection Standard Operating Procedure outline clear roles and responsibilities and list institutions that facilitate child protection cases, with explicit provisions for enforcement.

In response to COVID-19, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) has revised and sped up implementation of the Child Protection in Emergency Contingency Plan. New guidelines have been issued to protect children in residential care and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization, digital case management (Primer) has been introduced and remote referral and support via helplines have been strengthened ensuring continuity of services despite COVID-19 limitations.

2. Strengthen Child Protection Data and Monitoring

To improve the quality and availability of data related to VAC, the Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS) was launched by MoSVY in June 2021, with a publicly available dashboard. This dashboard enables transparent tracking of Cambodia's progress in preventing and responding to child protection issues, and provides invaluable data to guide policy and action.

Additionally, Child Discipline questions have been integrated in the Household Questionnaires for Demographic and Health Survey in 2021, to be completed by end 2022. This survey will help the government track of types of Child Discipline found, and act on any Child Protection issues.



3. Enable parents and caregivers to keep children safe

In early 2020, MoSVY launched Cambodia PROTECT, a C4D communication campaign to end violence against children and prevent unnecessary family separation, using social media and mass media with national coverage. While the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the community-based campaign, supportive messages to children, adolescents, and parent/caregivers during the pandemic have been successful.

The Positive Parenting programme of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), which supports parents developing safe, stable and nurturing environments for their children was scaled up to ten provinces which supported by UNICEF, Save the Children and ChildFund Cambodia. Costing of Positive Parenting is underway and will help the MoWA to advocate for more budget to scale further.

4. Make the internet safe for children

Children are online more than ever. Cambodia will ensure they are protected from harm, while enjoying the internet's benefits.

In July 2021, a five-year Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Child Online Sexual Exploitation (2021-2025) was launched by the Cambodian National Council for Children with strong support from the government, development partners and NGOs for its implementation. To ensure internet service providers are actively protecting children online, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications developed guidance for them to protect children online during COVID-19. Additionally, Cambodia is one among 11 countries, globally, to support the Disrupting Harm Study, currently being finalized.

5. Make schools safe, non-violent, and inclusive

In July 2019, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) endorsed Safe to Learn and committed to implementing the Child Protection Policy in School Action Plan (2019-2023), reviewing the Policy on Child Friendly Schools, and revising curriculum for primary school teachers to include positive discipline and basic contents on gender and violence.

In August 2020, the MoEYS issued a Standard Operating Procedure for safe school reopening to provide guidance to schools on how to reengage in in-person learning, while keeping school personnel, teachers, and students safe in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. Early in the 2020-2021 academic year, MoEYS launched a nationwide "back to school" campaign to encourage a return to classrooms while preventing COVID-19. The campaign uses videos, posters, and images to promote safe and healthy practices among children, families and teachers. Support hotlines provide mental health and psychosocial support services.

On behalf of Minister
Secretary of State



MEN SOCHETH

