IMPACT REPORT 2023

CAMBODIA

The Kingdom of Cambodia (Cambodia) sits in the heart of Southeast Asia, bordered by Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and the Gulf of Thailand. Despite its beauty and historical significance, Cambodia has faced challenges impacting its development, including decades of war and political instability. Today, Cambodia is on a path of recovery and growth, focusing on strengthening its economy, which relies heavily on agriculture, textiles and tourism, while navigating the complexities of preserving its cultural heritage and natural environment amidst modernisation and globalisation. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF),[1] 'The Cambodian economy continues to recover from the pandemic with growth projected at 5.3 per cent in 2023'.[2]



Cambodia has ambitious development goals to transform into an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and achieve high-income status by 2050. Combatting human trafficking is crucial for Cambodia's sustainable development as it intertwines with fundamental aspects such as human rights protection, economic growth, social cohesion, public health, international reputation, and legal and governance strengthening. Addressing trafficking underpins protecting and promoting human rights, ensuring all citizens' dignity, freedom, and security while fostering a conducive environment for inclusive economic development by stabilising labour markets and enhancing workforce productivity.

In 2023, Cambodia continued to face significant challenges in addressing human trafficking, falling short of meeting the minimum standards required for the elimination of trafficking and consequently remaining in Tier 3, according to the United States (U.S.) Trafficking in Persons Report.[3] Cambodia has remained a source, transit and destination country for all forms of human trafficking, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced begging, forced marriage and domestic servitude, both domestically and abroad, with all of Cambodia's 25 provinces being sources of human trafficking.[4]

Despite the challenges faced by the Cambodian government in combating human trafficking, A21 Cambodia (A21) has emerged as a crucial ally, exemplifying resilience and strategic partnership. A21 has maintained partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) agreements with key government ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA), the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY) and the National Committee For Counter Trafficking (NCCT), as well as collaborations with other government bodies, law enforcement and non-government organisations (NGOs). These partnerships have been pivotal in enhancing prevention strategies, raising public awareness, training frontline professionals, implementing intervention strategies, and streamlining victim identification processes to ensure that victims receive the necessary aftercare and legal support.

PREVENTION & AWARENESS

In line with Cambodia's Five-Year National Strategic Plan for Counter-Trafficking in Persons 2019-2023,[5] A21 focused on prevention and awareness as crucial components of its strategy, reaching 129,890 people through events, resources, and campaign materials. A21's initiatives are aimed at high-risk groups, including communities with low socio-economic status, schools in both rural and urban areas, and the wider population. In 2023, A21 engaged 32,447 people, including 20,533 minors and 11,914 adults, through its prevention programs, encompassing presentations, events and various resources. A21, in collaboration with the government and other NGOs, distributed approximately 12,000 child-centric comic books to educate children and students in schools, communities and churches. The topics in these comics included essential subjects like online safety, steps for personal protection, the dangers of forced begging and sexual exploitation, and the risks associated with forced labour.



As a part of A21's broader strategy, this endeavour includes resources such as digital safety comic books for children, narrative story books on safety, guides for educators focusing on safe employment practices, digital safety, cultivating safe relationships and resources for parents on safeguarding children and teenagers. Nationwide, A21 distributed 23,111 prevention and awareness materials. This includes the comic books mentioned earlier, trafficking indicator sheets, *Can You See Me? (CYSM?)*[6] campaign leaflets, soap bars with prevention messages, cards with the national trafficking hotline number and safety guides.

A21 has also taken its preventative strategies online, using Serious Digital Games to reach students in a new way. A21, in collaboration with the University of Kent, ECPAT International and Playerthree Games, created and launched the End Violence Against Children (EVAC) interactive computer game *'May and Bay'* as a pilot program in 2022 to combat the rising challenges of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) and the online recruitment of children. The game uses age-appropriate content in various modules focused on risks of online exploitation and trafficking within a Southeast Asian context. By 2023, A21 expanded its reach, successfully engaging 484 minors in Cambodia through this interactive computer game, predominantly in the country's rural areas. Additionally, A21 used this initiative to train 12 NGO partners working in vulnerable communities and the education sector as trainers of the EVAC game. The training empowers partners with the tools and knowledge to further disseminate critical awareness and prevention strategies against online threats to children using the EVAC game. These trainers are crucial in reaching children outside of A21 Cambodia's targeted areas as they continue facilitating the game.

A21's awareness campaigns and related resources engaged 96,821 adults throughout the year and 211,252 individuals through social media. It is further estimated that an additional 2 million people were reached through domestic TV channels in Cambodia, social media influencers' reaction videos, and Cambodia Government Broadcasting Channels in December 2023 due to the launch of A21's *CYSM?* campaign feature films.

A21 conducted 145 events and training workshops focused on prevention and awareness, engaging 202 professionals from government, NGOs, and the education sector who work closely with children and youth through 'Train the Trainer' initiatives. These sessions covered various topics, including human trafficking, child online safety, safe migration and child safeguarding, along with facilitating A21's specialised programs like the Primary Prevention Program (PPP), the EVAC game, and the *CYSM?* campaign. The Train the Trainer programs are designed not only to equip attendees with essential knowledge and skills to combat exploitation and human trafficking but also to empower them to implement these programs within their own communities confidently. The workshops aim to empower professionals, enabling them to spread prevention and awareness effectively.

'The training on human trafficking and the collaboration with A21 Cambodia transformed our school. The teachers gained a deeper understanding of the child protection network and shared their knowledge with their students. The students became more aware and vigilant of the dangers of human trafficking. They learned how to protect themselves from abuse, even in their own homes. They developed the courage to speak up and seek help from the school teachers. My school was empowered and equipped to prevent and combat human trafficking.'

—Statement From a School Principal

CAN YOU SEE ME? PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN CAMBODIA



A21 first launched its global *'Can You See Me?'* public awareness campaign in the UK in 2016. Understanding that awareness of human trafficking leads to increased interventions and recoveries of victims, the *CSYM?* campaign seeks to educate the general public to recognise human trafficking and empower them to take appropriate action. The campaign understands that while human trafficking occurs everywhere, it can vary in its presentation by country and region. Therefore, the scenarios presented in the *CYSM?* campaign have been contextualised to accurately represent the current human trafficking and exploitation trends in that region. Over the past seven years, A21's *CYSM?* campaign has produced educational films spanning five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America). The campaign successfully brings together relevant

regional stakeholders to work collaboratively to counter human trafficking. To date, this campaign has had a huge global reach with over 6.7 billion impressions worldwide, resulting in increased calls for assistance and the safe recovery of victims.

In 2023, A21, in collaboration with the NCCT, officially launched the *CYSM?* campaign in Cambodia in response to the increase in trafficking resulting from recruitment for false jobs, promises of marriage abroad, and OCSE, including online sextortion. Through this partnership, A21 and the NCCT, with permission, have brought real stories of survivors who have faced unimaginable challenges to life in two influential films, highlighting these trafficking and exploitation trends and promoting prevention and awareness tools for people to identify and report these crimes. The campaign premiered on December 7, 2023, with key partners from diverse national government departments, local law enforcement, and NGOs. An official launch occurred on December 12, 2023, National Human Trafficking Day, with 3,500 participants joining an event led by His Excellency Sar Sokha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Ministry of the Interior.

The first *CYSM?* film shares the narratives of young Cambodian women trafficked abroad for forced marriages. Through their stories, A21 aims to expose the reality of human trafficking and the deception surrounding forced marriage. The second film is focused on the disturbing and lonely world of sextortion, a crime that often targets vulnerable children and youth in the digital age. This film seeks to show the complexities of this modern-day threat, emphasising the importance of digital safety as traffickers leverage digital platforms to manipulate, deceive and compromise the well-being of unsuspecting victims. Both films strive to educate the general public to prevent these specific types of exploitation and facilitate reporting these crimes.

Within weeks of the new *CYSM?* film launch featuring the sextortion scenario, a teen victim bravely self-identified and reported her situation to the police. The swift response from this young survivor underscores the importance of shedding light on the dark corners of sextortion, fostering an atmosphere of empathy, and inspiring others to break their silence.

The *CYSM?* campaign is streaming on national TV channels, including PNN, CTN, and MyTV, across all 25 provinces in Cambodia and will continue to be distributed nationwide via in-person events and media throughout 2024.

WALK FOR FREEDOM

In collaboration with the National and Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking, A21 hosted its annual global awareness event, Walk For Freedom (WFF),[7] in Siem Reap City and Pouk District. Pouk District, a rural community addressing the challenges of poverty and limited educational opportunities, is vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Siem Reap, in contrast, is renowned for its vibrant tourism sector that contributes to economic development, but also leads to more significant risks of exploitation and trafficking for the local population. Over 1,000 individuals, including government officials, law enforcement, military police, local authorities, educators, students, NGO representatives, social media influencers and the general public collectively participated in WFF. Together, they embarked on a walk to amplify the message against trafficking, armed with banners displaying anti-trafficking messages and hotline information, thereby reinforcing their commitment to combatting human trafficking. WFF is not only an awareness campaign; it symbolises unity and solidarity, delivering a powerful message against human trafficking.



A21 TUK TUK CAMPAIGN RESULTS IN RECOVERY OF A CHILD-VICTIM

In 2021, A21 initiated the Tuk-Tuk Campaign in collaboration with the Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking, aiming to elevate awareness about human trafficking and to promote the anti-human trafficking hotline. This innovative campaign has continued over the years, involving quarterly training sessions for Tuk-Tuk drivers, equipping them with the knowledge to identify signs of human trafficking and child exploitation, along with appropriate response strategies. Recognising the critical role Tuk-Tuks and their drivers serve in transporting residents and tourists in Siem Reap, A21 has leveraged this network as a vital resource in the fight against trafficking.

The impact of this campaign was vividly illustrated in 2023 when a Tuk-Tuk driver, utilising the insights gained from the training, identified a potential child trafficking scenario. Acting on his training, he reported his suspicions to A21, who promptly coordinated assistance with local authorities. His timely report enabled the authorities to safely extract a child victim from her exploitative situation and place her in a secure environment. Subsequently, she entered A21's Aftercare Program, where she received the necessary support.

The outcome of the Tuk-Tuk Campaign underscores the significant impact of increased awareness, prevention and education efforts in a community. Empowering individuals within their community with the knowledge and tools to recognise and report trafficking can increase the identification and recovery of victims, and significantly contribute to the global fight.

IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION

A21 maintains robust relationships with local and international government agencies, as well as law enforcement to enhance victim identification and intervention efforts. These collaborations have been pivotal in the recovery of survivors from all forms of human trafficking and online exploitation. In 2023, law enforcement connected a significant number of survivors to A21's Aftercare Program (57.3%), while government and nongovernment agencies (excluding law enforcement) contributed 40% of the cases entering the program. The remainder stemmed from direct reports of suspected trafficking to A21. The victims identified included Cambodians trafficked both domestically and internationally, as well as foreign nationals trafficked to Cambodia. Notably, all of the human trafficking and online exploitation cases supported by A21 were processed through the A21 Child Advocacy Centre (CAC) program or via victim identification efforts. Although the CAC program is primarily designed to provide comprehensive support to children, A21's trauma-informed, victim-centred approach also effectively addresses the needs of adult victims.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE

In 2019, A21 opened Cambodia's first CAC in Siem Reap. This pioneering facility provides a safe, child-friendly environment for child victims to disclose their abuse. The CAC offers a coordinated, comprehensive response to child abuse, including sexual exploitation and trafficking. Its approach includes victim-centred care, multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings, and child forensic interviews, establishing a new standard for protecting vulnerable children. Incorporating a victim-centred model is crucial for children, particularly in nations where formal systems might be intimidating or not well-equipped to cater to children's emotional and psychological needs.



Since its establishment, the CAC has significantly enhanced collaboration between A21, law enforcement, government agencies and other NGOs, improving the overall approach to child forensic interviewing and assisting vulnerable children by normalising this child-centred approach. In 2023, A21 observed unprecedented success at the CAC, with A21 working collaboratively with government and law enforcement partners to identify 102 victims of human trafficking and online child sexual exploitation. Of these, 60 were referred to A21's direct services, while 38 received services through partners. A21 also made its CAC available for forensic interviews to be conducted, ensuring the creation of the safest environment for children to be able to disclose abuse. These accomplishments signal a significant advancement in the fight against child trafficking and exploitation.

Despite these advancements, there remains an urgent need for national policy reforms to mandate best practices for child interviews. Implementing standardised MDT and forensic interviewing protocols is critical to attaining best practices. Adoption of such measures will work to prevent the re-traumatisation of children through repeated interviews and to streamline the provision of services to those most in need, as evidenced by the significant engagement of A21 in the victim identification process.



FIRST COUNTER-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHATBOT LAUNCHED

In another new initiative, A21 launched a chatbot in Cambodia, pioneering one of the first counter-trafficking chatbots in the region to direct the public to the relevant local hotline and innovate access to critical human trafficking information and resources. The chatbot, launched simultaneously with A21's *CYSM?* campaign, is integral to the campaign, offering immediate access to the *CYSM?* films on their own devices, and vital resources, including information about trafficking and online exploitation.

More than just an informational tool, the chatbot empowers individuals with a means to report instances of human trafficking and online exploitation directly to the correct hotline. This initiative underscores A21's commitment to providing communities with accessible, life-saving information right at their fingertips. Available in both Khmer and English, the chatbot is accessible via a scannable QR code or link, making it widely usable on popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram (@cysm_bot). This technological advancement is a significant step forward in A21's mission to support victims of human trafficking and connect them to services, as well as educate, engage with, and empower the public in the fight against human trafficking, harnessing technological advances to ensure assistance is accessible through digital modes of communication.

TRAFFICKING TRENDS[8]

In 2023, A21 observed a drastic surge in requests for assistance from scamming centre victims, resulting in an increase of 740% in forced labour cases in A21's Aftercare Program from 2022. The rise in forced labour cases identified can be attributed, in part, to the active involvement of A21 in assisting law enforcement in responding to requests for assistance from victims of scam centres. These increased local law enforcement operations resulted in a significant number of potential trafficking victims being extracted from scam centre compounds.

Of the sexual exploitation cases accepted into A21's Aftercare Program in 2023, those involving children significantly increased by 150%, whereas those involving adults decreased by approximately 66.7%. This percentage decrease from 2022 doesn't necessarily reflect a reduction of actual incidences of adult sex exploitation throughout Cambodia but rather the effect of the significant increase in forced labour scam centre survivors, as highlighted above.

Despite a substantial decline in aftercare cases related to forced begging by approximately two-thirds, A21 has observed a rise in the number of children begging or being utilised to peddle goods in tourist hotspots in Cambodia. This trend has become more pronounced as tourism rebounds following the COVID-19 pandemic. Another tourism rebound can be seen in the rise of suspected 'child-sex tourism', the sexual exploitation of Cambodian children by foreign nationals. Law enforcement agencies have responded quickly to these reports, initiating urgent investigations to address and curb this crime. A21 has observed that incidences of commercial sexual exploitation of children frequently occur in settings that may not typically be commercial. These include rural communities and educational and religious venues. Offenders often target such areas, which are often perceived as safe places by the local communities, by attempting to blend in with the normal activities of these areas with the ultimate goal of exploiting the local children. Exploitation in these less monitored spaces poses unique challenges for detection and intervention, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies encompassing education, community involvement and robust legal action to combat violations of children's rights effectively.

Trafficking for forced marriage[9] cases in the A21 Aftercare Program also rose markedly from the previous year, by 233.3%. Every instance of forced marriage referred to A21 involved a Cambodian citizen being trafficked internationally via false promises or employment prospects, subsequently leading to sexual and physical abuse, including restriction of movement and often coerced pregnancy. Observed cases of online child sexual exploitation and organ trafficking remained unchanged, with no variation from the previous year. In 2023, A21 observed an overall increase in trafficking survivors accepted into the A21 Aftercare Program by 87.5%, highlighting a growing challenge.

In Cambodia, A21 has observed victims trafficked to engage in various types of forced criminality. These include victims forced, often through threats or deception, to commit cybercrimes, including

fake investment opportunities, cryptocurrency fraud, and 'lover schemes'. Fake investments and cryptocurrency scams involve forcing victims to scam other victims online into pouring funds into non-existent ventures. 'Lover schemes' are especially concerning, as they involve coercing trafficked individuals into forming deceptive online romantic relationships, often through social media. These relationships defraud unsuspecting victims, usually leading them to believe in a false sense of connection and trust, which is then exploited for financial gain. There are additional levels of complexity to forced criminality connected to human trafficking cases that make navigating these unique situations often a more significant challenge. When victims of trafficking are coerced into committing crimes, their criminal activities can obscure their status as victims, leading to misidentification by law enforcement and judicial systems. Victims are often manipulated or threatened into participation, leaving them vulnerable to prosecution for criminal acts forced upon them by their traffickers. Traditional indicators of trafficking might be overlooked or misinterpreted when victims are seen primarily as criminals rather than as individuals coerced into illegal activities. The situation is even more dire for victims who are illegal migrants, lack proper documents or have expired visas. Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities to increase control and instil fear of detection and deportation. Victims may be unaware of their legal rights or lack the trust in authorities to seek assistance, especially if they fear that it might result in detention or deportation due to their immigration status.

FRONTLINE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Often frontline professionals, those more likely to encounter victims of trafficking as part of their employment (e.g., law enforcement, medical professionals, government officials), miss opportunities to identify a trafficking situation due to a lack of training. To address this gap, A21 works alongside law enforcement and government agencies to train such frontline professionals to recognise and appropriately respond to human trafficking. In 2023, A21, in collaboration with the National and Provincial Committees to Combat Human Trafficking, as well as the Anti-Human Trafficking Police and Juvenile Protection and Ministry of Social Affairs, conducted 19 trainings for 1,374 frontline professionals. These trainings focused on recognising and responding to a wide array of trafficking and child exploitation situations. They also included specialised training components concentrating on child-friendly interviewing techniques and approaches grounded in understanding trauma.

A21 observed that local authorities in certain areas had limited experience in responding appropriately to human trafficking situations due to a lack of adequate and available training. Moreover, the frequent reassignment of local authorities to new positions or regions further exacerbates the problem and underscores the need for ongoing training programs. In a preliminary survey for frontline professionals, only 3% of attendees scored above 90% on their understanding of human trafficking, with 24% scoring below 50%. However, an increase in knowledge was recorded following one of A21's training sessions, with 84% of participants surpassing a 90% score in the post-test survey. Notably, none of the participants scored below 50%, underscoring the impact of training.

AFTERCARE

A21's Aftercare Program offers comprehensive community-based support to survivors from varied backgrounds and of any age or gender. The program provides survivors with access to psychological and social support, medical care, safe housing, financial aid, life skills development, and assistance with finding employment. This initiative aims to facilitate the healing process for survivors, empowering them to achieve autonomy and sustainability to reintegrate into society. In 2023, A21 extended its support to 75 new survivors of human trafficking and child exploitation, in addition to managing 50 ongoing cases from the past, assisting a total of 125 survivors over the year. Notably, children under 18 represented an average of 50% of survivors in A21's Aftercare Program. This is a 20% decrease from the previous year (2022). However, this shift is not reflective of a reduction in the identification of minor survivors but rather highlights the increased identification of adult victims in 2023 due to A21's adaptive strategies in response to evolving trafficking patterns, namely focused attention on trafficking in scamming centres that mainly involve adult victims.



A21'S FREEDOM CENTRE

In 2022, A21 Cambodia launched the Freedom Centre, a holistic, community-based aftercare initiative for survivors. This centre provides a supportive environment where survivors receive case management and access various programs and facilities that strengthen social support, emotional well-being, and life skills development. The Freedom Centre also delivers group and individual programs based on strengths and trauma-informed practices, covering essential skills and topics like job readiness, safety, budgeting, goal-setting, problem-solving, emotional resilience, and peer support. Since its launch, the Freedom Centre has engaged 56 survivors in its programs, with 31 new survivors joining the program in 2023. The impact of these programs has been significant, with a notable increase in survivors achieving complete independence.

In 2023, 57 participants completed a Life Program, six survivors completed job training, 12 secured new jobs, and 15 graduated from A21's Aftercare Program. A21 evaluates the progress of survivors using the Assessment of Survivor Outcomes (ASO),[10] which tracks changes in participants' status from vulnerable to highly stable. The ASO assesses a survivor's functioning across six key domains critical for their restoration: safety, legal protection, mental well-being, economic empowerment and education, social support and physical well-being. Caseworkers complete the ASO at survivor intake, case closure and 12-month follow-up. A21 has been using the ASO since 2019 on all survivors receiving assistance beyond crisis intervention. At closure, 84.4% of survivors in Cambodia's Aftercare Program were considered "Restored", with an average ASO score of 3.30. As the ASO provides a score of 3.00 as indicative of being "Restored", this assessment indicates that, on average, survivors leaving A21's Aftercare Program are restored with a low vulnerability to revictimisation; this is in contrast to an average starting score of 2.39 when survivors first enter A21's Aftercare program. Of the one-year follow-up scores collected from survivors, 100% had a score that identified them as "Restored". Maintaining restoration upon leaving A21's program is a protective factor against survivors being revictimised.

'Coming to the Freedom Center feels like coming home.'

—16-Year-Old Survivor Under Our Care

FOSTER CARE

A21 Cambodia, in collaboration with NGO Hagar International, launched a foster care program in 2022, in alignment with Cambodia's Policy on Alternative Care for Children (2006),[11] which advocates for raising children in families and communities and views institutional care as a last resort. The foster care program is also aligned with the Cambodian government's emphasis on family-based care as an essential approach for the rehabilitation and development of children affected by human trafficking and exploitation. The harm and trauma experienced by these children can have lifelong effects, necessitating the need for a nurturing home environment for their restoration and growth. This initiative reflects the Minimum Standards on Alternative Care[12] for Children set by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation, prioritising parental or kinship care and resorting to foster care when no other options are available.

The program aims to offer family-based care for children in need, adhering to the Action Plan for Child Protection (2022 to 2027),[13] which focuses on reducing institutionalisation and promoting family-based care. In 2023, the program referred 11 survivors to foster care, demonstrating a commitment to providing a family-like environment for the rehabilitation of child trafficking survivor.

Foster care parents in A21 and partner NGO Hagar International's program undergo a rigorous recruitment process to ensure they are well equipped to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children under their care. Once selected, they must complete a comprehensive training program, which includes modules on trauma-informed care, positive parenting and child safeguarding, to adequately meet the complex needs of the children in their care. In the short period the program has been active, A21 has already witnessed positive results and is hopeful for systemic change and the betterment of children for years to come throughout Cambodia.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A21 Cambodia offers a robust legal support and representation program to survivors under its care to ensure survivors obtain justice against those who have perpetrated egregious harm against them. In 2023, A21 hired attorneys to represent 18 survivors in the criminal prosecution against their traffickers, resulting in five successful criminal prosecutions. These convictions resulted in perpetrators receiving combined sentences of 47 years in prison – a testament to the program's effectiveness in holding offenders accountable. As part of the sentences, the courts ordered the convicted individuals to pay 47,506,574 Reil ($11,617.29 USD) in compensation to the survivors, acknowledging the harm done and contributing to the survivors' healing process. Finally, A21's attorneys continued to represent survivors' interests in the appeal process and successfully defended the convictions on appeal in four appellate cases, illustrating the legal program's success. These crucial victories not only provided justice for the survivors in A21's Aftercare Program but also provided them with a profound sense of relief from the fear and anxiety associated with the criminal justice proceedings. Moreover, A21 hired attorneys for 12 survivors to represent their interests in civil legal matters. A21 advocates vigorously for survivors in its care to ensure they are not alone in their journey toward justice and healing.



CROSS BORDER LEGAL WIN

A notable cross-border legal case victory involved a Cambodian survivor trafficked and sexually exploited in Thailand when she was only 13 years old. After being recovered by the Thai police, the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand referred the survivor to A21 Cambodia to support her safe repatriation home. In addition to providing community-based aftercare, A21's Cambodia-based CAC team worked closely with the A21 Thailand CAC team to ensure that the survivor received strong legal representation against her trafficker living in Thailand.

A21 hired an attorney to represent the survivor's interests in the Thai prosecution. A21 Thailand staff and the attorney vigorously advocated for survivor's rights throughout the criminal prosecution. Simultaneously, A21 Cambodia provided critical aftercare services to support the survivor's ability to contribute to the prosecution and assisted the survivor's parents through the complicated process so that they could testify as key witnesses. As a result of this collective effort, the Thai court sentenced the defendant to 15.5 years and ordered him to compensate the survivor 230,000 Baht ($6,749.32 USD). This victory is significant as it is the longest sentence issued against a trafficker for a survivor in A21's Aftercare Program in Cambodia and the first significant court victory in a cross-border prosecution involving the support of both A21 Thailand and Cambodia.

ENDNOTES

[1] The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a global institution aimed at promoting financial stability, facilitating international trade, and fostering economic growth and employment while reducing poverty.

[2] HUONG, L.V. (2023) IMF Staff Completes 2023 Article IV Mission to Cambodia, IMF. Available at: https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/10/30/pr23365-cambodia-imf-staff-completes-2023-article-iv-mission (Accessed: 18 January 2024).

[3] U.S. Embassy in Cambodia (2023) 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - Cambodia. Available at: https://kh.usembassy.gov/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report-cambodia/

[4] U.S. Embassy in Cambodia (2023) 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - Cambodia.

[5] National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT) (2019) NCCT Action Plan 2019-2023. Available at: https://download.ncct.gov.kh/plans/ncct-action-plan-2019-2023-en.pdf (Accessed: January 2024).

[6] The *Can You See Me?* campaign is A21's global campaign intended to equip the general public on recognising human trafficking and reporting suspected trafficking to the country's relevant hotline. The real life scenarios depicted through the *CYSM*? campaign attempt to bring awareness of the millions of men, women and children currently trapped in modern day slavery across the world. By partnering with law enforcement, governments, businesses and NGOs, the goal is to turn awareness into action.

[7] Walk for Freedom is a day of 'global awareness and local action' in the fight against human trafficking, where individuals engage their community through local walk events to raise awareness about human trafficking in their cities and collectively result in a ripple effect around the world.

[8] The data presented reflects the trafficking trends based on survivors in A21 Cambodia's Aftercare Program and does not reflect the state of human trafficking throughout all of Cambodia.

[9] As an official, globally recognised definition of 'forced marriage' does not exist, this term is typically defined by the laws of individual countries. For the scope of this report, the cases of 'forced marriage' documented by A21 Cambodia are based on the Cambodian government's classification of these cases. While the victims may not all have been legally married, they all believed they either had a legal or cultural marriage obligation, as they endured abuse and exploitation in these situations.

[10] The Assessment of Survivor Outcomes (ASO) was developed by IJM and measures a survivor's functioning in six domains of functioning critical to their restoration. The 23-item measure is a case management tool that identifies areas of survivor strengths and vulnerabilities, enabling caseworkers to develop an individually tailored Survivor Care Plan. The ASO also serves as an impact measurement tool, providing data on the effectiveness of aftercare programming by assessing survivor progress.

[11] Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (2006). Policy on Alternative Care for Children. https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/Minimum%20Standards%20on%20Alternative%20Care%20for%20Children%20Cambodia.pdf

[12] Alternative care in this case refers to care provided to children by agents other than their biological parents. The policy refers to two forms of care: (1) institutional or residential care (e.g., orphanages) and (2) non-institutional or community-/family-based care.

[13] Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (2023). Action Plan for Child Protection (2022 to 2027). UNICEF Cambodia.

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