Objective: ‘Enhance law enforcement capacity for national and transnational action to identify and effectively act upon travelling child-sex offenders in the Mekong’

Key Priority Countries:
- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Thailand
- Vietnam

4 year program (2010-2014)

Funded by the Australian Government
Project Childhood Pillars and Partner

Protection Pillar

UNODC & INTERPOL

Prevention Pillar

World Vision
Protection Pillar Components

• 1 (UNODC) – Activities for technical assistance to fill gaps regarding legislation, training, and cooperation

• 2 (INTERPOL) – Activities for operations which will combine international and regional investigative resources to target travelling child-sex offenders
Prevention Pillar Components

1. Building resilience of vulnerable communities against child sexual exploitation committed by travelling child-sex offenders in the Mekong.

2. Improving coordination and efficacy of national Child Helplines for prevention of and response to child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

3. Supporting the general public and private sector response to child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

4. Assistance to Governments to combat child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.
Definition of Child Sex Tourism

The **sexual exploitation of children** by a person or persons who **travel** from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children. Child sex tourists can be **domestic travellers** or they can be **international tourists**. Child Sex Tourism often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment.”

ECPAT
(End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Exploitation)
Type of Offenders

**Preferential travelling sex offenders**
- Prefers **pre-pubescent children** (under 12 years old)
- Prefers **post-pubescent children** (over 12 years old)

**Situational travelling child-sex offenders**
- Seen as a ‘tourism’ experience
## Regional Findings

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<tr>
<th>Concepts:</th>
<th>Child sex tourism is generally misunderstood</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government:</td>
<td>The project idea was welcomed by all government counterparts</td>
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<td>Legal mechanisms:</td>
<td>None specific to child sex tourism though existing legislation can be applied</td>
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<td>Law Enforcement:</td>
<td>Investigations tend to be Reactive not Proactive Overall coordination mechanism required for managing cases</td>
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<td>Justice:</td>
<td>Few prosecutions take place (mainly Westerners)</td>
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## Regional Findings

| Offenders: | 1) Domestic and regional tourists  
2) Westerners |
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<tr>
<td>Facilitators:</td>
<td>Small hotels, guest houses, casinos, transport services (e.g. tuk-tuk drivers)</td>
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</table>
| Victims (Highest risk): | 1) Street and working children  
2) Children without appropriate family care |
| Staffing: | High staff turnover jeopardizes sustainability of trainings |
| Data: | An absence of research specific to child sex tourism |
| Trends: | Increased use of Internet-related technologies by offenders. |
Emerging Issues with Media Reporting of Child Sex Cases

- Accuracy of reporting
- Child protection and children's rights
- Legal knowledge