



Student wearing a traditional mask as part of a costume for a concert performance.

M'Lop Tapang (MT) Report to the Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) July 01 to December 31, 2025

With the partnership of the Sovereign Arts Foundation, M'Lop Tapang has and continues to provide hundreds of Cambodian children from low-income families with safe, creative opportunities to build confidence, skills, and a greater sense of belonging. Our dedicated Arts Team provides children and youth with classes in dance, music, drawing and painting, and circus arts.

Video: [Meet our team: Sopheak, Arts Program Team Leader](#) (September 2025)

Between July 01 and December 31, 2025, a total of **384** children and youth participated in arts activity classes. Approximately 50% of those are girls. Our project goal was for more than 400 Cambodian boys and girls, so we are well on our way to reaching that target.



Promoting cultural heritage through the instruction of traditional Apsara dancing.

Dance Classes

Teaching young Cambodians traditional dance helps preserve a cultural heritage while also building pride and identity. For the marginalized children that M'Lop Tapang works with, these classes in traditional dance help to strengthen a sense of community connection and of belonging.

Hip-hop and contemporary dance classes offer young students a fun and creative way to express themselves, work as a team, and build confidence while learning new skills in a way that feels modern and fresh

Between July 01 and December 31, 2025:

- **104** children and youth participated in dance classes

Video: [Apsara Dancers performing at M'Lop Tapang's Annual Christmas concert.](#) (December 2025)

*All student names in this report have been changed for confidentiality.

I like dancing, especially dancing in a team. I am not feeling shy or scared. I have many friends in class and we feel so close to each other.

- Saka*, 12-year-old girl

I love dancing on the stage when many people are watching me. I feel like I am the star, and it makes me feel good.

-Thida, 9-year-old girl



New student to the arts programs tentatively explores the keyboards

Music Classes

Music Classes offer boys and girls the chance to learn about different musical instruments and engage in singing lessons.

The children and youth M'Lop Tapang work with come from low-income families who often struggle to meet their most basic daily needs. For these families, purchasing a musical instrument is simply not financially possible. It is a luxury out of their reach. As a result, many children from poor families miss out on the opportunity to learn music, an experience that can build confidence, self-esteem, and strengthen learning skills.

Support from the Sovereign Art Foundation to M'Lop Tapang's Arts Programs is helping to make sure that these children are not excluded from the benefits of engaging in music lessons and music appreciation. Music Classes at M'Lop Tapang include music appreciation, singing, keyboards, guitar, and drumming.

Between July 01 and December 31, 2025:

- **105** children and youth participated in music classes

Before, I saw people playing keyboards at a wedding in our village. I liked watching them play. I am so happy that I can play at M'Lop Tapang now. I never thought that I could play keyboards myself. I love it.

- Samnang, 13-year-old boy



Friends in drawing class at M'Lop Tapang's Arts Center

Drawing and Painting Classes

Drawing and painting classes continue to be held at both M'Lop Tapang's Arts Center as well as in classrooms at our Education Center.

These classes are a safe and supportive place for creativity and self-expression. They also help children develop confidence, concentration, and fine motor skills, all things that are crucial for success in school and in daily life.

Arts programs, like as drawing and painting classes, can also help children express their feelings about the world around them and issues impacting their lives. Earlier this year, when talking about climate change, we asked the boys and girls to draw an image of the effects of deforestation.

Video: [Arts class helps children learn about the environment](#) (September 2025)

Between July 01 and December 31, 2025:

- **59** children and youth participated in drawing and painting classes

I love painting with many colors. It makes me so happy. I just love painting things.

- Champa, 9-year-old girl

When I see my drawing, it makes me happy. I enjoy drawing because I can draw what I imagine in my head.

- Vibol, 13-year-old boy



Young boys practicing their Rola-Bola skills

Circus Classes

Always popular, circus classes at our Arts Center provide a fun, engaging way for children and youth to try new things, build confidence, physical skills, and have fun. Activities include such as balancing, juggling, and acrobatics

A huge benefit of not just the circus classes, but of all the activities at MT's Arts Center, is that they take place in adult-supervised safe environments. Many of the children who take part in scheduled activities come from impoverished, overcrowded neighborhoods where there are few or no safe spaces to play. The Arts Center provides a safe place for children to learn and have fun. The importance of having fun and engaging in play cannot be overestimated. It is an essential component of a healthy child's growth and development.

I really like circus class. I like jumping and moving around. This makes me feel so happy and active, and not feeling bored like just sitting in classroom all the time.

-Heng, 13-year-old boy

Video: [Why play matters for every child](#). (August, 2025)

Between July 01 and December 31, 2025:

- **116** children and youth participated in organized circus classes



Apsara dancing on stage

Concerts and Performances

Our teams organized two concerts in the last six months, giving children a positive opportunity to perform and feel proud of their hard work and achievements.

Video: [Highlights of Arts Concert at M'Lop Tapang](#)
(September 2025)

From everyone here at M'Lop Tapang, we would like to again express our gratitude to the Sovereign Arts Foundation for your support and for helping to bring creativity and fun to hundreds of disadvantaged children.

Best regards,

Roth Chanphalkun (Kun)
Co-Director

Maggie Eno
Co-Director



I am so excited to see my daughter perform on stage. I've seen her a few times already, but I still want to watch her again and again because I'm so proud of how beautifully she and her friends dance our Khmer traditional dances. I never thought my daughter could dance like this.

-Mother of 15-year-old boy

Every time I come to see my boy perform on stage, it helps me forget about my difficult life at home

-Mother of 8-year-old boy
