



CHES e-Newsletter

Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources. Winrock matches innovative approaches in agriculture, natural resources management, clean energy, and leadership development with the unique needs of its partners. By linking local individuals and communities with new ideas and technology, Winrock is increasing long-term productivity, equity, and responsible resource management to benefit the poor and disadvantaged of the world.

Vol. 1 Issue 2, Jul-Sept 2008

Children's Empowerment through Education Services (CHES)

What is CHES?

Winrock is implementing Children's Empowerment through Education Services (CHES) project to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in agriculture through education services.

The 4-year project is funded by the United States Department of Labor under Cooperative Agreement IL-16567-07-75-K. CHES is being implemented in four provinces of Cambodia namely Pursat, Prey Veng, Siem Reap and Kampong Cham in close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations at all levels.

Visit of USDOL Officials to CHES Project



Visiting of re-entry class in Pursat province

Ms. Sharon Heller Jordan, Division Chief of Asia, MENA and Europe and Ms. Angie Peltzer, International Relations Analyst from Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking Division of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) visited CHES Projects sites in Siem Reap, Pursat and Prey Veng from 18 - 23 September 2008.

The USDOL officials met with the Directors and Deputy Directors of Labor and Education in all three provinces as well as joint protocol meetings were held with the Provincial Governor, District Governor and commune leaders to discuss on CHES activities in respective provinces.

The USDOL officials observed re-entry classes being run for withdrawn and prevented children working in hazardous agriculture in

Angkor Thom and Sotr Nikum districts of Siem Reap, Krakor district of Pursat and Preah Sdech and Kampong Trabek districts of Prey Veng. Visit was also made to a Child Friendly School in Pursat. The mission also had interactions with the members of the Child Labor Monitoring Committees (CLMCs), members of the Child Youth Clubs (CYCs) children themselves and their family members in Angkor Thom, Sotr Nikum, Krakor, Preah Sdech and Kampong Trabek districts.

CHES project is fully funded by the USDOL. The project activities are being implemented by partners of Winrock International namely Healthcare Center for Children in Prey Veng province and Wathnakpheap in Siem Reap and Pursat provinces.

Text by: Yadav Amatya

Contents:

MOU signed between WI and MoLVT

Government Endorsed NPA on the WFOCL

Research on Child Labor in Tobacco and Cassava Plantations

CHES MIS/Data Development

Page 2

Re-entry Program for Withdrawn Children

Re-entry Teacher's Training

Ownership Building through CLMC

Page 3

Voices of Children

Page 4

Putting Ideas to Work

OTHER NEWS

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between Winrock International and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Winrock International and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) has been signed recently to form the basic guidelines for cooperation and work.

Under the MOU, Winrock International through its CHES project will cooperate with the MOLVT in:

Supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;

Providing support for the national, provincial, municipal Departments of Labor and Vocational Training through various training and capacity building measures and;

Strengthening coordinating mechanisms and providing support for monitoring and evaluation, policy formulation and developing legal frameworks.

The MOLVT is one of the key strategic partners of CHES in Cambodia.

Text by: Yadav Amatya

Winrock International to Conduct Research on Child Labor in Tobacco and Cassava Plantations

Winrock International under its CHES project is conducting a research on child labor in tobacco and cassava plantations in Kampong Cham province. The research is expected to reveal the nature and extent of hazardous and worst forms of child labor in those sectors.

A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been formed on 25 September 2008 to guide current and future research on child labor to be conducted by Winrock International in Cambodia.

The RAC consist representatives from the Department of Child Labor, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Psychology of the Royal University of Phnom Penh and National Institute of Statistics. Winrock will collaborate and coordinate with the British American Tobacco (BTA) to conduct research in tobacco sector.

Text by: Yadav Amatya



© Porny You / Winrock International

Meeting of the National Sub Committee on Child Labor reviewing the MOU

Government Endorsed NPA on the WFOCL

The Royal Government of Cambodia has endorsed the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NPA) on 9 September 2008.

The NPA aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2016. The NPA will help to direct program and projects concerned with the worst and hazardous forms of child labor towards its priorities. It is also expected that the NPA will be able to attract national and international resources to address worst forms of child labor in the country.

Text by: Yadav Amatya

CHES Management Information System (MIS) and Database Development

Recently, CHES project has developed MIS/Database software to maintain an accurate and up to date record of individual children and their families.

The MIS/Database will help CHES to monitor the interventions in which each direct child beneficiary takes part, thus providing an indication of the depth of service received by target children. The MIS/Database provides information relates to both education and working status of the child beneficiary and precise quantitative data for reporting purpose.

Text by: Tech Chey

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue of quarterly CHES e-Newsletter. We hope that you have found our first issue as a good source of information on CHES activities in Cambodia.

It has been a year now that CHES begun its journey. With cooperation from all of its stakeholders, partners and friends, CHES is heading toward its progress in order to improve the lives of Cambodian children working in hazardous conditions in agriculture as well as of their families by empowering them through education, vocational and life skills training and opportunity for self employment.

The second issue has been undersized because we are publishing CHES e-Newsletter in both English and Khmer languages simultaneously. We hope this will provide an access to information about CHES to our Khmer readers. In the future, we aim to cover more news and give priority to interesting success stories from the field. On the other hand and through this e-Newsletter, we will continue to put the voices of children across to the policy makers and general public advocating for alternative means of support for working children so that they can have books in their hands instead of heavy loads and dangerous tools.

The onward journey towards breaking an inclusive system of child labor and child exploitation in the society starts from different points in different places, may take longer or shorter. However, if our ultimate objective is genuine and common we all have to consider these issues at some point along the way. Changing deep rooted system and culture means challenging powerful institutions and interests. It is not easy, but it is absolutely necessary.

With best compliments,
Editorial Board

Re-entry Program for Withdrawn Children

870 children (440 boys and 430 girls) who had dropped out of schools in the past year from grade III to VI in Siem Reap, Pursat and Prey Veng provinces have recently completed two month re-entry program in end September 2008. The objective of re-entry program is to provide training to all dropped out children so as to enable them to join formal school in October 2008.

Children that enrolled in the re-entry program are children who were working in hazardous in agriculture sector that includes fresh water fishing, and animal husbandry. Usually, they help supplement their family's income due to which they are often absent from classes or dropped out of schools.

During the re-entry program, Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sports, Healthcare Center for Children, Wathnakpheap, Winrock International and Child Labor Monitoring Committees had field visit to monitor classes to make sure teaching and learning methodologies meet the minimum standard.

Text by: Tha Chea and Sopheap Proeung



© Kosal Chea / Winrock International

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN RE-ENTRY BY PROVINCE				
Province	Number of class	Boys	Girls	Total Student
Pursat	14	136	135	271
Prey Veng	23	148	151	299
Siem Reap	18	156	144	300
Total	55	440	430	870

Re-entry Teacher's Training

37 teachers in Pursat, Prey Veng and Siem Reap provinces had been selected from state schools to provide two month re-entry program from August 2008 to September for withdrawn and prevented children.

With the cooperation between Winrock International and Department of Non Formal Education of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, a 3 day training on the re-entry guideline and the Education Strategic Development Plan had been provided to teachers in late July.

Text by: Kosal Chea



© Sophorn Phay / Winrock International

Ownership Building through Child Labor Monitoring Committee (CLMC)

In order to build ownership in decision making on the selection of children for service provision and to monitor children who have been withdrawn and prevented under CHES, 60 Child Labor Monitoring Committees (CLMC) with the total member of 360 (216 male and 144 female) were formed and trained on their role and responsibilities by Wathnakpheap and Healthcare Center for Children in Pursat, Siem Reap and Prey Veng provinces.

The CLMC is a local committee formed to support the implementation of CHES activities at the community level. The key role of the CLMC is to select and monitor child beneficiaries who are to be withdrawn and prevented and serve as a referral point for all issues related to child labor in the community. The members of CLMC are the key focal points in the community that comprises of commune council member, commune police

NUMBER OF CHILD LABOR MONITORING COMMITTEE BY PROVINCE				
Province	Number of Committee	Male	Female	Total Member
Pursat	20	58	58	116
Prey Veng	20	109	31	140
Siem Reap	20	49	55	104
Total	60	216	144	360

officer, village chief, elderly people in the community, teacher, business person, parents and representative of child youth club.

Text by: Yadav Amatya
Putting Ideas to Work

VOICES OF CHILDREN



Nhim Mach (far right) in re-entry class

Prey Veng Province:

My name is Nhim Mach. I am 15 years old. I study in grade IV of re-entry program under CHES project at Sena Reach Odom commune, Preah Sdech district of Prey Veng province.

Before HCC (Healthcare Center for Children) implemented CHES Project, I was worried because my family could not afford to continue my study as my family is poor and I am an orphan child. Luckily, in the village I have been living, CHES project has been implemented, and I was selected as one of beneficiary children. Now I have a chance to study like other children. I am ready to study hard so I can help my family and nation. I would like to express my gratitude to teachers, HCC and Winrock International who have given me a chance to study again.

© Tha Chea / Winrock International

Pursat Province: Village IV, Kampong Luong Commune, Krakor District

My name is Min Samnith, 14 years old. I study in grade III. I have 8 siblings (includes 6 boys). I am the second elder son. I did not go to study regularly because my family has debt to pay and we no money to buy rice, so it caused me to perform hard labor from 6:00PM till mid night to earn money to support my family. I earn about 10,000 Riel (\$2.50) per day.

I love to study like others however due to family poverty it often caused me to be absent from class.



© Wathnakpheap / Pursat Province

Samnith is loading charcoal into the truck

This publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply the endorsement by the United States Government.

Advisor

Yadav Amaty, Project Director

Editorial Board Members

Porny You, Communications Officer

Kosal Chea, Education Specialist

Tech Chey, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Tha Chea, Provincial Program Coordinator in Prey Veng

Prastuti Ghimire, Communications Volunteer

Winrock International

CHES project, All rights reserved.

#48, Street 242, Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

P.O. Box No. 1201

Tel: +855 (0) 23 212 334/6 Fax: +855 (0) 23 212 335

Website: www.winrockcambodia.org

Email: communications@winrockcambodia.org

Putting Ideas to Work