

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. 2 Issue 4, Jan-Mar 2009

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.

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Older Children Receive a Two in One Service



Vocational skill training on how to make bamboo furniture in Pursat province

Doung Hong, 16 years old, is one of the 457 selected children for CHES's Non-Formal Education (NFE) program in Pursat, Siem Reap and Prey Veng provinces. He said, "I used to work for seven hours per day to harvest rice for my family and for others in order to get enough income. I do not know how to read and to write, that's why I was selected to attend the NFE class for seven months before enrolling in vocational skills training". "I would like to learn how to repair bicycles because most people here use a bicycle for their daily transportation", he added.

The NFE program is one of the key CHES interventions with the objective to provide basic knowledge and vocational skill training to withdrawn children in CHES target provinces. Children from 15 to 17 years old who are involved in the worst forms of child labor in agriculture and who have not been to school for several years have been invited to participate in this program.

siblings helped to do housework and worked to get income instead of me", said Sok Channa who is 15 years old. She added that she attends the NFE class with the hope to understand how to calculate and to read like others and also would like to continue her study further.

The main outcome for the older children after the NFE program is completed is to encourage them to further their study in formal schools; however, some of them prefer to attend a vocational skills training rather than continuing their formal education. This is why the vocational skills training will be integrated for them according to an initial labor market survey to identify the market demands in their living areas as well as according to the desire of each individual child to study the skill they want. Some of them are interested in skills such as bee/pig/chicken raising, motor repair, hair styling and sewing.

Text by: Porny You

"I could attend NFE class because my older

Putting Ideas to Work

NEWS FROM PROVINCES

Lessons Learned to Prevent Children from Dropping Out of School

A 13-year-old child in Prey Veng province migrated with his father to Kampong Cham province in order to work on a cassava plantation after re-enrolling into formal school for about four months. He was selected to attend the two-month re-entry class and re-enrolled into a formal education program because he had to drop out of school last year. This is implemented under the CHES project in Cambodia which is funded by the United States Department of Labor.

Due to careful class attendance monitoring, the Child Labor Monitoring Committee (CLMC-local volunteers) and a CHES staff team went to his house to follow up on why he was absent from class. CLMC members and the CHES staff team met his grandmother to provide counseling again and again, and encouraged her to bring him back to study. One of the CLMC members talked on the phone to his father who was working in Kampong Cham province and got him to agree to send his son back to school. After that, his grandmother went to Kampong Cham province to bring him back for study. Through providing counseling, his grandmother and his father were able to understand the importance of education and the negative impacts of child labor. However, family poverty is still the main factor which causes children to become child laborers.

This indicates the significance of the work of the CLMC members who were responsible for monitoring the classes because the CLMC members and the CHES staff team were able to prevent this boy from dropping out of school again and were able to make a behavior change in the family, especially with the father who had caused his child to work on a cassava plantation. The CLMC members and staff team took action successfully so that his family had a behavior change in a short period of time, in only about two weeks; generally, behavior change takes a longer period of time. Currently that 13-year-old child is back in school and is studying in grade four with a supporting scholarship under the CHES project.

This action can be also applied to other provinces because it shows the commitment of working with especially civil society, the local authorities and the villagers who helped to monitor the beneficiary children in their target areas in terms of school attendance and the child's work situation.

The next steps after learning this good practice are that the CLMC members and CHES staff team will monitor class attendance as often as possible, especially working with teachers and families. If CLMC members hear any information about parents planning to send their children to work, then the CLMC and the CHES team will take action immediately. It is a continuous work of monitoring. Thanks to the efforts of the CHES staff team and especially the CLMC members for their commitment to monitoring the beneficiary children and project implementation.

Text by: Porny You

EDITORIAL

To eliminate child labor successfully, it demands good cooperation from all stakeholders. That means that parents are one of the main stake holders who to cause their children to study or to stop going to school, however, some children also stop studying by themselves due to their own decision making.

Parents so that they do to play a vital role in encouraging their children to study and to have their own commitment so that they do not use their children's labor without time for study. To do so, parents also have to understand about the negative impact of child labor and the importance of education.

Most of these parents' older children, who are 15 to 17 years old, dropped out of school. Since they do not know how to calculate and how to write, it has caused them to have a hard life of survival. In order to make their life better, they need to have basic education and vocational skills to survive. To support this need, CHES is providing a Non-Formal Education program and vocational skills training to older children who have withdrawn from either hazardous jobs or the Worst Forms of Child Labor and is also providing for children who have not been to school for several years. However, CHES has encouraged them to study further in formal schools rather than stop at that level. Some children would like to continue studying further and some would like to attend vocational skills trainings.

Though CHES provides skills training, it has to meet the demand in the market as well. When teenagers can help themselves to survive, they also can help their family and society.

With best compliments, Editor



Child Laborers in Cassava Production in Kampong Cham Province

CHES Phone-in Radio Program

Winrock International in Cambodia has developed a website (www.winrockcambodia.org) which provides world wide exposure to millions of people, Winrock is also offering more awareness raising in local areas through-out Cambodia through a phone-in radio program called "**CHES PROGRAM**". The CHES program means "to know". It is being aired weekly every Sunday at 10:00am to 11:00am on radio municipal radio FM 103 MHz.

This phone-in radio program has invited relevant line ministries, NGOs, and beneficiary children who have been withdrawn or prevented either in hazardous child labor or in the worst forms of child labor in agriculture to be guest speakers on the program (according to some topics) in order to respond to questions from the master of ceremonies and the show's callers.

The CHES program also provides awareness materials as an encouragement to any callers who are very more active in asking questions, showing her/his impressions or responding to the questions in terms of the negative impact on child labor and the importance of education. The goal for this phone-in radio program is to get as many people as possible to be involved in combating child labor and to empower children through education and as well as to become aware of CHES activities in Cambodia.



CHES Phone-in Radio Program is on air in the studio FM 103 MHz with Mr. Sin Viseth (left) as a guest speaker from Department of Child Labor of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

Winrock International Team Visits ILO IPEC Project

As the projects of ILO IPEC's Time Bound Programme Support Project and Winrock International's CHES have the same common goals to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor and to support the National Plan of Action, Winrock now has the opportunity to exchange field visits with ILO IPEC. Good Practices and Lessons Learned can be shared with each other especially after the first project of ILO IPEC phased out (30 September 2004 to 31 December 2008) while Winrock International is implementing its first project. Both projects are funded by the United States Department of Labor.

Through this field exchange visit, Winrock has gained more insight into the ILO IPEC's project implementation regarding Community Learning Center, Self-help Groups, Policy Development, Roles and Responsibilities of the Labor Inspectors and the Provincial Committee on Child Labor.

Mr. M.P Joseph, Chief Technical Advisor of ILO IPEC under the Time Bound Programme, informed us that, "The action program is subcontracted to different implementing agencies such as Government Departments, NGOs and Civil Societies based on their field of expertise according to their outputs."

Winrock visited beneficiary children who were completing a vocational skill training in hair styling, motor repair, and sewing. Through conversation with these beneficiary children, we learned that their living and working conditions have changed to better conditions than in the past because previously they had to work long hours without relaxation and receive less income. Currently, some of them have been employed at the shops where they attended the training and some are running their own businesses using their newly acquired skills.

A community self-help group has been formed successfully because its membership has increased and they can develop their careers and help each other in their villages in case of emergencies (illness). For the Community Learning and Child Labour Rehabilitation Center, a classroom and a bathroom were re-constructed using the money contributed by the-



Students take photo with ILO IPEC and Winrock Teams in front of a Classroom with Good Environment of Community Learning and Child Labour Rehabilitation Center

community in order to make the classroom look clean and provide a better learning environment for their children.

Mr. Ouk Sisovann, Senior Programme Officer said that, "Through some of the above activities, we can see the sustainability of the project though the first project phased out. Currently, the ILO-IPEC is working on the project phase II by focusing on four main elements: Children Monitoring, Family Income Generation, Awareness Raising, and Capacity Building to stakeholders."

Winrock International has learned Good Practices and Lessons from these field visits and will duplicate some of them in target areas where Winrock is implementing its project. Also, Winrock International would like to extend its sincere thank to the ILO IPEC team and its implementing partners for organizing these fruitful visits for the team of Winrock International in Cambodia.

Text by: Porny You

Putting Ideas to Work

VOICES OF CHILDREN



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A Day of A Child Laborer:

Vit Vuth, 12 years old, lives in Kandieng District in Pursat province.

He explained to us, "After I get up in the early morning, I have to cook rice, then I go to look after buffalos for a distance of about four Kilometers from home and sometimes I lose my buffalos, so I have to look for them until 8:00pm in order to bring them back home. While looking after the buffalos, I also go to rivers or lakes to fish for my family's food.

"Now I can go to school. I have many friends. I am happy because I can study like other children. I try my best to study hard because my family is poor and I do not have money to support my studies myself".

I was selected to be a beneficiary child under the CHES project. Currently, I work fewer hours than previously. I would like to suggest to the CHES project to continuously support my study for one more year. I want to be a doctor in the future.



From Keat Ravireak, a student in Svay Sor village, in Pursat province.

A Day of A Child Laborer:

This picture was drawn by Ouk Sros who is living in Bakan District in Pursat province to describe work that she used to do on corn farms at the Cambodia border.

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