

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 6, Jul-Sept 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.

Contents:

Re-entry Program for Withdrawn Children

Child Labor Promotion through Mass Media

Page 2

Research on hazardous child labor in tobacco production in Kampong Cham Province

Page 3

Voices of Children

Page 4

Information

Page 5

Labor Inspector Trainings to CHES Stakeholders

Child labor inspector trainings have been conducted to focus on international labor standards, ILO conventions 138, 182, 124 and 29, labor laws and ministerial sub-degrees (in Khmer called Prakas) related to child labor, the National Plan of Action on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor (2008-2012), the Basic Concept of Labor Inspection, and understanding children's work. The training was conducted in Pursat and Prey Veng provinces and will be conducted in Siem Reap and Kampong Cham next month.

This training was organized jointly by the Department of Child Labor (DoCL) of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT), the Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training and Winrock International in order to enforce labor laws to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFOCL) in Cambodia. Cambodia can confidently bring an end to the WFOCL for achieving the national target of reducing child labor to 8 per cent by 2015 according to the global goal of eliminating the WFOCL by 2016.

Additionally, the training aims to strengthen the capacity of the relevant officials for child labor inspection to identify the cases of violation on child labor laws and to cooperate with the DoCL and the MoLVT for the development of policy research and ministerial sub-degree (Prakas) related to child labor in subsistence agriculture.

The participants came from the Department of Labor and Vocational Training, the Department of Education, Youth and Sports, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Police Station, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Wathnakpheap (WP) and Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE).

Winrock International and its Associates, WP and KAPE, currently are implementing the project called "Children's Empowerment through Education Services" in order to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in agriculture which has been funded by the U.S Department of Labor.

To achieve the objective of this project implementing, Winrock and its Associates have arranged field visits to the target villages with the relevant government Departments and Ministries in order to build their ownership and close collaboration.

Text by: Porny You



© Porny You / Winrock International

Putting Ideas to Work

NEWS FROM PROVINCES

Re-entry Program for Withdrawn Children

Re-entry programs for grade 3-6 have been conducted for two months before the new academic year for dropped out children who are involved in hazardous or the worst forms of child labor in agriculture and who have dropped out of school within the past year. These children have been selected from various working sectors, such as in subsistent agriculture, fresh water fishing, and tobacco and cassava production. Many children dropped out of school because of poor family living conditions which caused them to work in these above sectors which are hazardous to their health and affect their study. Usually, they work long hours and in the sun or very early in the morning.

This activity is one of the core activities of CHES designed for withdrawn children. Child Labor Monitoring Committees (CLMCs) have a key role in the identification and selection of children for Education Support for Withdrawn Child Laborers of CHES service. With the support from CHES staff, CLMCs have worked closely with school principals and teachers to select 1420 children (703 girls and 717 boys) for a Re-entry program which started in August-September 2009. They received educational kits for their studies funded by U.S. Department of Labor. When they complete this program, the project will enroll them into formal education with a scholarship kit for their studies throughout the year.

Teachers Training for Re-entry Program

To support the above program, the project cooperated with the Provincial Department of Non-Formal Education in each province under the CHES project to provide a 3-day-teacher training for the re-entry program in order to ensure the quality of education services for withdrawn children in the new target areas.

The contents of the training included re-entry guidelines from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, the Education Strategic Development Plan, and guidelines for conducting an effective re-entry teacher training.



© Porny You / Winrock International



© Mara Yos / Winrock International

Re-entry class in Siem Reap

Teachers came from different villages are attending the Training for Re-entry Program



Child Labor Promotion through Mass Media

To take the opportunity during the school enrollment campaign for the new academic year, Winrock has broadcasted its educational video and radio message to encourage parents to send their children to school through the National Television (TVK), FM 102 MHz (Women's Media Centre) and the Municipal Radio FM 103 MHz during the CHES phone-in radio program on Sunday at 10:00am and on Tuesday at 11:00am.

The educational video and radio message illustrate a comparison between two Cambodian families—during lunch at the rice field, three families gather for lunch as they have the rice field next to each other. The first family has sent their daughter to school and allowed her to do light work that does not have an effect on her health or studies. In contrast, the second family does not send the daughter to school, the daughter asked her mother to send her to school since she saw other children walking passed her home while she was preparing rice seedlings with her mother for transplanting.

However, after the third family heard the first family talking to their daughter, they asked the second family about her view on sending a child to school. At that time, the second family also heard what the first family said to their daughter, so the second family changed the mind about sending the daughter to school as well. When the daughter is free from school and studies, she asks to help do light work.

The objective of this educational video is to encourage parents to send their children to school but showing children still can help their family to do light or safe work after school hours This educational video has been approved by the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT) in collaboration with Winrock International and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Text by: Porny You

Putting Ideas to Work

Research on Hazardous Child Labor in Tobacco Production in Kampong Cham Province

The survey on tobacco was conducted in 4 Districts, 4 Communes, and 13 Villages, in Kampong Cham Province. The aim of the research was to determine the extent of child labor in this sector. The research conducted interviews with stakeholders, focus group discussions, and case studies. 260 households and 243 children were interviewed to come up with the desired output. The overall aim of this research was to broaden Winrock's knowledge on the hazardous child labor situation in tobacco production and to produce an objective picture of the conditions and level of involvement of the children.

Key findings of research on hazardous child labor in tobacco production

The study shows that the majority (96% of all children respondents) of children are involved in the whole process of tobacco production, although there were only specific activities that they were involved in such as weeding, plowing, watering with fertilizer and sticking of tobacco leaves. Therefore, it can be concluded that in villages where most of the residents are growing and producing tobacco, it is very likely that their children will be involved in the production process.

It is clear that they are involved in the whole production process and they face different kinds of dangers and risks without any protection or control from their parents or employers. The education of children is affected by their work although at low incidences for all children, but more pronounced among children of non-British American Tobacco contract farmers. It is therefore important to consider the following recommendations to assist or to eliminate dangers and risks to the children working in this sector and to eliminate the negative effects of children who work instead of going to school.

Case Study on hazardous child labor in Tobacco production

A case study for tobacco production was conducted with one of the family at Phum Ti 8, Koh Samrong commune, Kompong Siem district, Kampong Cham province. The main occupation of people in this village is tobacco production and beside this crop the community also plant, corn, tomatoes, peanuts, and operates small businesses such as selling groceries or selling cakes. Mr. A, 37 and Mrs. B, 35 both completed grade 7 and they have 5 children. Although the family owns an agricultural land of 0.5 ha this is not enough to earn a living for the family so they have rented their aunt's land. They have to pay the rent 500,000 Riels (about \$120) for the duration of the tobacco production. The family owns a bicycle, a television, a horse cart, a horse, 2 pigs, and 9 chickens. Their main source of income is from the tobacco plantation. In 2007, the family earned 750\$ (\$0.30 per capita income) and in 2008, they earned 1,500\$ (\$0.60 per capita income). The main expenditure for the family is food and the children's education.

Four of the children, except the youngest who is 4 months old, are used to work in sticking tobacco after their classes in the morning or during their free time. No one is forcing them to work in this activity since the payment they receive is for their own use. The first child, 15 years old and the second child, 13 years old, used to help their parents watering with fertilizer when they did not have tobacco to stick. The children also help in other activities in their home and assist their parents in earning extra income such as selling fried bananas. All the children have dreams to finish their studies because they believe that life is better when you have an education and it is supported by their parents.

The children identified the danger they experience during their participation in these two main activities. As for sticking the tobacco leaves, they used to accidentally injure their hands but had no treatment or medicine to apply on it; they just cover at their wound with soil or took a tobacco leaf to stick on their wounded hand to stop the flow of blood and then continued working. As for watering the tobacco with fertilizer, sometime they feel dizzy; have headache and itch their hands. They said that their headaches and dizziness are caused by the long exposure under the sunlight while watering the plants and the itchiness is caused by the chemical reaction from the fertilizer. According to the children, their main control is to take a rest when they feel dizzy and they just wash their hands when they feel itchy.

The families suggested to have a better program for them from the government, in cooperation with different organizations to diversify their crops, not only for tobacco but also for other crops. If possible to increase the market price of tobacco to compensate for the time and effort they are exerting in this source of their income. Scholarships are seem to be a helpful way for their children to continue their studies. Finally, setting up a clinic in the village would be a good start in assisting the children suffering from any dangers and risks that they are encountering.

Text by: Chay Tech



© Kosal Chuon / Winrock International

Putting Ideas to Work

VOICES OF CHILDREN



© Porny You / Winrock International

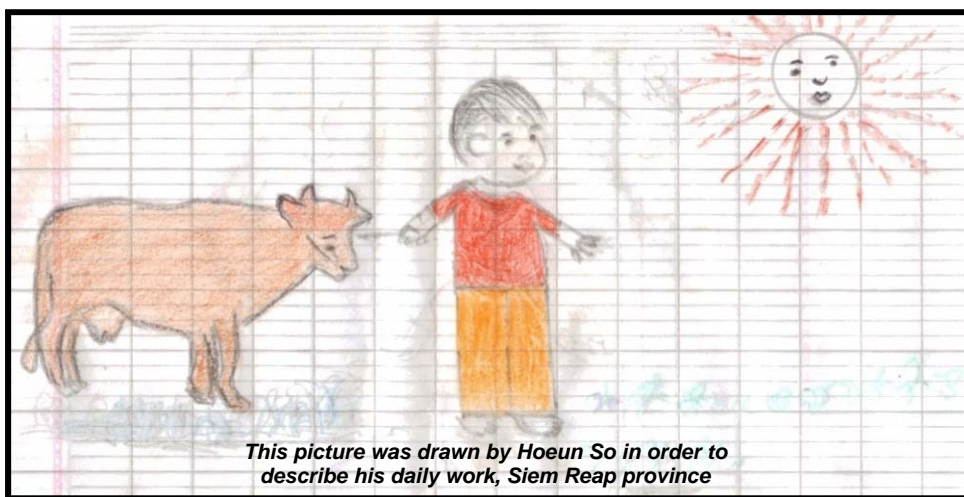
At-risk girls from hazardous child labor have their own bike cycles provided by CHES

My Own Bicycle

"I always came to school late previously because I did not have a bicycle. I have to walk to school over 3 Kilometers and my friend sometimes gave me a lift, but I felt it was not easy as if I have my own one."

"But now I have my own bicycle and I always go to school on time. I received this bicycle from Winrock International and Wathnapheap under the CHES project. I received not only a bicycle but also an educational kit which contains notebooks, pens, a pencil, and a bag. I am so happy with these things because I can now go to study like other children. I have my own commitment to study as hard as I can."

From Yem Kim Hen, 14 years old, in Pursat Province



This picture was drawn by Hoeun So in order to describe his daily work, Siem Reap province

My Life

My name is Hoeun So, 14 years old. I am studying in grade 5. Previously, I had to wake up in the early morning to look after cows and pull out seedlings for transplanting for others to earn money (He was paid 500 Riels for a dozen of seedlings). After doing this work, I had lunch and went to school. After school, when I arrived home, I did housework which made me seriously sick.

Due to my sickness, I did not go to school for three months; thereafter I decided to stop studying for a year. Luckily, Wathnapheap enrolled me into re-entry program for two months which my study grade was number 1 in the first month and in the second month was number 3. Wathnapheap re-enrolled me to state school which I can study and meet my old friends again. After re-enrollment, I have spent most of my time on study and just do housework when I am free from school.

No More Hazardous Child Labor!

The non-formal education students under the CHES project who are from 15 to 17 years old and used to involve in hazardous child labor nearly complete studying vocational skill in clothes sewing.



© Porny You / Winrock International

Putting Ideas to Work

INFORMATION

New Associate for the CHES Project in Prey Veng and Kampong Cham Provinces

Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE) was selected to be an Associate for implementing the CHES project in Kampong Cham and Prey Veng provinces after presenting its proposal and being interviewed among 3 shortlisted candidates.

The selection committee members were the presidents of the Provincial Committee on Child Labor, the Director of the PDOlVT and the PDOEYS in both target provinces, the representative of the MoLVT and the MoEYS, the Director of Wathnakpheap, and the Winrock team. After candidate organizations presented their proposals, they had questions and answers, and then all of the selection committee members scored the candidates according to the quality of the proposal and their expertise.

After selecting KAPE as a new associate, the Winrock team conducted several orientations on the CHES project: financial rules and regulations (both USDOL and Winrock), program and financial reports, work plans, budget plans, tracking and monitoring systems, the criteria of beneficiary selection, awareness raising, the priority activities for project implementation in Kampong Cham and Prey Veng, and discussion on the process and methodology of implementing each activity.



Kampuchean Action for Primary Education or KAPE is a local NGO licensed by the Ministry of Interior and an official partner of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport. The agency was founded in 1999 by local stakeholders for the stakeholders. In this sense, the agency's establishment represents a unique experiment in stakeholder driven development. KAPE seeks to improve both the quality of and access to basic education for children living in Cambodia. KAPE works closely with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS) to realize recently proposed educational reforms that focus on increased access to education by vulnerable groups.

KAPE's mission statement is as follows: to support local schools and communities to fulfill the right of every Cambodian child to a quality basic education. The immediate objective of KAPE is to assist the government to achieve Education for All as well as achieve improvements in the learning environments of target primary and secondary schools as a result of interventions, which use cluster schools as the main delivery system of technical and material assistance.

The Completion of the CHES Target Areas Selection

Currently, the CHES project is implementing in 12 districts, 32 communes and 160 villages in Siem Reap, Pursat, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng provinces. Actually CHES associates in Kampong Cham province has selected extra 10 villages and two communes and also one extra-district in Siem Reap province in order to reach the number of target beneficiary.

CHES Target Areas in four provinces

Province	No. of District	No. of Commune	No. of Village
Pursat	3	9	45
Prey Veng	3	9	45
Siem Reap	4	9	45
Kampong Cham	2	5	25
4 Provinces	12	32	160

(For detailed names of district, commune and village, please contact Winrock International Office)

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.

Editor
Porny You

Associate Editor
Beth Beale

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