

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.

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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.



Message from Ms. Carol O'Laughlin

Group Vice President,
Empowerment and Civic Engagement
Winrock International, USA

Dear Friends of Winrock International,

It is an honor and a privilege for Winrock International to collaborate with the Royal Government of Cambodia and local NGOs in combating child labor and improving the lives and prospects of children and youth and their families and communities.

Child labor is a global problem with its root causes largely tied to poverty. According to International Labor Organization (ILO) and World Bank, more than 218 million children are engaged in exploitative & hazardous labor. Some 80-90% of these children are in rural areas. They can be found in hazardous working conditions and out of school in brick factories, fishing, on commercial farms, in the hotel and restaurant industries, in forced labor, and on their small plots of land where they are exposed to pesticides, heavy burdens, and other dangerous activities. The economic exploitation of children and their subsequent absence from school violate all the basic principles of children's rights. It denies its victims the protection afforded by the UN Convention of the Rights of a Child and ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labor Conventions.

Winrock has been combating child labor and trafficking in persons for more than ten years. To date we have supported over 100 programs in 25 countries that have withdrawn and/or prevented some 35,000 children from engaging in the worst forms of child labor and provided them with education and income generation opportunities. Winrock addresses this issue through a multi-pronged approach that provides direct support to children and their families in basic education, life and vocational skills, and livelihoods, while also raising awareness among communities about the dangers of child labor and working with the government and NGOs to build their knowledge and capacity to address this problem and to ensure that proper laws and *prakas* are in place to protect children.

Ending hazardous child labor is a complex problem. Families need their children's assistance in agriculture and other areas; yet, if the children are put in harm's way or prevented from acquiring new skills and knowledge, then the vicious cycle of poverty will not be broken. By working directly with families and local communities to address their economic and educational needs and to train them in what is safe work and hazardous labor for children, while also working with government and local partners, we know that this paradigm can be changed.

On behalf of Winrock, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training; the Ministry of Social Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Provincial Governors; the Department of Child Labor, CHES Communities, and the CHES team for their professionalism and sacrifice in making this program a reality and for their support and trust in Winrock. Together, as a global community, we can make a difference for our children.

Sincerely,
Ms. Carol O'Laughlin

Putting Ideas to Work

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NEWS FROM PROVINCES

World Day Against Child Labor on 12 June 2009 “Give Girls a Chance: End Child Labor”

Winrock International in Cambodia jointly observed the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) together with the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, and International Labor Organization on 12 June 2009 under the theme “Give Girls a Chance: End Child Labor”.

The objective of the event was multi-faceted to raise the value of education for the various backgrounds of the participants, to draw wide public attention to the issue of child labor in Cambodia, to influence the policy makers and law enforcement agencies in protecting children from Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) in agriculture, to bring awareness and a sense of social responsibility among the trade unions, employers, students, media, children, youth groups and community members in order to protect children from the WFCL and to mobilize them in combating WFCL.

The activities for the WDACL started a few days before 12 June. Campaign activities took place throughout the week with media attending at the provincial and national level to gather the news. There was a broadcasted live radio round table discussion with representatives from different institutions to

discuss the past achievements and future plan to combat child labor and to promote education. The contribution from CHES was to produce 30 street banners which were displayed in various key locations in the city. 600 T-shirts were produced and distributed among children participating in the street rally on 12 June. The street rally started from Preahpot pagoda to Olympic stadium and converged in a mass assembly. During the assembly, a song was presented by a group of children entitled “Together against Child Labor” and a role play by community children in Phnom Penh on child labor in brick making and debt bondage depicted poor parents forced to send their children into a brick factory to earn money thereby causing the children to drop out of school. Also, colorful balloons with messages were released into the air.



Children's Rally on World Day Against Child Labor in Phnom Penh City on 12 June 2009



H.E. Mr. Nos Sles, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport read a message from Samdach Akak Mohasenabadey Techo Hun Sen, Cambodia Prime Minister

Rusey secondary school in Tbong Khmom district where 525 people (315 women) participated in the event under the chair person by H.E Meng Suon who is the Deputy Governor and also the president of Provincial Committee on Child Labor. At the end of the ceremony, he shared a symbol of school materials to 450 students and each student received a 160 page-note book and a pen.

In Pursat, there were various activities conducted during 08- 12 June at the commune levels where 1,022 children and 910 parents attended the program. The event started with a rally by students, teachers and members of the Child Labor Monitoring Committee. The rally was equipped with banners and slogans against child labor and in favor of education. The street rally started from target villages to commune center where the ceremony was to be conducted. It also was observed at floating villages and was participated in by children and parents with a role play by the Child Youth Club regarding the definition of Child Work, Child Labor and the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Mr. Nos Sles, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport read a message from Samdach Akak Mohasenabadey Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 60 anniversary of the International Children's Day (01st June) and on the 08 anniversary of World Day Against Child Labor (12th June). It was clear that the Cambodia government fully supports combating any work that has a negative impact on the education and the health of children.

Besides various events at the national level, a number of activities have taken place in target provinces of the CHES project. This year, CHES in Kampong Cham province in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Vocational Training, the Department of Education Youth and Sport, KAPE organization, local authorities, teachers and students held the event at Kampong



Floating Village at Kampong Luong Commune in Pursat Province

Putting Ideas to Work

CHES Increases Airtime and Community Outreach

Many callers and listeners have suggested that the CHES phone-in radio program increase its airtime on FM 103 MHz. The time shift for CHES program will be on every Tuesday from 11:00am to 12:00pm to cover child labor/education topics with guest speakers from different institutions and every Sunday at 10:00am to 11:00am to share experiences and lessons learned from the callers.

Teang Chanbopha, a teacher in Kampong Cham province said, "I will disseminate these awareness materials to my students and raise awareness on child labor in my classes and with my friends too." She added, "I am interested in this program and I have called the program because I want to share my knowledge and experiences with others. My main objective for being involved in the program is to promote social mobilization to combat child labor". Chanbopha suggested, "It would be good if the CHES radio program could increase its airtime so people would have more opportunity to talk about child labor and education."



Callers from Kampong Cham and Prey Veng Province received awareness materials

Mr. Loy Vandy, 26 years old from Prey Veng province said, "The CHES radio program is good to promoting awareness in order to end child labor. I do not want to have child labor in our community". He added that his family has now sent their children and younger siblings to school. He said that he stopped studying in grade five because the school was so far from his house. The school which was about 3 kilometers away was too far to walk to and he also had to work to support his family.

Mr. Hak Vuthy, from Kandal province said he stopped studying in grade eight because he had to work to support his family. Till now he regrets that he promised to himself to send his children to school. He said, "In the future, I think children will be more educated because there are many more schools available for them to go to."

In the first stage of its four months, the program was designed to provide an orientation to listeners in order to help them know and understand who Winrock is, what the CHES project is doing and where CHES works as well as to send messages out on education and hazardous child labor. Once listeners know more about the program, they start to take an interest in it and pay more attention. In the end, many got involved in the program.

The current step is to gather as many callers as possible to be on the air in order to learn more about their views through asking questions and raising their awareness. The topic is changed weekly and is connected to the previous program.

In Pursat province through radio FM 100.5 MHz, CHES cooperates with monks through a radio program called "Buddhism and Society" which broadcasts everyday from 8:00 to 9:00pm to educate public about parent's role in society, the children's role, child labor, and the

World Day Against Child Labor... Continue from page 2...

In Siem Reap, rallies were organized in the districts with banners under the theme of WDACL from the 9 – 17 June in all 8 target communes with 2,115 (1,214 females) in cooperation with other local organizations. The children enjoyed themselves with various questions and answers on Child work, Child labor, Child rights and CHES project. The children were very brave to give answers to the questions and the winners were provided with two notebooks and two pens. CHES also joined a marathon race which was organized by a Children Committee in cooperation with the ILO-IPEC called "A Marathon Against Child Labor" with 1,181 participants. Forty-nine CHES beneficiary children and four CLMC members were invited to join this event. The 10 CHES beneficiary children (5 girls) also joined the Marathon running competition with a total of 150 children runners. As a result, 6 children (3 girls) were winners for the Marathon race. Amongst these 6 winners, 3 CHES beneficiary children won the race and they were withdrawn children from hazardous child labor in agriculture (One boy got number I, one boy got number II, and one girl got number II) from Leang Dai commune in Angkor Thom district.

In Prey Veng province, the World Day Against Child Labor was observed at Kou Khchak commune on 11 June. It was chaired by H.E. Huy Han Song, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. There were 200 children from the CHES project who came to the event including 150 community people and parents. Each of the CHES beneficiary children received a T-shirt, a school bag with two-note books, a pen, a pencil and a ruler.

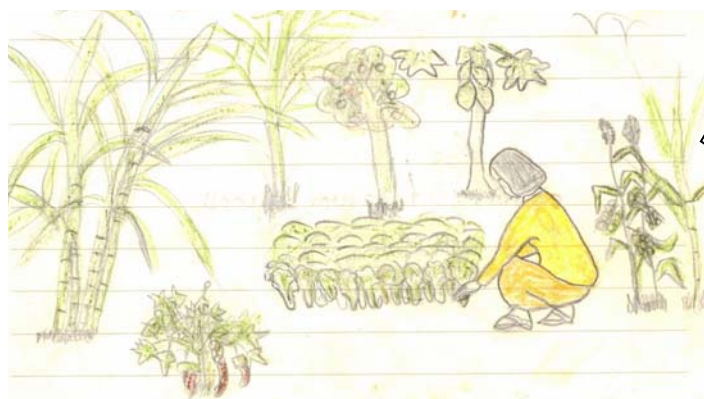
Text by: Porny You



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Putting Ideas to Work

VOICES OF CHILDREN



This picture was drawn by Chuon Phana in order to describe her daily work

"I get up every early morning to water the vegetables that I grow behind my house, and watch them so the animals do not eat them, and I also have to bring my vegetables to the market for sale, which made me miss school sometimes because the school is far. "

"I have tried to study hard otherwise no one will give me a scholarship kit, besides Wathnakpheap. This has caused me to live and to study better. It is now not difficult to go to school that far because I received a bicycle from the organization as well. I would like to thank Wathnakpheap and Winrock for this scholarship kit."

My name is Lach Chantrea. I stopped studying last year because I was busy doing farming for my family as well as doing farming for others in order to earn 5,000 Riel (\$1.25) per day for family living expense. Currently, my living condition is better than before because Wathnakpheap re-enrolled me to study in grade five at Daun Ouv primary school. I am happy that I am going back to school again and I want to be a teacher in the future.

Key Findings on Hazardous Child Labor in Cassava Production

Children are involved in whole process of cassava production such as weeding, planting, transporting, uprooting, and peeling or clearing of cassava bulbs for processing according to the research on hazardous child labor in Kampong Cham province. This was recently determined through interviewing 260 households and 171 children. It also found that children are involved in the whole process and face many different kinds of dangers and risks without any protection or control from their parents. The overall aim of this research is to broaden Winrock's knowledge on hazardous child labor situation in cassava production and to produce an objective picture of the conditions and the level of involvement of children at this time.

(Please contact Winrock International Office for the whole report)

Case Study: One of the child laborers in cassava production who is 13 years old stopped studying in grade four in order to help her parents generate income. Besides doing daily house chore, Nary assists her parents in earning money during the cassava season through working in a big cassava plantation. She stays on the farm with other child laborers for fifteen days to transport cassava stakes for planting and stays another fifteen days for weeding. The working hours start from 7:00 – 11:00 am and from 13:00 – 16:00pm. While peeling cassava shells and chopping, she has to leave the house at 5:00 am and start work from 6:00 am until 16:00pm. Her payment is according to how many baskets she can fill up [one basket is equal to 400 Riel (10 cents)]. She can earn about 8,000 Riel (\$2.00) per day.

Her work often caused her hands and legs to be injured because she would be bitten by insects or cut during the weeding, peeling and chopping process. She treated herself with mud in order to cover the wound, without medicine and she continues on with her work. She feels dizzy whenever she is exposed to the sunlight for a long time and her job also makes her feel over-fatigued and stressed but she has never informed her supervisor because she is afraid that she will not employ her.

Her own dreams for her family to have a better life and her own aspirations in life have been put aside as she is now becoming hopeless because she has not even finished her primary education which she considers to be the only way to have a better life. She has asked if there could be some programs from the government or other institutions to provide vocational skill training to her family and community in order to find an alternative livelihood without child labor.

Text by: Chey Tech



Child Laborers in Cassava Production in Kampong Cham Province

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.

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