

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)

CHES has Withdrawn and Prevented 4,086 Children from the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Agriculture during 2 years

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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Winrock International in Cambodia conducted a national workshop to present the preliminary findings of mid-term evaluation of the CHES project funded by the U.S Department of Labor on 11 December 2009 at Cambodiana Hotel with about 70 stakeholders from national, provincial, and community level. The workshop was presided over by H.E Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and some guest-of-honors from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the U.S embassy, and representatives of the parents, community and children.

Mr. Bjorn Nordtveit, an independent evaluator said, "The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to assess the relevance of the project in the cultural, economic, and political context in Cambodia, to assess the effectiveness of the project implementation and project's strategies, to assess the potential impact of the project, and to provide recommendations toward how the project can successfully overcome challenges to meet its objectives and targets by the time the project ends."

Mr. Kosal Chea, the Project Director said, "Since the project started in September 2007 until now, the project has withdrawn and prevented 4,086 children (2,247 girls), which is about 50% of the total number of target beneficiary children (8,250 children), from the worst forms of child labor and hazardous child labor in agriculture through providing educational services and vocational skill training with support from the U.S Department of Labor."

This four-year project (September 2007-2011) has been implemented in four target provinces

such as Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Pursat and Siem Reap in 12 districts, 32 communes, 160 villages in close collaboration with Cambodia government.

H.E Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training said, "Elimination of child labor is one of the important affairs of the Cambodian government to develop the country, especially in human resources and social economy. The National Plan of Action of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training plans to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor to 8% by 2015." She would encourage all stakeholders in this workshop to take key findings seriously from the evaluation in order to contribute their experiences and recommendations for the future implementation.

All stakeholders especially representatives of parents and children contributed their recommendations and develop the future plans for the project implementation and its sustainability.

Putting Ideas to Work

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Capacity Building on Labor Inspection, Safe Work and Child Labor

Besides conducting the labor inspection training to CHES stakeholders in each target province under the CHES project, the Department of Child Labor also conducted such training on 26-27 October 2009 for national level at the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training in collaboration with Winrock International .

Child labor inspection trainings have been conducted to focus on international labor standards, ILO conventions 138, 182, 124 and 29, labor laws and ministerial orders (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. Also Winrock presented about its progress of the CHES project implementation and its monitoring methodology.

Mr. Chuon Mom Thol, leader of the Cambodian Confederation of Trade Unions, said, "We do not support having child employees because it causes the older people to lose their jobs. Children can easily be employed with a low salary and can easily follow their employers' orders." He added, "The parents of children are the ones who force children to work."

Mr. Kosal Chea, the Project Director, informed the participants at the workshop that, "Winrock International is implementing the CHES project to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the agriculture sector and Winrock is committed to cooperate with the Cambodian government and I/NGOs to combat child labor because child labor is all our duty". He said to all the participants that he hoped this training will build their capacity especially on child labor monitoring in their areas.

H.E. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, gave a speech to open the workshop by saying that, "This is the first training conducted at the national level and such training will have more and more in the future to build capacity for stakeholders to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. "

This training also invited the honorary guest speaker, H.E Huy Han Song, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to respond to questions from the trainees, especially related to the child labor ministerial orders (Prakas). There were about 60 participants came from the National Sub-committee on Child Labor, Provincial Committee of Child Labor, Department of Labor and Vocational Training, the Department of Education, Youth and Sports, Wathnakpheap (WP), Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE) and from other stakeholders.

Text by: Pomy You



Scholarship Distribution to Vulnerable Children of Child Labor in Agriculture

It is the second time that Winrock International and its implementing organization have distributed scholarship kits to vulnerable children under the CHES project funded by U.S Department of Labor.

The scholarship kits have been distributed to the old and the new beneficiary children (2008-2009) selected by the Child Labor Monitoring Committee who are the community volunteer groups. The scholarship kits have been distributed to 3006 (1752 girls) vulnerable children in Pursat and Siem Reap. The scholarship distribution will be conducted in Prey Veng and Kampong Cham as well.

Mr. Kosal Chea said, "The purpose of scholarship distribution is to prevent the poor and withdrawn children from the worst forms of child labor or hazardous child labor on commercial farms or in subsistence agriculture including fresh water fishing, tobacco and cassava plantation to stay in school."

The scholarship kits include uniforms, school bags, study materials and bicycles (only for at-risk girls who have completed primary school and are transitioning into lower secondary school, who live about 3 Kilometers from their home).



Educational kits and bicycles for distribution to vulnerable children in Pursat province

Putting Ideas to Work

CHES Progress Summary In 2009

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.

65 teachers (23 females) in Pursat, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap were trained for 3 days on re-entry program by the Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sports.

Total number of 1420 children (703 girls) in Pursat, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap who dropped out of school in the past year from grade 3-6 were selected and were enrolled for two-month re-entry program from August – September 2009 and have been integrated into state schools.

26 childcare mothers (CCM) were selected and trained for 5 days on pre-school program by the Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sports in Pursat and Siem Reap provinces. The CCM activities are to reduce child labor at home and also to provide some pre-school activities to children who are 3- 5 years old.

Labor Inspection and Child Labor Training at district and provincial and national level were conducted for CHES stakeholders especially for PCCL members, commune police, commune council and CHES associate staff. The training focused on various issues with regard to child labor such as international labor standards. They included convention 138, convention 182 and convention 29, labor laws, a definition of child work, child labor, the worst forms of child labor, basic components of child rights and other ministerial orders (Prakas) issued by the Royal Government of Cambodia on prohibition of various forms of child labor and how child labor affects a child's education, health and society.

There are 173 NFE students (109 girls) have been receiving vocational skills training like bike/motorbike repairing, sewing, scarf waving, beauty salon, bamboo furniture, chicken raising, TV/Radio repairing, barber and agriculture techniques. Some of them have started small business within their community and others have formulated into small business group to compete at labor market.

Formulation of Provincial Committee of Child Labor (PCCL) in Pursat and Prey Veng provinces. The chairperson of PCCL is a Deputy Governor and the PDoLVT is a permanent secretariat of PCCL. The members of PCCL are from Provincial Departments and District Governors. The main purposes of PCCL formulation are to provide the labor inspection and coordination among development agencies in combating the worst forms of child labor.

The researches on hazardous child labor in tobacco and cassava production in Kampong Cham province were conducted from January to April 2009. The overall aims of these researches are to broaden Winrock's knowledge on hazardous child labor situation in cassava and tobacco-

production and to produce an objective picture of the conditions and the level of involvement of children.

The CHES project has recruited a technical consultant to facilitate three areas of research and policy from August 2009 to December 2010. The purpose of the consultancy is to assist Winrock International in conducting three research studies which include (1) research on hazardous child labor in subsistence agriculture and development of Prakas, (2) research on hazardous child labor in freshwater fishing and development of Prakas, and (3) research on education and child labor policy to incorporate child labor into existing education policy in order to develop a subset of policies, in support of the Royal Government of Cambodia, that addresses the special concerns of child laborers within the broader framework of the existing education policy.

90 new CLMCs in Pursat, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap with the total members of 486 (143 females) were formed and trained on their roles and responsibilities, and concept on child rights, child work, child labor, the worst forms of child labor, data collection and Child Labor monitoring. CLMC has played a major role in decision making on the selection of beneficiary children for the project and monitoring the project activities in their village. Additionally, the child labor concept and PRAKAS was trained by the Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training.

Total number of 20 CYCs was formed in Siem Reap; there are 606 youths (386 girls) age 12-25 years old (single) have been selected as CYC member. The overall objectives of CYC are to educate the basic rights and labor monitoring at the communities.

Total number of 6,522 persons (4,652 females) participated on World Day Against Child Labor (12 June 2009) at national and provincial levels which were organized by Winrock and Associates in cooperation with I/NGOs, the MoEYS, the MoLVT, ILO/IPEC, the PDoLVT, the PDoEYS, local authorities and key stakeholders. Its objectives are to promote the value of education, raise awareness of child labor, and gain further support from communities, stakeholders and local authorities in combating child labor. The event gathered children and parents to involve in various activities in order to raise awareness related to child labor and education through entertainment.

Winrock produce one-hour phone-in-radio program for two times per week; every Sunday at 10:00am to 11:00am (started in March) and every Tuesday at 11:00am to 12:00pm (started in July due to suggestion from callers to increase its airtime) with guest speakers from different Ministries and I/NGOs to share their knowledge, experience and lessons learnt.

Educational video and radio spot to encourage parents to send their children to school were developed in coordination with and approved by the MoLVT and the MoEYS. The objective is to promote awareness on child labor to mass audiences through broadcasting on TV and radio stations. The main target groups are parents and children. It was broadcasted on state TV and local radio stations in September to October in order to promote school enrollment for the new academic year and discourage hazardous child labor.

VOICES OF CHILDREN



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Thay Layheang from Pursat province is in group discussion to find a strategy how to reduce working hours of child laborer in agriculture during national workshop of the CHES project mid-term evaluation in Phnom Penh

My Volunteer Work for My Community

I do volunteer work as a deputy chair person of the Child Labor Monitoring Committee (CLMC) at Chi Ches village, Sna Ansa commune, Krakor district in Pursat province.

The reasons that I offer to do the volunteer work are because:

- I want children in my community to have good knowledge in the future,
- I love and like children,
- I want children to have an experience with me,
- I want all parents of vulnerable children to know about the importance of education,
- I want children know their four basic rights,
- I want to have literate people in my community,
- I want our country developed,
- I want to reduce the rate of child drop-outs from schools,
- I want to eliminate child labor,
- I want the Commune Council pay more attention on children,
- I want CLMC to have knowledge and experience from their work.

Peer Education

I am the chair person of the Child Youth Club at Spean Chey village, Sena Reach Odom commune and Preah Sdach district in Prey Veng province.

I am also a student. The reasons why I volunteer to do this work are because I want to know about human rights, child labor and child work. Through this, I can understand a lot about the social situation and avoid being illiterate. Until now my study grades have been better than before and I have become involved in a club formed by our organization to build our capacity on child labor awareness raising in the community.

The Child Youth Club has monthly meetings for self-help groups and has money which can be lent with a low interest to members who have budget constraints for their study.

From Heng Sovin



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The members of Child Youth Club is raising awareness on the impacts of child labor in agriculture to other children in her community in Prey Veng province

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Putting Ideas to Work

The Importance of Children Participation

The children participation is very important because it is one of the methodologies to help the older people who try to understand children's mind.

The communication with children needs to be a good listener:

- Listen carefully about what children are speaking; Show your interest;
- Do not interrupt while children are speaking; Should respond to them properly;
- Should be patient; Create friendship environment;
- Should try to understand children mind or ideas; Show your impression of your understanding, your concern and support them through your activity, language, and comments;
- Try to make balance between listening and speaking and also ask children about their feedback and comments.

Encourage children to share comments:

- Accept their ideas however it does not mean that all their ideas are correct;
- Should choose the appropriate methodologies for children such as role play, drawing, playing entertainment game or discussion;
- Should use other tools to support while teaching such as picture, leaflet, video;
- Should ask questions and leave time for them to understand;

What should facilitator do when children feel bore or lose their interest?

First, you need to listen and observe children:

- Do children show you through their talking and activities? Do they understand clearly what you would like them to do?
- Is activity appropriate for children? Is this activity need to take long time which causes children feel bore?

Need to solve the problems after your observation:

- Conduct activities which are appropriate for children; Need to explain clearly on what children do not understand;
- Change activities if needed;
- Sometimes need to stop all activities and explain clearly to children about what you would like them to do;

Ideas/comments of children for communication with the older people

- Generally, the older people should pay more attention and give some respect to children;
- Help children to understand more about what they are speaking;
- Use simple words;
- Children will talk if the older people ask interested questions or conversation;
- To remember that, children and the older have different interest.



Please use the simple words for speaking that can attract feeling of children with happy environment and do not shout at children if they do not listen to you!

- Encourage children to talk and recognize that they are children;
- Try to understand what they are talking and interact to what they are talking are important;
- Love and give a warm to children in order to let them talk from their mind;
- Try to understand their feeling and be patient;
- Help children to be confident and encourage them;
- Listen carefully with your very much interest;
- Though you are not interested with what they are talking, you need to look at them seriously and to bend your head down as a sign of support;
- The older should take children's words seriously;
- Do not angry with children when they do not say anything;
- Do not tell fake stories and do not promise what you cannot do;
- Should speak friendly with children;
- Should discuss and listen to children when they have questions;
- Catch on main points of what children are talking;
- Should tell funny story or a joke and play entertainment game.



*Quoted from "My News" newspaper published by Children's Committee
Extract from teaching guideline book about children participation*