



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.

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.

Family Income Generation from Different Sources



The CHES project features one family from Kampong Trabaek district in Prey Veng province who has improved their livelihood through subsistence agriculture. Mr. Im Voeun is a 45 year old man who, together with his wife, owns one hectare of his brother's land. The family has one cow and, in addition to cultivating rice, they raise about 20 chickens, 250 fish, and 2 ducks. To further ensure food security and the ability to afford education for their two children, Mr Im Voeun and his family also grow vegetables around their house.

Mr. Im Voeun's interest in improving their livelihood led him to avail of chicken-raising training organized by the Provincial Department of Agriculture in collaboration with Winrock and KAPE. By gaining practical experience through this 5-month training, he now has the skill to grow each chicken to a weight of 1.5 kilograms, which he can then sell for a higher price of 13,000 – 15,000 Riel (\$3.25 – 3.75 USD) per kilogram. Meanwhile, he has raised 250 PRA fish, which he buys for 25,000 Riel (\$6.25), grows to the weight of 1,500 grams and then sells for a price of 5,000 Riel (\$1.25) per kilogram.

During the rainy season, he has to buy extra paddy for his chickens since his family's rice field does not produce enough of his own paddy. In the dry season, however, he does not need to buy extra paddy and instead releases his chicken to look for food around his house.

From this training, Mr. Im Voeun has learned the importance of taking good care of his chickens, protecting them from infection and disease. In fact, his chickens are so healthy that his neighbors often buy small chickens from Mr. Im Voeun when their own die from infection and disease.

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Mr. Im Voeun said, "chicken raising is easier than duck raising because we can release chickens to find their own food whereas ducks need to be kept in their cage."

His wife, 40-year old Mrs. Eang Chheb, also helps to generate family income. During the dry season, she grows cucumbers, long beans, and watermelons, whereas she grows water lilies, taro, and morning glories in the rainy season.

Mr. Im Voeun and Mrs. Eang Chheb have learned to be more efficient in completing their various tasks due to the training they have received from CHES. One positive result is that their children are no longer expected to skip school in order to help, although they do contribute to light house work after school hours and when they are on holiday. They are now able to maintain regular school attendance and have enough time to study. The two boys, who are in grades 3 and 7, have also been granted scholarship support for two years due to their participation in the CHES project.



Family income earned through a variety of activities is now used to cover the cost of basic family needs and the children's education. Mr. Im Voeun also saves some of the money to buy raw materials, which he uses to increase his animal stock. However, he rarely buys new chickens and instead keeps all his current chickens' eggs, waiting for them to hatch a new generation of income.

Livelihood Improvement through Fish Raising

Through the first experiment with fish raising training under the CHES project, Mr. Nov Chheng has raised freshwater catfish weighing up to 2 kilograms in his dig pond (100 kilograms equal 30-40 fish). After 3 months, each fish grows to 150 grams, which Mr. Nov Chheng can sell in his community or sometimes to village market for the price of 5,000 to 6,000 Riel (\$1.25-1.50 USD) per kilogram.

He says of his experience: "to raise fish, we need to select the appropriate location to dig pond". He provided the fish with natural food, such as termites, porridge, or bran that he could find around in his house and community. However, he also adds 10 kilograms of fish food for a total cost of 20,000 Riel (\$ 5.00 USD). He plans to sell these fish soon, since he already has 3 kilograms of fish that he uses to feed his family.



He estimated his income from selling fish at about 280,000 Riel (\$ 70.00 USD), which he plans to use to buy more fish to put into another new pond. The money he earns from utilizing the new pond will be used to support the education of his four grandchildren.

He explained, "it is not difficult to raise freshwater catfish because we can find its food within the community, which is free of charge." Having seen the benefit to his family's livelihood, he is happy to share this knowledge and experience with other families and community as well.

Mr. Nov Chheng is a former primary school teacher and was recently selected as a model farmer in Pnov village of Kampong Tra-baek district in Prey Veng province. He also grows some vegetables around his house such as potatoes, winter melon, and egg-plant.

Livelihood Improvement to Prevent Child Labor !

Final CHES Scholarship Distribution



Scholarship Distribution in Prey Veng Province

The CHES project distributed scholarship kits to 4,466 students (2,726 females) during November and December 2010 in four target provinces. This is the last scholarship support to eligible students enrolled in 2007. It was the last The event was presided by local authorities, KAPE, Wathnakpheap and Winrock International.

During the scholarship distribution in Prey Chhor Commune, Kampong Trabaek District in Prey Veng province, H.E. Mrs. Tep Sam Aoun said “generally, and especially in this project, children have been advised about children’s rights, child labor and education, but now I would like to talk to parents in order to understand these issues clearly, since parents have such a great influence on their children”.

Mrs. Reach Loch is 70 years old and is the caretaker of her granddaughter, who was orphaned. Her granddaughter is studying in grade 5 and only asks for her help with rice harvesting and looking after the cow when her granddaughter is free from school.

Mrs. Toun Saroeun, one mother who was asked about her experience receiving the scholarship said, “I am happy that my daughter received this scholarship kit because previously I could not afford to buy my daughter’s study materials or a school uniform. This support encourages my daughter to study hard and I ensure that she does not do any work that affects her study and health.”

Hoeun is in grade 7 said, “I am very happy. I love my study materials. I will try my best to study hard”. He added, “I also help to look after my younger brother who is 6 years old and this year he has enrolled in grade one”.

Ken Savoeun, a 13-year old girl who also came to receive scholarship kit said she previously had helped her family cook rice, look after cow, wash clothes and also look after her two nieces. She complained that she did not like to do those jobs and that her mother did not force her to help, but that she felt bad for her mother. Now, she only does light work which does not affect her schooling.

Young Agricultural Entrepreneurship Introduction Workshop

In December 2010, CEDAC collaborated with KAPE and WP to organize Young Agricultural Entrepreneurship (YAE) introduction workshops in all target provinces of CHES. This workshop aimed to introduce an overview of YAE to all new CHES NFE students as well as to identify potential candidates who could join this program. During the workshop, former trained young entrepreneurs shared their experiences with the potential participants. CEDAC also organized a writing contest for children interested in joining the program.

According to the presentation given by CEDAC, and based on the experiences and good practices of former YAEs, most participants showed interest in the YAE program and most of those who attended also took the writing test to assess their knowledge and skills.

Following the workshop, representatives from CEDAC, KAPE and WP plan to visit individual children in their homes in order to check their suitability as a trainee. This visit will focus on gauging the parents’ perception of YAE, the home space that could be used to apply new agricultural techniques, as well as the resources available for investing in what participants learn from the program. CEDAC trainers expect to begin conducting trainings by January 2011.

Although all new NFEs have only basic education, they are very interested in joining this program. Therefore, CEDAC will prepare a training curriculum that is tailored to meet their educational needs.

CEDAC is a new associate with the CHES project of Winrock International in Cambodia.



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Writing Test Activity of NFE Students

Child Labor Reduction through Livelihood Improvement !

Putting Ideas to Work

National Consultation Meeting on CHES Sustainability Plan

Winrock International in Cambodia organized a national workshop to present the sustainability of the CHES project funded by the U.S Department of Labor on 21 October 2010 at Phnom Penh Hotel with 68 stakeholders from national, provincial, community, and school departments. The workshop was presided over by H.E. Mrs. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and attended by other guests-of-honor from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and representatives of the trade union.

H.E. Mao Sambath, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap province and Chairman of Provincial Committee on Child Labor said, "this discussion is great because all the stakeholders can discuss the key points to develop a plan for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Cambodia".

Mr. Chea Kosal, the Project Director said, " project implementation has reached its fourth year. it has successfully withdrawn and prevented 7,883 children (4,760 girls and 3,123 boys) from hazardous and the worst forms of child labor, which is about 95% of the total number of target." The project plans to withdraw more children between the age of 15-17 to attend the NFE and vocational skills training. He added, "after this discussion, I hope all the participants can get this sustainable plan to implement in the community".

H.E. Mrs. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training said, "the twin program has given a chance for all children to receive education for all by 2015 and to decrease child labor to 8% by 2015. It remains a high priority commitment of government as stated in our policy ". She also commended the bravery of Cambodia and Winrock International regarding their work against child labor in agriculture, which is a large and complex issue, adding that, "we have to struggle to achieve this goal for our country."

Moving forward, the Cambodian government must work hard in building cooperation between development associates and non-government organizations to guarantee the national sustainable development. Especially in the case of the child labor project, there is a need to clarify policy and the National Plan of Action of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. A consensus amongst associates must be made about sharing responsibility and maintaining transparency to provide good results for children, in recognition that the elimination of the worst forms of child labor is our duty!

All discussion groups with stakeholders were divided into 4 groups (national, provincial, community, and school level), which then offered recommendations for the development of a sustainable plan for the CHES project.

Child Labor National Training for CHES Stakeholders

Winrock International collaborated with the Department of Child Labor of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to organize a child labor national workshop between 19-20 October 2010 at Phnom Penh Hotel. Over 60 participants from the National Sub-Committee on Child Labor, Provincial Committee on Child Labor, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, International Labor Organization, CHES associates and other stakeholders attended the workshop.

The workshop aimed to review policy relevant to child labor and the national plan of actions to end the worst forms of child labor by 2016. In addition, it aimed to strengthen the capacity of relevant officials for implementing the CHES project. Focus was given to international labor standards, ILO conventions, labor laws, Ministerial orders (called *Prakas*) related to child labor, the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2008-2012) and Understanding Children's Work.

The workshop promoted a gender-responsive view of children's work in agriculture, and highlighted specific hazards and educational risks to child laborers working in agriculture. Key messages communicated during the workshop encouraged serious effort and cooperation between government and development associations in order to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Winrock staff also gave a presentation on the organization's monitoring of the CHES project and management of its data system.

Mrs. Mao Chantha, Deputy Governor of Kompoung Trabek district in Prey Veng Province said, "I will continue to strengthen the authority to monitoring the child labor in my area to eliminate child labor." Mr. Chea Kosal , Project Director, informed the participants at the workshop, "I hope this training will build your capacity especially on child labor monitoring in your areas". H.E. Mrs. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, gave a speech to open the workshop saying that this workshop shows the effort of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to train the relevant officials to improve their knowledge in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in agriculture.

Putting Ideas to Work



Child Labor and Child Friendly School Teacher Trainings

CHES organized a child labor training with 1,100 teachers in CHES target provinces in September 2010. The objective of the training was to build capacity among teachers on the negative impacts associated with hazardous or worst forms of child labor, especially in agriculture, fresh water fishing, tobacco and cas-sava plantation.

With this knowledge, the teachers are expected to educate their students and promote the importance of education instead. After the training, teachers are also supposed to incorporate child labor lessons into their class curriculum to further reinforce these issues to students.

In turn, teachers also have to know the concept of fostering child friendly schools in order to encourage students to attend class. For instance, it is very important for teachers to know how to organize their classroom and develop teaching materials. Around 120 teachers joined this training.

School Enrollment Campaign Brings More Children to School

Prior to organizing a school enrollment campaign in 64 CHES target villages, Winrock collected data on school aged children who have not enrolled in school and children who have dropped -out of school and not re-enrolled in school.

CHES conducted various activities such as house to house campaign and screening of educational child labor videos. The latter served as an opportunity for parents to share their experiences with regard to their children's schooling and their commitment to education. Participants were also quizzed with questions about child labor, and rewarded with study materials like notebooks, pens, and pencils, once they answered correctly.

Through CHES school enrollment campaign, Child Youth Club and Child Labor Monitoring Committee as well as Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sport and Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training sent messages regarding the importance of children's education and the negative impacts of child labor to target group.

Parents participated in most of these activities, enabling them to clarify issues surrounding enrolment, particularly regarding appropriate age for enrolment and free enrolment provision.

After the campaign, preliminary school enrolment data suggest that a high percentage of school -aged children enrolled in school for the first time, whereas a significant number of school leavers, mostly below 15 years old have since re-enrolled. Those who are aged 15-17 years old opted to help their families with their livelihood activities.

Review Meeting of the Progress of the National Sub-committee on Child Labor

The national sub-committee on child labor organized its regular quarterly meeting to provide updates of progress made with regard to monitoring and implementation. Also, the meeting provided a chance to follow-up on discussions about specific activities that should be implemented in the CHES project target provinces in order to strengthen the project's sustainability with provincial and community stakeholders. During the meeting, it was announced that the CHES sustainability plan has been accepted by national and local authorities as the blueprint for government action in combating child labor in the country.



Child Labor Educational Video Spot will be on Air

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, CHES produced a video spot aimed at sensitizing child labor issues to the public and especially to parents and children in the countryside.

The video provides information critical in raising awareness of hazardous of child labor and the worst forms of child labor in agriculture and fresh water fishing. This video spot will be broadcasted in January 2011 widely through popular TV and radio channels in order to reinforce messages about hazardous child labor to the public.

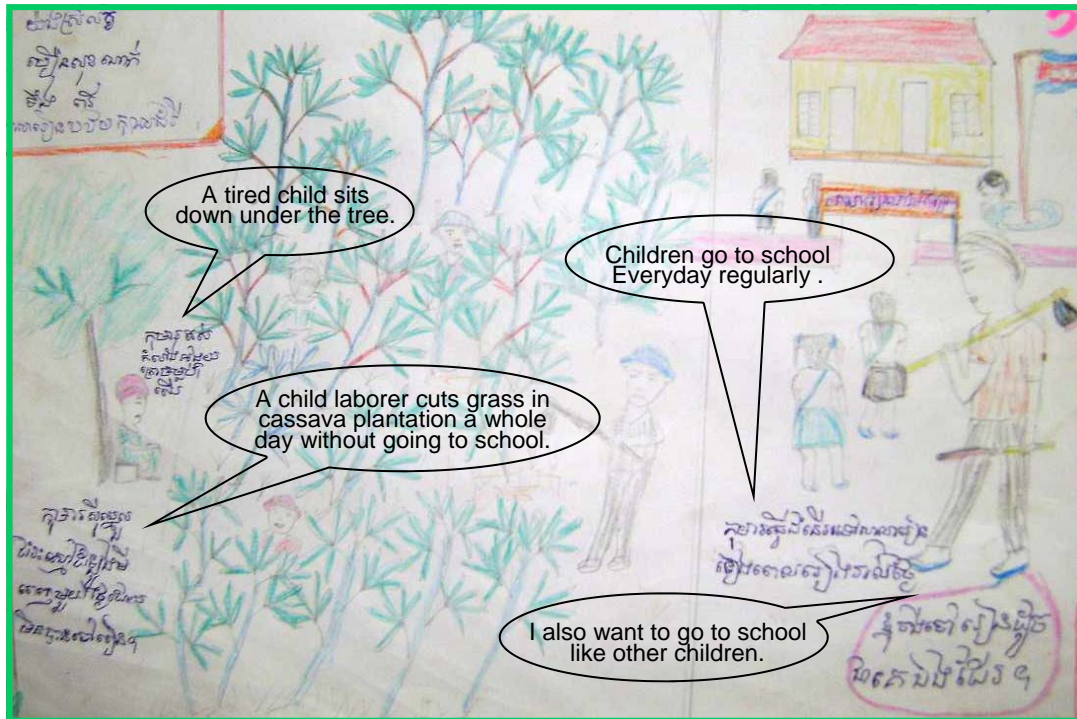
CHES Strategic Planning Workshop

The annual staff strategic planning workshop of the CHES project gave the opportunity for staff to present their progress about work completed or ongoing within their unit, and to prepare the annual work plan for the following year. This workshop gathered staff to build close relationship for team work.



Putting Ideas to Work

VOICES OF CHILDREN



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