

BACKGROUND OF EXCEL PROJECT

The World Vision's project: "Eliminating Exploitative Child Labour through Education and Livelihoods (EXCEL)", in Cambodia is funded with a total amount of US\$ 11 Million by the USDOL (\$10 M) and World Vision US (\$1M) for 4 years period from 28 December 2012 to 31 December 2016. The MOUs of the project were officially signed with Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training 07 June 2013 and with Ministry of Education Youth and Sport on 09 August 2013 and with.

Cambodians EXCEL project is aimed at reducing exploitative child labor in fishing, agriculture, and domestic service in Cambodia by implementing a multi-sector approach through direct educational and livelihoods services and linkages for 28,000 children aged 5-17 and 14,000 households and through advocacy and awareness raising at national and sub-national levels.

The Project is implemented in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Pursat, Kampong Cham, and Phnom Penh by World Vision Cambodia in partnership with Wathanakpheap (WP), Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization (VCAO), Farmers Livelihoods Development (FLD) and Cambodian Development Research Institute (CDRI).



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ELIMINATING EXPLOITATIVE CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOODS (EXCEL)

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Labor.



At the opening of the national stakeholder workshop on the finalization of the national guidelines for the elimination of worst forms of child labor in fisheries sector, on 14 March 2014 in Siem Reap.



H.E. Mr. Nao Touk, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture's Fisheries Administration, at the opening of the national stakeholder workshop on the finalization of the national guidelines for the elimination of worst forms of child labor in fisheries sector.

CHILD LABOR GUIDELINES FOR CAMBODIAN FISHERIES MOVE FORWARD

The EXCEL project initiated and supported a national stakeholders workshop on the finalization of the national guidelines for the elimination of worst forms of child labor in fisheries sector. The event was organized by the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishers (MoAFF) and the Department of Child Labour (DoCL) of the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT). The workshop was a follow up activity to two prior provincial workshops held in Pursat and Siem Reap where the EXCEL project facilitated the drafting of national guidelines with the concerned stakeholders. The finalization workshop was attended by key representatives from government, fishery communities, local authorities, trade unions, employers, and NGOs partners.

Nao Touk, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture's Fisheries Administration, said the fisheries sector was in need of such guidelines regarding child workers. "While child labor in the fishery industry is found to have a high effect on the physical and moral development of children...we noticed that no specific and practical guideline or declaration on this sector has been created yet," Nao Touk said in support to the initiative. The guidelines, which will be approved by Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishers (MoAFF), are expected to help reduce the issue of child labor in Cambodia in addition to existing child labor instruments.

Both the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and International Labour Organization (ILO) have reviewed the guidelines and provided their technical inputs to the Fishery in Administration in order to support the project. The guideline approval process is expected to take six months to a year, after which the EXCEL project will conduct activities to support dissemination of the guidelines.

EXCEL PROJECT ADVOCATES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Since 2002 the annual World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) has been observed in Cambodia by government, civil society organizations and UN agencies in order to promote knowledge about child labor and to mobilize all relevant stakeholders to immediate action against child labor, especially the worst forms of child labor. The program for the 2014 WDACL highlights the role of social protection in keeping children out of child labor and removing them from labor exploitation.

This year, the Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a circular national wide encouraging all relevant institutions, civil society organizations and communities to join a joint observance of the 64th International Children Day on June 1st with a theme "Together Eliminating Violence Against Children" and the 13th World Day Against Child Labor on June 12th with a theme "Extend Social Protection, Combat Child Labor".

As a part of this observance the project has supported many activities at the national, sub national level and community levels, in collaboration with Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT), Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training (PDLVT), NGO-CRC, relevant Department in target provinces, District Office of Education, local authorities, and NGOs partners.

Activities at the Sub-National and Community levels:

Activities have also been organized at sub-national and communities levels through the support of the project and NGOs partners in collaboration with relevant provincial level officials, especially with PDLVT, DoEs, local authorities and target schools.

These events took place in 33 different locations in the target provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Pursat and Phnom Penh with approximately of 20,427 participants including children, teachers, school directors, local authorities and community members taking part. They were recognized with the special presence of the deputy provincial governors during the event in Battambang, Batntey Meanchey and Siem Reap.

Different activities were organized during these events to encourage the active involvement of participants such as: quiz questions, community forum, skits presenting sensitizing message related to child rights protection, with issues surrounding child labor and child trafficking being highlighted.



Activities at the National level:

A national observance of the International Children's Day and the World Day Against Child Labor was held on June 1st at Koh Pich center in Phnom Penh, with contributions from a variety of WVC's projects including EXCEL, MCCP, the Childhood Project and EXCEL's NGO partners. This event was presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister, Senior Government Officials, Embassy representatives, Diplomats, International guests, civil society organizations, teachers, local authorities and children for a total of over 2500 participants.

A television forum for children was conducted on May 24th with 250 children from different schools and NGOs and 9 guest speakers from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the CNCC, the Ministry of Social Affair, the Ministry of Interior, NGO-CRC, representatives from the National Youth Advocacy, and the EXCEL project were invited for a question and answer session related to child protection, child labor, child education, violation of child rights, etc.

This children forum was broadcasted by the national TVK widely in the country of Cambodia and as well as in some other countries including in Europe and the Americas.

Comedy performances through TV-CTN with messages related to child labor, child domestic labor and promoting education for children were subsequently broadcasted on May 24th, May 31st 2014, and on June 14, 2014.



Observance of World's Day Against Child Labor in Phnom Penh

"I'll set up my own business to support my livelihood and build up for the bright future by using the skill that I gain from VCAO's center" said Ms. Samnang. Ms Samnang, a 16 year old child domestic Worker, was speaking as part of an event organized by VCAO to mark the anniversary of the **World Day Against Child Labor** on June 12, 2014.

The event was held in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Vocational (DoLVT) and Department of Social Affair Veterance and Youth Rehabilitation (DoSAVY) of Phnom Penh, and was held at VCAO's Kolap IV center. It was presided over by **Mrs. Mom Chan Dany** the Deputy of the Phnom Penh Committee of Women and Children and Deputy of DoSAVY, **Mr. Choun Vuthy** the Deputy of DoSAVY of Phnom Penh, **Mrs. Nhem Mom** the Chief of DCWC of Khan Toul Kork and Mr. Chea Pyden the Executive Director of VCAO.

Participants included the Head of District Office Labor and Vocational Trainings, representatives from local Sangkats, and graduates of the VCAO program, Child Domestic Workers and other children for a total of 220 participants. Its objective was to extend social protection for children, and to combat child labor (especially for child domestic workers) through provision of vocational training and start-up kits for small businesses, and by providing certificates of completion to the graduated students.



New Hope for Ty



Ty and her father went fishing



Ty (right) and her sister (left) after receiving support from EXCEL

“I want to be a good teacher for my village in the future”, said Ty.

We hope her dream will come true!

An 11-year-old girl, Ty, is one among the eight children of a very poor family living in a public shelter in Kramul village, Rohat Teuk commune, Mongkul Borey district, Banteay Meanchey province. Ty often travels with her father, Po Nge, 45, for fishing. Her mother, Douk Teum, 42, is at home looking after the younger children and keeping house for the whole family. The family had 10 children, but one of them died of dengue fever, and another one drowned.

Ty's main skill apart from picking up morning glory, lotus and collecting forest products is rowing a boat, not writing. She spends long hours, soaking in the water and rowing from place to place, and never goes to school.

With support from EXCEL project in cooperation with local authorities and the Rohat Teuk primary school principal, Ty and her sister, Po Vandy are now studying at Grade 1 in Rohat Teuk primary school. They received scholarship materials from EXCEL project including a bicycle, school uniforms, school bags, books, pencils and pens. She and her sister were very happy to start school.

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

EXCEL expresses its profound gratitude to the great support provided by the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport. EXCEL team was allowed to pay a courtesy call with the Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron early 2014. Following recommendations from the courtesy call on the establishment of a Project Education Working Group, subsequent consultation meetings were held with H.E Sam Sereyrath, Director General of Education and concerned Technical Departments for further actions.

With the kind coordination and support from the Department of Primary Education, the Education Working Group for EXCEL was officially established on 5th May 2014. The working group is composed of two bodies: the Project Education Advisory Committee and the Project Education Technical Committee, which are comprised of the senior leadership of the Ministry, concerned Technical Departments under the jurisdiction of the Ministry, leaders of partner organizations and members of EXCEL team.

The role of the Education Working Group is to provide support and recommendations on the implementation of the EXCEL project. The purpose of establishing this group is to ensure that EXCEL is implemented with good cooperation from the Ministry of Education at both National and Sub-national levels. The first meeting of the Education Technical Committee was conducted smoothly on 7th July 2014.



First meeting of Education Working Group
on 07 July 2014



Children reading book in the school library
in Battambang

EXCEL PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Education

- **Provision of teaching and learning materials:** posters, scales, dictionaries, reading books, mobile letters, globes and other supplies to 62 target schools.
- **Provision of Scholarships for Children:** school uniforms, schoolbags, books, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners and shoes to the total of 4957 children (2487 female).
- **Provision of Bicycles:** 518 bicycles to 518 children (255 female)
- **Teacher training :** 158 (72 female)
- **Catch-up class:** 1593 children (564 female)
- **School mapping:** 39 schools
- **School enrolment campaign:** 14 schools
- **Promoting safe and healthy school environment** (basic repair): 38 schools

Livelihoods

- **Agricultural technical training:** 804 households and 79 youth and start-up kits to 343 households and 41 youth (chicken, pig, fish raising).
- **Non-agricultural training:** 25 households (sewing, Khmer traditional music).
- **Formation of savings group:** 24 savings groups formed.
- **Vocational training for youth:** 146

Advocacy

- **National Guideline Development:** in the process of finalizing the guidelines on Eliminating Child Labor in Fishery Sector.
- **Support Commune Council:** 26 Sangkat/Commune councils to integrate the issue of child labor.
- **Establishment of Child/Youth Club:** 38 child/youth clubs.
- **Radio and TV programs:** 2 educational stories, 4 radio spots and 14 Radio programs on child labor and broadcasted them on Sarika radio. A TV program is under development.
- **Awareness raising material development:** training manual for trainers and IEC materials on child labor in the forms of brochures, leaflets, booklets and posters and booklets on Prakas on child labor and ILO conventions C138 and C182.
- **Mass campaign:** celebrated the International Children Day 01 June and World Day Against Child Labor 12 June at national and sub-national level at 33 places with roughly 20 247 participants and conducted a TV children forum on TVK.

Research

- **Research on Child Domestic Labor:** field survey of 1,071 households completed and research report is under finalization.
- **Research on Migration and Child Well-being:** field survey of 600 migrant households with children left-behind completed. Research report is under finalization.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Provide scholarship for approximately 12000 new children.
- Conduct Catch-up class to approximately 2000 children.
- Provide 212 bikes to children.
- Provide livelihood training on agricultural and vocational skills including start up kits to target households and youth.
- Organize target households and youth as savings groups.
- Refer youth to business/apprenticeship owners for employment.
- Produce a TV program on child labor show once for every two weeks and re-broadcast the show twice per month for the next 12 months.
- Produce a Radio talk show program on child labor with live show once for every two weeks and re-broadcast the talk show twice per month for the next 12 months.
- Finalize the guideline on child labor in fisheries sector.





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