

Youth on the Move Cambodia

Youth attend one of the first Student Council and club formation workshops

Prey Veng Province, Cambodia

May 2015

2015 marks the beginning of a new phase for World Education's *Youth on the Move* project. Driven by the high rates of migration and school drop-out in Cambodia, the project has shifted focus to fostering the development of Student Councils at secondary schools. Working with communities and students before they drop out of school, *Youth on the Move* is applying its proven model of peer-education, youth voice, and life skills to the formal school setting.

This shift has been enthusiastically received by the youth at four secondary schools in migration-prone and under-served areas of Prey Veng province. Nearly 150 youth from four secondary schools have attended workshops covering issues around youth leadership. *Youth on the Move's* focus on empowerment gives the youth an opportunity to decide on and design the activities to be carried out by student councils and clubs, with topics ranging from safe migration to entrepreneurship and gender equity.

Looking ahead, the *Youth on the Move* team are now working with local education officials and school management to prepare trainings for the student councils on roles and responsibilities, peer education, community development, planning, budgeting, and grant management.

Beginning this month, the students have been taking charge of the project. Student councils have established a number of clubs based on the core *Youth on the Move* content, including peer-education groups with a focus on safe migration, ICT skills, personal safety, health and hygiene; a civic engagement group; a newsletter group; and an entrepreneurship club that will train others about financial literacy and form basic-income generation groups.

The *Youth on the Move* team hopes that giving youth leadership roles and enriched, relevant learning opportunities in the formal education setting will encourage them to stay in school, and help alleviate the perception of the irrelevance of secondary education that is common in Cambodia.

Youth on the Move is World Education's regional initiative aiming to reduce the vulnerability of potential migrant, and migrant, youth to trafficking, exploitation and abuse through improved learning outcomes, life skills, and knowledge about safe migration. *Youth on the Move Cambodia* currently focuses on Prey Veng province which is a major source area for trafficking and child labor; suffers from severe food insecurity; and has among the lowest education achievement rates and highest migration rates of the entire country. Working alongside local education officials and working groups, Youth on the Move Cambodia partners with upper primary and lower secondary schools in migration-prone areas to reach vulnerable youth before they drop out and migrate, and utilizes peer educators and technology to reach out-of-school and migrant youth. Between 2010 and 2015 alone, our work benefitted over 10,000 migrant and potential migrant youth in Prey Veng, addressing their unmet educational needs such as basic literacy, numeracy, and knowledge about health, life skills, technology, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, safer migration and personal safety.



For more information about the *Youth on the Move* project, contact Estelle Day at estelle_day@worlded.org