

Youth on the Move 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.

NEED

In Cambodia, the need is great indeed; at least 60% of Cambodia's population are under the age of 30, and less than 38% of adolescents ever enrol in lower secondary school (ESP, 2014). Faced with poor education outcomes, stagnant rural economies and limited income generation opportunities, many of these youth have no option but to leave their villages in search of whatever work they can find. The Ministry of Planning has reported that about 80% of migrants are under 30 years of age (MoP-CRUMP, 2012). These youth travel to Phnom Penh and other provinces within Cambodia or cross Cambodia's porous borders to Thailand, and further afield to Malaysia, Japan, Kuwait, Qatar, and South Korea, most often using illegal, irregular and highly risky migration channels. Without the education levels, skills, knowledge, behaviors, and support networks that are necessary to help them stay safe and attain gainful employment, these youth are extremely vulnerable to forced labor, abuse and exploitation, including labor and sex trafficking.

APPROACH

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, youth 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. Youth on the Move delivers quality interventions that help youth build the foundation skills, life skills, practical skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors that can help them achieve better learning outcomes and protect themselves from exploitation.

GOAL: to reduce the vulnerability of migrant youth to trafficking, exploitation, and abuse

Intervention Area 1
Learning, life skills and enhanced school relevance



- ▶ Revitalization of Student Councils and clubs
- ▶ Peer- & teacher-led skills workshops on safe migration, ICT, health, etc.
- ▶ Youth voice activities
- ▶ Remediation for youth at risk of academic failure

Intervention Area 2
Access to education for vulnerable students



- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Home visits

Intervention Area 3
Capacity building, systems strengthening, advocacy and dissemination



- ▶ Training for teachers, school directors, and local education officials
- ▶ Student council exchanges and conferences
- ▶ Linkages with central government and policies
- ▶ Creation and sharing of curricula, Student Council and club guidelines, materials and lessons learned

Intervention Area 1: Learning, life skills and enhanced school relevance

Schools are supported to provide remediation for youth at risk of academic failure and life skills education that promotes soft skills including problem solving, confidence and communications skills; financial capability; work readiness; knowledge about health, hygiene, rights, and safety; and, other life skills known to be essential for keeping migrant youth safe.

Since early 2015, Youth on the Move has increased its attention to helping revitalize Student Councils in secondary schools as a major vehicle to foster youth participation and address the low perceived relevance and quality of education that is known to contribute to persistently high school drop out rates in Cambodia. Under Youth on the Move, Student Councils organize a range of enriched learning activities and youth voice opportunities, and provide peer-education in Information Communication Technology (ICT) skills, safe migration, health and other topics.

Throughout, there is an emphasis on youth participation and mobilization. Through Student Councils, civic engagement clubs and peer education, youth run their own projects and activities, youth forums, and large village campaigns focused on issues of their choice. Dealing with topics ranging from gambling to trafficking; their messages are reaching thousands of parents and community members. Youth are supported to become 'change agents,' liaising with local authorities, participating in local government processes, presenting the needs of youth and lobbying for allocation of government funds to address these issues.

Intervention Area 2: Access to education for vulnerable students

Youth on the Move seeks to reach youth who are most in need. It provides school re-entry support for out-of-school youth, and ensures school access and completion through scholarships to address cost barriers preventing the most vulnerable youth staying in school and remediation for those at risk of drop out due to academic failure.

Intervention Area 3: Capacity building, systems strengthening, advocacy and dissemination

Youth on the Move works to increase the effectiveness of local services for vulnerable youth over the long term through teacher, school management and institutional capacity building, more relevant curricula, improved monitoring and evaluation systems, and engagement with the government at various levels. There are direct linkages to, and support for, implementation of relevant government policies, such as those on life skills, Student Councils, ICT, and the 2011 National Policy on Cambodia Youth Development. With support and training from World Education, all on-the-ground interventions are managed by either youth groups, student councils or working groups made up of those with official mandates for protecting and educating youth in target communities.



A basic income generation training event

Between 2010 and 2015, 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, technology, financial literacy, safer migration and safety.

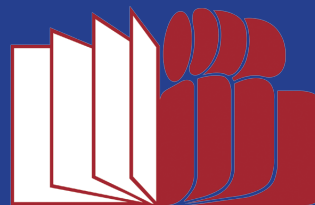


Technology harnessed to increase program impact

Youth on the Move uses technology to expand and deepen its impact. From simple sessions teaching youth to use mobile phones, or providing youth groups with cameras and tablets, to establishing full-blown school computer labs and village-based computer centers and courses in Information Communications Technology - World Education has seen youth engagement with learning soar, richer learning outcomes and safer behaviours among the youth who do go on to migrate in search of work.

With funding from the Dream Blue Foundation, World Education recently developed the first ever Khmer language website for migrant youth or youth considering migration. The website <http://aims.worlded.org> contains simple lessons to teach youth how to migrate safely. These cover topics such as legal migration, necessary documents, preparations to make, pay and contracts, workplace safety, health, saving money, drugs and alcohol, and relationships. Every lesson includes audio recordings of the text for youth who cannot read well and the website is coupled with an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone line youth can call to access the same information. So far, the site has had 9,500 visits, 5,644 youth have been provided with facilitated training about how to use the Internet and AIMS website/phone line and thousands of others gained information about the site through outreach.

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



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