

# Knowledge and Experiences about Human Trafficking Issues between Cambodia and Thailand

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# Background

Migrant workers have been moving from Cambodia to work in other countries, especially to Thailand.

Human trafficking becomes one of critical problems for both countries. This presentation starts with a recent qualitative survey conducted among rural residents in Cambodia, along with discussions from the previous rural study results by the same team.

# Study Design

A qualitative study was conducted among parents and youths in three rural provinces in Cambodia, from July through December 2013.

The study design is cross-sectional by using In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) to collect the information from sampled villages in Kampot, Kampong Thom, and Takeo provinces

# Working in Rural Cambodia



# Work to Help Families

- About 85% of parents said that because their family was poor, the children wanted to work to support their family and themselves.
- About 64% of parents want their children working in their villages because it is easy for them.
- About 40% of parents reported that their children asked to work far from their homeland.

# Migrate to Work in Other Countries

- Some of parents also said that they only knew from some friends to tell their children to work in Thailand because they said they would get much money from their work if they go there.
- Parents may allow their children to work in the big cities or in South Korea or Thailand. The reason is they have seen other people living or work in other country to make much more money.

# Migrate to Work in Other Countries

- About 40% of parents said that their children asked to work far from their homeland.
- It depends on their situations: if they do not make much money, they would need to go to find another job

# Migrate to Work in Other Countries

- About 10% of youths reported that they just followed their parents' decisions. If their parents agree, they will take that job.
- About 20% of youths reported that some 'takers' have taken some peoples to work in Thailand or Malaysia.



# Human Trafficking Issues



# Human Trafficking Issues (Parents)

- About 40% said that their children asked to work far from their homeland. It depends on their situations: if they do not make much money, they would need to go to find another job.
- Sometime their children discussed with their parents or other people (such as siblings, neighbors, relatives, known villagers) to find a job.

# Human Trafficking Issues (Parents)

- About 95% know how to ask the questions of other persons if they come to take their children to work from home.
- These questions include:
  - ✓ what work will my children do?
  - ✓ Where will they work and stay?
  - ✓ Is this work legal?
  - ✓ how long is the contract?
  - ✓ Does it include insurance?
  - ✓ what type of company business
- All parents reported that they did not know any boy or girl who was taken from their villages without their consent.

# Human Trafficking Issues (Youths)

- About 80% have known about human trafficking issues because the villagers told them about being careful with other people who bring them to work.
- Some villagers introduced them to work as factory workers, company workers, and housekeeping.
- About 20% of them also said that other people (including their relatives) told them about work in other provinces.

# Human Trafficking Issues (Youths)

- About 95% clearly know how to talk to other persons if they bring them to the new job. They will ask some questions:
  - ✓ whether the job is easy or difficult
  - ✓ what kind of job you want me to do
  - ✓ how much salary I can get
  - ✓ is it legal or not
  - ✓ what job responsibilities are.
- All of them said they don't know any youths being taken to work without his/her own consent.

# Conclusions

From a previous rural study, local NGO outreach workers have suggested the following recommendations:

- (1) Increased reporting of strangers in the community to the village chief
- (2) Increased education on human trafficking, particularly about obtaining legal documents to work abroad
- (3) Closer collaboration between government, NGOs and local authorities
- (4) A clear point of access where people can report problems to.

# Conclusions

However, several cases of human trafficking still occurred. Poverty and lack of education and local job opportunities are main factors to drive those young people to work in the cities or other countries (mostly Thailand).

# Conclusions

- Therefore, it is important to create on-location vocational skills training in agriculture and effective marketing strategy for agricultural products to assist youths to work in rural areas.
- For bilateral partnership between Cambodia and Thailand.



# Project Staff

This study was funded by AusAID/CAVAC

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THANK YOU!