



Evaluation Summaries

Prevention of trafficking in children and women at a community level in Cambodia and Viet Nam

Quick Facts

Countries: *Regional Asia, Viet Nam and Cambodia*

Final Evaluation: *October 2006*

Mode of Evaluation: *independent*

Technical Area: *Child Labour*

Evaluation Management: *IPEC*

Evaluation Team: *Ruth Bowen, Prom Tevy, Tran Minh Goi*

Project Code: *RAS/02/09/HSF*

Donor: *United Nations Trust for Human Security*

Keywords: *Human trafficking, child labour*

Executive summary of the report

The final evaluation of the “*Prevention of Trafficking in Children and Women at a Community Level in Cambodia and Vietnam*” project was conducted in November and December 2006. The project sought to contribute to the prevention of trafficking in children and women in sending communities in the two countries through integrated community-based interventions aimed at reducing vulnerability to trafficking. The major components comprising this model for reducing vulnerability are awareness raising, vocational training, micro-finance and income generation, and education support, with an emphasis on community and child participation. The project was implemented in three provinces in Cambodia, Kampong Cham,

Svay Rieng and Prey Veng; and three provinces in southern Vietnam, Tay Ninh, Hau Giang and Can Tho. The evaluation team visited two of the three project provinces in Cambodia, and the three project provinces in Vietnam.

The project implemented all its planned activities and achieved its quantitative activity targets in each country despite major delays in the approval process in Vietnam, and an extended preparatory phase in Cambodia. This achievement was due in large part to the commitment and energy of the project staff as well as the strong commitment of stakeholders at provincial and community level.

While the focus was on preventing trafficking among children and young women, risky migration is also common among young men in the selected provinces, and in practice the project included young men among its beneficiaries. The identification of vulnerability to trafficking remains problematic in this project as in many other anti-trafficking programs, and this led to some lack of clarity in targeting direct assistance to reduce vulnerability which should be addressed in future interventions.

Situating the project management within existing structures concerned with trafficking and child labour prevention, namely the provincial implementing structure of the National Plan of Action in Vietnam and the Committee for Child Protection structure in

Cambodia, enhanced the potential for sustainability of the project interventions. At the same time, the project has built the capacity of the members of these institutions, especially at provincial level, to implement effective and multi-sectoral anti-trafficking interventions.

The project has been successful in initiating innovative approaches to awareness raising, and the promotion of children's active participation in forums, cultural events and monitoring of community activities was a particular highlight. The extent to which increased awareness has led to changed migration behaviour has not been adequately measured however. Within awareness raising approaches and materials used further emphasis needs to be given to the inclusion of more practical guidance and referrals to support services for safe migration where they exist, or the development of such services.

Due to the short time frame for implementing activities on the ground, the vocational training and income generating activities in each country have not had sufficient time to prove themselves successful in providing viable alternatives to unsafe migration, though some activities demonstrated strong chances of success. Given the relatively low financial returns of most of the income generating activities observed in Cambodia, and the widespread poverty in the target provinces, the income generating potential of activities needs to be considerably strengthened to offer a real alternative to migration for the many individuals who are willing to take the risk.

The project has enabled the key implementing agencies and their collaborating partners to develop coordinated responses to preventing trafficking and in doing so has made a valuable contribution to mid-level anti-trafficking efforts. Taken as a whole, the project's package of interventions to build community capacity to prevent trafficking has resulted in increased understanding of the risks of unprepared migration among the targeted communities, as well as improving the range

of alternative livelihood options for children and young women at risk of trafficking.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are addressed to ILO-IPEC for future trafficking prevention programmes in the sub-region.

Recommendation 1: *Project design needs to begin with a clear starting point, defining the specific trafficking problem(s) to be addressed in a particular location, i.e. trafficking of particular groups into particular forms of labour and sexual exploitation; and identify specific strategies to address them, including targeted awareness and safe migration supports.*

Recommendation 2: *Where feasible, design linked interventions in both sending and receiving areas, both within country and in cross-border interventions, as in the overall TICW (DfID) project. In the case of cross-border trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia, the MoU between Cambodia and Vietnam should provide one avenue to do this more effectively in the future.*

Recommendation 3: *Based on ILO-IPEC's experience in addressing the rights of children and youth and the particular vulnerability of young people to trafficking, ILO-IPEC should continue to extend its reach to youth (under 25), both young women and young men in targeted trafficking prevention interventions.*

Recommendation 4: *At country level we encourage ILO-IPEC staff to share experience with other agencies on the sustainability benefits of situating interventions within existing anti-trafficking government structures.*

Recommendation 5: *Future projects should give further priority to building provincial level capacity to analyse migration information and patterns in relation to trafficking.*

Recommendation 6: Continue to document, share and replicate the model of participatory community and child participation processes integrated throughout project implementation.

Recommendation 7: Within awareness raising approaches, further emphasis needs to be given to the inclusion of practical guidance in information materials and referrals to support services for safe migration, with ILO-IPEC support to government agencies if necessary to assist in establishing services. Since a number of agencies are independently developing awareness raising and safe migration packages, ILO-IPEC might usefully cooperate with other agencies such as UNIAP, together with counterparts, to compile and review the range of materials in each country and select the best elements.

Recommendation 8: Support implementing agencies in the identification of vulnerability factors through research with identified victims of trafficking and as far as possible target direct assistance accordingly.

Recommendation 9: ILO-IPEC should consider providing further support to the provinces where the project was implemented to enable the vocational training and livelihood options to be fully implemented and tested.

Recommendation 10: In livelihood development assistance (supported by ILO-IPEC or mainstreamed by local agencies) provide technical support to sound market analysis and identification of viable income generating activities, as well as follow-up support services to beneficiaries of vocational training and micro-finance.

Recommendation 11: Include systematic measures of impact on vulnerability in future projects, for example, indicators of change in the level of awareness of trafficking risk and safe migration and changes in safe migration practices, through modest scale surveys and qualitative assessments at baseline, mid-term and end of project.