



Innovative & Sustainable development work

Poverty is the root cause of many issues, such as human trafficking and illegal migration. In Cambodia, this problem often happens in the grassroots rural community where many people are still living under or just above the poverty-line. This is especially true at ICC-Trafficking Response project target areas in Preah Sdach district where many youth are migrating through legal and illegal means, to look for job opportunities in neighbouring countries such as Thailand. Due to this growing concern, the local authorities welcomed the move by the Trafficking Response project for their outreach program which is training on human trafficking, safe migration, and other soft skills to the public school students.

ICC-Trafficking Response project started working with the public schools in Preah Sdach district, Prey Veng province, in order to raise awareness among students on how to protect themselves and other people from any harm as a result of human trafficking and illegal migration. Part of the reason why the Trafficking Response team is engaging with the public schools is due to difficulty in mobilising students to take part in Trafficking Response's activities outside school hours. This is because most of the students are busy helping their parents in the fields, while others are busy doing their homework assignments. So the team sees this as a better opportunity where they can work with large numbers of students.

This training program at public schools has been held regularly since it started in July 2018. Currently, the ICC-Trafficking Response team has been conducting trainings to 13 schools in total. Their main target groups are students from grade 6 to grade 9, and they are now teaching 4 subjects: 1) How to Spot and Identify a Trafficker and Middleman behind the Illegal Migration, 2) Money and Migration, 3) Demand Side of Human Trafficking, and 4) Gender. The students are not only able to gain knowledge from Trafficking Response's training, but also to share it back to their own family, friends, in public forums, and during the village ceremonies. Some students told that, before the training they thought that if they fail high school, they could just migrate for work. But after this program, they said that they will discuss with their family first and make a wise decision regarding doing migration or not. Additionally, this training program is allowing the public schools' teachers to be equipped with more knowledge on anti-human trafficking and illegal migration, which they can share with the other students when the project phases out.

ICC-Trafficking Response project is very proud to be able to work closely with the Provincial Department of Education and public schools in the Preah Sdach district. This involvement from the local authority and the public schools for extra courses is really important for students' safety and as well as awareness raising about human trafficking and illegal migration.

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