



Impact Evaluation of USAID/Cambodia Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program

CTIP Overview

The USAID/Cambodia Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program aimed to disrupt trafficking in persons (TIP) patterns by offering diversified, climate-resilient livelihood pathways that reduce dependence on seasonal agriculture and by educating vulnerable individuals on unsafe migration. Winrock International, CTIP's implementing partner, implemented two interventions:

Treatment 1: the livelihoods package intervention

connected at-risk persons (ARPs) for trafficking to legitimate employers and trained ARPs in "soft skills" to help them retain their jobs. To that end, Winrock and its partner, Open Institute, developed an internet-based job-seeking platform called Bong Pheak to inform low-skilled migrants about job opportunities and also offered workplace professionalism trainings that included modules on types of employment and how to find job information.

Treatment 2: the customized intervention

added a customized bundle of activities to the first intervention, by offering technical assistance to ARPs (e.g., animal raising trainings, savings groups) based on commune-specific needs.



Impact Evaluation

NORC at the University of Chicago employed a mixed-method design, combining qualitative key informant interviews with a rigorous randomized controlled trial (RCT) design involving random assignment of 28 communes to receive Treatment 1 and 19 communes to receive Treatment 2. Twenty-eight communes were also randomly selected to serve as the business-as-usual control group. The evaluation collected quantitative data on ARPs and ARP households using a survey of 2,665 at-risk households and qualitative information from interviews with project implementation staff and program beneficiaries. The evaluation

was designed to focus on ARPs between ages 18 and 39, both because they form a large share of the working-age population who could benefit the most from the type of intervention implemented by Winrock, and also because they are the most at risk for being labor-trafficked.

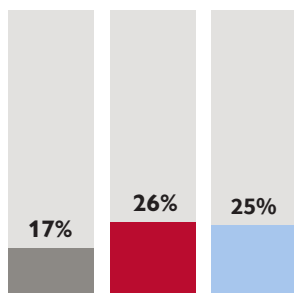
Key Findings

Knowledge & Practice

There is some evidence that the program increased ARPs' knowledge and usage of formal sources of employment information, including the Bong Pheak job-seeking platform, but uptake of the Bong Pheak platform was low.



Knowledge of formal sources of employment information



Usage of Bong Pheak App

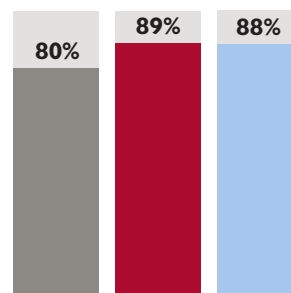


Attitude

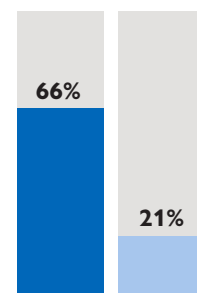
There is some evidence that the program had an impact on ARPs' views of human trafficking, but the program did not impact ARPs' willingness to migrate internally or abroad.



Think human trafficking is a big problem



Willingness to either migrate internally or abroad



● Control ● Treatment 1 ● Treatment 2

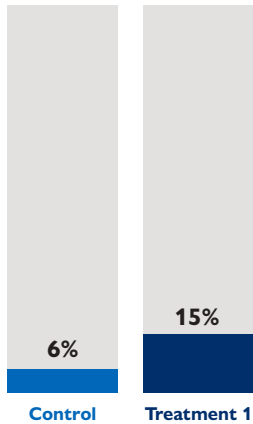
Within Cambodia Outside Cambodia
No difference across groups

Economic

Although the program did not lead to improvements in economic outcomes for ARPs' Treatment 2 did lead to a statistically significant impact on ARPs savings group membership.



Percentage of ARPs who are a member of a savings group



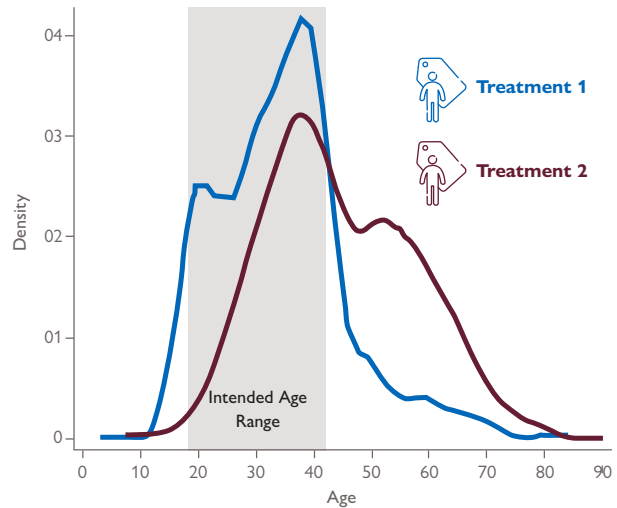
According to several Winrock program staff, the savings group activity was the best-attended and most popular program activity



Implementation Challenge

The program had difficulty identifying young, male ARPs, who were the focus of the evaluation.

The average age of ARPs across both treatment groups was 31 years old, and nearly three quarters of ARPs were female



Recommendations

We offer specific recommendations for future USAID CTIP programming and evaluation.



Context-Appropriate Intervention

We recommend that USAID carefully identify labor trafficking determinants in each country and subsequently design culturally-competent and context-appropriate interventions to prevent trafficking.



Working with Local Communities

Recognizing the likelihood that many young men had already migrated at the time of our evaluation, we recommend working with local community organizations to identify at-risk young men earlier, before they migrate and design interventions to prevent them from migrating unsafely for work.



Target Women for Prevention Programs

Develop CTIP programming that raises awareness among women, with the goal that these women can affect intra-household norms around trafficking over time.



Tailored Modalities

Utilize training modalities that are pragmatic and tailored to local contexts. The evaluation found that different training modalities, and interactive pedagogy in particular (e.g., group discussion, group roleplay), impacted how well training messages were received.



Coordination and Alignment

We recommend USAID continue adding to its learning agenda through the implementation and evaluation of its CTIP programs. The most scientifically rigorous and useful learning for future USAID programming can be achieved by coordinating and aligning the goals of different stakeholders that contribute to a common learning agenda.

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