

STRATEGY

SFL will be guided by USAID's Strategic Objective for Basic Education: "Increased Relevance and Quality of Basic Education" with a focus on underserved groups. The following are SFL's thematic priorities:

- A Multi-Tiered Grants Approach and Targeting of Upper Grades (Grades 5 through 9)
- Enhancing Students' Educational Relevance and Preparation for the Work Place
- Building the Capacity of Local NGO Partners
- Using School Governance Criteria as Key Requirements for Program Participation
- Increasing the Role of Information Technology in the Provision of Educational Services
- Promoting Access to Education through Outreach to Minority Groups

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND INTERVENTIONS

ESCUP will have 3 sub-components to implement various interventions that promote access and quality: (i) Life Skills and Teacher Education Interventions; (ii) Access, Youth and Community Engagement; and (iii) Information Technology.

Specific interventions coordinated by each section include:

Life Skills and Teacher Education Interventions

- Practical Livelihood Skills
- Economic and Workplace Readiness Skills
- Cross-curricular teaching/learning skills (ETL)
- Basic Teacher Training
- Subject Classrooms (Secondary Only)

Access, Youth and Community Engagement Interventions

- Remediation/Peer Tutoring
- Scholarships for Children at Risk
- Library Support
- Minority Outreach/Cultural Life Skills
- School Mapping
- Leadership Training
- Local Teacher Recruitment
- Health Referral
- Infrastructure support (Classrooms, wells, toilets, play-grounds)

Information Technology Interventions (Secondary Schools Only)

- Establishing Thin Client Computer Labs
- IT Support for Existing Computer Labs
- Integrating IT Capabilities into Everyday Teaching and Learning



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Kurt Bredenberg, Chief of Party
World Education/Cambodia
(855) 012 963 353
(855) 023 216 854
kbredenberg@worlded.org.kh

Schools for Life Program



BACKGROUND

Despite improvements in recent years in the areas of access and quality of education in Cambodia, problems such as low enrollment rates, high drop out (especially in upper primary and secondary school), low transition rates to secondary school and lack of educational relevance and quality persist.

As a result there is a continued need for increased access to basic education services (particularly for marginalized groups), as well as expanded opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills relevant and meaningful to their lives once they finish school, and improved teacher training and support. World Education will help address these needs by maintaining the momentum gained over the past several years through the Educational Support for Children in Underserved Populations (ESCUP) Program, with improvements in access and quality of basic education, scaling up programming to new areas and reaching a greater number of students.

The Schools for Life Program will begin in October 2008 and is expected to continue through September 2009.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of SFL is to focus on improving both access to and quality of basic education for marginalized groups including the (i) poorest of the poor, (ii) the physically challenged, (iii) girls and (iv) minority groups. There will also be a stronger focus on children in upper primary grades and at lower secondary school levels, particularly in preparing young students for the work place. Importantly, the program will continue to promote the advancement of the Ministry's Child Friendly School Policy, giving particular emphasis to expanding the policy to the secondary school sector.

The Schools for Life Program hopes to demonstrate how school development can take a decentralized approach that builds ownership and strengthens governance while promoting cost effective, locally appropriate interventions for scale up in Cambodia's schools. SFL will continue to espouse a hybridized program model in order to incorporate successful interventions pioneered by other agencies such as KAPE, UNICEF, CARE, SCN, and others. It will address issues of access and quality of education for marginalized youth in Cambodia through improved school management and educational capacity. A school grant component will offer schools a choice of interventions and activities appropriate to their context and need. In addition, World Education will develop a number of new life skills modules focused on workplace readiness and economic participation for youth, with the aim to increase the relevance of education for lower secondary students, thereby improving enrollment and retention through grade 9 when drop-out becomes increasingly commonplace. Finally, the program will continue to successfully address the issue of teacher shortages started under ESCUP, which it believes is Cambodia's invisible crisis, undermining other interventions at every level.



TARGET AREA AND BENEFICIARIES

World Education and its partners will continue to work in the three provinces of Kampong Cham, Kratie and Monduliri. Kampong Cham and Kratie will see an expansion in district coverage, while coverage in Monduliri consolidated in preparation for the commencement of Fast Track Initiative programming. SFL will also seek to nearly double the number of children assisted by the program with a target of over 100,000 at primary and lower secondary school levels.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

SFL will partner with long-standing partner Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE) and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport. World Education has long relied on intensive involvement of counterparts and local partners (including local NGOs) through a working group structure known as Provincial Working Groups. These include representatives from school clusters, school directors, and both district and provincial level offices of education.