

Cambodia

Making learning useful

Since the cooperation between VVOB and Cambodia is relatively young, four projects of the programme 2003-2007 are still ongoing. As these projects are currently being phased out, the new multi-year programme 2008-2013 is gradually starting up. This new programme focuses on two main sectors: agriculture and education.

Multi-year programme

Education

The educational component of the programme aims to strengthen the teacher training. The main goal is to ensure that graduate students of selected teacher training institutes master an improved applied methodology for teaching science, technology and life skills. The focus lies on a practical approach of environmental education and agricultural life skills as cross-curricular themes in the four science subjects of the core curriculum. For example, children learn about natural pest management techniques to protect crops from insects in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way during their biology lessons.

Alignment

During the start-up phase of the programme a baseline study was done to map the current situation in education. By cooperating with the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport we assured that the new programme is aligned with other donors who are also active in the sector of teacher training.



box containing around 60 video fragments of lesson activities highlighting learner centred methodologies in primary education. Teacher trainers will be trained in the use of the DVD box supported by task sheets to use in their lessons on general and applied pedagogy. The aim is to integrate the LCM manual with the DVD box in the teacher training curriculum after approval by the Ministry in order to promote the use in all teacher training centres of Cambodia.

Mathematics and physics

The project for improvement of the mathematics and physics in lower secondary education at the Regional Teacher Training centre of Kampong Cham is handed over to the Cambodian partners at the end of 2008. The targeted goals were reached, such as the development of a teacher training manual in mathematics and physics in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. The manuals are used for a nationwide training to teacher trainers of all Cambodian regional teacher training centres.

Science

In 2008 the science component started at the Regional Teacher Training Centre of Kandal province. The emphasis of this component lies on learner centred methodologies while applying simple and low-cost science experiments. We made an inventory of existing materials, the library is extended and new learner centred methodologies are developed for science education. Examples include the development of scientific reading skills and the use of low-cost experiments.

Agricultural extension

The start of the component in agricultural extension is a gradual process: the selection of a local team, the set up of the programme management unit as well as the baseline study and fine-tuning of the operational plan takes more time than planned. As a consequence the capacity building activities will start as of 2009.

Closing projects

Health

The health education project at the teacher training centres of Battambang has been running since 2005. The critical mid-term evaluation led to a reformulation of the project in 2008. A thorough feasibility study led to a reduction of the scope of the project to the integration of health themes in the subjects Biology and Home Economics of the teacher training curriculum.

Sustainable exit strategy

The *Learner Centred Methodology* (LCM) and *Open Resource Centre* (ORC) projects are situated at the teacher training centres of Siem Reap and Kampong Cham provinces. The focus in 2008 was on increasing the sustainability and mainstreaming of previously obtained project results. Building on an intensified cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport the impact of the LCM project was increased through a nationwide training. The ORC project developed a DVD

The teacher trainer of Hy participated in a VVOB training on interactive teaching methodology for Physics

My name is Hy Ratheany, I am 19 years old and a 2nd-year student at the Regional Teacher Training Centre of Kampong Cham. My dream is to become a teacher of Physics at the lower secondary school in my village. I find science very interesting; it helps me understand things better. I also think it is fun when I can explain what I learned to my sisters at home.

My house is 120 kilometre from the teacher training centre. I only visit my family during school holidays. I take the bus together with my friends although I would prefer to stay here and hang around with my friends at the campus. At home I have to help my father in the rice fields. Luckily I am allowed to assist my sister in the shop once in a while. She has a tailor workshop. I enjoy helping customers choose their wedding dresses. When I graduate I can earn money as a teacher and help my family.

I like studying here at the teacher training centre. I enjoy the Physics classes of Mr. Vanna the most. Usually we go to the new science lab on the campus. He does not use his textbook to teach but he explains new lesson topics by performing experiments. Sometimes it does not work as planned and he has to start over again. That is why he transpires the whole lesson. But in the end he always gets the right result and this helps us to understand difficult topics more easily. Last week he did an experiment on convection. Afterwards, we all got the opportunity to try it out ourselves. We only needed some glass bottles, incense and matches. We succeeded at the first time! I already look forward to explain this to my pupils during my practical training next month.

