



## **Commune Council Support Project CCSP**

*Strengthening Civil Society Influence and Participation in  
Decentralization & Deconcentration Reforms in Cambodia*

# **YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

## **An Assessment of Youth Engagement in Local Governance in Cambodia**

**Submitted to**

**WORLD VISION CAMBODIA**

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The current Management Committee of CCSP consists of representatives from Church World Service, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, Concern Worldwide, Development and Partnership in Action, the NGO Forum on Cambodia, Oxfam GB, PACT Cambodia, the Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia, and World Vision Cambodia.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ADP</b>	Area Development Program (WVC)
<b>CC</b>	Commune Council
<b>CCC</b>	Commune Child/Youth Committee
<b>CCSP</b>	Commune Council Support Project
<b>CRR</b>	Citizens' Rating Report (CCSP)
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DoLA</b>	Department of Local Administration
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human (Acquired) Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Syndrome
<b>KDYA</b>	Khmer Democratic Youth Association
<b>KSA</b>	Khmer Student Association
<b>KYA</b>	Khmer Youth Association
<b>KYD</b>	Khmer Youth Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>RGC</b>	Royal Government of Cambodia
<b>SMD</b>	Student Movement for Democracy
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainer
<b>UNKS</b>	United Neutral Khmer Students
<b>VCC</b>	Village Child/Youth Committee
<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee
<b>WVC</b>	World Vision Cambodia
<b>YCC</b>	Youth Council of Cambodia
<b>YFP</b>	Youth For Peace
<b>YiG</b>	Youth in Governance
<b>YRDP</b>	Youth Resources Development Program
<b>YS</b>	Youth Star

## **Executive Summary**

Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) legislation opens up space for people's participation, but such opportunities are not yet fully used. Participation mostly occurs in development activities, but not much at the level of governance or politics. This leaves government officials free to drive society based on their own thinking; this does not always reflect the will and interest of the people. Youths are a group which might activate the governance to respond more actively to needs, but there is some way to go before this can be achieved.

Understanding this, World Vision Cambodia (WVC) and Commune Council Support Project (CCSP), among others, have made strong commitments to promoting youth in governance. They aim to maximize the use of youth potential in improving good governance. By engaging youth in governance, they hope youth can provide meaningful inputs to equally benefit everyone in the society, including youths themselves. However, youths are not ready to participate yet. There is first a need for coordination, facilitation and capacity building.

WVC partnered with CCSP to conduct this field assessment study, starting on July 16, 2005, for a period of 35 days, of child/youth clubs in Samrongtong of Kampong Speu province and Kampong Tralach of Kampong Chhnang province. The aim was i) to assess knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of youths in order to consider appropriate ways for them to engage in local governance work; and ii) based on results of the assessment, to develop a popular training handbook to build capacity of youths to enable their participation with commune councils.

In each club, 30-40% of members have reached the age that could be considered youth, from 13 to around 20. Club leaders are elected from among this age group. Most of them are girls.

The assessment found that, during the club establishment process, there had been no articulation of thinking on future interaction between members of child/youth clubs and village or commune administrations, despite the fact that clubs are places where youths and children enjoy their rights and benefits together.

Members of clubs have been trained and are aware of issues on violence against children and hazardous and worst forms of child labor. This awareness enables them to be effective advocates on these issues in the community. Youths themselves are quite confident in articulating their rights and understand clearly issues related to child rights abuses. All youths interviewed confirmed that they had the right to participate, but confined their experience of this to project development activities. No consideration had been given to participation in governance or commune council activities. As such, youths see themselves as separate from or irrelevant to local governance work. Roles, responsibilities and activities set for clubs are limited to child/youth development. Activities, meetings and curricula focus mainly on child-related issues and club management.

Commune and village child/youth committees (VCCs and CCCs) work as patrolling systems to protect and serve the interests of children/youths. However, these committees and commune councils are seen as in place 'to do something for children/youth', not to enable children/youth to do something for commune councils and local affairs, even though this could lighten the load of commune councils. There is no direct role for youths in local governance and commune council work. Institutional arrangements are quite promising, however, and good for promoting space for youth engagement in local governance. One aim of VCCs and CCCs is to increase youth participation, build networks and strengthen communication, relation and cooperation with local authorities. This open-minded position gives rooms for youth engagement. All that is necessary is a rethink of the type and level of participation or a shift in focus to participation in local governance.

No youths have used the commune office, mainly because there was no reason to attend. Some respondents were not interested in going, had no time, had not been invited or did not know anyone there. Others did not realize the benefits of such participation. Only a few youths could describe minor tasks and responsibilities of commune councilors and village chiefs. It is clear that youths do not have much formal knowledge of the official mandate, roles and responsibilities of commune councils and village authorities. This is a big barrier to their participation. The absence of youth in local governance is caused by a number of factors, related to perception, capacity, opportunity, recognition, livelihood and physical support for participation (such as means of communication, vehicle and fee). Youth participation in local governance can be made real only when these barriers are overcome.

Most youth are willing to participate with commune councils as they want to learn and obtain experience. Youths see commune councils as having a role of helping people rather than controlling them. Some youths have experience in helping commune councils and village chiefs in civil registration, voter registration and other social work. Aside from this experience, there are many tasks in which youths could help reduce the burden on commune councils. In a quick brainstorm, youths and commune councilors listed a wealth of advantages that youths could bring to make for healthier local governance.

In general, commune councilors and ordinary citizens welcome and encourage youth participation. Commune chiefs are enthusiastic and promise to open up space for youths, particularly encouraging participation from youths over 13 years old. However, it often seems that this enthusiasm comes in response to questions asked; there is little sense of proactive thinking on this subject before interview. This may be because the value of youth participation is not recognized traditionally. However, the enthusiastic responses noted offer welcome signals for future meaningful youth participation.

A number of organizations work on youth participation at different levels of governance and democracy. Some have identified youth concerns with underlying questions of governance, and have shifted focus to deal with issues from their roots.

Derived from the above conclusions, this assessment study suggests the following actions as ways to turn commitment and efforts in promoting youth in governance into a reality, by building youth quality and maximizing their potential for fruitful dialogue with commune councils to build a better tomorrow.

- Broaden the purposes, roles and activities of child/youth clubs to reach into local governance work. Promote, advocate, identify and enable space, venues and schedules for youth engagement and strengthen their roles in commune council activities, such as in commune council monthly meetings, local planning processes, administrative work, civic education and other tasks, especially those aged 13 and over (30-40% of each club).
- Build youth capacity, knowledge and understanding related to decentralization, commune councils, local governance and democracy in both actual activities and club curricula, so that they have a basis for participation in governance. An appropriate curriculum of knowledge on youth in governance should be compiled.
- Rethink the type and level of participation or shift the focus of youth participation into local governance rather than allowing it to be spread in multiple directions. Organize group participation (more comfortable for youths than individual participation).
- Familiarize youth with commune councils and allow them to see the advantages and relevance of participation. Identify tasks youth can do to assist commune councils to make for healthier local governance. Promote youth potential and expertise on certain issues as an asset to commune councils. This could help councils recognize youth value and open up space for youths.
- Analyze and identify legal frameworks as well as enabling factors that support and facilitate youth participation. Check youth readiness for participation. Obstructions must be clearly identified and overcome.
- Set up an internship program for youths to practice governance work with commune councils. Work with women and children focal persons in commune councils. Advocate for children to have slots on the agenda during council meetings. If possible, lobby commune councils to set up a youth committee or youth council within each commune.
- Educate WVC-ADP staff responsible for coordinating and facilitating youth activities on decentralization, commune councils and local governance to help them orient youth activities towards local governance.
- Enable a paradigm shift, from 'we must work for youth' to 'youth can work with others for themselves and society' to help youths regard themselves not only as beneficiaries but also as benefit producers.
- Connect youths in target areas to other youth networks and coalitions, at both local and national level, for stronger advocacy power and exchange experience on participating in governance.

# 1. Introduction

Perhaps one of the biggest areas of weakness in Cambodia is the lack of participation, transparency and accountability of the government system. Citizens do not have real citizen representation in parliament, either at local or national level, as councillors and parliamentarians are listed by political parties and not by the people. Detailed budget discussions are often kept undisclosed. Laws are discussed and passed in parliament without input from constituencies. Governance of the country is captured by a few at the top with political and economic power. Citizens do not feel that they can participate in any of their country's governance processes.

The political climate in Cambodia is not the most conducive to advocacy and to progressive participation. Every day, citizens feel threatened by the government at the highest level and fear that they will be accused of 'political behavior'. Although the concept of community empowerment was introduced almost 10 years ago, and although it is being put into practice more and more, both by citizens and by NGOs, there is still a great deal of work to do in order to see its widespread implementation throughout Cambodia.

The history of Cambodia has led to people in general perceiving governance and administration as the business of public officials. This creates passive behavior in ordinary citizens regarding work on governance, which they feel is not relevant to them. This legacy means that the promotion of participation faces many challenges and requires great effort if it is to be successful. Empowerment is a prerequisite to participation and, in turn, by practicing participation, people are able to feel more empowered.

In recent years, a number of pieces of legislation passed by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) have opened up space for people's participation, but these opportunities are not fully used. Full use requires catalysts and promoters. Development projects, carried out mostly by civil society, often try to promote people's participation in development project activities but not in governance or politics. This leaves government officials to drive society based on their own thinking, which does not always reflect the will and interests of the people.

On people's participation in governance, both youth and adult citizens are potential resources, as they can make significant contributions to governance processes by drawing on their life experiences and by coming up with fresh and creative ideas. It is widely recognized that youth are the most dynamic citizens of any given society. Youths can make governance more actively responsive to needs. In Cambodia, the importance of this factor seems to be overlooked. Youth, along with the rest of the population, tend to see governance as the work of public officials and adults. This perception weakened youth participation in governance.

Understanding this, World Vision Cambodia (WVC) and the Commune Council Support Project (CCSP), among others, have made a commitment to promoting youth in governance (YiG). Together, they aim to maximize the use of youth potential in improving good governance. By engaging youth in governance work, they hope it will be



possible to provide meaningful inputs benefiting everyone in society, including youth themselves.

Youth in governance could refer to a broad range of exercises. Here, the term refers to youth participation in local governance and commune council work. It is here that most ordinary citizens, especially the poor and youth themselves, will be able to see the most direct benefits on the ground.

## **2. WVC and CCSP Commitments to Youth in Governance**

### **2.1 World Vision Cambodia<sup>1</sup>**

In seeking to implement its five-year national strategy, WVC planned to join with local NGOs in building the capacity of Cambodian citizens to learn more about advocacy and to utilize advocacy tools to create change for the better. In its proposal for the ‘Advocacy Capacity Building Project’, submitted to World Vision Canada on January 31, 2007, WVC aims to build the capacity of its staff and of community members, particularly children and youth, to actively participate in policy dialogue and advocacy needs.

In 2001, the RGC passed legislation which led to the holding of the first mandate Commune Council Elections. The elected local governance unit consists of 1,621 commune/sangkat councils, each headed by commune/sangkat chief. This was a major step towards decentralization reform at local levels. The WVC project assumes that the RGC will show the political will to continue decentralizing decision making, based on national strategy, and that local authorities will be willing to work with young people with little or no age discrimination.

WVC is aware that an important part of empowering communities is the involvement of children, youth and their families in local decision-making processes. The participation of young people in the work of commune councils and in local governance is a strategic empowering tactic. WVC seeks to prepare young people from WVC’s child clubs, particularly club leaders, to actively participate in and contribute to their communities and communes. Aside from providing basic understanding of advocacy to its staff, in another component of the project WVC attempts to work with local NGOs to identify and design materials that will help build capacity and prepare young people to participate and work with their local authorities in commune-level governance. The project hopes to create a demand for young people’s input into their communities through participation of young people, strong children and youth clubs in local governance. Building capacity and empowering young people to engage with commune councils will promote community participation in local governance (Project Output 2.1, Outcome 2, see Table 1).

Activities include identifying areas where young people can contribute to their community through commune council meetings, production of training materials, and training for children in Area Development Programs (ADPs) where there are active child clubs. 336 children in child/youth clubs are expected to be direct beneficiaries of this component in the long run. WVC’s advocacy team will work with a partner NGO to carry out the training in ADP areas.

Connecting the child clubs to the national network of youth groups is seen as vital to building sustainable relationships as well as continuing work through the national youth group. The WVC youth groups will be linked to national youth NGO networks and coalitions. Lessons learned on youth participation at commune level are to be shared in network meetings as well as through young people’s conferences. By finding ways for child club to work with the national youth group and its network, it is expected that

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<sup>1</sup> See WVC proposal to WV Canada.

young people will continue to play a key role in the development of their country. As more people understand about the importance of participating in governance, as well as knowing how to advocate with local authorities, the project seeks to create a demand for advocacy. The expectation is that young people's participation in local governance can bring value added for officials who are receiving inputs from their young people.

Such a project faces a number of risks, including commune council members not wanting young people to participate in local governance decisions for fear of political threats. The project plans to recruit a consultant to evaluate ways in which youth can engage effectively, then to design a training curriculum to be delivered to 100 young people each year. The training will be monitored. Funds will be provided to each youth group to carry out activities at local level. The learning of children in one community will be shared with those of another community through learning trips. Club leaders are supported to be active participants in commune council meetings. As noted above, child clubs will also be linked to the national coalition of young people. Experiences will be evaluated and written up by an independent consultant.

CCSP has been identified as the most suitable partner for WVC.

**Table 1: Advocacy Capacity Building Project: activities for youth in governance**

<b>Outcome 2: To promote community participation in local governance</b>
<b>Output 2.1: Youth capacity built to participate in local governance</b>
Conduct a study on youth engagement with commune council
Identify WVC youth group and communes to work with
Develop curriculum, training design and learning materials
Conduct training on youth engagement and governance
Provide continuing financial and technical assistance to children/youth groups
Exchange visits
Monitor sustaining efforts of organized YiG
Conduct national dissemination workshop
Organize training on youth engagement and governance for networks and coalitions

## 2.2 Commune Council Support Project<sup>2</sup>

To ensure greater youth participation in commune governance and to harness the vast potential in rural Cambodia, CCSP has included in its three-year project proposal a project activity called 'Youth Engagement in Local Governance'.

As part of the project development process, CCSP plans to initiate a series of focus group discussions with key youth leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), and commune council officials in key regional centers to develop the concept of commune youth councils as a subcommittee of the commune council. CCSP means to commission a Cambodian national consultant to create a training program for NGOs in the development and capacity building of such commune youth councils.

The general implementation strategy is to work with youth NGO networks/coalitions which, in turn, will work with youth groups in communes. A national ToT (training of

<sup>2</sup> CCSP concept paper on youth in governance.

trainers) for youth NGOs, preferably those operating on a nationwide scope, is considered a key step in the process. Networks/coalitions will then work with their existing member groups to organize a corps of young people who will receive technical and community mobilization support to begin or strengthen collaborative efforts with their commune councils in promoting good governance. A curriculum, training design and learning materials will be developed for the YiG training.

It is planned that the training will involve youth NGO networks/coalitions in four pilot communes of two provinces. Training content is expected to cover youth organizing; youth leadership and development; understanding and working with commune councils; developing youth agenda at commune level; youth advocacy; as well as project development, project implementation and management. The project will culminate with a national dissemination workshop in Phnom Penh. At the end of the project, the capacity-building exercise will result in the creation of institutionalized youth involvement in commune councils.

As proposed, the activity commences with a field-based study of current youth engagement in the local governance arena, particularly with commune councils. Based on findings and suggestions from this study, the training curriculum and learning material will be developed to impart training to youths in Cambodia, in order to build a cadre of trained youths to engage with commune councils and other sub-national entities towards youth development, particularly through establishment of the youth councils as subcommittees under the commune council.

This design may be refined depending on realities during actual implementation.

### **3. Field Assessment Study**

By chance, the individual plans of WVC and CCSP complemented each other. In this connection, WVC is partnering with CCSP to conduct a field assessment study of child and youth clubs in the former's ADPs and then to develop a training handbook based on findings and suggestions arising from the assessment. CCSP commissioned a national consultant to conduct the assessment and to develop a training handbook as a tool for capacity building to engage youth in governance. The consultancy officially started on July 16, 2005 and lasted 35 days. The assessment was to focus on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of youth associated with child clubs in selected ADPs of WVC.

#### **3.1 Objectives of assessment study**

The primary objective of this consultancy project is to assess the development capacity of youth in order that they can be effectively involved in local governance work. The specific objectives are: i) to assess capacity and training needs, attitudes and perceptions of youth in clubs within WVC target areas in order to form appropriate ways for them to engage with local governance work; and ii) based on the results of the assessment, to develop a training handbook to build the capacity of the youth groups to enable their participation with commune councils. Outputs will be an assessment report, with findings and recommendations, and a training curriculum. At that point, a number of NGOs working with youth will be trained, using the handbook, on issues surrounding youth participation in local governance and commune councils.

#### **3.2 Methodology of assessment study**

The assessment primarily focuses on youth, in order to understand this group's consciousness, perceptions, attitudes and capacity regarding local governance. To ensure awareness of the climate surrounding youth participation, views of commune councils and perceptions of ordinary citizens at local level were also evaluated; these groups' suggestions and recommendations for improving youth engagement were also sought. A number of NGOs working for/with youths were also identified; the consultant held in-depth interviews with these actors to see what youths in other areas have been doing in the field of governance. All of the above meant the assessment could draw on extensive invaluable experiences and lessons learnt, which helped with forming recommendations.

The assessment study principally used qualitative methods of data and information gathering and analysis. In order, significant methods used were as follows:

- i) Individual unstructured interviews/in-depth interviews
- ii) Focus group interviews
- iii) Non-probability sample surveys for survey for training needs assessment
- iv) Group meetings
- v) Records review, analysis and writing

Guiding questions for focus group interviews and individual unstructured interviews were prepared prior to the assessment. The questions focused on youth knowledge and capacity to participate, and attitudes and perceptions towards commune councils and local governance. Additionally, the assessment looked at barriers, support factors and

requirements in enabling youth participation. Specific questions surrounding further training needs (both on knowledge and skills) for effective participation were posed to youth and commune councilors. This will feed into the development of content for the training handbook. Overall, the scope of inquiry can be summarized as follows:

- Youth knowledge about local governance and roles of commune councils
- Youth understanding of right to participate
- Youth capacity to participate
- Barriers to participation
- Perceptions and attitude towards commune councils
- Perceptions of roles in local governance
- What could youth bring to local governance
- Outlook of advantages of their participation
- Required capacity and support for their participation
- Enabling or facilitating factors for participation: social and legal frameworks
- Alternative ways/methodologies for their participation
- Their recommendations to enable their participation
- View of councilors on youth participation
- Councils' view on roles and tasks for youth in local governance
- Councils' expectations on the gains of youth participation
- Advantages for councils in youth participation
- What councils and citizens can do to support or enable youth participation
- Perceptions of ordinary citizen on youth participation
- Experiences of other NGOs in promoting YiG
- List of specific skills youths really need in order to participate
- Content of knowledge to include in the training handbook

Because of time limitations, this assessment selected only two child/youth clubs in WVC's target ADPs, one in Samrongtong district of Kampong Speu province and one in Kampong Tralach district of Kampong Chhnang province. Adolescents and teenagers from 12 to over 20 years old participated as respondents. The assessment started with a visit to the child/youth club in Samrongtong and then one to Kampong Tralach. Owing to problems of availability on the part of the councils, the mission was able to meet with only one commune council, that of Thmar Eth commune of Kampong Tralach district. In addition, the consultant spent time meeting relevant NGOs in Phnom Penh and in the suburbs. WVC and its staff in the ADPs facilitated arrangements for the field visits; the consultant organized the NGO meetings himself. Key informants involved in the assessment included:

- Club leaders and deputies: in-depth interviews
- Adolescent members of child/youth clubs: focus group interviews
- Commune council members: in-depth and focus group interviews
- Ordinary citizens: in-depth interviews
- Relevant organizations (YCC, Youth Star and KYA etc): in-depth interviews

**Table 2: Types of interviews and respondents in assessment study, July 16-25, 2007**

Type of interview	Number	Type of interviewees/ respondents	Total no.	F	M
1. Focus group interviews	2	Leaders and deputies of clubs and activities	8	4	4

	1	Commune councilors	4	3	1
2. Big group meeting	1	40 members of clubs	40	25	15
3. Individual interview with implementer	2	Staff of WVC-ADP	2	-	2
4. Individual ordinary citizen unstructured interviews	5	Ordinary citizen respondent to the CRR survey	5	3	2
5. Individual national key informant interviews	4	National NGOs	4	1	4
<b>Total</b>			<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>

The visit spent on average two days on each child/youth club in each province. The assessment conducted three focus group interviews in total, with leaders, deputies and head of child/youth club activities, and with commune council members. Each focus group interview normally took more than two hours. In Trokeat, of Samrongtong (Kampong Speu), one big group meeting was held with around 40 members of child/youth club. For other respondents, the mission met individually with them for in-depth interviews, which took around one to two hours each. In total, the mission conducted focus group interviews and meetings with 52 respondents (mostly youth), and carried out in-depth unstructured individual interviews with 12 people. All in all, the assessment met with 64 people, including 36 female.

Organizing children, youths, ordinary people and commune councilors to come to assessment interviews was quite hard, as it was the harvest season (people were busy with farming). The ADP staff were also busy. The meeting with club members in Kampong Speu first involved children and youths from three years old to over 20 years old. This was quite a crowd for in-depth exploration. The consultant decided to meet all of them at the start and then later release a number of children (those from three to six years old). After a second period, a number of children from seven to 11 years old were released. In the end, the discussion took more detail from youth from 12 years old upwards, and from a group of leader and deputies. Meeting with youth in Kampong Tralach (Kampong Chhnang) was more scattered, as respondents were busy helping their parents in the rice fields.

## 4. Assessment Findings

From here on, the report will presents findings, including readiness of child/youth clubs, youth knowledge and capacity in local governance, youth perceptions and attitudes towards commune councils, advantages of youth participation, barriers to their participation and, finally, views of councilors and ordinary citizens on youth in governance and the experiences of other NGOs in promoting youth in governance.

### 4.1 Child/youth clubs

Before clubs are set up, a basic survey is carried out to understand local opinions, situations and information on child/youth issues, as well as statistics, all to form a foundation for the decision to establish clubs. Then, a meeting is conducted with villagers to inform them of the purpose of the clubs and to build relationships with village chiefs, teachers, school directors, VDCs (village development committees) and communes. Next, youths and children are registered and organized. An active volunteer or member selected from the VDC is required here. One village could have three clubs or one club could cover three villages, according to numbers of children/youth, according to Mr. Vutha, Samrongtong ADP staff. The description of the establishment process and methodology<sup>3</sup> shows that officials from villages and communes only receive information about the clubs. There is no evidence of inputs into future interactions between child/youth clubs and village or commune administrations.

The clubs are instituted by WVC as a learning venue for youths and children in villages and communities with the aim of:

- i) Enhancing their knowledge and understanding on child/youth rights;
- ii) Exchange among them through learning, playing, discussion, mutual mentoring and coping with stress;
- iii) Helping them to help themselves become role models who can help their family, village, community and society;
- iv) Maintaining Khmer civilization and culture through child/youth activities;
- v) Acquiring recognition of the value of children/youths from community and others; and
- vi) Encouraging expression of their problems and issues in public and at national level.

Clubs are located in suitable places. Mr. Vutha, Child/Youth Club Coordinator in Samrongtong said that the furthest club was around 30km from the commune office. Normally, one club has around 50 to 100 members (around 100 in the Samrongtong club and 50 in the Kampong Tralach club). Members of the club are divided into several groups, of about 10 children/youth each. Elected heads of groups are voted on for club leaders, deputies and financiers. Some lead club activities such the Peace Road Club and the Peer Educator Group. This means that 10-15 youths play an active role in the leading team of each club. In principle, club members should be from eight to 17 years old (eight to 12 for child members and 13-17 for youth members); in reality, members of clubs in Samrongtong and Kampong Tralach ranged from three to around 20 years old. According

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<sup>3</sup> In the WVC child/youth club manual.



to Miss Sear Srey Roth, Club Leader in Trakeat (Samrongtong) and Mr. Phon Sopheak, Club Leader in Thmar Eth (Kampong Tralach), in each club, 30-40% are of ages that could be considered youth (from 13 to around 20); club leaders are elected from among this age group. Youths and children enjoy benefits together. Most club leaders are girls (11 among 12 in Samrongtong).

**Table 3: Roles and responsibilities of club leading team**

No.	Title	Responsibilities
1	Club leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible for general activities of club;</li> <li>- Produce weekly report about progress activities of club;</li> <li>- Record and report all request and concerns of club members;</li> <li>- Facilitate and resolve problems faced by club members;</li> <li>- Attend monthly meeting and quarterly meetings (with other leaders, village child rights committee and staff of WVC-ADP).</li> </ul>
2	Club deputy leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act as leader when club leader is absent;</li> <li>- Discuss task list of club leader to be elected;</li> <li>- Help financier in maintaining club materials and equipment;</li> <li>- Solicit and submit requests and reports from club members to leader;</li> <li>- Other tasks proposed by club leader.</li> </ul>
3	Financier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Control and be responsible for all materials and equipment of club;</li> <li>- Manage, record and check use of materials and equipment;</li> <li>- Support materials and equipment to members for operation;</li> <li>- Keep and maintain after using.</li> </ul>
4	Note for leading team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guarantee maintaining club material and equipment for long-term use;</li> <li>- As possible, keep large amount of members during meeting;</li> <li>- Explore means to keep club running;</li> <li>- Participate in other meeting with other club leaders and committee.</li> </ul>

Aside from leaders, child/youth representative(s) of each village stand as focal persons connecting club and program staff. Club leaders are encouraged to deal with issues from their own perspectives. The Peer Educator Group and the Peace Road Club have also played an important role in child/youth education and development.

### **Box 1: Club activity examples**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings of books, educational tales, newspapers, magazines and others</li> <li>- Mutual mentoring on numeration and literacy</li> <li>- Subject education on HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, child rights, participation rights, sexual exploitation, through TV spots and cartoons</li> <li>- Home gardening, livestock raising and hygiene</li> <li>- Participation in special events related to child/youth</li> <li>- Role model competition and rewarding exercises</li> <li>- Regular competition of child/youth actions of all club member</li> <li>- Annual competition at village and community level</li> <li>- Appropriate vocational and skills training</li> <li>- Peer Educator Group and Peace Road Club</li> <li>- Writing, drawing and coloring or describing illustrative pictures</li> <li>- Intelligence tests, exercise, energizing games, cultural plays, badminton, chess and ball games etc</li> <li>- Child rights and moral songs singing and dancing</li> </ul>
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Roles, responsibilities and activities set for the clubs are limited to those that deal with child/youth development. Youth participation in governance does not appear.

The clubs are open every Saturday and Sunday or at some time on Thursdays. They are more active during school vacations. The Peer Educator Group looks at child/youth

issues such as rights, domestic violence, exploitation, drug abuse, dengue fever, bird flu, nutrition, conflict resolution etc, and disseminates information on club activities to the community. Similarly, the Peace Road Club, in its curriculum of six chapters, 52 sessions, has inspired members in the areas of self-exploration, diversity, gender equity, respect and empathy, healthy relationships and peace building. Governance is not included. In club leadership meetings, the focus is mainly on club management.

Village child/youth committees (VCCs) and commune child/youth committees (CCCs) work together to supervise and support the interests of children/youths within their respective areas. These committees aim to:

- i) Increase child/youth participation;
- ii) Build the capacity of leadership and management;
- iii) Enable the functioning of the child/youth working process;
- iv) Build a network among children/youths in the community;
- v) Strengthen communication, relationships and cooperation with project staff and local authorities, and report on child/youth rights abuse;
- vi) Share information and concerns about children/youths during meetings.

VCCs and CCCs are established in villages and communes with the support of the WVC-ADP. VCCs are under the control of CCCs in cooperation with communes. VCCs as well as CCCs are headed by a elected leader and two elected deputies. VCCs are responsible only for the village; CCCs are responsible for the whole commune. Tasks are the same.

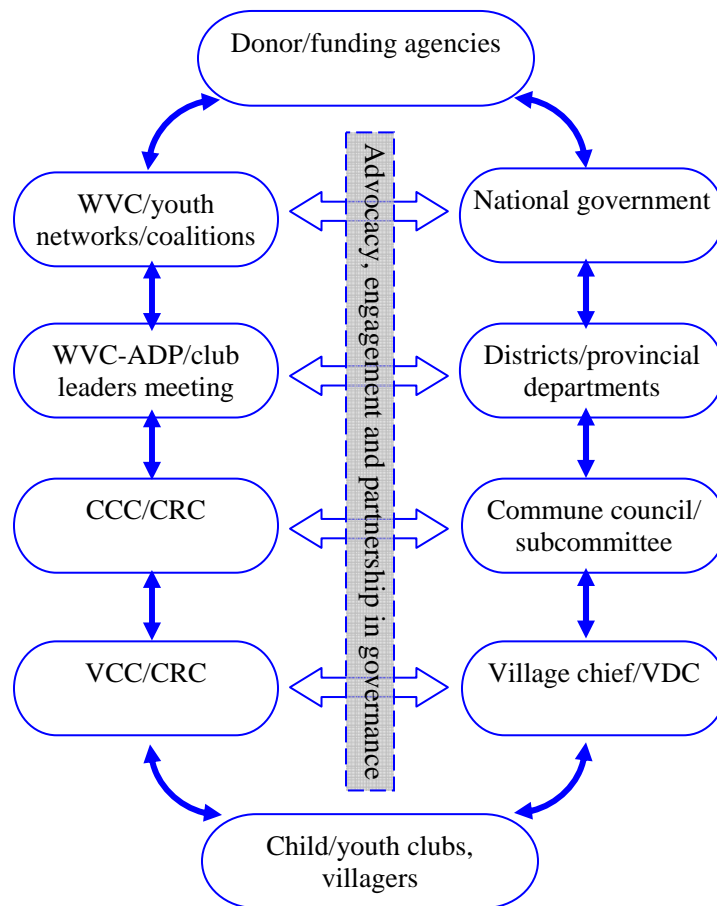
**Table 4: Responsibilities of VCCs and CCCs**

No.	Title	Responsibilities
1	Leader of VCC/CCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage all activities on children/youths within village/commune;</li> <li>- Facilitate all issues and work related to children/youths;</li> <li>- Report on abuse through structure (VCC to CCC to program staff);</li> <li>- Lead and manage deputies and members;</li> <li>- Control, manage and work on activities proposed by members.</li> </ul>
2	Deputy leader (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make close cooperation with program staff;</li> <li>- Report on child rights and information on child abuse to leader;</li> <li>- Work to benefit children/youths and decrease problem affecting them;</li> <li>- Facilitate work related to child/youth abuse;</li> <li>- Assist program staff as needed.</li> </ul>
3	Deputy leader (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate submission of reports and requests to leader;</li> <li>- Give administrative support to activities related to children/youths;</li> <li>- Help with any communication work related to child/youth activities;</li> </ul>
4	Note for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All leading team of committees (leader and deputies) must work in close cooperation with each other;</li> <li>- All must attend the monthly meeting at ADP office presided over by coordinator of child/youth abuse.</li> </ul>

The arrangement of these committees could be called a patrolling system, mainly in place for the purpose of child/youth protection. It is envisaged that the committees serve the interests of the child. There is a feeling that committees and commune councils are obliged to do something for children/youths rather than asking children/youths to do something in commune councils and local affairs. Of course, it could be said that what child/youth committees do shares the load of commune councils in terms of social protection and child/youth development, but there is no direct spelling out of the role of youth in local governance and commune council work.

Institutional arrangements of the clubs are quite promising regarding the promotion of youth participation in local governance. Among other aims, VCCs and CCCs are envisioned to increase youth participation, build networks and strengthen communication, relationships and cooperation with local authorities. Although these statements relate more broadly to general working relationships and participation, they give room for future elaboration to promote youth engagement in local governance. All that is required is some rethinking of types and levels of participation or a shift in focus towards participation in local governance away from multiple directions of participation without any arrival. Another facilitating factor is the representation set-up, which is a good way to advocate and carve out space for youth engagement in governance, especially local governance work. The diagram below presents various methods by means of which youths and their supporters could advocate or participate in governance affairs.

**Figure 1: Trails of advocacy and engagement in governance work**



## 4.2 Youth knowledge and capacity in local governance

Members of child/youth clubs have been trained and are aware of issues such as violence against children and hazardous/worst forms of child labor. This awareness enables them to be effective advocates on such issues in the community. They are also educated on the rights of participation, mostly concerning community and village development activities. Some members have made presentations on child rights to audiences including commune

council members. Young people themselves are generally confident in articulating their rights and understand clearly any issues related to child rights abuses.

This stage in the assessment attempted to appraise youth knowledge and capacity in local governance, particularly the role of the commune council. Youth participants were asked to list down the roles of commune councilors and village chiefs. Responses were general, mainly saying that village chiefs and commune councilors had a duty to develop the village and commune. Respondents described tasks according to their recollection.

**Table 5: Tasks of commune councils and village chiefs, according to respondents**

What commune councils do	What village chief and deputies do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve letters for ceremonies, weddings etc</li> <li>- Receive complaints and petitions</li> <li>- Develop commune (roads, education, health etc)</li> <li>- Civil registration</li> <li>- Emergency relief</li> <li>- Repair wells</li> <li>- Facilitate social activities</li> <li>- Mediate conflict and land tenure problems</li> <li>- Deal with child exploitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call for meetings</li> <li>- Join meetings at commune offices</li> <li>- Mediate conflict and land tenure problems</li> <li>- Collect contributions for road construction</li> <li>- Village development</li> <li>- Record statistics</li> </ul>

During interviews, only a few participants could give information on minor tasks and responsibilities of commune councilors and village chiefs as listed in Table 5. Almost all of them knew their village chief but only a small amount knew their commune chief or commune clerk. Youths in Samrongtong knew that there was a commune council in each commune but they did not know the exact number of people on each council. Mr. Nhol Sovannary, a participant in Kampong Tralach, knew that a number of people were working in the commune office but did not know that they were called a commune council. Mr. Phon Sopheak, youth club leader in Kampong Tralach said: ‘I know that deputy commune chiefs represent or work on behalf of the commune chief when the chief is absent; beyond that I don’t know’. It is clear that youths do not formally know the official mandate, roles and responsibility of commune councils and village authorities. This is a big barrier to their participation, as they are not properly equipped with knowledge and understanding. However, some youth leaders said they had been involved in planning processes for their club’s development, and consulted their village chief.

### **4.3 Youth perceptions of and attitude towards commune councils**

All youths interviewed confirmed that they had the right to participate in development activities of the family, community, village and commune. Through peer education activities, youths have good contacts with VDCs and village chiefs. All ages have equal rights to participate, youths in Samrongtong said.

When interviews tried to identify type and level of participation, respondents talked about their experiences with project development activities. Nobody talked about governance or about working with commune councils. It seems that youths see themselves as irrelevant to or separate from local governance work. The assessment also asked who among the respondents wanted to be a commune councilor or village chief. Some children/youths in Samrongtong wanted to be; one talkative youth in Kampong Tralach affirmed that he wanted to be a NGO worker rather than a commune official. Low income for local

authorities, along with the benefits of working for a NGO, has in many cases led to youths being uninterested in working for the local council.

Of 40 youths participating in a big group meeting with the child/youth club of Trakeat village, Samrongtong, not one had been to the commune office. The reason given was that they had no mandatory task to carry out there. Youths in Samrongtong acknowledged that they had never considered getting involved in commune council work, which they many felt was the work of adults. Aside from this, some participants revealed that they were also not interested in going or did not want to. Others had no time or felt they did not know anyone there or had not been invited – or, at least, only their parents were invited (parents do not encourage their children to go and adults tend to dominate in discussion, leaving children not daring to speak). Some participants did not see any benefits in going to the commune office; others did not know that they had the right to get involved.

This deters youth participation. Nevertheless, most were willing to get involved given the chance, as they wanted to learn in order to contribute to the community. Youths in Kampong Tralach felt the commune council role was to help people rather than control them. Some felt they had the ability to participate; one youth in Kampong Speu felt that sometime suggestions of children/youth were even better than those of adults, as adults sometime do not understand the feelings and needs of young people. Asked what kind of job they could do for commune councils, if there had the chance, youths in Kampong Tralach felt that they could do anything if the commune council requested it.

A youth leader in Kampong Tralach believed that the commune administration and management law, and other regulations governing local governance, allowed for youth participation. Others stated a need for knowledge on commune councils, rights to participate in local governance, behavioral change, presentations, communication, organizing meeting, conflict resolution, criminal and civil law, etc. Such a demand suggests that young people are willing to make a significant contribution to local commune councils. Youths in Samrongtong said that if they had the chance to participate, they would request a school with paved roads, tiled floors, a garden, a library, a pond and a flagpole. In other words, given time, young people could see the benefits of participation. A group of club leaders in Kampong Speu made it clear that they only wanted to be involved in lawful participation activities.

#### **4.4 Advantages of youth participation**

Club members, especially leaders, have great experience in planning activities. Youths are experts on their rights and issues affecting them. Youths in Kampong Tralach have helped commune councils and village chiefs on civil registration and voter registration; in some cases they help commune councils with social work, such as providing materials to poor families or visiting families suffering from domestic violence, for example (according to Mr. Phon Sopheak). Youths could reduce the load of commune councils in many ways; respondents indicated the following as ways in which they could help:

- Administrative work
- Writing commune letters
- Taking of notes and records
- Civil registration

- Voter registration
- Logistics for special ceremonies, meetings or workshops
- Dissemination and popular education work, e.g. bird flu awareness
- Road construction
- Training
- Public order
- Work related to child/youth exploitation and abuse
- Provision of reports and information for child protection
- Provision of ideas and labor for commune affairs and development work
- Acting as messenger from villagers to commune councilors and vice versa
- Participation in meetings
- Making of requests or proposing of solutions
- Protection of child/youth interests
- Child education

Both youths and commune councils could see a wealth of advantages that youths could bring to make for healthier local governance. Youths from the two clubs visited described benefits as including the following (in a quick brainstorm – a more detailed probing might reveal more):

- Young people will keep away from illegal or delinquent actions
- Youths feel relevant and worthy of respect
- Youths see themselves as useful and invaluable to society
- They feel a sense of ownership for their community
- Youths are honest and neutral to help to facilitate internal working relationships among councilors.
- Youths become involved in local governance work
- Youths can practice their responsibility in society
- Youth education and development are improved
- Cooperation between youth and commune councils is improved
- Youth-adult partnerships, friendships and philanthropy are improved
- Youths are prepared for future leadership
- Youths gain experience in teamwork and systematic working
- Focus of development is geared towards needs and interests of children/youths
- Youth can share in the benefits of development
- Youth values are enhanced
- Intervention network for child/youth protection is enabled
- Prevention of child/youth rights abuse is stronger

## **4.5 Barriers to participation**

A number of factors lead to the absence of youth in local governance.

- Usually, adults and youths themselves consider local governance work to be the work of adults or public officials.
- Adults normally consider children to be too young to know right from wrong. One councilor said that children only think about fun and seldom pay attention to work. Such perceptions show that some adults do not accept the views of children/youths.
- Most youths are not familiar with and have no knowledge for decentralization and commune council work. They do not know about the legal frameworks supporting

their participation. Without capacity, youths are reluctant to get involved and can not identify entry points or pathways to participation.

- Youths in Kampong Speu report narrow space for child/youth participation. During commune planning processes, no youths are invited to raise issues, vote and take part in decision making. Village chiefs always invite parents and not their children; even if the children are the only ones at home (village chiefs merely leave a message).
- Girls aged 14 and up often have to go to work in garment factories. The number of youth leaders in Samrongtong has reduced from 20 to 13: some have had to go and work as garment or construction workers.
- In some cases, the arrival of foreign music and culture has divided youths from more traditional Cambodian adults. This has led to some negative perceptions of youths by adults.
- An advisor to the child/youth club in Samrongtong said that most young people were normally shy and did not have the confidence to participate.
- The commune council in Thmar Eth of Kampong Tralach mentioned a lack of physical support for participation, such as mean of communication, vehicles and service fees.

It is necessary to look at ways to overcome such obstacles if youth participation in local governance is to be made real.

#### **4.6 Views of councilors and ordinary citizens on youth in governance**

In general, commune councilors and ordinary citizens encourage and welcome youth participation. The commune council in Thmar Eth commune of Kampong Tralach has praised youths from three clubs for their assistance in voter registration, civil registration and other social activities.

Thmar Eth commune chief affirmed that many club members used to be naughty but, when the clubs were established, they changed their ways and learned the difference between right and wrong. He went on to say that young people were the responsibility of the commune focal person for women and children. He compared youth to a bamboo shoot: young people will grow up as a major force in socioeconomic development. Involving youth in local affairs and develop will enable them to learn to work for society. He was enthusiastic and appreciative of the idea of youth in governance. He expressed this as follows: ‘It is important to improve one’s mind while one is young, just as it is necessary to bend a tree while it is still a seedling’.

Both commune councilors and ordinary citizens appreciated club values in terms of improving child/youth education and developing role models. The club advisor said that parents sent their children to the clubs without any doubts and believed that club activities provided benefits for their children. They recognized changes in behavior and characteristics of children/youths in the community.

One councilor recognized that youths were valuable resources for local councils, especially for public order and social protection. He mentioned that youths could provide good opinions and information on domestic violence, child/youth exploitation and drug abuse. Among the five council members in this case, one woman councilor was

responsible for women and children; she openly welcomed young people's assistance in local governance work. She said that social morality had now become corrupted; involvement of youths in local affairs could help prevent any wrongdoings by other young people. In Samrongtong, ordinary citizens thought youths could play a watchdog role towards commune budget expenditure. The council promised that it would open up spaces and venues for youths, and that it would appreciate their participation.

Commune councils suggested that youths from 13 years and up (mostly those already in secondary school) should be motivated to take part in local governance work, as it was easier to communicate with older children. Councils also advised the organization of young people in groups of between 10 and 20: group participation makes young people more comfortable and they will then be in a good position to learn from other members.

It seems that these positive answers, particularly from commune councilors, came in response to questions. Respondents had little awareness on these issues before questions were asked; this may be because the value of youth participation is not valued traditionally. However, although there appears as yet to be no proactive thinking on youth participation, the responses given to questions offer welcome signals.

#### **4.7 Experiences of other NGOs in promoting youth in governance**

Other youth organizations are working with and for youth, enabling their participation in different levels of governance and democracy. Those organizations include the Khmer Democratic Youth Association (KDYA); the Khmer Student Association (KSA); the Khmer Youth Association (KYA); the Student Movement for Democracy (SMD); United Neutral Khmer Students (UNKS); Youth Star (YS); the Youth Resources Development Program (YRDP); Youth For Peace (YFP); Khmer Youth Development (KYD), etc.

Some of these made up the Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC) at the end of 2001. YCC seeks to promote active participation of youth in strengthening democracy and good governance in several sectors, from the standpoint that young people want to play a role using their unique vision in making a major contribution to safeguard the future. In this mission, YCC builds youth capacity and knowledge, creating good networks, relationships and cooperation to enable youth participation and to motivate society to pay greater attention to youth.

In its education and training program, YCC organized courses on Living Democracy for youths aged 13-17 (reaching over 30,000 each year) and an Advanced Democracy seminar for youths from 18-23 (reaching 5,000 youths each year).<sup>4</sup> The first level aimed to activate younger youths to practice democracy in daily life, to exercise good citizenship and to create a democratic community at home and school. The second level aimed to promote youth participation in building democracy and good governance. This helped youths identify methods for engagement in political and governance processes. Commune council members were invited to participate in training to interact with youths by connecting theory to practical issues. YCC organized youth quarterly lobbying meetings with political parties and key elected officials, building a local youth network to enable greater participation in local issues and local advocacy efforts (by coordinating petition drives and attending commune council meetings and public forum). YCC also

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<sup>4</sup> See the YCC brochure.



strengthened youth network activists to instill the presence of youths in the commune. Legislative monitoring activities connected youths with parliamentarians. Youths are also able to express their voice through radio programs, newsletters and bulletins.

Mr. Mak Sarath, Program Coordinator of YCC, said that 2,000 youths had been participating actively in commune council meetings (in some cases, youths initiated the agenda for commune councils meetings) in 400 communes out of 997, located in nine provinces. For instance, in July 2007 alone, youths participated in 53 commune council meetings and 45 other activities facilitated by commune councils. Commune councils in Treng Trayeoung of Kampong Speu province, and in Svay Rieng province, had put slots on the agenda for youth to speak during monthly council meetings.

Petition drive activities mobilized up to 2,000 supporters per petition or request letter (to communes to deal with specific priority local issues). After petitions are submitted to commune councils, youth plan follow-up and face-to face-meetings. Overall, 30% of petitions have received a positive response from commune councils, 30% have been promised and 40% have been given a promise of a response. 35 youth activists have been brought to visit and meet the Department of Local Administration (DoLA) to deepen their understanding on local governance frameworks.

Other than YCC, SMD is working to shape Cambodian society by mobilizing youths to create a democratic ideology. SMD mobilizes and encourages youths/students to promote respect of human rights and protect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and identity of Cambodia through the practice of democratic principles. SMD has broad experience in promoting democratic governance through youth mass action and grassroots activities.

In the belief that building a just and peaceful nation is every citizen's right and responsibility, and that each individual can make a difference, YS has sent many young graduate youth volunteers to work in the community to improve citizen services, with the expectation that soon all Cambodian youths will have such opportunities and will want to serve their community and nation starting from local level. Aside from this, YS hopes to equip youth with better civic leadership so that they will have the values, skills and inspiration to be leaders for the common good, catalysts for social transformation and bringers of creative solutions to pressing social problems.

In general, youth organizations have identified youth concerns with underlying questions of governance, and have shifted focus to deal with issues from their roots.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Conclusion

Both WVC and CCSP have committed strongly to promoting youth in local governance. However, youths are not yet ready to participate. There is a need for coordination, facilitation and capacity building in order they can participate meaningfully.

- In each club, 30-40% of members have reached the age that can be considered youth, from 13 to around 20. Club leaders are elected from this age group. Most are girls.
- During the club establishment process, there is no articulation of any thinking on future interaction between members of child/youth clubs and village or commune administrations, even though the clubs are places where youths and children can enjoy their rights and benefit together.
- Members of clubs have been trained and are aware of issues related to child rights abuses, violence against children, and hazardous and worst forms of child labor. This awareness enables them to be effective advocates on these issues in the community. They are quite confident in this area.
- All youths interviewed confirmed that they had the right to participate but considered this merely in the field of project development activities. Nobody considered governance or working to assist commune councils. It seems that young people see themselves as irrelevant to or separate from local governance work.
- Roles, responsibilities and activities set for clubs are limited to child/youth development. Activities, meetings and curricula focus mainly on child-related issues and club management. Youth participation in governance does not arise as an issue in itself.
- VCCs/CCCs and commune councils are seen as in place to do things for children/youths rather than the other way round; there is no direct role for youths in local governance and commune council work. Institutional arrangements are quite promising, however, and can promote space for youth engagement in local governance. One aim of VCCs and CCCs is to increase youth participation, build networks and strengthen communication, relationships and cooperation with local authorities. This gives room for youth engagement: all that is required is a rethink of the type and level of participation or a shift in focus towards participation in local governance.
- No youths have been to the commune office, mainly because there was no reason to. Other reasons included lack of interest, lack of time, lack of invitation and, in particular, lack of awareness of the benefits of attending.
- Absence of youth in local governance is caused by a number of factors related to perception, capacity, opportunity, recognition, livelihood and physical support (such as for means of communication, vehicles and fees). Youth participation can be made real only when such barriers are overcome.
- Only a few youths could give details on minor tasks and responsibilities of commune councilors and village chiefs. It is clear that young people do not know much about the official mandate, roles and responsibilities of commune councils and village authorities. This is a big barrier to their participation.

- Most are willing to participate as they want to learn and get experience. They are keen to prepare for work with commune councils.
- Some youths have experience in helping commune councils and village chiefs in civil registration, voter registration and other social work. There are many other tasks in which youth could help reduce the load on commune councils. A quick brainstorm of youths and commune councilors threw up a wealth of advantages that youths could bring to make for healthier local governance.
- In general, commune councilors and ordinary citizens encourage and welcome youth participation. Commune chiefs are enthusiastic and promise that they will open up spaces for youths, particularly suggesting the participation of youths over 13 years old. However, enthusiasm seemed to come only in response to questions: there seemed to be no proactive thinking in this area prior to interview. This may be because the value of youth participation is not recognized traditionally. Nevertheless, the responses given to questions by commune councilors offer a welcome signal for the future.
- A number of organizations work on youth participation in different levels of governance and democracy work. Some identify youth concerns with underlying questions of governance, and are shifting in focus to deal with such issues from their roots.

## 5.2 Recommendations

Derived from the above conclusions, this assessment study suggests the following actions as ways to turn commitment and efforts in promoting youth in governance into a reality, by building youth quality and maximizing their potential for fruitful dialogue with commune councils to build a better tomorrow.

- Broaden the purposes, roles and activities of child/youth clubs to reach into local governance work. Promote, advocate, identify and enable space, venues and schedules for youth engagement and strengthen their roles in commune council activities, such as in commune council monthly meetings, local planning processes, administrative work, civic education and other tasks, especially those aged 13 and over (30-40% of each club).
- Build youth capacity, knowledge and understanding related to decentralization, commune councils, local governance and democracy in both actual activities and club curricula, so that they have a basis for participation in governance. An appropriate curriculum of knowledge on youth in governance should be compiled.
- Rethink the type and level of participation or shift the focus of youth participation into local governance rather than allowing it to be spread in multiple directions. Organize group participation (more comfortable for youths than individual participation).
- Familiarize youth with commune councils and allow them to see the advantages and relevance of participation. Identify tasks youth can do to assist commune councils to make for healthier local governance. Promote youth potential and expertise on certain issues as an asset to commune councils. This could help councils recognize youth value and open up space for youths.
- Analyze and identify legal frameworks as well as enabling factors that support and facilitate youth participation. Check youth readiness for participation. Obstructions must be clearly identified and overcome.

- Set up an internship program for youths to practice governance work with commune councils. Work with women and children focal persons in commune councils. Advocate for children to have slots on the agenda during council meetings. If possible, lobby commune councils to set up a youth committee or youth council within each commune.
- Educate WVC-ADP staff responsible for coordinating and facilitating youth activities on decentralization, commune councils and local governance to help them orient youth activities towards local governance.
- Enable a paradigm shift, from ‘we must work for youth’ to ‘youth can work with others for themselves and society’ to help youths regard themselves not only as beneficiaries but also as benefit producers.
- Connect youths in target areas to other youth networks and coalitions, at both local and national level, for stronger advocacy power and exchange experience on participating in governance.

## Annex 1: Workplan and Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21
Preparing of guiding question and checklists	Visit Youth club in Samrongtong, Kg. Speu		Visit youth club in Kompong tralach, Kg. Chhnang		July 21
July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28
Meet with YCC	Meet with Youth Star	Meet with KYA	Writing report		July 29
July 30	July 31	Aug 01	Aug 02	Aug 03	Aug 04
Writing report		Submission of report	Revised and submit report		Aug 05
					Aug 06
Aug 06	Aug 07	Aug 08	Aug 09	Aug 10	Aug 11
Writing handbook					Aug 12
Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18
Training on CRR					Aug 19
Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25
Writing handbook					Aug 26
Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sept 01
Submit the handbook	Revised and submit the handbook				Sept 02
Sept 03	Sept 04	Sept 05	Sept 06	Sept 07	Sept 08
Prepare for training					Sept 09

## Annex 2: List of Interviewees

Type of Interviewees	No	Name	Sex	Title
WVC ADP staff	1	Mr. Phon Sopheak	M	TDF Volunteer, Kg. Tralach ADP
	2	Mr. Kong Vutha	M	Youth/child club coordinator, Samrong Tong ADP, Kg. Speu
Leaders and deputies of youth/child club and activities	3	Mr. Dim Sam Onn	M	Student, club member and deputy leader of peace road, Samrong Tong, Kg. Speu
	4	Miss. Sear Srey Roth	F	Club leader, Peer Education Group member, Samrong Tong, Kampong Speu
	5	Mom Piseth	M	Club deputy leader, Samrong Tong, Kg. Speu
	6	Sam Sothun	M	Leader of peace road, Samrong Tong Kg. Speu
	7	Kham Sophea	F	Deputy leader of peer education group, Samrong Tong, Kg. Speu
	8	Mr. Nhol Sovannary	M	Peer Education Group
	9	Miss. Pohn Sophan	F	Peer Education Group
	10	Mr. Lun Srey Noeurn	F	Member
Members of Youth/child club	50	Big group meeting with 40 members of youth/child club	F/M	Youth/child club members, Trpkeat village, Samrongtong of Kg. Speu
Commune councilors of target communes	51	Mr. Chou Khem	M	Commune chief of Thmar Eth
	52	Mr. Sam Sar	M	Commune councilor
	53	Ms. Nhek Hoeurng	F	2 <sup>nd</sup> deputy chief, Thmar Eth
	54	Mr. Hout Leang Hong	M	Clark assistant
Ordinary citizens /respondents	55	Ms. Hour Sok Korn	F	Ordinary citizen, youth/child club advisor, Samrong Tong, Kg. Speu
	56	Ms. Touch Chenda	F	Ordinary citizens, Samrong Tong
	57	Mr. Muy Yeoun	M	Village chief, Samrong Tong, Kg. Speu
	58	Mr. Koy Chron	M	Ordinary citizen, Kanpong Tralach
	59	Ms. Chap Kheng	F	Ordinary citizen, Kampong Tralach
Youth NGOs	60	Miss. Chiv Kim Srun	F	Coordinator of Youth Star
		Mr. Long Khet	M	Youth For Peace 011834 771 director_yfp@online.com.kh
				Program Coordinator Youth Council of Cambodia 012 992 401
	62	Mr. Mak Sarath	M	
	63	Mr. Sokha	M	Youth Resource Development Program 012360464