

Mid-Term Report on the First Two Weeks of Data Collection Operation and Difficulties Encountered in the Process for Cambodia School-to-Work Transition Survey 2012

I. Background

The Cambodia School-to-Work Transition Survey 2012 (CSWTS) is conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) with financial and technical support of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The survey aims to collect more information and estimates of the statistics detailed on labour market for young people, by urban and rural levels, and by provincial level. Moreover, this survey will also provide the basis for the development of youth employment policy and youth labour market policies.

The analytical frameworks associated with the SWTS allow the user to first assess the characteristics of youth who are still in school, employed or self-employed, unemployed or outside of the labour force for reasons other than full-time study. Then survey results are used to estimate: 1) the number of young people who have completed their transition into stable or satisfactory employment 2) those who are still in transition; and 3) the number of young people who have not yet made the transition either because they remain in school or are outside of the labour market with no plans to work in the future.

II. Objectives of the survey

The main objectives of the CSWTS 2012 are to collect detailed information on the country's employment of persons aged 15-29 years old disaggregated by urban and rural areas. The survey provides information on the national youth employment that can then be used to develop, manage and evaluate youth employment policies and programmes.

The CSWTS serves a number of purposes. First, it detects the individual characteristics of young people that determine labour market disadvantage. This, in turn, is instrumental to the development of policy response to prevent the emergence of risk factors, as well as measures to remedy those factors that negatively affect the transition to decent work. Second, it identifies the features of youth labour demand, which help determine mismatches that can be addressed by policy interventions. Third, in countries where the labour market information system is not developed, it serves as an instrument to generate reliable data for policy-making and for monitoring progress towards the achievement of MDG1. In countries with a reasonably developed labour market information system, the survey helps to shed light on areas usually not captured by household-based surveys, such as youth conditions of work, wages and earnings, engagement in the informal economy, access to financial products and difficulties experienced by young people in running their business. Finally, it provides information to governments, the social partners and the donor community on the youth employment areas that require urgent attention. Other specific objectives are:

- 1) Obtain data on personal, family and household information including financial situation, health problems, highest educational level of parents, and occupation of parents.

- 2) Collect data on formal education/training, activities history and aspirations of youth/persons aged 15-29 years, including education and training, full history of economic activities, main goal in life, and working criteria.
- 3) Collect data on young workers including personal work details of business or place of work, employment status, wage and salaried workers (employees), self-employed workers, contributing family workers, perception, time related underemployment and other inadequate employment situations, future prospects, training in current activity, and the job search.
- 4) Collect data on unemployed youth including seeking work criteria, length of job search, availability criteria, and details of job search.
- 5) Collect data on youth in education.
- 6) Collect data on youth not in the labour force.

III. Data collection

3.1 Scope and coverage of the survey

The Cambodia School-to-Work Transitional Survey 2012 has been conducted in ten to provide estimates of youth employment at urban and rural levels. This survey covered 160 Enumeration Areas (EA) randomly selected as primary sampling units, or PSUs, and 2,560 households randomly selected as secondary sampling units, or SSUs. Each EA was randomly selected 16 sample household having persons aged 15-29 years old. As result from the field work, a total was approximated more than 3,000 youth to be interviewed.

3.2 Training of the survey

The training programmes were arranged for survey supervisors and enumerators in regard to the CSWTS 2012. Before going to the field work of the main survey, 40 staffs were received a four-day training on how to carry out data collection from 16 to 19 July 2012 at the NIS, Ministry of Planning. The training consisted of 2 days for training, 1 day for field-test, and 1 day for reviewing of field-test. The training also participated by NIS coordinators and ILO consultant in order to provide experiences and give some advices when complicated and difficult questions encountered or unclear definitions. Observed difficulties and problems during the field test served as additional inputs for further revisions and improvement of understanding.

The training of the survey was trained by Mr. Heang Kanol, Operation Manager of the survey and Mr. Yves Parardel, ILO consultant.

3.3 Field data collection operations

The field data collection operation was conducted by 8 teams and each team consists of one supervisor and four enumerators. The fieldwork carried out for 25 days from 22 July to 15 August 2012. One team covered 20 EAs for data collection.

Using the selected sample village provided, the enumerators visited first to the sample villages, and selected one sample Enumeration Area (EA) where the village leader lives. Sixteen households having youth members aged 15-29 years were randomly selected by systematic random sampling method. Then all youth members living in selected youth household were interviewed by enumerator.

3.4 Data processing

Upon submission of the completed questionnaires to NIS, those questionnaires will be processed at the NIS. The training of data processing was carried out for 4 days from 9-12 August 2012. After training, the editing of the completed questionnaires was done manually starting from 13 August 2012. Data entry will be carried out after finishing data editing.

IV. Lessons learned and difficulties encountered

4.1 Lessons learned

According to the first two weeks of data collection operation of the survey, some points learned were stated as follows:

- ✓ The engagement of the village leaders made it possible to enjoin the active cooperation of households during data collection operation. They played a very important role in guiding and helping our fieldwork to the target.
- ✓ Supervisors and enumerators should close cooperation with local authority or village leaders during data collection operation. In general, before interviewing the village leaders have to inform first to the households. However, the households can be interviewed while the local authority or village leader gave permission.
- ✓ Providing of small gift to village leaders and households during the field interview would encourage participating in the survey and welcome to answer the questions at any time. Moreover, the respondents will provide reliable information and gain close cooperation.
- ✓ The time-period of interview was depended upon the types of the household members who aged 15-29 years and educational background or knowledge of the respondents.
- ✓ Have to make appointment for the target persons who work far away from home.
- ✓ Have to make interview at night time when the target persons work far away from home.
- ✓ Having car for the field work that made easily transport and save time from and to villages as well as the households to be interviewed.
- ✓ Difficulty of recalled answer seemed not reliable.

4.2 Difficulties encountered

- ✓ Some selected sample EAs had to go by motorcycles, by boat and ship for the field data collection operation.
- ✓ Some selected EAs were very far from each other.
- ✓ Some household whose members are working in another province and staying there. These members often visit their family on Saturday and Sunday.
- ✓ Waiting for a long time at night for interviewing the target persons who are working far away from home.
- ✓ Village leader did not like to work with enumerator in night time for interviewing.