The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a global civil society movement that promotes education as a human right, and advocates to ensure that governments deliver equitable, inclusive, free and quality of public education for all. GCE Cambodia joins together with national and regional coalitions around the world to call for increased investment in education so that all people, including the most marginalized, can realize their rights to education.

The primary aim for the 2018 campaign was to call for the Cambodian government to increase national budget for education to ensure equitable, inclusive and quality of education for all. This also included raising the budget for education to at least 20% of the national budget, or 4% of GDP.

The national forum was held on 27 April 2018 with 47 participants (22 Females) from 25 NGOs and 3 participants from MoEYS at Raffles Hotel Le Royal. Besides, three local campaigns were also prepared on 26 April 2018 in Kampong Chhnang Province, on 27 April 2018 at KohKong Province, on 28 April 2018 at Kampot Province.

Remarkably, the campaign has reached to 38,317 people with 1.7K likes and 63 shares on NEP Facebook page. This campaign led to the reflection between 5 technical departments of MoEYS and 4 CSO sub-sector/thematic working groups together on the priority issues and needs to increase more budget for education and agreed to support the campaign messages.

Apart from the campaign, NEP incorporation with ASPBAE organized...
a two-day training named “Education Financial Training” on 4-5 April 2018 at Phnom Penh Era Hotel. There were 22 participants (10 Females). The training provided the trainees with the Capacity Building on Budget Work and Advocacy. As a result, the participants improved their knowledge on the budget process and analysis, tracking advocacy and revenue generation; acquired basic skills in engagement in budgeting for education; deepened their understanding on how to undertake budget advocacy from the right to education (RTE) perspective.

The participants signed on the banner agreed on the message to increase the budget for Education Sector

Sub-grant Kick-off Event

NEP had a kick-off event for NEP sub-grants. Four NGOs leading applicants (The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability Cambodia, Non-Timber Forest Products, Youth Council of Cambodia, and Organisation for Improving Communication and Swallowing Therapy Services in Cambodia) with their 4 partners are awarded NEP sub-grants under the EU funded project called “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society” aimed at improving educational services in Cambodia. The grants were given to these four NGOs in order to implement the projects as following:

• The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability Cambodia (ANSA): The project title is “Increasing Textbooks and WASH Services for Primary Schools in Ratanakiri province”. The objectives of the project are to contribute the education service improvement through feedback mechanisms and problem-solving as well as to engage youths to monitor the textbook delivery and WASH to advocate to promote access to these services in 60 primary schools in three districts of Veun Sai, Ta Veng, and Bor Keo, Ratanakiri province.

• Organisation for Improving Communication and Swallowing Therapy Services in Cambodia (OIC Cambodia) is implementing a project called “Action Research on using speech therapy in Preschools and Primary Schools”. The project will conduct the action research on using speech therapy in 4 primary schools and 6 community preschools in Kandal province. The purposes of the project are to grow knowledge and methods of supporting teachers which increase their capacity and to support students with communication difficulties within their classrooms. Besides, it is to provide recommendation to NGOs, DOE, and POE to take action to improve education service.

• Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP): They are implementing the project named “Understand Gaps in the Engagement between Stakeholders in Non-Formal and Formal Education” which target 22 NFE classes in two different communes in Veunsaï district, Ratanakiri province. Main objectives of this project are to contribute to the improvement of education services in Ratanakiri province and to reduce the gaps of education of Non-Formal and Formal Education in Veunsaï especially for ethnic minority groups.

• Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC): Its project title is “Improving Sanitation and Hygiene at primary schools”. The project will use School Health Policy checklist to assess 55 primary schools in 8 districts of Kampot province to find the gaps and recommendations and advocate with NGOs, DOE and POE and Provincial Education Sector Working Group to improve school health service. The project will use School Health Policy checklist to assess 55 primary schools in 8 districts of Kampot province to find the gaps and recommendations and advocate with NGOs, DOE and POE and Provincial Education Sector Working Group to improve school health services.
Research Launch Workshop for A National Research on “An Assessment of Children with Disabilities in Accessing Primary Education in Cambodia: Understanding Challenges, Opportunities and Ways forward”

The research launch workshop was organized by NEP on 10 May 2018 at Phnom Penh Era Hotel (Full funded by Misereor and Unicef). The workshop had gathered 112 participants (31 females) from different target groups, including relevant government departments, Provincial Offices of Education (POEs), District Offices of Education (DOEs), Development Partners, National and International NGOs, School Principals, Teachers, University Students, Commune Councils, Commune Council for Women and Children and media agencies. As expected, the voice and challenges of children with disabilities and the involved actors in implementing the inclusive education have been heard by all stakeholders. The Government departments from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and Disability Action Council (DAC) participated in the workshop acknowledged the key findings and thanked NEP for providing evidence to prove the issues at the ground level to support MoEYS for the next steps.

This research study is part of the commitment to deepen the alignment of the research with the policy agenda of the government, to particularly support and engage with the Special Education Department to better improve their strategic work in the future. Hence, the next steps of advocacy actions will go through the consultation with WGED and the policy discussion in the JTWG Retreat.

Thank to media, the event reached to more people who were not in the workshop to spread awareness. Check the following links for additional information:

- NICE TV News: https://www.facebook.com/newsnicetv/videos/2089821034564773/ (33:00)
- NEP Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nepcambodiaorganization/
- Get the report in both English and Khmer version: https://goo.gl/vQ1QH4
CSO Position Statement Launch on “Ensuring the Functioning of Community Learning Centres to Create Lifelong learning Opportunities”

Community Learning Centers have been playing an important role in providing lifelong learning opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region for many years. Being at the heart of the community, they are able to reach marginalized groups, school drop-outs, and promote gender empowerment and civic participation through their wide-range of programs. In Cambodia, 350 CLCs have been established. However, the insufficient and unpredictable financial support has had a huge impact on the quality of programs offered, the personal development of educators and volunteers and the overall functionality. By seeing these problems that Community Learning Centers are facing, NEP incorporation with DVV International Cambodia launched the CSO Position Statement on “Ensuring the Functioning of Community Learning Centres to Create Lifelong Learning Opportunities” on 25 June 2018 at Phnom Penh Era Hotel. The launching event was successfully organized with 39 participants (11 Females). The statement was published with the aim to improve the quality of work in Community Learning Centers and therefore the livelihoods of everyone in the local community. Moreover, this could lead to increase the budget for Non-Formal Education Sector in order to implement the activities related to CLCs. After the launch, these CSO position statements will be distributed to the nation literacy day event participants in September by Department of Non-Formal Education.

The document is available to download for both English and Khmer:
- Khmer Version: https://goo.gl/XcGgSs
- English Version: https://goo.gl/HHyCdB

NEP has organized the 2nd Quarterly P-ESWG meeting of 2018 on 30 March 2018 at Phnom Penh Era Hotel. The meeting was successfully conducted with 38 participants (18 Females). From the meeting, the participants learned about the Research and Advocacy Refresher training and how to conduct the literature review. Besides, Minimum requirement guideline of WAH was shared and current issues related to Education in Cambodia were discussed. To make it easier in implementing of textbook policy, NEP has introduced a new tool in collecting information using KoboToolbox to the representative from each province. The best practice of local advocacy by using the textbook checklist and annual operation plan of school-based management were also shared.