Human Rights, Education & Empowerment

The Human Rights, Education, and Empowerment group partners with national and local governments, civil society, the private sector and communities to ensure marginalized and at-risk populations can safely access their fundamental rights to freedom from trafficking and child labor, a quality education, and skills and opportunities for decent work. We engage and support our partners across this ecosystem to increase equity, inclusion and agency.

COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Winrock counters trafficking in persons (TIP) by engaging survivors, communities and organizations, government officials, and the private sector to address systemic gaps that enable trafficking to persist. Winrock works at the community level to: shift behaviors and attitudes and increase detection of TIP; connect survivors and at-risk individuals to quality services; reinforce systems for trauma-informed response from identification through reintegration; hold traffickers accountable by strengthening the justice system’s ability to investigate and prosecute TIP; and emphasizes the collection and use of data and evidence for policy advocacy and program implementation.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Winrock increases access to safe, equitable and quality education by addressing systemic, cultural, and other barriers that prevent the most marginalized children and youth from learning. Working directly with children and youth, communities, local partners and governments, we strengthen resilience and improve education systems' sustainability through locally-defined and locally-led approaches. Winrock programs help to open and expand pathways to diverse learning opportunities and safeguard children and youth from
child labor, gender-based violence and violent extremism. We promote quality learning and improved student retention by partnering with teachers and school administrators for increased professional development, expanding the availability of improved teaching and learning materials in low-resource contexts, and ensure dynamic community engagement.

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

Instability and shocks from climate change and conflict negatively affect everyone, but research shows disproportionate disruption and harm to children, youth and women. Winrock programming and partnerships to expand CTIP improve access to quality education, combat child labor and address gender-based violence. Help lift the voices of those who are the most invested in and impacted by programs we implement. Winrock works directly with communities, youth, families trafficking survivors and other local stakeholders to identify their own, most urgent challenges – and guide their own most urgent solutions. This intentional approach reinforces the capacity of local stakeholders and change agents, grounds program design in an appropriate context, and ensures proposed activities directly respond to the needs of participants and stakeholders as they define them. For example, Winrock partners with trafficking survivors to help translate their lived experiences and hard-won knowledge into specific improvements in policies and services that reduce vulnerability to exploitation. Winrock’s education programs increase the participation and retention of young girls in education to combat early child marriage and delay child-bearing. Our programs also improve access to learning and soft skills development for marginalized children and youth.

ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Winrock recognizes the important role of businesses in combatting trafficking and child labor and improving the economic participation of youth. Leveraging our expertise and experience engaging communities and at-risk groups across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Winrock partners with companies to identify supply chain risks, provides tailored skills training and helps link people at-risk to jobs. In agriculture, Winrock has engaged communities in collective monitoring to prevent child labor and trafficking in cocoa, tobacco, tea, rubber, sugar cane and cotton production. Winrock also partners globally with media, telecommunication companies, civil society and government on collaborative efforts that amplify both awareness and prevention messaging.