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CASE STUDY

Community Member Makes the Difference at His Local School



Mr. Gnonn at his desk at Hann Chey Jr. High School (above); the wooden bridge built by the community to keep the school open (below)

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Telling Our Story

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Washington, DC 20523-1000
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It is true that a school cannot be developed without the participation of its community members. Mr Chhun Gnonn has lived in Hann Chey 2 village, which is served by Hann Chey Jr. High School for a long time. He is the chief of the School Support Committee (SSC) in Hann Chey. Mr. Gnonn loves education, Back in the 1990s, he persuaded the people in his community, monks, and local authorities to build a wooden building covered with red tiles with 6 rooms to support the studies of local children from 4 surrounding villages. Since then, Hann Chey Jr. High School has grown into a big school with 10 masonry classrooms that are higher than the flood level of the nearby Mekong River.

Like other SSCs in Kampong Cham Province, Mr. Chhun Gnonn was invited to join a training called 'Roles and Responsibilities of SSCs in Education,' which was provided by IBEC. Mr Gnonn explained that this workshop really motivated him to redouble his efforts to improve education at his school. A good opportunity arose to use this knowledge when severe floods made school attendance difficult. Mr. Gnonn mobilized local people to build a wooden bridge to ensure access to the school. Mr. Gnonn said his philosophy is that if the community shows its interest in education, it will motivate teachers and administrators to do their best as well. *He will continue his best to make Han Chey Jr. High School the bet school in his district.*