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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Life Skills Education Combined with Local Outreach Inspires a Family to Keep a Child in School and Increase Household Income at the Same Time



Ponleu sits with her aunt in their narrow little house in the village where they live. Ponleu now helps her aunt with chicken raising to help the household earn some extra income, which in turn reduces the need for her to leave school and look for work.

The IBEC Project seeks to promote better educated youth with increased access to a quality and relevant basic education through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management. To learn more, visit www.ibec.worlded.org

Telling Our Story

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Arn Ponleu is a 16-year old girl living with her aunt in Sambo District of Kratie Province. Nowadays, she has successfully completed Grade 7 and will be promoted to Grade 8 next year. Ponleu is the oldest daughter among seven siblings, however, she does not live with her parents. In early 2009, due to poor living conditions, her parents decided to move to Chet Borey District to work as laborers with one Chinese company. Like her other siblings, her parents wanted her to dropout so she could help them work and earn money. Luckily, they agreed for her stay with her aunt so that she could continue her schooling. 'At that time, if I was not supported by USAID through the scholarship program and life skills outreach, I would not have any reason to convince my parents to allow me to continue my studies here and live with my aunt. I feel luckier than my sisters and brothers because I have a chance to go to school, learn to type computer, and other life skills, it's amazing to me,' Ponleu said with a shy smile. Mrs. Pho Paov, her aunt added, 'Because Ponleu has studied about chicken raising at her school, I have received some chicken that she and I can raise at home. This will help us a lot for our income. In upcoming weeks, I will sell them so I can earn more income to support my niece to study and buy more little chicks to replace them. I commit to help her finish high school; I only wish her other brothers and sisters could have the same.'