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
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
http://stories.usaid.gov

Good Trainers = Good training

This sounds very obvious, but with a life skills program as diverse as the IBEC life skills curriculum, it is important to select appropriate trainers for all 30 topics in the menu.

IBEC has experienced trainers for practical livelihoods topics such as rice growing, bio garden and more. Experienced trainers are also available when training on Sewing, World of Work, Saving and Spending and other Economical topics. During the last year however, the project has extended the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and GIZ-Access To Justice for Women project (GIZ-ATJW).

When developing the life skills manuals on Drugs Abuse, Alcoholism Prevention, Gender Issues and Personal Understanding, a lot of the content has been taken from the Young People’s Toolkit. This manual, developed by GIZ and the Ministry of Women’s affairs, proved to be a great resource when creating the lessons used for the manuals. During this process, MoWA/GIZ and World Education worked together in monitoring the life skills implementation and reviewing the manuals according on the feedback from teachers and students. During the last quarter, as part of the exit strategy of life skills, a new teacher training cycle has been created together with our partners. GIZ and MoWA have provided trainers for the four topics, in which they were involved.
Ms. Solinda Lok, Advisor-Gender, explains ‘GIZ and MoWA have been involved in training for three new provinces. In the first day we participated in general topics, such as gender equity in teaching and learning, the second and third day of the training, we gave training on the 4 specific manuals.’

One of the main pillars in IBEC’s life skills program is to provide equal education for boys and girls. While in rural areas in Cambodia, strong traditional perceptions on tasks and responsibilities on gender remain, teachers and students need to understand the importance of equal opportunities in education.

Ms. Lok tells, ‘After a brainstorm about the meaning of gender equity and the importance of it, we used a training in which photos from situations in lessons were used to show good and bad examples of gender equality. Teachers were very involved in this.’

Ms. Lok appreciates the cooperation between World Education and GIZ/MoWA ‘The open attitude towards improvement of training and teaching material is very positive. We are happy to be involved.’ MoWA/GIZ and World Education are planning to cooperate in follow up training during the coming months, because especially in the Social Relevant Topics, more theoretical knowledge is needed. According to the trainers involved, teachers are enthusiastic about the participatory methods used in the training. ‘Many of the games and exercises in the manuals were practiced during the training, which made it a lot of fun and more effective.

Some of the pictures on gender used to elicit discussion among participants