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**CAMBODIA**

## CASE STUDY

### Development Means Giving Young People Opportunities to Help Themselves



*Krem asks a question to visitors from IBEC during a monthly meeting for IBEC scholarship recipients at the Teacher Training Center in Siem Reap*

*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](http://www.ibec.worlded.org)*

#### **Telling Our Story**

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Mr. Muy Krem is 21 years old. He is a first year student at the Teacher Training Center in Siem Reap Province. Krem comes from a large family in which he is the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 children. His mother died some years ago so he lives with his father who is a farmer at Varin District in the poor northern part of the province. Due to the family's poverty, Krem's father had to ask eight of his ten children to stop studying. When it was Krem's turn to stop after finishing Grade 9, he had almost given up hope until he heard that the province was introducing a 9+2 track at the Training Center for individuals from poor districts like Varin. Krem also heard that the US Government through the IBEC Project would be providing extra exam coaching classes in key subjects like Khmer, Mathematics, and General culture for interested candidates. So he grabbed this opportunity and with special help and advocacy from IBEC, passed his examination.

But even with this opportunity, Krem was very worried about how he would support himself at the Training Center since he could get very little support from his family. Luckily, he is now also receiving a scholarship of \$60 each quarter from the IBEC project. "This support is enough for me to spend in my study because from when I was young until now I never got such a big amount of money like this before. This amount of money is the first time for me to have in my hand; so I am very happy," he said. Krem promised that "when I graduate from the PTTC, I will go back to my hometown and I try to teach children about the value of study and to become a good human being to develop my commune". He hopes that USAID will continue to support him until he finishes his studies next year. "This was an amazing opportunity for me to become a teacher that I would never have expected," says Krem.