



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CAMBODIA**

## CASE STUDY

### From frequent absentee to committed student



***Ton Tann, with his mother, Tom Sokh, is now able to attend school regularly after receiving assistance from the IBEC Project to treat his illness.***

*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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<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Tann Ton (13) lives with his mother in Krasuamsatt village in Kampong Cham province. Unlike his two brothers, Ton struggled to keep up in school, as he was often absent due to a hernia. Ton described how his illness affected his ability to attend school: “When the weather gets cool, it hurts me. Sometimes when I walk to school, I ache along the way. I feel uncomfortable sitting at school.” His mother, Tom Sokh, worried that because of the family’s poor living condition, she would not be able to provide Ton with the treatment necessary, saying that, “I want to treat my son, but it’s impossible for my family.”

Happily, the Improved Basic Education in Cambodia Project (IBECP), funded by USAID, provided both service referral advocacy to local health service providers to treat Ton’s illness at no cost. Tom Sokh expressed her gratitude for the treatment, saying, “I am very pleased and happier than I can say. My son is fine and healthy. He is able to attend school regularly like other children.” Encouraged by the assistance IBECP provided her, Tom Sokh is working in the fields even harder so that she can continue to send Ton to school. Because of his treatment and his mother’s commitment to his education, Ton has recently passed Grade 3 and will be starting Grade 4.