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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Giving Opportunities for a New Life through Education



Thyda in her new PTTC uniform

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>

Vanna Thyda is 20 years old and currently a Second Year Student at the Provincial Teacher Training College (PTTC) in Kampong Cham Province. She comes from a very big family with 8 children of which she is the seventh child. Her parents are both farmers in Steung Trong District, which borders the Mekong River. Because of their family's poverty, six of her brothers and sisters had to drop out of school. Thyda was able to study up to the 9th Grade but then had to stop because her family could not afford the even more expensive costs at upper secondary school. She had no hope of ever being able to become a teacher by enrolling at the local PTTC. However, in 2011, she heard from the Commune Chief that USAID and the Ministry of Education were working together to recruit local teachers from communes with teacher shortages. Such communes could provide candidates for PTTC entry who had only studied to Grade 9, not Grade 12 as is normally required. This new policy is called 9+2, meaning 9 years of basic education and 2 years of teacher training.

After hearing this news, Thyda enrolled in special tutoring classes supported by USAID to help candidates from communes such as her own to prepare for the PTTC Entrance Examination. Her skills in Mathematics and Khmer were rather rusty since she had stopped studying. With this extra support, Thyda was able to pass the Entrance Examination, a very competitive exam with over 2,000 applicants. But then she wondered how she could afford to attend the college in Kampong Cham Town, so far from her home. Then she learned that USAID and Ministry are also working together to provide scholarships for candidates from remote areas like Thyda. Through this scholarship support, she received support for food, uniforms, and stationery. Thyda will be finishing her studies this year, having completed two years of study. She is excited about returning to her commune where she will work in a local school to encourage other young students to work hard and plan for a better future. She would never had this opportunity without the support of USAID and the Cambodian government.