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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Infrastructure Upgrading Reinforces Enthusiasm for Development

Old Classroom Building in its original state



With solar panels, computers, science lab, and library, the new building is ready for classes



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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Hun Sen O-Raing Ov high school, is one of the larger high schools in Kampong Cha Province with about 1,639 students (639 girls) and 58 teachers working in this school. Most of the school's buildings were built in a different era, well before the civil war in 1970 and are, therefore, old and dilapidated. As enrolments at secondary school level have swelled in recent years, the school was forced to rely on many of these old dilapidated buildings, which leak and often have falling tiles. As can be seen from the 'before' pictures to the right, one of these buildings presented as undesirable a learning environment as might be possible.

Pointing to the old building, the school director said, 'It is not safe for students to study in that building and we could not set up a good learning environment because we are lacking classrooms, even though we try to use all the available resources.'

In 2009, IBECP selected Oriang O High School as a new target school. The school showed good progress in its first year and was subsequently upgraded to Tier 1 status in 2010. As the school started its school improvement planning process, it was obvious that this school had a building momentum of enthusiasm about what its potential as a school might be. With funding support from USAID, the project agreed to make significant investments in infrastructure upgrading including solar powered computers, a science lab, refurbished library, and life skills activity room. The school reciprocated with a considerable contribution in financial resources (\$1,300) and enthusiastic teachers interested in staffing the computer lab. It was an example of 'enthusiasm reinforcing enthusiasm.'

The school has succeeded in repairing two buildings with project and community support, thereby adding eight desperately needed classrooms and much improved learning facilities. The school has also moved forward with managing other investments with the water system installed by the project including flourishing gardens and a fountain donated by a local benefactor. The story at Oriang O High School is demonstrable evidence of the power of IBEC's approach of insisting on stakeholder-led development and bottom-up programming.