



**USAID**  
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**CAMBODIA**

## CASE STUDY

# Never Too Late to Go Back to School



### ***Narin expresses an opinion at a student meeting***

*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>

Seng Narin is now in her second year of study at the Provincial Teacher Training College in Kampong Cham. She is 25 years old and comes from a disadvantaged family that includes her parents and four sisters. The family makes a living as poor farmers in Ponyea Krek District on the eastern side of the Mekong River. Everyone in her family left school before they had finished their studies. Narin herself said that she studied to Grade 10 but dropped out of school more than 10 years ago. She helped her parents with their farming and had no hope of ever going back to school. But last year, the Commune Chief announced in her village that the government would allow entry to the PTTC for those who had only completed Grade 9; furthermore, the US Government would be providing assistance to take the Entrance Examination as well as a stipend for those who passed the Examination.

Narin decided to take a chance on this opportunity in order to get a better chance in life. The IBEC project, which is supported by USAID, hired a tutor for her and others from her commune to study for the Entrance Exam, giving her some confidence that perhaps she could actually pass. The project also provided assistance in completing the application form and worked to advocate for her with the Teacher Training Department, which put her on a special list of candidates when reviewing her scores. On the day of the Entrance Examination, Narin also received support from USAID to travel to the provincial capital to sit for the examination. She was so happy when she learned that she had actually passed. Now she is approaching the end of her studies at the PTTC this year. The monthly stipend of \$20 she gets from USAID has made the difference in her ability to stay enrolled until this point. Narin is really excited about returning to her commune at the end of the year so that she can talk with others in her village about how persevering and some special opportunities can really change one's life. She hopes to be a role model to other young girls in her village so that they too can get a better life, even if they are poor.