



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Nurturing a Dream with Help from USAID



Srey Den on her way back from an IBEC tutoring



Srey Den's father in front of their palm leaf house during one of his short returns from Ratanakiri Province where he tries to earn a living

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>

Chot Srey Den is a Grade 9 student studying at Sang Kurb Lower Secondary School. She is originally from RatankaKiri Province and moved to Batheay District in Kampong Cham some years ago. Her father had hoped that it would be easier to attend school for his children in Kampong Cham. Srey Den's mother died many years so the family depends mainly on her father. There are five people in the family including an older brother and sister who work as laborers in Ratanakiri with her father. Her younger brother is 14 years old now and is a monk at a local pagoda. She is the only one in her family still in school. Srey Den has a dream to finish high school and get a good job so that she can support her family. She used to tell her father that she will achieve this dream to have a better job that can support the family well. Two of her neighbors wanted to marry her but she refused in order to finish her studies. She hopes to get married later if she meets the right person but right now she feels she is too young to get married.

Srey Den's family has no land but received permission from her aunt to build a small house of palm leaves on a piece of her land. But Srey Den said that she is not brave enough to live on her own when her father is not around so she lives with her aunt instead.

Srey Den is a diligent student and she rarely misses class unless she is sick. She gets high marks every term in nearly all her subjects. She also is interested in studying Chinese at a local Chinese temple. Normally, she stays with her aunt when her father is working in Ratanakiri or sometimes with a friend when it is time to study for the examinations. With support from USAID, she is able to get stationery for her studies and support for tutoring, which is very important for her to pass the *Diplome* Examination this year. Srey Den also tries to earn as much money as she can and washes dishes and clothes for her neighbors and gets up to 7,000 or 8,000 riels a week.

The national *Diplome Exam* will be held in September 2013 and Srey Den worries about what she will do if she fails. At the same time, she hopes that KAPE can find a way for her to continue her studies at Grade 10 if she passes. She said, "I will finish my lower secondary school studies in the next few months and I wish to go further to high school next year and I will try all my best to finish it if KAPE still continues to support me." KAPE is now reviewing her case but the important thing is to complete her lower secondary school studies with her IBEC scholarship.