



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CAMBODIA**

## CASE STUDY

### Scholarship allows girl to return to school in order to pursue her dream



***Saru and her father in front of their house***

*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**

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Kruy and his wife, Bon Saraeb, farm in order to support Saru and her seven siblings. Because he suffers from tuberculosis, Kruy cannot work too hard or his illness may resume. They live in a small house in Vien village in Siem Reap province and have half a hectare of land to grow rice. They do not produce enough crops to feed the entire family throughout the year, so they must also borrow rice from the local rice bank: These loans have an interest rate of 15%. This year alone they have already borrowed 100 kg of rice and will likely borrow much more before the harvest season arrives. Along with the loans for rice, they go into the forest to search for wild potatoes, cassava, and other things to supplement what they are able to produce.

Despite her family's economic condition, Saru was dedicated to her studies: She worked hard and only missed four days of class. Additionally, she was noted for her kindness, which prompted her classmates to elect her as a team leader. The little pocket money she had, she often spent on her studies. Unfortunately, Saru faced many other obstacles that hindered her studies. Her bicycle, provided by a scholarship through the local government, often broke on the way to school. This made her late to class, which upset her teachers. Additionally, she had to spend 3,000 to 4,000 riels (0.75-1.00 USD) on monthly exams. These expenses proved too much for the family so she had to drop out of school.

Fortunately, after being out of school for half of the year, Saru was able to resume her education in the current academic year at Varin High School thanks to a scholarship provided by IBEC. Saru says that she has "convinced [her] parents to allow [her] to go to school if the IBEC Project provided clothes, bicycle, studying materials, and other support." This scholarship from the IBEC Project means that Saru can now continue to work towards her dream of becoming a nurse.