Community Support Creates New Opportunities

With IBEC help, a rural community comes together, and creates a needed school for its children.

Svay Leu is a typical remote village in Cambodia, located 35 kilometers from Snoul District town in Snoul District, Kratie Province. Svay Leu is home to 115 families. According to statistics provided by the village Chief, there were 80 to 100 children ages 8 to 15 living in the village with no access to school. Most of these children had never attended school.

Under IBEC, an ICR was constructed and named “Samaky,” meaning “solidarity.” This ICR was funded with support from USAID, but was also made possible through the important contributions of the community in the form of labor and materials. Mr. Keo Heng, the Village Chief, mentioned that the community people have always dreamed of having a school for their children that is close to the village, but for a very long time this remained only a dream. With advocacy from the Svay Chreas Commune Council, the village contacted IBEC about building an ICR for this community where an estimated 90% of the local population is illiterate. Mr. Heng indicated that with the recruitment of a Community Teacher (also supported by IBEC), there are about 70 children ready to start learning at the new school.

Mr. Korng Samath, Svay Chras Cluster Director, stated that the people in this community are very happy with the support from IBEC to make this extension of educational services possible. They hope it will lead to even more improved educational services in the future.

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