



# Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

## Tiny but Bold

The inspirational story of a tiny student with big determination and dreams.



KUNTHEA RIDES ON THE BACK OF HIS BICYCLE WITH A FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR.

*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.*

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Koeun Kunthea, a schoolboy, is already 17, yet he is only 0.9 meter tall and weighs only 13 kilograms. His father, Mey Koeun, and mother, Hourn Khim, are farmers. His family has three children, two brothers and one sister, and Kunthea, who unlike his brother and sister, is so tiny. He is the third child in the family, and the smallest. Kunthea does not live with his parents. He is now staying with his grandmother in Ta Saom village, Svay Chreah commune, Snuol district, Kratie province.

In the school year 2009-2010, Kunthea is in Grade 7A at Svay Chreah Junior High School in Kratie province, Snuol district. Kunthea told his friends that he was very happy to receive a scholarship from IBEC because this included a bicycle. Kunthea didn't have an easy life because he comes from a poor family and also has physical disability, which makes it difficult for him to walk to school. Even though he received a bicycle, it was still difficult for him to ride it himself. So, Kunthea has agreed with a friend who lives near his house to accompany him and rides him back and forth to school every day.

Kunthea loves his studies very much and never skips class at all. In class, Kunthea always listens to his teachers carefully and is always active in all classroom activities. At home, Kunthea tries to read lessons and does homework very carefully until he passes tests and gets good results every month.

Kunthea is bold even though he is tiny. He said, "I must struggle until I finish Grade 12 in order to have a bright future. I hope my school can continue supporting me with a scholarship so that my dream of becoming a teacher in the future can come true."