

IMPROVED BASIC EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA PROGRAM (IBECP)

BACKGROUND

Despite improvements and achievements in Cambodia's education system brought about by reforms and increased government spending since 2001, significant challenges persist related to access and quality. This is particularly the case for those residing in remote and rural areas, and those marginalized by poverty, ethnic minority status or gender. The USAID-funded *Improved Basic Education Program in Cambodia Program* (IBECP) seeks to address these issues of access and quality through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management. This program builds upon the solid experience gained by World Education over the past five years of implementation of the USAID-funded Educational Support for Children in Underserved Populations (ESCUP) Program and the Schools for Life (SfL) Program.



The IBECP began in October 2009 and is expected to continue through September 2014.



PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

IBECP has been designed with the goal of promoting "Better educated youth" and "Increased relevance, quality, and access in basic education". Increased access will be addressed through a combination of scholarships, school latrines and safe water, and other enrolment boosting activities mediated by school grants. The objective of Improved Educational Quality will be addressed through interventions focusing on improved curricula in life skills, teacher education, and school management. IBECP will concentrate on schools from a mix of demographic backgrounds including

IBECP also seeks to strengthen the capacity of civil society, local government, and local NGOs. As part of its programming, local partners will receive extensive capacity building in order to achieve formal accreditation from relevant bodies that will better enable them to seek direct funding from multi-lateral and bilateral donors such as USAID.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

IBECP will partner with long-standing partner Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE) and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport. World Education has long relied on intensive involvement of counterparts and local partners (including local NGOs such as WCRD, BDSA and KWA) through a working group structure known as *Provincial Working Groups*. These include representatives from school clusters, school directors, and both district and provincial level offices of education. A *Consultative Group* at national level will ensure involvement of central level departments in program implementation. In addition, World Education has established partnerships with two international NGOs, Equal Access and American Institute for Research



