



American Institute of Research (AIR)

An Inclusive Education Program, started in 2005, emphasizes improvement of access and quality of the teaching-learning process for Cambodia's most educationally disadvantaged populations: girls, very poor, ethnic and religious minorities, disabled, HIV/AIDS infected or affected children. In-country implementation of this program is done by **World Education**, who works in partnership with organizations, **Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE)** and **CARE Cambodia** in Kampong Cham, Kratie, Mondulkiri, and Rathankiri provinces. The project focuses on three component areas: teacher education, educational access and quality, and school-community partnerships.

BACKGROUND

Since 2003, USAID/Cambodia has provided approximately \$15.5 million to support the education sector. This year USAID/Cambodia will continue to support improvement of the quality and access to basic education for Cambodian children by providing \$1 million. Cambodia's education system has made enormous strides in the last 3 to 4 years with net enrollment reaching 91 percent in grade one in 2006. Although the trends are positive, systemic problems continue. Lower secondary school has a net enrollment of 31 percent and upper secondary 11 percent in 2005/2006. Educational quality remains poor. The system is not able to measure academic achievement of children to ensure they meet basic educational standards for grade promotion.

PARTNERS

Research Triangle Institute (RTI)

In 2004, USAID/Cambodia launched an initiative designed to improve the quality and relevance of basic education for children in grades 1 to 9. A new National Curriculum and Learning Standards were developed to enable education staff and officials to deliver a more relevant education focusing on basic skills. Improving school/community partnerships to address local life skills delivery was also a goal. A new teacher training methodology was piloted to serve as the basis for a national teacher training effort in the future. This project ended in August 2007.

RESULTS TO DATE

- A National Curriculum was developed which focuses on basic skills of literacy and numeracy. Life Skills such as agriculture, pre-vocational skills, and health education are also a part of the standard curriculum. Learning Standards which measure student learning achievement were also completed.
- 62,000 students are affected by project interventions which improve education quality.
- All the teachers in 75% of grade 1-9 schools in eight provinces have been trained to use the new curriculum and learning standards.
- 151 school/community associations have been established to enable parents and school staff to jointly address local education problems.
- 984 disabled children have been treated for health issues to enable them to attend school.
- 67% of targeted schools report a decline in student drop-out rates and 50% report a decline in repetition rates.
- 6,213 poor students, mostly girls, are receiving scholarships. 85% of them have remained in school.
- Transition rates to Lower Secondary School increased 80% or more in targeted schools.