



The Courage to Raise His Hand

CHEY BAHUM'S JOURNEY FROM SILENCE TO PARTICIPATION

At 12, Bahum is learning that confidence can be practised - one answer, one page and one brave step at a time.

Photo: KPY | Bahum reads during class in Prey Veng Province.

25TH previous class rank

● **9TH** current reported class rank

● **GRADE 6**

He knew the answer. He stayed seated.

For years, Chey Bahum was the child who knew more than he was willing to show. In class, he rarely volunteered to read aloud. He avoided the blackboard, even when he could solve the exercise. Khmer reading comprehension and grammar were difficult, and he seldom joined school activities.

Bahum, 12, lives in Veal Village in Prey Veng Province with his parents, grandmother and two siblings. His parents farm. His mother also works at a bag factory in neighboring Svay Rieng Province, while his father provides battery-charging services in nearby villages to supplement the family's income.

Their days are busy, but his family makes room for school. They provide supplies, clothing and transportation. His grandmother and parents ask about his studies and encourage him to keep trying. Bahum helps with household work when classes are finished.

WHAT CHANGED AROUND HIM

KPY worked with Bahum's school to strengthen the learning environment. Support included storybooks for the library, handwashing stations, benches, waste bins, classroom improvements, play equipment and school-supply packages for students facing hardship.

Students also learned about children's rights, personal hygiene, saving and tracking income and expenses, and public speaking. Teachers and the School Management Committee reinforced those lessons through regular encouragement.

“

My teacher always encourages me to be brave. ”

- CHEY BAHUM, AGE 12

BAHUM'S PROGRESS

STAYED SEATED



RAISED HIS HAND



HELPS LEAD CLASSMATES

Confidence grew through practice

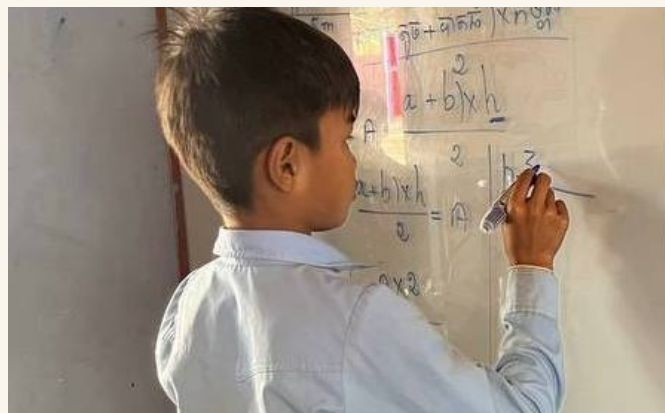
A child, a family, teachers and a stronger school environment moved together.

One point. Then another.

Bahum's teacher found a practical way to help him begin. When he volunteered to read or solve a problem on the board, she awarded one extra point. The reward mattered, but so did the message behind it: his voice belonged in the classroom.

Friendly competition with classmates pushed him to work harder. Participation became familiar. Bahum began speaking, reading and stepping forward more often. His reported class ranking rose from 25th to 9th as his focus and Khmer-language performance improved.

The change is visible beyond test results. Bahum now builds positive relationships with classmates. He helps lead peers in cleaning the school grounds, planting trees and organizing the classroom. At home, he shares lessons from school with his family.



Bahum works at the blackboard - a step he once avoided. Photo: KPY

A future teacher

"I am determined to complete Grade 12 and continue my education until I have a good career. My dream is to become a teacher so that I can help every child have access to education."

- CHEY BAHUM



Learning extends beyond the classroom through group activities. Photo: KPY

Help more children find their voice

A gift to KPY supports stronger school environments, practical life skills and local partnerships that help children participate, learn and plan for the future.

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