



# Cambodia's Children Education Fund

Exceptional Scholarships for Cambodia's Future Leaders

Kuch, after growing up on a massive garbage dump, now attends 7th grade at an exceptional school in Phnom Penh on a CCEdFund scholarship!



# Kuch

GRADE 7  
PHNOM PENH  
13 YEARS OLD

CCEdFund Student

since **2010**

**Eager, studious, and very smart - Kuch is ready to go to school and change Cambodia.**

Kuch grew up in a village outside of Phnom Penh. When her parents could not afford to support her, Kuch went to live in the city and ended up scavenging with other street children on a large garbage dump outside of the city. There, she looked for pieces of plastic and glass to sell for less than a dollar a day. The work was exhausting and dangerous - medical waste is mixed in with all the other trash and the children have no adults to help them in case of trouble. Aside from a few handouts from tourists, Kuch survived on the money she raised picking through trash. School was not an option even though she knew she needed to go to school to change her future.

In 2007, Kuch was "adopted" by an NGO in Phnom Penh that provides food, shelter, and health care to children who are living on the dump. With the support of her new home, Kuch was able to spend her time **studying instead of scavenging**. She relished the opportunity to learn to read and do math - she excelled quickly to the top of her public school class. The NGO nominated her for a CCEdFund scholarship.

Kuch is a very smart teenager with ambitious plans. Despite her very difficult childhood, Kuch is eager to plan her future. When she speaks, you can see that she will succeed with her plans, one way or another. After one year living off of the dump, Kuch is conversational in English and studied to take the entrance exams to the best school in Phnom Penh. She passed!

When she interviewed with CCEdFund, her determination was evident, as was her intellect. Because of what she endured as a child, she is committed to improving her country and helping other children.

[www.ccedfund.org](http://www.ccedfund.org)

### A New Day Cambodia - A New Partner for CCEdFund

A New Day Cambodia (ANDC) runs two "centers" for children who lived on Steung Mean Chey - the garbage dump outside of Phnom Penh. Often, these children are not orphaned by the death of their parents, but instead they are orphaned by poverty. ANDC provides shelter for the children and sends them to local public schools. Recently, ANDC nominated two students for CCEdFund scholarships. The two students they nominated, including Kuch, are both former trash pickers. They have lived with ANDC for over a year but have risen to the top of their classes at public school. CCEdFund is partnering with ANDC because ANDC provides a safe and healthy home with a large family atmosphere. CCEdFund plans to build this relationship to ensure that students who have endured working for a living are able to have access to exceptional education opportunities.