



## Creating a culture of reading

At a primary school in the northern Cambodian province of Siem Reap, a group of children watch with rapt attention as Thavary arranges colorful letters on a board. She is explaining a game from the Reading Toolkit provided by the Total Reading Approach for Children Plus (TRAC+) Project, a game intended to teach letter-sound correspondence. With funding support from World Vision, World Education is currently implementing TRAC+ in 170 schools in five Cambodian provinces.

Thavary is one of the literacy coaches trained through the TRAC+ Project, chosen for participation because of her eagerness to help struggling students. As Thavary explains, “when I was young I didn’t have many resources. Now I want to use what I know to help students develop, and I want to see the education system improve as well.”

Before TRAC+, Thavary had served as an assistant literacy coach under the Total Reading Approach for Children (TRAC) pilot program, from 2012-2014. Now, as a literacy coach, she trains fifth grade students to act as peer tutors for early-grade students who are

learning to read. She also holds library workshops for parents, inviting them to the school to learn about the Reading Toolkit games, which they are encouraged to check out to play at home with their children.

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- Thavary, a literacy coach trained through TRAC+

Thavary noted, “Before TRAC+ or TEST, only the teachers played a role in helping struggling students. Parents were not involved. Now, parents cooperate with teachers to support struggling students.” In addition, she remarked on the benefits of the Technology for Education Systems Transformation (TEST) app, provided by World Education with funding from USAID, which digitizes and automates TRAC+ reading assessments, making it easier for teachers and schools to identify struggling students.

*For more information about World Education’s work in Cambodia, please visit our website at [cambodia.worlded.org](http://cambodia.worlded.org)*