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Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

Following Yan’s Example to Complete Lower Secondary School

Chhen Srey Yan is a scholarship student who is studying in Grade 8 at Toul Khpos Lower Secondary School in Kampong Cham. She comes from a family of 3 members, which includes her mother and her younger brother who is at Primary School. Her father died many years ago due to serious lung dis-ease. Because of her father’s illness at that time, her mother sold the house and land for his treatment. The family now lives in a small hut on the periphery of a neighbor’s property; Yan’s mother earns income from working as a rice field laborer, traditional masseur, and washing dishes after wedding parties. Living without the steady place, Srey Yan and her family need to move house very often, which also makes life difficult.



CHAN SREY YAN, HER MOTHER, AND HER YOUNGER BROTHER STAND IN FRONT OF THEIR HOME

The IBEC Project seeks to promote better-educated youth with increased access to a quality and relevant basic education through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management.

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Even though, she is living in a very difficult situation, Yan’s mother says, “I am very poor as you can see, I don’t have my own land and I don’t have an exact job, but I still have strong encouragement to push my children to school. I want them get education, not like me, and they will have a good future with a good job.”

In order to help her mother to earn income, Srey Yan, balances her time between her studies and washing the clothes for her neighbor so that she can make 2,000 riel (\$0.50) for one washing package. She also sometimes works as a laborer at a local cassava plantation. It is hard for her and it can affect her education; however, she said that, “I go to study in the morning and in the afternoon I work so that I can earn a little amount to support my living and studying”. Yan was honest in saying that she was not good in all her studies but Mathematics is where she does the best. Yan is a good role model for her younger brother to stay in school and study hard until he can also finish his education and get a good job.

Srey Yan has been a KAPE scholarship recipient since she was in Grade 5 at Nekta Snoeung Primary School. Now she gets a scholarship from USAID at secondary school level. She is very grateful to both USAID and KAPE, as she has been supported from primary school until now. “I want to say thank to all who have helped me and I hope that I can continue my education until finishing.”