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Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY



SREY LIN AT THE BUS STAND SELLING HER WARES

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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From Child Labor Back to School Again

Sok Sreylin is the third of seven children in her family. Her parents are farm laborers in Batheay District, Kg.Cham. Her mother and older brother sell fruits such as lotus seeds, pineapple, and local products at the bus stands in Phnom Penh when they are not working in the fields. Her father is now disabled after falling from a tree during work and now has a serious back injury. He watches the young children while the older children and his wife try to earn money. Sreylin dropped out of school to go and help them at the bus stands in Phnom Penh where they ply their wares. One day, a KAPE program worker was talking with her and suggested that she return to school with a secondary schools scholarship. Hearing of her poor family situation, the project officer contacted the LSMC at Sangkurb Jr. High school to follow up on her case. The program officer persuaded Sreylin to return to school and told her that she will be provided with a bike,

clothes, study materials, and money for exam sheets every month. When she heard that IBEC will support her studies Sreylin hurried back to school. Now, she is a scholarship students studying in Grand 7 in Bathey District. Even though she still spends some time to sell wares at the local bus stand, her teacher says that she is rarely absent form school.

Sreylin's father is really happy and appreciates the fact that his daughter is back in school. He says, "Sreylin is an industrious child and never complains to her younger brother or sisters, even, when she come back from doing her business at the bus stands covered in sweat." Earning her own money plus the support she gets from IBEC, she never has to ask her mother or brother for money to go to school. "he mentioned further. At last, Sreylin father thanked IBEC for its support and proposed to further support Sreylin's other younger brother and sister to have a better chance to go to school. As you have seen my situation here, I am disabled from falling from the palm tree and I have three other children who stay at home with me. I hope they will have chance to go to school, too," he added.