CASE STUDY

Investments in Human Resources Make a Big Difference for a Community Teacher

Kork Srok Primary School is a rural school located 85 kilometers from Siem Riep town. The school has received support from IBEC for the past year, and thus has a Community Teacher through the program. Rim Ho, the Community Teacher, is 36 years old and teaches the 42 students (21 females) in Grade 2. Rim Ho has faced many struggles in his life. As the son of farmers, he studied until Grade 8 and then dropped out of school, after which time he became a monk. He went into the forest one day to collect wood in order to build a place to stay in the pagoda, but a mine bomb exploded and he had to have one of his legs amputated. After this accident, Rim Ho left the monkhood and later married a woman from his village. He now has two children. He works very hard to earn a living for his family, as in addition to his children, he also takes care of his elderly mother.

Despite his hardships and difficulty earning a living to support his whole family, Rim Ho still finds time to volunteer as a Community Teacher since there are no other community members in the village who have the capacity to teach. Even though he lives seven kilometers from the school, he still arrives punctually to school by bicycle or by foot in order to teach his class. Not only is he fully responsible for his own

An Opportunity Provided and Taken: Rin Ho in his classroom

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teaching duties, but he also strives to make the entire school a better place for children: He has become a CFS teacher even though he is teaching in an ICR built by USAID, he takes the initiative to raise money from people in the community in order to support school activities, and he is very patient with both his students and colleagues. Rim Ho deeply understands the importance of education, and he truly values the activities USAID provides, such as including an ICR or temporary classroom with three rooms in his community, supporting Community Teachers where there are no teachers, providing water and sanitation facilities for local people where there were none before, searching for children out of school, providing scholarships, and reducing student dropout rates. He is very thankful to IBEC for recruiting him to become a teacher, and he strongly encourages the program to continue support for his school and provide more training to improve teaching quality.