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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

A Diligent Student Receives a Scholarship



Sopheaktra rides his bicycle received from IBEC to school. He is a diligent student who rarely misses class in spite of many obstacles at 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. To learn more, visit www.ibec.worlded.org

Telling Our Story

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Bun Sopheaktra is a lower secondary school scholarship recipient now in Grade 9 at Toul Kpos Lower Secondary School in Prey Chor District, Kampong Cham Province. He has very delicate health and suffers from a very sensitive eye condition that makes his eyes tear. Sopheaktra has been receiving a scholarship through KAPE programming since he was in Grade 4, which is the only reason he is still in school. Under the IBEC Project, he received a bicycle, two uniforms, stationery, and tutoring money. With this support, he is able to get some extra support from his teachers in Math, Physics, and Khmer. Both of Sopheaktra's parents went to work as construction laborers in Thailand forcing him and his sister to live with their aunt. Recently both his parents returned from Thailand but his mom is now pregnant and she is unable to work.

A big problem for Sopheaktra right now is his eye problem; because his parents are in debt, they cannot afford to provide any health care for this problem. Indeed, his parents are now considering returning to Thailand again in order to pay down their debts, leaving him and his sister with their aunt again. Sopheaktra also helps his parents to earn income in the rice fields and in nearby banana plantations during harvest time. Meeting with Sopheaktra, he said that "I really love in learning and I will continue learning until I finish high school and my eye problem is not a barrier for my studying." "It's not a hard work for me and I can earn some money for my family and I will save some to buy a glasses as they can help my eyes," said Sopheaktra.