



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

A Gifted Teacher and Counselor



**Ms. Kempiseth with Sre Aun back at school
(above)**

**Sre Aun with her grandmother at home
(below)**

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

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

There are now many Girls' Counselors, mainly female teachers with a special sense of civic commitment, helping schools to ensure that girls get a fair chance at an education. Ms. Lock Kempiseth is one such teacher, working at Speu HS in Cham Kar Leu District in Kampong Cham. Cham Kar Leu (its name in Khmer means 'Upper Plantation') is well-known for its production of rubber, beans, and cassava. However, its plantation-based economy ensures that many adolescents wind up working in the plantations and leaving school in the process. That is why dedicated teachers such as Lock Kempiseth are especially important.

This year, Kempiseth reported that she has visited 42 girls at their homes to persuade their parents to keep their children in school. These students had gone for many days without attending school, a sure sign that they were considering dropping out. Kempiseth knows the signs well. Four of these students were scholarship recipients, three of whom had gone to work in the plantations and another to work as a maid in Phnom Penh. Since her advocacy efforts, all 4 students have returned to school. The case of Born Sre Aun is one such scholarship recipient. She is only in the 7th Grade but decided to leave school after her First Term Exams to go work in Phnom Penh. Kempiseth visited her 78-year old grandmother at home to persuade her granddaughter to return from Phnom Penh and recontinue school, at least until she finishes Grade 9. As a result of her teacher's advocacy, Sre Aun is now back in school for about a month now. Cambodia needs more teachers like Kempiseth – she really cares for her students.