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**CAMBODIA**

## CASE STUDY

### Dreaming to Be a Teacher



*Roth takes care of the piglet that her family recently bought, using the funds received through the Schools Helping Family Program*

*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](http://www.ibec.worlded.org)*

#### **Telling Our Story**

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Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Ann Chhok Roth, is a Grade 9 student studying at Speu High School in Cham Kar Leu District, Kompong Cham Province. Her father's name is Meng Kim Ann, a construction worker in Phnom Penh. Her mother's name is Beam Sarum; she works as a rice farmer and stays at home to look after the three children and her older mother. Chhok Roth's parents used to think of persuading her to stop studying and look for job as a house servant in Malaysia, but she successfully resisted this idea. She likes studying and she has ambitions to be a teacher in the future, if she can. Roth said that receiving a scholarship from KAPE made her study harder and she used to counsel one of her friends who wanted to stop studying to go to Phnom Penh for work to stay enrolled at her school. Along with her scholarship package, Chok Roth has been actively using her learning in life skills to raise pigs. Her family received a pig through IBEC's Schools Helping Family Program (provided by EDA) and since that time, she has been able to sell piglets four times already. Her family has used the money to buy additional piglets and to support her own education and that of her brothers and sisters. Most recently, her mother just bought four more piglets.

Chok Roth's mother was happy to talk to KAPE about the difference that Chok Roth's knowledge of raising piglets has made to the family, though she is not certain whether she can support her daughter to high school because of the family's tenuous financial situation and her husband's poor health. Mrs. Yeath Le, a neighbor with her own five children, observed that most of the girls in the village have already quit school to look for work in the city or help their parents at home. Chok Roth is one of only three girls still in secondary school in the village. **Yeath Le** felt sorry to hear that KAPE can only support Chhok Roth only to Grade 9 and she said that "I am so worried that she may stop studying if there is no additional support because her parents are so poor; sometimes, I gave some money to Chhok Roth for doing clothes washing for me as the return." Only time will tell what happens but Roth continues to hope for the best.