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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Scholarships Continue to Change Lives



Sopheatra and her mother at school

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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Em Sopheatra is a Grade 9 student who lives in Pouk District in Siem Reap and studies at Athebedey Junior High School. She comes from a difficult family situation because both her parents have HIV. However, Sopheatra has not been infected. Her father is a demobilized soldier who helps his wife to run a small family business in which they sell sweets in their village.

When she was in primary school, Sopheatra received a scholarship from the World Food Program. When she finished Grade 6, she was able to continue her studies with support from USAID through an IBEC scholarship at her school. Although her family situation is difficult, she is not discriminated against in her community or at school. She gets great praise for being a very clever student and always ranks at the top of her class.

Mr. Thon Khoeum, the school director says, 'Sopheatra always comes to school on time and rarely misses class even if she is not feeling well. She likes to study hard and the subjects she likes most are Math and Biology which are the subjects she is best at. Receiving scholarship from USAID makes Sopheatra feel thankful to donor and she hopes that KAPE will be able to find additional funding next year for her to study to Grade 10. "I hope to finish Grade 12 and then continue to study to be a nurse,' Sopheatra says. 'I hope I can do that.' Her mother added, 'I will try all my best to support and encourage my daughter to finish school. It is something I hope I live to see.'