



Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, issue April 2016

Dear members, sponsors and supporters of Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V., recently we have had some changes in our projects, especially at our English school, in particular with the inauguration of our new children classes. Besides that we would like to inform you about our latest efforts to improve traffic safety at the school and give you a short update about the current drought in Cambodia.

The new children classes

During the last months we had some support from Russell, a New Zealander who has stayed at the school some years ago to train our teachers in teaching techniques.



At the end of last year he came back to help implementing a sustainable improvement of the children classes. In the last years, we have made some efforts to improve our higher levels. These included among other things various trainings, our new school library and the hiring of better qualified teachers. Unfortunately it always seemed much harder to improve the children classes. Many teachers still believe that teaching children does not require a lot of skills

and can easily be done by inexperienced teaching staff.

Due the fact that the only form of teaching that most teachers experience at the public school is plain upfront teaching, it does not come as a surprise that a lot of the teaching at our school consists of drumming the English language into the children by constant repetition.

With the intention of introducing new teaching methods we started some new model classes with Russell, our teacher Tharith and some of our children. In preparation for the classes we bought some materials and wrote a curriculum.





We believe that it is not only important that the students have more fun while learning English, but it is also essential that they study with all their senses by adding singing, handicraft, games etc. to the classes and therefore get a better learning success in less hours. In the future we would like to expand these classes. Using volunteers will make sure that the classes will be almost entirely in English and our youngest learners will memorize a correct pronunciation.



The teachers of the other classes will participate in the new classes for a couple of hours each week to learn how to add new techniques to their own classes. It is a delight to see the children learning with so much joy and still progressing much faster than their counterparts in the conventional classes.

The next weeks and months will show if our dreams come true and more and more children in the other classes will start singing, playing and doing handicraft (there are some more photos and videos about the classes on our Facebook page).



Road safety

Road safety is an issue that we have been concerned with for some time. Since the construction of the road in front of the school has been finished, there have been several accidents, some with fatal casualties.

We are extremely worried as most children have to cross the road to get to the school. We have been looking for a possibility to improve the safety for some time, especially for the night time classes, when children have to cross the road in the dark.



We already hired one of the residents close to the school as a crossing guard, but it never seemed sufficient to us as it is pretty hard to take care of all the children when they are all crossing at once. Just imagine more than 200 children crossing the road when the night time classes end and they all want to go home to their families as fast as possible.

Therefore we have commissioned two road blocks with reflective painting.

Before and after the class the students and teachers can roll them on the road.

The school is placed next to a long straight stretch so the cars can stop easily until all the students have crossed the road.

Two big spotlights make sure that the passage is visible for the students and the cars at night.



The current situation in Cambodia

Even though the economy in Cambodia is continuously growing, mainly due to the economic rise of China, it still remains to be an agrarian country and apart from Phnom Penh and other major cities, the vast majority of the population still lives from rice cultivation. Unfortunately, rice cultivation in Cambodia is extremely dependent on the weather and quite regularly there are crop failures because of floods or drought.

Some might still remember our relief operation in 2011 after the disastrous flood in that year.

In the last year the weather phenomena “el Niño” has been very strong which caused a very dry and short rainy season and a very hot year overall. In our area there is only one

harvest per year around October/November. At the moment the storages are still quite full, but it is already foreseeable that it will not last until the next harvest. Apart from that, some forecasts already predict that next rainy season will not start before August/September instead of May as it is usually the case. Of course we still hope that it will not be that dramatic, but we have to be prepared for some losses and shortages. We will keep you updated on the situation in the next months. It is possible that we will have to start another relief operation at one point during this year.

We wish all our supporters a nice beginning of spring and would like to thank you for your help and the interest in our work.

Your Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. team in Cambodia and Germany.

