



Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue May 2017

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

After having used the last issue of our newsletter to introduce our new Country Director Michael and to thank Raphael and Claudia for the extraordinary work they have done, we are now eager to go back to informing you about what is happening in our student homes and in the school.

Before we can do this however, allow us to briefly provide you with an update on the financial situation of the organization. We had already mentioned the declining Euro to US Dollar exchange rates in a newsletter in 2016 and explained why this is problematic for the work of Kidshelp.

As you know, we take the 12 Euro our godparents donate each month and pay out 12 USD directly to the families of the sponsored children. Since the Euro/USD exchange rate has been favourable for a long time, we still always made enough surplus to be able to cover the cost for running the NGO and paying out the salaries of the staff in Cambodia.



USD/Euro exchange rate over the last 10 years. Source: xe.com

As you can see from the graph, this favourable exchange rate has slowly but steadily declined over the course of the last 10 years.



We are therefore forced to act and to restructure the financial model of Kidshelp so that every sponsor participates in bearing the cost for running the NGO. Our staff, the volunteers and nine English teachers are currently taking care of around 400 children and students. On top of the cost for salaries, we have to cover expenses for board and lodging of the volunteers, for ongoing and future projects, renovations of the school and the student homes, gas and service for our vehicles, office supplies, extracurricular activities for the children, our regular vocational preparation sessions with the students and so forth.

On average around 70% of our total expenses go as direct payments to the children and students so they can cover expenses for the school, student homes, university fees etc. Since we do not use any of the funds for advertising and all of our staff in Germany works on a voluntary basis, the remaining 30% of our monthly expenditures are almost entirely used for paying salaries and maintaining and advancing our project work. So far the money for the 30% has come from a hand full of supporting members and the surplus made when exchanging Euro to USD. One more look at the aforementioned graph should make clear that banking on this surplus in the future is delusive.

This is why we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to do the following:

Please go ahead and kindly apply to become a supporting member of Kidshelp on top of your current sponsorship. Our staff in Cambodia along with infrastructure that enables us to provide the best possible support for the sponsored children and students can otherwise not be sustained in the long run.

Parallel to how this is handled in similar charities of bigger size, we will recalculate the monthly rates for new sponsors so that they also reflect and include the cost for running our projects and the NGO. This will allow Kidshelp the transition into a more sustainable business model and ultimately allow us to continue to provide the children and students with better opportunities.

The form to apply to become a supporting member can be found [here](#).



In case you have any further questions or please do not hesitate to contact us via info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org or through [Facebook](#).

Without further ado, allow us to now update you on some of the activities during the last two months:

Training on dental hygiene at the school



Regula, our dentistry students and Michael after successfully conducting the trainings

Towards the end of last year Regula, a professional in dental hygiene from Switzerland, had contacted us and offered to visit the school and to hold trainings on how to properly take care of their teeth with the children.

A similar session had already been conducted in 2016, thanks to the generous support of various dentistry clinics from Cambodia and Germany. We gladly accepted Regula's offer and also invited our two students studying dentistry in Phnom Penh to get in touch with her and to assist in preparing and implementing the trainings and refreshing the memories of our school children.

As you probably remember from your own childhood or from raising your children, there is a tremendous need for reminding the kids over and over again if you want them to use a toothbrush on a regular basis.



You might already know from our [Facebook](#) page that these sessions were a big success. Regula, our dentistry student Punreay and the five fellow students that he had mobilised, immediately connected with the children and were able to convey a lot to them.



Again a very big thanks to Regula for her voluntary engagement and to our students, who we awarded with special certificates for their work and convinced to help us to conduct similar refresher courses in the future.

Renovation of the volunteer rooms by Lea

Our last volunteer Lea Winter was at the school until February and showed tremendous zeal and effort inside as well as outside of the classroom. Since the colour of the walls in the bedrooms of our volunteers had suffered over time and the rooms were generally too dark, she went ahead and repainted both of them. They are now much brighter and everyone who was familiar with the old colour agrees that Lea has done a tremendous job. The rooms now feel much brighter and livelier.

We from Kidshelp and especially the new volunteers want to again thank Lea for what she has done for our organisation and the children. We wish her all the best for her future!





Arrival of our new volunteer Anastasia

Shortly after Khmer New Year, our new volunteer Anastasia moved into one of the now freshly renovated rooms at the school.

Anastasia is from Kyrgyzstan and a psychologist by profession. She has extensive experience with conducting trainings for social workers, medical personnel, future psychologists and government officials and has also regularly worked with children and youth over the course of her more than ten year long career.



Since her arrival coincided with Easter and the Khmer New Year festivities, she used this opportunity to acclimatise herself by visiting the temples of Angkor Wat.

We are very much looking forward to three months of Anastasia getting to know and working with our children, students and teachers.

Visit of our students at Phnom Penh Climb



Before Michael took over the position of Country Director with Kidshelp, he used to regularly take a group of children from our partner NGO Chibodia to climb in a new gym not far from Phnom Penh's Russian Market. The owner of this gym contacted us in March and invited our students to participate in an open climbing day that would allow for all of them to learn how to climb for free.

Despite busy schedules and stressful part-time jobs, a good number of our female students accepted this generous offer and ended up having a great Sunday at Phnom Penh Climb.



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