



## **Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue June 2019**

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

Let us begin with an apology on our part for the lack of pictures on the first pages of this newsletter. The contents are about how our work is financed and it is very important that you read everything carefully and ask us if there are any open questions.

Thank you very much for your understanding.

### **Announcement - Invitation to the Infoday<sup>1</sup>**

This year we want to once again organize what we call an information day. Our employee Michael Dohr will be present and report about the projects in Cambodia.

When?                      Saturday, 20. July 2019  
                                    12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where?                     Am Rittersteg 1, 51427 Bergisch Gladbach – Germany

Coffee, cakes and cold drinks will be offered. There will also be a one-world pop-up shop. Cambodian pepper and scarfs will be sold for the benefit of the NGO.

We are looking forward to your visit and having some nice and constructive conversations.

### **Increased project and administrative costs**

Our costs here in Cambodia are made up of different components. There are regular expenses like the monthly payments to the families of our godchildren as well as cost for transportation, salaries, rent etc. And there are irregular expenses for medical care for our beneficiaries and the staff, or the maintenance of the school and the dormitories.

Unfortunately, our costs have risen considerably in 2018/2019. This is due to the fact that the Cambodian authorities are demanding ever higher fees - for

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<sup>1</sup> This day is mainly directed at members of Kidshelp Germany but you are of course welcome to join us. The venue is close to Cologne. The language spoken during the presentations will be German, but there should be plenty of people present who can translate. Please send a message to [patrick@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:patrick@kidshelp-kambodscha.org) and copy [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org) if you are interested in attending.



example for the extension of our registration as an NGO. In addition, taxes on salaries and our company car have been introduced in 2018. An additional tax on rent for the dormitories has been added in 2019. Due to the lack of tenant protection, landlords simply pass this tax on to tenants. Our additional cost from taxes alone therefore mount up to around \$200 per month.

What does that mean for us and you? All in all, we are still doing well financially. Over the years, we have saved enough reserves to be able to pay even larger, unforeseen bills when need be. Nevertheless, it is important to point out and react to these increased costs, as we need to guarantee that we always earn at least as much as what we spend. Otherwise, the reserves that have been saved up for years would continue to shrink and we would have no way of piloting new projects or providing emergency aid in crisis situations.

Therefore, please consider whether you can afford to support us by making regular donations. Any donation that is not bound to a specific usage (e.g. the payment of tuition fees) will be used for direct NGO purposes only. Meaning whatever is not used to pay for administrative costs like tax, can then be spent to cover additional project costs. E.g. to pay for repairs in the dorms or getting new equipment for the school

If you want to help us to cover our increased cost and to ensure that we always have sufficient emergency funds, please donate by using any of the two options listed [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact us directly at [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org) or write us on [Facebook](#).

### **Students and teachers master the #TrashTagChallenge**

In addition to a lot of back and forth while dealing with various Cambodian authorities, the events here during last three months have mainly been dominated by the issues of extreme drought (see newsletter March 2019) and environmental protection. In May, it finally rained properly for the first time and an end to the drought is in sight. The resulting floods, however, will sweep away into the rivers all the rubbish that has been thrown carelessly into the streets, rivers and countryside over the months of drought.

The inadequate waste-management is a problem throughout the year, but it becomes particularly apparent during the first large rains, when the water masses cannot drain due to clogging caused by all the plastic waste and



everything else that has accumulated in the sewerage system during the dry season. Once this happens, everything is pushed upwards and lands back on the very streets where it was disposed from. This is not only disgusting, but also a considerable health and safety risk. Roads become impassable. Potholes or even open manhole covers become invisible. People are either unable to move or expose themselves to considerable dangers if they move anyway. It is therefore high time that something changes in the Cambodians attitude to garbage. Something that also applies to many people in the so called “developed countries”.

The #TrashTagChallenge2019 therefore seemed like a very appealing viral trend from the Internet. These challenges are something that spreads quickly and is almost never missed by any youth around the world once the challenge “goes viral”.

After our former employee Claudia asked if we plan to take part in the challenge, everything moved very fast. Michael informed the teachers and they talked to their students who had already heard about the challenge. The enthusiasm to be able to take part in something like this was accordingly great. A little later Khemara and Tharith set off with their classes. You can see the result on the before/after pictures on the next page of this newsletter. We were thrilled!

We are aware that something like this can only be a small contribution to the big problem of waste management. Our aim is to keep the topic present among our students with such initiatives. In the end it will hopefully be the young Cambodians themselves who will change their attitude and solve the problem themselves. The success of the Fridays for Future movement gives us hope!



BEFORE



AFTER



**Pic.1: Before-After-Comparison of the embankment cleaned by the students during the #TrashTagChallenge2019.**



## **Teacher training in Phnom Penh**

Thanks to a generous donation from the Living Responsibility Fund (LRF) of Deutsche Post DHL, in 2019 all our teachers will be able to participate in training courses at the Educational Development Institute (EDI) in Phnom Penh. The EDI is one of the first private institutions in Cambodia to offer additional vocational training for professionals.

Thanks to the donation from the LRF, we can now offer all our teachers to participate in one of the TESOL<sup>2</sup> courses at EDI. These courses take place several times a year. So our teachers can choose whatever starting time suits them best.

The approximately three-month long courses cover the following areas:

- Teaching professionalism
- Educational Psychology
- teaching concepts
- teaching methods
- Designing lesson plans
- Peer teaching rehearsal
- Teaching internship (teaching live in front of a class)

Two teachers have already completed the course. Two more are currently attending the course. The remaining teachers have already indicated that they will seize the opportunity and participate in one of the courses in the third or fourth quarter.

Many thanks to Deutsche Post, DHL and the Living Responsibility Fund, who have been supporting us regularly for years now. Such appreciation is our best thanks for our work.

## **New fans for the English school**

If you have already been to Cambodia or Southeast Asia you will know this: It is incredibly hot and humid all year round. A proper ventilation in the classrooms is therefore an absolute must. This year's dry season was especially long and hot. Many of the old fans had gradually given up. It therefore came as no surprise

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<sup>2</sup> Teaching English to speakers of other languages



when our teachers expressed their wish for new fans during one of our last teacher conferences.

Because we were of the opinion that many of the old models gave up too quickly, we asked our teachers which of the brands that you can source locally offer the best quality products. We were then recommended a Thai company. Their fans would be much sturdier than cheaper "no name models" from China.



**Pic.2: New fans for the school. Rooms with high ceiling (right) need different models.**

At the end of May, a total of 20 new fans were installed in the 10 classrooms of our school. The money necessary for the purchase and installation was provided by our friends from [Kidshelp Cambodia - England](#).

Especially in the name of the schoolchildren and the teachers a big thank you to all donors!

### **Bye bye Jannic!**

At the end of March and with a heavy heart we had to say farewell to Jannic. He was our last volunteer for a while now. In earlier years it had happened every now and then that we had no volunteers at the school for certain periods of time. This is due to the beginning of the summer semester in Germany in April and because we carefully select our volunteers. There were several inquiries from interested people who wanted to join in summer. Since all of them did not meet our requirements, we decided to work without volunteers for a few months. From autumn on, two new volunteers will be moving in at the school.



But back to Jannic. He had spent a total of four months at the school and had to face some difficulties which were totally out of his and our hands. Due to a pregnancy and health problems of other teachers, he had to lead about half of his classes alone while now and then falling back on the translation and help of Tharith and the other teachers in the neighboring rooms. We can only take our hat off to the calm and serenity with which he mastered this task.

Thank you Jannic and all the best for your future!



Pic. 3.: Jannic with some children from one of his two courses

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More news about Kidshelp and pictures from our recent activities can be found at [Facebook](#) and our [Blog](#).

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