



## Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, February 2021

Dear friends and supporters!

There are important personnel changes at **Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V.** that we would like to let you know about in this newsletter:

Our expatriate and country director **Michael Dohr** is leaving Cambodia after four years to take on a new, great challenge - but Michael will tell you more in his own words.

*From our side, we wish Michael and his wife much success, joy and all the best for their professional and private future!*

We have hired **Florian Linecker** as his successor. Florian arrived in Cambodia at the end of December. After a two-week quarantine, which is obligatory for everyone currently arriving, a personal handover from Michael to Florian took place starting mid-January. Before this there were weeks of virtual meetings. As of February, Florian has completely taken over the role of Country Director.

Enclosed you will find Michael's words of farewell (and let us say this in advance: he will stay with us for a while!) and Florian's introduction to you.



*A boat ride on the occasion of Michael's farewell in Phnom Penh with students and teachers of our English school in January 2021.*



## Thank you for four wonderful years (Farewell Michael)

Those who follow us on Facebook or tried to contact me by email within the last few days may already know that Florian Linecker replaced me as Country Director in Cambodia effective February 2021.

Florian is more than qualified, both professionally and personally, to take over the management of the country office. I was able to see this for myself in 2018 during his time as a volunteer at our school. I am very grateful that during a global pandemic he mustered the courage to tackle this new task and take over from me.

In the newsletter for Raphael's farewell in 2017, I had told him that I had already lived briefly in Cambodia twice before as part of my studies and an internship, and that it was clear to me after these short stays that I would want to come back one day and work here on a longer-term basis. Accordingly, I was happy to be able to take over from Raphael.

Looking back, I can say that although there have been some tests of patience and setbacks in the course of the four years that have passed since then, this good basic feeling has never disappeared. There are many reasons for this: Kidshelp allowed me to do exactly what I had always wanted to do. To help people who were not lucky enough to be born at the right time in one of the richest countries in the world. And the ones who made this possible in the first place are, first and foremost, you. Thanks to your donations and the support of the staff in Germany and Cambodia, Kidshelp has, since its foundation, been able to give thousands of children and young adults access to education.

It is this access that enables the recipients of your help to improve their own situation independently and to help other people in need. That the latter is not just a pious wish for the future, I could see with my own eyes several times. Our students and alumni are already helping out when it comes to supporting fellow students and people from their home villages. For example, when it comes to preparing high school students for their time at university. Or when someone is in hospital for accident treatment and we need translators. I never had any problems finding volunteers for such activities. No matter how short notice they were given. And being able to witness these positive, lasting consequences of the work has always made the job special.

The communication and contact with you has also contributed decisively to the good feeling described above. It is incredibly motivating to see how committed you are to the association and your sponsored children. During my time as director, various sponsors had financed the repair of a house and several expensive medical treatments. In addition, I can think of several of your self-organised fund-raising campaigns, which always bring important additional funds into the association's coffers. Especially on days when everything seems to go wrong, it has always helped me a lot to see how committed you are to the association. Many thanks for your support!



Special thanks go to the volunteers in Germany and England: Nanette, André, Bea, Petra, Patrick, Sabine, Patrik, Irina, Michael, Raphael & Claudi, and Matthias. Many of you shoulder considerable extra work for the association in addition to your full-time jobs. Most of you have been with us for years and thus contribute significantly to the basic family atmosphere. Over the years, several sponsors have told me that they prefer to donate to Kidshelp than to the big organisations because of this atmosphere and the direct contact with the staff. Many thanks for your commitment!

I would also like to thank all the staff here in Cambodia: Khemara, Tharith, Chanrin, Thim, the dormitory managers, the volunteers and all the teachers at the English school as well as our friends from Chibodia (especially Eddie and Pisith), with whom we have been successfully running the student project for many years. You welcomed me with open arms from the very beginning and made me feel like I was in the right place. Anyone who knows Cambodia knows that it is incredibly difficult to retain staff in the long term. The fact that almost all of you have worked for the association longer than I have shows that Kidshelp is a special association.

And last but not least, thank you to all the wonderful friends I have made here over the years, to all those in the rest of the world who have always made a great effort to stay in touch, to our families and to my wife, without whose constant support nothing would work anyway!

I am heading back to Germany for a short time in March and then in May I will move on to Mombasa, Kenya. There I am going to assist the Human Rights Organisation Haki Yetu as a representative of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). I will continue to support Kidshelp as a voluntary member of the board for the planning of the new school.

Thank you for four wonderful years.  
Good bye.

Michael







## Introduction of our new expatriate Florian Linecker

Dear supporters of Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V.,

Michael's parting words make it clear why I am very pleased to introduce myself to you in this newsletter in my new position! I originally come from the north-western region of Upper Austria and studied social work and social sciences (with a focus on social policy). For about 15 years I have worked in various areas of the social and educational sector. Since 2009 I lived in Vienna with my husband/partner Matthias, who fortunately accompanied me here to Phnom Penh.



After a journey to Southeast Asia in 2016 and since then looking for opportunities to get involved in the region, I got in touch with Kidshelp in 2017; from the end of May to the beginning of December 2018, I volunteered on site at the English school and partly in Phnom Penh.

There was no lack of challenges, consternation, anger and frustration during these months, but they were clearly outweighed by joy, a sense of purpose and many individual prospects for the future that opened up and developed, in summary: hope.

The people in Cambodia, including the children, adolescents and young adults so generously supported by you, are facing enormous challenges. The global pandemic and related measures are of course exacerbating the situation. But even without Corona, there was no lack of need for support, which, however complex, can be bundled in one area: With *education*, a society, especially its youth, can achieve these so important agendas for the future (Human rights! Environmental protection! Democracy! Health! Sustainable economy!) themselves. Kidshelp's approach is to meet the people supported at eye level and in dialogue, with agreed rules of the game - in short: cooperation.

I can only thank you for your support of and trust in Kidshelp! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [florian@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:florian@kidshelp-kambodscha.org).



I wish you all a good year 2021 and a happy new year of the Buffalo (Ox), as well as health and especially a soon and clear perspective in dealing with (yes, once again...) corona!

Yours sincerely Florian Linecker