

Maintenance and modernization work at the Khemara Kidshelp School and in the student dormitories

Dear friends of Kidshelp,

The construction of the main building of the Khemara Kidshelp School (KKS) was completed in 2010. In recent years, age-related signs of wear and tear have become increasingly apparent. Due to increasing numbers of students, three additional rooms were built at the front and two simple classrooms at the back of the school. However, due to limited financial resources, the construction quality of these extensions was limited.

At the time of the initial construction, there was a limited electricity supply available in the village of Lor Oet. We, therefore, had to plan a temporary electrical infrastructure for a year and work with generators before being able to connect to the public power grid. The cabling at the time was correspondingly simple: there was no earthing, the cables used were of low quality and were mostly surface mounted.

The electrical situation has therefore been a cause for concern for some time. Although minor improvements have been made over the years, fundamental problems remain. A volunteer recently reported that the rooms seemed "like a New Year's Eve party" during a thunderstorm. During a visit in 2024, an employee of the Federal Foreign Office and long-time supporter of Kidshelp pointed out significant deficiencies and offered support in remedying them.

Despite the school having been repainted several times – most recently as part of DHL Express Cambodia's Global Volunteer Day – the daily burdens of around 300 children quickly become noticeable. The two volunteer rooms on the second floor also no longer met today's expectations and standards of comparable facilities. Part of the rear building area, which was originally used intensively during the times when authorities mandated acceptance of every child wishing to attend KKS, whilst not allowing us to charge fees; has recently served mainly as a warehouse for defective school furniture. The other part had been converted into an office or teachers' room with minimal effort.

Start of modernization measures

In January 2025, the power supply cable from the electricity supplier to the school was renewed. The old cable was undersized and had already failed. The new installation now includes a modern distribution board and professional earthing.

In September 2025, Patrick Byron traveled to Cambodia and held talks with two construction companies. Originally, only a modernization of the electrical system was planned. In the course of the discussions, however, a comprehensive concept for the modernization of the entire school developed. Experience from the construction of the KES, safety aspects (e.g. emergency exits), additional storage space requirements and minimum standards for classrooms were also taken into account.

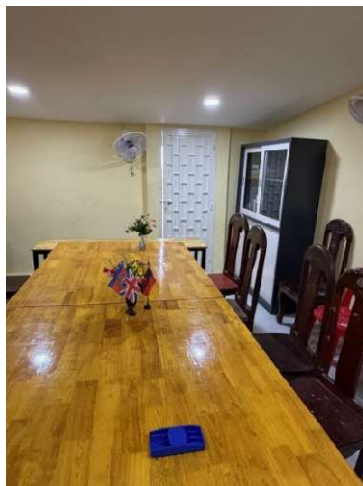
On this basis, a detailed, cost-calculated and phased plan was drawn up and approved by the Board of Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V.

1. Modernization of the rear classrooms

The rear classrooms were completely renovated. Previously, they had a simple corrugated iron roof, open wiring, and inadequate ventilation and lighting. In addition, some windows were missing and the floor was damaged.



Today, the rooms are equipped with suspended ceilings, integrated lighting, modern electrics, newly tiled floors and an emergency exit, thus offering a significantly improved learning environment.



2. Ground floor

The previously overcrowded and acoustically unfavourable reception area was restructured. The installation of a solid wall created a separate, quiet classroom. In addition, new storage space has been created, which is accessible via the first floor.





At the same time, an inviting children's library was set up in the entrance area, where around 400 English-language books are available.

3. First floor

On the first floor, the corridor area was removed, which gained additional space for the classrooms. Both rooms could be expanded and modernized. In addition to the renewal of the electrical system, additional fans were installed to improve the indoor climate.



4. Front classrooms and outdoor lighting

No structural changes were required in the three front classrooms, but the complete electrical wiring was renewed. A team from the Federal Foreign Office actively supported this work and installed new

lighting, sockets and fans. In addition, the school's outdoor lighting has been improved. During their visit, the German Embassy donated two colour printers including a year's supply of toner – one each for KKS and KES.



5. Volunteer Room

In order to be able to attract more volunteers in the future, the accommodations have been fundamentally modernized. Each room now has its own bathroom, new electrics and an attractive design. The work has been completed; the final furnishing will take place before the restart of the volunteer programs.





6. School furniture repair

Many of the existing school desks were damaged and in some cases posed a safety risk. As part of the work, all furniture was checked and repaired. A total of around 60 school desks could be repaired, with defective furniture serving as a spare parts warehouse.

7. Improving the school environment

Important progress has been made in the area of waste disposal: Since January 2026, regular waste collection has been carried out in cooperation with the local authorities.



In addition, a new rule has been introduced that prohibits eating and drinking (except water) in the classrooms. A separate area has been set up for this purpose. These changes have already made a noticeable contribution to more cleanliness and hygiene.



8. Renovation of the student dormitories

The two girls' dormitories in Phnom Penh have also been extensively renovated. After consultation with the residents, it was decided to retain the existing locations and extend the leases.

The measures included, among others:

- Renovation of sanitary facilities
- Removal of moisture damage
- Renovation of rooms and bathrooms



- Checking the electrical system
- Modernisation of kitchen areas



In addition, a protective wall was erected after floods in September 2025 to prevent future damage. After completion of the work, residents and care staff confirmed a significant improvement in living conditions.



Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your trust and continued support. Their commitment makes a significant contribution to sustainably improving the living and learning conditions of the children.

Sincerely,
Your Kidshelp team in Cambodia, England and Germany

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