

Annual Report 2022

Since November 2021, the schools have been open again for all vaccinated pupils. Almost all students managed to transfer to the higher level. Unfortunately, a few secondary school students had to leave school to go to work due to the economic situation caused by the Covid crisis. On the positive side, it has to be said that these students are all over 16 years old and with 7-8 years of schooling, they have been able to attend school for an above-average length of time by Cambodian standards. Unfortunately, we cannot prevent such departures, but fortunately they are rare in normal times.

Secondary school

In the middle of the school year, our 28 secondary students transferred from Basak Secondary School in a village near Bech Khlok, to Koas Krala Secondary School. We were not satisfied with the quality of teaching. The students kept complaining about the overcrowded classrooms with up to 80 students per room and a lot of noise during the lessons. In addition, lessons were often cancelled due to a lack of teachers.

Unfortunately, this change is associated with considerable additional costs, as the new school is much further away. Only a few sponsors can pay the full amount and the missing amounts must therefore be covered by unrestricted donations.

High School

The first two secondary school girls made the transition to high school at the beginning of 2022. The girls live in student accommodation on the school grounds during the week. Koas Krala, the district's main town, is too far away for the high school students to travel there and back every day. Unlike the secondary school students, they often have classes until late in the afternoon.

Their sponsors from Germany and Switzerland bear the additional costs for accommodation, food, and extra lessons. For this purpose, working laptops were purchased so that they can also participate in online lessons.

Kindergarten and our Nutrition Programme

The kindergarten is very well attended. Since July, the Westernacher company, the main sponsor of the kindergarten project, has also taken over the costs for a healthy meal for the children. As there are more and more crop failures in the agricultural region due to bad weather and drought periods, the families in the vicinity of our kindergarten often suffer from loss of income and financial difficulties. Sometimes there is not even enough money to buy basic foodstuffs such as rice, let alone provide a balanced diet for the growing children. Often the children suffer from stunted growth and have an undersupply of nutrients, minerals, and vitamins. Unfortunately, we have noticed that many children struggle with fatigue, lack of strength and thus also with motor problems. With the daily meal, there is now a considerable improvement in the deficits. The children are much more active

and can concentrate better. Sports activities such as small competitions or dancing together are now also possible and are a lot of fun for the children. In addition, it was important to inform the parents of the children at a parents' meeting what belongs to a balanced diet and how important healthy nutrition is for the development of their children, because often they just get cheap sugar in the form of sugar cane or sweets to take to kindergarten, which then additionally leads to dental problems. Due to Pol Pot's reign of terror, many parents have received only little or no school education and can neither read nor write. Therefore, there is a great lack of basic knowledge, which we try to reduce with such educational work.

Integration of the neighbouring village

Thanks to the initiative of Heang Ho (General Manager of Seed for Cambodia), the Dutch organisation Sticing Water Works (SWW) is working with Seed Switzerland to integrate the primary school of the neighbouring village Arai in the education and environment programme of Bech Khlok. Since mid-2022, our teachers have been teaching English at the primary school in Arai as part of this project. 60 pupils took advantage of this offer in 2022.

Agriculture

And now to the projects around sustainable improvement of the economic situation of the poorest families:

Chicken farm

A little over a year ago, we started a small chicken farm with one of the poorest families in the village. Half of the money for the chickens is paid back to Seed by the families in small instalments. Once the repayment is complete, the family can use another small loan from Seed to enlarge the chicken farm or improve the infrastructure if they wish.

Seed Germany wanted to extend this project to other families in 2022. However, due to problems with a chicken disease, this project has been put on hold for the time being.

Mother cow

In 2022, the first 3 needy families received a pregnant cow. The first calf can be kept by the family and sold later if they wish. The second calf belongs to Seed and is passed on by us to another needy family. This continues until the mother cow no longer calves.

The costs for a cow and shelter (approx. 800-1,000 USD per family) were covered either by a sponsor or by Seed Switzerland/Germany. The first calf was born at the end of 2022.

Emergency aid

As the previous projects do not immediately alleviate the need of the poorest families, and not all families can participate in the agricultural project, we decided to temporarily give one bag of rice per month and family. Heang always drew our attention to families whose children came to school malnourished. If the investigations showed that the economic hardship was not self-inflicted (alcohol or gambling addiction, high debts due to unnecessary purchases, etc.), the family received this support.

Emergency aid is also available for hardship cases in the medical field and for seriously ill and disabled children.

Since 2020, thanks to a generous sponsor, we have been able to support the grandparents of a small, severely disabled, blind boy and finance the costs for the little boy's medical care. Meas was born with severe facial deformities and abandoned by his parents immediately after birth. Since then, the grandparents have lovingly cared for him, and we have supported them in word and deed. At the end

of 2022, we organised various check-ups for Meas in clinics in Phnom Penh and accompanied the grandmother with her grandson.

Outlook

Finally, we would like to say a few words about projects that we would like to tackle in the near future.

The old school building (an open hall) in the middle of the school grounds has become badly dilapidated. We have been doing repairs on and off for the past few years, but it just doesn't make sense now. The hall is needed for English classes and further education (for parents and students) and is an important part of the educational programme.

As we are not only concerned about education but also about the health of the children, we would like to start a programme for affordable sanitation for the families next year, as most households still do not have toilets.

Zurich, July 2023

Andrea Brüscheiler, Seed Small Beginnings Switzerland



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

(Seed Small Beginnings Switzerland)

Balance 01.01.2022

PostFinance account balance 15'201.00 CHF

Revenue

Individual donations and membership fees 31'066.00 CHF

Sponsorships 2'975.00 CHF

Contribution from foundations 11'000.00 CHF

Total income 2022 45'041.00 CHF

Expenditure

Transfers to Seed for Cambodia* 38'000.00 CHF

Travel expenses** 1'674.00 CHF

Books for library and kindergarten 303.00 CHF

Printing costs, office supplies and postage 448.00 CHF

Website 265.00 CHF

Bank account fees 194.00 CHF

Total expenses 2022 40'884.00 CHF

Balance 31.12.2022

PostFinance account balance 19'358.00 CHF

** Seed for Cambodia (a non-profit organisation registered in Cambodia) financed the running costs of the projects in Bech Khlok with our contributions. Seed for Cambodia keeps detailed accounts of all income and expenses, which are audited annually by the relevant Cambodian authorities.*

*** Travel expenses to Cambodia include the cost of the flight and part of the cost of accommodation. The board works free of charge, but travel expenses to Cambodia are covered by Seed (only for 1 board member per year).*