



# KAMBOO PROJECT

Supporting Cambodians

Dear friends of Kamboo Project,

For this newsletter, we have taken a different look. At least differently than we usually do when we report on the work in "our" rural communities and "our" schools in Cambodia. As in any small or large organization that is committed to the principle of "helping people to help themselves", our work can be seen as a kind of balancing act: Our team in Cambodia has to act in the short term and plan for the long term at the same time, and often enough it is the day-to-day work that really sets the pace.

Day-to-day work is often very small-scale and therefore rarely makes it into our reporting. The big picture is easier to follow, the mission and project goals guide our work and are therefore automatically in the foreground, and it is easier to talk about a good project completion than about the tedious day-to-day work.

And yet it is the day-to-day business of our local team that brings us results. And when we write "business" here, that's exactly what we mean. Of course, we do not work on behalf of the state and we have no commercial objectives. But we certainly do one thing: we work professionally, with professional processes, tools and structures. What did things look like in August, for example? Let's just pick out a few activities.

## **The work plan doesn't fit on the screen**

There are simply too many tasks in the planning matrix for August. Topics and tasks are color-coded and given names, sometimes it's just one, sometimes two or three, sometimes the column simply says "Team". At the beginning of each month, the whole team sits together, discusses appointments and schedules, and makes changes until everything fits. Appointments on site and meetings with other stakeholders have often been arranged for some time, and everything that can be done in the office is grouped around these fixed points. The monthly schedule in August has 84 items, and practically all of them include several appointments or a weekly jour fixe.

## **The first week of August begins...**

Even though it is still July. July 31, a Monday, is the day on which our SHIP project ends in three schools. Not for the first time. As planned, the School Hygiene Improvement Program will no longer be a focus of Kamboo Project at the turn of the year 2022/23, and there was actually already a closing event, but things are fluid. The team is once again in the three elementary school Lvea, Soung and Phum Steung, discussing the progress of the project, which is now in their own hands, with the

teachers and headteachers. The intensive teacher training has paid off, but the Kamboo Project team is still being asked for advice. However, it now has other tasks. Even schools with committed teachers need many small steps.



### **Computers are a big issue in Cambodia too.**

Equipping schools with hardware and software is not easy, and teachers also need to be trained. Funds and support from various organizations often come together to make such projects sustainable. In August, the team is working on the "Computer Lab" project. The elementary school in Ta Ei is to receive its equipment with the help of donations from the South East Asia Foundation, and the preparations are taking a lot of time.





## **Libraries - it's not just about books**

In elementary school, the focus is often on library equipment. Here, books are the hardware, but the learning atmosphere also plays a major role. In this first week of August, we visit head teachers and library directors in two elementary schools for in-depth discussions and find out what is most urgently needed. Often on the wish list: a few things to make the rooms more attractive. Money is often the limiting factor, we contribute with books and materials, the schools in Lvea, Chea Smon and Wat Roka invest work and also take on part of the financing, an important principle that we also uphold here. We want "our" schools to turn all activities into their own projects so that they are sustainable in the long term.



## **Networking and exchange**

Every month, two members of the team meet with other stakeholders and NGOs in the region as part of a local social worker group. This time, the meeting will take place on August 16th. We exchange ideas and get down to business. Our project assistant Kimlong Hout tells the group about a school kid who needs support to be able to attend university after school. Kimlong is primarily concerned with good relations with the public and the media, and he supports the project team in many other ways. And uses his good contacts. Also on board is our project assistant Laoh Loeur, who joined the team in 2022 and is a trained teacher of English as a foreign language; like all of our employees, he brings many skills to the table.

### **Crowdfunding and donation platforms - networking also works online**

Keeping in touch and using existing platforms is also easy to do online. Every week, Somalita Keo takes care of the cooperation with the South East Asia Foundation Group and the Little-by-Little crowdfunding and donation program, which is based at [GlobalGiving](#) and has already supported Kamboo Project on various occasions. As part of the fundraising campaign, smaller amounts came to Kamboo Project via Little-by-Little, mostly as individual donations; GlobalGiving lists them under the titles "Scholarship for Girl Education" and "Back to School" on its website. Somalita, Master of Business Administration / International Development, leads the Kamboo Project team in Cambodia and approaches the fundraising campaigns professionally. One aim is to attract a few more regular donors, although individual donations are of course just as welcome. And, of course, to find other sources that support NGOs financially.

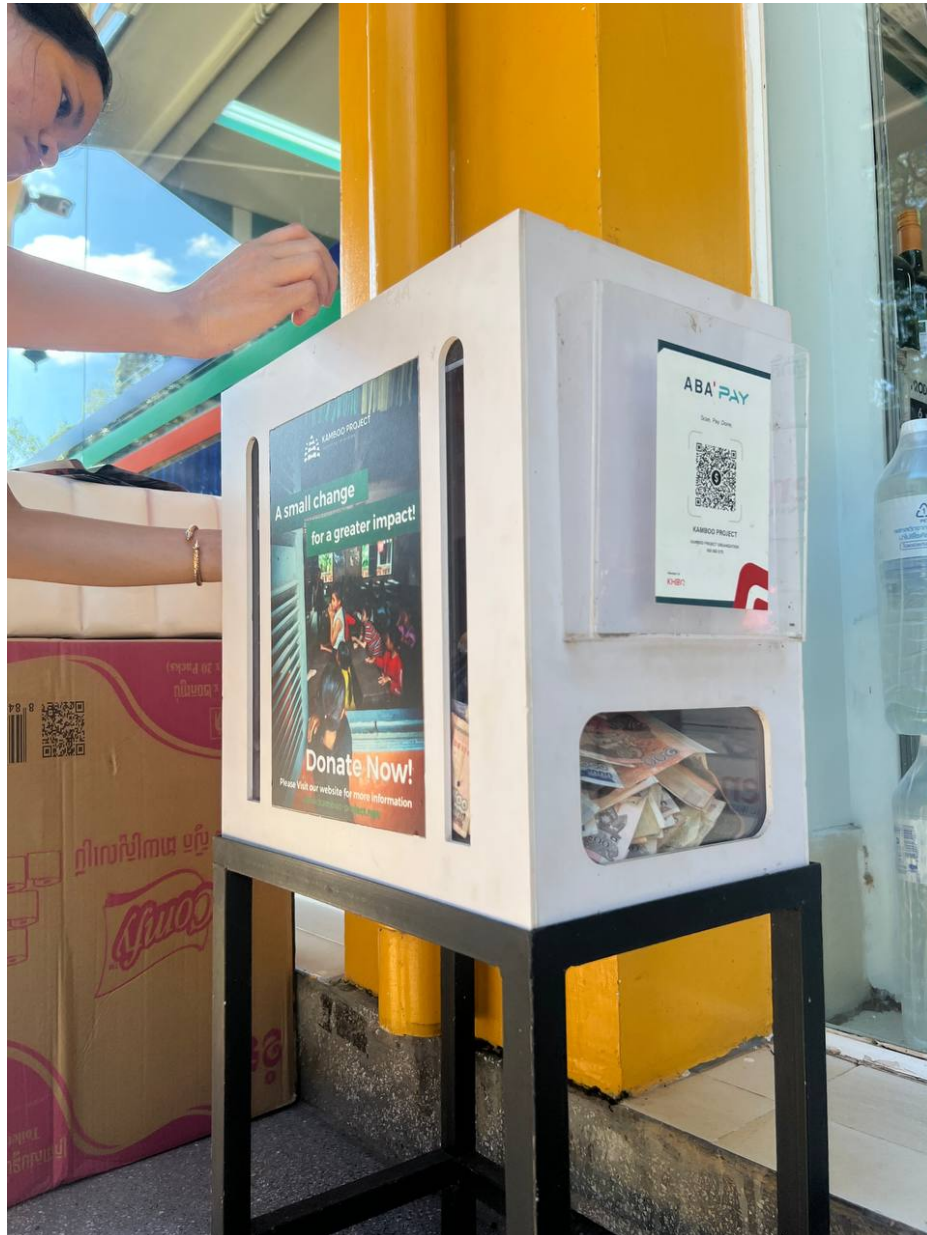


### **A lot can also be achieved locally**

Support is also available locally. Special fundraising events are spread throughout the year and need to be organized. Somalita Keo and Somnang Pin meet almost every week to plan and evaluate the events, with three meetings in August. Somnang has been with Kamboo Project since 2019. She studied tourism and hotel management and is primarily responsible for fundraising. As part of a three-person team with Somalita and Kimlong, she is driving another project that aims to secure long-term funding for our work: Eco-tourism in the region, of course with a marketing strategy that is being worked on intensively. Not to forget the many small things that need to be



done. For example, there are the small donation boxes in local stores, which Sreyphat Lung and Phary Dung take care of. Sreyphat takes care of the bookkeeping, she has a degree in tourism and hotel management. Phary Dung has been an intern at Kamboo Project since 2022 and is studying IT at the same time.



### **The day-to-day work - lots of little things, and of course further training**

Much of what needs to be done during the week is small-scale, but no less important. On the weekly schedule at the beginning of August are the bicycle project (we have already reported on this in several news articles), meetings in schools for smaller projects such as

- fencing the school grounds in Lvea or repairing the roof in Chea Semon
- social media activities with reports on computer projects and school programs for girls
- preparing materials and documents for a workshop, also in the school program for girls
- a few funding applications and budget planning

- further training for employees using e-learning, building up computer skills, e.g. to be able to play on the social media platforms, language training and budget planning



The days are full, for example, with building up computer skills to be able to use the social media platforms, English language training, project management and team building, the Woman Changemaker Workshop, which aims to support and encourage women to and in leadership positions, the weekly reports ... The days are full.

**There is still so much to report and say** - we have not covered everything in this newsletter. There is so much to do and our team in Cambodia is working hard every day to make our projects a success. Kamboo Project is a professionally managed organization. It does not make a profit, but many benefit immensely from it. Measurable goals, success monitoring and evaluations, follow-up strategies including feedback and coaching, advice and support are absolutely essential. The team in Cambodia provides genuine, valuable project management. This also includes the monthly reports, and we have compiled this newsletter from one of these reports. A small insight, admittedly. But certainly, an interesting one.



Please do not forget to support us! We rely on your donations to keep up the good work. Thank you for your support!

Until the next newsletter, with greetings from our entire team in Cambodia and Switzerland,

Your Kamboo Project team

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