



KAMBOO PROJECT
Supporting Cambodians

A new chapter: BAMBOOS takes over Kamboo Project

Dear friends of Kamboo Project,

Today we are sending you a newsletter that is exceptionally important to us, as it marks the official start of a new phase.

Since our foundation as a Swiss association in September 2014, we have been working with a local team based around Siem Reap in three areas: drinking water and sanitation, sustainable construction, and education. Together with you, all our supporters, our many partners, and our local Cambodian team, we have achieved a great deal! With donations totalling approximately USD 1.2 million over the last 10 years, we have been able to implement more than 75 projects at 35 schools, predominantly primary schools. Nearly 40,000 pupils have benefited – and continue to benefit – from a noticeably improved learning environment that is safer, cleaner and more sustainable. This has had a direct and measurable impact on equal opportunities in education for children in the rural areas we focus on. Enrolment rates in the communities neighbouring 'our' schools largely exceed the 90 per cent mark, in many cases by a significant margin.

An important step is now on the horizon: the Danish NGO BAMBOOS is taking over Kamboo Project – along with the Cambodian team, the projects and the results achieved so far. For the work on the ground, this means continuity; in terms of impact, it means a broader platform, a larger network and far greater opportunities for funding.

Continuity with even more momentum

Work in Cambodia is continuing without interruption. BAMBOOS is taking over the leadership of the local team and the programmes.

The Swiss branch of Kamboo Project will not cease to exist – on the contrary: we will continue to raise funds in Switzerland, mobilise support and facilitate voluntary work for the same projects. Following a transitional phase, the charity will be renamed BAMBOOS Switzerland and will continue to operate under the BAMBOOS umbrella.



Interview with Rasmus Bartholomaeussen, founder of BAMBOOS

1. Why does BAMBOOS want to take over Kamboo Project?

Rasmus: “What impressed us most was that Kamboo Project had already established something strong and trustworthy in Cambodia: an experienced local team, close ties with schools and communities, and a proven ability to turn support into tangible results. For us, this was not just an opportunity to expand our capacity, but to build on something that is already working very well.”

2. What does this transition now make possible?

Rasmus: “The most important thing is that the Cambodian team remains fully active and can continue its work without interruption. At BAMBOOS, we have a broad and professional fundraising platform, thanks to which the work of the local team can be expanded over time. This allows us to mobilise more resources overall and combine strong local expertise with a more comprehensive, long-term strategy.”

3. What would you like to say to the supporters of the Kamboo Project?

Rasmus: “We’d like to let the friends of Kamboo Project know that the work they’ve supported will continue and that the local team they’ve helped to build remains at the heart of it all. Everything that’s been made possible over the last ten years will now form part of BAMBOOS’ future. We hope that many supporters will continue to stand by us as we expand this work.”

Interview with Thomas Gilbert, Chair of Kamboo Project

1. Why do we want to take this step?

Thomas: “We have always strived to achieve the best for the school children and their families on the ground. Kamboo Project was founded as a Swiss organisation that combined donations and voluntary work with a dedicated team in Cambodia. Over the past ten years, this model has enabled us to achieve a great deal. However, the success of our team in Cambodia has also raised new expectations regarding scale, professionalism and long-term growth. The takeover by BAMBOOS is the right next step to strengthen this work and further improve our impact in the future.”

2. What role are you personally playing in this transition?

Thomas: “To help ensure a smooth transition, I will be serving on the BAMBOOS board. This is important because it allows us to maintain relationships and build on our experience, whilst ensuring that the work established by Kamboo Project continues to grow in a focused and responsible manner.”

3. What does this mean for the Kamboo Project?

Thomas: “Kamboo Project in Switzerland will continue. What is changing is that we will no longer directly manage the Cambodian team, as this responsibility will lie with BAMBOOS in future. Our Swiss association will continue to raise funds, mobilise support and facilitate volunteer involvement in similar projects. Following a transitional phase, Kamboo Project will be renamed BAMBOOS Switzerland and will then form part of an umbrella organisation. So this is not the end of the mission, but the start of the next stage.”

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Ten years of working alongside teachers, parents, children and communities in Cambodia demonstrate what is possible when local knowledge and international solidarity come together. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the Kamboo Project through donations, voluntary work and partnerships.

With BAMBOOS, this work is entering its next phase on a stronger platform – and the Swiss branch will remain active, even after it becomes BAMBOOS Switzerland.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for being part of this story and for helping to take this work into its next chapter. We are convinced that, in this way, we can achieve a much greater impact for schoolchildren and families in Cambodia.

If you have any questions about this important step, please feel free to contact Thomas Gilbert directly: thomas@kamboo-project.ngo

Warm regards,
Your Kamboo Project Team

Further background information:

More about BAMBOOS and its mission: bamboos.ngo

About Kamboo Project: <https://kamboo-project.ngo/en/about-kamboo-project/>

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