

## NEWSLETTER 03, AUGUST 2019



Dear sponsors  
Dear friends

A lot of exciting things have happened since our last newsletter in January, and it's high time to tell you about the latest status of our STUDAID project.

### 20+2 students are currently being supported

**One goal has been achieved:** 20+2 students are currently being supported by you! In January the total number students supported was 16. Since then, we've been able to find sponsors and mentors for five more students. We are overjoyed to have reached this significant goal within our first 1 ½ years. Thank you so much for all of the support we have received, it's fair to say none of this could have happened without your help.

**Why 20+2?** The «2» are special cases Sreymey and Sreykeo (pictured) who still attend high school, but are in dire need of sponsorship in order to complete those studies. Sreymey had to drop out of school after 9. Grade and would not have been able to return to school without the sponsor- and mentorship she now receives.



«20» are all students who can study at the university thanks to the support of their STUDAID sponsors.

### The first students complete their bachelor's degree

**Nisai is our first Alumni:** Nisai is our first student to have completed his studies; he graduated in June and has already found a permanent position with a young IT company. We are very proud of our first alumni, who worked hard to reach this goal, and alongside his studies had almost a full-time job as a TukTuk driver and all-rounder for the Le Restaurant des Enfants. We wish him the very best in his new career and are certain that he is a helpful support for our younger students with IT problems and that he will be an excellent ambassador for the STUDAID program.



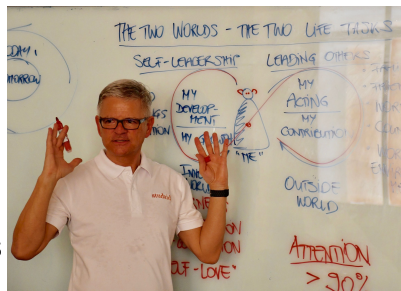
**The next graduations lie ahead:** Six more students are currently preparing for their final bachelor exams: Lyhorng, Rany, Sina, Phally, Sokly and Sreymen. Those who share classes study together. Here a selfie of Lyhorng (right) and Rany (left), who are preparing for their Bachelor's in Economy at the National University of Management. As is custom in Cambodia, besides eating and sleep, even studying is one on the floor. Soon we'll find out who among our graduating Bachelor's students would like to continue on to a Master's degree. We will carefully look at each such case, to see where we believe further sponsoring would be warranted, and will be in talks with the sponsors of these students to see if we can find a solution for a further two years of education support where it makes sense.



The places in the STUDAID program which will be made available by our soon-to-be alumnis will be given to new students. There are currently several motivated and talented students on our waiting list, who have already gone through our qualification and selection process. Thanks to some additional donations received, we have the ability to be a little bit flexible, which enables us to begin sponsoring a student in urgent situations, even if we haven't found a sponsor/mentor for them yet.

## Onsite in Phnom Penh

**Norbert in February:** Norbert travelled to Phnom Penh in February. One of the highlights of his stay was a «The Power of Self-Leadership» seminar he held, in which all students participated. The design of this workshop was to teach the students how crucial one's own attitude is towards reaching goals. Program Manager NHEK Kosal translated questions for clarification of concepts where necessary, as it is still difficult for most of the students to understand everything or be able to express themselves in English.



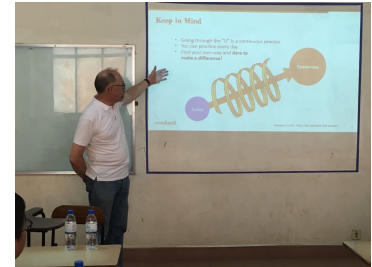
Afterwards the workshop everyone met for a simple dinner, which is almost equally important for the students as the workshop itself. The sense of community among these young people in Cambodia is very strong. They've named the internal STUDAID chat room «STUDAID Family», and often call each other «brother» or «sister».

**Street kitchen for children:** Whenever Chris and Norbert are in Phnom Penh, they visit the street kitchen for children «Le Restaurant des Enfants». Every day over 200 children are fed, washed and safely brought to school. In the evenings, they receive food with which they return to their families, often in the slums.



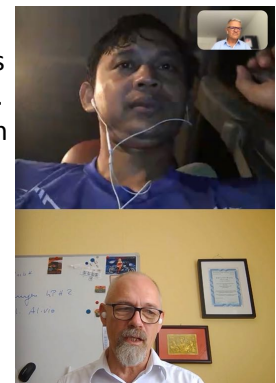
Thanks to a generous Christmas donation from the company **icommit Zürich** in December 2018, Norbert was able to donate 1'200kg of rice to this worthy cause. Dessert that day was «Willisauer-ringli» for everyone.

**Chris in March:** In March and April, Chris spent several weeks in Phnom Penh on a mandate for Swisscontact. In addition to the many meetings with our program manager NHEK Kosal and a personal conversation with each one of the students, he conducted the second seminar for STUDAID and PGH students. This time it was about «Passion at Work» and the important things in the application process - an important topic in order to prepare our students for their professional future in the best possible way. He was supported by Mrs. SUY Sokha, Manager Recruiting and Mr. DOEUK Chamnan of HRInc, who talked about the labor market in Cambodia and taught in Khmer how to write a good CV and how to pass the first application meeting.



## Collaboration with NHEK Kosal

Chris and Norbert have regular video calls with our Program Manager, to discuss all operational issues. In particular, of course, how the achievements and living conditions of students are developing. Kosal is proactively in touch with everyone and oversees the exam results from the university and English courses. He also arranges video calls with sponsors and mentors, where he works as a translator. Even if idiomatical reasons often do not allow in-depth discussions, these conversations are very motivating for the students.



## Sponsor presentation at the Lions Club Oerlikon

**We say thank you!** At a lunch event, Chris and Norbert were invited to explain the STUDAID program to the members of Lions Club Oerlikon. In 2019, this Lions Club is sponsoring our Program Manager and, in addition, our student Chanthy for three years until her Bachelor's degree. Beat Staub (see picture) and his wife Susanne are in contact with Chanthy. **Thank you very much!**

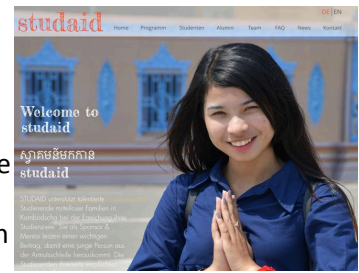


## We are looking for old mobile phones

Electronic equipment is almost as expensive in Cambodia, as in the western world. Our students are dependent on having a cell phone to be reachable and to manage their bank account, which all of them need to open. The background: We want students to pay their tuition fees themselves, e.g. STUDAID usually does not pay for a university or an English school directly. With this, the students learn to deal well with «their» money. We are thankful for used, still fully functional (re-set) cell phones. If someone can give one away, we will gladly forward it to Phnom Penh.

## STUDAID News on the homepage

The next newsletter will be sent out before the end of 2019. Chris will be back in Mission in Phnom Penh in November and will certainly have news to share. In the meantime you can find current news on our homepage under «NEWS»: [www.studaid.org](http://www.studaid.org)



Best regards

The STUDAID Team



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**Wichtig:** Please include a subject with each payment, eg.g. the name of the student.