

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



STUDAID students distribute food from donations to the children of the street children’s kitchen LRDE in the slums

Dear reader

Though we cannot physically travel to Cambodia at the moment, we would still like to take you on a short journey through the STUDAID year 2020 with our annual report, looking back and looking ahead.

Covid-19: challenge and opportunity at the same time

The third year of STUDAID we will not forget anytime soon.

The pandemic presented Cambodia and therefore also our students with special challenges. It's easy to imagine what the economic consequences are for a country that lives mainly from the export of its textile products and from tourism. Thousands of jobs were lost in a country where existence often depends on a daily income. There is no social system of any kind in Cambodia. Fortunately, most Cambodians - thanks in part to their painful

history - are creative, hardworking and mutually supportive, and with this find ways to get through this crisis as well.

Closure of schools and universities, conversion to online lessons - a challenge for teachers and students

In-person classes were suspended in mid-March. Universities and English schools had to switch to online teaching. This was a big change for our students; it took a while to get used to the technology and proved particularly challenging for those students who only had a cell phone. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, it was possible to supply laptops to those who didn't have one yet.

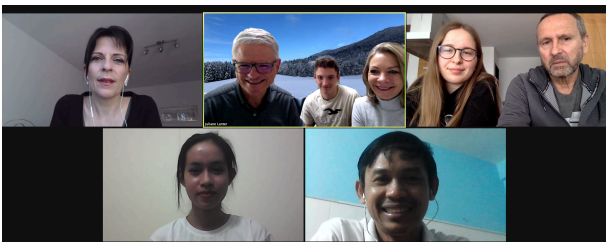
During the lockdown many students returned to the provinces they were from to stay with their families. For them it was often not easy to follow the lessons. This is not only because of the poor internet connection, but also because when it rains, the sound of raindrops hitting

the tin roofs is so loud, it's difficult to hear anything else.

Learning how to use the software - an opportunity

However, the online lessons also offered the opportunity for STUDAID students to get more familiar with online-meeting software, like Zoom and Skype video calls. This also allows sponsors and some members of the core team in Switzerland to be in closer and more frequent contact with them.

Some sponsors, thanks to the video calls, involve the whole family in the support. Like Family P., where financial support comes from the parents, the „relationship maintenance“ is mainly done by the daughter Jara for the student Maryma in Phnom Penh. This enables young people to exchange views on topics that concern them at almost the same age: a win-win situation



Zoom call with sponsors, Maryma, Programm Manager Kosal and Norbert's family

Support within the STUDAID community - an opportunity

A nice example of mutual help is shown in the picture of three university students who give our two high school students additional lessons in math and physics.



Or our alumni student Nisai, who uses his IT skills to procure and set up laptops locally for the active students.

As a result of Corona, some students had to reduce their workload, received less wages or lost their jobs. But there was also an opportunity: The students helped each other look for new jobs, write CVs and prepare for application interviews. The involuntary job change gave some people the impetus to find a job that corresponds to their main subjects in order to gain experience in this area.

Some students try - in parallel to their studies - to work as entrepreneur themselves. We actively encourage our students to do so. Master's student Phally, for example, took the opportunity to open a web shop for second-hand clothes. In addition to her job in marketing, she can also demonstrate her entrepreneurial talent and earn a few extra dollars.



Drop out of studies

Unfortunately, personal and family problems also led to three drop outs in our program. Partly due to the pandemic. Many parents of our students work in the provinces and became, due to the economic effects of the Covid-19, dependent on the support of their children. So they were ordered to return home and break off their studies. We sincerely regret it.

In the meantime, the vacant places could be given to young and ambitious students.

Success in 2020

The STUDAID community is growing

At the end of 2020, the STUDAID program was supporting 22 active students. Five students have completed their bachelor's degree by 2020 (alumni), of which three are studying for masters degree. Including the drop outs a total of 32



Get together with our Bachelor and Master students in Phnom Penh

young people have benefited from the STUDAID program by the End of 2020.

With their donations, the STUDAID sponsors finance university tuitions, English classes as well as allowance for books, laptops on a case-by-case basis and mandatory excursions. On average, each student received benefits equivalent to approximately CHF 1'000 per year.

Seminars with students in Phnom Penh

During the visit of Norbert with his family in February and Chris in March 2020 in Phnom Penh, there were again events held for all students. Old and new STUDAID students got the possibility to know each other better.

A first alumni meeting took place with the students who had already graduated or who we knew would be completing their bachelor's degrees 2020. Possibilities on how alumni can support younger students in the program and Kosal were discussed. One of our main goals is that alumni stay active in the community and contribute to society.

Due to the pandemic situation, we were unable to hold any further seminars.



Programm Manager in Phnom Penh

NHEK Kosal, the local program manager in Phnom Penh, again was very busy. He kept contact with all students to inform them and the Swiss core team about corona news, university and school closings and general study related issues. He also organized video calls with the sponsors, monitored payment receipts and the results of exams.



He went to visited new candidates in their home villages in the province, e.g. to candidate Va, to get to know them in their family

environment and to check the viability for need for support for their studies.

During the lockdown, he conducted the interviews online and instructed students how to dial in via Zoom or Skype.

Kosal's work is very important to us because he knows the local conditions best. Since some students do not speak English very well, he is also a great help for us during the video calls to translate from the national language Khmer to English and vice versa.

He regularly informs the core team in Switzerland about news in Cambodia and Phnom Penh.



Handing over 240 kg of meat to the children of the street children’s kitchen „Les Restaurant Des Enfants“



House of the family of the candidate Va in the province

Les Restaurant Des Enfants (LRDE)

In 2020 STUDAID again supported the street children’s kitchen „Les Restaurant Des Enfants“ in Phnom Penh, which cares for about 300 children from very poor backgrounds, with donations from our sponsors. The main donation was 240 kg of meat over 14 weeks. Norbert was able to hand over the first part of the delivery in February personally. The provision of the meet was done by the STUDAID student Sokkhim.



was delivered and LRDE distributed to the children in slum areas.

Unfortunately, the restaurant had to close its doors in March for six months due to the pandemic. During this times (uncooked) food

It is very important to us that our students help other people in their country and in this way give something back to people in need.



Along with the STUDAID students who work at LRDE, some of our other STUDAID students showed great commitment in helping in two special cases. On May 1, they helped procure and distribute rice, beans, sugar and Khmer cakes (sweet rice in

a banana leaves) and on December 6th - following the Swiss St. Nicholas custom - they handed out beans, sugar and oranges.



STUDAID students with Mr. Chhiv, founder of LRDE

Swiss core team

A major challenge for us is to keep the administration activities as simple as possible, in order to devote as much of our time as possible to looking after the students. For this, the responsibility for

supervision on the part of the Swiss core team has been divided into three mentoring groups. With this Beat, Chris and Norbert can concentrate on about ten students each. Emerging difficulties can be recognized earlier and a good solution can be found in close consultation with the sponsors and Kosal.



At the same time, clear roles and areas of responsibility in the STUDAID team have been assigned, in order to optimize the work. Beat took over some of the finance work from Chris.

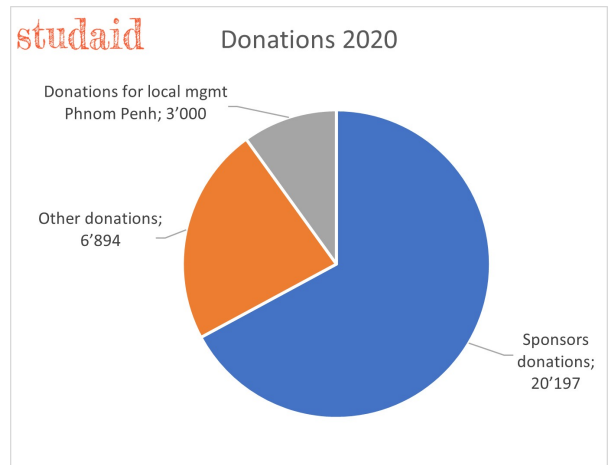
These organizational measures have proven their worth; we are well positioned and looking forward to 2021 with joy. Of course, we very much hope that the epidemiological situation in Cambodia, Switzerland and around the world will improve and that we will be able to travel to Phnom Penh again soon.

For the time being, we will stay in close contact with all students online. Chris for example, holds weekly „English Conversation Sessions“ with Holidia, Samphas and Thida by video call.



Financial Situation

In 2020, the student sponsors donated over CHF 20'000.



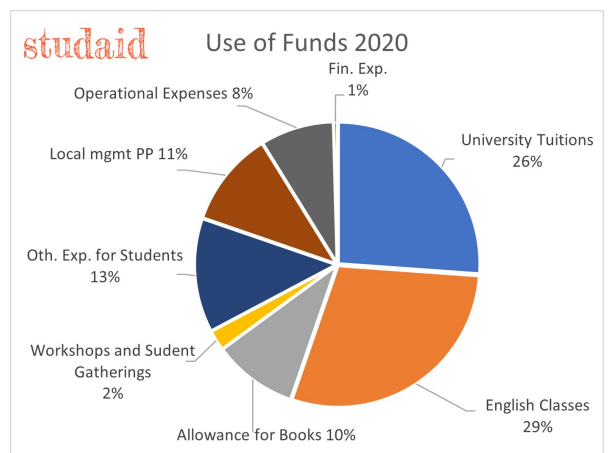
In addition, we received almost CHF 7'000 free donations, which we mainly used for students who didn't have a direct sponsor yet, as well as for food donations for „Les Restaurant Des Enfants“.

The Roman Catholic parish Horgen donated the costs of the local program manager in Phnom Penh in the amount of CHF 3'000 and has already promised to support us in the same way again in 2021.

In total, we received donations of CHF 30'000.

Thanks very much to all the benevolent donors!

91% of the donations (adjusted by the food donations) were used directly for the benefit of the students. 9% were used for administrative material and communication costs.



The work assignments of the Swiss core team members are pro bono.



Due to the travel restrictions, we could only hold one seminar in 2020 and group events without the participation of the Swiss team were also not possible. Instead, we had to spend more money on laptops, to enable all students to participate in online classes. This explains the amount the „other expenses for students“ this year.

Outlook and challenges 2021

Two additional students will join our program beginning early 2021. With them, the number of students who have received or continue to receive support is growing to 34. When STUDAID was founded three years ago, the goal was to have about 20 students in the program at a time. At the beginning of 2021 there will be 29 supported students.

Our goal is and remains to stay in regular contact with all students. This takes a lot of time, but is always associated with a lot of joy. It is impressive to see these young people making progress in English and it is interesting to see how they and their families are doing on the other side of the globe.

We can hardly wait for the borders to open again and for carefree travel to be possible. As soon as traveling to Phnom Penh will be possible, one of our Swiss core team shall be on the plane to meet the students, to exchange ideas and to hold a seminar. The students are also very much looking forward to it! And perhaps some sponsor might consider Cambodia as the next trip too. To get to know this country, its friendly people and of course „their“ student and their families.

We would like to thank all sponsors and donors from the bottom of our hearts for their generous support and charity towards STUDAID. We can confirm that your donations are in full to the benefit of the students. For these young people, the ability to pursue their studies makes an immense difference in their lives.

Please check the news section on our website from time to time www.stuidaid.org. If you have any suggestions or questions, we look forward to hearing from you.

Your STUDAID core team

Beat Waldmeier, Christoph Ramseier,
Juliane Lanter und Norbert Lanter

www.stuidaid.org

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