



## Newsletter December 2020

We have lots of news for you about 2020 and 2021. In addition, you find enclosed the Christmas Letters of the different Don Bosco Children Fund stations in Cambodia.

Do you also think 2020 is such a different and tough year? That was certainly the case for Cambodia. Due to the Corona epidemic, schools closed since April and only in some regions, they are slowly reopening and in others, they closed again in the last days. Many people have lost their income, such as day labourers and workers at garment factories where production has halted. In addition, the country experienced severe flooding from two broken dams in Laos. As a result, the poorest of the population in particular have suffered most of all. Our local partners Spie-en and Don Bosco have therefore given more food aid than in other years. Fortunately, even in this difficult time, our foundation was able to fund the construction of several projects through the local Don Bosco and Spie-en organizations. Like in other years, Foundation Wilde Ganzen co-financed all the projects.



### Education and erecting or repairing school buildings

This year, a beautiful new village school with six classrooms, toilets, library, school furniture, water filters and a playground was funded by SSCR and the building process was overseen by Spie-en.



Do you know that we are also active with sustainability? This year we installed solar panels on a Don Bosco school in Cambodia for the third time and this year it was in Poipet. With this Solar system, the school saves considerably on the cost of electricity and there is less emissions of harmful CO2 in the production of electricity.

The renovation of the sanitary facilities in the Don Bosco schools in Salabalath and Andaung Cheng has been funded by the Sawasdee foundation, partly with our contribution. The work is expected to be completed in spring 2021.

Because the poorest of the population is particularly effected by the epidemic and flooding, we have helped foundation "Rise against hunger" financially with the provision of (school) meals and foundation "Room to Read" with teaching materials for schools and libraries.

#### Our plans for 2021

- Construction of two school buildings of six classrooms with toilets, playground and furniture. Spie-en will organize this project.
- Installation of solar panels at two Don Bosco schools in Battambang.
- Construction of four retail buildings on the Don Bosco School premises in Sihanoukville. In this way, the school can generate monthly income and is able to pay the running costs.

We requested for these projects co-financing from the Wilde Ganzen Foundation; we expect their decision before the end of this year.

Would you like to contribute to a young person's education in 2021? The yearly contribution for a student up to the 12th grade is unchanged at €180 (€15 per month). The contribution for student for a two-year vocational training is €300 per year (€25 per month) for external residence and €500 (€42per month) for internal residence. The Don Bosco schools offer technical vocational training and, for example, computer science, secretariat and management. There is also a hotel school and an agricultural education. So far, all graduates found a well-paid job that allows them to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.



## **Construction of water projects**

In 2020, as in recent years, we achieved great progress in rural places with 'water projects'. For example, we arranged funding for the digging of wells from which clean drinking water comes and for divers under roads, so that there is a safe connection with other villages and schools during the rainy period.

A new irrigation canal and a new dam works wonders: farmers can now harvest rice several times a year, villagers and students can travel safely between communities and schools. This significantly improves the income situation of the farmers. In addition, farmers were given information on the "how and why" of maintaining canals and dams. For these projects, the population made their own contribution of 20% to 25% of the costs.



### Our plans for 2021

- creating a village pond to make it easier to find ground water for digging wells.
- building a bridge to reduce the distance to the market and school from 17 km to 6 km.
- deepening a canal and - with the upcoming ground - widening the dangerously narrow road on the dike.
- digging a new canal to improve irrigation in the fields so that farmers can harvest rice more often.

The population is increasingly going to pay for these works themselves, by 2021 some 25% to 30%, through increased local fundraising activities.

### Change the Game courses

What is the future of development cooperation? Cambodians should be able in the future to finance necessary projects without Western aid. To achieve this goal the Dutch foundation Wilde Ganzen organizes in Cambodia courses to train the local NGO's in how to get local funding for their projects and how to organize their organizations and structure their projects. Several members of our partners Don Bosco and Spie-en have followed such training courses with good first positive results. In these courses they learn to acquire the

money for projects in their own country and to take more own responsibility for their future. This change of strategy will not happen overnight but will take a longer time. We see the first good results of local fundraising and internal reorganisations already: companies donate money and materials for projects, sponsor students and give graduates of Don Bosco schools a well-paid job and even former students donate to projects of their former school. The NGO Spie-en is also busy with rejuvenation of their organization and discussing a different approach to help local communities to take more and more own responsibility.

### **Thank you very much!**

In 2020, many of you have supported us again, with your incentive, your donations and co-financing our projects. For schoolchildren and students, your support means a lot. A good education will offer them a chance for better living conditions in the future. A chance for them and their families to escape the circle of poverty! On their behalf, we would like to thank you very much for your encouragement, contribution and for your confidence in the projects of our foundation.

We wish you and your family



The team of SSCR: Theo Ostermann, Marie-Claire Erens, Rolf Renzow, Kyra van Breukelen, Bart van Merrienboer and Gerard Klyne.

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