

# WE ARE SMILING GECKO

An overview of our engagement



Smiling Gecko®  
bridging needs



More than 20 years after the end of the brutal civil wars, Cambodia still belongs to one of the most backward countries in Asia. Large parts of the rural population live in extreme and all-consuming poverty. Smiling Gecko is on the side of these people, with a sustainable, holistic approach that focuses on imparting knowledge to children and adults. Because education is the only way out of the darkness in rural Cambodia.



# 150 HECTARES OF FUTURE

Smiling Gecko Campus



# THE HEART OF THE PROJECT

## School and Kindergarten

The bilingual school and kindergarten, which started its operations in 2017, form the heart of the Smiling Gecko Campus. Taught by well-trained local and international teachers, both in Khmer and English from the very beginning, this special feature gives our children real opportunities for a self-determined future and a certain degree of prosperity, even in rural Cambodia.



In a region as poor as the province of Kampong Chhnang, we fulfil other important functions with the school in addition to our teaching mission. We provide food for the children and take care of their hygienic needs. Daily showers are just as much a part of everyday school life as regular deworming or visits to the dentist. The dentist treatment room is directly on the campus, thanks to donations from University of Zurich.

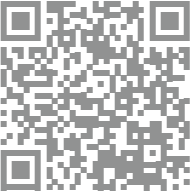


### House of Culture and Music

Designed together with the renowned "Atelier oi", this centre of cultural exchange will help the locals overcome decades of speechlessness. This came about after the cultural genocide by the Khmer Rouge and could not be overcome until now.



Scan/take a picture of the QR code and go directly to the relevant area on [smilinggecko.ch](http://smilinggecko.ch).



# THE HOLIDAY PARADISE

## Farmhouse Resort & Spa

Holiday in a paradise setting and at the same time doing something meaningful for the development of Cambodia: it's not a contradiction, rather our philosophy at the Farmhouse Resort, which is currently our most important source of income, as well as our largest training enterprise.



### Resort

Nestled within the Smiling Gecko Campus, the hotel is a place of heavenly peace and relaxation. The resort has 34 rooms and suites with a total of 17 bungalows, mostly built in classic Khmer style. All are air-conditioned and generously equipped with private terraces.



### Sanctuary Spa

With a total of 8 treatment rooms, our Spa is a real oasis in the middle of a wonderful tropical garden where we grow rare indigenous plants, amongst other things.



### Restaurant UN

In addition to the Farmhouse Restaurant, where breakfast is also served, the resort has one of the best restaurants in Cambodia with the "UN" and the "Chef's Table" of the star chef Mariya Un Noun, who was trained by us.

### Campus Kitchen

We produce around 200,000 meals a year in our campus kitchen for our employees, but above all, for our school and kindergarten children, whom we feed in the mornings and at lunchtimes during the week. For them, these are usually the only meals for the day.



Learn more

# THE MODEL FARMS

## Agriculture and Stockbreeding

At the Smiling Gecko Campus, we run a multi-faceted agricultural operation in which we apply new knowledge on sustainable cultivation practices and effectively use agricultural climate information. The plant and animal products produced here are of excellent quality and form the basis for the nutrition of our school children, amongst other things.



### Fruit and vegetable cultivation

Long beans, bitter melons, mangoes and more than 30 other fruit and vegetable varieties grow in our fields and greenhouses.



### Chicken Farming

Chicken farming has always been practised in rural Cambodia. We support the local families by breeding young chickens, which we can offer them at low cost for further fattening.

### Cattle fattening

We fatten Cambodian cattle for our own consumption and for sale at regional markets.



### Fish Farming

Fish is a key element of the local diet. That is why we have taken up fish farming and fattening and now produce around 75 tonnes of ready-to-eat fish, in addition to fingerlings for farming.



### Experimental agriculture

Whether it's cultivating TCM botanicals, our vanilla farm or experimenting with more climate-resilient plants, we gather the knowhow for tomorrow's yields on our campus.



Learn more

# THE MANUFACTURING SITES

## Handicraft and Production

The manufacturing facilities on the Smiling Gecko Campus produce a variety of handcrafted products and nationally marketable goods. At the same time, these businesses are a cornerstone in the professional education and vocational training of young adults. An aspect that is particularly important in rural Cambodia, as there are few classic training sites and many people learn their craft in a very rudimentary way.



### Bakery and Butchery

Crispy baguettes and croissants, chicken sausages or juicy pork chops: in the bakery and the butchery, we produce what enriches the menu on the Smiling Gecko Campus and in the Farmhouse Resort every day.



Learn more



### Carpentry

A real flagship is our carpentry workshop, where we produce, amongst other things, practically all the furniture that is used at the Farmhouse Resort. In addition, we have a small production facility for handcrafted wood products and are currently in preparation to enable us to make entire house extensions.



### Tailoring

In the garment factories of Cambodia, textile worn by the rest of the world is produced under inhumane conditions. We take a different approach: our working conditions are fair and so are the wages that the tailors earn for their work.



### Metal workshop (opening Q1 2024)

The planned introduction of a metal workshop on campus will provide training opportunities for young people and subsequently facilitate their integration into the Cambodian labor market. Especially when they – like practically all our employees – are managed by experienced, international professionals.

# STILL ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL

## Immediate Humanitarian Aid

The increasingly frequent crop failures due to climate change are leading to precarious, life-threatening situations in rural Cambodia for which there are no adequate government solutions.



### No Alternative to our Engagement

Distributing aid packages around the Smiling Gecko Campus and in the slums of Phnom Penh is a financial feat that is difficult to manage. But there is no alternative. For many families, these food rations are essential for survival.

Since 2015, we have repeatedly provided emergency aid to families in need. We provide them with food from our farm, fresh drinking water from our wells, donated rice, sanitary products and medicine.



[Learn more](#)



# SUPPORT US!

We are delighted for your support today through your donation or bequest, helping the people of Cambodia to help themselves tomorrow.



**Smiling Gecko**

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