

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF CAMBODIA

The Smiling Gecko Sponsorships and Scholarships



Smiling Gecko®
bridging needs



GOOD EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE BAD EDUCATION IS POINTLESS

With an annual requirement of almost two million Swiss francs, our school has by far the largest financial requirement of all Smiling Gecko projects. But it's also our most important project. Only with a sound education can children in rural Cambodia have the prerequisites for a job that can really lead them and their families out of poverty. They also stand a real chance when national and international university scholarships are awarded. This is exactly our goal.

We expressly do not want to turn potential factory workers and farmers into school-leaving factory workers and farmers, but instead to present new opportunities to our school leavers as the next doctors, lawyers and hotel managers in the country. That's not elitist, it's fair.

Support us in this. Because just as the parents of our school children depend on us, we need the financial help of godparents and sponsors.

Thank you very much!





ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The school is the centrepiece of the Smiling Gecko Campus, which we operate around 60 kilometers north of Phnom Penh. Opened in 2017 as the “SGC HISF Education Campus” for 140 children, we are already teaching more than 500 children in August 2023. Our goal is to take an 50 additional children every year until we have reached the maximum size of 1,000 children. The children come from the surrounding villages. They are all poor and most come from families where the parents are illiterate. The selection process for our children is carried out with great care. Before admission, parents are interviewed and prospective students are assessed through a series of cognitive abilities tests. Day-long visits to families are also part of the process. We have decided to only accept one child per family. In this way, as many families as possible can benefit from the school.

THE SIX CORE ELEMENTS OF OUR SCHOOL

English from Nursery

Because the level of the local teachers is often insufficient, we employ foreign, native level English teaching staff in addition to local teachers for each grade level. Of course, this primarily teaches the children, but simultaneously provides further training of the Cambodian teaching staff. A win-win situation.

Hygiene and Health

Our children live in poor conditions. Very few families have running water, let alone proper sanitary facilities. With us, they brush their teeth daily, are regularly de-loused and periodically de-wormed. All are important parts of our hygiene program.

Nutrition Program

The universally prevalent malnutrition is one of the greatest obstacles to the age-appropriate physical and mental development of our school children. We have therefore built a large campus kitchen where we serve all children a balanced meal in the morning and at lunchtime. For many of the children this is the only meal of the day.

First Aid and Medical Support

It happens again and again that children have accidents on the streets in the area or are injured at home. We can treat them in our infirmary or call our partner organizations for the most severe cases including surgeries. We have two dental chairs that are used for regular examinations, dental hygiene and repairs including fillings. All is made possible through regular visits by qualified volunteer dentists from Cambodia and abroad.

Physical Education

While there is hardly any school sport in the rest of Cambodia, we value sufficient exercise for our children. Running training and numerous ball sports are therefore part of the curriculum.

The Arts

Music and arts play an important role in the intellectual development of children. Therefore both music and arts are a vital part of our education. Our children will learn to play instruments, learn to dance and act but also have the chance to develop skills in painting, pottery and much more.

OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

Our school system includes grades 1 to 12 as well as an additional pre-school and kindergarten. With a relatively long pre-school and elementary school phase and a three-year secondary and high school. If a child is with us from pre-school, it will receive a total of 15 years of education. The perfect tool for a self-determined life in Cambodia, where today - and especially in the future education is the only way out of poverty.

Age		Grades
17	HIGHSCHOOL	12
16		11
15		10
14	SECONDARY SCHOOL	9
13		8
12		7
11	PRIMARY SCHOOL	6
10		5
9		4
8		3
7		2
6		1
5	KINDERGARTEN	K
4	NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL	PS
3		N



OUR FUNDING MODELS

School sponsorship

360 USD per year



The future of the children in Cambodia is important to you and you would like to make an important contribution to the school and physical development of some of the poorest children with your support: Then you have the perfect opportunity with a Smiling Gecko school sponsorship. With the equivalent of USD 30 a month, you make a very worthwhile contribution to the financing of our school and our kindergarten.

As a thank you for your commitment, you will receive a personal update on the latest developments at the school twice a year. You are always up to date and can see with your own eyes where your donations are going.

Individual scholarship of a child

3'900 USD per year

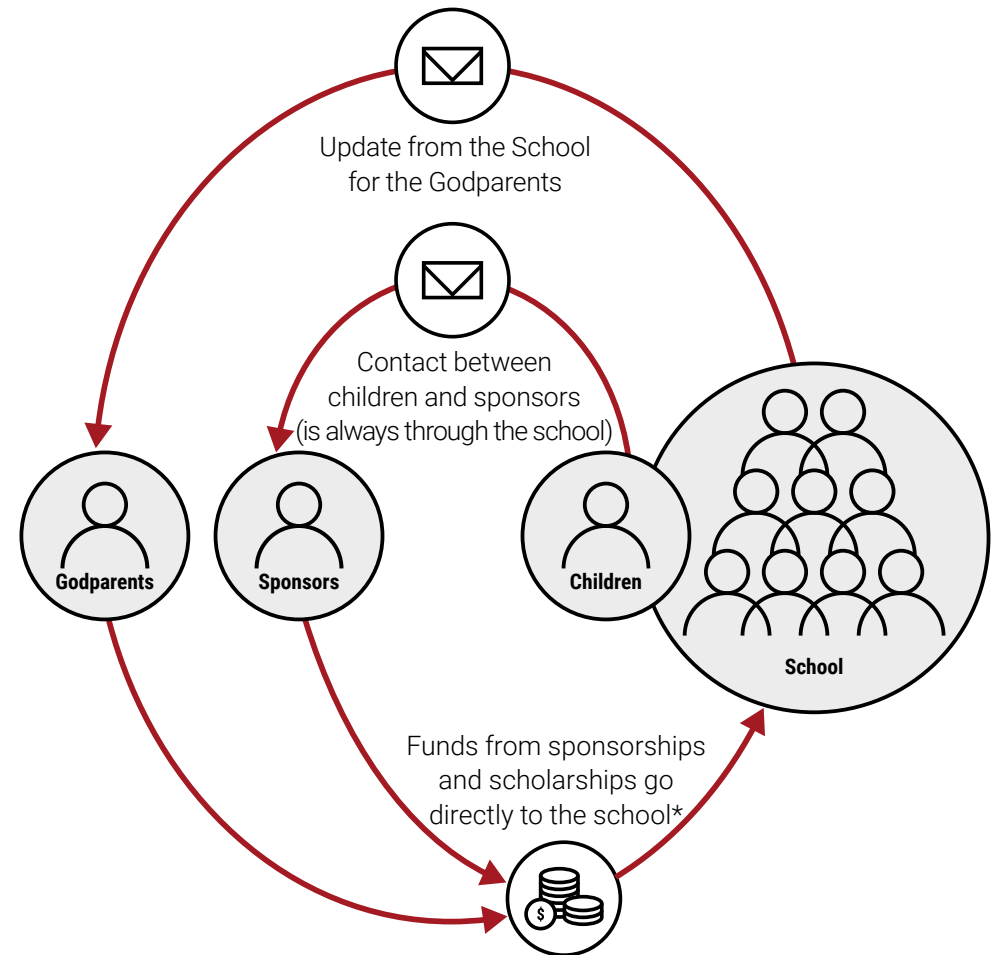


If you would like to follow the academic progress of an individual child and gradually build a bond with this child and the wonderful people of Cambodia: Then you have the great opportunity to completely finance the holistic education and care of one of our school children by sponsoring a scholarship.

As a scholarship sponsor, you will receive the school report of the child you support every semester. On these occasions you will also receive a short personal letter and/or a drawing by the child. And of course, you will also get updates from the school in general.



DONATIONS BENEFIT THE WHOLE SCHOOL



* To avoid inequality between personally sponsored and non-personally sponsored children and families, especially in the case of scholarships.

THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

We select up to five children from different age groups for you. Based on this selection, you can decide which of these children you would like to support. A simple e-mail to us is sufficient for this. You will then receive a confirmation from the school management as well as a first personal greeting from the selected child in writing and/or a small work of art.





IF YOU WANT TO VISIT US IN CAMBODIA

A trip to Cambodia is impressive and something you will remember for a very long time. If you would like to visit us, we would be very happy to welcome you. At the same time, we would like to ask for your understanding that, in order to protect our children, their families and the village community, it is not possible to contact sponsored school children or their families independently or to meet the families in their private surroundings. A visit to our morning flag ritual at school, to which we cordially invite you by prior arrangement, is expressly excluded from this rule. We also make it possible for sponsors of an individual scholarship to have breakfast or lunch together with the sponsored child and a member of the teaching staff in the school canteen. This meeting is organized by the school management or employees of Smiling Gecko Cambodia.

THE FINE PRINT

Term of Support

The personal scholarships and the general support for the school each run for 12 months and are automatically renewed if the commitment is not canceled in writing one month before the extension date. The termination can be informal. A donation receipt is automatically issued and sent to supporters in Switzerland. Sponsors from other countries please check with their tax authorities whether the sponsorship is recognized as a donation. A corresponding certificate will be issued by Smiling Gecko Cambodia. Should an individually supported child drop out of school early, Smiling Gecko Cambodia will attempt to nominate a child of the same gender and age as a substitute.

Communication with the child

Protecting the privacy of our children and their families is our top priority. Therefore, direct contact between sponsors and our school children is unfortunately not possible at any time. The same applies to the publication of pictures of the children on social media by you. If you receive correspondence from a child you have sponsored, we ask that you do not reply to it, for reasons of fairness within the school, we will not forward this mail to the children. The children are aware of this and understand that they will not receive an answer to their letters.

If you want to give a gift

Here, too, it is about justice and inner-school peace: If you would like to give a gift to the child you are supporting, you can contact the school management at any time. They will be happy to tell you what items are currently needed for the school. In this way, the gifts benefit the community and we avoid inequality between sponsored and non-sponsored children.



FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US

If you have decided to support the education of our school or would even like to take on an individual sponsorship for a child, please contact the Smiling Gecko office in Switzerland. They are happy to initiate the next steps for you and are always there for you to answer any questions about the program and the payment process.

Your contact person:

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