

It has been almost two months since our last visit to Cambodia. We were able to see for ourselves that things are still going very well at the Khemara Kidshelp School. The Graduation Day with the students, teachers and visitors was once again a great success.

However, what is closest to our hearts this year is the construction of the new English school in Roka Kaong, which will be named Kidshelp English School (KES).

The ground-breaking ceremony took place on 13 September 2024. Every construction project in Cambodia only begins after this official event, which is led by monks who pray for the success of the construction. Other participants included Hun Tharith, the future head of the school, and his family, Prayag Chitrakar, Country Manager of DHL Express Cambodia, and some of his employees, Steve Wells, DHL Express Singapore, the head and employees of the construction companies carrying out the work.





After this official start, the construction work began. We are pleased to announce that the work has progressed according to the agreed plan from the very beginning. In order to be able to monitor the construction progress from a distance and for safety reasons, a camera was installed that our Kidshelp Cambodia England project manager Patrick Byron in England and Hun Tharith in Cambodia could access.

The milestones agreed in the contract have been met to date, and some sections have been completed faster. For example, the construction is expected to be completed before Khmer New Year, which this year will be celebrated from 14 to 16 April, instead of at the end of May. For this reason, the construction company has assigned more workers than originally planned.

During our stay in Cambodia, we were able to see the progress for ourselves. In the original planning, we removed from scope the landscaping, drainage, and rainwater gutters as we believed it was not critical for the initial construction contract and could better be designed once construction was completed and earth levels were understood. It turned out that for the type of school construction, it is recommended to cast large concrete gutters as part of the infrastructure. We also identified a different contractor where we could be more flexible, find a more environmental friendly solution and lower cost for drainage and landscaping.

There were small detailed design changes, example replacing the standard Cambodian PVC toilet doors with wooden doors, more suitable lighting in stairwells and walkways, rainwater drainage holes for walkways. Most small variations were negotiated with no or minimal costs. Agreed cost variations will amount to less than 0.75% of the original contract.

The Program Board now recommends the following outdoor works should be completed before we invite children to register at Kidshelp English School starting from July 2025, especially as the rain season starts from May:

1. paving work designed to allow maximum water absorption but solid for children access and cycle parking
- the estimated costs for this amount to \$6,650
2. drainage work - excess rain water from site taken to nearby natural stream and not flooding neighbours farm land
- the estimated costs for this are \$5,160
3. rainwater drainage pipes
- the estimated costs for this are \$720
4. gardening - to create green area in front of school building
- the estimated costs for this are \$280

The work on the outdoor area will need to start after Khmer New Year to be able to complete before the heavy rain season. Since we still lack the funds for this, we appreciate every donation.

Thank you very much. If you have any questions about our new Kidshelp English School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Your team in Cambodia, England and Germany

The new English school – nearly finished:



