

Project comments for the year 2008

Water filters

Throughout 2007 we distributed more than 350 bio sand water filters and conducted basic info/training on each location. One water filter has the capacity of providing clean drinking and cleaning water for up to 20 people per day (our water filters work optimal filtering up to 60 litres per day, leaving the bio sand layer in tact). - To assume that 20 people actually benefit from every filter would be very optimistic. Some filters are placed near water holes and common wells, whilst others (most) are placed on private property, covering one or more families (6-30 people). – All 350 filter units were distributed and given without any cost for the receivers (This may not be the best way of distributing).

Approximately 4.500 people have been given access to clean drinking water.

2008 has been somewhat quiet with regards to Water Filters. Only a few new filters have been distributed, while a lot of time has gone by to assess the currently distributed filters and also importantly, waiting for test results from water samples. We are currently undergoing an evaluation of the existing distribution strategy to find improvements that can raise awareness among the intended users as well as finding a long term solution for monitoring and for maintenance. We expect some costs will be associated with a solution to these issues.

One new employee is undergoing training and will work part time with the project. Local villagers will be hired to help out when needed.

With new and existing sponsors onboard we have the economic ability to train, repair and maintain existing filters, as well as to distribute new filters in areas of need throughout 2009.

Love cards

We have seen a nice growth in volume and revenue in 2008, especially towards the end of the year and are enthusiastic about the outlook for 2009. We now have more than 35 sales locations, including 3 in Japan and 1 in Norway.

We have also expanded the range of products to include Reprints and Flower/Gift Cards.

In 2009 we will focus on finding new customers for the Love Cards products, both locally in Cambodia and abroad, as well as increasing the amount of art classes held (currently 4 per week).

In addition to fund classes, the project financed partial refurbishment of Tatouk Primary school, funding about 40% of a new school roof there.

The White Bicycles

We have increased the number of partners by 5 and revenue is continuing to grow. We also see a growing interest for the project as more people learn about it.

An increase of revenue of up to 50% seems realistic for 2009.

Volunteers

We have somewhat changed approach towards volunteers, now focusing on long term commitments, to ensure quality and to reduce the amount of administrative work involved with volunteers. In 2009 we have two new volunteers joining us, which should be sufficient for the expected work load.

SSP Student Sponsorship Program

The sponsor program continues to work well. However, in order to give more youth/students a chance to participate, more sponsors are needed.

As a development of this program, we are considering alternatives such as giving interest bearing student loans, with possible partial or full scholarship conversion upon completion of courses/degrees. – One option will then be to set it up as a Micro Finance Institution.

New Projects in 2009

No new projects are planned for 2009.

Be Safe – Be Seen. Promote the use of reflectors and safe conduct in the traffic. The project is still in trial stage and we will consider if we will continue with this project later in 2009. - **Handicap International** is doing great work with traffic safety in Cambodia. - Recently, a law on use of helmets was implemented in Cambodia.

Local NGO Status – Register as a NGO in Cambodia and receive a MOU. We are now working on registering NEDO as an International Organisation, rather than local. This requires a lot of paper work, patience and diplomacy (or money), but hopefully I can happen sometime during 2009. It is not of necessity, but it does give the organisation some advantages and leverage that can be useful in the future.

We are looking forward to the year of 2009.