



YOUR LIFE IS MY
LIFE, YOUR SMILE IS
MY HOPE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

OUR KIDS KEEPS
GROWING THANK
TO YOU.



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Kenneth Zhang
Chair person of Green Umbrella

The year of 2020 has been a horrendous year for many which is a year that brought many huge challenges. A global pandemic that brought a lot of misery for many globally and unfortunately almost everyone could not have mitigated it. This is also the time when, contradicting human instinct for survival, we need to be kinder and offer more help, not less, to others who are less fortunate than us. The first instinct for any human being is to conserve resources so our own family can weather through this storm. To go against this basic instinct is hard, and to offer a lot more help to others while depleting our own resources in times of difficulty must be encouraged and applauded. This is because you help others who suffer immensely now, rather than help others when times are good.

If one offers a precious glass of water during the drought to the neighbour, this will allow the neighbour to survive another day. What good is the glass of water during the time of abundance? Help is of paramount in times of need. In time of the darkest hour. And this is indeed a dark time for many.

We in the GU has been to an extent impacted by the pandemic. The disruptions to the education of the children are there, but the impact will not be visible for many years to come. Fortunately, GU has adapted and moved the classes to online at the same time trying to do actual on-site classes with the government restrictions. We do have constant worries as well as to our funding because charities worldwide have recorded a huge fall in donations. There have been pleas from the government of the richer countries to help, and to a certain extent, governments can help. We do not, unfortunately reside in a rich country and hence we need to keep relying on the generosity of others to keep our school running.

In this try time, we must keep our optimism and hold on to our hopes and belief that we will overcome adversity. As such I would appeal to those who can, and are able to help, to extend their helping hand to help those who are less fortunate than ours. Act of kindness defines us as a human, and someone reminded me that giving a helping hand does not only meet the recipient's needs for a period, but it also gave the recipient hope, and warmth. It tells them, that someone else in this world cares, and that they have not been forgotten during the crisis. This motivates them to go on.

With that I like to end with this statement. All bad weathers, that too, shall come to pass.

Dr Kenneth Zhang



Ven. Sokrath Hour

Founder and Executive Director of Green Umbrella

Dear Donors and Friends of GU,

Despite these unusual times, all of us at Green Umbrella hope you and your family are enjoying a peaceful start to 2021.

2020 was a tough year globally. Here at GU we continued to support our community as best as we could, within the government restrictions imposed to control the virus in Cambodia.

During this time we reviewed our GU strategy so that we can best serve the 2,752 families within our community. We want to widen our reach so that we have a greater impact on improving the quality of life for more children and youths.

Part of this strategy is that we will transfer KKS Primary School to Early Childhood Education (ECE). This supports the government's objectives to improve the literacy of all primary school children, so that national dropout rates from school are reduced. Further details on why ECE is so important globally, and within Cambodia, are in the following reports.

The GU ECE program will be a model of early learning, working alongside parents, community members and other schools in the Putsor area.

GU will also expand its successful Youth Programs over the next few years. We will provide supplementary programs to the education system so that our youths are empowered to make the right choices for their future studies and employment. Again, additional details can be found in the 2020 Annual Report attached.

We thank you for your contributed support to GU on our new projects. To assist with our funding for 2021, I would greatly appreciate it if you can advise of your planned donations this coming year.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss GU plans and funding with you in more details. Please let me know of a time that suits over the coming weeks.

Your sincerely,
Ven. Sokrath Hour

Green Umbrella was officially found on 20 December 2012, and has been registered as a Local Non-Governmental Organization (LNGO) at The Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Cambodia.



[This photo is taken in 8 September 2013]

Venerable Sokrath Hour arrived in Putsor Commune, Bati District of Takeo Province in 2007 to teach monks in Chambok Betmeas Monastery. He found a community in desperate need. The young children, teenagers and adults were all struggling with day to day basic living. There was little opportunity for children and teenagers to study. Many children did not attend school and many adults were uneducated; they had no vocational skills in order to gain worthwhile employment. Many families didn't have their own land and were living under the poverty level. They could see little hope for their children's future.

Upon seeing these situations, Ven. Sokrath Hour was inspired to found an NGO (Green Umbrella) which would create some hope for the future of children and young people who were living in the community.

To start up the NGO, there was difficulty in

finding human resources in the community who would work with him. Another challenge was that there was no electricity or clean water in the community. Venerable Sokrath Hour spent two years training teachers and high school students on English, computer and other skills. He built trust and skills within the community. These trained adults became the volunteers who then supported his project work in the community.

Venerable Sokrath Hour further developed other projects, such as KKS Primary School, GU English Language School, and Youth Programs. He works closely with the community on funding buildings for a new Medical Centre, health and nutrition projects through the Cambodia Children's Nutrition Aid and sustainability projects. GU continues to evolve as the needs of the local community change, working closely with over 2752 families offering them hope for a better sustainable future.

IV. 2020 Green Umbrella Projects

Karuna Kumar School (KKS)

To provide full scholarships for vulnerable children from kindergarten through primary school, providing study materials, school uniforms, nutrition and healthcare.

Karuna Kumar School was closed for most of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Initially, this was having a negative effect on some students. Some have forgotten what they learned, their academic abilities were reduced and some students have less communication with the school. Unfortunately, a few students don't wish to return due to the long absence.

Green Umbrella set up Distance Learning (Online class) and Take-Home Lesson to address this challenging time of Covid-19. We want to create new opportunities for students to improve their technology skills while they continue with their academic studies.

This way of learning was new to GU and the students, bringing both a positive outcome while having its challenges. On a positive note;

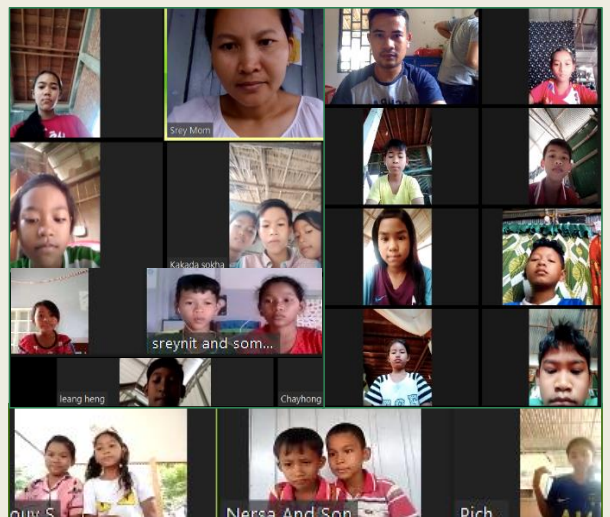
- The students gained experience of online learning. They become more confident with technology while increasing their knowledge on various subjects.
- They become more confident in communicating with teachers when using technology, and when picking up workbooks from school.
- Independent and slower learners completed their worksheets better than previously. This may be due to more parents getting involved with the school to follow up on their children's studies. Parents contacted the teachers directly (by phone or in person) to ask about their children's learning, We view this as a very positive step within the community.

Some of the challenges we observed at GU with distance learning were;

- Some students don't have smartphones or don't know how to use the technology (e.g. Zoom), and therefore they could not keep up with their school work.
- Some younger students were shy and not comfortable with lessons via zoom and therefore fell behind.
- Not all parents understood how to support their children with distance learning. For these reasons, they faced with other new challenges during the pandemic 2020.



[The parents and students get involved in distance learning]



[KKS's students on online learning]



[The progress of installing the water tank]

There are 11 villages in the Putsor Commune which have 2,752 families, and population is 13,133. Every year, the community challenges with the lack of water to use. Especially, in the dry season from October to April (Early May), the majority part of the commune is no water in the ground. Villagers used to drill the ground to find water, but only four of 11 villages that are lucky to have enough water. Although, there is a private company that supply the clean water from another province, it is still not enough to use in every family. Villagers have to save water from the company only for cooking and drinking.

Some months, we do not have water to use in the school for one or two weeks. We need to buy water from our neighbor. Because seeing this need, in May 2020, GU receives a generous donation 20,000 USD from the Ribeiro family and Rhone Trustees to build new buildings and to enhance facilities in GU's school. Then we are approved by our donors to solve the problem.

In April 2020, Green Umbrella tried to drill a water well (40 meters deep) into the ground on our land, and we got water for only 2000 cubic meters. Then we found a new solution to install the water tank which shares water connecting pipes from one of our neighbors who is 220 meters away from the school to be stored in. This water is used for drinking and supplying in the kitchen of the school and benefits to students and staff at Green Umbrella. The water tank costs 1,495 USD.



[This is a picture of 5,000 liters' water tank on stand]



[The activities of students in practical learning]

To provide English lessons to primary, secondary and high school levels who are regularly attending English part-time classes in the evening.

Due to Covid-19, GU English School closed for the whole year of 2020. We only provide the training to our part-time teachers and youths on class management, lesson plans, teaching techniques and ICT learning. In connection with the training, Green Umbrella English School conducts “ share your life with others”. The full-time and former Part-Time teachers were invited to share their experiences, knowledge and techniques of teaching to new teachers and youths.

However, with our experience in distance learning, we hope to explore alternative options during 2021 and beyond.



[The activity of students attended teaching training]



[The activity of part-time teachers presented their assignments]



[Youths presented the pilot projects to local authorities and relevant stakeholders]



[The activity of Tuk Chit Youth club in the Library]

To develop the potential of young people as key motivators and leaders in the community today and in the future, GU has developed knowledge, skills, physical & emotional and social participation through hands-on activities and practical application of these needed skills.

Due to COVID-19, our youth teams finished their projects in July 2020. These projects included the waste recycling project, illiteracy, Zero waste and mobile library.

Green Umbrella organized a total of 12 meetings with a participation level of 103 youths from January through September 2020. These were invaluable in providing the community with necessary skills that they will need to build new projects and improve over time.

In February 2020, Green Umbrella began supporting Tuk Chit Youth Club's program in setting up a youth library at their centre in Phnom Penh. This library is used as a meeting room, for training and research. This Youth Club accommodates 8 girls and 5 boys who do not have the ability to find and pay for a home stay in Phnom Penh.

The club also motivates female students to continue their education at the university and build their independence.

In September 2020, the youth teams presented pilot projects to 61 participants including the District Education Officer, Local Governors, School Principals, Police Officer and Chief of Villages. This presentation aims to share the results of project implementation, to find support and get more involvement from the stakeholders to our youths.



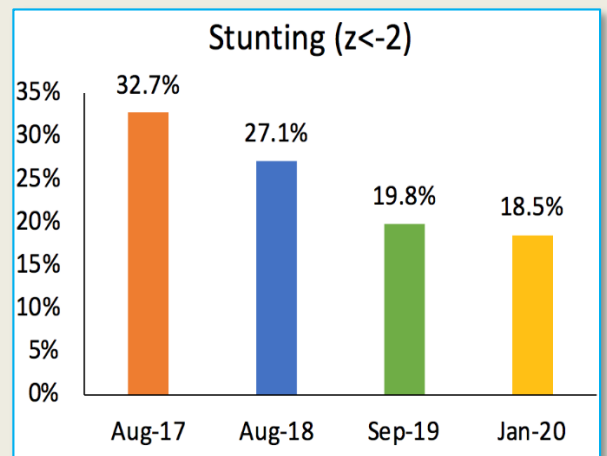
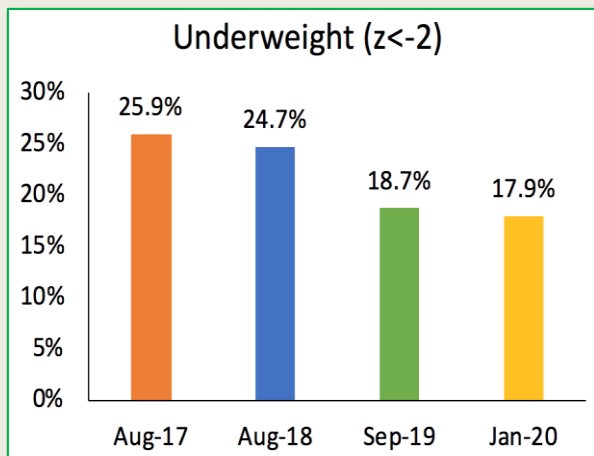
[The activity of youths at Tuk Chet meeting before set up library]



To reduce the rate of malnutrition among children under the age of five, to reduce child stunting which is one of the biggest barriers to child development and to educate parents on providing proper nutrition, clean water and hygiene. This project is sponsored by Asanga International Aid Organization, Taiwan.

The CCNA implemented in Putsor Commune from 2016 to 2020 with 400 kids under five years old children.

❖ **Outcome of improvement undernutrition: August 2017 to January 2020:**



In 2017, CCNA assessment found that 25.9% and 32.7% of children under 5 years old struggled with underweight and stunting, both of these data were classified as high severity malnutrition according to WHO standard. After the intervention of CCNA project, the rate of underweight has

decreased from 25.9% to 17.9%, and the rate of stunting has decreased from 32.7% to 18.5% over the 4 years. Based on data in August 2017 compared to January 2020, the improvement rate of underweight 31% and stunting 43%.



[The living condition of children in Putsor Commune, photos taken in 2013]

As Cambodia has become more developed in recent years, fewer families suffer from extreme poverty. KKS was set up to serve the poorest families in the Putsor community. Most of these families can now afford to send their children to their local public primary school.

It has become clear that KKS leavers are challenged in transitioning to public middle school. Class sizes increase from 15-20 to 40-50, the focus is very much on academic learning and subjects are limited.

For these reasons, GU feels it can better contribute to the wider community by ceasing KKS and focusing on other educational needs.

It is better that all children in the Putsor join their local public primary school at G1 (age 6) and face equal challenges and opportunities. GU understands that there are concerns with learning standards in primary school, and this is where GU can have a greater impact.



[A group photo of KKS students taken in 2015]



[There are thirteen students in the picture that went up to Secondary School]

National Key Issues:

“At the primary levels, nearly 25 percent of children in Grade 3 cannot write a single word in a dictation test. Only 27 percent of 3-5 year olds are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy. By the time they are 17 years old, 55 percent of adolescents will have dropped out of school” ([Unicef](#)).

In its national report of 2003, the Cambodian government stressed its commitment to health, social and emotional focused programs for children aged five and under. It promised “to enhance readiness of all Cambodian children to begin school at 6” through early childhood programs.

According to [UNESCO](#), “Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is more than preparation for primary school. It aims at the holistic development of a child’s social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. ECCE has the possibility to nurture caring, capable and responsible future citizens.”

“ECCE contributes to preparing a child for entry into primary school and reducing the levels of non-completion and repetition of grades” ([Rao & Pearson](#))

GU Cambodian Nutrition Aid Project addresses the issues of nutrition and health for 2,752 families in the Putsor area. This involves selecting a village health support group (VHSG) to join GU training and activities. They conduct household visits to support caregivers with particular focus on children under the age of 5.

However, there is a big voice in the educational needs of these very young children in the Putsor community.

Community Key Issues

Very few children in the Putsor area have access to ECE. There are 4 existing programs with a total of 135 out of 862 3-5 year olds in attendance. This is less than 16% against MoEYS target of up to 70% for children aged 5 years.

These existing programs are in 2 of the 4 primary schools in the Putsor Area. However, the teachers have not been trained for ECE and the program is not well defined.

An effective GU ECE program would support early literacy so that the high percentage of students who reach Grade 3 with no literacy skills can be reduced.

2021 GU ECE Program:

As part of KKS, GU has been providing Kindergarten classes. This has enabled KKS children to read and write from an early age, supporting the importance of ECE.

GU can better serve a greater number of children and their families by expanding an ECE program to care for 4-5 year olds (K1 and K2 classes).

GU ECE will have 160 students – four K1 and four K2 classes, each with 20 students. Children will attend either a morning or afternoon class.

Some factors enabling the transition are:

- KKS teachers have experience and skills in ECE and these will be further developed
- The KKS safe environment and resources meet the need of ECE
- GU will work closely with the local primary school and aim to have all its G1 students first attended GU ECE
- GU will work closely with this smaller community of parents and teachers ensuring involvement in children's early and primary education
- Parents, local youths (from GU Youth Projects) and university students of education will be employed as teachers assistants

Longer term, GU proposes to become a "Center of excellence" for ECE in Putsor and the wider community. GU will assist in the training of educators for the other ECE schools and model how to best prepare all young children for primary school and beyond.

Aim of GU ECE Program:

The GU Early Childhood Education program aims to prepare local children from the ages of four to six in the domains of social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. It intends to provide a holistic and comprehensive developmentally and culturally appropriate early learning program so that children entering Grade 1 in the local public-school system will be better prepared for early literacy skills, giving them a head start to future learning. This will have a positive impact on the high number of children who reach middle and upper levels at the primary school who have not yet acquired the necessary literacy skills. The GU ECE program will be a model of early learning in the community working with other schools and with the parents in the community.



[Kindergarten students in Chambok Betmeas Primary School last year]



[Kindergarten students in KKS, Jun 2020]



[Kindergarten students in KKS 2020]

National Key Issues:

In 2011 MoEYS published a National Policy on Youth Development. It states that Cambodia must urgent address;

- Low literacy of 15-24 year olds (87.5%)
- School drop-out rates (20% for high school)
- Vulnerable working and living conditions
- Migration to cities and abroad
- Gender inequality
- Drugs and alcohol abuses

The government set the vision to “mobilize all effort available in the country with the aim to contribute positively to youth development and to provide them with opportunities to develop their potential, to access education, employment...”

Some of the strategies identified in addressing these issues are the promotion of

- Education, training and capacity development
- Spirit of entrepreneurship and labour market
- Youth participation (in communities, policy making)
- Leisure, recreational and sport activities
- Arts and cultural activities
- Awareness of environment, agriculture, tourism and businesses
- Volunteerism
- Gender equality

Community Key Issues:

The youth of Putsor experience the same challenges as those outlined by MoEYS. In 2017 GU set up Youth Activities to target those aged 15 -19 years. The main goals are to provide leadership skills, training and hands-on activities to assist these youths in gaining employment.



[High school students attended leadership training]

GU Youth Activities to date:

- 123 middle and high school students attended leadership training. These youths designed and implemented solutions to address challenges within the Putsor and Tromang Communes.
- Youths are awarded small grants to work on projects within the community.
- These youths host regular meetings to update community members on their activities.
- Self-reflection workshops are organized so that youths can collaborate and assist each other with their projects.
- Over 50 students have been trained to teach English to others within the Putsor area (in 11 villages and 3 public schools)



[Illiteracy training with primary school to enhance reading habit]



[Waste training in Kampot to solve waste problems]

GU Youth Activities Impact:

The above activities have a profound impact on the learning skills and attitude of the youths. Families and community members have been very supportive of the volunteering efforts.

Looking forward, GU knows it can have a greater impact by investing time and resources on the youths of the community. GU will continue with the above activities by adding more structures and will develop some additional projects. Some examples of our Youth Projects going forward are:

2021 GU Youth Program:

- *Skills for Professional Work* – this 4-days training course for 60 youths will focus on communication, English language, the environment, project design and entrepreneurship. This course will be held twice a year, providing skills to 120 youths annually.
- Formalize a *Youth Grant Scheme* for youths based on their proposed community projects (e.g. Waste management, environmental issues, literacy).
- *Youth Library* to be set up and managed by youths in the community.
- *Youth Technology Centre* will be set up to support online learning and youth projects.
- Youth Skills Camps will train youths in the areas of Leadership (team building, problem solving, resilience, self-esteem), Life Skills (wellness, finances) and Volunteering (sports, arts and cultural activities).

Aim of the GU Youth Program:

We want to support the youths of our community with supplementary programs to the public education system. This will build on their knowledge, skills and empower them to make informed career and study choices for their future. The Youth Program will help develop qualities of independence, responsibility and leadership so that they contribute to the improvement of their community and promote meaning and direction in their lives.



[Duch Malis, KKS student's parent]

Duch Malis is a Sovanreach's mother. She is 44 years old and she lives in Kroch Village of Putsor Commune. She is a farmer. She doesn't have a chance to attend school due to family situation.

She has 3 kids in the family. Sovanreach is the youngest child, he studies grade 5th at Karuna Kumar school of Green Umbrella.

Education is unimportant when you need only three times of food to eat, Malis said. When she was a child, she didn't value education. She thought that even if she went to school, she would possibly drop out. An orphan like her needs to work in order to survive.

She changed her mind when she started a labor job for half of her life. She was thinking that if she had education, she might not be a laborer. Education might give her knowledge and a good job. However, she has sent three of her children to schools and supposed to continue at university.



[Malis is collecting morning glory in the field]

She wishes to see her children have different lives from her childhood.

Sovanreach's mother said that she doesn't understand the lesson, but she knew her child studied hard. She always sees Sovanreach ask his sisters to help when he doesn't understand homework.

Green Umbrella helped me to understand that knowledge is important for everyone. In Particular, the children should receive the rights to study. Through education and material supported from GU, my child can read and write well. Beside that he grows with good behavior, he speaks in a polite way with people around him. "I am proud of my child", thanks to Green Umbrella.



[Sovanrach's mother and father]



Nhim Sopheak: A member of Recycling and Separating waste pilot project

Sopheak is 20 years old. He is a grade 12 student of Sok An Tonle Bati High School. Recently, he lives in Putsor commune of Takeo province. He first got to know the Green Umbrella organization by attending Green Umbrella English School. It has been about 7 years since he studied in 6th grade.



[The youth teams trained students on separating waste through practical!]

He never joined voluntary work with other organizations. This is the first time for him to run a pilot project with Green Umbrella as a volunteer. He took almost 4 months to volunteer as a member of recycling and separating waste.

Being a volunteer, he gained new experience of working with students and cooperation with team work.

Some factors that motivate him to join social work are building confidence and capacity, experience new things and willingness to develop community with reducing plastic waste at school and public places. Sopheak is interested in volunteering with Green Umbrella. As a volunteer and a youth, he noted that GU has contributed to this community through the education sector by providing opportunity for children to get equal education, and train youths on leadership skills



[Students collect plastic waste surrounding school]



[The activities of students on waste recycling]



[Interview with Nhoem Sopheap, 5th grade teacher at Chambok Betmeas Primary School]

Nhoem Sopheap: Clean and hygienic environment in school can interact with students and education.

Green Umbrella supports Chambok Betmeas Primary School in education and environment. The school has received school materials, toys to install in the library as a benefit to kids. To improve the school environment, GU inspired youths to run a pilot project that is provided training for grade 4 students on recycling and separating waste, Sopheap said.

He added that most of the students who attended the training with youths understand the importance of the school environment. They know how to separate waste and put it in the bins properly. For plastic waste, they convert into reusable materials such as chairs, pen holders and bottle to flowers etc. Currently, the school environment is quite better than the past.

Back to the past, there was a lot of plastic waste inside and outside the classrooms.

This means that students do not understand the impact of plastic and they do not care about the environment or waste pollution around the school.

The teacher said the waste caused bad smell while there are no enough bins and crowded waste. According to the current school environment, the teachers observed that a clean and hygienic environment in school can interact with students and education. Students love being in classes and getting more involvement in learning.



[The current school environment at Chambok Betmeas Primary School]



[There is a garbage bin installed inside the school where students can put plastic waste]



[The interview, a commune clerk on the value of GU project implementation]

Phai Van is commune clerk of Putsor. He has worked in the commune hall more than 2 years.

He mentioned that Green Umbrella has implemented projects to support the society and local authorities in Putsor Commune.

Through organization involvement in 2020, the kids get an opportunity to attend school with study materials support and students gain knowledge, nutrition foods.

“The rate of drop-out and lack of malnutrition have been improving,” **Van said.**

He sees the number of students drop-out from school decrease almost every academic year and parents start to get involved in the education of their children. He also sees that the percentage of underweight and stunting reduced.

Phai Van thanked the Green Umbrella for its active implementation project works in the community to attend school regularly on time and all day.



[Phai Van works with the commune chief to support community people needs.]

The projects have been especially important for younger children to end illiteracy lives. The GU’s education system follows as the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport same as state schools, but GU student’s education was better than, he said.

He wishes to see GU continue projects activities with sustainability for the benefits of children and community people.

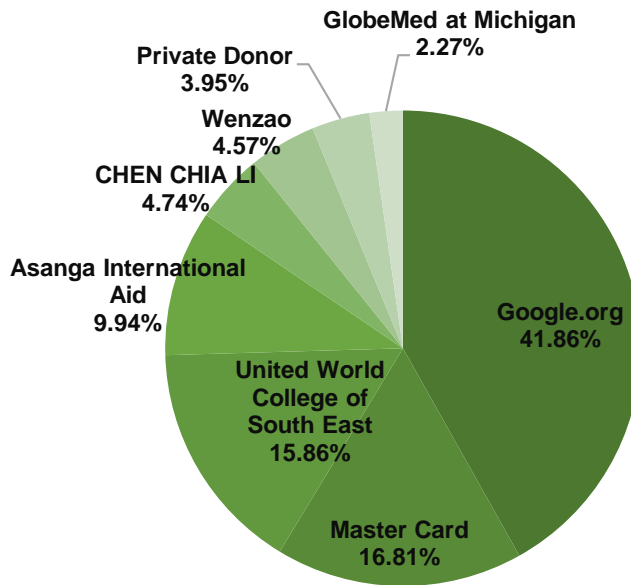


[Commune chief received 5 packs (250 kilograms) of rice from GU to help community people who face with Covid-19 pandemic]

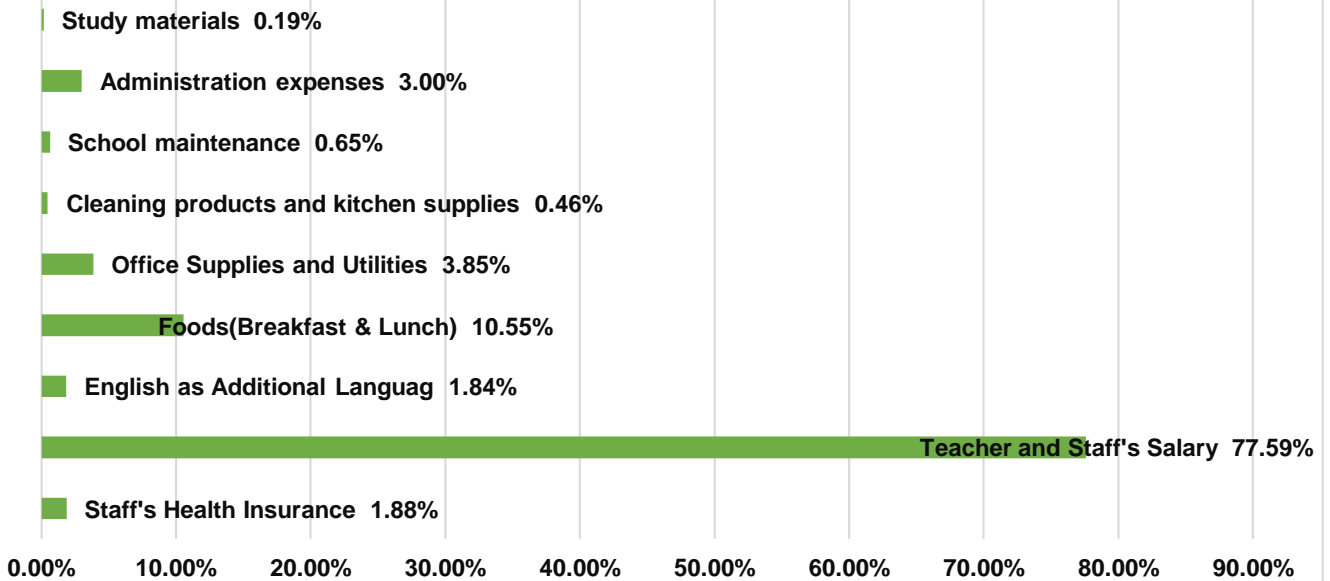
Green Umbrella would not be able to operate without your generosity. We really appreciate to our sponsors and partners for kindly supporting all GU projects!



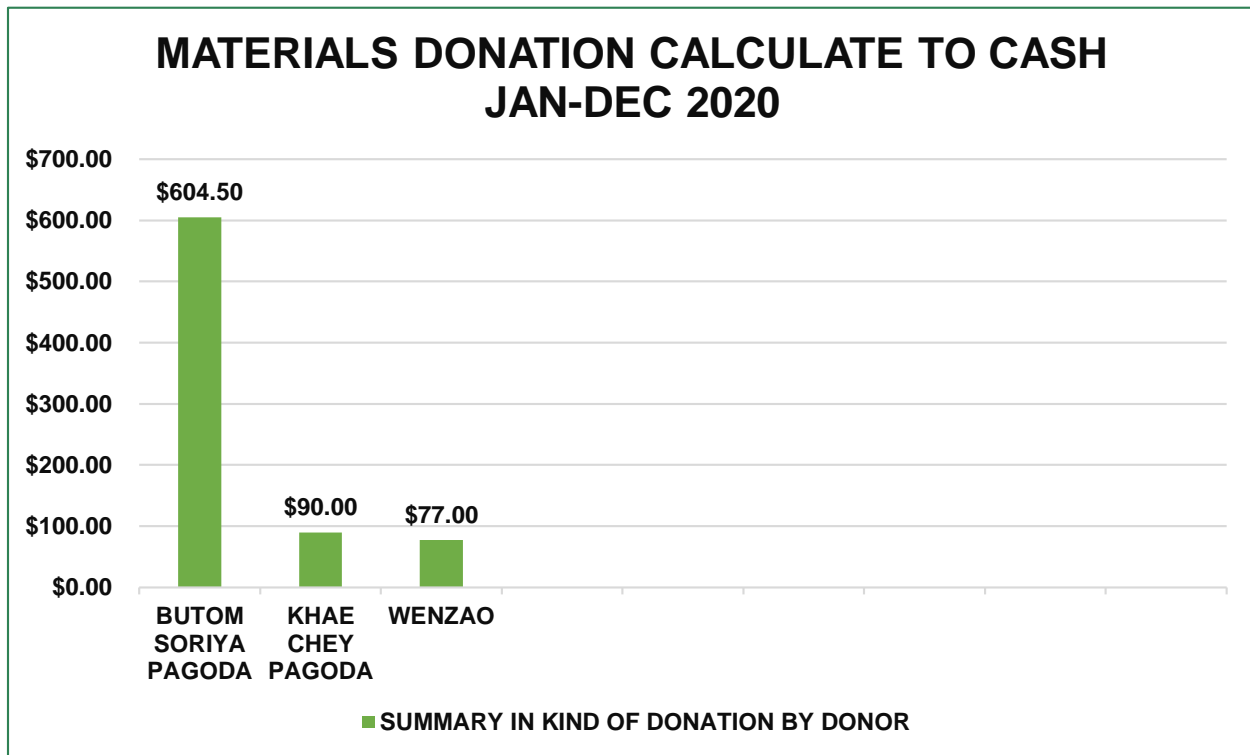
**INCOME BY DONORS OF KKS PROJECT
JAN-DEC 2020**



EXPENSES OF KKS PROJECT JAN-DEC 2020

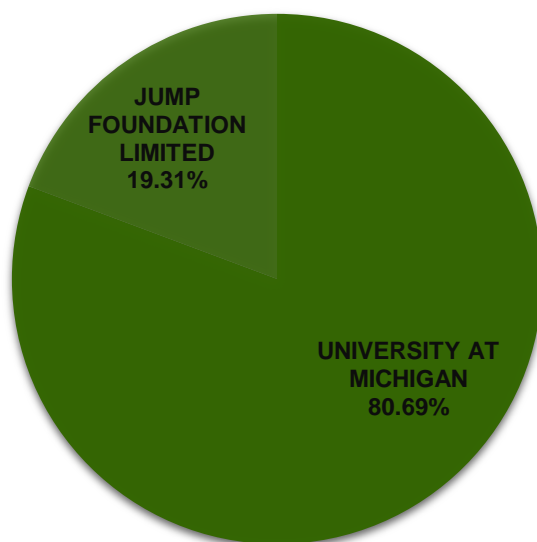


INCOME BUDGET: 48,992.16 USD
EXPENSES BUDGET: 63,166.16 USD

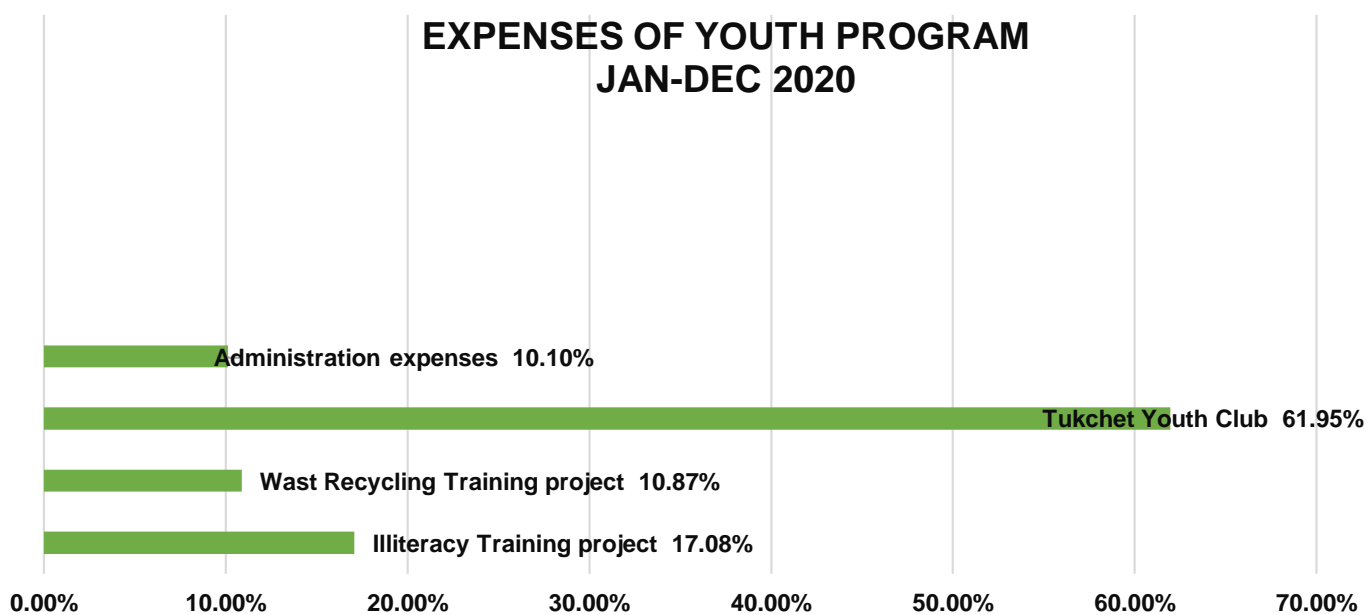


INCOME BUDGET: 771.50 USD

**INCOME BY DONORS OF YOUTH PROGRAM
JAN-DEC 2020**

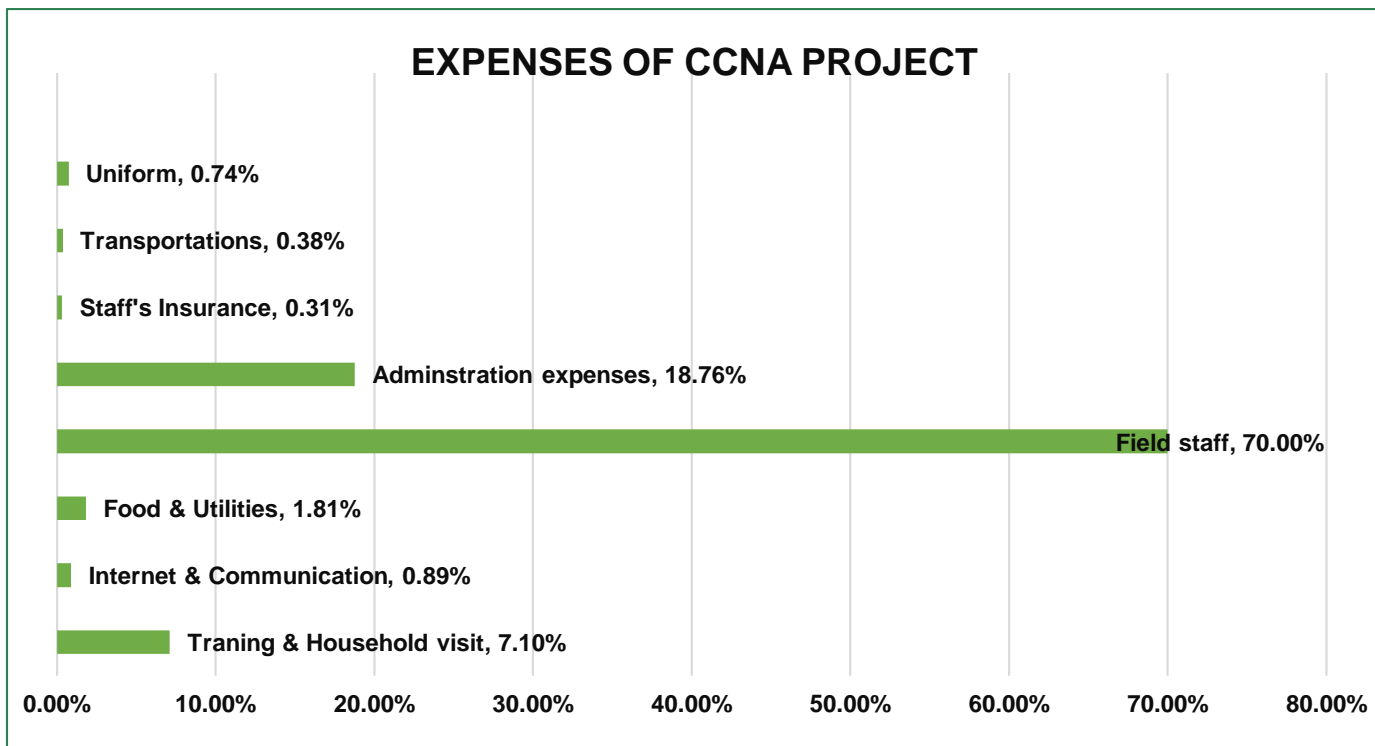


**EXPENSES OF YOUTH PROGRAM
JAN-DEC 2020**



INCOME BUDGET: 5,179.64 USD
EXPENSES BUDGET: 3,050.61USD

CCNA is funded by Asanga International Aid Organization



INCOME BUDGET: 33,142.91 USD
EXPENSES BUDGET: 32,498.06 USD