



ACTIVITY REPORT 2016



Il Nodo International Cooperation Onlus

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Il Nodo's projects follow the 17 Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an action program for people, our planet and prosperity, signed by the United Nations 193 Member States in 2015.





IL NODO

Life designs

Il Nodo takes care of over two thousand children and young people in Cambodia.

We provide clean water, schooling and job training.

MISSION

Il Nodo works in Cambodia to provide education, training and health services for children and young people from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds. Our goal is to help them become self-sufficient and independent so that they can actively contribute to their own development and that of their families and country.



WHAT WE DO

2016 facts and figures

EDUCATION

- Education for about 1,500 children and teens (60% of them are girls) in rural villages, prisons and orphanages.

TRAINING

- School of Social Design and Social Initiative with a local staff of 15 people.
- Jobs for 31 young people and training for 75.

HEALTH

- Health checkups for children in rural villages.
- Hygiene classes and water filters distribution to village families and schools
- Continual monitoring of results.

THE BOTTEGA

WHERE: Phnom Penh

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 75 young people

BENEFICIARIES IN 2016: 24 young people

SPONSORS IN 2016: San Francisco Student Center, WIG - Women International Group, private donors





The Social Design and Handicrafts Course at the Bottega is a two-year training course for young people from extremely hard social and economic backgrounds. It includes basic silver-working techniques and workshops with international designers, English classes, drawing, accounting and, for those who need it, literacy instruction.

The Cambodian Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has recognized our two-year Social Design and Handicrafts Course certification since October 2015.

In 2016 Phanna and Sangha, former students who graduated in 2011, became teachers and the course itself achieved results that exceeded all expectations. The “Gioie d’Autore” project – in which 85 of the most significant Italian and international designers participated – produced an extraordinary set of design ideas for our students. These ideas have led to significant international recognition and awards. The high quality of the jewelry made at the Bottega was confirmed by international design organizations that have judged the work of our students.

The Mekong necklace was chosen for the ADI Design Index, and it is now shown in the Design Hall of the Museo del Gioiello (Jewelry Museum) in Vicenza, Italy. Six of our young design silversmiths from the Bottega took part in the Wedding Design Jewel contest in Milano.

All of this professional recognition increases the job opportunities that Il Nodo offers to the students, but above all, it enhances our students’ self-esteem and confidence in their work.

At the end of the year, Mikky Eger, designer and jewelry creator, held a three-week workshop at the Bottega. Together with the students, she created a handbook of what they have studied and realized, thus providing an indelible memory of what they have learned as well as a roadmap for future success.



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue school uniform, is smiling and holding a metal cup. She is standing next to a white water dispenser. In the background, there is a lush green field and some trees. A red banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text about clean water and school access.

CLEAN WATER AND SCHOOL FOR ALL

WHERE: Tang Pon, Chrok Kow, Soksenchey villages, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Thom e Siem Reap provinces.

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:
550 families, over 2,500 children.

BENEFICIARIES IN 2016: 100 families for a total of more than 300 children, plus 300 children from Tang Mao school.

SPONSORS IN 2016: Rotary Varese Verbano, public primary school "S.T. Fabbri" (Milano), Gabriele Trust, Giovanni Quattrocchi, Fabio di Dio, Mauro Todaro.



The Clean Water for All project, active since 2008, was integrated in 2016 with the commitment to the schooling of children from the involved families.

This project costs around \$200 per family. It includes hygiene classes for adults and children, 24 months of supervision of the correct use of the filter, and its replacement at the end of the second year.

The results of providing these filters confirm that our hygiene classes and the subsequent monitoring of the water filters' use are an effective way to spread positive habits among families and reduce illnesses, irregular school attendance and drop-out rates.

Il Nodo also took advantage of the volunteer collaboration of the Sicilian hydro-biologist Pietro Arculeo, who analyzed the water supplied by the filters and confirmed it perfectly drinkable.

In January, middle school students from Tang Pon village, who already have their Il Nodo filter at home and use it daily, were hygiene teachers for one day and taught about 300 elementary school students of their village how to use and maintain the filters.

In 2016, 100 new families were enrolled in the hygiene and water filter use classes and received their filter for water purification.

They are now followed by our staff on a monthly basis to guarantee the correct use of the filter and the overall health of the family.



A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a yellow and white striped shirt, is standing in front of a green chalkboard. She is smiling and using a piece of white chalk to draw a heart on the board. To her left, there is a red rectangular box containing white text. The background shows a chalkboard with some faint writing and a smiley face drawing.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

WHERE: Tang Pon, Chrok Kow, Soksenchey villages, Kompong Chhnang province

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES IN 2016: 60 children and their families

SPONSORS IN 2016: private donors

With this sponsorship program, Il Nodo provides access to education to children of the most disadvantaged families who could not otherwise attend school. In Cambodia, it is customary for teachers, given their very low salaries, to ask students for a small daily donation. This practice transforms public schools into paying schools and thus penalizes the poorest and most numerous families. Moreover, in rural areas, children often work with their families in rice fields to help earn income instead of going to school.

Children who go to school receive a monthly delivery of food and personal hygiene supplies – 20 kg of rice, oil, condensed milk, dried fish, soy sauce, soap, shampoo and toothpaste.

This transforms school attendance into a paid job, so children can go to school and still contribute to their family income.

At the beginning of the school year, the children receive school supplies, including backpacks, books, notebooks, pens and pencils, school uniforms and a pair of shoes each. And, when they enter the project, they get an initial medical check-up and they are followed for the necessary health care, because in Cambodia the healthcare system is only for paying patients.

This sponsorship program also elevates the value of children within their families and prevents child abandonment in orphanages, which is very common for poor families as they see it as the only way to guarantee school-aged children an education.

Il Nodo's local staff keeps in touch with teachers to check school attendance and academic results. It is Il Nodo's commitment to follow all children until graduation.

In 2016, Il Nodo supported 60 children and their families. Every student received 240 kilograms of rice, food, hygiene products and school supplies during the year.



This sponsorship program is supported by private donors who receive news about the children they are helping. Supporting a Cambodian child costs only 500 Euros, or \$525 a year. Those who contribute have the satisfaction of enriching their own lives by helping less fortunate and needy families in a distant country.

ORPHANAGES

WHERE: Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: over 400 children and teenagers

BENEFICIARIES IN 2016: 196

SPONSORS IN 2016: Italian income tax charitable donation, private donors.





Il Nodo has been working with the orphanages of Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu, respectively from 2008 and 2009, to help children from 2 to 16 years of age develop a positive personal identity and become economically independent when they leave the orphanage. Sports are a valuable tool for both personal and social development, they teach how to play in a team and to deal with positive and negative emotions. Il Nodo therefore offers coaches for the most popular sports – basketball and football – to the children of Kompong Thom orphanage.

For older children, Il Nodo supports the learning of income-generating handicrafts, such as embroidery and mat weaving.

To both orphanages Il Nodo offers Khmer dance and music classes, arts that are part of the country's identity ("intangible" arts, World heritage, according to UNESCO). Dancing, the most beloved art in Cambodia, is an important source of identity for kids living in an under-stimulating environment like an orphanage.



CHILDREN IN PRISON

WHERE: 15 detention centers
all over Cambodia

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:
227 pregnant women and 356 children

BENEFICIARIES IN 2016:
91 pregnant women and 118 children

SPONSORS IN 2016: Tavola Valdese, Morning
Tears, Amade Mondiale

In Cambodia, many children are born or are forced to live in prison with their mothers. A prison is not a place for children, especially in Cambodia where children lack adequate food, potable water and medical care. They grow up undernourished, isolated, rarely exposed to daylight and without education and play opportunities. Children in prison often contract rickets, have stunted growth, motor and cognitive issues, and social deviant behavior. Those who are born in prison experience poor hygienic conditions, have no medical assistance and are not registered with the birth registry.

Il Nodo promotes the rights of women and children by providing practical help, physical and mental health support, and guaranteeing the right to education. Since 2014, Il Nodo has helped find alternative care solutions for children, reducing the number of children living in prison. In 2016, Il Nodo provided 91 pregnant women and 118 children in 15 different detention centers with monthly deliveries of food, drinking water and personal hygiene products. All births took place in a hospital and newborns were issued a birth certificate and were enrolled in the national vaccination program. For 18 children, Il Nodo found an alternative living solution within the extended family. And, we helped assure that 19 medical emergencies were handled at a hospital.

Il Nodo monitored the development of all children. Two new playrooms with qualified staff were opened where kids can benefit from education and stimulating activities with professional teachers, and mothers are provided support for their parental and civil rights.

In CC2, the female and juvenile prison of Phnom Penh, work has been completed to connect the detention facility to Il Nodo Day Care Center. Now, inmate mothers with young children and babies who previously were prevented from leaving their cells, can now accompany their children and play with them under the supervision of Il Nodo staff.



MEDICAL EMERGENCY FUND

Il Nodo also runs a Medical Emergency Fund that has paid for the medical emergencies of many children and teenagers.

In Cambodia, the health care system is available only to those who can pay.





Il Nodo was founded in 2008 by an Italian family with the goal of promoting and providing education and training to the young people of Cambodia, a country where 50 percent of the population is younger than age 20 and where, because of poverty and lack of awareness, health and education rights are always at risk.

Thanks to the support of many partners and volunteers who have believed in us, we have now achieved results that at first seemed unreachable, bringing tangible improvements to the quality of life of many young people and their families.

For us, every step forward sets the stage for the next: we care for people passionately, and in 2017 and beyond we will continue to work so that our projects reach more people and provide a positive social impact.





The knot – Il Nodo in Italian – that represents us is a bowline knot designed by the artist Renzo Bighetti and given to Il Nodo. It represents our strong connection with the Cambodian people and our goal to strengthen that bond as we work together to improve lives.

Cambodia lived under the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 to 1979, which attempted to destroy its culture and past. From those ruins came the desire to rediscover and preserve what could have been lost forever.

Our Bottega in Phnom Penh was founded in the context of this renaissance. It enhances the Khmer identity: local masters and Italian designers teach young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the traditional art of silver handicrafts, renewed and updated by modern design to meet the international market.





Il Nodo also organizes fundraising events to support our social projects and promotes and disseminates knowledge of Cambodia through solidarity trips, cultural events, performances, movie screenings and twinning between schools.

Il Nodo has in its mission to support young Khmers through the distribution in the West of the objects they made in Phnom Penh and in the remote rural villages of Cambodia.

2016 events

- April 30th, Tadino Bookstore, Milan, Italy: marketing and communication event for Gioie d'Autore jewelry collection.
- October 1st and 2nd, Villa Cabrini Moore, Mirano, Italy: launch of jewelry products from artisans and students of the Bottega dell'Arte in Phnom Penh.
- October 6th, Galleria Rossini, Milan: launch of Gioie d'Autore jewelry collection.
- November 26th and 27th: Open House in Il Nodo headquarters in Milan for a Christmas sale of artisans' and students' products from the Bottega dell'Arte.
- December 8th to 11th, Palazzo Donà-Brusa, Venice, Italy: trade show for artisans' and designers' products.



HOW WE WORK





In Italy

Il Nodo works in fundraising with events promoting cultural awareness and cultural exchange initiatives.

Board of directors

Luciana Damiani, President
Alberto Cannetta, Vice President
Josephine Cannetta
Martina Cannetta
Giuseppe Nava
Carlo Sironi
Maurizio Uggeri

Administration & Budget

Maurizio Uggeri

Fundraising & Communication

Luciana Cannetta

Intrecci d'Oriente

Josephine Cannetta

Website

Dario Moretti

In Cambodia

Il Nodo works with a local team coordinated by an Italian representative. We are committed to cooperating with local authorities to promote new laws and standards for sustainable development.

Cambodia Country representative

Martina Cannetta

Il Nodo School of Social Design

Chap Leap Lomnorm

Support to Women and Children in Prison

Cheat Soksocheata

Clean Water & School for All, Orphanages:

Meas Sophary

Accounting

Nguon Sorithy

Silversmiths teachers

Lun Phanna, Ry Sangha

Field officer in Kompong Thom

Eng Lam

Social Initiative (Artisans of Silver)

Hun Kea, Chan Sopheap, Chan Sokny,
Soeun Dara
(Silversmiths)

Than Panha
(Customer Service in Phnom Penh)
Phang Rasmey Chamnan
(Customer Service in Siem Reap)



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