

CO-OPERAID Talents

Scholarships for higher education of talented youths in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Laos



Background

CO-OPERAID promotes education and vocational training in Africa and Asia. Between 10,000 to 15,000 children and young people per year attend the schools we support – primary, secondary and vocational. The sponsorship we provide in each of our projects ends with graduation from these schools. Young people who show suitability for continuing education through their performance and talent are to be supported by the present project. The young people come from poor families, mostly farmers, since the majority of CO-OPERAID projects are based in rural areas. The cost of an education at higher level (high school, college, university of applied sciences or traditional university) exceeds the means of these families. Taking into consideration criteria which are adapted for each country (e.g. family income, school performance and pronounced desire for continuing education), our local partners choose young people for sponsorship by the ‘Talents’ scholarships fund. At the same time a personal contribution is agreed with them and their families. This consists of assumption of part of the costs incurred during the courses, further partial repayment after employment, social service or a combination of these options. Repayments made to the fund enable further grants to be made.

Goals

- Opportunities for higher education and realisation of their talents for young people from poor families
- Special opportunities for girls, who are preferred if they have equal qualifications
- Promotion of individuals who can bring expertise back to their home region and contribute to its development

Project partners

[Humanitarian Foundation](#) (Bandarban, Bangladesh), [SOFDEC](#) und [Bright Hope Institute](#) (Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia), [CoDA](#) (Savannakhet, Laos)

Project duration

Project start 2015
Ongoing project

Project budget

About CHF 25,000 per year,
financed through a fund

CO-OPERAID is engaged in the international children’s right to education in East Africa and South Asia. The association was founded in 1981, is politically and denominationally independent and ZEW certified since 1998.

Vision: Qualitative good education for children and youths as a basis for a self-determined and dignified life.

Thematic Focus: Basic education and vocation training with complementary elements such as fighting poverty, farming income projects, furthering girls, Aids prevention, health.

www.co-operaid.ch

Beneficiaries

Young people from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Laos. The number depends on the resources available in the fund. The project started in January 2015 with 9 scholarship holders. Three of them already graduated. Currently there are 24 youths in the program.

Modalities

There have already been several years of cooperation with the local partner relief organizations on ongoing education projects. In our own projects, but also through other projects that our partners run, there are numerous existing contacts with promising youths.

- The sponsorship recipients are proposed by existing CO OPERAID partner organizations and supported when they are admitted to the programme. The local partners discuss the plans with the young people and their families, and advise them so that there are realistic expectations to which all agree
- The selection criteria are adapted to local conditions, but always consider the following criteria: limited family income, success in the previous school, strong desire for and interest in training, pursuit of a realistic educational objective with reliable career opportunities, special disadvantages, e.g. as a result of gender, disability, ethnicity, etc.
- A personal contribution is expected from the participants in the scholarship programme. This is discussed individually and determined by mutual consent. Variants are: the project covers a portion of the operating costs, the family takes care of the other part; the project covers all costs and an agreed portion is to be refunded after graduation when income is achieved as a result of the training; voluntary work by the beneficiaries may also be agreed, e.g. work as a teacher in the projects, representing a form of social service



After one year of preparation, Hla May U Marma from Bangladesh now studies to become a nurse.

Examples of scholarships

Cambodia:

- **Phy Chenda** (F), 19 years: Bachelor's degree in economy, majoring in finance and banking
- **Chan Sophors** (M), 20 years: Bachelor's degree in business administration, majoring in hospitality and tourism management
- **Sok Channou** (F), 19 years: Bachelor's degree in social science, majoring in community development

Bangladesh:

- **Mong Shing Shoi** (M), 19 years: Physician/medical doctor
- **Hla May U Marma** (F), 17 years: 1 year Higher Secondary School as preparation for studies
- **U Kyaw Thowai Marma** (M), 17 years: 1 year Higher Secondary School as preparation for studies

Laos:

- **Baikham Kalee** (F), 20 years, kindergarten teacher
- **Chanthavee Hoemphaengsee** (F), 19 years, agriculture
- **Khanthalee Phetsomphou** (F), 21 years, kindergarten teacher



Chan Sophors from Cambodia studies business administration majoring in hospitality and tourism at the University of Phnom Penh.

Cover: Mong Shing Shoi from Bangladesh with his parents. The scholarship enables his education to become a doctor.