



# Newsletter No. 1/20

Dear friends, members and supporters,

April 2020

## Our book mobile stands still!

Laos is also currently in a nationwide lockdown. Our library is closed and there are no tours to village schools. During the closing time, our team tries to do some useful work in this situation. We are now uploading children's books from the inventory to facebook so that students who have access to the Internet or parents who follow us can read to their children. Further ideas are being tested: We want to test the contactless book loan at the door and install a freely accessible book shelf in front of the reading room. However, these offers cannot replace the actual work of the mobile library.

In the meantime, the team is working on book sets that are to be lended from schools after reopening. We fill boxes with books and a manual for handling and storage as well as suggestions for the use of story books in the classroom for the teachers. Furthermore, the book inventory was started to be categorized and recorded for digital lending.



## Puppet show, internships and a tricycle

In February we had the great pleasure of welcoming an experienced theater director to a workshop on the use of puppetry in reading promotion in Ban Houayxay. Karin Bares from the Kleines Theater in Berlin introduced the team to the medium and its possibilities, she showed how to build puppets selfmade, how to select and play stories. The practical implementation then took place in the village schools, with the team developing a lot of initiative, inventiveness and improvisation skills.

In order to make good use of the rainy season from June to August, we contacted partners at the beginning of the year, where our team will carry out internships for further training. Due to the lockdown, the planned internships now have to be postponed.



As an important finding in the ongoing project study on the use of our book mobile in the area, we have already decided to purchase an additional vehicle - an electrically operated tricycle with box body - for close-up areas. With this we want to be able to approach the school-yards in the extended urban area of Ban Houayxay with greater regularity and practically soon and thus offer reading options and borrowing without much additional effort. The big book mobile is then reserved for longer tours to distant village schools.

## Ensuring the survival of the project: Become a supporting member!

The current situation is also difficult for our reading project. In autumn we have to pay the annual rent for the library for 2021, which we have recently been able to cover largely from the income from the project bookshop. This year, this income and donations from tourists are now canceled. Therefore, we continue to ask all of you who have supported us so far for your loyalty. We invite donors and supporters to help secure our project in the long term by their donations.



**Our team, board and all children say thank you!**

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