



Annual Report 2017

www.soulcialtrust.org

About Soulcial Trust

Soulcial Trust harnesses the collaborative spirit of community to transform. We believe that every actor—whether an individual or organization—that participates in an initiative adds value towards achieving our common goal of a social, soulful society.

Our vision is a world where communities **join forces** to solve social injustice.

Soulcial Trust's activities fall under three pillars:

- **XLability**, a disability awareness programme that champions the ability of people with physical challenges to excel. The programme consists of three projects: a disability education course in schools to teach children about disabilities; an all-ability wheelchair sports centre in Siem Reap, Cambodia; and a three-year international wheelchair sports exchange between Cambodia, India, and France.
- **Green Influence**, promoting environmental issues in Cambodia and other countries in Southeast Asia. Soulcial Trust plays a coordinating role between different environmental stakeholders in Siem Reap, taking action to raise awareness on environmental issues and challenges.
- **Soulcial Travel**, a free platform that connects people and NGOs to provide a more impactful volunteer experience.

XLability Programme



Teams from Cambodia and India face off in a rugby match during Soulcial Trust's International Wheelchair Sports Exchange. PC: Lilu Herlambang

Soulcial Trust collaborates with XLability Association (www.xlability.org) to implement disability awareness and adaptive sports development programmes in Siem Reap and New Delhi. We strongly believe that sports and education are fundamental for drawing people with disabilities into the fabric of society. Often viewed as outcasts or unrecognised for their strength of character, our goal is to empower the community of people with disabilities through the values, challenges, and ethics of athletics' inclusive, team-oriented culture. We intend to break the cycle of isolation that too often characterises the lives of people with physical disabilities, especially in low income and rural communities.

Through sports, XLability enables people with disabilities to become more autonomous. It strives to improve accessibility and promote public awareness for disability issues to remove the inequality and exclusion they face every day.

DISABILITY EDUCATION COURSE

The **Disability Education Course** is our long-term initiative focusing on teaching children about the challenges and triumphs for people living with disabilities. Our classroom curriculum instills an understanding of the difficulties people with disabilities face and ways for all of us to be part of the solution to overcome disability's social stigma. We include sports as a key element of the "solutions" aspect. Our curriculum has wheelchair sports demonstrations and talks from our ambassadors—people with their own physical challenges sharing their experiences. Reaching children and youth is essential to creating a society that celebrates inclusiveness and support for all people.



Students in Cambodia plan a role-play scenario about issues of disability in Cambodia. PC: Pauline Lovicourt



Weekly wheelchair basketball trainings provide important social integration for people with disability in Cambodia. PC: Joshua Prieto

ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Our **Adaptive Sports** project serves as an inclusive platform in which people across all ages and all abilities can socialise and create a network of support. The project currently includes wheelchair basketball in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with plans to expand to other sports. The main objective is to address people with disabilities' social isolation by creating a stimulating environment where people of all abilities can interact and benefit from the positive impacts of sports. Participants in the sporting activities develop confidence, a sense of self-worth, leadership abilities, and self-discipline—all skills that are important for social integration and increasing employment opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR SPORTS EXCHANGE

The **International Wheelchair Sports Exchange** will bring together teams from three countries: the wheelchair basketball teams from Battambang and Siem Reap, Cambodia; the wheelchair rugby team from New Delhi, India; and the wheelchair rugby clubs from the French cities of Toulouse, Toulon and Montpellier. The players will have the opportunity to teach one another their respective sports, exchange techniques, and experience life for people with disabilities in each of the three countries. Over time, the new players from each of the countries will hone their own skills to assist in the creation of new teams throughout Cambodia and India.



The International Wheelchair Sports Exchange in 2017 included athletes from Cambodia, France, and India in Siem Reap, Cambodia. PC: Lilu Herlambang

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

The **Employment Support** project was born as a direct response to the needs of the adult players of the adaptive sports project. Earning an average of \$13/day for an average family size of five, our wheelchair sports players and their families nevertheless depend on an unreliable income which can result in much lower earnings of only \$1/day. Most are unable to find stable employment due to a lack of education (often from not being allowed to go to school due to their disability) and employment

discrimination against people with disabilities. The Employment Support project works to connect stable employment opportunities in Siem Reap with the players of the adaptive sports teams; promote and expand businesses run by people with disabilities in Cambodia; and identify existing resources where our players can receive hard skills training for job employment.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Designed a comprehensive disability education course for school children in Cambodia and India.
- Partnered with three schools to implement the disability education course for approximately 200 schoolchildren in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- Partnered with two schools to implement the disability education course for approximately 150 schoolchildren in New Delhi, Cambodia.
- Spoke at conferences throughout India about disability in India.
- Organised the first wheelchair basketball team in Siem Reap, with weekly trainings and professional coaching from the ICRC-sponsored women's wheelchair basketball team in Battambang, Cambodia.
- Planned and implemented the first International Wheelchair Sports Exchange in Siem Reap, with participants from Stade Toulousain Wheelchair Rugby Club, Montpellier Wheelchair Rugby Club, Delhi Warriors wheelchair rugby team, Battambang Roses wheelchair basketball team, and Bayon Siem Reap wheelchair basketball team.

Thanks to this project, I have been able to meet different people from different countries, while playing different sports, which is very enriching. It has been really amazing for me and has filled my head with incredible memories that make me want to participate in the project next year."

-Tristan Barfety, France, rugby

2018 GOALS

- Triple the number of children introduced to disability through the disability education course in both Cambodia and India.
- Continue to develop and grow the wheelchair basketball team in Siem Reap, Cambodia through continued trainings, national and international competitions, and
- Establish new adaptive sports teams in both Cambodia and India, including blind football, youth wheelchair basketball teams, wheelchair tennis, and wheelchair rugby.
- Organise the second International Wheelchair Sports Exchange in Toulouse, France

"I want to show my disability to society, that I'm NOT the disability. I want to fight against discrimination and show my strength."

-Moni Silong, Cambodia, basketball

Green Influence Programme

The Green Influence raises awareness about environmentally sustainable practices for individuals, businesses, and communities, particularly in urban areas. Like many countries in Asia and throughout the world, Cambodia and India struggle with **environmental protection and preservation**. The Green Influence programme has three objectives:

- Raise awareness about environmental issues that affect Cambodia's urban areas.
- Collaborate with businesses and NGOs to implement and improve strategies to reduce their impact on the environment in urban areas.
- Educate young people about the importance of practicing sustainable behaviour to improve their communities.



An eco-workshop participant learns how to crochet items out of plastic bags from Rehash Trash. PC: Carolina Ladeira

ECO-WORKSHOPS

Eco-Workshops is a project initiated by Soulcial Trust combining environmental awareness workshops and tourist activities. Siem Reap, gateway to the Angkor Temples, is a major tourist city in Cambodia. However, like the whole country, Siem Reap suffers from pollution and lack of preservation of its environment. The Eco Workshops are for visitors who wish to learn about the environmental initiatives and make your stay here more eco-friendly. You will be able to attend environmental workshops conducted by different partners involved in the project!



Headed by Soulcial Trust, the Siem Reap Green Committee meets monthly to discuss environmental initiatives.

SIEM REAP GREEN COMMITTEE

The **Siem Reap Green Committee** was formed by stakeholders in NGOs, businesses, and social enterprises eager to address the environmental problems raised in the Siem Reap province of Cambodia. The committee believes that through collaboration the communities we live in can have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. Helmed by Soulcial Trust, committee members work as a team to provide answers to environmental concerns. The committee includes representatives of NGOs, associations, and social enterprises.

CLEAN GREEN CAMBODIA

The first initiative of the Siem Reap Green Committee, **CleanGreenCambodia.org** is an online resource dedicated to educating others about sustainable practices that have a low impact on our environment; community events addressing environmental concerns; and community actors who are dedicated to seeing that the world we live in remains a beautiful place. The website includes information on environmentally friendly products, highlights businesses' and organisations' green initiatives, and posts environment-related events happening in Siem Reap.

"[CleanGreenCambodia.org] should be seen as a challenge for those who just need a push to embrace the environmental issues that surround us."

-Saruom Ran, Cambodia, Siem Reap Green Committee

concerns in Siem Reap.

- Launched the Clean Green Cambodia website.
- Laid the groundwork for our 2018 projects, including the Siem Reap Saat campaign.

2018 GOALS

- Expand the Clean Green Cambodia website into other areas of environmental education and other cities in Cambodia.
- Promote and increase the number of eco-workshops led by Soulcial Trust.
- Organise and implement the Siem Reap Saat campaign.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with three organisations to create eco-workshops in Cambodia.
- Formed the Siem Reap Green Committee, with Soulcial Trust as the coordinator, to brainstorm, plan, and implement ideas to address environmental



Soulcial Travel

The website, **SoulcialTravel.com**, serves to promote meaningful travels and to connect NGOs and people living or travelling abroad to promote opportunities for volunteering. Soulcial Trust partners with NGOs all over the world to communicate on their needs and promote a responsible way of involving themselves in society.

“For most young people, especially in the charity sector, we don’t generally have a lot of disposable income to donate but our time and skills are still very valuable. Giving your time and energy is far more effective than handing over money to a cause.”

-David Hopkinson, United Kingdom, volunteer

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 79 volunteer requests
- 82 new organisations registered from Asia and South America
- Established a social enterprise section

2018 GOALS

- Increase website traffic
- Promote overseas volunteerism
- Improve user experience



Elie, a volunteer from France, works with the wheelchair basketball team in Cambodia. PC: Roun Ry

Testimony: Brad Callihoo

The following testimony is from Canadian-born Brad Callihoo, photographer and amputee following a road accident:



These images are from a morning spent with the wheelchair athletes up here in Siem Reap. The program is new in this city, and my involvement is a natural progression from covering the Canadian coaches and athletes that were in Phnom Penh leading a skills clinic earlier this year.



There was one athlete this past week that hit me hard. I have spent enough time in a wheelchair to know that it doesn't make anything about life easier or better, in any way. For a lot of my time, one arm was in a sling to protect the banged up shoulder, so I can relate to how tough it can be to try and move around with only one arm to propel and guide you.

These sport chairs have only one word on the side of them.

MOTIVATION.

That's all. Just that one word. A word that says and means so much in this life. We all get knocked down, we all get bowled over by the challenges that life throws at us along this winding journey, and that word makes such a difference in how we face the road back from wherever the detour has taken us. Seeing this man's determination to participate, with his stump beside the word motivation, it all came together in that scenario.

In the third world existence that these athletes live in every day, one of the most challenging elements they face has to be the overwhelmingly widely held belief that their disabilities are punishments from Buddha, well earned in a previous lifetime. This is a golden opportunity for these people to put their struggles and accomplishments on public view and try to break through and shake up these ancient beliefs.



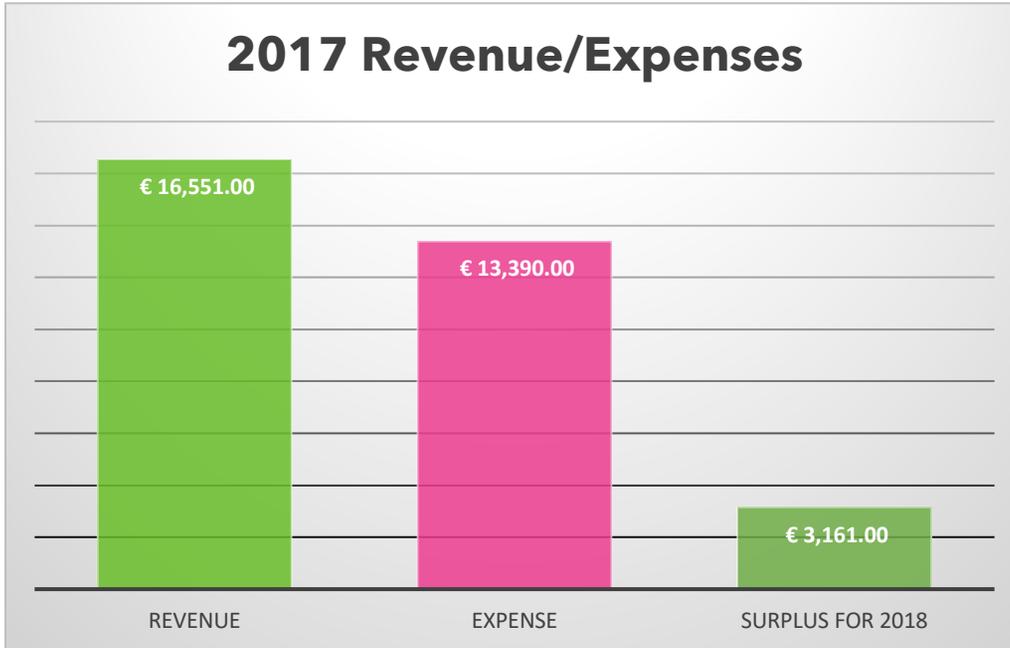
To be given the opportunity to even participate in competition brings delight to their faces and lifts their spirits soar. It was embodied in the sequence where the two competitors exchange a high five, with the two-armed man insisting that they use his stump to accomplish this!

Another touching moment occurred after a small child fell out of the wheelchair that one of the volunteers was entertaining him in. He would not be calmed by anyone except his father, but he was on court participating in the training session so there was a delay. The tenderness displayed when they came together brought home the capacity of the young to not yet embrace the beliefs society expects them to hold, but only know and feel the comfort of love in his father's embrace and feel their bond of family.



This session for me was all about inspiration, and that morning it seemed to be fueled by that keyword... Motivation.

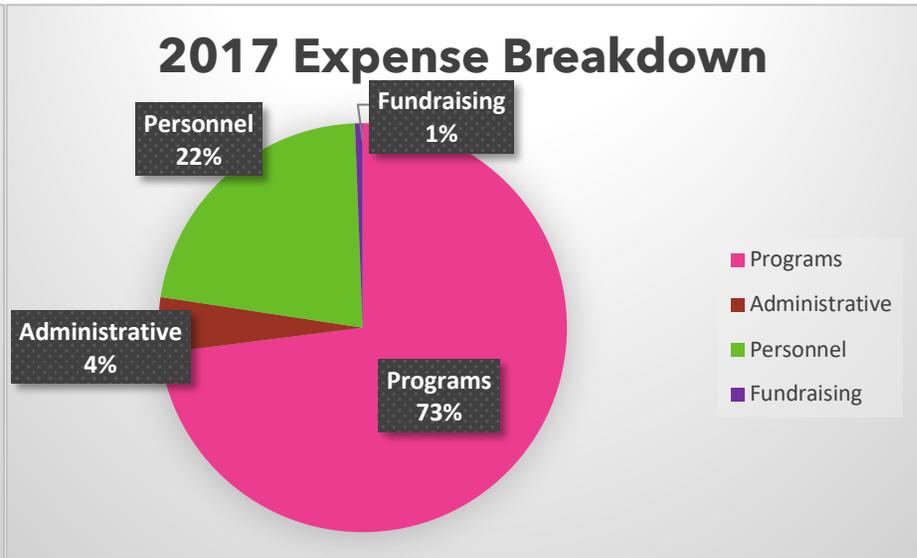
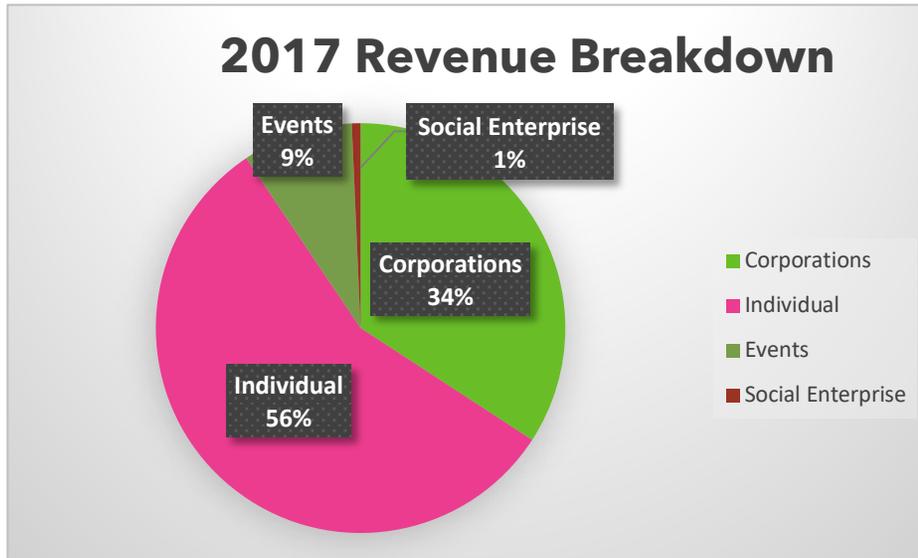
2017 Budget



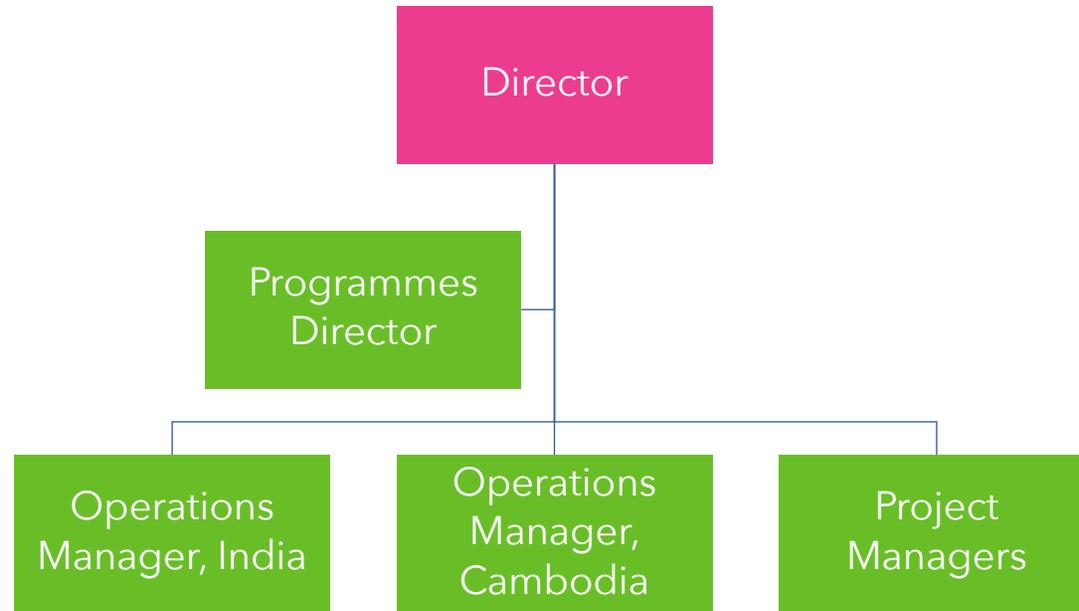
In total, Soulcial Trust raised a record 16,551 EUR. Of this revenue, 56% was contributed by individuals, 34% by corporate sponsors, and the remaining 10% from various events and social enterprise projects developed by the Soulcial Trust team.

Our total expenses came to 13,390 EUR. 73% of those expenses was spent on our XLability and Green Influence programmes. Personnel costs to organise, oversee, and implement our programmes and general operations amounted to only 22% of expenses, while 4% of expenses came from general administrative expenses.

Soulcial Trust ended 2017 with a surplus of 3,161 EUR, to be used for further programme development in 2018.



Soulcial Trust 2017 Structure



TRUSTEES

Cambodia

Saroum Ran, GAEA Waste Management Company

Sara Sor, Pour un Sourire d'Enfant

Muy Bel Seu, Khmer Independent Life Team

India

Rajiv Gupta, Businessman, India

Agui Panme, Teacher, India

2017 Supporters

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Bommidala Group, India
M1nd-Set, Switzerland
Planeum, France

PARTNERS

Angkor Association for the Disabled, Cambodia
Anjali House, Cambodia
APOPO, Belgium
Apple Rose Boutique Hotel, Cambodia
Bamboo Travel Agency, Cambodia
Cleanbodia, Cambodia
Delhi Warriors, India
Easia Travel Agency
GAEA Waste Management Company, Cambodia
ICF Cambodia, Cambodia and Switzerland
International Committee of the Red Cross,
Switzerland

Khmer Independent Life Team, Cambodia
Kumae, Cambodia and Japan
Montpellier Wheelchair Rugby Club, France
Music and Art School, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Naga Earth, Cambodia
Plastic Free Cambodia, Cambodia
Rehash Trash, Cambodia
See Asia Differently, Cambodia
Stade Toulousain Wheelchair Rugby Club, France
Tennis Cambodia, Cambodia
Victoria Angkor Hotel, Cambodia
XLability Association, France



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