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# Foreword



DARA Europe believes that all children deserve a bright future, including those growing up in challenging circumstances, such as in Andong, Cambodia. We support the local NGO Stellar Child Care Organization (SCCO), which provides educational programs, family support, and other community-building activities.

In pursuit of DARA Europe's mission, our partner SCCO has developed a diverse and effective range of projects, programs, and facilities covering hygiene, well-being, safety, education, and work. SCCO provides emergency assistance, such as food aid and emergency medical care, as well as structural and long-term community support. All with the aim to provide children with every opportunity to shine.

After 10 years, the impact of these efforts is visible and tangible. Now is the time to take the next steps. This policy plan outlines our refined approach and future plans.

The name of DARA Europe is derived from the Cambodian word for star: dara. DARA Europe believes that the children in Andong deserve the opportunity to develop into true stars. We want to break the cycle of poverty in Andong and give the children a sparkling growth into adulthood. We are committed to making children shine, contributing to a positive future for Cambodia.

The statutory board of the DARA Europe Foundation,

- Jorik Kuhlmann, chairperson
- Fred van Laarhoven, treasurer
- José Huizenga, secretary

DARA Europe Foundation  
Adress: Lagewijk ZZ 3  
Place: 7895 TZ Roswinkel  
Telephone: 0591-202669  
E-mail: [info@dara-europe.nl](mailto:info@dara-europe.nl)  
Website: [www.dara-europe.nl](http://www.dara-europe.nl)  
KvK number:54890497

# Introduction

## Building a Better Future Together

Going to school every day, living in a house with a solid roof and a hygienic toilet, eating three healthy meals a day, having a safe place to play, and care when needed. For the children in Andong, none of these things are guaranteed.

DARA Europe supports projects of the local NGO, Stellar Child Care Organization (SCCO), in the village of Andong, focusing on the most vulnerable among the thousand families living there. The main goal is to provide opportunities for children aged four to eighteen who live in distressing circumstances.



With the support of DARA Europe, SCCO has developed a diverse and effective range of projects, programs, and facilities in Andong related to hygiene, education, safety, and employment. SCCO provides emergency aid like food packages and urgent medical care but primarily ensures structural and long-term support.

All activities aim to create a loving, safe, and nurturing environment where children grow into independent and resilient adults.

# Vision, Mission, and Goals

## Vision

Since 2012, DARA Europe has laid a solid foundation for a better future for the people in Andong through tailor-made programs and projects. By 2030, we aim to sustainably embed community resilience. The construction of a new community center, planned to be built in 2024, plays a pivotal role in achieving our ambition.

With support from funds and organizations in the Netherlands and leveraging our network in Cambodia, we aim to create an inspiring space where children learn, play, and thrive. Coupled with family support, we spark systemic change breaking the cycle of poverty.

## Mission

DARA Europe believes that all children deserve a bright future, including those growing up in difficult circumstances, such as in Andong, Cambodia. We support the local NGO Stellar Child Care Organization (SCCO), which provides educational programs, family support, and other activities to strengthen the community. This way, we give children every opportunity to shine.





# Vision, Mission, and Goals

## Core Values

Several important values underpin DARA Europe's mission and vision:

- Honesty and transparency.
- Engagement.
- Enthusiasm.



The core values of DARA Europe's team in the Netherlands are:

- We are a motivated team: inspired and committed to making a difference for the people in Andong.
- Sustainable partnerships are key in all our endeavors: caring for each other, acknowledging each other's talents and desires.
- We communicate openly and clearly: transparent in our communication, both internally and externally.
- We collaborate constructively: recognizing and valuing different qualities within the team, collectively ensuring structure and focus in executing activities.

# Vision, Mission, and Goals

## Target Groups

Our primary target group comprises young children who, as a new generation, can break the cycle of poverty in the future. Additionally, we focus on families to provide these children with the right foundation for personal growth and education. Our work is made possible by donors, funds, sponsors, and volunteers.

## Goals

DARA Europe focuses on fundraising, engaging donors, foundations, sponsors, and volunteers to support SCCO's programs and finance specific projects.

Additionally, we aim to increase awareness of the situation in Cambodia, particularly in Andong.

To increasingly amplify our impact, DARA Europe consistently improves (marketing) communication. Our [website](#) contains extensive information. Moreover, we regularly send out digital newsletters and post brief updates on social media.

# Organization

## Team

The DARA Europe team comprises:

- The founder: Tirza Voss.
- Board members:
  - Jorik Kuhlmann (Chairperson).
  - Fred van Laarhoven (Treasurer).
  - José Huizenga (Secretary).
- Permanent and temporary volunteers.

The team of DARA Europe in the Netherlands is characterized by a determination to make a difference in the future of children in Cambodia. Team members are personally moved by the situation in Andong and have often been actively and selflessly involved with the organization for many years.

## Working Groups

The team collaborates in self-managed working groups focusing on finance, fundraising, events, marketing & communication, ICT, and administration. All working groups come together four times a year (online and/or in person) to review plans for the upcoming quarter, discuss the progress of SCCO's projects and programs in Cambodia, including impact made in Andong.

## Board

The board regularly holds online conference call meetings. Within six months after the end of the fiscal year, the board finalizes the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement in a board meeting. Decisions are valid if a majority of the board members are present during a meeting or if all board members have the opportunity to express their opinions in writing or via email. The board tenure lasts a minimum of four years, extendable by another four years or a pre-agreed-upon time. Board members and other volunteers do not receive any remuneration.



# Finance

## Fundraising

DARA Europe, as a non-profit organization, depends on contributions from others. Its income primarily consists of one-time donations, mainly obtained from funds, private initiatives, and gifts during campaigns and events. While we anticipate receiving an increasing number of one-time donations in the coming years, we aim to decrease dependency on them.



Our previous goal of covering 50% of our annual budget through regular donors within five years was not achieved. We understand that society now tends to give more one-time donations, making our previous goal unrealistic. Hence, our new objective is to increase the amount of recurring gifts by 5% annually compared to the previous fiscal year's realization.

Furthermore, we aim to have the budget for the upcoming year covered within the current year to ensure necessary guarantees for the continuity of activities in Andong. Fundraising efforts will include presentations at various occasions, organizing events, actively approaching potential donors, and applying to different grants and funds.

# Finance

## Income Allocation

Annually, SCCO drafts a budget for the implementation of the education and family support programs in Andong, encompassing basic programs and additional projects. DARA Europe sets its budget yearly based on these plans and formulates fundraising strategies accordingly. DARA Europe has pledged to contribute a minimum of 15,000 euros per year for the coming years. Additionally, Dara Children Trust in New Zealand and Stellar Children Trust in Australia are consistent contributors to SCCO.

Additional projects of SCCO are defined in consultation with DARA Europe. DARA Europe also commits itself to these projects through extra and specific funding requests.

## Costs

DARA Europe ensures that donations received benefit our partner organization, SCCO, in Cambodia. Therefore, we strive to minimize the operational costs of our organization.



DARA Europe publishes an annual report on the website outlining activities, impact, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements.

# SCCO

DARA Europe continues to be closely involved in the development of SCCO's future plans and in the execution of impact programs in Andong.

## Partner Organization

SCCO receives financial support from three international partners: DARA Europe, Dara Children Trust, and Stellar Children's Trust. SCCO and DARA Europe consistently seek fruitful partnerships that align with our mission and assist us in achieving our goals.



## Family-Based Care

DARA Europe's work builds upon initiatives that began in 2009 to assist (orphaned) children growing up in extreme poverty and an unsafe, unhygienic environment in Andong. The temporary shelter has evolved into a leading facility for education, family-based care, and community support in Andong. Additionally, SCCO will continue supporting children (re)integrated into family units from the former childcare center for the next five years until they achieve self-sufficiency.



## Community center

To sustain work in Andong long-term, SCCO, partly funded by DARA Europe, purchased land in Andong in 2016. Here, SCCO hopes to expand its community-building activities. Investing in land and a community center makes SCCO less reliant on rental costs and associated risks. Under current rental conditions, SCCO often faces challenges related to maintenance and lack of infrastructure..

## Income-Generating Activities

SCCO aims to reduce future dependence on (international) donations from organizations like DARA Europe. Opportunities arise from a growing middle class in areas surrounding Andong. SCCO plans to offer specific education programs for a fee at the new community center. Besides the sewing workshop, SCCO explores other opportunities for generating income for the organization and families in Andong. There will also be increased opportunities for fundraising in Cambodia. DARA Europe will support SCCO during this transition, understanding that our financial support will likely remain necessary for the foreseeable future.

# A bright future for children in Cambodia

## **Stichting DARA Europe**

address: Lagewijk ZZ3, 7895 TZ Roswinkel

website: [www.dara-europe.nl](http://www.dara-europe.nl)

e-mail: [info@dara-europe.nl](mailto:info@dara-europe.nl)

IBAN: NL50 RABO 0136 1288 58

KvK: 54890497

