

Growth through further digitization

Introductory framework

Better command of the English language gives children more opportunities. Supported by sponsors, the English for Kids Foundation (EFKF) - together with volunteers and teachers - can realize projects that enable people all over the world to communicate in English, the international language. EFKF was founded in 2007 and the organization has now guided thousands of children worldwide with English lessons and exams.

For the English for Kids Foundation, 2023 has been the year of rolling out digital education in the English language to underprivileged children in distant countries. This increased use of online teaching resources has resulted in a major leap in the reach of EFKF. In the past, teaching projects were limited to a small group of students per country but now hundreds and perhaps thousands of students in the future can benefit from EFKF's offered courses. In doing so, EFKF builds new future opportunities for children who until recently were described as disadvantaged or even hopeless.

The digitization of the courses offered has been preceded by years of preparation. In the early 2020s - during the corona crisis - online education was initiated, but a big leap forward was made in 2022, when a pilot project was started in Indonesia with 300 participants and government funding. There were some problems early on in our initial testing but the test was widely considered successful and in the reporting year 2023 the modules were refined, these problems were removed and the online system was further rolled out. Brazil, South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia and – on a small scale – Turkey are the countries where hundreds of students have successfully completed their courses (and received a diploma).

Different method, better results

The result of this 'digital revolution' is that EFKF's working methods have also changed drastically. In the past, volunteers went to distant countries to provide education to classes but now there is a small group of eight volunteers in various countries who monitor the progress of the young students from home. This not only ensures greater reach but also cost savings, as the travel and accommodation costs of traveling volunteers no longer have to be paid. The target group has also changed as a result because following the digital courses requires some proficiency with equipment that is expensive in the countries in question. EFKF now mainly reaches children aged 12-15, where in the past this was the case, mainly children under ten.

The aforementioned cost savings, and no longer utilizing traveling volunteers, have led to the courses lasting longer and being more in-depth. For example a few years ago, students from the Netherlands left for two or three weeks, to teach a course in Brazil. Now courses of ten weeks are the rule, with an additional ten week follow-up course, which means that the final level of the students is considerably higher than before.

Partnerships

In addition to the close ties with the volunteers and the foreign schools that refer students, EFKF's work is also possible through collaboration with local institutions in many countries. In 2023, these were mainly institutions in the five countries mentioned where EFKF was active. EFKF would like to continue expanding the close ties that have been built with local initiatives in these countries.

In the year under review, these were Remer and Edumais in Brazil, the NdLovu foundation in South Africa and the NGO Tjommie. The international organization Building Bridges, founded in 2015 by EFKF (and parent organization English Education Group), has also supported many projects, such as

those in Curaçao. There was also close cooperation with several service clubs in the Netherlands to guide Ukrainian refugees in English lessons. At the end of the reporting year, contact was made with the International Award for Young People in the Netherlands (Social Service Time), which can play a role in attracting and deploying volunteers.

The near future

The path of further digitalization will continue, new projects are set up in a similar way to the training programs that were so successful in 2023. The number of volunteers associated with EFKF will have to be expanded, campaigns have been set up and partnerships entered into for this purpose. Ties will also be strengthened with schools and service clubs. EFKF remains loyal to its location in Roosendaal and its region of origin, the western part of North Brabant. From there, large international projects will continue to be set up in the future to teach English to underprivileged children in disadvantaged areas.

Management and organization

EFKF relies on volunteer efforts, the six-member board consists entirely of volunteers. During the year under review, Michel Marijnen, one of the directors who had been part of the board for many years, resigned and his board position is still vacant. At the beginning of the reporting year, management of the daily affairs of EFKF was in the hands of Melanie Testers. In the first quarter, she was given a new managerial position within the parent organization English Education Group and has therefore - after extensive transfer - been relieved of her duties at EFKF. After this, her work was carried out by various volunteers.

Fundraising and finance

Financial resources remain necessary to make EFKF's work possible. As indicated earlier in this report, the digitalization of the offered courses has led to a significant cost reduction, which also made the need for fundraising in the financial year less urgent. The Hoevense Polderloop and school contributions in connection with the International Day of Languages (26 September) have provided income, but it cannot be ruled out that new actions, donations or other contributions will be needed in the future to finance all EFKF efforts.

The success of the project in Hatay in Turkey has led to two entrepreneurs with a Turkish background living in the Netherlands to make money available for two projects with a total of 200 participants in the earthquake area in Eastern Turkey before 2024.

Composition of the board

Arnold Augustijn, chairman

Marcel de Jong

Jos Blauwhof

Rianne Sieben

Paulus Smits

The position of Michel Marijnen, who resigned in 2023, is still vacant

The secretariat was filled by coordinator Melanie Testers in 2023, after her departure by successive volunteers.

Financial report 2023

The annual report of 2023 shows a limited number of activities, due to the transition period. Expenses were mainly bank, insurance and accountancy. Income consisted mostly of donations, related to EDL (European Day of Languages), BB (Building Bridges) and events like Santa Run and the Hoevense Polderloop.

Bank details

Expenses		Income	
You Sure invoice	€ 279,55	Roncalli Run	€ 123,00
Bank expenses	71,85	Maartens	9,20
	19,72	Lek	77,50
	19,28	Ike	78,00
Van Oers	69,58	Polderloop	32,00
Bank	19,28	EDL	8,90
	19,06		8,90
Van Oers	324,89		8,90
Bank	19,06		8,90
	19,28		8,90
	19,28		8,90
	20,37		8,90
Van Oers	14,52	Polderloop	500
Bank	19,28		
	19,50		
Totaal	€ 954,50	Totaal	€ 882,00