



# Annual Report 2017

[www.xlability.org](http://www.xlability.org)

# About XLability

XLability, a French 1901 association, is working for **greater public awareness about disability and the reduction of social exclusion that affect people with disabilities**. We do this through education programmes aimed at both adults and children, inclusive sporting activities and international sports exchanges

The association has three main objectives:

- **Educating society about disability, both the achievements of people with disabilities and the challenges they face.** The education programmes raise awareness by educating adults, youths and children about the need for an inclusive approach to people with disabilities.
- **Enabling people with disability to become more autonomous, physically and socially.** The association aims to help people with disabilities become more autonomous through the creation and promotion of all-ability sporting activities, where people with disability play sports together with people without disability. These activities currently take place in France, India and Cambodia through partnerships with local and international organisations. A long-term objective is to help people with disability find employment by bringing people without disabilities, who are potential employers, to meet with people with disability with a view to employing them.
- **Campaigning against discrimination towards people with disability and promoting accessibility.** The organization of international sporting activities including wheelchair sports exchanges brings international media attention to the achievements of people with disability, focusing on their needs and bringing their cause into public forums. A long-term objective is to make wheelchair sports more mainstream.

# XLability Programme



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

XLability collaborates with Soulcial Trust ([www.soulcialtrust.org](http://www.soulcialtrust.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

# 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!

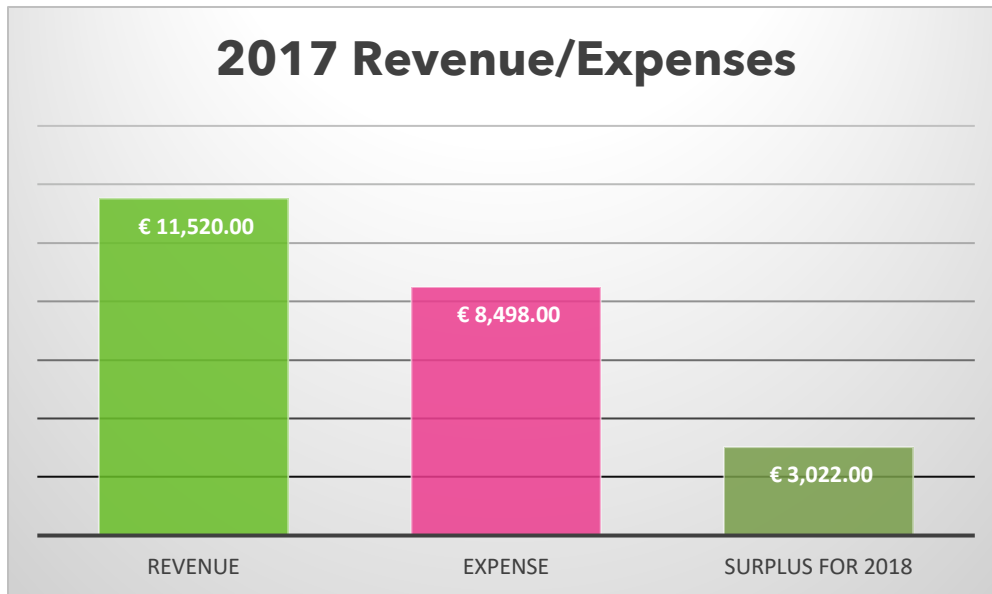
Another touching moment occurred after a small child fell out of the wheelchair that one of the volunteers was entertaining him in. He would not be calmed by anyone except his father, but he was on court participating in the training session so there was a delay. The tenderness displayed when they came 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

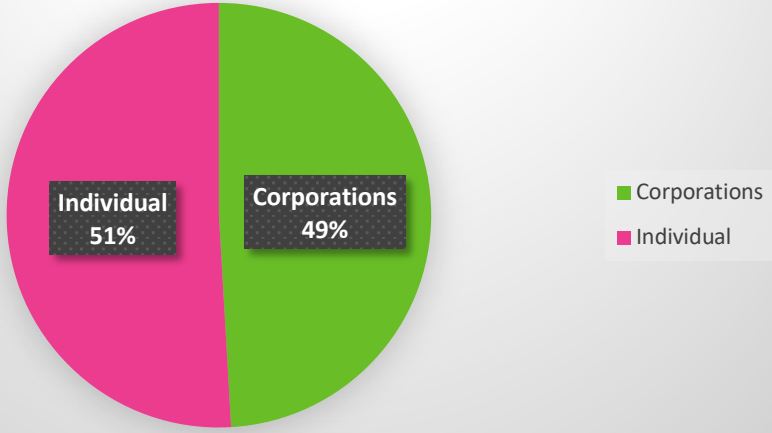


In total, XLability raised a record 11,520 EUR. Of this revenue, 51% was contributed by individuals, 49% by corporate sponsors.

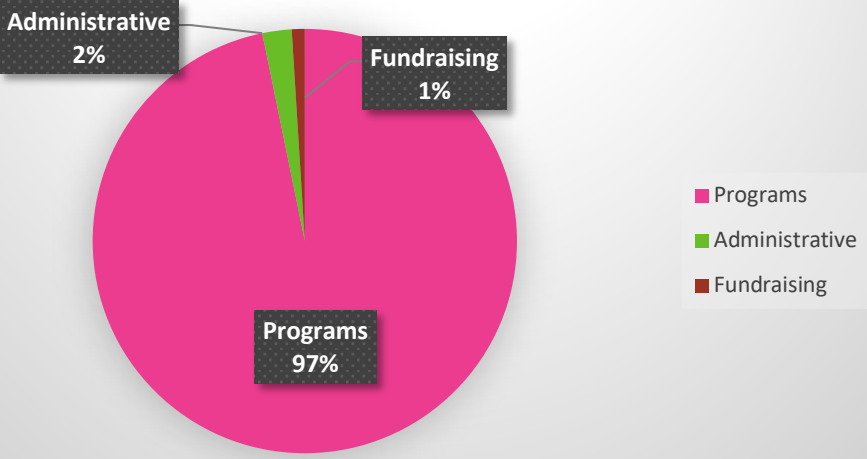
Our total expenses came to 8,498 EUR. 97% of those expenses was spent on our XLability programmes, 2% on general operations, and 1% on fundraising costs. Personnel was funded by XLability's implementing partner, Soucial Trust.

XLability ended 2017 with a surplus of 3,022 EUR, to be used for further programme development in 2018.

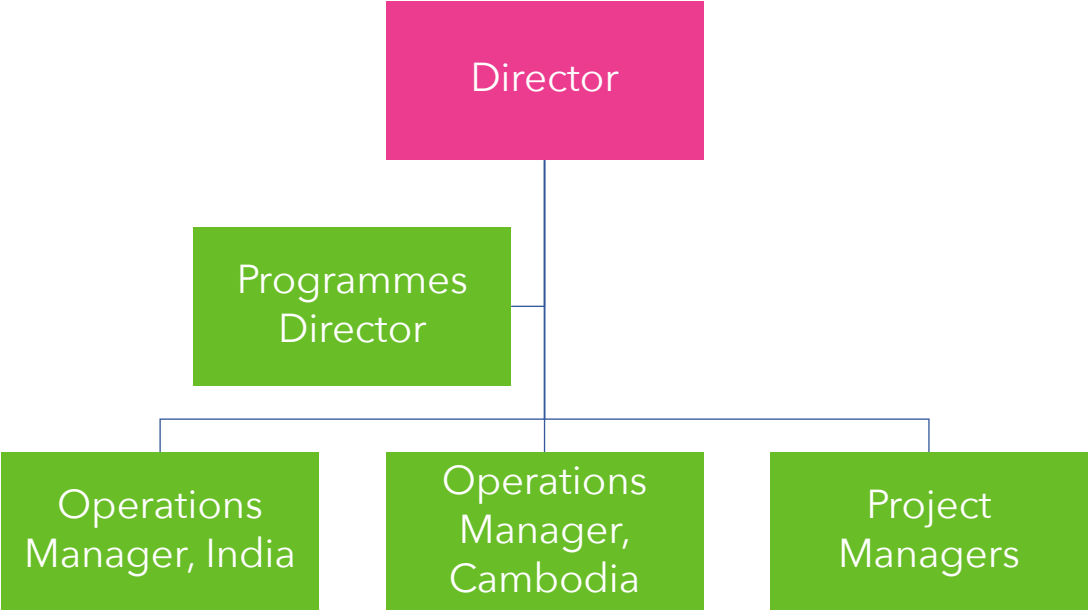
# 2017 Revenue Breakdown



# 2017 Expense Breakdown



# Soulcial Trust 2017 Structure



## TRUSTEES

**Emeric Pezin**, DocSea SA

**Emilie Pezin**, AXA Bank

**Michael Barrett**, Asia Pacific Travel Retail Association



# 2017 Supporters

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

M1nd-Set, Switzerland

Planeum, France

## PARTNERS

Angkor Association for the Disabled, Cambodia

Anjali House, Cambodia

Delhi Warriors, India

Easia Travel Agency

ICF Cambodia, Cambodia and Switzerland

International Committee of the Red Cross,

Switzerland

Khmer Independent Life Team, Cambodia

Montpellier Wheelchair Rugby Club, France

Music and Art School, Siem Reap, Cambodia

See Asia Differently, Cambodia

Soulcial Trust, India and Cambodia

Stade Toulousain Wheelchair Rugby Club, France

Tennis Cambodia, Cambodia



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