From The Founders

Our New Vision and Strategy

Daniel Marco Siegfried
Co-Founder & Head Projects

What will be the main challenges for children and young adults in five years? What is required for our four countries to be able to develop in a sustainable way? And how are we going to support our beneficiaries in the most effective way to address the needs related to these developments? These were just some of the core questions that we sought answers for. Instead of looking into a crystal ball, reading tea leaves or following local practice of getting advice from astrologers or gurus, we started our strategy review process last September with a two-day workshop together with our management team. This review process was completed in May 2017. We concluded that most of our current work will remain relevant for the next five years.

Inspired by the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, which look at development much more holistically, inclusively and in a less patronising way than the previous UN Millennium Development Goals, we unanimously agreed not only to put even more emphasis on the long-term development needs of our four countries, but also to protect the environment and to promote peace and justice through our work. We will continue to focus on “Improving health and education for sustainable development”, which is our revised mission statement. We can now incorporate issues about the environment, peace and justice into our interventions.

This new strategy underlines that Child’s Dream has evolved from a typical children’s charity to a development organisation working with and for children, youth and young adults to empower them to have a sustainable, positive impact on their societies. Our Basic Education team focuses on improving access to basic education, and is now increasingly concerned about relevance and quality of education. Our Health team is more involved in health prevention and education for young children and adolescents, while still focusing on reducing childhood mortality. Our Higher Education team is now focusing more on what alumni achieve besides providing more and more opportunities for further education for marginalised youth and young adults.

This evolution of our work also needed to be reflected in our vision. Our previous vision statement, besides being far too long, merely looked at providing education and healthcare to children in our countries. Our new vision “Empowered people responsibly shaping their communities” highlights the desired state our beneficiaries find themselves in and their intentions for the future.
From The Field

LWO Reproductive Health Awareness Training

Aims at reducing childhood mortality and improve health and hygiene in schools and communities

The need for this programme becomes very obvious when we read the details of the women who receive contraceptive pills from this programme. Most women in our remote Lahu communities in the Northeast of Myanmar have four or more children, sometimes even more than 10. But what is even more shocking is that many mothers have lost between one and four children.

Besides large families and high childhood mortality we also see an increase in STD (sexually transmitted diseases), early teenage pregnancies and drug use posing a huge health risk to adolescents. These are exactly the reasons why we support this reproductive health and family planning programme implemented by a very dedicated team from the Lahu Women Organization (LWO). Besides distributing condoms and providing contraceptive pills, we empower young women with knowledge and skills to take family planning into their own hands. However, LWO also encourages young men to participate in the training to increase their awareness and understanding. Every year about 400 young Lahu women and men are trained and over 60 women currently use our contraceptive pills for their family planning.

Half Day School Programme

Aims at increasing access to quality education

Thailand is a major hub in international trafficking, being a country of origin, destination and transit. A significant number of trafficked women and children are from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos and migrated to Thailand to escape poverty. In consequence of their illegal migration, they often end up in forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

Child’s Dream supports the programme operated by DEPDC, a registered community-based non-governmental organisation, which is based in three strategic areas: Mae Sai, Chiang Khong and Mae Chan, all in Chiang Rai Province, where children are at substantial risk of being trafficked and exploited. It offers vocational and life skills training, medical check-ups, vaccinations, nutritious meals and protection for children who are
This year we are proud to announce our support for Parami Institute. Their overall goal is to establish a private, not-for-profit, four-year residential Liberal Arts and Sciences University in Myanmar. Until private university laws are clear, Parami Institute is currently building a solid reputation for quality tertiary education while running the following activities: the Parami Leadership Programme, the Parami Talk Series, and the Parami Conference.

The Parami Leadership Programme is the Institute’s flagship programme. It is a semester-long multi- and inter-disciplinary educational programme intended for recent graduates from Myanmar universities. It is designed to nurture leadership and liberal education skills including critical thinking, inter-disciplinary analysis, and articulate communication, as well as to develop research and effective writing skills. Students study liberal education courses such as Comparative Politics, Global Economics, Humanities, and Integrated Sciences with professors from internationally-accredited universities. 32 students are selected annually through a rigorous application process. Graduates of the programme will be able to address complex challenges in private and public sectors in the country.

The Parami Talk Series is composed of monthly talks, open to the public, featuring high-level speakers from Myanmar and around the world, on global and local issues. This programme highlights the complex issues that require 21st century skills such as inter-disciplinary problem solving and critical thinking.

The Parami Conference is a biannual event that gathers teachers, academics, and educators across Myanmar with the mission to promote liberal education and its coordination. The conference includes workshops, trainings, seminars, talks, and panel discussions.

Ethnic Youth Foundation

Ethnic Youth Foundation (EYF), supported by Child’s Dream Association, was successfully registered and was granted a 5-year operational license to run a school in Tachileik, Myanmar on 22 May 2017.
From The Office

From a Donor’s Perspective

My relationship with Child’s Dream started long before the organisation was even thought of. The two founders Marc Jenni and Daniel Siegfried are colleagues and friends of mine, all of us having worked at the same bank in Zurich.

Although the two gentlemen were transferred from the Head Office in Zurich to the Hong Kong and Singapore branches, we stayed in touch. In 2002, during one of my regular visits to Thailand, I decided to go to Singapore to visit Marc and Daniel. Here, conversations amongst the three of us were held, touching on the subject of charity organisations in general. Little did I know that, a year later, they would give up their well paid banking jobs and start up Child’s Dream. I was very happy to hear about this and immediately decided to support their organisation by donating a small sum every month. I knew that every penny would be put to good use to help educate the children of the Mekong area, building schools and housing, and so on.

My donation, which started in 2004, was first used as a salary for one of the teachers who taught English to underprivileged children. In 2008, I decided to visit Thailand once again, but this time spend a few days in Chiang Mai and see what projects were underway. We did a road trip to Mae Hong Son and visited the Tomato Village: I don’t know if any tomatoes were planted there, but that was the name of the village. Here I met Benjamin, a teacher who taught the children English in a small wooden hut with wooden desks and chairs for the kids, but no walls at the sides, just a straw roof. I stayed on to experience one of the exciting lessons. Just seeing the children’s smiling faces touched me and I was very impressed. This has been a success story as, at the beginning of the project, Benjamin needed Child’s Dream support; but as the years have passed, he has managed by himself.

Child’s Dream started off with a very small team in the combined office and living quarters of the founders and has now become a large enterprise with its own office building and more than 40 people working for the Association.

Marc and Daniel have expanded the initial scope of Child’s Dream from helping underprivileged children to also providing for youth, local communities, scholarships, medicinal assistance, where necessary, and also staff training so that they can go out to oversee projects and help in the surrounding regions.

I am very proud to know these two wonderful gentlemen, glad to be a donor and also to be their friend.

Audrey Schertenleib,
Kilchberg, Switzerland, June 2017

Increase Your Impact!

Have your donation dollar to Child’s Dream matched by your employer. There are several corporations around the globe, such as Bank of America, CA Technologies, Goldman Sachs, Macquarie Group, Thomson Reuters and UBS Asia, offering matching programmes incentivising your charitable giving. Contact your employer to find out more, or point them in the right direction to start alike programmes. Thank you!
Administration Workshop 2017

We just held our administration workshop where we gathered in a quiet hideaway amidst beautiful mountains in Chiang Dao district near Chiang Mai and discussed topics including the operations manual, email management, basic graphic design, a website manual, and foreign exchange handling. Administration might sound rather boring, but we all felt the workshop was very inspiring. Thank you everyone for all of your help in making our event a success!

Career Fair, Cambodia

Our Basic Education and Higher Education teams participated in the Career Fair at Pouk High School in Siem Reap province, Cambodia on 20 May 2017. Thank you to those who attended!
Our Team

Health Team

Basic Education Team

Higher Education Team

Administration Team
Higher Education Aims at creating leaders and specialists who work towards the development of their country

Basic Education Aims at increasing access to quality education

Health Aims at reducing childhood mortality and improve health and hygiene in schools and communities

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