Tropical cyclone Komen has caused widespread flooding and devastating landslides in the Western part of Myanmar. It is estimated that over 100 people have died and over a million people are affected by the flooding, which has caused extensive damage. It also destroyed the livelihood of thousands of farmers as many agricultural fields are still flooded and most of their livestock was killed. Although the international emergency response has now started, our local partner, NEED, has identified 15 villages with roughly 14,000 people that are still in dire need of support. NEED plans to distribute rice, cooking oil, salt, fish paste, water filters, medicine, school supplies as well as cash to villagers to rebuild their homes. Child’s Dream supports these initial efforts with USD 30,000. Depending on the needs assessment during their relief work, Child’s Dream will continue to support the rehabilitation efforts of NEED. Please join us to help the most affected communities.
As with every other charity, to implement our mandate, we need money. And I mean a lot of money! Over the last 12 years, the impact of Child’s Dream has grown substantially, not just in numbers, but also by working in-depth with our communities towards long-term sustainability. We serve our tens of thousands of beneficiaries not just by providing school buildings or vaccinations, but also by addressing their problems in a systematic and inclusive way. It is not our goal to address one problem only, but to analyse the wider issues and impacts and then to work with our beneficiaries to sustainably solve the problem. Only by truly focusing on the beneficiaries’ needs and by truly addressing these needs sustainably, can Child’s Dream hope to become, one day, obsolete. Even if this is a far-fetched vision, it is our ‘Child’s Dream’ for the coming few decades to one day be able to sit back and reflect on ‘Mission Accomplished’. Looking back at the positive changes achieved over the last decade, this dream does seem possible.

Although most of our projects are now sustainable and do not require ongoing funding, bringing our development model to new areas and increasing the number of our beneficiaries requires the staggering amount of USD 6 million yearly. You can hardly imagine how challenging and difficult it is to raise such a large sum over and over again! But have we become victims of our own success? Maybe, and therefore I want to put a few questions to all our donors and friends. Over the last two to three years, we have heard, more and more often, remarks about our fundraising success, an impression which is far from reality. We often hear, “You are so professional and well-established that it must be easy for you to raise funds via all your connections to the rich and famous, so we have decided to give to another charity this year.” Or people will say, “You have grown so significantly in size that we have decided to support a smaller charity this year.”

On the surface such arguments might sound plausible, but, in reality, they are not. Yes, our impact has grown substantially over the years. This is the result of our very diligent and efficient way of project implementation. Our implementation and reporting capabilities are of a very high quality and this has helped us to attract more funding, which was immediately absorbed in serving more children and youth; hence we have grown and come closer to our ultimate goal of having achieved our mission.

So, I ask if you would stop eating at your favorite restaurant just because you pity the empty, not so delicious place next door? Certainly not. You want to receive the best value-for-money meal in your favorite restaurant. So why is this not the case in the charity industry? Don’t you want to donate to organisations which achieve the most with your 10 dollars? Aren’t you intrigued to know that your dollars will have the highest impact possible? Why give your dollars to a less efficient and professional organisation with a high overhead: just because you feel bad for them? This phenomenon is called ‘spray and pray’, but it does not help anybody. It puts considerable pressure on organisations like ours, struggling for funding, and allows inefficient players to stay alive, but this does not help our beneficiaries in need. Unsuccessful businesses are rightly pushed out of the market; unsuccessful charities are wrongly kept alive because our industry is an emotional industry and we all do ‘good’.

Another misconception is our source of funding. People say, “You get so much funding from big banks and global players”, but only about 5% of our total funding comes from these donors. 95% of our funding comes from private individuals, people like you, who are now reading this newsletter. And finally, all the many 10 dollar donations we receive are vital for our work. These smaller amounts allow us to build, for example, important things like toilets or to fill various and constant funding gaps. Without these smaller donations, we would simply be unable to run Child’s Dream. So please help us to make this vital industry more efficient, productive and professional, thereby sustainably solving today’s problems step by step. Many thanks!!!
Welcome and Goodbye

May and June unfortunately saw two very dedicated Child’s Dream volunteers leave. Firstly, our best wishes to Maria Steusloff, whose second baby girl was born July (and as soon as she has her own e-mail address, we shall register her as our youngest Child’s Dream contact). Secondly, Lorenz Altenhoff, who has spent the last eight months with us as a Volunteer Special Tasks, has left Chiang Mai, but will continue his work until year-end with an inspiring new task in a Child’s Dream project in Yangon. To both these wonderful volunteers a great Thank You and hope to see you again soon! Jack, who has had several assignments in Child’s Dream over the last seven years, finished his work with Child’s Dream at the end of July. For the past two years, he has been a part-time graduate student at Chiang Mai University in the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration. He has now completed this course and will soon start a new professional adventure, so congratulations! He is succeeded by Poonyaporn Intha, whose nickname is “Por”. Chayakon Saenghongsakun (nickname “Daeng”) joined us in June as our new Field Coordinator Health. Three colleagues have left, but new ones have joined us! A warm welcome to Daeng and Por!

Special Feature:
Nan Nyein Khan (Orn)

My name is Nan Nyein Khan. People from my country call me "Na Khin" and my colleagues in Child’s Dream Foundation call me "Orn". I’m a 33 year old mother with two kids, one son and one daughter. I’m from the Shan people of Myanmar. I crossed the border when I was 15 years, looking for a job to find a way to support my parents. For almost 18 years I have lived and worked in Thailand, but I never saw any other organisation like this one...the place I live and work at the moment. Child’s Dream lets me be myself. I did many kind of jobs before, for example, labour in construction sites; waitress in a restaurant; labour in factories and maid at a cleaning company. It’s no matter if I got sick or have to look after my kids; the cleaning company will even cut my salary for the day I miss.

At Child’s Dream Foundation I have learned so many lessons. My supervisor gives me the space to create/manage/organise my tasks for myself. This way lets me improve my skills for working better. Even some tasks I never did before, I try and then I can do them. I sometimes surprise myself as now I can go the bank, pay bills and communicate with the social security or the revenue office. Thank you all so much for everything you do to support me and thank you very much, my sister P' U.

Basic Education:
Dropout Prevention Programme

Prey Chas Secondary School was chosen to pilot this programme due to its high dropout rate of secondary students, along with the lack of motivation/interest from the community for students to continue and finish their education, despite the presence of reliable school infrastructure. The Dropout Prevention Programme’s main goal is to reduce dropout rates of secondary students. Reasons behind a high secondary school dropout rate include students having unreliable access to school facilities, and a lack of understanding on the importance of education by the parents and community members.

Prey Chas is located on Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia. Our programme seeks to address these issues, and improve school attendance and completion rates by first providing a means of transportation for students to attend school. The area is usually flooded during the rainy season; hence, commute by boat is often the only option for children to attend school. However, it is a very expensive option, as the cost of fuel is very high for the families who depend heavily on fishing and farming for their living. We provide boats along with the fuel necessary to transport students to their classes. We support students living in the student boarding houses and organise community events to target parents and community members so as to highlight the importance and value of having children complete their education.

Through these efforts, we hope to stimulate an improvement in both secondary school attendance and completion rates.
Higher Education: Monitoring and Evaluation Training

Two of our focus group heads, Thomas Brittner and Charuwan Phaisantham (Tai) attended a week-long training on Monitoring and Evaluation. The session was given in Bangkok by Dr. Wilfried Andreas Hermann of the Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF), a Thai Foundation specializing in the needs of communities according to a framework of human security issues in order to empower and strengthen the capacities of people. You can find more about HDFF on their website: www.hdff.org

Our focus group heads are responsible for overseeing many projects and programmes and so it is essential that they have a solid understanding of monitoring and evaluation. The content of the training included roles of leaders and management, project design with a focus on problem and objective trees, logical frameworks, performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation in regards to development projects, financial monitoring and evaluation, feedback from an auditor, and project risk management. The week-long training was a combination of lectures, discussions and feedback, group work, and presentations.

The training was packed with information that was relevant to the work of Child’s Dream. In order to make the most out of the training, both Thomas and Tai conducted an abbreviated training to introduce several of these concepts to our staff in a short, day-long session during one of our Child’s Dream workshops, which was held in June. Staff from all of our offices were able to broaden their monitoring and evaluation knowledge and practice making a problem tree for an existing programme supported by Child’s Dream.

Urgent Funding Needs

As a dynamic and forward-looking organisation, we are always keen to discover new opportunities and chances for all the children and young adults in need living in our geographic area. We are always looking for funding for our projects. The following link will provide more information on our urgent funding needs - http://childsdream.org/donate/funding-needs/. Currently we need donations for KSEAG, our school stationary programme along the Thai-Myanmar border, and for our Children’s Medical Fund. If you cannot decide on a specific project or programme, please remember that your donation into our general donation pool also has a huge impact. We allocate these funds to the project or programme we consider most in need.

CD workshop

Marisa Resort in Chiang Dao, about 1.5 hours’ drive north of Chiang Mai, was crawling with Child’s Dream team members from 10 June to 12 June. We were there for our annual team workshop, and included our Cambodian and Myanmar teams. This time, the event was organised by the new Management Committee. It had several learning modules taught and trained by ourselves: “Teams with different personalities”, “Communication”, improving our team’s knowledge on new CD projects, monitoring and evaluation abilities, and refining photography skills. We were honored to have our very experienced and skilled CD photographer Forrest Beaumont with us to document what was going on.
Fundraising in Australia

Over the last years, our Australian donor market has alternated from growing to shrinking year by year. The reason for this was that we did not really have a fundraising strategy for Australia and, to be honest, we also did not really understand the philanthropic landscape Down Under. This year in June, Marc and Daniel decided to travel to Melbourne and Sydney to see some of our existing donors, meet with prospective new donors and also to learn more about the dynamics of this market. The trip was promising and we can see more potential. Thanks to our partnership with World Relief Australia Australian donors will also be issued a receipt for tax purposes. Many thanks to Daniel Waldvogel for the mileage donation to make this a free flight!


You can help raising our profile on greatnonprofits.org by rating us. Thanks!

GOOD NEWS! On 3 July, Child’s Dream co-founder Marc Thomas Jenni and External Relations Department Director General Ms. Chanthavone Phandamnong signed a funding agreement of USD 3.5 million or approximately LAK 29 billion in the Laos capital, Vientiane. The three-year project will be implemented in four provinces in Laos. Read full story here

What do we need? Well,...
* If you have any children’s clothes, also warm clothes such as fleece jackets, or toys to donate, we are happy to accept them. What is not useful unfortunately are shoes or toys with batteries. You must either hand-carry them when you come to Chiang Mai or then have someone take them along to Thailand and then mail them to our Chiang Mai office by Thai Post. Sending them directly by mail from abroad is too expensive and will not work, as it triggers very expensive customs duties at our end.

* What we also desperately need are volunteers – see all our current volunteer ads here.

Our new elephant, “Miss Fantasia”! Now available in our online shop. See what a beauty she is!

Your Child’s Dream Team!

Connect with us!

Contact us
Child’s Dream Foundation
238/3 Wualai Road, T. Haiya, A. Muang, Chiang Mai 50100, Thailand
Email: info@childsdream.org  •  Website: www.childsdream.org  •  Tel. +66 (0) 53 201 811  •  Fax +66 (0) 53 201 812