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URGENT FUNDING NEEDS

The following projects and programmes need urgent funding or continuous financial support.



DONATE

With our low administration cost and direct access to our beneficiaries every contribution makes a difference.



OUR SHOP

How about shopping for a good cause? These products are exclusively sold on our webstore as well as in our store in Chiang Mai.



From The Founders

Our Child's Dream Heroes

Marc and Daniel – Founders

As founders of Child's Dream, we are connected every day to our valued donors and friends. We get very direct feedback about our work and our achievements on a regular basis. It is we who often get praised for the positive impact of Child's Dream, but we also take to heart constructive criticism. Overwhelmingly, we receive confirmation that the decision we took 14 years ago was the right one. Setting up Child's Dream has profoundly changed our lives forever and all this in an amazingly positive way. But then, this is not our achievement alone. The reward belongs to our entire team. *'Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.'*

For the two of us, this year-end newsletter seems to be the perfect opportunity to stand back from the limelight, and to put our 36 Child's Dream heroes right at centre stage. There are no external floodlights needed to make our extraordinary team shine, since this overwhelming energy all comes from the inside.

Where to start? You might not be aware that our health team, taking care of hundreds of very sick little children, is on standby 24/7, sleeping in our safe-house. They do this, not just on normal nights, but also during weekends or times when others celebrate public holidays. It is not just an amazing commitment towards our work, but also a mental challenge to deal with emotionally unstable parents worrying about their children in a country foreign to them. Then there are project heroes in our education teams in charge of building our schools or taking care of higher education programmes all over the region. Yes, it's beautiful to visit South East Asia and experience the amazing mix of cultures and food. Getting to the very remote corners of our work though requires driving for a combined total of more than 150,000 kilometers a year! This is driving 3.5 times around the globe and in second-hand pick-up trucks. One has to bear in mind that, for almost half the year, we experience extreme weather conditions and many of the roads turn into mud slicks. It happens that, now and then, cars get stuck, forcing our project heroes to spend the night in the middle of nowhere. We will not elaborate on food and toilet issues, but one can imagine that such situations are rather out of the ordinary for most of us, right? Or picture visiting a remote programme in Karen State of Myanmar, walking along a little footpath in the middle of a mosquito-infested jungle with armed soldiers both in front and behind you. There are no roads accessible to motorised vehicles. If there is public transport available in other areas, our teams spend nights on local buses, or what passes for a bus, trying to reach

projects by the next morning. Yes we could fly, but unfortunately, where we operate, airports are not much in supply. To facilitate all this, a strong logistical backbone is ready to support our work out of our three offices in Siem Reap, Yangon and Chiang Mai.

By now you will appreciate that it is not we who deserve the credit. The credit goes to our many Child's Dream heroes who make the organisation go round and round, every single day of the year. You will also understand why we call our colleagues 'heroes'. Our heroes have families, partners, friends, children, parents, dogs and cats to care for at home, but still always keep their motivation and dedication high. This not only makes us eternally grateful, but also extremely proud. Our team of heroes truly goes the extra mile, day after day, improving the lives of tens of thousands of children and youth. Our heroes definitely deserve all the credit. What we have achieved together would not have been possible without all of them, so a million thanks from the bottom of our hearts!

And since only 'together we can achieve so much', a special thank you definitely also goes to all our donors, friends and families, who believe in us, and give us the energy to keep going.

We now wish you all a very nice and relaxing Festive Season, all the very best in 2017, and beyond.

From The Field



Exciting New Partnership for School Health

Health – To reduce childhood mortality and improve health and hygiene in schools and communities

An increasing number of students, regardless of their background, can nowadays access basic education in our target countries. This is a tremendous achievement, but also creates a new challenge: health and hygiene in schools. For about three years, Child's Dream has focused on improving health awareness and hygiene standards in remote and under resourced schools. We implement these school health interventions either directly in our own target schools or through partnerships in schools outside our areas.

We just entered into such a partnership with Tara Foundation, based in Mawlamyine in Mon State, Myanmar. This organisation works closely with the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) to provide health and hygiene training, as well as regular health screening, to 965 students in eight remote schools in Mon State. The programme trains teachers to run regular hygiene activities such as hand washing, tooth brushing, using toilets correctly, as well as providing skills about basic first aid. Tara's trainers will also provide monthly health education to the students directly and organise one health check per semester to detect and treat health problems. We are excited about this new partnership! If you would like to support us to improve students' health, please contact us!



Enhancing our High School Scholarship Programme

Basic Education – To offer basic education for all in order to improve literacy and create alternatives to exploitation

For the last 10 years, our priority in Basic Education has been to provide access to basic education. We have come a very long way but there are still many areas where parents are struggling to send their children to school. Besides continuing to build schools and boarding facilities at schools, we also see the need to provide interventions complementing the government's efforts to increase the quality and effectiveness of education.

Our high school scholarship programme is one of those interventions. We recognise that high school education is out of reach for many poor students living in remote areas so this academic year we have provided scholarships to almost 700 motivated students in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. These students not only receive a scholarship, but also coaching by our Child's Dream team. We recently added three new team members to our Basic Education team to develop this programme further. We will conduct more targeted workshops on leadership, civic mindedness and career planning so that, when students graduate, they will be well equipped to make the right decisions for themselves.



Mote Oo Partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and Myanmar Union Election Commission

Higher Education – To support knowledge and skills transfer for quality employment and community development

Mote Oo (MOOO) is an organization that specializes in curriculum development, classroom materials creation, and teacher training. Child’s Dream has been the largest funder of MOOO since its founding.

MOOO has grown steadily over the years, and has become more well-known in professional and government circles as well. Earlier this year, MOOO was approached by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). IFES were interested to use MOOO materials in their support of the Myanmar government’s Union Election Commission (UEC) training of incoming township level sub-commissioners. IFES organized a four-day training called ‘Union Election Commission Induction Training’ during 12-15 September 2016. The IFES used materials from three MOOO modules: Active Citizenship, Democracy, and Gender. Copies of both Active Citizenship and Democracy were purchased by IFES and given to the 400 participants (300 trainees and 100 observers) who were present. The trainees were 80% female, and were selected from among 40,000 applications.

This new application of MOOO materials highlights the changes that are happening in Myanmar. This event was the first time that the Myanmar government allowed a community service organisation a role to formally work alongside the government in such an official setting. We are very proud that MOOO was able to be a part of the new era of trust-building with the government in Myanmar.



UEC trainees participating in an activity from “Democracy”, in the Democracy and Representation training.



“Sold out, please wait until we get more books sent from Yangon,” We sold 95% of the books we brought within 30 minutes and had to get another 10 boxes from the office. They were in high demand, as were requests for training and other assistance.

From The Office



Fundraising Event

Our kick-off project on GlobalGiving went live and started accepting donations on Tuesday, November 29, 2016! Help us reach our goal of USD 7,500 to provide clean water to a remote village in Cambodia! >> <https://goto.gg/25990>



Donation from Le Méridien Chiang Mai

Hotel Le Méridien Chiang Mai donated a large amount of second hand bed sheets, staff uniforms, bath mats, duvet covers and pencils to us. All these items can be very well used in our projects. As the photo shows, our teams carry many a box of these items. Many, many thanks for your kind donations, Le Méridien.



Cows and Computers

Child's Dream is currently testing a pilot programme with five computer labs in Laos. Aside from the ongoing training requirements for the computer teachers, the long-term sustainability of the computer labs was one of the main challenges. Contemporary desktops have a life span of 5-7 years maximum. What will happen once the desktops break down? How can a school replace them? One school in Laos found the ideal solution: cows! The school charges the students an affordable fee to use the computer labs, and invests the savings into cows. Now the school has a small herd of cows which also reproduce. The herd is being taken care of by the teachers and boarding students. The idea is that when a computer breaks down they will sell a cow, and buy a new computer! On average a female cow has its first calf at around 2 years of age. A cow's life expectancy is between 7-10 years but the best price is achieved at 4-5 years which is the same life span of our desktops. The price of one full-grown cow is roughly equal to a basic desktop computer! What an absolutely brilliant idea!

Voice of a Volunteer

Jonas Riegel, 21, volunteer teacher at BHSOH Learning Center



Volunteering for Child's Dream has been the highlight of my life so far. I am a volunteer teacher for a whole school year at BHSOH Learning Center, a Burmese migrant school in the area of Mae Sot in Thailand. I live in a boarding house near the school.

Many people ask me why I am doing this: giving up the comfortable life in Switzerland to live under simple conditions and teach for four hours a day without getting paid. And they are right: I don't get any money. Instead, I get what money cannot buy. I get love, appreciation and lasting friendships. I get to see my students thrive and succeed and help them through difficult times. I get happiness. Because I have reason to be here, I am motivated every day. I used to be a rather lazy person, but here I am learning self-discipline. My commitment here is an incredible experience and an enrichment of my life.



Volunteering

Do you need a break from your work routine? Are you keen on helping? Then join us, volunteer in our office in Chiang Mai for six months. Next opening between mid-March 2017 and early July-August 2017. To learn more, please click [here](#).



Health

To reduce childhood mortality and improve health and hygiene in schools and communities



4,397

CHILDREN LEARNED ABOUT HEALTH AND HYGIENE



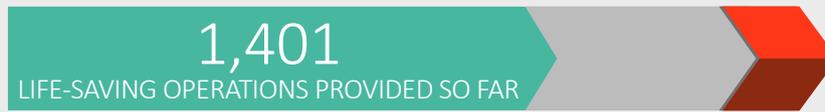
10,183

CHILDREN RECEIVED VACCINATIONS AGAINST 8 CHILDHOOD DISEASES



1,401

CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED LIFE-SAVING OPERATIONS AND MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS



2,000
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR
2020



Basic Education

To offer basic education for all in order to improve literacy and create alternatives to exploitation



222

SCHOOL BUILDINGS BUILT



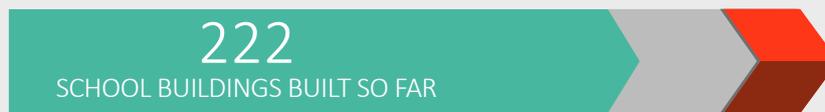
2,905

BURMESE MIGRANT STUDENTS STUDYING IN OUR LEARNING CENTRES IN THAILAND IN 2016



160,000

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN MYANMAR RECEIVE STATIONERY



350
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR
2020



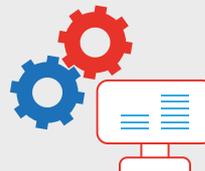
Higher Education

To support knowledge and skills transfer for quality employment and community development



2,206

TRAINED TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS



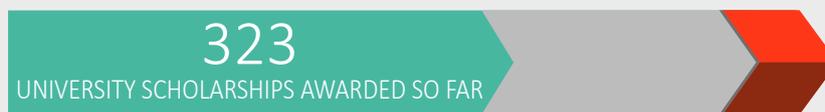
4,050

STUDENTS RECEIVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



161

STUDENTS RECEIVE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



500
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR
2020

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