

Child's Dream Foundation

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For over 13 years, we at Child's Dream have put hundreds of thousands of children through school all over Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. More than 300 educational facilities have been built so far and more than 700 young students are kept in school thanks to our high school scholarships. We believe that promising young adults need to be empowered to become real leaders and specialists, ultimately triggering systemic change, leading to a better future. Our university scholarship programme has a proven track record of creating change makers and we are proud to play an important role for the betterment of thousands of remote and neglected communities. Our achievements over the past 13 years have kept us going and motivate us even further to excel.

But then, the path on which the world currently walks will not be sustainable much longer. New ways are needed to ensure that our planet remains a home to all of us. One such way is highlighted below.

With a monumental celebration in New York the United Nation's new Sustainable Development Goals were signed off by the heads of state on 25 September 2015. Some of the 17 goals sound familiar; no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality. But there are a few new interesting ones; affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and climate action. These new 17 goals will largely dictate where, by whom and how the roughly USD160 billion of annual development aid will be utilized. Although these goals offer a fresh plan on how to save the world, the main strategy for eradicating poverty remains the same; growth. Since 1980 the global economy has grown by 380% but the number of people living in poverty (living on less than USD5 per day) has increased by more than 1.1 billion. Many developing countries were completely left out and the trickle-down effect did not happen. More growth, even if it would be fairer and more equal, is not going to be sustainable. At the current levels of average global consumption, we are already exceeding our planet's bio-capacity. There is a standardized unit called "global hectares" that quantifies both the ecological footprint of people or activities as well as bio-capacity of the earth. Right now our planet only has enough resources for each of us to consume 1.8 global hectares annually. People in the US and Canada consume about 8 global hectares while Europeans consume 4.7. Therefore, instead of pushing poorer countries to "catch up" with rich ones, we should be thinking of ways to get rich countries to "catch down" to more sustainable levels. The developed countries should get inspired by countries that have long life expectancy and a high level of happiness but consume much less resources like Costa Rica, Peru and Ecuador. This does not mean that we have to stop learning, improving and growing but we should be aiming at a lifestyle that is geared towards quality instead of quantity. A lifestyle that focuses on true human values and is more sophisticated than excessive consumerism that leaves us unsatisfied. It is not about giving anything up or living a life of voluntary misery but rather readjusting our own personal values and priorities. It is about reaching a higher level of understanding and consciousness about what we are doing here and why. So if we are truly interested in helping the poor countries to develop, we need to learn how to share the planet's limited resources and use them more wisely. The pivotal question is: are we willing to do this and can we learn quickly enough how to live a happy life with less?

If you want to learn more about Child's Dream Foundation and our work, please visit our website, www.childsdream.org, or drop us an e-mail at info@childsdream.org. You can also join us on facebook under <https://www.facebook.com/childsdreamfoundation/>.

Financial contributions are definitely welcome, so please visit us on <http://childsdream.org/donate/> to donate. We have a number of tax domiciles around the globe, enabling you to deduct your donation from your taxable income. Many thanks and we wish you all a very nice rest of the year!