Bridging Education Access to Migrants (BEAM)
Creating opportunities for employment and income generation
Overview

BEAM Foundation was established in 2009 to charitably assist Myanmar migrants in achieving a decent standard of living in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand.

To sustain their lives and escape oppression, poverty, and unemployment, Burmese are driven to migrate internationally to bordering countries, with Thailand being the largest recipient of the labour flow (Migration Policy Institute, 2017). Upon arrival, they are vulnerable to abuse, segregation, and meagre job prospects.

To address these challenges, BEAM provides basic non-formal education as a foundation for higher education, as well as vocational skills training. BEAM enables its students to increase their knowledge and obtain recognised qualifications and practical skills, which helps them to switch from 3D (dangerous, dirty and demeaning) jobs to better quality employment.

The migrant students are of diverse ethnicities, substantially of Burmans, Kachin, Karen, Shan, Kayah, and Mon.
**How It Works**

- **Bridging Programme of Basic Education Preparation for Higher Education:**

  Within this focus, BEAM provides non-formal education (NFE) from primary to lower and upper secondary level. After having registered at the Thai Office of Non-Formal and Informal Education (ONIE), students are placed into each level based on their acquired educational background.

  Before proceeding to the academic curriculum, every student is first required to fulfill a 200-hour Thai literacy course, during which they learn the skills of Thai writing, reading, listening, and speaking. The students are thereafter able to take on the Thai national-standard curriculum, which includes subjects such as mathematics, science, and social studies. Students also do research and projects in community NFE schools across Thailand.

  Graduation from the upper secondary level of NFE signifies that the migrant students have obtained official accreditation and are able to pursue formal higher education in Thailand.
Bridging Programme of Vocational Training:

At the completion of NFE primary and/or secondary levels, of which first-level and second-level certificates are issued respectively, students are given access to various courses at BEAM Vocational College. A flexible schedule of classes is offered (morning and evening) to accommodate the students’ NFE or work commitments. The training consists of:

- Basic Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Livelihood training such as hairdressing, tailoring, and handicraft production for income
Beneficiaries

Myanmar migrants and marginalised hill tribe youth aged 15 - 25 with a strong desire for self-development. In the academic year 2018 – 2019, a total of 485 students and 12 staff benefited from the programme.

Objectives

➢ To empower disadvantaged youth leaders to become potential leaders through higher education
➢ To promote continuous access to education for migrants, marginalised youth, and children
➢ To reduce poverty in the region by increasing capacity and employment opportunities among marginalised communities
➢ To promote and strengthen peaceful communities by aiding active citizens who value cultural diversity
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is **USD 141,000** for academic year 2019-2020 (April – March).

Transfers from Child’s Dream to BEAM are made in four instalments (quarterly) during the financial year.

**Monitoring & Reporting**

Payment is proceeded quarterly at reception of narrative and photo reports as well as monthly financial & activity reports. Feedback is also obtained directly during regular visits by our local team.

We report to donor(s) on a semester basis and visits can easily be arranged in Chiang Mai.