It All Begins with Building School Facilities
We strongly believe that a safe and secure learning environment is quessential for educational success. Therefore, we support children and youth in accessing education by building educational infrastructure, such as schools. Through our boarding house projects, we allow marginalised children and youth living in extremely remote and isolated areas of Northern Thailand universal access to basic education, leading to a more self-determined life.

The Challenges
As a tourist hotspot, famous for both its scenic mountains and vibrant cultural diversity, Northern Thailand is home to people from many different ethnic minority groups (commonly known as hill tribes in Thailand). And as Northern Thailand shares a long border with Myanmar (1,800km), it is also home to many stateless and undocumented people who have escaped the political and civil unrest in Myanmar. Disadvantaged and marginalised, they are mostly self-subsistent farmers who make an average household income of US$60-100 per month. Living in remote and isolated areas of the mountains, these communities are often invisible, as their environment acts as a natural barrier which shields them from the outside world. Due to poor infrastructure and road conditions, the difficulty of accessing these areas limits the amount of help and support available to these communities.

Beneficiaries
Students (aged between 6 and 18 years old) from disadvantaged ethnic minority communities and families who have migrated into Thailand to escape the civil war and political instability in Myanmar.
Boarding Houses in Northern Thailand

Limited by their resources, the boarding facilities provided by schools and communities are often run-down, unstable and overcrowded with students.

For the children and youth living in this region, the journey to school is often a particularly challenging and strenuous one, even dangerous sometimes. With limited school facilities within their own community, some of these students may have to walk as far as 30km each day, just to attend classes in schools located in neighbouring villages. During the rainy season, the dirt roads leading to school may become muddy, slippery and highly susceptible to landslides. Without boarding houses, many students living in this region would not even be able to attend classes regularly; some may even have to stop going to school at all. Hence, boarding houses are essential to support students in accessing or continuing education, which will improve their opportunities and empower them to make better decisions for their lives.

Approach

Guided by our bottom-up approach, community leaders and the school committees are engaged in close collaboration and consultation, from the early stages to develop and construct the facilities. We believe in fostering good relationships with the communities, as it enables us to understand their real needs and ensure the projects’ sustainability. Through regular follow-ups and communication, we remain sensitive to their needs even after the project is completed; enabling us to continue supporting them in promoting education and increasing children and youth’s participation in school.

Budget & Report

Depending on the size of the school, a boarding house costs US$20,000 to US$50,000 and accommodates around 20 to 100 students. It is also possible to contribute part of the total cost of a boarding house (e.g. 50%).

As with all our projects, a detailed final report will be provided together with a financial reconciliation, latest 2 months after completion of the project.