

Highlights 2008

Child's Dream - *diverse*ethics Foundation

Empowering marginalized communities and their members to shape their own future

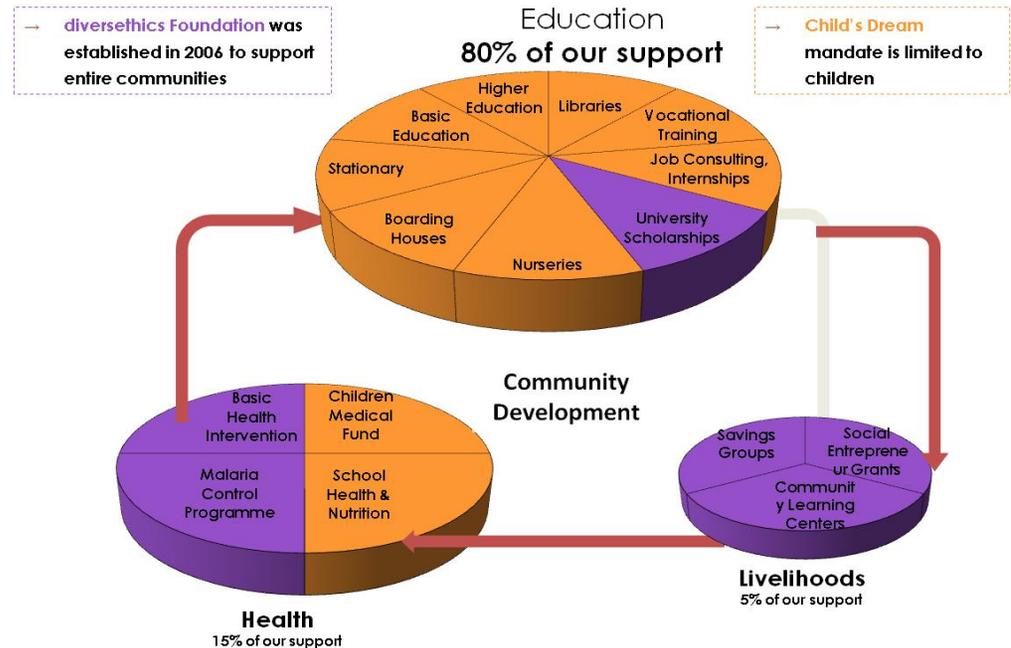
2008 was in many ways groundbreaking and decisive. We broke the ground at the premises that are now the permanent home of our organization and expanded the team from 12 to 28 paid staff. Despite that, our administration expense ratio was a mere 6.9%, a result of strict cost management by our staff.

Along the **Thai Burmese border** we started to build the largest project we have ever undertaken, a school for over 1,000 children of mainly Burmese migrant workers. In the **North of Thailand** we were still focusing on marginalized, mostly indigenous children and youth to improve their opportunities to access both formal and non-formal education. We completed or are about to complete four boarding houses, one nursery school and two schools. The prolonged, heavy rainy season made the work for our **Laos** team especially challenging in 2008. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions and getting frequently stuck in the mud while driving to remote locations, they were able to finalize nine schools and started the construction of twelve new schools including two boarding houses. Integration of KAKO Child's Dream Cambodia continues with the aim to stabilize their existing three programmes (village libraries, literacy classes and scholarships for poor children) and the income generation program added in 2007. The Children's Medical Fund Programme supported the specialized medical treatment of over 200 children from Burma during 2008. Over 70% of these children had debilitating and/or life threatening birth defects. 60 Burmese students are pursuing their college education in universities in Thailand under our University Scholarship Programme.

Child's Dream - *diverse*ethics Foundation Limited (Hong Kong) was incorporated in Hong Kong on 26th March 2008 while Child's Dream - *diverse*ethics Foundation (The Netherlands) was incorporated in The Netherlands in autumn 2008.

The financial crisis and the current economic uncertainties caused us some sleepless nights as the source of our funding is deeply rooted in the financial industry all around the world. However, we could still experience an increase of 11% in our donation volume in 2008, which allowed us to live up to our pledge of helping the least privileged in our society. Thank you very much again to all our valued donors, small and big, for your trust and your support. A great thank you also goes to our fantastic team without whom we would not be able to transform our dreams into reality.

What We Do



Northern Thailand

While Thailand is a relatively 'developed' country with a gross national income per capita of USD 7,440 p.a., it is home to an estimated 3 million disadvantaged migrants, 150,000 refugees and is a hotspot for child prostitution, child labour, child trafficking and drug smuggling. Hill tribe ethnic minority groups who are often denied access to mainstream services such as education and health care.

Our projects in this area have focused primarily on giving marginalized indigenous children and youth access to education. We have built/renovated 5 boarding houses, 4 nurseries and 4 schools to allow our beneficiaries to attend schools in great distance from their villages and have constructed/renovated 4 schools in remote areas.

Recently, we expanded our efforts to setting up **higher education facilities and vocational training centres** allowing children to acquire additional skills and to have better job opportunities. To this, we have supported one initiative offering English language courses. One vocational learning project focused on sustainable agriculture is currently in realization.

We are also assessing the need for other **community development initiatives** (e.g. health, energy, community banks).



Laos

One of the 'less developed' countries where we work. In Laos, 27% of the population live below the poverty line with a gross national income per capita of USD 2,020 p.a. 31% of the population cannot read or write. In most rural and remote areas access to schools and basic education is very limited.

A needs assessment done at the end of 2006 in Laos revealed a significant lack of school infrastructure especially in rural and remote areas.

Our Laos team has an impressive track record. Since 2007, we have built/renovated 15 schools (**nursery, primary, secondary**) with a focus on schools located in remote areas with limited or no road access. A further 12 schools are currently under construction. We completed the registration with the Laotian Ministry of Education for intake of Laotian students at the end of 2008 and expect to take in two students to our **University Scholarship Programme** in 2009.

Going forward, we will continue to construct schools for additional communities and build on our relationships with the communities to broaden our scope of work.

We are working on plans to roll out a **stationery programme** to our schools, evaluate the possibilities of **teacher trainings, sanitation, health and hygiene training** as well as set up **savings groups**.



Burma

Definitely the 'least developed' country with a gross national income per capita of USD 510 p.a. For every 1,000 children born alive, 104 will die before their 5th birthday.

Highest number of malaria deaths in SE Asia. 37% of school children will not finish grade 5. Decades of human rights violations and ongoing civil conflicts, genocide and forced displacement resulted in many Burmese fleeing the country to neighbouring Thailand,

Our work targets Burmese beneficiaries living in Burma, in refugee camps or as migrant workers in Thailand, who are in desperate need for health care and education.

During 2008, our **Children's Medical Fund** supported the provision of specialised (often life saving) surgery to over 200 children from Burma. Over 70% of the children had debilitating and/or life threatening birth defects.

40,000 lives from 38 villages benefitted from the **Malaria Control Programme** in which we partner with Global Health Access Programme (GHAP) to buy mosquito nets, medication and provide rapid tests to diagnose malaria. 200,000 villagers from 1,000 villages benefitted from the **Basic Health Interventions for Children Programme** in which we also partner with GHAP. We provide vitamins and de-worming, village health worker training, maternal and neonatal health, feeding and immunization.

During 2008 we launched **Youth Connect** for Thai and Burmese youths in the Mae Sot area. This programme provides specialized vocational training and internship opportunities with local businesses and organizations as well as a career centre where students finishing school can search for jobs.

Burma - continued

We are into the 3rd year of our **University Scholarship Programme** and are currently supporting 60 Burmese students pursuing higher education in Thailand. Our three **Higher Education Initiatives** in Burmese refugee camps continue as well as our **Stationery Programme** covering all costs to provide teaching materials to over 600 schools, 1,920 teachers and 33,119 students in Karen State, Burma. We continue supporting selected maintenance and construction of **migrant schools** in Mae Sot. Construction of the Child Development Center new campus which will house 34 classrooms and peripherals facilities for over 1000 students is 90% completed and scheduled to open by end of May 2009.

Within days after the devastating **Cyclone Nargis** hit Rangoon, Irrawaddy and Pegu divisions in Burma in May 2008, we provided financial support to Emergency Assistance Team (EAT) to support the affected communities with the most basic needs (food, clean water, shelters, etc.). We made a second allocation in September to continue the provision of the most basic needs, and also to help restore the livelihoods of tens of thousands, who could not be reached by international NGOs due to the obstruction by the military regime.

In the future we intend to expand our activities further into Burma to tackle the root issues of Burmese migration to Thailand.



Cambodia

With 34 % of the population living below the poverty line, and a gross national income per capita of USD 1,550 p.a., Cambodia is yet another less developed country. 45% of children here are involved in some kind of child labour while 37% of children stop school before grade 5.

The years under the Khmer rouge regime have destroyed families and social networks, and rendered the country highly dependent on foreign aid.

Our initial focus in Cambodia was to leverage on our experience to provide **school infrastructures**. In 2007, we had the opportunity to integrate our work with KAKO Cambodia, a local NGO whose funding had dried out. KAKO Child's Dream Cambodia has since jointly built 1 primary school with further 3 schools currently under construction. We also finance running costs of 18 **libraries**, **scholarships** for 54 primary school students and a non-formal basic education programme to reduce illiteracy. In 2008, one of our most senior project managers relocated to Siem Reap to strengthen KAKO's capabilities and ensure consistency in our approach.

Going forward, we hope to support additional communities and to broaden relationships with existing communities using KAKO's platform of three programs (**village libraries**, **literacy classes** and **scholarships for poor children**) as well as the income generation program.

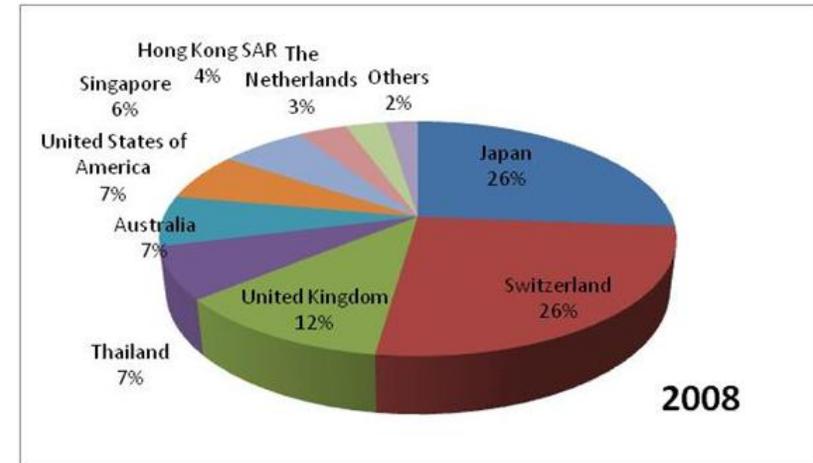


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