



Child's Dream Foundation

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Dedicated to empowering children,
youth and communities in the
Mekong Sub-Region

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Funding request for

The Foundation for Applied Linguistics (FAL)

Programme concerned

The Foundation for Applied Linguistics is an education programme that supports the educational development of ethnic children in Thailand

Implemented and funded by

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Executive Summary

The Foundation for Applied Linguistics (FAL) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the educational development for ethnic children in Thailand. The programme was initiated to implement Mother Tongue Based Bi/Multilingual Education for Ethnic Minority Children (MTB-MLE) 9 years ago under the office of Basic Education (OBEC) and Non-formal Education. The programme has been working with schools in the remote and mountainous part of Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai provinces where populations of diverse ethnic minorities are highly concentrated. The programme's goal is to bridge a language gap in Thai primary schools by offering a specifically designed language programme targeted to improve speaking, reading, and writing skills of ethnic children. The overall objective is to provide ethnic students with applicable language skills that allow them to understand lessons being taught in Thai schools and simultaneously to preserve their ethnic identity they are proud of. Child's Dream collects reporting quarterly, conducts frequent site visits, and speaks with beneficiaries directly to assess performance and impact.

We hope that you will find this educational programme worthwhile to support and agree to help us to support the annual budget of The Foundation for Applied Linguistics Programme.

1. Situational analysis

Over the past two decades, the Asia-Pacific region has continued to maintain high economic growth rates exceeding that of other regions, and has consequently become known as the "growth centre" of the global economy. Thailand has remained one of the strongest economies in the region. Not everyone, however, has benefited equally from this progress and wide disparities in socio-economic indicators remain, with children often faring the worst. Among the most vulnerable are children of ethnic minorities, migrants, people who live in remote border areas and those who lack a nationality due to non-registration at the time of their birth. Even as Thailand attains upper middle income status, children and women still face a complex and inter-connected set of challenges. These include increasing disparities, the uneven quality of education, urbanization, ethnic discrimination and the impact of migration. While the urban scene is developing rapidly, ethnic minorities are left behind facing critical challenges that will need to be overcome to realise the national vision for children and their rights to development, protection and participation.

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Challenges in Education

- ✓ Ethnic students do not understand and speak Thai language, they only use their mother tongue at home and in the community
- ✓ Ethnic parents and communities are not able to take part in their children's education
- ✓ Ethnic students cannot read or write Thai language correctly and meaningfully
- ✓ Ethnic students have no confidence to express themselves, they do not enjoy coming to school, they are not able to develop and use high level thinking skills

2. Programme overview

The programme goal is to bridge a language gap in Thai primary schools by offering a specifically designed language course targeted to improve Thai speaking, reading, writing skills of ethnic children.

Objectives

- ✓ To support the educational development of disadvantaged children from ethnic minority groups in Thailand
- ✓ To create understanding and speaking of Thai language with confidence and enjoyment
- ✓ To develop thinking and communication skills by using their mother tongue in their early learning experiences
- ✓ Use teaching materials which include stories, pictures and books designed by the local communities to reflect their culture and values, then children begin their learning in a familiar environment
- ✓ To foster reading and writing skills in Thai
- ✓ To maintain and develop the local language and culture which are integrated into the school curriculum throughout kindergarten and primary schooling years

Beneficiaries

The programme beneficiaries are children from different ethnic minority groups enrolled in Thai government schools across three provinces (Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, and Chaing Rai) - aged 6 and above.

Activities

Each year, the programme holds a teacher training, orthography review and development workshop, intercultural training workshop, and recruit bilingual teachers whenever necessary.

3. Budget

Budgets are drawn annually for The Foundation for Applied Linguistics and disbursed quarterly after we receive the regular narrative reports, financial reconciliations, and photos. Site visits are easily arranged throughout the year. Feedback is also obtained by us directly during our frequent school visits. As with all our projects and programmes, semester reporting is provided to donors.

The annual budget covers the running cost of the programme and includes staff salaries, office and administration, education and training, and teaching supplies.

The total annual budget, including our monitoring and overhead costs, is USD 136,277. This programme runs yearly from January to December, divided into four quarters. A breakdown of the annual budget that covers the period from January to December 2015 is provided below:

Running Cost	Total in THB	Total in USD
Salaries	1,421,000	43,723
Office and Administration	280,000	8,615
Education and Training	1,035,000	31,846
Teaching Supplies	1,075,000	33,077
Total Running Cost	3,811,000	117,261
Project Implementation Cost (3%)	117,866	3,627
Administration Overhead (7%)	295,721	9,099
Total Project Cost	4,224,587	129,987

USD 1 = THB 32.50 (THB, Thai Baht)



4. Risk analysis

We consider this project as medium to low risk for the following reasons:

- ✓ The teachers are not yet used to child-centred learning approaches and may slip back to their traditional way of teaching
- ✓ There is a high turnover of school staff and it may be difficult for them to understand Mother Tongue Based Bi/Multilingual Education and fully cooperate with the project
- ✓ The community may want to use their own script instead of Thai language
- ✓ Teachers may decide to transfer to other schools after 2 to 3 years

5. Implementation & ongoing management

The Foundation for Applied Linguistics budget runs on an annual basis from January to December each year. Child's Dream staff conduct regular site visits (announced and unannounced) and attend meetings frequently with The Foundation for Applied Linguistics throughout the year. Regular quarterly reports are produced by the programme and clarified by us. Communication is easy as the programme is located in Thailand where Internet connections and phone signals exist and schools are easily accessible.

6. Final reporting & funding

As with all our projects, Child's Dream will provide semester reporting to the donor.

For this particular programme we are ideally looking for donors who are committed to a 1 to 3-year funding cycle. Partial funding of the total budget is certainly possible.

Chiang Mai, 5th February 2015

Child's Dream Foundation

Marc Thomas Jenni
Founder

Daniel Marco Siegfried
Founder