WHY: Our alumni are important contributors to our strategy

Objectives - University Scholarship Programme

Our Higher Education programmes aim at creating pathways for leaders and specialists who work towards the development of their countries.

One of these programmes is our University Scholarship Programme which started in 2006. Since then we have granted full scholarships for university studies to 429 Myanmar, Cambodian and Laotian students at the time of this report.

We here summarize our annual updates collected from our Myanmar alumni. Our March-April 2018 survey had a response rate of 88% (130 responses out of 147).

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Child’s Dream Vision, Mission & Strategy

Vision

*Empowered people responsibly shaping their communities*

Mission

Improving health and education for sustainable development

Strategy

We design, implement, and partner to support interventions for children and young adults. We address current and future needs in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand related to:

- Basic or essential health
- Relevant and quality education
- Responsible leaders and qualified specialists
- Values of peace and justice
- Environmental sustainability
HOW: Guiding Principles – University Scholarships

- Promoting the development of the countries from which the individuals come
- Supporting the development of the educational system in the country of origin
- Prioritising students who aim to have a positive multiplier effect (i.e. teachers, social workers, public health workers, communicators, policy makers)
- Prioritising studies who will have a direct impact in their countries after graduation and when entering the labor market
- Prioritising students who study in their country of origin, acknowledging that some students may be forced to study abroad due to factors such as lack of education facilities or quality of education
- Promoting social reconciliation; addressing unbalanced ethnic, gender, and/or class issues
- Being as objective as possible in the selection of future leaders and change makers according to clear criteria
Current Programme Status

Currently there are 66 Myanmar students studying in Thailand (30 men and 36 women), 147 alumni of Myanmar origin who studied in Thailand, and 34 students who either stopped studying based on their own decision, or whose scholarships we discontinued since 2006. The graduation rate in our programme stands at 81%.

Typical reasons for dropping out were e.g. unforeseeable UNHCR overseas resettlements of Myanmar families in the early years of the programme, occasionally bad health of students or their close family members.

The reason why we ourselves discontinued scholarship support was that students did not perform to our own defined minimum standards (GPA below 2.75).
IMPACT: Programme Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni response rate</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>Percentage of alumni who responded to our survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-out rate</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Percentage of students who either discontinued their studies or lost our scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Students dropped-out x 100 / Total Scholarships awarded)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation rate</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>Percentage of students who graduated with a degree (Graduates x 100 / (Total Scholarships awarded – Active students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni unemployed</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Percentage of alumni currently unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni living in Myanmar</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>Percentage of alumni living in Myanmar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Place of residence
Alumni from a Myanmar background – 85 women and 62 men - are located in various places. It is important to take into consideration that quite a number of these alumni were born in Thailand, or came to live in Thailand at a young age, mainly to the Thai-Myanmar border.
**IMPACT: Programme Indicators cont.**

**Alumni employment analysis**

97% of alumni who replied to our survey are working. 53% are working in Community Based Organisations (CBOs) or International NGOs. This group works in a wide variety of very relevant fields such as in peace building initiatives, on gender topics, in environmental organisations, in educational institutions, in the field of public health, to name but a few.

In their professional roles, these alumni contribute greatly to capacity building in Myanmar. Some work on grass-root level (e.g. Consultant in a fertilizer sector improvement project), some on policy level (e.g. National UNDP Officer supporting parliamentary strengthening of 14 Myanmar regions and state parliaments).
Further Studies

Equipped with a bachelor degree sponsored by Child’s Dream donors, 14 of our alumni were able to continue their education at master level at reputable universities mainly overseas, e.g. The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Boston, USA.

One alumnus with an MSc in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery supported by a Child’s Dream donor is now doing his PhD studies at the School of Dentistry, University of Otago, New Zealand.

At the time of this report, 2 Child’s Dream alumni are enrolled in overseas master programmes:

1. Master of Education, focus on “Higher Education“, University of Hong Kong
2. Master in International Relations, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
Child’s Dream Alumnus MTW

- Graduated with a BA in Communication Arts from Bangkok University, 2010
- 06/2010-08/2010: volunteer at HURFOM-Human Right Foundation of Monland, Sangkhlaburi, Thailand
- 09/2012-12/2013: promoted to Program Manager, Scholarship and Student Support, Thabyay Education, Yangon, Myanmar
- since 11/2011: Mehm Kan Kyi Education Network, Founder and part-time Director, Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar
- additionally since 01/2014: Education Liaison Officer at World Education; represents World Education in Myanmar under the programme for local empowerment
- 08/2017-08/2018: University of Hong Kong, Master of Education, focus on "Higher Education", Hong Kong SAR
Child’s Dream Alumna TZW

- Graduated with a BA in Psychology & Education from Asia-Pacific International University, Saraburi, Thailand in 2016
- 06/2016-05/2018: Education Officer at World Education in Mae Sot, Thailand
- Since 06/2018: working at Teacher Focus Myanmar, Mae Sot, Thailand
Child’s Dream Alumna KCT

- Graduated with a BA in Marketing from St. John's University, Thailand
- 03/2011: Master in Inter-Asia NGO Studies (MAINS) in Sung Kong Hoe University, Seoul/Korea
- 05/2012-11/2013: Asia Network Service Inc. (Canada), Marketing Officer, Yangon, Myanmar
- 12/2013-12/2014: Area Manager with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar
- since 01/2015: Country Director, Child’s Dream Association (registered as local NGO since 2017), Yangon, Myanmar
Thank you!