High School & Vocational Scholarship Programme
Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand
Introduction

We initiated Child’s Dream High School & Vocational Scholarship Programme to provide middle school students from rural and marginalized communities with the opportunity to continue education at a higher level. Implemented in our four targeted countries – Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, the programme aims to improve the continuation rate of students between lower and upper secondary levels, by providing financial support to help them in continuing and completing their upper secondary education.

Accepted students receive full scholarship support which covers all education related costs, as well as costs for living, and transportation in their three years of upper secondary study. The academic year and the implementation timeline for each country differ.
Issues

- Of low socioeconomic status, parents do not have enough money to support their children’s education at high school
- Priority by the family is mostly given to the oldest male sibling, thereby neglecting the education of girls in particular
- High repetition and dropout rates in education system.

Objectives

- To provide underserved but motivated and academically strong students access to higher education
- To bridge the gap between lower secondary and upper secondary level education
- To promote gender equality in learning and development opportunities
- To facilitate inclusive development by imparting to students knowledge of opportunities for further studies and prospects of more secured employment (e.g. via job fairs), advocating social mobility in the nation.
Our Alumni (as of 2019)

Our 642 High School Graduates by Nationality 2010 - 2019

- Laos (317) 49%
- Thailand (168) 26%
- Cambodia (157) 25%

Our 132 Vocational Graduates by Nationality 2014 - 2019

- Laos (69) 52%
- Thailand (63) 48%

Please note: the programme is most recently implemented in Myanmar in 2017, there are yet to be graduates/alumni. By 2020, the number of Myanmar alumni will be approximately 50.
Student Selection Criteria

- Have successfully completed lower secondary level education and possess strong desire to pursue higher education
- Are underprivileged and have a proven need for financial support
- Have strong academic performance
- Demonstrate good moral and ethical behaviours
- Students from very remote areas are given priority.

Selection Process

Within that period, we conduct the following activities:

- Marketing and distributing application forms to students within our targeted middle schools
- Shortlisting and selecting potential candidates based on our selection criteria
- Conducting interviews and home visits to help us understand our students, get to know their parents and their living conditions
- Announcing results and signing agreements with our new cohort.
Monitoring and Reporting

We have developed a multi-step approach to monitor and evaluate students’ progress in school:

- Our local staff in the respective country visit the students twice every semester
- Their teachers will act as advisors and will support us in mentoring and monitoring the students
- Students will submit written reports (at least twice per semester) to share their reflections and highlight issues that they encounter during the academic period

As with all our programmes, reporting is provided twice a year. We hope that a donor will support a minimum of 10 students to aid reporting efficiency.
## Estimated Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Budget</th>
<th>Approx. Budget / Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition (37%)</td>
<td>Laos USD 2,000 (3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living costs (45%)</td>
<td>Cambodia USD 2,000 (3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books, stationery &amp; essential equipment (7%)</td>
<td>Thailand USD 2,500 (3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation &amp; monitoring (4%)</td>
<td>Myanmar USD 2,550 (3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration overheads (7%)</td>
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To ensure that the students can complete their high school education, it is important that donors commit to the full study path of a student for three years, leading to a high school or vocational diploma.