Established in 2010, BEAM Education Foundation aims to empower Myanmar migrants and marginalised ethnic youth in Thailand through education programmes, facilitating access to and participation in Thai social and economic life.

To sustain their lives and escape oppression, poverty and unemployment, Myanmar and ethnic minorities are driven to migrate internationally to bordering countries with Thailand being the largest source of labor flow and opportunity. Upon arrival, they are subject to abuse, segregation and meagre job prospects.

To address these challenges, BEAM strategically provides essential education programmes and systems designed to equip migrants with the knowledge, qualifications and support they need to switch from 3D (dangerous, dirty and demeaning) jobs to higher quality employment and a better life.

Child’s Dream Foundation and BEAM Education Foundation have been strategic partners since 2015. Our goals and mission continue to align as we work together to empower the lives of marginalised communities.
HOW IT WORKS

**RECRUITMENT**
Utilization of social networks expand reach and announce programme opportunities, activating the application process

**ADMITTANCE**
Selection criteria and placement exams qualify each student ensuring they are equipped to excel in the programme

**PROGRAMME PLACEMENT**
Alignment of student education and goals with programme initiatives achieves proper placement

**ALUMNI SUPPORT**
Continued learning, development and guidance are supported through post graduate programmes
BEAM’S FIVE STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

1. BASIC EDUCATION PREPARATION / NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
   Preparing students for a path of higher education and opportunity

   ► Students achieve basic/lower secondary education and receive an official Thai literacy certificate.
   ► Accessing basic, higher and vocational education through the Thai system and throughout Thailand is supported making transitions easier for students.

2. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME
   Empowering students with essential knowledge and skills through hands-on training

   ► ICT (Information and Communication Technology): Literacy for online research, formatting academic papers, applying for scholarships at universities and other essential tasks needed for their study. Zoom training is now part of this programme as BEAM integrates new pertinent innovations in this rapidly changing ICT space.
   ► Bakery, Thai Cuisine and Motorcycle Repair: Course work receiving an official certificate that meets ASEAN standards and recognized by the Thai Ministry of Labor.
   ► Income Generating Skills: Specifically for communities that are still largely lacking the opportunity to find occupation or education.
3. **C.H.A.T. PROGRAMME (CULTURE HOME ABROAD TRANSITION)**

*Increasing access to educational, occupational and social participation by bridging language and cultural barriers*

- **Mingalaba Programme**: Provides a basis for migrant children to reintegrate into their social environments upon return to Myanmar.
- **Sawadee Programme**: Introduces minority ethnic migrant workers from Myanmar to Thai culture and language, improving access to employment opportunities and education.
- **Hello Programme**: Includes Basic English and English conversation classes for Thais and minority ethnic migrants from Myanmar, improving English skills while increasing social, cultural and economic prospects.

4. **YOUTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

*Promoting an understanding among different communities and people through cultural exchanges*

- **Youth Club**: Facilitating youth empowerment and capacity by providing a space for youths from diverse ethnic groups to share ideas and exchange information. Club members organise and implement the club’s activities together thus exercising empowerment cross-culturally.
- **Youth Conference**: Bringing together Thai, Thai minority and Myanmar minority ethnic youths to learn and practice critical thinking and project creation together. Group sessions identify specific problems in their communities and develop solutions using problem analysis and project development tools.
5. **EDUCATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

*Removing obstacles and building bridges for students among legal and education systems*

- **Education Equivalency Initiative**: Connecting education systems between Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Education Liaison**: Assuring certification and recognition of education and skills acquired by students.
- **Education Technical Assistance**: Developing student’s education profiles while fostering communication between BEAM and Thai educational institutions.
- **Education Counselling and Consultation**: Arming students with knowledge about their rights and how to enforce them.
OBJECTIVES

► To empower marginalised communities in Thailand and create sustainable change
► To provide higher education access and vocational education training to marginalised youth
► To improve economic opportunities for migrant workers through capacity building
► To promote understanding of and interaction between the diverse individuals and communities of the Mekong region through cultural exchanges and programmes
► To help migrants prepare for a time when they can assume leadership roles inside Myanmar

BENEFICIARIES

Myanmar migrants and marginalised ethnic youth aged 15-25 with a strong desire for self-development.

In the academic year 2021-2022, an estimated 1,125 directly benefited from the programme with an enrolment of over 500 students. The number of indirect beneficiaries is estimated to be around 1,300 or greater.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 10,047 people have benefited from one of Beam’s programmes
- 1,370 students have graduated from the vocational training programme
- 714 students have benefited from the education legal assistance programme
- 675 ethnic minority youth have joined the youth committee
SUCCESS STORY

In 2000, with civil unrest increasing among the border states of Myanmar and a very slim chance of getting an education beyond the first grade, Hay Tha was sent by his parents to begin a more stable life of education and opportunity in Thailand. He left his village at the age of nine on foot with his father, walking for two days through the jungle to reach the border.

Hay Tha studied in migrant schools along the Thai/Myanmar border for the next eleven years earning his grade twelve level of education. Over the years he faced numerous challenges with one major obstacle: migrant school academics were not recognised by the Thai or Myanmar Ministry of Education. Thanks to BEAM, Hay Tha was recognized for not only his academics but also for his drive and ambitions of earning an education to return to help the communities that helped him.

Admitted into the BEAM Education Foundation in 2011, Hay Tha became one of the first students to earn a GED, a Bachelors degree and is the first BEAM Alumni to earn a Master’s. His academic and professional story are testament to the transformative and empowering programmes of BEAM. Today he works along the border helping migrant communities. His future vision is building a higher education and language center in his home village in Myanmar, providing opportunity and inspiration for those who need it most.

“BEAM was a major stepping stone for me, from being academically unrecognized to being recognized. I found my identity and became empowered. BEAM completely changed my academic journey.”
The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is USD 116,412 for the academic year 2020-2021.

Transfers from Child’s Dream to BEAM are made in four instalments (quarterly) during the financial year.
MONITORING AND REPORTING

We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports.

Feedback is collected directly during regular site visits by our local team.

Visits can easily be arranged in Chiang Mai per regulatory COVID-19 protocol.

We report to donors twice a year.
CONCLUSION

Migrant students from many different ethnic groups in Myanmar come to BEAM to study together with the hopes and dreams of achieving recognised high school certificates and applying to international programmes at universities. Not only do many students witness these hopes and dreams come true, they also recognise a social responsibility to create positive change in the communities in which they came from.

Over the past 12 years, BEAM’s programmes have proved that migrant youth have a high drive and potential to be leaders for bringing positive change in communities along border areas where people are more marginalized and receive limited opportunities for development. Many return to work as teachers, healthcare assistants or in other service minded positions to educate, care for and empower the communities who need it most.

If it wasn’t for our generous donors and partners, the students of BEAM would not have this opportunity to sustainably change their lives and the lives of thousands of others.

Urgent funds are needed to keep this programme thriving.