CHILD’S DREAM
STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028
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The world around us never stands still; in fact, it keeps on turning faster and faster, calling for a regular review of one's vision, mission and strategic goals. We aim to go through this review process every six years in order to stay relevant and deliver our interventions with the highest possible impact. This year's revision was also in light of our upcoming 20th anniversary.

At Child’s Dream we envision a world in which ‘Educated and empowered people responsibly shape and sustain fair, just and healthy societies for generations to come’. This new vision will guide us in our work for the next decade. It also characterises the challenges that we are observing in our four countries.
Over the last decade and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, people’s rights have further been restricted and inequality has become more extreme and wide-spread. Although there are more education and employment opportunities in our countries than 10 years ago, they are often not accessible to marginalised or vulnerable children and young adults. We also noticed that societies in our countries are shifting from collectivism to individualism, particularly in urban settings, which tends to make societies more egoistic, hence further contributing to inequality.

This understanding leads to our new mission. ‘We exist to ensure that children and young adults in the Mekong Sub-Region, affected by inequality, grow up to be healthy and have access to quality education and better employment opportunities. Everything we do enables them to live empowered and self-determined lives as equal and active members of society, with the potential to become responsible leaders of change.’

With this mission we aim to reduce inequality by supporting health, education and skills development for vulnerable and marginalised children and young adults. By creating a new generation of young and responsible local leaders we want to remove economic and social barriers and build more fair, just and healthy societies.

Come and join us on this mission and helps us to achieve our vision. Together with our motivated staff, determined partners and committed donors, we can do it!
OUR VISION AND MISSION

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OUR STRATEGY

We design, implement, and partner to support interventions for children and young adults in Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand. We address current and future needs by pursuing eight strategic goals.

We address current and future needs by pursuing the following strategic goals:

1. Building Schools & other Educational Infrastructure
2. Improving Access to Basic Education
3. Improving Quality of Education
4. Providing Skills Training to enhance Employability
5. Supporting Youth Development and Empowerment
6. Developing Future Leaders, Specialists and Entrepreneurs
7. Supporting Basic and Essential Health Care
8. Supporting Targeted Emergency Relief

Additionally, the following social issues can be addressed as Cross-Cutting Themes (CCTs):

- Substance Abuse and Addiction
- Environmental Sustainability
- Social Protection
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Media Literacy
- Peace and Justice
Building Schools & other Educational Infrastructure

What We Do

Build, upgrade and equip schools and other educational facilities to provide safe, child-friendly, inclusive, and effective learning and living environments.

Why We Do It

We strongly believe that a safe, secure and conducive learning environment is essential for the educational success and wellbeing of the students and teachers. Therefore, we support children and youth in accessing education by providing quality education infrastructure, either building completely new schools, replacing dilapidated ones which were unsafe and unhygienic or constructing additional classrooms to reduce crowding in classes.

Access to secondary education remains challenging in remote areas as students live too far from school and parents cannot afford the traveling or boarding expenses. In the rainy season, many students receive no education due to travel difficulties or dangers such as flooded roads. Some students have to take shelter in basic bamboo huts offering little protection. To address these problems, we build secure boarding houses at centrally located secondary schools to offer free, safe and supervised accommodation. Our educational facilities provide the students a high standard learning and living environment.
2 Improving Access to Basic Education

What We Do

Improve access to basic education for marginalised and vulnerable children by enhancing their awareness of their right to education, supporting alternative and community-based learning centres, and providing scholarships.

Why We Do It

Marginalised and vulnerable children are facing many obstacles to access education and they often fall between the cracks. There is economic and social pressure that prevents children from advancing their education. Often uneducated parents do not value education enough to encourage their children to remain in school. Language barriers and outdated teaching methods further demotivate students.

We aim to provide equal opportunity to marginalised and vulnerable students to advance their education and to prevent them from dropping out of school.
Improving Quality of Education

What We Do

Strengthen and improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes by developing education materials and conducting teacher training aligning with 21st-century skills.

Why We Do It

Education is notoriously underfunded, especially in rural areas, and teachers and educators often lack the opportunity to advance their teaching skills. Education materials and resources are also outdated or inadequate to effectively teach 21st-century skills. Many principals do not have enough management and leadership skills, resulting in a lack of accountability and supervision in schools.

We aim to strengthen and improve the quality of teaching by supporting the development of education materials and resources, as well as the training of teachers and principals.
4 Providing Skills Training to Enhance Employability

What We Do
Equip youth with relevant life and vocational skills to avoid exploitation and prepare them for decent employment.

Why We Do It
Marginalised and vulnerable youth without relevant life and vocational skills are often at risk of economic exploitation. They are subject to dangerous, dirty or demeaning jobs. They also lack the network or connections that would allow them to find decent employment.

We aim to provide youth with relevant life and vocational skills along with practical experiences and career services to enhance their employability and prepare them for decent employment.
Supporting Youth Development and Empowerment

What We Do

Equip youth with practical knowledge and skills for personal development and for the promotion of community development, environmental and human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and justice, as well as global citizenship.

Why We Do It

Engaged and empowered youth are needed in high contributing roles in society to promote personal and community development. However, a considerable gap exists between what is offered in formal education and what is required to develop and empower youth. Additional practical skills and knowledge are needed to foster confidence, critical thinking and open mindedness.

We aim to develop and empower youth so they will have the capacity to engage in decision making while taking leadership roles and becoming future leaders within their community.
Developing Future Leaders, Specialists and Entrepreneurs

What We Do

Equip young adults with academic knowledge and skills to address socio-economic challenges in their home country/community.

Why We Do It

Limited access to quality and accredited higher education programmes, specialised skills training centres and institutions is a major obstacle for young adults. With limited pathways to quality and relevant tertiary education, young adults are challenged to attain the necessary skills and critical knowledge required to develop into effective leaders, specialists and entrepreneurs.
Supporting Basic and Essential Health Care

What We Do

Address health needs for children and youth by supporting life-saving treatments and providing school health and health education.

Why We Do It

Healthcare systems in Myanmar and Lao PDR are among the least developed in the world, with many children in rural regions having little to no access to healthcare at all. Furthermore, lack of health knowledge and access to water and sanitation facilities in schools result in bad health and hygiene among children, which is a major obstacle to child’s education.

We support access to life-saving treatments for children and provide school health and health education.
Supporting Targeted Emergency Relief

What We Do
Provide temporary humanitarian assistance to address unmet basic needs in emergency situations.

Why We Do It
UN agencies and other large humanitarian organisations are sometimes unable to immediately reach affected populations due to various restrictions. Thanks to our large local networks, we are able to temporarily provide humanitarian relief quickly to address unmet basic needs and can effectively bridge the period until larger organisations have access to the affected populations.
OUR CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable and take personal responsibility for the quality of our work.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

We make use of our resources efficiently and we create the best outcome for our beneficiaries.

LEARNING AND IMPROVING

We always want to learn and to improve our work so that we can deliver the best outcome for our beneficiaries.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

We behave in such a way to encourage others to trust us.

RESPECT

We value that we are all different and we respect our colleagues in our interactions with them.

TEAMWORK

We are supportive team players to our fellow team members and other colleagues in Child’s Dream.

FAIRNESS AND IMPARTIALITY

In all our interactions with our colleagues, we strive to be fair and impartial.
We inspire each other.

We are committed to maintaining a culture that is friendly, caring, supportive, empathetic, appreciative and encouraging, based on mutual trust, respect and understanding for one another.

We value open and honest communication, having different perspectives, where everyone can speak their mind and seek clarification freely without any fear of being judged.

We enjoy and believe in what we do.

While we care for one another, we also strive to bring high standards of professionalism and objectivity into our work.

We take personal pride and ownership in what we do and are fully aware that our work is interconnected and we are all role models for each other.