



URGENT FUNDING NEEDS



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CHRISTMAS 2022

# What a Challenging Year!

BY MARC THOMAS JENNI

Greetings from all of us at Child's Dream and we truly hope that 2022 was a successful and rewarding year for you. We are looking back at the most demanding year ever in our history and some of us might even be happy that it's over. We are used to solving problems and dealing with critical situations, but we could not have expected that 2022 would throw so many challenges at us. Still,

looking back, exhausted, we realise that we managed to get through the year well and with very little damage. For most parts of the world, COVID-19 became manageable and life turned more or less back to normal. Not so for us. The economical and human harm triggered by COVID-19 and the tremendous damage inflicted on our educational systems will keep us busy for many years to come.

In a 'least developed' country, switching to studying from home during the pandemic was rarely an option, because the necessary infrastructure, such as computers or even electricity, is often not available. However, dropping out of school and contributing to the family income became an unfortunate option. We are working hard to correct this since schooling is now possible again.

Another tragic development was the continuing war in Myanmar, which by now is a full-blown civil war. Evacuating our entire Myanmar-based team to safety in Thailand was another challenge, which we managed to overcome. Having our team now based in Mae Sot, Thailand, allows again for a scale up of our support inside Myanmar in the many months to come. An increase of support is urgently needed since most of our work in Myanmar continues, and never before have our educational offerings been in such big demand. A lot of money will be needed in the coming years to fulfil our mission and to keep on supporting our beneficiaries in Myanmar. The tragic war in the Ukraine comprehensibly shifted the focus of many European donors, so that we had to live with a slightly lower donation income in 2022. We truly hope to reverse this again in 2023 and for this we need your support.

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But then we also had many highlights and, as written in the August newsletter, we will dedicate this issue to bringing you up to speed on our updated Vision, Mission, Culture and Values. We are getting ready for the next decade and have regrouped our work into 8 Strategic Goals. More to this further down.

Additionally, 2023 will be a very special year for us. Child's Dream is turning 20 and, thanks to your trust and support, we are confidently looking into the next decade. There is still so much to accomplish and our tremendous impact over the last almost 20 years keeps us going and give us all the energy we need to keep on serving our beneficiaries.

With our big THANK YOU, we wish you now a wonderful festive season and all the very best in 2023 and beyond.

# Stronger Focus with Our New Vision and Mission

BY DANIEL MARCO SIEGFRIED

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***At Child's Dream we envision a world in which 'Educated and empowered people are responsibly shaping and sustaining 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.***

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In the Mekong Sub-Region, 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. There are more education and employment opportunities in our countries than 10 years ago but 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 and further contributes 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.'

In line with this mission, we set out 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 hope 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!

# Values and Culture

BY MEGHAN JONES

This past July, our Management Team and Founders had the opportunity to meet (together and in-person, finally!) and dive deeply into the direction that Child's Dream is headed, going into its next decade of existence. Part of this discussion included a reflection on Child's Dream's values and culture. As our organisation grows and as the world changes, an opportunity to reflect, adjust and realign our values and culture with our new structure as an organisation was a powerful and important step that needed to be taken.

After much discussion and consideration, the team agreed on the following organisational core values: accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, fairness and impartiality, learning and improving, respect, teamwork and trustworthiness. Additionally, they defined our organisation's culture in a few clear and deliberate statements: 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 enjoy and believe in what we do; while we care for one another, we also strive to bring high standards of professionalism and objectivity to our work; and 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.

Our values will be incorporated into all aspects of our work, from our decision-making processes to all that we do with our stakeholders. Our culture statement provides a clear idea of who we are, how we engage with each other and how we relate to our work. We are proud of all we have accomplished over the past 20 years, and confident in the direction that we will head in the future, guided by our values and our culture as an organisation.

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# More Targeted Implementation with Our Eight Strategic Goals

BY DANIEL MARCO SIEGFRIED

In the past we categorised our work into Health, Basic Education and Higher Education. These areas were very broad and made it difficult for us to develop a more targeted strategic planning for the implementation of our mission. To support our more specific mission we have developed the following eight strategic goals that will guide us in our work.

## ***Building Schools & other Educational Infrastructure***

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

## ***Improving Access to Basic Education***

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

## ***Improving Quality of Education***

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

## ***Providing Skills Training to enhance Employability***

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

## ***Supporting Youth Development and Empowerment***

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

## ***Developing Future Leaders, Specialists and Entrepreneurs***

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

## ***Supporting Basic and Essential Health Care***

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

## ***Supporting Targeted Emergency Relief***

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



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How about the idea of supporting children, living up to the above-mentioned quote and sending a message to a time you will not see?

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