## How We Measure Our Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Entrepreneurship Grants</th>
<th>University Scholarship Programme</th>
<th>Basic Education Scholarship Programme</th>
<th>Children's Medical Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Educational Infrastructure

- 86 Educational Infrastructure
- Youth Connect Foundation

### Outlook in Numbers

- 124 Outlook
- 126 In Numbers
WE ALL ANTICIPATED AT THE END OF 2021 THAT THINGS WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL IN 2022. HOW MISTAKEN WE WERE! THE AFTERMATH OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND THE IMPACT OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN MYANMAR CONTINUED TO CHALLENGE NOT ONLY CHILD’S DREAM AS AN ORGANISATION, BUT ALSO OUR TARGET COMMUNITIES IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES IN WHICH WE WORK.

Simultaneously, the Chinese debt burden is pushing Myanmar’s Northeastern neighbour, Lao PDR, to the verge of default. The Laotian Kip devalued to half of its value against the US dollar since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Lao PDR relies on importing even the most basic goods, inflation skyrocketed leaving people struggling to meet their basic needs. When families suffer from such extreme economic hardship, the education of their children is often no longer a priority. And this happened against the backdrop of an already disrupted education system due to COVID-19. Many students at the high school and university levels dropped out and migrated to neighbouring Thailand to take low-paid, low-skilled and often demeaning jobs. We also observed this in Cambodia as well, especially among young males, who often lack interest in schooling. Thus, the high school gender divide widened even further in favour of female students. The economic hardship combined with disrupted education systems resulted in drastic and fundamental changes in the education and development requirements of our beneficiaries.

AROUND 22 MILLION PEOPLE ARE LIVING BELOW THE NATIONAL POVERTY THRESHOLD AS A RESULT OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER AND ONGOING CIVIL CONFLICT.

Millions of people in our area have fallen back into poverty as a result of the economic effects of these two crises. In Myanmar alone, the World Bank estimates that 40% of the population, or around 22 million people, are living below the national poverty threshold as a result of the military takeover and ongoing civil conflict.

Around 22,000,000
In 2022, we readied ourselves to respond to the new, challenging post-covid and post-coup environment. In the middle of 2022, we updated our Vision, Mission and Strategy to make sure that our work remains relevant, efficient and effective. Besides addressing current needs, our mission also aims to reduce inequality in the long-term by supporting health, education and skills development for vulnerable and marginalised children and young adults. By creating a new generation of young and responsible leaders, we want to remove economic and social barriers and build more fair, just and healthy societies.

Besides overhauling our strategy, we also made some operational changes to ensure that we can maintain our support for our beneficiaries. Due to increased security concerns for our local team in Myanmar, we decided to relocate them to Thailand so that they can continue to implement our work but from a safe environment.

The fact that we can achieve the positive impact outlined in this report under these very adverse circumstances motivates us to continue the work we do with the help of our valued donors and determined partners.
of our university scholarship alumni have or had jobs focusing on making a positive impact on their communities. Many of them are engaged in work related to environmental sustainability, human rights, education, or humanitarian aid.

85% of our high school and vocational school students graduated successfully, and

84% of our alumni are currently employed or pursuing further education.

417 school facilities built since 2005.

130,000+ attended our school facilities in 2022.

65% of our university scholarship alumni have or had jobs focusing on making a positive impact on their communities. Many of them are engaged in work related to environmental sustainability, human rights, education, or humanitarian aid.

95% of the Akha coffee farmers have improved their coffee quality and can more easily sell their produce since joining Akha Ama, the first social enterprise we supported back in 2010, which is also included in this year’s report.
WHO WE ARE

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.

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.

VISION

Educated and empowered people responsibly shaping and sustaining fair, just and healthy societies for generations to come.

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.
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.

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

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**

Our strategy follows the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.
In 2022, we reviewed our vision, mission, and strategy. We reflected on the nature of our work and we were reminded anew that everything we do, we do for our beneficiaries. When it comes to the topic of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), people often envision a world of endless excel sheets and complicated numbers. However, when we think of M&E, our thoughts immediately go to the communities we serve. The essence of M&E, in this sphere, is to track and understand change.

We create plans that clearly identify outputs and outcomes, and that set out strategies that will help us understand whether we have achieved the intended changes. Output and outcome are defined within a monitoring and evaluation framework. The function of this framework is to specify indicators, baselines, targets, reporting procedures, data sources, data collection procedures and so on. We also conduct impact evaluations to check the long-term impacts of our interventions, and to ensure that our programmes remain relevant and efficient.

In 2022, we continued our M&E efforts. We surveyed hundreds of alumni, visited 100 remote schools and boarding houses, and discussed achievements and challenges with teachers and principals. We analysed our patients’ records, and we evaluated the success and challenges of Akha Ama, our very first Social Enterprise Grant. The results of these efforts are reported in the following pages.
TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
REACHED IN 2022

400,204

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY
PAST AND ONGOING PROJECTS AS OF MARCH 2023

1,276,235

THE NUMBER INCLUDES
ALL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
REACHED BY ONGOING
AND PAST INTERVENTIONS
IMPLEMENTED BY CHILD’S DREAM.

ONGOING PROJECTS
AS OF MARCH 2023

951

COUNT OF
ONGOING PROJECTS
BY COUNTRY AS OF
MARCH 2023

THAILAND
121

CAMBODIA
408

LAO PDR
305

MYANMAR
117

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
REACHED BY PAST AND ONGOING PROJECTS
AS OF MARCH 2023

1,276,235
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Building</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water System</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarding House</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Labs &amp; Training</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Charging Station</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Secondary Education Programme</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Capacity Building Training</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Relief</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational &amp; Skills Training</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Scholarship Programme</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migrant / IDP Learning Centres</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Training &amp; Curriculum Development</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Health Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Enterprise</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary Scholarship Programme</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stationery &amp; Teaching Aid Programme</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination &amp; Support Programme</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Conference Support</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Dropout Prevention Programme</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Accommodation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Income Generation Programme</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection Programme</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total N=951

Count of Ongoing Projects by Type of Interventions as of March 2023
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
IMPACTFUL TOOL FOR
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Child’s Dream supports many youth empowerment, leadership and employability programmes in the Mekong Sub-Region. Some of the graduates of these programmes expressed the wish to start their own businesses to address certain needs within their communities. Back in 2010, we supported our first social enterprise, called Akha Ama, which was established by a previous Child’s Dream employee.

This was the start of our Social Entrepreneurship Grant (SEG) programme. We strongly believe that social enterprises are impactful tools for community development. They sustain themselves by using market-based solutions while addressing social or environmental needs. The social enterprises are run by and for local people, which not only creates jobs but also empowers the stakeholder of the enterprise. Furthermore, they spur innovation and challenge traditional businesses.

Since the inception of SEG, Child’s Dream has supported 10 social enterprises, most of which address educational or environmental needs.

ABOUT

AKHA AMA

Child’s Dream Foundation initiated its first social enterprise grant in 2010 when it supported the start-up of a social coffee business aimed at improving the lives of farmers in the Akha communities in northern Thailand. At the time, the Akha founder, Lee, noticed that the farmers in his community were cultivating coffee beans without much success. They could sell the coffee produce, but only at low prices, and they faced challenges with marketing and distribution. Receiving only minimal profits, the community was consequently affected by poverty, which resulted in a lack of education, food and healthcare. Lee saw the possibility of a solution to the struggles the community faced; if he could educate the coffee farmers to produce high-quality coffee that meets market demand, and establish a coffee production house where the villagers could carry out the whole coffee-making process, the farmers could increase their profits. Lee further envisioned opening a coffee shop which would sell coffee under the Akha Ama brand, thereby completing the entire production cycle.

The main goal of Akha Ama is to help coffee farmers raise their income and improve their quality of life by selling good-quality coffee and to incorporate the fair trade principle into its business. Now, 12 years after the start of Akha Ama, this social enterprise has grown to be a successful business, with shops in four different locations in Thailand and Japan.
HOW WE COLLECT OUR IMPACT DATA

From 2010 until 2012, Akha Ama was partially funded by a social enterprise grant of around 16,000 USD from Child’s Dream Foundation. For this reason, we decided in 2022 to evaluate Akha Ama’s impact on the coffee farmers with whom they have worked.

The study we conducted answered various research questions aimed at assessing the impact of the intervention on coffee farmers. We focused on the coffee farmers who worked with Akha Ama between 2010 and 2022. In this time frame, Akha Ama collaborated with over 58 farmers in the Chiang Rai province who provided the social enterprise with coffee beans.

The data collection was carried out in the three villages of Maejantai, Banmai, and Doi Chang, as the majority of the farmers (39) come from these areas. Three focus group discussions took place in Maejantai and one in Banmai and Doi Chang, respectively. All farmers in the focus groups were also asked to complete an online survey to complement the information collected during the discussions. A total of 24 farmers voluntarily participated in the study, allowing us to collect 275 minutes of focus group discussions and 21 surveys.
Most of the farmers had already been growing coffee before joining Akha Ama, however, around a quarter of the farmers started growing coffee when they joined. Initially, the farmers struggled as they were not receiving satisfactory income, and their income was inconsistent. This was mainly due to a lack of knowledge of the coffee-production process and an unfavourable coffee market. Farmers received a relatively low price for their coffee cherries and almost half of them expressed various degrees of difficulty in selling their product.

“AT THE BEGINNING, WE DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO BREW THE COFFEE. WE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO HARVEST COFFEE. WE PLANTED AND SOLD IT AS COFFEE CHERRIES.”

AKHA FARMER
I sold to the [business] at the price of 8 baht per kilo, but I had to wait 3 months to receive the money. I couldn’t wait because we didn’t have any money to spend. We took the motorcycle down to the town and sold the coffee. The money we got was only enough for food and gas. So, with no other alternative, I sold to the Chinese village for 3-4 baht per kilo.

AKHA FARMER

Between 2010 and 2019, most of the farmers who joined Akha Ama did so because of the potential to earn more income from their crops. Most respondents knew about Akha Ama through family and friends in the coffee community. They mentioned Lee or his family as one of the main reasons they knew about the social enterprise and said that the brand is mainly known by word of mouth.

Akha Ama was able to address the original challenges mentioned by the farmers. The farmers appear to have gained product knowledge, bargaining power, and better opportunities to sell their produce. Most farmers joined Akha Ama to have a sustainable career in which they could worry less about their income, and most farmers claimed to have achieved that. However, the needs and challenges the farmers face have developed over the years, and the support the farmers currently require has also changed. Their current issues are of a bigger scale and relate to environmental concerns, infrastructure improvement, and land expansion. While Akha Ama has been able to address the problems that the farmers initially faced, its role in battling their current issues may be limited.
Akha Ama’s initial outcomes were to improve coffee quality, grow farmers’ access to coffee markets, raise the farmers’ income and increase the organic farming scope. Our study inquired with the farmers as to what extent these have been achieved.

Regarding the quality of coffee produced, according to the farmers, this outcome has been successful. The farmers feel able to assess the quality of their product, and they all recognize that the quality has improved. Furthermore, they have received international recognition for their coffee.

“THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT COFFEE THAT I HAVE GAINED HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING. I CAME BACK TO DEVELOP WHAT I ALREADY KNEW AND MADE IT BETTER THAN BEFORE. I UNDERSTAND WHAT’S IN FRONT OF ME.”

AKHA FARMER
In terms of access to the market, the farmers have diversified their selling channels. They sell less to middleman buyers and more often to Akha Ama or similar organizations. Since joining Akha Ama, the farmers find it much easier to sell their coffee and they appear empowered to sell their produce as they have economic independence from Akha Ama. They have many opportunities to sell their products and are empowered to make informed choices about where to sell.

NOWADAYS, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BUY COFFEE FROM US. MY ONLY WORRY IS NOT HAVING ENOUGH COFFEE TO SELL; I DON’T WORRY THAT I CAN’T SELL.

AKHA FARMER

Concerning the income of Akha Ama farmers, it is much higher than the average income of a coffee farmer in northern Thailand. All farmers reported an improvement in their income since joining the social enterprise.


AKHA FARMER
The only outcome that Akha Ama did not fully achieve is increasing the scope of organic farming. Currently, most farmers do not regularly use organic farming practices. They mostly have a mixed approach to organic and non-organic farming practices; in fact, only a few are able to farm using 100% organic practices. The farmers mentioned that organic farming is not always feasible, as the inputs are expensive and the practices are difficult and time-consuming.

Overall, the most frequently mentioned benefits received from Akha Ama by the farmers are improved income, more stable income, and more knowledge about coffee farming. This means that, apart from the organic farming objective, the intervention has been mostly effective.
At Child’s Dream, we believe that in order for a country to develop in a sustainable and peaceful way, all members of society need access to quality education, as this opens doors for them to fulfill their aspirations and potential, apply their knowledge, and contribute towards the development of their communities. By providing scholarship support for academically strong students to attend tertiary education, our University Scholarship Programme is opening these doors in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. With the advantage of higher education, our expectation is that students will have improved skills and knowledge, access to better employment and serve as future contributors and leaders to the development of their communities.

Every year, we distribute a survey to students who graduated one, three and five years ago to help assess programme outcomes. The survey gathers information about how the programme helps students prepare for quality and timely employment after graduation. In line with the programme’s goal of forming leadership specialists, the survey investigates where and how University Scholarship Programme (USP) alumni are making an impact in their communities and fields of specialization. The results on the following pages are based on the self-reported survey responses of 125 participants surveyed in 2022.
Since it began in 2006, the programme has enrolled 769 scholarship students. In 2022, we expanded the programme and kick-started the University Scholarship services in Thailand, enrolling our first five students. Gender analyses show a somewhat higher portion of males, but the program is gender-balanced overall.
In 2022, the Cambodian programme expanded its number of students and now has the highest number of participants currently enrolled. The Myanmar International Bachelor, which began in 2006, has the most alumni, while Laos holds its numbers steady and counts 89 active students.

295 students are currently enrolled in university, 410 have graduated, 25 have dropped out, and 39 have been discontinued. These values correspond to an 87.8% graduation rate, a 4.9% dropout rate, and a 7.3% discontinuation rate.
In 2022, 146 participants who graduated in 2017, 2019, and 2021 were sent an alumni tracking survey. Because of connectivity issues and security concerns, the survey did not track the Myanmar Bachelor alumni. We received 125 valid responses.

The alumni were asked to rate the scholarship services in five categories. Overall, the feedback has been favourable, with only a handful of alumni giving negative or mediocre evaluations. Although some graduates mentioned the need to enhance the scholarship amount for their living expenses owing to inflation, financial support and coordinators’ help received the highest scores. The living expenses support was raised in 2022 to account for the increasing prices.
CURRENT SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS

% of Total, N = 125

- **74.4%** Employed
- **7.2%** Employed and Studying
- **10.4%** Unemployed
- **4.8%** Studying
- **3.2%** Inactive

When compared to the 2021 findings, employment and education outcomes have further improved and meet programme targets. Looking at the unemployment data, the alumni gave several reasons for why they are still looking for work. Most Laotians cited high living costs, low wages, and inflation as hindrances that made it difficult for them to relocate to cities and seek employment. They also mentioned a challenging and saturated work market. Myanmar graduates, however, highlighted conflict and political instability while a few expressed regret over their university and major choices. The responses of employed students also revealed differences between the countries. In contrast to the Myanmar and Cambodian alumni, respondents in Laos struggled to find jobs related to their field of study or focused on helping their communities. Because of differences in political and economic conditions, the Laos economy is suffering more than the Thai and Cambodian economies, and hence work prospects are limited.

**POSITIVE OUTCOME FIGURES**

- 67% of the respondents employed found jobs related to their field of study
- 65% of the respondents have or had jobs focused on making a positive impact on their communities
- 90% of the respondents employed found jobs within 6 months of graduation
A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES

The outcomes of the different programmes varied. In Lao PDR, the majority of the respondents work in the for-profit sector, whereas the majority of Myanmar respondents work in the non-profit sector. Jobs in Cambodia are very specialized, with alumni working as engineers, teachers, data specialists, researchers, and so on. These differences are caused by the different labor markets and contexts in which our alumni seek employment.

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION
TOP 10, % OF TOTAL, N=64

- 26.1% EDUCATION
- 15.7% PROTECTION/HUMAN RIGHTS
- 11.3% HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
- 9.6% ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 8.7% ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 7.8% GENDER
- 7.8% FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD
- 5.2% WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
- 4.3% HEALTH
- 3.5% COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATORS AND HUMANITARIANS

Alumni with impactful careers identified their areas of work and primary job tasks. The most popular job fields are education, humanitarian response, and human rights, with the most mentioned duties being teaching, training, research, and project management.
As a high school dropout living in the Thailand-Myanmar border area, getting a university education was beyond my imagination. I learned about the Child’s Dream scholarship in early 2015 when attending a General Educational Development (GED) program at Minmahaw Higher Education Program (MHEP) in Mae Sot, Thailand. While completing my GED in 2016, I had an opportunity to apply for a Child’s Dream scholarship to go to college, and I won it. It was the happiest and the most emotional moment in my life. However, I was hesitant to even celebrate the moment as it seemed almost like a dream. I would have never imagined having a chance to go to college.

Having worked in journalism for many years, I was interested in pursuing my bachelor’s degree in Communication Arts at Bangkok University. In my 3rd year of university, I became more passionate about working in education. Upon completing college in late 2019, I returned to Myanmar despite my poor Burmese language skills. I secured a job at Parami University as a Public Relations and Communications Officer in May 2020. I was promoted as Senior Public Relations and Communications Officer in September 2021. I have been working for Parami for almost 3 years, and I find my role at Parami University fulfilling.

MY WORK HAS CONTRIBUTED TO PROMOTING QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS FROM UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES. I CANNOT THANK CHILD’S DREAM ENOUGH FOR THE EDUCATIONAL GIFT YOU OFFERED ME, AND IT’S THE BEST GIFT I’VE EVER RECEIVED.

MI ROT CHAI

THE IMPACT CHILD’S DREAM HAS HAD ON MY LIFE IS SIGNIFICANT. IT PROVIDED ME WITH MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND A FUTURE CAREER. IT UNLOCKED MY POTENTIAL TO BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF MY COMMUNITY. WITH CHILD’S DREAM SCHOLARSHIP, I WAS ABLE TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, IN 2016.

MI ROT CHAI

SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, PARAMI UNIVERSITY
We initiated Child’s Dream High School and Vocational Scholarship Programme to provide middle school students from rural and marginalised communities with the opportunity to continue education at a higher level. Implemented in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand, the programme aims to improve the continuation rate of students between lower and upper secondary, 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 funds for living and transportation in their three years of upper secondary study. The academic year and the implementation timeline differ across countries.

To gain a better understanding of programme outcomes, we conduct an annual survey among our alumni who graduated one and two years prior. The survey gathers data on the students’ readiness to pursue further education and to secure a decent job after graduation. We ask questions related to their employment status, financial stability, contractual arrangements, and other relevant topics. The data reflects the self-reported responses of 385 alumni who were surveyed in 2022.
Since 2010, a total of 2,973 students have participated in the scholarship programme. Recruitment efforts were maintained in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand, resulting in 323 students being recruited in 2022. However, the Myanmar programme remained suspended. As has been observed in previous years, a larger percentage of female students applied and successfully passed the programme entry requirements.
Of the 2,973 scholarship students who have participated in the programme since its inception, 1,065 are currently studying, and 115 of them are currently not in school since they are enrolled under the Myanmar programme. 1,574 students have completed their schooling, 185 dropped out, and 149 had their support discontinued. In line with last year’s observations, Cambodia continues to have the most active students (405), while Lao PDR has the most graduates (565).
One of the primary activities of our programme is to provide training to our scholarship recipients, equipping them with tools that can improve their personal and professional lives. In 2022, our teams organised numerous scholarship camps in Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia. These camps focused on building self-confidence, goal-setting and career planning, problem-solving, and preparation for CVs, cover letters, and interviews.

At the end of each camp, students were asked to complete feedback surveys to help us assess and improve the quality of training. Many of our scholarship recipients also expressed their satisfaction with the camps in the end-of-programme survey, which they are required to complete before graduating, with many stating that it was their favourite aspect of their scholarship experience. These findings highlight the importance of these skills, which, although not part of the formal curricula, are vital in daily life.
When asked about their feelings towards Child’s Dream’s services and support, the vast majority of alumni expressed satisfaction with the assistance they received. These results were consistent with previous years’ findings. Only 10 respondents rated the services “acceptable”, while just two provided a negative response.
The alumni tracking survey provided a glimpse of the respondents’ primary occupation in 2022. Of those surveyed, 84.5% were either employed or studying. The remainder were either unemployed or inactive. We define inactive alumni as those who have left the labour force and are not actively seeking employment or further education. Outcomes differed across the three countries, echoing prior years’ findings. Local contexts and economic trends impact the labour markets, resulting in diverse opportunities for alumni based on their location. While Thailand had the highest share of alumni currently studying, Cambodia had an equal number of people working or studying. Lao PDR, on the other hand, had the highest share of workers and jobseekers.
Among the respondents, 42.1% work with for-profit organisations, 14.5% have multiple jobs, 10.1% have established their own businesses, and 8.6% work for their family’s business. The alumni landed various types of jobs, with many in Lao PDR and Thailand working in low-skilled professions such as cashiers and sellers, while others, particularly in Cambodia, tend to have more demanding jobs such as teaching, banking, and credit collection.

The survey also inquired about the contractual agreements and financial stability of the alumni. Of the respondents, 86% have a regular income, 72% consider their monthly income sufficient to support themselves, and 54% have no contractual agreements. These findings align with the typical characteristics of the local labour markets, where contracts are often not issued, and oral agreements are more common. The analysis also revealed that employees do not have sufficient means to support themselves due to factors such as age, poor compensation, and rising living costs.
66% BACHELOR’S DEGREE

23% VOCATIONAL COURSES

11% OTHER

TOP 4 AREAS OF STUDY
% OF TOP 4, N=97

1 ECONOMICS, BUSINESS, FINANCE & MARKETING 37.1%

2 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING 23.7%

3 LINGUISTICS & LANGUAGE 20.6%

4 EDUCATION 18.6%

Similar to previous years, 66% of alumni pursuing higher education had enrolled in bachelor’s degree programmes, while the remaining 34% are pursuing vocational training or other types of credentials. The most popular fields of study are economics and finance, STEM, linguistics and language, and education.
Hello!

My name is Naphat Nanthanon. You can call me Ploy. Now I’m studying in the Faculty of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. I am glad to share my experiences about Child’s Dream scholarship and my life now.

Since I was born, I have lived with my family in Mae Hong Son. My father is a farmer and my mother is a coconut seller. They make a little money every month. I could recognize my family’s difficulties so I tried to find a way to help my family as much as I could, such as helping my mother sell the coconut juice after school. Since I was in Grade 9, the guidance counsellor advertised Child’s Dream scholarship. I decided to submit the application and hope to be the chosen one. After the interview process, my name was on the chosen list. That was great news for me! And I could say that it was the next step in my life.

They organised a camp every semester. During that time, I received the funds to exchange ideas, improve my skills, meet fellow scholarship students, and consider my next steps once the scholarship programme would come to an end. Therefore, all three years in high school gave me a lot of new experiences. One thing that I think it’s important is education because it’s the key to success in life.

I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THE CHILD’S DREAM SCHOLARSHIP IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.

When I was in Grade 12, I had to decide about further study. I knew that my family had limitations. At that moment, my dream was to be a dentist. I was inspired by someone who had treated my teeth. Incidentally, my friend told me about the Chula Rural Scholarship, so I searched for the information on the website. I found that I had qualifications that matched the criteria! This scholarship offers candidates the chance to study for free and transfer money to scholarship students each month. I prepared very hard for the entrance and had high expectations. Finally, in the announcement, my name was on the list. It meant that I was able to study in the Faculty of Dentistry in Chulalongkorn University. My big dream had come true!!!

Now, I’m a second-year dental student. Everything is going well even though it’s a bit difficult to study, but this society is full of talented people who can help me with anything. There may be some homesickness. But I also know what I’m doing here. All of this is for my future.

Thank you Child’s Dream Foundation for giving me a chance; a chance to change, a chance to grow, and a chance to learn. I really appreciate being one of the scholarship students which makes me grow up with quality.

Finally, I would like to wish the teams at Child’s Dream Foundation good health, happiness, and all the best in your work!
Children’s Medical Fund (CMF) provides access to life-saving operations and medical interventions for infants and children. We prioritise treatments of congenital disorders, as it is one of the leading causes of child mortality. The surgical procedures are normally expensive and complex; the majority of families cannot afford the necessary medication, let alone the costly operations. Approximately 150 patients receive our services annually, and we aim to assist children between the ages of 0-12 who have been diagnosed with cardiac disorders, anorectal malformations, and neural tube defects. Without financial support and access to quality healthcare, many of these children either die prematurely or are crippled by disability. Subsequently, they are unable to attend school thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Travel restrictions were removed in 2022, and many of our patients located in Myanmar and Laos could finally cross the Thailand border to access health treatment. After more than a year, we reopened the CMF Safe House and started welcoming children who arrived for their long-awaited treatment.

In 2022, we also continued treating Thai children by providing essential medicine and special equipment for heart surgery but not covered by the Thai Social Security System. We will continue to extend services to Thai cardiac paediatric patients in 2023 as well, for a maximum budget of 1,000,000 THB per year.

We continued our support for the provision of preterm neonatal assistance for newborns from Myanmar who were experiencing respiratory distress and low birth weight. However, due to a growing queue of over 120 patients with congenital disorders in need of treatment, we will be ending the intervention for preterm neonatal assistance in 2023.

HOW WE COLLECT OUR IMPACT DATA

We store patients’ information and medical records in a database designed for tracking health treatments. Every six months, we cross-check database information and medical reports to ensure that all files are correct and up to date. Programme statistics are regularly produced to understand output and outcomes.
One patient can suffer from more than one disorder, which results in more than one case per patient. At the end of 2022, the programme counted 2,288 cases, corresponding to 2,214 patients. Most children are either from Myanmar or are Myanmar descendants, and only 5.3% of the cases are from Lao PDR. As previously mentioned, in 2022, the programme continued accepting critical cases from Thailand, which is why we recorded 113 Thai patients. In terms of gender, 56% of the patients are male, while 44% are female.
The majority of the cases are cardiac disorders, while another 16.2% are categorised as general or unspecified. Most of these were recorded between 2006 and 2008, when children were treated for any medical condition, such as bone fractures, cancer, severe fevers, or neonatal care. However, due to the extension of our services in 2021 and 2022, we reported many new general cases. The remaining cases include other severe congenital disorders, such as anorectal malformations, neural tube defects or musculoskeletal defects. These make up 24.4% of the programme cases.
TREATMENT SUCCESSFUL 72.4%
CANNOT CONTACT ANYMORE 7.8%
DEATH (RELATED) 6.2%
NO TREATMENT (REQUIRE) 4.6%
UNABLE TO TREAT 2.5%
REFUSED TREATMENT 2.4%
RESETTLEMENT 1.6%
REFERRED TO PARTNER 1.6%
TREATMENT POSTPONED 0.5%
DEATH (UNRELATED) 0.4%

85% LIVES SAVED
15% IMPROVED LIVES

SAVING LIVES
This programme can either save lives or improve lives depending on the severity of the condition treated. 85% of our successful treatments were life-saving, as the majority of the cases recorded were life-threatening. Unfortunately, Cardiac disorders and other congenital malformations covered by the programme can prove fatal if left untreated.
Saw Eh Wee Htoo was not even two years old when he had to make the difficult journey from Myanmar across the border into Thailand where he would undergo life-altering treatment. He is one of the success stories of the Children’s Medical’s Fund (CMF).

Saw Eh Wee Htoo was born at home in Karen state, Myanmar. The family’s village is in a conflict area where they are constantly bombed, fired upon, and shot. Their house has an underground bunker, but his mother believes that running to the jungle is safer than staying in the bunker.

His birth was initially straightforward, however; the birth attendant noticed that his anus was much smaller than normal, so his parents decided to take him to a private clinic. The medic at the clinic suggested that they take him to a hospital for treatment for which they had to borrow money. However, they did not have enough money for the next operation, so they took him back home. In April 2021, Free Burma Ranger (FBR) set up a mobile clinic and met him. After his assessment, and with the COVID-19 travel restrictions into Thailand being relaxed, FBR recommended that he get treatment in Thailand.

Saw Eh Wee Htoo came to Chiang Mai with his mother, who was assisted by FBR for transportation. It took them a total of three days to travel from their home to Chiang Mai. They walked from their home to the main road for half a day, crossed the river, then took a motorbike for two hours to reach the FBR helipad. From there, they flew for two hours to Masariang, Thailand, and drove another four hours to reach Chiang Mai. They eventually arrived at the CMF Safe House on 25th April 2022 where they stayed for nine months until Saw Eh Wee Htoo’s treatment was completed.

Before the surgery, Saw Eh Wee Htoo’s mother felt sad because of her baby’s health condition, and because of the financial stress. She thought travelling to Thailand would be very difficult, and she did not have enough money to cover all the expenses. However, after the surgery, she was very happy and grateful to all those who were involved in her son’s treatments, especially CDF and the donors who helped her son and gave him a new life. She said, “My son can go to school for his studies and his future.”
EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
ONE OF THE WAYS WE SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ACCESSING EDUCATION IS BY PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

We strongly believe that a safe, secure and conducive learning environment is essential for the educational success and wellbeing of students and teachers. Either by building completely new schools, replacing dilapidated ones which were unsafe and unhygienic, or by constructing additional classrooms to reduce crowding in classes. Additionally, 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. To further ensure that our educational facilities meet all the students’ needs, we provide access to water by supplying water tanks and building water systems. For primary schools, we also deliver playgrounds, as playing promotes children’s development and improves physical health.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

HOW WE COLLECT OUR IMPACT DATA

We regularly visit our schools and boarding houses to assess programme outcomes. During these visits, we evaluate the maintenance of the facilities, school management, school sanitation and hygiene, and student dropout rates and completion rates. We rate the schools based on cleanliness, ventilation, brightness, school compound safety, quality of walls, roofs, ceilings, floors and furniture, toilet cleanliness and so on. Our aim is to ensure that children can study and live in safe and clean environments and to assess how the infrastructure provided affects access to schooling. Child’s Dream considers further support if the school or the community cannot fix severe infrastructural issues. We also explore the programme’s impact through interview data. We use information collected through interviews, case studies and focus group discussions to create insight into the long-term impacts and effectiveness of our school infrastructures.
Over the years, the programme increased the number of school buildings constructed on a yearly basis. In the last five years, the programme provided an average of 37 facilities per year, mainly located in Lao PDR and Cambodia.

Since boarding houses are only provided to secondary schools that show good school management and practices, output numbers are quite low when compared to the school building figures.
Between 2005 and 2022, Child’s Dream provided a great number of educational facilities. Lao PDR and Cambodia recorded the highest number of facilities, as they greatly suffer from a lack of educational infrastructure. On the other hand, while the need in Myanmar is still remarkable, the country’s political instability and the current widespread violence rendered the implementation of the intervention difficult, which explains why the numbers are low. Finally, since the Thai government has stepped up its support to remote communities in providing the needed school infrastructure, the intervention was halted in Thailand in 2016.
Every year we aim to evaluate schools and boarding houses that were completed two, five, 10 or 15 years before. During the pandemic, we could not travel and assess our interventions, and only in 2022, after two years of restrictions, could the teams finally resume travel and evaluate their projects. In 2022, we tried to visit as many facilities as possible, and could finally assess 91 school buildings and nine boarding houses.
As with school building evaluations, boarding houses are also visited and assessed using a checklist that rates different indicators on a scale of one to six. The graph above shows that, before Child’s Dream interventions, there were no boarding houses in the schools targeted, which greatly affected attendance and dropout rates. The evaluations revealed that, on average, the facilities provide good living environments, have solid building conditions and have well-functioning WASH infrastructures. Among the challenges raised, a few boarding houses should improve cleanliness and tidiness; the teams are in touch with these projects to improve management.
When we assess schools that were completed two or five years before, we also collect student dropout and completion rates to see how the intervention affected access to education. The 2022 evaluations illustrated a very diverse picture. The dropout rates and completion rates vary dramatically between secondary schools and primary schools and between schools as well. Some schools reported completion rates of 118%, which implies that more and more students enrolled after the intervention.

On the other hand, one school reported a dramatic completion rate of 14%. Teachers and principals explained that, especially in the border areas, poverty and migration are very high, which negatively affects students’ attendance and dropout rates. Parents migrate to Thailand or prefer to send their children to work in the field to contribute to the family economy. Job opportunities are low, and therefore some families do not see the value of education. These figures resonate with the findings of our school building impact evaluation, which pointed to a complex picture that sees different factors affecting children’s access to school. Child’s Dream staff is working on designing new interventions that can tackle the different root causes of the issue.
Rolum Tbal Primary School is located in northern Cambodia near the border of Thailand. The majority of the villagers are Khmer, and most people depend on subsistence farming for their living. Child’s Dream built a school for the community in 2013 to replace a facility they had built in 2008. Due to the harsh tropical weather conditions, the building had become rotten. In very windy weather, classes had to stop as it was too dangerous to stay inside the building and, during the summer, it was very hot due to the low ceilings and zinc roof. The school consisted of only one building, and there were no toilets. The programme provided the community with new classrooms, sanitary facilities and access to water.

The Cambodian team visited the project in 2022 and assessed the building conditions and school management. After nine years, the building still had a strong structure and did not display any concerning issues. According to the team’s evaluation, the school has a very child-friendly and green environment, and the principal and teachers have a strong relationship with the community. The school did not raise any challenges and finished the construction of a new fence at the end of 2022.
Baan Mai Klang village is in southern Lao PDR, about 21 km from Champasak town. In 2009, Child’s Dream completed the construction of a school catering to primary and nursery school children. The building replaced a facility originally constructed in 1960 that had been renovated many times by the community. However, given their limited financial means at the time of construction, the school building was no longer adequately safe for the students. The previous school was very old and in a dilapidated condition, and there were insufficient classrooms to cater for all the students. It occupied privately held-land, with minimal space for children to engage in sports and other outdoor activities. Furthermore, it lacked toilet facilities, thus exposing children to low sanitation standards.

In 2022, Child’s Dream visited the school to assess management and building conditions. The team found that after 12 years, the building was still in good shape, with only a few ceilings in need of replacement. With a very green and organised school compound and well-decorated and clean classrooms, the teachers and principal appear to have managed the school well. Among the challenges raised by the school, the principal mentioned low continuation rates after primary school due to migration and teacher shortages. Playground renovations was also cited as a need.
We initiated Youth Connect in 2008 to improve employment opportunities for young migrants from Myanmar. Graduates of migrant learning centres in Thailand did not have adequate skills, knowledge, networks, or legal documentation, which hindered their ability to secure decent jobs. Consequently, many of them ended up in dangerous, illegal, and exploitative work environments. Based on a detailed survey of local businesses about their skill needs, Youth Connect developed a specific curriculum to address these needs required by the local economy. The programme provides vocational training, apprenticeships, and career services to support migrant students in transitioning to safe, productive and independent lives and to prevent exploitation and trafficking.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Transition Programme is an initiative that seeks to help young people who have recently graduated from high school or are out of school, make a successful transition to work. In order to assess the effectiveness of the programme, we conducted an alumni tracking survey in 2022, targeting students who had completed the training course in 2020 and 2021.

Through this survey, we sought to gather valuable feedback from the alumni about their current career circumstances and how the training provided by the programme had helped them find decent jobs. The insights gained from this feedback would help us to evaluate the programme’s effectiveness and thus identify areas for improvement to ensure that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of young migrants in Mae Sot.

The conclusions are based on the self-reported survey responses of 39 respondents.
Mae Sot, a city located in western Thailand near the border with Myanmar, has become a migration hot spot due to its proximity to Myanmar and the economic opportunities it offers.

Many people from Myanmar, particularly from ethnic groups who face persecution and violence, flee to Mae Sot to seek refuge and a better life. Recent conflict and political instability have forced even more refugees and asylum seekers to move to the border city. As a result, the city has a large population of migrants and refugees, many of whom live in poverty and face numerous challenges. NGOs work in Mae Sot to provide assistance and support to these vulnerable populations and typically focus their efforts on education, healthcare, and protection services.

These organisations play a critical role in responding to the humanitarian and development needs of migrants and refugees in Mae Sot.
The Youth Connect Transitions Programme began in 2009, following a needs assessment and a pilot period during which we learned what kind of skills businesses in Mae Sot were looking for.

Before registering for the Transitions Programme, students must have completed three months of basic training. The purpose is to recruit motivated students who have obtained basic Thai language and soft skill training.

**THE PROGRAMME HAS HAD**

776 MYANMAR MIGRANT STUDENTS ENROLLED AS OF APRIL 2023

**EVERY YEAR, THE TRANSITIONS PROGRAMME OFFERS AT LEAST**

2 SIX-MONTHS TRAINING BATCHES, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 60 STUDENTS RECRUITED EACH YEAR

Before registering for the Transitions Programme, students must have completed three months of basic training. The purpose is to recruit motivated students who have obtained basic Thai language and soft skill training.
The Transitions Programme had 581 students enrolled as of April 2023. Of these, 33 were active in the programme, 502 had graduated, 43 dropped out, and three were dismissed. This equates to a graduation rate of 91.8%. Because the student database management changed in 2014, figures for the reporting period 2009-2013 were not included in this calculation. Only numbers from 2014 onwards have been reported for the sake of consistency.
In 2022, we sent the alumni tracking survey to 65 alumni who graduated in 2020 and 2021. We received 39 valid responses for a response rate of 60%.

We sought the opinions of participants on the quality of Youth Connect services and support with regards to the Transitions Programme. The results showed a high level of satisfaction among respondents, with 89.7% of them providing positive ratings. It is worth noting that the majority of the participants expressed a favourable opinion, while a minority held more moderate views. These findings are consistent with the results from the previous year’s survey, indicating a sustained positive trend in the satisfaction levels of Youth Connect services and support.
SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT SITUATION

We asked our respondents to indicate their main occupation at the time of the survey. Out of the 39 valid responses received, 74.4% were employed, 5.1% were studying, and 20.5% were actively searching for jobs. These findings are consistent with last year’s results, and they provide valuable insights into the current employment situation of our alumni.

20.5% EMPLOYED

74.4% JOB-SEEKING

5.1% STUDYING

Those looking for work reported a variety of reasons for their unemployment, including a lack of legal status and paperwork, low pay, discriminatory workplace treatment, and a lack of language abilities. These challenges are similar to the difficulties that many migrant workers and young migrant workers confront when looking for jobs in Thailand. Tough labour markets, strict migration regulations, and challenging working conditions all contribute to the region’s restricted employment options for young people. It is also worth noting that two alumni are currently enrolled in classes; one is completing a GED course, and the other is receiving medical training at the International Rescue Committee.

CURRENT SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS % OF TOTAL

RESPONDENTS’ EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRY (TOTAL), N=29

90% OF THE ALUMNI FOUND JOBS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF FINISHING THEIR APPRENTICESHIP

DIVERSE CAREERS

For those alumni who were currently employed, we also asked them to indicate their job industry. Many of the employed alumni are working in the hospitality, sales, and retail sectors, which are aligned with the main careers taught at Youth Connect. However, some alumni have also found employment in diverse fields such as education and law. Other industries include beauty and automotive repair.
In relation to working hours and income, respondents said that they would prefer:

- Less income and fewer hours: 6.9%
- More income and more hours: 20.7%
- The same income and hours: 72.4%

The survey evaluated if Youth Connect alumni were able to obtain satisfactory employment opportunities. Results indicate that income levels vary among respondents, with some receiving low salaries while others are paid fairly.

Only 31% of respondents earn minimum wage (approximately 9,000 Baht per month), while 51.7% earn between 6,000 and 8,999 Baht per month. A notable 83% of respondents believe that Youth Connect has provided them with access to better income opportunities. When considering underemployment or overemployment, a mere 6.9% of respondents would prefer to work less, whereas around 20.7% would opt for more work in exchange for a higher monthly salary. These statistics reflect last year’s findings and suggest a somewhat positive trend, indicating that the majority of the Youth Connect alumni can secure decent employment following their training. Indeed, despite the need for further progress, these figures indicate that most students can attain relatively fair income levels when compared to the average earnings of migrant workers in Thailand who often endure exploitative working conditions and earn well below the average daily wage.
When it comes to job security, the majority of respondents (approximately 65.6%) are confident that they will be able to keep their current jobs for the next 12 months, should they choose to do so. Conversely, only a small minority (10.3%) either feel unsure or very insecure about their job stability. Overall, these findings reflect a positive sentiment towards job security among the surveyed alumni.

In addition to income levels, job satisfaction is another key element of decent employment. Results from the survey indicate that a significant proportion of alumni who are currently employed express satisfaction with their job situation. Specifically, 86.2% of respondents reported feeling mostly satisfied with their current job. This figure is encouraging, as it suggests that the alumni perceive their working conditions and career prospects as positive overall.

While overall results are positive, there is room for improvement. In 2022, we collaborated with our partner to identify areas of improvement and to develop strategies that would enhance the overall employment outcomes for our alumni.

Our strategies focused on addressing potential challenges that could impact the alumni’s job satisfaction, such as working conditions, opportunities for career advancement, and better training and development opportunities.

By taking these steps, we aim to further improve the employment outcomes and job satisfaction of our alumni, and ensure that they are able to secure decent employment opportunities will enable them to thrive.
My name is Pan Ei Phyu. I am a former student of YCF and I am currently working in an electronics store. YCF taught me Thai language, life skills, English and computer skills that will help me in my work.

BEFORE I ENROLLED IN THE YCF PROGRAMME, I WAS A PERSON WHO LACKED CONFIDENCE WHEN TALKING TO THAI PEOPLE. I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE TRAINING, ESPECIALLY IN LANGUAGE SKILLS AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS.

During the trainings, I gained more knowledge and confidence. Also, I was able to apply the skills I learned at YCF at work. After I finished my training, I got a full-time job at an electrical store where I have been working for two years. In my current job, I get paid well. I am secure with my income. This is the result of the support from the YCF training program.

My name is Saw Maung San San, and I am 22 years old. I grew up in a large family, and I know that not everyone has the opportunity to pursue higher education. Among my family members, I am the only person who has the opportunity to pursue higher education. Due to financial constraints in my family, I was not able to continue my education, and with the support of my teachers, I enrolled in the YCF program after I graduated from the Migrant Learning Center.

During my education at YCF, I not only gained specific knowledge for my professional career, but also skills that I can apply in my daily life.

IN ORDER TO BE PROACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT IN THE FUTURE, YCF TRAINED US IN FUTURE PLANNING, BUDGET MANAGEMENT, TEAMWORK, AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, WHICH WAS DONE IN BOTH A THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL MANNER.

I was able to obtain a full-time position in the Labor Law Clinic, where I did an apprenticeship for three months. All of my co-workers were very accommodating and helpful when I asked them for help. They seemed to be like my extended family. I would like to express my gratitude to all the instructors and staff at YCF for giving me such an opportunity.
OUTLOOK

We anticipate that the challenging circumstances in Myanmar and Lao PDR will persist for the foreseeable future. The military in Myanmar will keep committing crimes against the civilian populace which is likely to result in further displacement, affecting not only individuals within Myanmar, but also potentially leading to an influx of refugees and asylum seekers into neighbouring countries such as India and Thailand. We are therefore getting ready to provide education to more migrants and refugees from Myanmar on Thai soil. The economy in Myanmar will continue to deteriorate as it becomes a failed state, driving more people to look for opportunities abroad. The military-run school system will not function outside of urban areas with tens of thousands of teachers and professors joining the civil disobedience movement. Thus, alternative, non-traditional education will become increasingly vital.

It is expected that the Ministry of Education and Sport in Lao PDR will continue to have financial difficulties in covering teacher salaries. Thousands of volunteer teachers, who had been waiting up to seven years for a paid teaching post, have decided to pursue other careers as retiring teachers are no longer replaced. This leaves many schools understaffed, particularly rural primary schools. The struggle of high school or even university graduates to secure decent employment in Lao PDR is another issue that has impacted on education. This is likely to continue in 2023 and 2024 until the economy hopefully starts to revive. As for Child’s Dream, after close to two decades of work in the country, we finally made the decision to open an office in the northern Lao city of Luang Prabang during 2023. This will enable us to more effectively address the persisting issues faced in the country.

While the situations in Cambodia and Thailand are expected to be relatively stable, both countries are holding elections in 2023, which may lead to some political unrest and potential electoral disputes. We anticipate that Cambodia will continue to make progress in the field of education; however, a particular challenge lies in maintaining the interest of male students, especially at the secondary education level. Efforts will be needed to address this issue and ensure that male students are actively engaged in their education.

Across the region, there is a need to improve access to education by creating better learning environments that effectively cater to the needs of students by making learning more interesting and relevant for them. We also aim to provide more soft skill training to better prepare graduating students for the employment market and link them with potential employers through internship opportunities. Looking ahead, it is crucial to cultivate a greater number of young, educated, and responsible leaders within the region. These leaders will play a pivotal role in dismantling economic and social obstacles, while actively building societies that are fair, inclusive, and healthy.

Please join us in our mission 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.
IN NUMBERS

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

CHF 8,145,857 IN 2022

BY COUNTRY

38% MYANMAR
30% CAMBODIA
20% THAILAND
12% LAO PDR

BY BENEFICIARY GROUP

37% MYANMAR
1% REGIONAL
7% THAI
13% MYANMAR (DISPLACED, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES)
12% LAOTIAN
30% CAMBODIAN

BY FOCUS GROUP

43% BASIC EDUCATION
1% SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
14% HEALTH
42% HIGHER EDUCATION & EMERGENCY RELIEF
DONATION VOLUME (M CHF) VS. ADMIN. COSTS (%)

ORIGIN OF DONATIONS
CHF 9,582,321 IN 2022

- **55%** SWITZERLAND
- **9%** GERMANY
- **9%** SINGAPORE
- **7%** LIECHTENSTEIN
- **6%** OTHER
- **5%** JAPAN
- **4%** HONG KONG SAR
- **3%** USA
- **2%** THAILAND
- **2%** HAMADEH

TYPE OF DONORS
CHF 9,582,321 IN 2022

- **58%** FOUNDATION
- **21%** PRIVATE DONOR
- **11%** TRUST
- **6%** COMPANY
- **2%** NGO
- **2%** OTHER

IN NUMBERS

### DONATION VOLUME

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### ORIGIN OF DONATIONS

- **Switzerland**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Germany**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Singapore**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Liechtenstein**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Other**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Japan**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Hong Kong SAR**: CHF 9,582,321
- **USA**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Thailand**: CHF 9,582,321
- **Hamadeh**: CHF 9,582,321

### TYPE OF DONORS

- **Foundation**: 58%
- **Private Donor**: 21%
- **Trust**: 11%
- **Company**: 6%
- **NGO**: 2%
- **Other**: 2%
In 2022, 16 unpaid volunteers worked for the organisation. The volunteers stayed with us for different periods of time and contributed:

1,920 TOTAL NUMBER OF FREE HOURS WORKED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2022

2.96 MAN-YEAR IN 2022

In 2022, 16 unpaid volunteers worked for the organisation. The volunteers stayed with us for different periods of time and contributed:

1,920 TOTAL NUMBER OF FREE HOURS WORKED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2022

2.96 MAN-YEAR IN 2022

16% NATIONALITIES

12 NATIONALITIES

130 IN NUMBERS

65 PAID EMPLOYEES

AVERAGE AGE AS 36 YEARS OF END 2022

1,920 TOTAL NUMBER OF FREE HOURS WORKED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2022

2.96 MAN-YEAR IN 2022

16% NATIONALITIES

12 NATIONALITIES

130 IN NUMBERS

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AVERAGE AGE AS 36 YEARS OF END 2022