



URGENT FUNDING NEEDS



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APRIL 2023

A Somewhat Different Pent-up Demand

BY MARC THOMAS JENNI

Ever since we have left Covid-19 behind us in most parts of the world, there has been a new term trending: pent-up demand! In particular, in connection with international travel, pent-up demand is what a lot of people are currently working on fulfilling, after having been locked up for long periods of time. Being able to get out of the house, move around freely and

travel the globe were things we all truly missed during the pandemic. Being able to quench this thirst is a wonderful feeling and makes those who are travelling again aware of how fortunate they are.

We, at Child's Dream, are also addressing a need around pent-up demand, but it's an entirely different need. Over the

last nearly three years, borders between Myanmar and Thailand as well as Laos and Thailand were sealed, like many other borders around the world. We were frightened of importing new Covid-19 cases, thereby increasing the many cases we already had in our own gardens. Protectionism and nationalism had, in our case, very serious and often deadly consequences. For us, pent-up demand meant pent-up cases of seriously sick children stuck on the wrong side of the border, not being allowed to enter Thailand and receive the life-saving treatment urgently needed. Our Children's Medical Fund, providing essential operations, nearly came to a standstill and we all became painfully aware that being seriously ill often comes with an expiration date. Unfortunately, for many children on the wrong side of the border, time ran out. This is the dark side of the story.

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But let's move on to the bright side of things: how we can help and what 'pent-up' now means for us. Borders are open again and sick children can reach our triage points along the borders. Since the demand for life-saving treatments is higher than ever, we are working at high-speed to address the 'pent-up' demand by accepting a much higher numbers of little patients into our Children's Medical Fund, thereby addressing our strategic goal number 7 of supporting basic and essential health care. Being able to save many

more children this year, and hopefully also in the future, is a shining star in our sky and provides a lot of motivation for all of us to go the extra mile in order to secure all the additional funding needed.

For 2023, we have doubled our budget for the Children's Medical Fund to 1 million USD. It goes without saying that securing this amount is something we have not achieved yet and we hope that some of our readers will help us to address this entirely different 'pent-up demand'.

And since we are already looking at the bright side of things, 2023 marks a very important milestone for Daniel and me. What started in Summer 2003 as a crazy idea, has turned into something very special and very meaningful for the two of us. We will soon celebrate the 20th birthday of Child's Dream, but more about this, our achievements and our great team, in our next newsletter. So stay tuned...

Improving the School Environment in Lao PDR

BY MEGHAN JONES

Child's Dream has been supporting school building projects in Lao PDR since 2006. In 2013, we started to expand our focus to improving the school environment. At first, we focused on just one of our supported schools and intentionally engaged in informal discussions and exchange of ideas in each of our follow up visits. With these efforts, we began to see changes in the school. Every time we visited, we noticed improvements in the cleanliness of the school area; the classrooms and toilets were cleaner, the school farm was tended, and the parking space was organised. In the years following, we began to offer more support on school management to other Child's Dream supported schools.

The School Management Programme officially started in 2022, with the first Motivation and Inspiration training happening this past August with 12 target schools. The programme's aim is to improve the management of school environments in Lao PRD. Some of the components of the programme include offering trainings for school principals, teachers and community leaders to motivate them to understand the importance of managing the school environment, an opportunity for schools to share and learn from each other, and a School Indicator Development training. Teachers and community leaders also have the opportunity to take a study trip to visit model schools and learn from their school

environments. We know that students benefit from a safe and motivating space to learn and thrive, and through our School Management Programme, we are inspiring the teachers and community leaders in our supported schools to develop a continual commitment to managing the school environment in order to keep it clean, organised and vibrant.

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Hands Up for Sustainable Education!

BY AIDAN MCAULIFFE

One organisation working in Battambang Province in Cambodia aims to change the landscape of English language learning in government schools through an impressive collaboration of communities, education institutes, and NGOs. The Cambodian Community Dream Organisation (CCDO) leads its bespoke English Literacy Training Programme (ELTP) for trainee teachers that will enable the graduates to effectively educate thousands of young learners as well as future generations of teachers.

The programme was implemented by CCDO in response to the Ministry of Education's inclusion of English in the national curriculum for primary school grades 4 through 6 in 2017. Having noticed that the national curriculum shows shortcomings, such as out-of-date teaching methods, and a lack of quality control, and that a lot of the teachers are unqualified, CCDO introduced the ELTP and now directly coaches more than 300 trainee teachers per year.

Working with a local teacher training college, future generations of teachers are mentored during the well-rounded training programme. It includes language proficiency testing, a nine-month training on 21st-century teaching methods, workshops, student feedback, networking, and peer support.

A key feature of CCDO is a “hand up, but not a handout” approach; a nod to its commitment to sustainability. Once the trainees qualify and commence work in the classroom, they still have access to appropriate materials as well as a network of other qualified English teachers.

We are proud to partner with CCDO as it takes a proactive approach in addressing persisting needs in Cambodian schools. By supporting an annual cohort of teachers to become confident and engaging leaders, we envisage hundreds of classrooms where the children will have their hands up for English education!

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Parami University-Parami Institute of Undergraduate Studies (PIUS)

BY NI THAW

Access to quality higher education has always been a massive challenge for disadvantaged youth in Myanmar. Parami is bringing internationally recognised and high quality university education to students from marginalised backgrounds who are unable to enrol in recognised degree programs either in Myanmar or abroad, via online university.

The Parami University provides students with liberal arts and science education. It currently offers two interdisciplinary bachelor's degree programmes: Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Bachelor of Arts in Statistics and Data Science (SDS). All the degree programmes offered by the Parami University are licensed by the District of Columbia Higher Education Licensure Commission. In partnership with Bard College (USA), PIUS offers dual-degrees by Parami University and Bard College.

For the underserved youth in Myanmar, the Parami team works closely with the Child's Dream team and adopts a flexible admissions system for students without high school transcripts and English Language Proficiency tests. In addition, two learning hubs and two learning facilities are provided for students pursuing the undergraduate programme, who do not have adequate facilities or access to the internet.

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For the 2022 intake, Parami received 187 applications, and 109 applicants were invited for interview. Out of 109 interviewed, 57 students were successfully admitted to start their higher education journey.

Most of our educational programmes had to adapt themselves to the new situation in Myanmar, but none of them have made such a dramatic transformation from a planned physical campus outside of Yangon to a fully fledged online university licensed in the US. This shows the sheer determination of Parami and its team to provide high quality education to youth in Myanmar, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

The 7th Youth Conference “Defying Gravity”

BY HUONG HOANG

We always strive to support young people from diverse backgrounds in navigating changes and overcoming adversity by drawing on their strengths, resilience and potential. Our beliefs are reflected in the work that we do, and in our partners. Established in 2010, BEAM Education Foundation (BEAM) has been our strategic partner since 2015. BEAM works to empower Myanmar migrants and underprivileged ethnic young people in Thailand through youth participation and educational programmes.

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As part of BEAM's Youth Community Engagement Programme, the 7th annual youth conference was held from 3 – 5 February, bringing together migrant youth, Thai and Thai ethnic youth in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This year's conference theme was 'Defying Gravity', aiming to inspire sustainable social entrepreneurship and promote youth engagement.

Over the course of three days, participants attended a series of workshops on anti-hate speech, design thinking, problem

solving, and social and emotional learning, to foster self-discovery and crucial life skills. The conference also provided a platform for young people to voice their opinions and come up with solutions for challenges faced by their communities. They worked in teams to address social issues and develop implementation plans to solve problems. Since its inception, the youth conference has attracted 446 participants with 16 community impact projects chosen for funding and mentorship opportunities.

Child's Dream is delighted to facilitate such impactful youth capacity building and development initiatives in partnership with BEAM, and remains committed to working towards our shared goal of empowering the lives of marginalised communities.

FROM THE OFFICE

CHILD'S DREAM | EXPLAINER

We can't contain our excitement!

Check out our brand-new explainer video now!

WATCH VIDEO +



CONGRATULATIONS!

Way to go, Bory! Congratulations to you and your team on achieving this incredible feat! You have worked incredibly hard to get here, and we are so proud of you for your dedication and commitment! Congratulations again!

Bory is a Child's Dream University Scholarship student studying computer science at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022

It's here! Our annual report 2022 is now available online. It gives you the opportunity to explore our successes and accomplishments during the past year and see how our hard work has paid off!

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