



Christmas Newsletter 2020



URGENT FUNDING NEEDS

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES NEED URGENT FUNDING OR CONTINUOUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
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FROM THE FOUNDERS

By Marc Thomas Jenni

Co-Founder &
Managing Director Operations

A Monumental Task Ahead of Us

Who would have guessed that the year 2020 would turn out like this? Who would have assumed that the current crisis is still far from over and who would have believed that the aftermath of COVID-19 would be felt well beyond the coming few years? Everyone was taken by surprise and most of us are still trying to come to terms with all the changes and challenges ahead. Back in April, when the virus locked down the entire world, we at Child's Dream took swift action and identified our two top priorities for the rest of the year: continuing to serve our beneficiaries in the best possible way, and preserving not only the jobs of the many staff

in our programmes in the region, but also the 50 jobs of our very own staff in our three offices. Back then, we assumed that the worst would be over by the turn of the year so that 2021 could be a year of recovery.

Though we have managed to weather the storm in 2020 without any major damage, and have lived up to our two top priorities, we have also witnessed a strong surge in demand for our help. As a result of the economic pressure and fallout, unemployment rates, as well as the needs of our beneficiaries, have increased significantly. The loss of jobs, the closure of schools and the absence of income have pushed families and entire communities back into poverty. The direct result of this is not only less food on the table, more mental distress and increased suicide rates, but also a much higher than normal school dropout rate in most of our schools.

Children are seen as a source of income and are deployed during crises. Putting them back into the educational cycle will be a fight we hope to win.

Only a quick and robust turnaround in the economy can prevent many more children from losing out on education once and for all. However, we all know this turnaround is not happening. Poverty reduction goals have ventured out of sight and indicators such as the Gini coefficient, measuring the wealth gap of a nation, is going strongly in the wrong direction. All these are reasons for us to worry about the wellbeing of our hundreds of thousands of children. Unlike residents in more affluent societies, the people of our countries cannot fall back on

state support simply because governments lack the necessary resources. Hence, the work of organisations like ours becomes even more essential than during more 'normal' times.

So all this explains why we are facing a monumental task in the coming few years. Greater need calls for more money; however, states and governments will not be able to fill that void. A prolonged economic crisis will also result in lower donations for charities like ours. Yes, we are worried looking into 2021 and beyond and, again, we have set two top priorities for next year: continuing to serve all our beneficiaries as we did in 2020 and preserving jobs not only within Child's Dream, but also within our many programme partner organisations. In addition, emergency relief operations will further have to be continued to avoid a catastrophe.

In order to achieve all this, we need the support of each and every one of you. We wish and hope that all our donors and friends will stand beside us so that we can go through this crisis together, avoiding another humanitarian disaster and showing our beneficiaries that we really care. Your support is the fuel keeping our engine running and we truly hope that you keep on fueling that engine, financially and with your presence and trust. Thank you very much in advance.

We now wish you a nice festive season, hopefully among your family and friends, and we also wish you all a very healthy and happy 2021.

Many thanks for your outstanding support in the past and for believing in us during an unprecedented 2020. Please do not forget us!

***Alone we can do so little;
together we can change the world.***



HEALTH

By Daniel Marco Siegfried

Co-Founder &
Managing Director Programmes

New School Health Partnership in Myanmar

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic took control of the world, Child's Dream approved a new school health partnership in Myanmar with Community Partners International (CPI).

The start of the implementation was delayed due to the country's lockdown in April and restrictions on gatherings like physical training. CPI have trained five community-based organisations on their school health curriculum via Zoom. As soon as the schools are allowed to reopen, these five local partners will provide essential health services, including deworming, nutrition and oral health, to roughly 6,000 students. They will also train the teachers on first

aid and provide water sanitation such as clean water, drainage, latrines and materials for personal hygiene. The partners will also demonstrate how to cook nutritious meals to reduce malnutrition and conduct sports activities for both physical and mental health.

Besides our partnership with CPI, Child's Dream has been partnering with three other community-based organisations focusing on school health in Myanmar. Through these partnerships we are able to reach more than 14,000 vulnerable children and provide them with knowledge about personal hygiene and provide essential health services and semi-annual health check-ups and hospital referrals for serious illnesses.



BASIC EDUCATION

By Daniel Marco Siegfried

Co-Founder &
Managing Director Programmes

Why Is Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education Important?

Child's Dream works in one of the most ethnically diverse parts of the world. In our four countries we have close to 300 different ethnic groups. Most of these groups have their own language or dialect. According to UNESCO, there are 7,097 living languages in the world and 50% of them are in Asia-Pacific. In South East Asia we have 1,246 languages alone. Many of these languages are endangered because governments only recognise one official language and therefore all instruction at schools is either Thai, Lao, Khmer or Burmese. Most of the ethnic students that come into government primary schools cannot understand the instructions of their teacher.

In turn, most teachers cannot speak the ethnic language and are not trained to teach the official language as a foreign language, making education not only ineffective, but also intimidating for the students.

The result in the short-term is that many students drop out of school and in the long-term many of these children

become functionally illiterate, further marginalising them in their adult lives. Child's Dream addresses this problem by working with two partners that are specialised in mother tongue-based multi-lingual education.

The Foundation for Applied Linguistics (FAL) is our partner in Thailand. With our support, FAL is working in ethnic areas at six government schools with almost 600 students to train 15 local teachers and develop culturally appropriate materials for Kindergarten to Primary Grade 3. By using their own ethnic language as a bridge, the students not only improve their mother tongue language, but also effectively learn the official language. After only a few years our students' Thai language ability is higher than the national average.

The Non-Timber Forest Products organisation (NTFP) is our partner in Cambodia. With our support, NTFP has increased literacy and numeracy among Kavet communities, one of the ethnic groups in Cambodia. NTFP has trained 32 non-formal education teachers to deliver their bilingual Kavet curriculum to roughly 300 students.



HIGHER EDUCATION

By Gene Lorca

Senior Regional Communication &
Marketing Manager

Improving Sustainability Through Agroecology

In mid-2020, Child's Dream began supporting Pha Tad Ke (PTK) Vocational Centre in Luang Prabang Province, northern Laos.

PTK creates training materials, conducts training, holds open house events, and develops research projects around the themes of biodiversity conservation, ecologically-based agriculture, responsible social leadership, and cultural awareness.

80% of Laotians live by slash-and-burn farming--a significant source of carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming. Slash-and-burn also causes long-term deforestation, which threatens local biodiversity.

Since its inception in 2008, PTK has published 18 free books and training materials in Lao and English to raise awareness of their themes among students and local communities. The materials have been distributed to over 38,000

primary and high school students.

PTK runs workshops for farmers on upland farming, permaculture techniques, and biodiversity conservation. PTK also runs workshops for primary school teachers about how to set up community gardens and provide seed boxes to get them started. Workshops are open for others in the community to join.

PTK develops research projects with Souphanouvong University--one of the five national universities in Laos. Student learning is structured around university lectures and site visits to PTK's demonstration and research farm.

PTK believes that Laotians must be aware of biodiversity conservation and ecologically-based agriculture in order to make positive changes in their community.

FROM THE OFFICE



Emergency Relief in Laos

Our emergency relief supplies were distributed to local communities in need in Xepon District, Savannakhet, Laos-impacted by the flooding. Construction supplies such as boxes of nails and 300 sheets of zinc roof to build temporary shelters for almost 200 displaced people in need of urgent shelters

were handed over to our local rescue partner who will carry out the construction process. A big shout out to our volunteers, local partner organisations, and to all involved for making the relief distribution possible. You guys are amazing and we are extremely grateful!



Get Your Donation Doubled

Want your donation to make an even bigger impact? Many employers offer matching gift programmes and match your charitable contribution to Child's Dream. Ask your employer for a matching gift policy and get your donation dollar doubled.

Happy Holidays!



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