



**SAFE CHILD THAILAND
ANNUAL REVIEW
2017-18**

WHERE WE WORK



Front cover image: © Cory Wright

LETTER FROM OUR CEO ADRIAN HATCH

Safe Child Thailand has been working to safeguard children in Thailand for 35 years. From humble beginnings, working to fund just one single orphanage in Thailand, with your support we have now extended our reach across the country. Working with a wider range of partners than ever before, we support lasting change for children who are at risk of neglect, abuse, trafficking, and injustice.



Last year 13,205 children were directly reached through our network of partners in Thailand. The essential services provided by our partners helps to ensure the children of Thailand have access to education, food and shelter. With your support we will continue to widen our reach to ensure that no child is left behind.

In much of Thailand poverty and severe deprivation are rife, meaning that life at the bottom of the social ladder can be very hard. For children who have been left orphaned, abandoned by their parents, refugees fleeing conflicts or oppressive regimes in neighboring countries, and those who have fled their homes to escape physical or sexual abuse, it is far more brutal.

All too often children from these groups find themselves living in poverty and in desperate need of help. Thanks to your donations we are able to offer these children safety, encouragement, education and hope.

In addition to our work directly with abandoned or orphaned children, SCT also supports a number of family strengthening projects. These projects help support families in the poorer rural communities who have for one reason or another fallen on hard times and who would otherwise feel that they had no other option but to give their children over to an orphanage.

While we still recognise the importance of residential care in those cases where children have nowhere to turn to, over the past year we have placed greater emphasis on work that empowers communities and helps keep families together as a unit. With your support we endeavor to create a safer Thailand for all children.

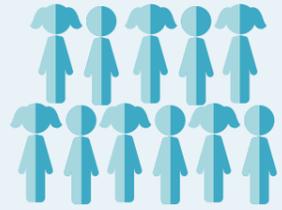
Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Hatch, CEO

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OUR IMPACT IN 2017-18



13,205

Children directly reached through our network of partners in Thailand



4,787

Migrant children provided with food and nutritional supplements



32,198

Men, women and children indirectly benefitting from our programmes in Thailand



3,502

Migrant births registered



2,848

Men, women and children reached through family and community empowerment projects

WHERE YOUR DONATION GOES



£2,850

Full month costs for a migrant safe-house for abused and abandoned children (£32 per child per month)



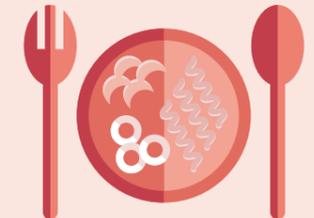
£2,200

Full month costs for a day-care for disabled children living with their families (£39 per child per month)



£1,850

Full month costs for training migrant teachers in child-centred learning techniques (£32 per teacher per month)



£700

Full month of school lunches for a migrant school (£3.60 per child per month)

£655,700 INVESTED





Image: © Stella Scott

HEALTH & NUTRITION

“Every child has the right to nutritious food and access to medical care to support the healthy development of their bodies and minds.”*

Malnutrition is still a prominent health issue in rural and migrant communities. Poor nutrition can cause delayed physical development and weaken the immune system, causing these children to be more prone to sickness and infection. For many of these children the meals they receive through our *School Lunch Programme* is the only meal they will eat that day.

Our *Health and Nutrition Programme* has reached over 5,000 children across Thailand this year. As part of this programme we provide free school lunches and nutritional supplements to help support children’s growth and development. We have also built mushroom huts and provided spore bags to schools which allows students and staff to grow mushrooms to supplement their diets

and – for some schools – provide an income generation project to help raise additional funds for running costs.

We also support a *Community Health and Hygiene Programme* which works to support Burmese migrant communities, predominantly the families of migrant construction workers and fishermen. Families living in these communities often struggle to access public healthcare provided by the Thai government.

The programme provides treatments, health workshops, infection/disease prevention training and professional support to migrant families enabling them to continue to care for their children instead of having to place them in an orphanage due to poor health.

WE SUPPORT:

- ➔ Projects that ensure children receive adequate and equal access to vaccinations, healthcare and medication (including antiretroviral drugs to control HIV infection).
- ➔ Projects that provide food and prevent malnutrition in children.
- ➔ The *SCT Mushroom Hut Project* which allows students to grow mushrooms to supplement their diets, and provides supplemental income for the school to purchase other materials and supplies.
- ➔ A community health and hygiene project that provides treatments, workshops and infection / disease prevention training to migrant families.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Ni Ni’s Story

The *Safe Child Thailand School Lunch Programme* was designed to improve the nutrition, health, and physical and mental development of migrant children in Tak Province. We provide food and nutritional supplements and monitor the growth and well-being of the children from migrant communities.

One of the children benefiting from this project is Ni Ni.* The youngest of six siblings, she was raised by her mother after their father left. They live in one of the many migrant communities on the border. Despite their circumstances and the limited opportunities available to her, Ni Ni has been able to attend a school for migrant children, giving her a chance at a brighter future.

However, in the early days of the school they found that a high number of children were dropping out. They soon found out that this was because their family could not afford to prepare a lunch for them. Malnutrition is an issue that is almost entirely isolated to marginalized groups; ethnic minorities and migrant communities being high on that list.

The specialist school for migrant children Ni Ni attends is one of 12 schools that benefits from *Safe Child Thailand’s Mushroom Hut Project*.

As part of our *School Lunch Programme* we provide schools with mushroom spore bags. The children attending the school rely on the meals their school provides to help them stay healthy, maintain focus in the classroom and give them the energy they need to live a happy and active life.

As well as providing Ni Ni and her classmates with the extra protein they need to stay strong, the spore bags also provide an extra income for the school. Mushroom growing is a fun activity that teaches the children about sustainability and provides access to nutritious food all year round.

KEY FACTS

11% of Thai people live below the national poverty line*.

Approximately 700,000 people in Thailand live in extreme poverty, without access to shelter, food or clean water*.

Inequality is most noticeable across ethnic groups, with hill tribe people, ethnic minorities, and foreign workers facing the greatest inequalities*.

* <http://investvine.com/thailand-10-still-poverty-line/>



Image: © Cory Wright

EDUCATION

“Every child has the right to access quality education in an equal and child-friendly environment, allowing them to reach their fullest academic potential.”*

In 1990 Thailand adopted the World Declaration on Education for All, which promised education for all children in Thailand regardless of nationality or status. However, despite this promise, this has not fully materialised.

Ethnic minorities, stateless people, migrants, refugees and the disabled are regularly excluded from the Thai education system. This is commonly due to poverty, lack of documentation or cultural bias.

In many schools in Thailand classrooms are overcrowded and teachers are unable to provide one on one support to students. Our *Education for All Programme* focuses more on a student-centred approach to learning, ensuring that the curriculum is accessible for all children, regardless of disability, language barriers, learning difficulties and cultural background.

The programme promotes inclusive, high quality education by empowering schools and supporting initiatives that put student welfare and achievement first.

Thanks to this programme we are able to support education for children with disabilities through individualised learning curricula, vocational training for children with disabilities to enable them to enter the workforce, and training teachers in migrant schools to help them teach their students in a more engaging environment.

In the last year we have provided quality education to over 2,000 children, giving them the key to unlocking their potential while also keeping them safe from falling victim to forced labour, trafficking, domestic abuse and criminal activity.

We believe that education is the key to reducing risks facing vulnerable children.

WE SUPPORT:

- Projects that promote quality and inclusive education within the Thai education system or through non-formal education programmes.
- Projects that support student-centred learning environments with qualified staff that allow children of all ages, abilities and ethnicities to access a quality education.
- Specialist schools that help children with disabilities access education with the support of specialist teachers, equipment and facilities.
- Projects that deliver vocational training to students to help them enter the workforce.
- Projects that provide teacher and school staff training and curricula development.

KEY FACTS

Only 50% of Thai children reach basic proficiency level in science, reading and maths*.

47% functionally illiterate Geographical inequality is prevalent, with 47% of 15 year olds in rural areas being functionally illiterate*.

* <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/publication/wanted---a-quality-education-for-all-in-thailand>

Only 17% attend school Of the 200,000 migrant children in Thailand only 17% are estimated to attend school.

60% of migrant children are out of school. Of those in Thai schools only 4% make it to secondary.

https://thailand.savethechildren.net/sites/thailand.savethechildren.net/files/library/SC%20THA_Strategy%20Summary_2016-18_Eng_3feb16_0.pdf



Image: © Cory Wright

Saw Moe Naing's Story

Saw Moe Naing is a 22-year-old teacher who moved to Thailand from Myanmar as a child and is now teaching maths and geography in Grades 1 to 4.

Saw Moe Naing has been working closely with one of Safe Child Thailand's local partners who work in teacher training along the Thailand-Myanmar border. His goal is for his students to become good leaders in their communities.

When our partner first met Saw Moe Naing, he was heavily dependent on reading aloud from the textbook, and focused on having his students learn by copying what he wrote on the board. Students were not very engaged in lessons, which led to disruptions in the classroom, and very low attendance.

Saw Moe Naing was excited to begin teacher training sessions with our local partner, so that he could improve his classroom management and get the children he teaches more engaged.

After a few weeks of working with our local partner, both in group training sessions and in-class observations, Saw Moe Naing began to show drastic improvements in his teaching. He started walking around the room more, making sure to engage all children. He began to use a variety of classroom materials such as visual aids, flash cards and demonstrations. His students were immediately more focused in lessons, showing a real passion for learning.

Saw Moe Naing's strongest improvement came from the use of activities in his lessons – students are now excited to participate in pair-work and group activities, where they can work together to support each other's learning. Saw Moe Naing will continue to work with our training partner, to strengthen his teaching methods and provide the best education he can for his students.



Image: © Simon Elwell

ANTI-TRAFFICKING & SAFE MIGRATION

“Every child has the right to live without fear of trafficking and exploitation and to be treated equally no matter of their race or ethnicity.”*

Thailand has one of the world’s worst reputations for the sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking. These children are also often subjected to forced labour in the construction, fishing, agriculture, and manufacturing industries.

Human trafficking is one of the world’s most complex and expansive human rights abuses and Thailand is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Thailand’s relative prosperity means that it has become a trafficking “destination” point, with thousands of victims being moved into the country and forced to work in low paid, degrading and abusive industries.

Thailand is home to an estimated 4 million migrants from neighbouring countries who have fled conditions of poverty and, in the case of Myanmar, military repression. Migrants without documentation have no access to the Thai justice system, healthcare, education or welfare. Many children born in rural villages or migrant communities may not have their births registered as they don’t have access to hospitals or maternity care. This puts them more at risk of trafficking and exploitation. Obtaining identity documentation later in life is extremely difficult without proof of birth or parentage.

We work to protect the child victims of trafficking and exploitation and also work within migrant communities to help families who are most at risk protect their children through our *Birth Registration Programme*. In the last year, thanks to your donations we have helped support and protect 5,000 at-risk children.

WE SUPPORT:

- Projects that promote the rights of migrants and refugee children living in Thailand and offer these groups access to opportunities and services available.
- Projects that work to eliminate statelessness and provide legal safety nets for trafficking victims and marginalised migrant communities.
- Projects that register migrant children’s births, allowing them to access vital education and healthcare services and safeguarding them against trafficking and exploitation.
- Projects that provide victim support, counselling and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking and exploitation.
- Research and advocacy projects related to trafficking, migration and statelessness.

KEY FACTS

Sex Tourism

is a booming industry in Thailand. A 2015 report claimed that it generates \$6.4 billion, accounting for 10% of Thailand’s GDP.

<https://www.havocscope.com/revenue-of-the-sex-trade-in-thailand/>

35% of working children are younger than 15 years old and 44% could be categorised as working in the worst forms of child labour.

https://thailand.savethechildren.net/sites/thailand.savethechildren.net/files/library/SC%20THA_Strategy%20Summary_2016-18_Eng_3feb16_0.pdf

Almost 500,000 people in Thailand are stateless.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRThailand/posts/1954512364630885>



Image: © Simon Elwell

Myine’s Story

Myine* is a young boy from a minority hill tribe, who left his village at the age of 15 to move to the city in search of job opportunities. Without a Thai ID, Myine was not able to find an employer willing to hire him. In pursuit of a better life, Myine took a loan of £1,600 from the village leader who promised to help him get legal identification. As is often the case, Myine never received an ID card.

Being in debt for this large amount of money forced Myine to work in the only place that didn’t require an ID: the massage parlour, recommended by the village leader. Having worked in the sex industry for the past 4 years, Myine has only recently paid off his debt this year.

Our local partner met Myine during one of their many outreach efforts at this massage parlour. During the day, Myine would start to visit their drop-in centre and share his dreams with the team. One day, after hours of talking to his case manager, he decided to go back to his village to live and find work. He plans to spend his savings on the purchase of land, where he will grow certain crops that he will sell to local restaurants with the help and support of the team at the drop-in centre.

Myine wants to get his whole family involved in farming, in order to protect his younger siblings from being pushed towards the sex trade. Being close to the city, Myine continues to visit the drop-in centre to meet with the team, and use the computers and resources available to learn more about how to run his business. With the help of the team there, Myine is now able to thrive in his village and have a life beyond the massage parlours of the city.



Image: © Cory Wright

CHILD PROTECTION

“Every child has the right to be protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and to be supported by robust social safety nets and justice systems.”*

Thailand’s law on child protection is enshrined in the Child Protection Act of 2003. The act has no reference to non-Thai children, migrants, or refugees. We work with a range of local partners to ensure that all children are able to access the support services they need to go on to live a happy, fulfilled life.

We have reached over 1,000 children through our work with Childline; a 24-hour helpline that provides children across Thailand with trusted and reliable access to protection, health and welfare services.

The Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Programme teaches children how to swim as well as water safety, what to do in an emergency and basic first aid. Drowning is the leading cause of

death in Thailand, accounting for 47% of deaths in children under the age of 15. Through this programme we have so far been able to reach 150 children.

We also support residential care projects, through our *Child Sponsorship Programme*, to protect children in Thailand who have been abandoned or forced to flee their homes to escape abuse.

Whilst we recognise the shift in global trends towards keeping children with their families and discourage the unnecessary placement of children into institutional care, we support care homes for children with very limited options. We strive to ensure that these homes are of the highest standard and work with these partners to ensure that strict child protection guidelines are being followed.

WE SUPPORT:

- ➔ Projects that provide safe refuge, access to social services, welfare and legal representation.
- ➔ Projects that deliver child protection training and resources to service providers.
- ➔ A project that teaches children about water safety and provides training in first aid.
- ➔ A project that offers children across Thailand 24 hour support, 365 days of the year, through the Childline Call Centre.
- ➔ Projects that care for children who have suffered a family breakdown.



Image: © Cory Wright

CHILD PROTECTION

Jian’s Story

Jian is a 17-year-old boy living in a boarding house in Tak Province, Western Thailand. Safe Child Thailand provides support for food costs for this boarding house, and many others like it. Jian passed his Grade 10 comfortably in 2017, and is going to attend Grade 11 in the 2018 academic year. While other students at the boarding house are going back to their homes for the summer holiday, Jian is gaining valuable work experience in the human resources department of a local clinic that supports migrants and refugees.

“I come from a small village in Myanmar. My parents are both farmers, who plant rice paddies along the hillside. I have 4 siblings, and I am the 2nd eldest among my siblings.”

“My parents sent me to Thailand in 2016 because there is only a primary school in my village. My village is in a remote area and far from the nearest town. My parents could not afford to send me to school in the town because it cost a lot to stay in the dormitory. Fortunately, my parents knew about the boarding house across the border in Thailand where I could continue my education for free.”

“I have good supervision in the boarding house, and the boarding house staff are very supportive. I feel safe and happy living here – even though we are all from different backgrounds, we live together as a family. At the boarding house, we have group duties such as cleaning, cooking and watering the plants. I like to do that, because it makes me feel like I have responsibilities.”

“I like to read in my free time. The more I read, the more I gain more knowledge. I also like to play football with my friend in the evening time. I have improved a lot in participation, team working and English after I started living in the boarding house.”

“My dream is to be a doctor. I want to help patients because they need someone who will heal their disease. If I were a doctor, I would like to serve in a community that cannot access health care services.”

KEY FACTS

47% of child deaths are attributed to drowning, making it the leading cause of death for children in Thailand*.

88,000 There are more than 88,000 orphaned or abandoned children in Thailand, a majority of whom live in institutions*.

30% of households report domestic abuse against women or children*.

* All stats from: https://thailand.savethechildren.net/sites/thailand.savethechildren.net/files/library/SC%20THA_Strategy%20Summary_2016-18_Eng_3feb16_0.pdf



Image: © Cory Wright

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

“Every child has the right to grow up in a nurturing home within an empowered and engaged community, that protects their rights and promotes their future.”*

Poverty and family breakdown are the most common causes of children being placed into orphanages in Thailand. Many parents are forced to make this heart-breaking decision because of a lack of social support.

Illness and disability are also key factors. Many families in rural areas are unable to afford medical care and unable to give up a steady income to become a full-time carer. There is little to no health or welfare support for these families, which causes even higher rates of children with disabilities being placed into care.

Safe Child Thailand supports a number community-based projects that provide support to low income families. In the slums of Bangkok, Safe Child Thailand supports an important programme entitled ‘*Keeping Families Together*’. The aim of this programme is to support these families to keep their children in their care.

Through the programme, children are supported to go to school and parents are provided with a small grant to help them start a business, which ensures that they are able to earn more money to support their children.

Families also receive extensive mentoring and psychosocial support from a dedicated team of social workers preventing the unnecessary placement of children in orphanages.

So far we have been able to reach 3,000 families. To best protect children we must help to strengthen their support systems, families, communities, and the larger society to which they belong.

WE SUPPORT:

- ➔ Projects that provide families the support they need to cope under difficult circumstances.
- ➔ A project that provides community-based care and rehabilitation to children with disabilities who are at risk of institutionalisation.
- ➔ Projects that provide vocational training, income generation and microloan schemes to communities in Thailand.
- ➔ Projects that advocate alternative care solutions and campaign for better social care, family tracing, and foster care.
- ➔ Projects that deliver relevant community-based group training and awareness raising workshops.

KEY FACTS

250,000 children

Recent estimates indicate that over 250,000 children are currently residing in orphanages or care homes, 80% of whom have at least one living parent.

<https://www.crs.org/media-center/news-release/80-90-percent-children-orphanages-are-not-orphans>

More than 3 million children in Thailand do not live with their parents.

https://thailand.savethechildren.net/sites/thailand.savethechildren.net/files/library/SC%20THA_Strategy%20Summary_2016-18_Eng_3feb16_0.pdf

20% of children in households are living out of parental care in Thailand yet “only” 0.4% of children are double orphans, having lost both parents.

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/1b925bf1-5587-4f7f-976a-92293ddfeb09/Asia-Alternative-Child-Care-and-Deinstitutionalisation-Report.pdf>



Mint’s Story

Mint’ is a 10-year-old girl who lives with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She is currently supported by one of Safe Child Thailand’s partners. Mint was first visited by our partner at her home eight years ago, where she spent all day in bed, as her family did not understand how to care for her. She wasn’t able to move on her own, and could not sit unaided. Her muscles and body were almost totally rigid, as she was receiving no physiotherapy.

Over the past eight years, our partner has been visiting Mint at her home every week, and has been giving her necessary physiotherapy. Mint can now move her arms and legs, and her muscles are no longer rigid. She can sit on a special chair if she has someone to help her get in and out, and she is now much more flexible at the waist.

Mint’s house used to be unsuitable for the use of a wheelchair, meaning her only option was to stay at home in bed. Mint’s family were able to connect with our partners to borrow money interest-free, which allowed them to improve their house. Our partner supported Mint’s family with the necessary materials and helped build a new toilet for her house. These small improvements have made a huge difference to Mint’s quality of life.

LOOKING AHEAD

When SCT first started working in Thailand 35 years ago, orphanages were a commonly accepted practice and alternative services, such as foster care, were uncommon. There was little support available for vulnerable communities and families.

Though orphanages have long been seen as the solution to parents not being able to provide for their children, much research has been conducted into the best ways to care for children and the impact different options for care has on a child's development.

Our own research has found that a high percentage of children in residential care in Thailand are institutionalised for preventable reasons; poverty, family breakdown, social inequality and a lack of opportunities.

In recent years, foster care and placing children with relatives has emerged as a more effective alternative to placing children in orphanages in Thailand. This helps to maintain a child's connection to their family and community. These forms of care are also rooted in the Thai customs of family members having a duty to care for one another.

We recognise the continued importance of residential care in those cases where children have nowhere else to go. However, moving into the new financial year Safe Child Thailand will put more focus on projects that work on reducing the numbers of children in residential care.

With the hope that as their communities and families are empowered and better equipped to support them there will be less instances of parents feeling the need to place their children in orphanages in order to give them a better future.

* All quotes at the top of each programme area: <https://www.unicef.org/crc/>

* All names have been changed for child protection





A BIG THANK YOU!

To our fantastic community of fundraisers
who raised over £198,000!

We couldn't do what we do without you!
Thank you!

We received grants from the following:

The Popocatepetl Trust
P F Charitable Trust
The Cuckoo Hill Trust
The Tula Trust
The Austin Bailey Foundation
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation
The Balcombe Trust
Christadelphian Samaritan Fund
Nichols Charitable Trust
The Tikvah Trust
The Paget Trust
The Belacqua Charitable Trust
OdysseyRe Foundation
Jets Charitable Trust
Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust
Trelux Charitable Trust

Corporates



Thaikhun and Chaophraya Restaurants

We're so grateful to Thai Leisure Group and their staff who continue to support Safe Child Thailand through their Chaophraya and Thaikhun restaurants. During National Curry Week in October, Chaophraya donated 50p from every sale of its Jungle Curry to Safe Child Thailand. A committed group of staff from Chaophraya in Glasgow also raised funds by climbing Ben Nevis in July! Over the last two years, Thai Leisure Group have raised over £37,000, enabling us to support a food truck that teaches entrepreneurial skills in catering and hospitality to street children in Bangkok.



The Lady Boys of Bangkok

We are delighted to continue our partnership with the Lady Boys of Bangkok touring cabaret show into this year. The company has donated over £20,000 from collections made at their shows over the past year and will continue to fundraise and raise awareness of our work during their next UK tour in 2019.

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