

We are building a sustainable movement to care for children in Thailand

We believe that offering children, a protective, nurturing environment whilst efforts are made to find the child a permanent home, are vital to their development.

This is why we are supporting **Alternative Care Thailand**, a group of like-minded NGOs and consultants, committed to seeing all children in Thailand grow up in safe and nurturing families.

In July home-based learning for many students started. The teachers have been working long hours as the demand for schooling has increased.

They spend lots of time travelling from one community to the next and often home schooling is difficult to manage with many family members in one household.

Alternative care methods like these, helps strengthen communities, and your generous donation has enabled these children to continue to access quality education.

What is Alternative Care?

It can take many forms, but should always make sure the best interests of the child are a priority. It can include:

- **Informal Kinship Care:** An arrangement where the child is looked after on an on-going or indefinite basis by relatives or friends, without state involvement
- **Supervised Independent Living:** Where older children live alone, and are supported by social workers
- **Residential Care:** Care provided in any non-family group setting, often in a specially designed and designated facility which is staffed by qualified workers

It can help empower communities who struggle to support their children, continue reading to see Tian's story.

Sometimes parents are forced to give up their children to the care system, due to severe poverty.

Early this year, a mother and a grandmother were forced to do just that with baby Tian, leaving the 10-month-old at a shelter that we support. Unemployment and lack of opportunities can force parents to give up their child, feeling they would have better prospects in a care home.

Our partners were able to find the parents, and work with the family to counsel them on child-care. We also helped to support the family with rice, food and milk powder, empowering them to look after their child.

Over 35 years ago, Safe Child Thailand was set up to support orphanage care in Thailand, but today we have grown to support residential care homes, boarding schools and safe-houses across the country.

Working in the fields of healthcare, education, child protection, anti-trafficking, and family and community empowerment; we have learnt more about the problems faced by local communities and factors that can cause family breakdown. We still support care homes, but realise prevention can come from community support as well.

The best and most secure environment for each child to truly flourish as they grow is the love and care of a family. Families who struggle to provide for their children need therefore whatever support others can give them

Right Reverend Marcus Stock, Patron

We have managed this year to support partners who supplied migrant families with rice, cooking oil, washing soaps and masks. We also conducted awareness campaigns door-to-door in migrant communities, handing out supplies to families hit hard by the virus.

However, abandonment and neglect cases have increased due to poverty, and the coronavirus pandemic has caused unemployment and reduced income for many migrant families.

Child Line Thailand have also had an increase in calls from children due to lockdown, with more children in need of food and essential services.

Just £40 a month can feed a child two nutritious meals a day.

Your regular support can help us reach more children in the coming year.

Thank you.

Safe Child Thailand
72 Venn Street
London
SW4 0AT

CEO Peter Bradley
Registered Charity in England & Wales 1085407
Company Limited by Guarantee No 4157530

To learn more about our work join our Christmas Zoom event, hosted by our CEO Peter Bradley. For more information on how to attend contact: katie.taynton@safechildthailand.org

Website: www.safechildthailand.org/donate
Email: contact@safechildthailand.org
Phone: +44 (0)207 602 6203



Safe Child THAILAND

Happy Christmas!

Thank you from all the children for your generous support in these tough times.

This year has been difficult for all of us, nevertheless, we have continued to work hard to protect children in Thailand.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and schools closing this year, pressure was put on families who relied on the accommodation and learning facilities for their children.

But thanks to your ongoing support, we have been able to continue our work.

Our partners have stayed connected with all the students and their families daily, making sure they were in good health.

They also checked in to see if they needed any other support, as many parents could not go to work and earn money.

[March to April in Thailand saw a closing of all non-essential offices, shops, and schools.](#)

However, hospitals, clinics and government offices, remained open for birth registration, so we could continue protecting vulnerable children in Thailand.

We thank you for your continued support.

read inside on how we kept children safe

Intervention, reducing risks and raising awareness

Our aim is to inform and guide local families on issues of child protection, child rights and the importance of birth registration for a child's wellbeing and prospects.

375,000 migrant children are vulnerable to human smuggling and trafficking.

We are working hard to raise awareness of these issues. For example, we have birth registration days which focus on legal status and child trafficking workshops that are held in migrant communities.

How we take action

Our partners and staff are based in more than 50 migrant communities. They first hand refer any suspected or reported cases of child abuse, who then refer the cases to our partners. They can then supply shelter, financial aid, education, support and/or legal aid. One of these people is Moe Moe:

"I look after projects in Mae Sot and travel to other provinces when necessary to attend events and visit other projects, improving overall support for our partners. My role involves monitoring school projects, interacting with children we support and actively communicating with local partners"



Moe Moe, our Programme Coordinator

How we raised awareness this year

- Training on child protection and birth registration was conducted in more than **14 migrant communities** before lockdown
- We support awareness raising programs, where **143 people, from five communities**, received child rights education

**As lockdown has eased, all programs have been divided to enable social distancing.*

How COVID-19 has affected our work

Although hospitals were open, the number of expecting mothers visiting the clinic for delivery has drastically dropped, particularly from Myanmar – meaning their children would not have had access to birth registration.

We have been working hard to reach those communities, handing out supplies such as food, cooking oil, facemasks and soaps to families hit hard by unemployment and reduced income, but also raising awareness for COVID-19, child protection and birth registration too.

We also continue to aid children who already have birth documentations, to help school admissions and supply access to health services.

Your support has reached over 400 people in 7 different communities this year.

That's over **100 families** reached during the coronavirus pandemic.

Without your vital support this year, those vulnerable children who needed our intervention would not have been reached by staff like Moe Moe.

This included **14-year-old Lin**, who was a victim of abuse.

As soon as our partners found out about the abuse case, Lin was sent for medical check-ups, supplied with counselling and legal aid. This also set into motion the Thai Police capturing the abuser in early June and putting him into prison.

How we reduce risk

We want to create a Thailand in which no child is put in a vulnerable situation.

That's why we support projects such as birth registration, which have so far **secured over 1600 Thai birth certificates to migrant children**, giving them access to help and services if they need.

Just £10 can provide a child with life-changing birth registration.

Increasing access to education

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, our partners have continued to work hard to make sure children with disabilities and special needs, get access to the education and services they deserve. This has enabled many children with disabilities to still receive education throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

One of these children is Phyu. Her parents work long hours and struggle to support her special education needs. We support a learning centre which re-opened in July, with a home-based learning programme.



One of the children you help support, Phyu

When Phyu first came to the school, she did not have much control over her fine motor skills. Now she has better use of her hands and can draw, write and even do intricate things like make bracelets with beads!

Without a home based learning programme, Phyu would not be able to support herself. Our partners visit every day to care for and teach Phyu so she can continue receiving a good education. For many students and parents the programme brings relief and security throughout these difficult times.

Your continuous support has helped schools protect and care for children like Phyu, giving her access to the education that she deserves.

Just £50 supplies physiotherapy for a child with special needs

You also help support:

- Specialist training for teachers
- Physiotherapy for those children who need it
- Help for families to care for children with disabilities

