

Happy Easter!

and thank you for all your support!

Safe
Child
THAILAND

You've helped support learning facilities during lockdown, meaning children have continued to get access to education, and not get left behind.

You helped us provide food and sanitation to children living in rural areas and helped communities continue to sustain themselves during an unforeseen global pandemic. Last year, our emergency Covid-19 appeal **raised £18,000** to support our partners' vital work, that has been impacted by lockdown and the pandemic.

Since lockdown, the price of basic foods such as rice in rural areas has **risen by over 20%**. But you helped us provide emergency food and medical supplies (including sanitisers and soaps) ensuring the wellbeing and safety of children during this deepening crisis.



New coronavirus cases in Thailand are increasing every day

In 2018, the bottom 50% of Thais had only 1.7% share in the country's wealth. The coronavirus outbreak will only deepen these existing inequalities.

This is to be Thailand's **biggest** GDP decline ever, surpassing the Asian financial crisis plunge two decades ago.

We continue to work hard, to ensure families and children do not fall into poverty.

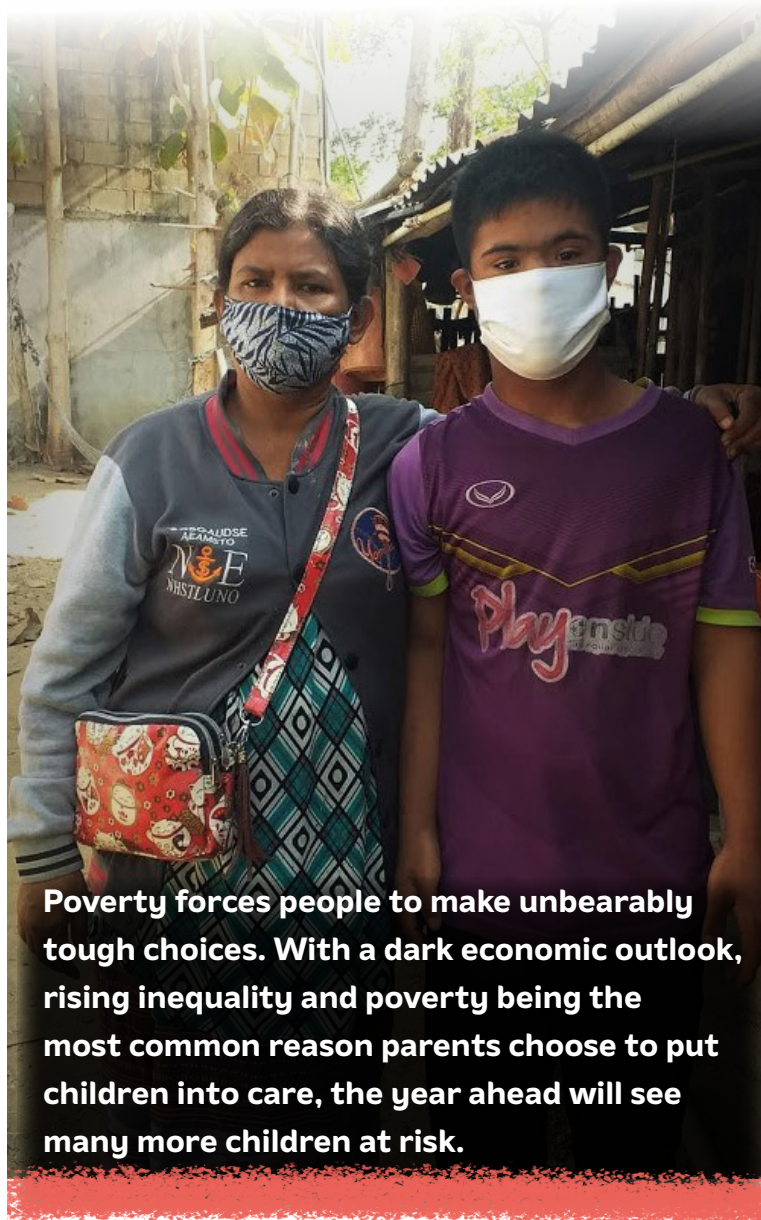
read inside on
how we kept
children
safe

More than one-tenth of the Thai population is still living below the poverty line. For those people, the sudden decline of tourism, closing down of businesses, services and restaurants, has meant many families are struggling to provide.

This is most noticeable across ethnic groups e.g. with tribal people, ethnic minorities and migrant workers, who face the greatest inequalities. Economic hardship can lead to strains on family relationships. Children are often affected by parents suffering from frustration, desperation and depression.

Thailand's law on child protection is enshrined in the Child Protection Act of 2003. However, The Act has no reference to non-

Thai children, migrants, or refugees. These are some of the most vulnerable families in Thailand.



Poverty forces people to make unbearably tough choices. With a dark economic outlook, rising inequality and poverty being the most common reason parents choose to put children into care, the year ahead will see many more children at risk.

Thailand is home to an estimated **4 million migrants** from neighbouring countries, who have fled conditions of poverty and conflict. 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.



Staff keeping children safe: checking the temperature of children living in rural areas.

Obtaining identity documentation later in life is extremely difficult without proof of birth or parents, which puts these children at risk of trafficking and exploitation, with no access to the Thai justice system, healthcare, education or welfare.

We work with a range of local partners to ensure that all children in Thailand are able to access the support services they need to go on to live a happy, fulfilled life.

With your support, we can provide:

- Migrants and refugee children access to opportunities and services
- Migrant children with birth documents, safeguarding them against exploitation
- Support, counselling and rehabilitation for victims of exploitation

Staff we support are based in **more than 50 migrant communities**. They provide first hand accounts of any suspected or reported cases of child abuse.

Kanda's Story



Your support has helped children like Kanda*, who lives with her grandparents in Mae Sot - a city that shares a border with Myanmar.

Kanda's mother used to work, but now is unemployed in Myanmar and cannot come back to Thailand. She could not come back because Thailand has closed the border of the country. Her mother wishes to care for and look after her, but no one can enter Thailand, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Now, Kanda is supported by her grandparents. Living in a rural hut, on a farm where both her grandparents work, Kanda cannot access education or healthcare for her cerebral palsy. She is not a Thai citizen, meaning she isn't protected by the Child Protection Act.

Her grandparents have no choice but to leave her home alone, whilst they work hard to provide. This means Kanda doesn't have any access to education or adequate nutrition.



The child protection officers you help fund, reached out to Kanda's family, to provide home-based learning, but also basic essentials which ensure her wellbeing and health.

Thanks to your help, we were able to provide Kanda with a mattress to sleep on, mosquito nets, sanitation products and new clothing. Upon observation, our staff discovered that the well and the river nearby their house, do not have clean water for drinking or washing. We were able to supply Kanda's family with drinking water and food, such as eggs and rice, meaning Kanda can now have nutritious meals.

Thanks to your support we were not only able to help a child with disability access an education, but also provided nutrition and well-being essential to their mental development. **Thank you.**

The school you help support has reached out to Kanda to provide support and homebased education.

Your support helps hundreds of children access welfare services, such as healthcare and education. This helps families to overcome the hardships they face, providing the best possible outcome for the life of each child.

We believe that all children have a right to grow up in a safe, loving and nurturing family environment. That's why we are supporting families in poor communities, giving them the tools, they need to keep their family together.

How to spot and respond to abuse



In rural areas, our partners are working hard to build capability of local organisations. This creates a strong response to child abuse, ensuring that everyone in the district knows how to seek help. To make sure this protection is sustainable, they are also helping to strengthen the child protection capacity of the Royal Thai Government.

With your support, there is potential for Safe Child Thailand to help become a catalyst for change. Our partners on the ground can deliver world-class services for the prevention of child exploitation, and rehabilitation of those who have already been victimised.

Childline Thailand has seen an increase in calls during the last three months, from an average of 614 calls and chat sessions per month in 2019 to a record high of 2235 in April 2020.

(Childline Website)

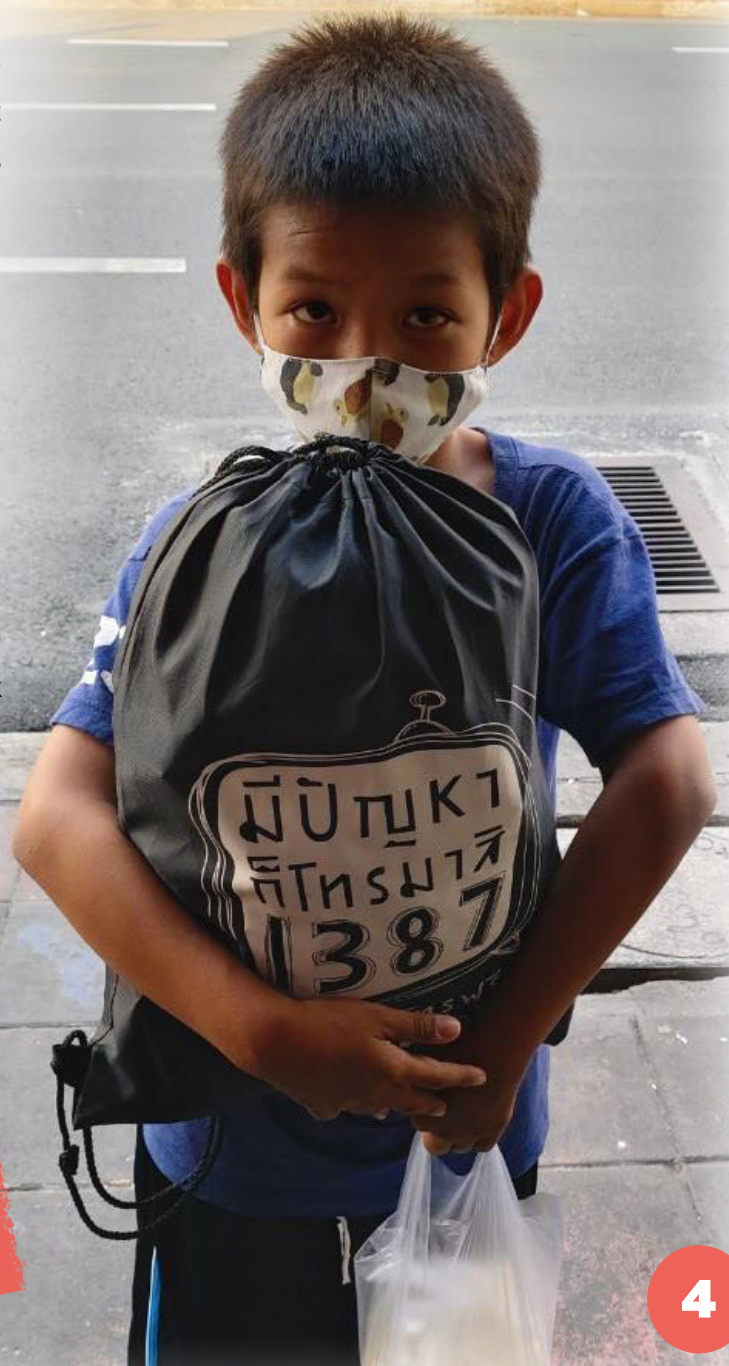
The Childline Thailand Foundation has been vital to the development of child protection and the fight against exploitation in Thailand. It advocates for child rights issues through all levels of Thai society.

Your support helps Childline provide professional support to children. These services include counselling, referrals, emergency interventions, victim support, rehabilitation and their 24-hour call centre.

Childline also provides street children with emergency access to sanitation. With approximately 20,000 homeless people in Bangkok and the Covid-19 outbreak putting them in an even more vulnerable position, it's important that these children are supplied with sanitation supplies.

Just £5 pays for emergency Covid-19 support boxes for street children. They contain:

- Medically approved disposable face masks and washable cotton/ bamboo fibre masks
- A bottle of anti-bacterial hand gel
- Bars of anti-bacterial soap
- One multi-vitamin tube



Supporting education during lockdown

We've helped teachers promote a more inclusive, high quality and child-centred education. This includes organising visits to day care centres as well as the homes, where children with disabilities live.



From June until now, you've helped us support teachers implement home-based learning. The hard-working staff have been making sure students and families have been able to sustain education through home visits, and have provided support for children with disabilities.

Our Patron, the Rt Rev Marcus Stock, has sent this message of support for our work in Thailand this Easter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each Lent, many of us give something up and contribute from what we have to those who are in need. Fasting and Alms-giving, together with Prayer, are the three traditional Lenten observances. In part, they are small gestures which we carry out as an act of solidarity with those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

In a sense, the Covid-19 pandemic has been a long Lent; we have had to give up doing many of the things we enjoy. For some people, however, the sacrifices they have had to make have been greater – loss of stability or jobs, or even the loss of loved ones, through separation or death.

The pandemic has brought new levels of poverty and separation of families in our own country, in Thailand and around the world. Some of us may feel in less of a position to help.

As we prepare to celebrate this Easter, let us all do what we can to help those who are in need, and ourselves, to experience a moment of hope.



Will you help children like Kanda this year?

120 child victims in Tak province alone were assisted in 2020, but there's still many more at risk.

We aim to protect the child victims of exploitation and forced labour by providing them access to education, rehabilitation and the justice they need.

We collaborate with outstanding local organisations, who strive to bring an end to the exploitation of children in Thailand. During the pandemic we have continued to educate vulnerable families and communities on the dangers of child exploitation.

These public awareness campaigns highlight how child exploitation can be prevented and shed light on the services available for victims of forced labour.

How you can help

£17 a month can keep a family together through income support

£23 a month can support a family care for their child with disability

£40 can help protect a child from neglect, abuse or exploitation

£82 enables a child to access education for a whole year

Thank you for your continued support.

**Safe
Child**
THAILAND

Contact us

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Peter Bradley; C.E.O. would be delighted to discuss our work with you.

Please call the office or [email us to get in touch!](mailto:contact@safechildthailand.org)