



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Supporting Vulnerable Children and their Families.

# USE THE DIFFICULTY

*“Use the difficulty”* - a philosophy I picked up after watching an interview with British actor Michael Caine. He shared that he always tries to take something useful from every difficult situation, no matter how small. This idea has helped me over the years as we have faced the challenges of building One Sky.

It has been in my mind lately as I try to process the Covid pandemic and the way it is affecting all of our lives. Despite my proximity to a large migrant population at the Thai/Myanmar border for ten years, I still couldn't say that I can really understand how it feels to be in a migrant family struggling for survival each day, undocumented, exploited, and unable to move around freely.

But maybe the Covid situation has given me a new insight. Perhaps for the first time in my life, I am experiencing what it feels like to lose my freedom of choice. For many of us, our wealth and privilege are measured by our freedom to self-determine, travel widely and freely, and to make the major life choices that shape our destiny. For many of us, this had become so normal that we sometimes forgot we had it until suddenly it was taken away in an instant. Slowly we are all adjusting to a great sense of loss as we learn how to live without the choices and freedoms, to which we are accustomed.

Although facing greater economic hardship than ever, the migrant community that One Sky works with is not experiencing the same level of loss that many of us are, simply because they never had these freedoms and choices in the first place.

Life may never be exactly as it was, but things will get better and our freedom will grow again. When it does, I will try to hang onto this unique insight I have been given into the lives of others, thanks Michael for the advice – it has again helped me find a positive focus in a difficult time.

The One Sky team has been amazing this year, rising to the challenges individually and collectively. In March we guaranteed full salaries until July, but warned the team that we could not be sure what lay beyond and encouraged all to try to save a little if they could. Thanks to the hard work and concern of our supporters we were able to pay full salaries for the whole year and managed our resources to provide as much help as we could for children at risk, just dipping into the red in December. Despite the uncertainty, the team has worked late nights and weekends throughout the year to meet the 50% increase in demand for all of One Sky's services and helping a lot more children than ever before.

My aim for this year's report is to share with you just how much a small team of dedicated and talented people can achieve in the face of adversity. Your support makes their work possible and I hope that you will feel satisfied that your support has been used well in the protection of as many children as possible in 2020

*Andy*  
*February 2021*







In a year like no other, our regular family support and child protection support services brought meaningful support to over 1,000 children.

In addition, the team agreed to be a local implementor for UNICEF Thailand's Covid education and relief program for vulnerable communities.

In evenings and weekends, the team ran awareness-raising workshops and distributed welfare packages to 977 families reaching 2,500 children.

Follow up visits and additional support was provided to 200 families (516 children) that were identified as vulnerable during the community workshops.

16 of those families were opened as full family support and child protection cases.

The crisis is still unfolding as Thailand is in the midst of a second wave of Covid and many more families face being pulled into poverty having sold anything of value and cashed in any savings they had during the first wave.



## COVID IN THAILAND IN 2020

Many thousands of migrant workers in Thailand lost their jobs or were not required to work for several months at the start of the year. They were not able to access the financial support from the government that was only available to Thai citizens. The situation slowly improved in the second half of the year but has not returned to the previous level with the hugely important international tourism sector still totally shut down. The government provided various incentives to boost internal tourism and this had some impact. In December a new outbreak of Covid spread through the country at an alarming rate and the first half of 2021 looks to be even more challenging for migrant families than in 2020.

One Sky saw a huge increase in referrals in the first half of 2020, peaking in June and July. While our heart is in development work, strengthening families and communities and working towards greater independence, the economic situation forced us to increase the relief element of our work to ensure children had enough to eat and had access to emergency medical care. The number of families receiving food support rose above 60 from April through July. Some families have remained in need of support while others have been able to find new work. In total we provided food for 322 Children in 96 families in 2020 through our monthly food drop.







The usually porous border between Thailand and Myanmar at Sangkhlaburi has been firmly closed in 2020 separating families and preventing follow-up with children needing medical support and child protection monitoring who have been moved across the border. The Sangkhlaburi police cells have become full of undocumented migrants who would usually be returned to the border within days (invariably to return almost immediately) as the police are no longer permitted to return them to the border. One Sky has been involved in supporting the children of some of these people by tracing other family members they can stay with while their parents are in custody.

The recent major Covid outbreak has been in the migrant community in Samut Sakhon, a province with a huge factory area not far from Bangkok. Many of the men, women and children identified as those bringing Covid into Thailand were trafficked from Sangkhlaburi to work in Samut Sakhon despite the official border closure. 33 police and government officials in Sangkhlaburi are now under investigation in an unprecedented response by the government. It remains to be seen whether anyone will actually be prosecuted, but the impact of Covid is certainly far reaching. We all know the people under investigation, but until now they have been untouchable. Could Covid force a new dawn in the way Thailand tackles institutional corruption in the police, army and local government? The fact that those responsible for the safety of the people put their own greed before the safety of the nation is a major embarrassment for the government.



## HOW HAVE WE HELPED IN 2020?

- One Sky had 129 open cases for Family support on January 1st 2020. During 2020 we received 254 referrals. Of these, 165 were opened as family support and child protection cases making a total 294 cases involving 684 children and 498 adults. Family support is provided to families with complex problems that increase risks for children and reduce their quality of life to unacceptable levels. Every family is different, some might need support for a few months and others for many years. Without support many children will drop out of school, risk being trafficked to the city for illegal and often dangerous work, become pregnant or get drawn into the world of Ya ba and crystal meth.
- Of the remaining referrals, 38 involving 71 children were provided with brief intervention (given advice or one-time support but not needing a case file to be opened), 46 were referred to One Sky's education support project and 10 to One Sky's kinship care project (support for children cared for by relatives, not their parents). Six cases were referred to other agencies more suitable to their needs (usually no children involved or too far across the border for us to reach). (A further 170 families involving 516 children were provided brief intervention support through the UNICEF Covid project – see below).
- As an existing and pre vetted UNICEF partner (Alternative Care Research project) we were offered funding to make a community level Covid response project within the migrant communities of Sangkhlaburi. The team did not want to refuse this additional benefit for the community as they knew the hardship many are facing. They took on the extra work, mostly at weekends reaching over 2,500 children and their families.
- Under 5yr olds with low BMI. We provide milk powder up to two years old and cow's milk for children between 2 and 5. We monitor their progress and withdraw support when no longer needed. This year we have supported an average of five children per month with milk powder and 10 children with cow's milk (at least one carton per day). In total 33 children have been supported to increase their BMI in 2020.





## HELPING WITH CASH

### Rent and Cash welfare payments.

For a small number of families that we know well and/or assess to be stable and committed to using all their resources for the benefit of their children, we have been trialing cash payments instead of food support. The amounts of money are quite small, just enough for the family to get by when combined with their other income. We feel that this is empowering for families and gives them choices and protects their skills to budget and manage their income. 6 families received cash payments in 2020.

We have paid rent for ten families in 2020, some short-term and others long term with seven families continuing to have their rent paid as we enter 2021. These are invariably single-parent families or families with a parent who is injured or chronically sick or disabled. We have bought health insurance for 10 children and primary caregivers and funded 6 major house repairs or rebuilds.



## AOM - ONE SKY SOCIAL WORKER

Thailand has 2,600 licensed social workers. The UK has a similar population size of close to 70 million people and has over 100,000 social workers. In Thailand an initial social work license is for one year and is then issued every five years after that. In 2020 Aom was issued her first five-year license. We believe she is the only licensed social worker in our province outside of the provincial capital three hours drive away. Kanchanaburi province has a population of almost one million people. Aom was born in Sangkhlaburi and is of Mon ethnicity. She speaks Mon as well as Thai and gained her social work degree with the help of a scholarship.

## PROUD TO WORK AT ONE SKY FOUNDATION

After graduation, I have had the opportunity to work here. This is my third year of work, I am assigned to work as a social worker covering Child protection work and group activities with adolescents.

One Sky Foundation is an organization that allows me to think and grow using my experience and learning from my study. It makes me feel happy working in helping children and families. At One Sky foundation, I have applied the social work knowledge I have learned to work in all areas. But my learning is not over. I still need to learn more about working with children and families, counseling children and reducing trauma.



One Sky is an organization that supports staff in all areas including listening to opinions recognizing and understanding the differences of people and also supports the things that the personnel are interested in to further the impact of their work. One Sky Foundation has a culture that I am very fond of and proud of. Is to work seriously and continuously to help the case, helping cases and their families to support themselves in the future. Both forms of work are diverse, we are not just looking at stereotypical work regulations, but at the flexibility to work for each case which is different from each other. We assess every case thoroughly to ensure we provide help without discrimination for the best benefit of each child. We want all children to have a good quality of life and grow up to be good adults in society.





## SUPPORT GROUPS

- The **“Boy Rangers”** group for boys leaving juvenile detention and those at risk of going to juvenile detention has been successful this year with 14 sessions held with the boys when Covid allowed. The main problem is drug use. The group currently has 12 boys, five of whom have been released from juvenile detention. Together they take part in voluntary community services, football competitions, and other activities. In addition, we have two boys doing really well in a detox and rehab facility in Chiang Mai. We are working with two very young boys at the moment that we are hoping to fund to go to the same center.
- Once the **Mom Power** group got going again after the Covid restrictions, 7 sessions were held before the end of the year with up to 32 attendees. This is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual peer support group where (usually single) Mums are able to both support and challenge each other in a healthy and positive environment. At the time of writing all groups are suspended again due to the new covid outbreak.
- **Girls group** also took a break during Covid. The group started again in August with ten teenage girls attending and were able to meet six times before the end of the year. The group works on expressing and sharing feelings in a safe space, promoting self-esteem, and confidence. They cover sexual health and safe sex once the group is ready.
- **Teen Mum** group. We have had several referrals for very young new Mums aged between 14 and 16. We are planning a support group for these girls. Our previous experience has been that new Mums of this age will go to the city to work, leaving their baby with grandparents at a very early age. We hope to generate some peer to peer support and to focus on healthy attachment between these girls and their babies. We have been working hard for some years to form the Sangkhlaburi Child Protection Committee (as described in Thai Law, Child Protection Act 2003). The group has now formed and has been formally recognized. The head nurse at Sangkhlaburi hospital is a keen member of the group and she is determined to focus on reducing the high rates of teen pregnancy in the area in 2021.





## YUI - ONE SKY COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

One Sky is committed to the development of family-based alternative care options for the instances when it is necessary to remove a child from their current living situation for their protection. Family based alternative care options include kinship care and foster care. We are now in year two of a three-year grant to develop this area as a viable option instead of the current over-reliance on illegal private children's homes.

As communications and fundraising coordinator, Yui has the formidable task of raising awareness of the benefits of family based alternative care for children when compared to institutional models of care and also raising funds from within Thailand to support this program beyond year three.

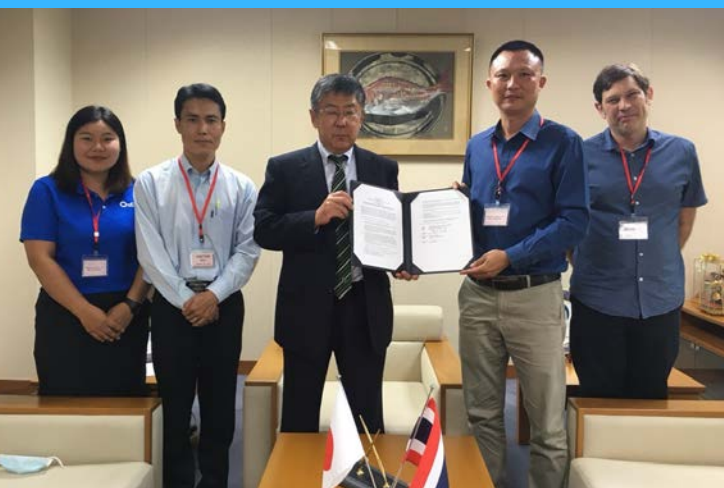
We interviewed six candidates for this post and Yui stood out by a mile. We are very fortunate that she has chosen to bring her considerable experience to One Sky and to work with us to change the care system for children in Thailand.

**My name is Wareerat Thantawiriya.** My nickname is Yui. I work with One Sky in the position of Communication and Fund-raising Coordinator to be responsible for communicating and raising fund for the Alternative care project.

It was 8 months since I had worked with One Sky. One Sky gave me more experience about the human because One Sky works with many types of people. The learning and understanding occur almost every day while I work here. Human problems are quite complicated so One Sky's works are not easy but it had to do. I think many remote areas in Thailand need a social organization like One Sky to give the children and communities the chance to have a better life. The people are the key factor for the quality of the country's growth. That's why how important One Sky's work to communities.

As the fundraiser, One Sky makes me know why I have to do this job. They showed me through their closely and seriously working with the target group. I hope that my experience from 24 years working in many social organizations will support One Sky's work to help the children and communities. My greatest wish is the growth of One Sky.





## NEW TRUCK

After four years of trying, in 2020 One Sky was awarded money for a new 4x4 truck by the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok. Covid restrictions resulted in a pause in the production of Toyota 4x4 trucks in Thailand and we faced a delay of several months waiting for a truck to become available. The truck has now arrived and is making a big difference for the team. In particular, the truck will make the team's work a lot safer when the rain arrives in April/May.

A strange feeling for all of us to have a new truck at the same time that we had to put in place strict spending controls to prevent One Sky from running out of money as the need for help rose dramatically due to Covid. We are very grateful to the Embassy of Japan in Thailand for providing us with such a valuable resource.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

Our wonderful social work technical adviser, Kadilyn returned to the US with her husband Jason who was one of our English teachers at Sangkhlaburi high school. Kadilyn is fluent in Thai and had built a strong rapport with the team. We miss her energy, support, and kindness.

In 2020 we achieved a long-standing goal of establishing a district level child protection committee and working group. Thailand's 2003 child protection act mandates a provincial child protection committee to be chaired by the provincial governor. It describes a district-level committee as optional. There are 13 districts in Kanchanaburi province. With all of the social problems we see at the border and with 25% of the children in the provincial juvenile detention center coming from Sangkhlaburi district we have seen a strong case for a district level committee for many years. At the end of 2020 the committee was authorized by the head district official who will now chair regular meetings. A working group of police, nurses, school directors and One Sky staff has been working together on child protection cases for some time now. This group will now report to the new committee and as a result will become a powerful force in the protection of children.



In 2016 One Sky was almost shut down by a powerful international catholic organization that was covering up the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old girl at their Sangkhlaburi school. The victim was kicked out of the school and no action was taken against the perpetrators. Looking back, those seem like the dark ages, we have come so far in the development of a strong team of professionals able to deal with such cases as the law says they should be and we are now able to take on even the most powerful of perpetrators. Most importantly child victims of abuse now have the support and protection they need.

One Sky has a vital role in the working group. Co-founder and One Sky director, Wat, is a licensed competent official, meaning he can investigate reports of child abuse and remove a child to safety if necessary. Aom is a licensed social worker and in December two One Sky staff (Aom and Kittti) and Sec (the lead nurse at Sangkhlaburi hospital) completed the government ten-day training to become licensed child victim interviewers. The nearest court is over an hour away and the only other licensed interviewer in the north of the province is retiring soon. These three members of the child protection working group will soon be providing essential support to child victims throughout the area and helping the court to ensure evidence is collected in the way needed to bring offenders to trial.

One Sky's Family Support and Child Advocacy Centre has continued to give us a professional meeting space for working with government partners and also provided a safe short-term shelter for several cases. In 2020 ten cases stayed at the center for a total of 39 nights.

- Young single Mum and daughter, domestic violence stayed four times, the husband now in jail.
- Abuse case girl 13 raped by father of friend – arrested and in jail
- 12 years girl (and sister) – en route to hospital, long term case having chemo. Lives in a remote place and comes to stay at center before traveling to specialist Hospital in the neighboring province
- Girl 18 ran away – OCD and cannot cope at home, ongoing support.
- Teen girl aged 16 - kicked out of children's home and nowhere to go.
- Girl 7, raped by a friend of grandparents – man in jail
- 2-year-old girl and mother, medical emergency, nowhere to stay, emergency referral next day, and surgery to save her life.
- 2 boys using crystal meth with their mother stayed 2 nights aged 11 and 13 – now younger one in juvenile detention and we are working together for a longer-term specialist placement.
- Mum and baby poisoned by father.
- 29-year-old woman - trafficking victim, HIV+ive, husband killed on a fishing boat then she went blind due to HIV and stress and couldn't get back to children and family in Myanmar...stayed one week and given support while her eyesight slowly improved and we found the way to get her home to family in Myanmar.



# OUTPUT AND IMPACT

## *In our ninth year*

we aim to find ways to show more clearly the impact of One Sky's work. As we hope this report confirms, for such a small team One sky's output is very high. We are confident that we are having a significant and positive impact on the lives of many at-risk and disadvantaged children, however, we want to find more ways that we can evidence and share this. Expect to hear much more about "impact" in our 2021 report!

## FOSTER CARE AND KINSHIP

In 2020, 32 children have been supported through this project.

We know from our 2014 research that 90% of the 605 children living in Sangkhlaburi children's homes at that time, had at least one living parent. The 10% that did not, were almost all living in kinship care before they entered a children's homes. Kinship care can place children at risk of being placed in a children's home if the kinship carers do not have enough money or support to cope with the additional costs and stresses that result from this responsibility. Similarly, kinship carers given the right support could represent a family-based alternative for many children currently living in children's homes.



The current UNICEF research has identified 1,060 children living in kinship care in Nonglu, a sub-district of Sangkhlaburi district. This is about 10% of all local children. Combined with the very high number of children living in school dormitories, temples and unregistered private children's homes we are starting to see a very clear picture of the impact for children at one of the key entry points for migrant workers in Thailand.

While both Kinship Care and Foster Care together are both family-based alternative care arrangements we can see from our data that kinship care in our target area (and almost certainly throughout Thailand) is a very common situation. However, foster care is very uncommon and there are still many people who feel it is an alien, western idea to take care of someone else's children.







## FOSTER CARE DEVELOPMENT

An NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) called Care for Children has an agreement with the Thai government to train the staff of the government children's homes in foster care provision. Despite covid delays eight One Sky staff completed the 12-day training in November and December. We also brought provincial government staff and staff from two Sangkhlaburi children's homes to the training.

This was the first time NGO staff have completed the training and it was a very positive experience for all parties. (Care for Children said that we were much more motivated than any of the previous government staff they had trained). We aim to begin recruitment of three to five foster care families in Sangkhlaburi in 2021 and will expand this number in 2022 once our systems and confidence are firmly established.



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- ข้อควรระวังเรื่อง:
1. เข้าใจความหมายของคำที่ใช้
  2. มีเอกสารที่เขียนไว้ในเอกสารที่ส่ง - รับเอกสารด้วยตัวอักษร
  3. ตรวจสอบเอกสารที่ส่งและเอกสารที่ได้รับ (ดูให้ดีก่อนส่ง)
  4. ตรวจสอบเอกสารที่ส่งและเอกสารที่ได้รับ (ดูให้ดีก่อนส่ง)
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## UNICEF RESEARCH

One Sky is a partner to UNICEF Thailand and we have been conducting extensive research during 2020 with our colleagues at Mahidol University, funded by UNICEF. We have interviewed almost 1,000 children in Sangkhlaburi who live in Children's homes, temples, and school dormitories. The data collected is incredibly rich and we are now working on the final report and will share it as soon as it is complete. As a UNICEF partner, we are more strongly placed to influence government decision making and policy development, both vital aspects of improving the lives of migrant and other disadvantaged children in Thailand.

## ALTERNATIVE CARE THAILAND (ACT)

After 10 years in Sangkhlaburi, One Sky co-founder Andy has moved to Chiang Mai to play a more significant role in ACT's three-year plan to catalyze reform of the care system in Thailand. Co-founder and One Sky director, Wat, will remain in Sangkhlaburi to lead the team. Andy will remain primarily responsible for fundraising and external communication and also continue to maintain an advisory role in the development of Family Support and Alternative Care Services.

This is a very exciting time for the growing group of NGOs that have invested in the development of ACT's three-year plan. By the end of 2020 three funding organizations have committed to supporting the plan and we have a busy year ahead! If you are interested to learn more about this work and would like to see the three-year plan then please contact us at [oneskythailand@gmail.com](mailto:oneskythailand@gmail.com)

You can also find more information at [www.alternativecarethailand.com](http://www.alternativecarethailand.com)



**Alternative Care  
Thailand**



## WEBSITE

We are working with Bryon from Sharing Dots on a new website for One Sky. Bryon has taken an awesome set of portraits for the new websites following several detailed consultations on the content and design of the new site. We are very excited to share the website with you soon.

Despite its remote location, we believe One Sky's work in Sangkhlaburi is highly relevant to the process of care reform in Thailand. One Sky is:

- The first rural NGO to set up a district-level child protection committee in partnership with local government.
- The first NGO in Thailand to complete foster care training with the government's training partner.
- A primary model of family support services in rural communities.
- The most proactive ACT member organization in seeking to build in depth experience of the operating practices and harmful impact on children of unregistered private children's homes.
- The only agency in Thailand dedicated to documenting all private children's homes in Thailand – knowing that one day the government will realise how essential this is (we will save them two years of work by already having most homes documented).
- The producer of the only website available in English and Thai languages that is dedicated to raising awareness about the crisis in the Alternative Care of Children in Thailand.

## THIKRONG PRE SCHOOL

13 children continue to attend the Kindergarten we run in a remote village. Our plans to hand over the school to local government have been hampered this year by Covid. This modest project makes a big difference to the life chances of a small group of isolated preschool children whose families don't speak Thai as their first language.



## JUVENILE DETENTION PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with the provincial juvenile detention center has resulted in support for 13 boys in 2020. Staff at the detention center experience a high rate of reoffending and will see some boys for two or three periods of detention before they are then old enough to be sent to an adult jail.

Some government departments are very hesitant to work with NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) like One Sky but the juvenile detention center in Kanchanaburi was very quick to see that we can play an important role in trying to help these boys get their lives back on track. Even with the best of intention the three-hour drive from the center to Sangkhlaburi means that the staff can often do little more than drop the boys off at the end of their sentence. Some boys have no home to return to and are literally dropped at the roadside. It is no wonder that they return to drug use within hours.

We have a mixed success rate, some of the boys we have worked with have literally disappeared and we cannot find them. Others have been able to move away from drug use and get back into education or find a job. These are boys with very unstable and chaotic lives and we never know what is coming around the next corner but we are always there for them.



## EDUCATION SUPPORT

Our education support program has grown in response to Covid with many more families struggling to keep children in education. This year 185 children are receiving monthly financial support for transport and lunch costs. 38 of those students plus a further 61 students received one-time support with the cost of uniforms, school trip fees, and school insurance fees. In total 246 Children are being supported to be able to stay in education, Boys 90, Girls 156.

Our fantastic English teachers both returned to the US as the pandemic took hold. Their visa situation would have made it extremely difficult and expensive to remain in Thailand and with our funding situation in doubt they might have been trapped in Thailand with no income.

I really loved this project, bringing something really special to a remote and disadvantaged community and making it available to all children was very exciting. But right now, it is hard to see when we might be able to get a program like this up and running again as all our resources are pulled into a major relief effort within the community. Thanks again Sarah and Jason for being shining beacons of inspiration for the students in Sangkhlaburi high school. We miss you and hope one day we can get back to where we were.



## WSWM

The team ran 22 sessions of “The World Starts With Me” in January and February before the schools closed. This is a program aimed at kindergarten-aged children to learn about private body parts, types of touch and feelings and how to get help when they feel unsafe, each class receives 8 sessions. The program cannot start again until the normal school scheduling is allowed to return (currently student numbers are being reduced by splitting the students into two groups and each group attending on alternate days). We hope to be able to run this program again in 2021. Although at time of writing all schools are closed again due to the latest Covid outbreak.





## INCOME GENERATION AND HOME-BASED FOOD PRODUCTION

In the face of a long-term economic crisis we have increased our efforts for home-based food production, we wrote to many suppliers and had thousands of seed packets donated. We also developed the space behind our office to grow seedlings and we provide training and support for families as they start to grow. We now have more than 30 families engaged in home-based food production.



In addition to traditional brooms (six families) we have started producing biodegradable sponges made from loofah. Five families have been involved so far but we are having to keep limits on production until channels to export them via traveling friends to the UK and US become available again. We have had some pleasing success selling the sponges in Thailand, but not yet on the scale needed to involve more families in the project.





## PM2.5 ASBESTOS AND TALC?

The end of the dry season in many parts of Thailand is a period of high levels of air pollution. Typically, this starts in February and lasts until the rains come in May or June. Of particular concern is the high level of PM2.5 (tiny particulates that can enter the bloodstream through the lungs). PM2.5 levels have been an issue of grave concern in the two major cities of Bangkok and Chiang Mai. There are hundreds of PM2.5 meters streaming live readings online and most people follow the well-publicized advice to wear masks and place filters in their homes. Schools follow protocols, keeping children indoors and even closing when levels are unsafe.

Nobody in Sangkhlaburi was talking about PM2.5, yet each year the forest fires all around Sangkhlaburi regularly envelope the town in a smokey haze. In 2020 we bought a meter and we were shocked to discover on the first day that the PM2.5 level in our office was over 200, described as “very unhealthy” and that in the coming weeks it would rise above 400 several times.



| PM 2.5         | Air Quality Index                          |
|----------------|--|
| 35.5 to 55.4   | Unhealthy for Sensitive Group (101 to 150) |
| 55.5 to 150.4  | Unhealthy (151 to 200)                     |
| 150.5 to 250.4 | Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)                |
| 250.5 to 500.4 | Hazardous (301 to 500)                     |

At such levels, schools in Chiang Mai or Bangkok can ask students to stay at home and indoors. Yet in rural areas like Sangkhlaburi most people have never heard of PM2.5. With this year's smoke season about to start, we have now installed an online meter that can be followed by anyone with a smartphone and we have printed 5,000 leaflets promoting the link to the meter and raising awareness of the risks. We are working with the Sangkhlaburi child protection working group, especially the hospital to promote this issue and to advise parents how to minimize the risks to their children.

We believe it is no longer possible for child protection agencies like One Sky to avoid the environmental risks to children. It is the poorest and most disadvantaged children and their families who are being left uninformed and unable to protect themselves.

Expect to hear more about this in 2021 as we look at the extensive use of asbestos in school buildings and Thailand's love affair with baby powder. Successful lawsuits against Johnson and Johnson in the US for continuing to promote their talc-based baby powder after they knew that it contains harmful levels of asbestos have resulted in talc-based powders almost being eradicated in Europe and the US. The sad part is that there is a rice-based alternative for baby powder and while there is no shortage of rice in Thailand the company making this baby powder don't have the marketing power of Johnson and Johnson and others who continue to provide their products to just about every household in Thailand.

**มาช่วยกันปกป้องลูกหลานและตัวเองจากมลพิษร้าย ฝุ่น PM 2.5 กันเถอะ**

**PM 2.5 คืออะไร ?**

ฝุ่น PM2.5 คือ ฝุ่นขนาดเล็ก เกิดจากไอเสียรถ การเผาไหม้ ฟ้าผ่า และอุตสาหกรรม มีเส้นผ่านศูนย์กลางน้อยกว่า 2.5 ไมครอนเมตร มองไม่เห็นด้วยตาเปล่า เข้าสู่ปอดและหลอดเลือดได้ง่าย

**ส่งผลต่อสุขภาพอย่างไร ?**

แบบเฉียบพลัน: ไอ เจ็บคอ หายใจมีเสียงดัง เคืองตา เป็นตุ่มคันคัน  
แบบเรื้อรัง: เส้นเลือดตีบ มะเร็งปอด อันตรายต่อเด็กในท้อง สูญเสียปอด

**ป้องกันตัวเองจาก PM 2.5**

- ใส่หน้ากาก N95
- หลีกเลี่ยงการอยู่ในพื้นที่ที่แออัด ในช่วงที่ปริมาณฝุ่น PM 2.5 สูงเกินมาตรฐาน (ดูจากดัชนีคุณภาพอากาศ)

**วิธีเช็คดัชนีคุณภาพอากาศ**

วันนี้ เราสามารถช่วยกันตรวจเช็คคุณภาพอากาศในพื้นที่สังขละบุรีได้ด้วยแอปพลิเคชัน AirVisual เพียงสแกน QR code นี้ แล้วโหลดได้เลย หรือตรวจเช็คผ่านเว็บไซต์ <http://bit.ly/oneskyAQI>





# FINANCE

In 2020 One Sky spent \$290,000 (£220,000) an increase of 38% on 2019. This does not include the funds from the Japanese Embassy for the new truck which is counted as an asset rather than an expense.

With the departure of our three foreign staff back to the US our team and salary bill was smaller than in 2019. These numbers show the impact Covid has made on the demand for One Sky services. In December we actually went into the red creating a major challenge for Yui and Andy in 2021 to find the funds One Sky needs to continue to meet the needs of children in Sangkhlaburi as Covid continues to push more families below the livable poverty line.

In truth, we have met the basic needs of a far greater number of children in 2020, but have lost some of the deeper life-changing aspects of our work that rely on staff having time to focus on individual children and their needs. This is the work that is essential to break the intergenerational cycles of poverty, but for the time being at least our focus will be forced onto the urgent and immediate needs of children resulting from the pandemic.

As always, we are immensely grateful to all of our supporters who make it possible for us to do this work. We can't change the whole world, but together we are making a massive difference for a lot of children in one of the world's remote and challenging corners. Thank you.