



Meet Kanom Ban from our Family Strengthening Project

Kanom Ban was a child born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease. As she is unable to walk, it was difficult for her mother to take her to school, particularly because they owned a motorbike as that was the only vehicle within their budget.

Kanom Ban has a younger brother that her mother looks after at home, and we soon realised that her brother also has Osteogenesis Imperfecta when he fell over and broke his hip.

Children like Kanom Ban need constant assistance and care to ensure a happy upbringing, unfortunately due to her diagnosis, it takes a lot of physiotherapy and medication to manage some of the pain. These are all very costly as the best places to get these treatments are at specialised hospitals in Bangkok.

The outreach programme that we support is designed for children and families like Kanom Ban and her brother, and other at-risk families in the Northern-Eastern part of Thailand.

We have two new sponsorship programmes!

We are launching our new Sponsorship Programme supporting children in Thailand with a new, innovative approach. Now, through your regular, generous support, not only can you support a child but also their family and the community they live in, through two new Sponsorship Programmes:

•Youth Education Programme (YEP)

You could help provide young people with a skill that will help them build a career! Come and join our new Youth Education Programme, where we can build new careers together!

•Safe, Equal and Enabling for Children with Disabilities (SEED)

This programme provides physiotherapy and special skills training to families with children with disabilities. Sponsorship enables us to help more children. With your support, we can continue to assist young people and their families.

For more information about our new Sponsorship Programme, please contact info@safekidthailand.org, we can't wait to hear from you. Please tell your family and friends: together we can change lives.

Please Help Today

Recently, a terrible road traffic accident took place which badly damaged our local partner's specially adapted school minibus for children with disabilities. Thankfully, no children were on the minibus and the driver is safe but without accessible transport, the children can no longer travel to the centre and continue their education.

Safe Child Thailand works with this centre located in Mae Sot on the Thai-Myanmar border. This centre was founded to fill a gap in services for migrant children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Currently, the centre supports children with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, hearing impairments, learning difficulties, and other developmental delays.

We are raising funds for an accessible minibus to enable children to return to school and continue their learning.



Please send your support by post, give us a call, go to our website, or send us a cheque.

Your support this Christmas would make a huge difference.

What can you do, right now?

- **£15,000** would provide a new accessible minibus enabling 30 children with disabilities to return to school
- **£150** can help a child attend and complete a 6 month vocational course, and support their family with food whilst having access to counselling services and career training
- **£100** will support four families that have children with disabilities. This package includes food, rehabilitation training, and support from the Parent Support Group
- **£50** will support a child and a teacher with mental health training, emotional wellbeing support, and coaching from a professional



Scan the QR code above!

Chairman of the Trustees Steve Buckley
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Website: www.safekidthailand.org/donate/



Let's make sure that in 2023,
we can keep even more
children in Thailand safe
in a happy and
loving family.

Facebook/Instagram: @SafeChildThailand

Keeping each and every child safe this Christmas

2022 has been a difficult year for countless children.

With your support, we assisted over 80,000 children and their families in Thailand this year. Sadly, many more children remain with no access to basic needs and human rights.

Safe Child Thailand aims for a future where children grow up in a safe and loving environment, and go on to lead healthy and successful lives.

This year, our work has brought us one step closer to the future we envision for children in Thailand. With your kind support we have implemented vital birth registration and child protection projects keeping thousands of children safe, and we have continued our advocacy work to reform care practices for children.

In the Autumn, we launched a new project supporting the mental health of children and families displaced by war in Myanmar. We are pleased to share the details of how your support makes a difference.

Please help us ensure that even more children stay safe next year.



Turn the page to read about Phyto and Kanom Ban - a few of the children you helped keep safe this year

Phyo's Story



This is Phyo, she was displaced by war in Myanmar when she was just 4 years old. Her mother brought her to the Mae Tao Clinic for medical assistance after crossing the border from Myanmar to Thailand to escape the civil war.

The family sought advice and treatment at the clinic before being referred to a safe house for further medical attention.

The safe house ensured that Phyo was enrolled in a local Thai school. She never took her studies for granted and worked really hard. Today, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, long-term supporters, and our dedicated partners, Phyo is now an undergraduate at a top architecture university.

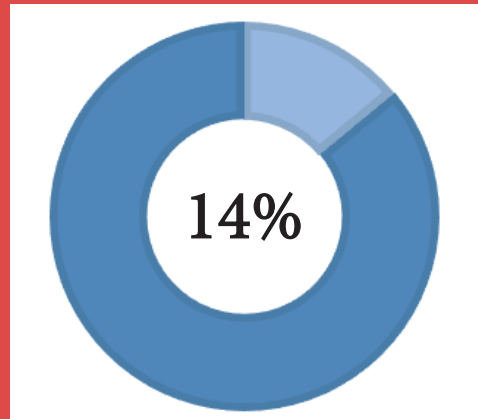
We are so excited for Phyo and her future, but there are many more children in our migrant learning centres, who need your support today.



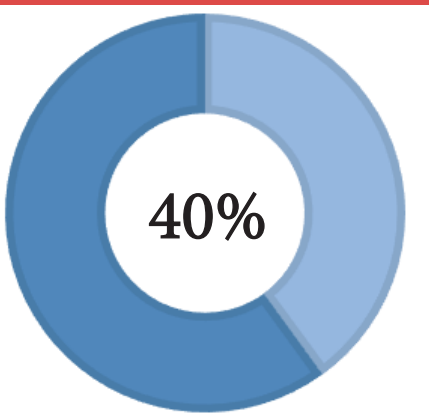
Together, we could do more!

In Thailand, the law entitles all children to enrol at a school, unfortunately, disparities in access are more pronounced at secondary school. 14% of secondary school children are not in school and the dominant proportion of

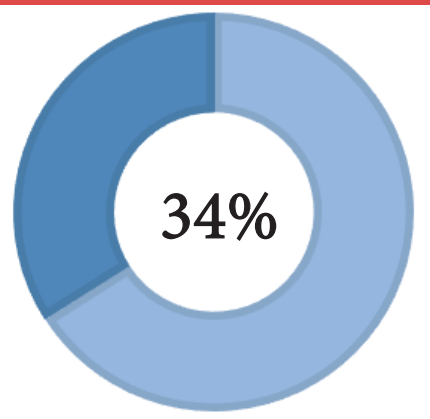
of children not in schools are from disadvantaged communities, migrants or children with disabilities.



14% of secondary school students are not in school



40% of non-Thai children of primary school entry age do not attend grade 1



34% of non-Thai children of secondary school age are not in secondary school

UNICEF 2021



Protecting Children Displaced by War

Right now, on the Thai-Myanmar border, children find themselves alone, lost and in need of shelter due to the civil war.

Children displaced by war, are at immediate risk of trafficking and exploitation. The humanitarian situation on the Thai-Myanmar border is deteriorating as mothers and children flee to Mae Sot to seek refuge.

Sadly, displacement affects children and families across the world. 103 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes this year, due to persecution, conflict, violence and human rights

An estimated 40,200 people have crossed Myanmar's borders, settling in temporary shelters or tents along the River Moei. Some children arrive with their mothers. Some are alone, unprotected, and at immediate risk of trafficking, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Being forced to flee your home is extremely traumatic and can seriously impact a child's mental health. Yet despite multiple traumas that displaced children face, mental health and psychosocial support is rare and we are now seeing rapid mental health deterioration with many displaced children dropping out of migrant learning centres and becoming increasingly vulnerable.

Let's talk about Mental Health

There is an alarming decline in the mental health of children and adolescents in Thailand.

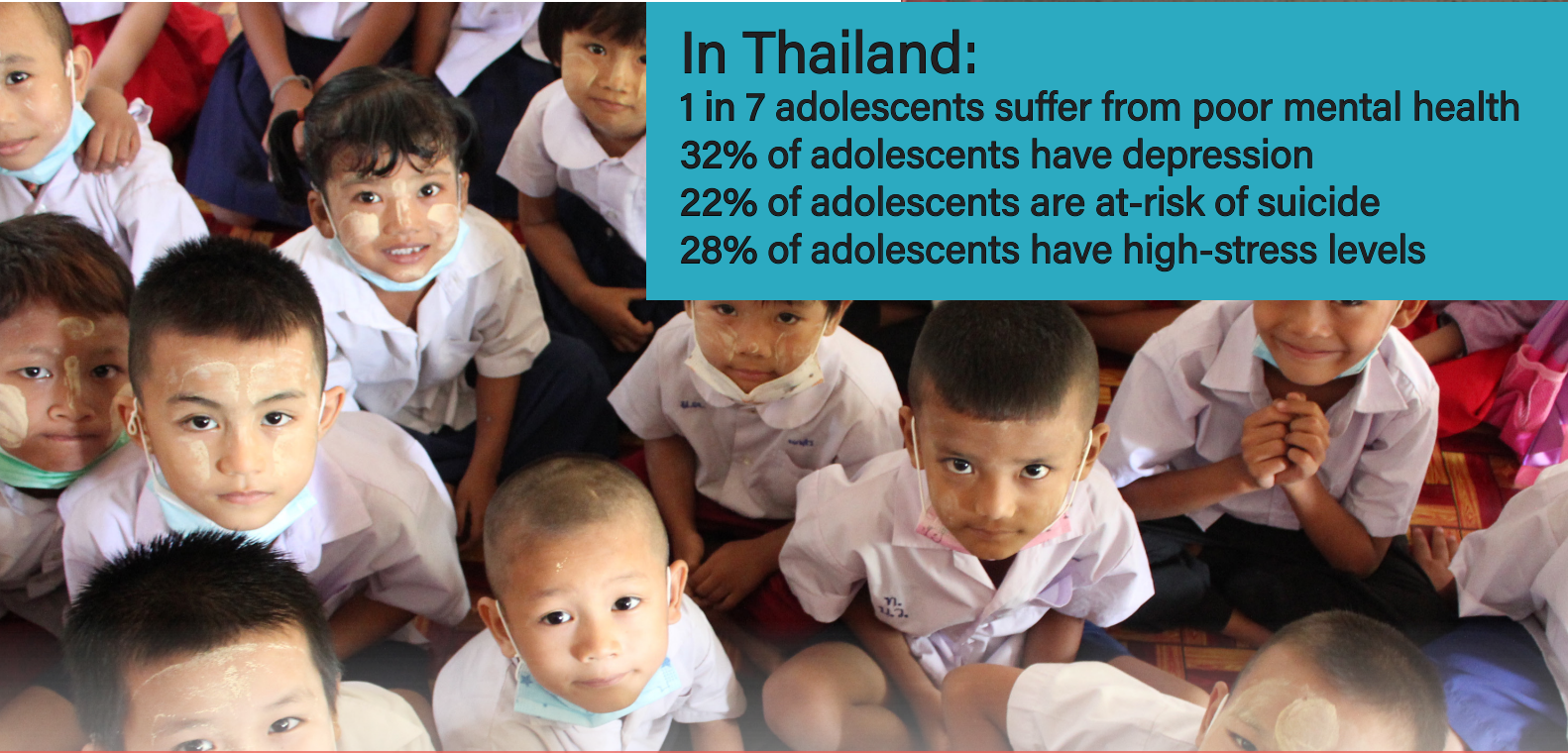
Everyone deserves to live life to the fullest regardless of who they are, or where they are from. Unfortunately, mental health continues to be an ever-growing concern, particularly in war-torn countries and surrounding areas.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges faced by displaced children and their communities, substantially increasing the immediate risk of child labour, trafficking and sexual abuse.



In Thailand:

1 in 7 adolescents suffer from poor mental health
32% of adolescents have depression
22% of adolescents are at-risk of suicide
28% of adolescents have high-stress levels



Our new mental health project brings together child health practitioners and education providers to support the mental health, well-being, and educational attainment of 12,900 displaced, at-risk children and their families. This programme aims to enhance educational opportunities for Burmese Indigenous children on the Thai-Myanmar border as well as migrant children with disabilities. Our objectives are to increase school attendance of displaced children through resilience training, mental health training, and peer support groups; to build the capacity of teachers in order to provide a quality education through equipping them with new skills and child mental health training; and strengthen parental support for school enrolment through parental awareness training, parent support groups, and child mental health training.

With your help we can make a difference today.