



FED


Foundation for Education
and Development

ANNUAL REPORT

year ending

2019

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Education Program GOAL (2015-2020)

Marginalized Burmese migrant children obtain access to educational opportunities in Thailand.

#1

Provide education and a safe environment for migrant children at FED migrant learning centers in Southern Thailand

#2

Provide a bridge to enroll migrant youth into Thai and Myanmar government education programs

#3

Collaborate with key stakeholders to improve education opportunities and policies for migrant children in Thailand

Education Program Overview & Highlights

Active Projects

Primary Education Project runs at FED Learning Centers. It also helps students to continue studying in Myanmar.

Integration Project works to enroll migrant children into the Thai education system for a better future in Thailand.

Non-Formal Education Project provides Thai language and Computer classes on Sundays for out-of-school migrants.

420 students enroll at FED's learning centers.

408 Burmese students currently studying at **35** Thai government schools.

145 students studying Thai and IT in the Non-Formal education program.

973 Burmese studying as a result of the FED education programs.

Primary education project

In 2019 the Education Program has continuously supported Burmese migrant children to obtain educational opportunities while staying with their parents in Thailand, but there were some obstacles. We had to cut some activities, and for the most part we were short of teachers. As with most NGOs, we struggle with funding to operate, develop, and expand our programs. Only with the support of our generous donors, partnered organizations, relevant education ministries both from Myanmar and Thailand, and the staff we could overcome these hurdles to consistently improve our program year-by-year.

Our Primary Education Project provided formal education to more than 400 Burmese migrant children. The curriculum is mainly in line with the Myanmar education system and prepares them to continue their education in Myanmar government schools when their parents return home.

Our Integration Project assisted Burmese students to enroll at Thai government schools in 7 of the 8 districts in Phang Nga. They can continue studying in Vocational Colleges and other Thai Universities when they finished graduating from government schools. We have also been assisting Burmese youth migrant workers to enter Non-Formal Education at our Unified Learning Center by providing Thai and IT skills. After finishing 6 months of prep classes, they can take an entrance exam for Thai NFE.

In total our education program supported almost a thousand Burmese migrant children and youth to enroll in different sorts of education in Thailand in 2019.

Additionally, we distributed 33 accredited transfer certificates for our students to allow them to continue studying in the Myanmar government schools, and more than 70 of our learning center alumni are now studying at universities, colleges, and public schools. With the support of the International School of Asia Karuizawa, one of our students was able to attend the summer camp program

that equips international students to gain knowledge on leadership and the ability to serve their community.

We are very pleased to have a chance to provide education for our migrant children as education is an important weapon to cut the poverty chain. We are convinced that this program should be sustained as long as possible. We would like to request donors, partners, stakeholders and community members to help us sustain our program that assists so many migrant children and youth get a proper education.

Our appreciation goes to those who have supported us to exist and stand for our migrant children in Thailand. We believe that we could do nothing without their generous, kind assistance and contribution. We are looking forward to collaborating and cooperating with our donors, stakeholders, and communities to carry on educating these children living within Thailand.

Mr. Saw Mu Doh

Primary Education Project coordinator



High-Level Education Working Group Meeting

The 1st Joint working group meeting organized by UNESCO and partner organizations aimed to discuss the current situation and challenges in accessing education for migrant children, including those returning back to Myanmar. Topics were: designing a policy framework, action plans and collaboration to set things in motion. FED shared insights and experiences as part of the panel.

Healthy Community Building

The health of the children is incredibly important with growing levels of obesity and temptation to stay indoors greater than ever. To combat these problems and strengthen our good relationship with the New Light Foundation School, FED's ULC organized a football competition on 16th of August. We are very happy with our new football field, where we can host friendship football competitions and strengthen relationships with other organizations that provide education for Burmese migrant children.



World Teacher Day - Thank you!

Teachers play an important role in our lives. Teachers know that students are the future of any nation. In order to honor teachers around the globe and their commitment to children and learning, FED's ULC celebrated World Teacher Day on the 5th of October. FED would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers for their tireless effort to secure a future with well educated people to lead humanity forward.

Child Rights Defenders - World Child Rights Conference

On 24th September, we held an interview with two of our Child Rights Defenders. The video interview was to prepare for the documentation of the migrant children's experiences as Child Rights Defenders in Thailand, and be used for the World Child Rights Conference in Paris, France. With the support of TDHF, FED provides child rights and human rights training to students at our learning centers. Empowering them with knowledge and skills to become Child Rights Defenders within their community.



Thai Integration project

Thailand has policies and laws that ensure education rights and provide educational services to all people living in Thailand, specifically, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Education For All policy, enacted in 2005.

Education For All means for people without evidence of civil registration or without Thai nationality. It includes the creation of a database (13-digit identification number) for students. This policy provides great benefits for migrant children and young people, especially those without any identification documents. The Ministry of Education of Thailand has created clear guidelines and procedures so everyone can access education rights and study even at the tertiary level. Including obtaining an education certificate when completing all levels.

We tackle several different challenges simultaneously. Many migrant parents are unaware of the opportunities for their children, and there are still schools unaware of the education-for-all policy and refuse migrant applicants. Therefore we often go on outreach trips to visit both the community and the schools in Phang Nga.

The economic factor for migrant families also provides a huge hurdle. Migrant families are often on the move because of work opportunities. The children can't always stay and dedicate their time to study at a single school. We try to overcome this by working with 35 Thai schools in 7 districts of Phang Nga province, covering a large area and supporting a growing network of schools for migrant children to enroll into. The Integration Project works to promote and support migrant children and youth to access Thai education wherever they are.

Currently, there are 408 migrant children and youth enrolled in schools, vocational education, non-formal education, and community colleges. After many years of work, there are many migrant youth receiving educational opportunities. Some have graduated and received a

diploma for further study at a higher level. Some have applied for a career to support the family, returned to study in their country of origin, and some use the knowledge they receive from education to improve their quality of life in the future, even if they did not graduate according to the Thai education system.

Promoting, supporting and increasing opportunities for migrant children and youth to access educational rights is very important. If they receive education it will enable them to learn Thai language and culture and make for a peaceful and happy coexistence in Thailand. They will be able to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families, and the community as a whole.

The Integration Project also has a positive effect on child labor problems, labor exploitation, and human trafficking. When children and young people from abroad are empowered through quality education, they are better able to avoid and combat these problems. Educated and socially integrated youth will grow into productive residents of Thailand and are able to benefit from more opportunities to support their family and themselves.

Phanupong Seehatab
Integration Project Coordinator

Phanupong



Hospitality Introduction at Iniala Beach House

Twenty of our students and ten children of Home & Life Foundation were invited to visit our Inspirasia partner at the high-class Iniala Beach House to learn about the hospitality industry and careers. They participated in various fun and educational activities throughout the day. Through the business philanthropic efforts, Iniala and Inspirasia continue to give back to the communities and make a difference in the lives of others.

Access Thai NFE Program at our Learning Center

With the aim of providing classes at FED's ULC that follow the Thai Non-Formal Education system, senior staff members from the Thai NFE Department arrived on October 31st and held a discussion with FED's education staff. As a direct consequence, youth will have a chance to study NFE program at our ULC instead of having to go to the Thai NFE center, which is 25km away.

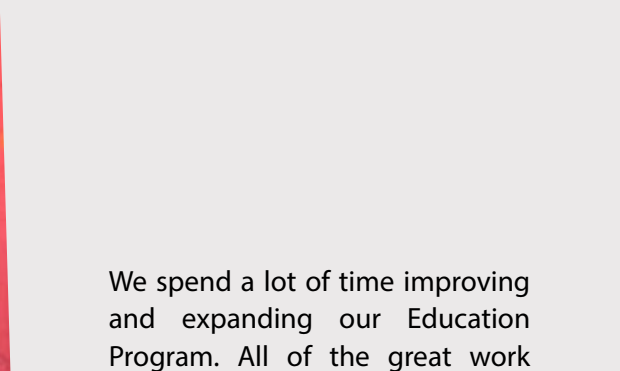


Raising Awareness on the Education-For-All Policy

The Integration Project team organized ten "Raising Awareness of Parents" activities in Phuket and Phang Nga Province that were attended by 180 participants. The objective was to create a better understanding of children's rights, education-for-all policy, and the value of education. We provided information on educational policies such as the 2005 Cabinet resolution that expanded educational opportunities for people without evidence of civil registration or without Thai nationality.

International Student Exchange

Every year we are blessed to have students from all over the world visiting our Learning Centers. These exchange trips are very important for our students to learn more about different cultures, mindsets, norms and values and it's just a lot of fun to make new friends. We are particularly excited to send students abroad for summer camp organized by UWC ISAK Japan. The selected students are given a life-changing experience.



We spend a lot of time improving and expanding our Education Program. All of the great work that we do is because of generous donors and volunteers. Without them our program wouldn't exist.

Join our Education Program and have a real impact in the lives of Burmese migrant families.

You can help us by volunteering at the learning centers in a beautiful location around Khao Lak and Kuraburi.

Without financial support none of this is possible. If you wish to become a donor, shoot us an email at grassroots@ghre.org or donate directly through PayPal at: paypal.me/feddonate

Thank you!

Sunday Classes: Non-Formal Education

Every Sunday there are lessons taught by Integration staff for migrant workers to enter the Thai formal education system. There are about 80 students, most of whom work in rubber plantations, restaurants, construction, and hotels. It is a preliminary Thai language course to prepare for students formal education, due to the regulations that those who want to enroll must read and write Thai. Students learn every Sunday for 6 ½ hours for 6 to 12 months.

Community Visits to Ensure Child Education

Integration Project visits migrant families several times a month to ensure that children continue their studies. Thai schools can remove them from the register if they are absent for several days without notice. Many parents move for work and fail to inform the school, causing problems for their child being able to register at the new location. We also provide support and survey potential new students for secondary school.



Expanding Access to Education for Burmese Migrants

FED has been working to enable Burmese migrant children that live far from Burmese migrant learning centers to study at the nearest Thai government school for formal and non-formal education. We connect with several Thai schools in the area to setup a seamless registration procedure and advocate in the Burmese communities to enroll children into the Thai education system by the Thai education-for-all policy.

Burmese Students Meet-and-Greet

The Integration Project team conducted a Student Exchange for Burmese students from 9 Thai schools and our ULC. They exchanged their experiences at their schools and worked to improve their capacity-building skills such as leadership skills, critical thinking, and team-building. The students set up a networking group among themselves using the skills they gained, to stay in touch and support each other while studying in Thailand.