

Children's Development Centre Mae Sot, Thailand



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| Grant Category: | Education |
| Implementing Agency: | Child's Dream Foundation |
| Project Status: | Ongoing |
| Start Date: | May 2011 |
| Completion Date: | Jun 2013 |

Project Description

Children's Development Centre was established in 1995 to educate and care for children of health care workers at the Mae Tao Clinic. The School was later extended to all Burmese migrant workers to help ease demand for schooling as the influx of Burmese migrants and their families continued.

Strong demand for places at CDC resulted in the addition of a second storey in 2005 and the completion of an entirely new school in 2009.

Unanticipated signs of stress emerged requiring strengthening of the buildings. Funding enabled the completion of reinforcement work in 2011 and early 2012 to ensure the safety and longevity of the building. Monitoring continues to ensure no further issues arise.

An ongoing maintenance grant is also provided to the School to support its operations.

Objective

CDC set out to provide education and day care to children of migrant working parents. The program ensures parents can work whilst their children receive a good education in a safe and nurturing environment.

Impact

As a result of the 2011 and 2012 reinforcement work to stabilise the school, CDC is now the largest migrant learning centre in Thailand, accommodating over 1,100 students in a safe, secure, positive learning environment. The Centre provides classes from kindergarten to grade 10 Level, and has extended its role to assist graduates with access to higher education and vocational training programs such as Youth Connect.

The ongoing maintenance grant helps to ensure the children of CDC continue to receive a high standard of education.

Background

Mae Sot is situated in Western Thailand and is one of only two border crossings into Myanmar. It is estimated that up to half of the city's population is Burmese migrants, both legal and illegal, and the local economy is reliant on this steady flow of workers. Conditions are difficult for many who end up in working in poor conditions in factories and sweat shops for little pay and most have no way out with limited or no access to government education or health care.