



Access2Education

Report for: RCRT Foundation

This report provides an overview of the activities and key results obtained through the Access2Education Project from June 2015 to May 2016. This Project is made possible through support from the RCRT Foundation.

Project Title	Access2Education
Location	Chiang Mai, Thailand
Reporting Period	June 2015 to May 2016
Objectives	Access to Education, Health and Safety for critically vulnerable children
Funding Partner	RCRT Foundation
Approx. Annual Budget	11 K€

**Great success and impact:
98% of kids in school in 2016,
up from 80% in 2014!**

The Access2Education Project builds on the successful experience of the Smile Project, which was entirely financed by the Harvip / RCRT Foundations from 2011 to 2015. From 2015 to 2017, it became the Access2Education Project, which uses after-school sessions and the Smile Holidays Program to provide critical education and sports opportunities to 1,000+ of the most vulnerable children in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Context

Due to its central geographic and economic situation in Southeast Asia, Thailand is a regional hub for migrants as a place of origin, transition, and destination. Approximately 3.5 million migrant workers cross the border in search of labor opportunities in Thailand, often bringing their children with them. **There are approximately 330,000 migrant children currently living in Thailand, and about 60,000 of these children live on or next to construction sites, representing one of the most vulnerable migrant populations.**¹ These kids are often left unattended in extremely unsafe environments while their parents are at work, without adequate supervision, and many of them don't go to school or have access to basic hygiene or healthcare. Some of these children are left under the supervision of an older sibling (often around 5 to 10 years old) and are exposed to severe risks (accidents, violence, abuse, etc.).

Founded in 2002, Baan Dek is a Thai-registered Foundation that supports migrant children's access to essential services through programs that are all complemented by individual case management. **Today, Baan Dek's programs successfully support approx. 1,000 children per year in and around Chiang Mai**, providing the kids with 1) non-formal education that is crucial for their development and facilitates their integration into the Thai school system, 2) basic healthcare and emergency medical attention, and 3) immediate protection in the case of critical situations, including abuse, trafficking or labor exploitation.

The Access2Education Project: Overview & Achievements

Through support from the RCRT Foundation, the Access2Education Project has provided after-school sessions and the Smile Holidays Program to give the kids the support they need to enroll in school and successfully integrate into the formal education system. The after-school sessions provide homework assistance and individual support from teachers specialized in work with migrant children. The Smile Holidays Program offers the kids creative activities, physical exercise and sports, and other activities fundamental to their development during their school holidays (during the reporting period: 3 weeks in April and 2 weeks in October).

Through both after-school sessions and Smile Holidays, we have been able to benefit 569 kids in 2015, and 332 kids so far in 2016. These programs are absolutely essential to the educational support that Baan Dek provides to these children, **and this support has led to the successful enrollment of 97% of these children in school in 2015, which is up from 80% in 2014.**

¹ See www.baandekfoundation.org/news/2015/11/2/migrant-report, published in 2015.



Left: a boy paints a glass bottle during a craft workshop for Smile Holidays; right: group photo of half of the Smile Holidays attendees and Baan Dek Teachers | March 2016

After-school sessions are based on migrant children's needs, and they provide support through homework help and stimulating activities that ensure their success at school and prevent school drop-out. Baan Dek Teachers and Social Workers follow the kids' school performance and verify their attendance, providing social counseling to the kids' parents when needed (nearly every day). The after-school sessions focus on highly tailored education support, which promotes structure and greater stability for the children, their parents, and even the school. Based on assessments of the kids' needs, after-school sessions range from homework tutoring to Thai or math lessons, to reading time, or other activities such as sports or arts and crafts that develop children's fine motor skills and concentration. We often divide the children into age groups in order to better meet their needs, and when we identify new children who must still be enrolled in school, we provide them with high-priority, individual support.

During Smile Holidays, Baan Dek plans a program of fun, stimulating activities at the Foundation's facilities for more than 100 kids during their school holidays. This prevents the children from being exploited through child labor while they're not at school, keeps them from being alone and unsupervised in unsafe conditions while their parents are at work, and stimulates their early childhood development needs. Our Teachers and Social Workers specialized in working with migrant children offer the kids creative and stimulating activities in arts and crafts, creative language activities, and sports. During Smile Holidays, we also teach the kids about the 'International Convention of Child Rights' and their rights to Education, Health and Safety. 13 community partners joined Smile Holidays in April 2016 to offer and participate in activities, including a local medical center and the local traffic police.

These programs and activities are designed according to assessments of the most critical needs of the kids and their communities, and they address the four main areas of childhood development: psychosocial, cognitive, linguistic and physical growth. During Smile Holidays in April 2016, we also started an exciting new activity that led the kids to spend time each day preparing a small show on acting out Child Rights for a grand finale performance at the end of the 3 weeks. The kids developed their ideas and plans more and more each day, and the grand finale performance built up their self-confidence: the kids each took turns performing as 'stars' who dance, sing, and speak on a microphone in front of the group. The kids often mention how much fun they had at Smile Holidays even months later!

Throughout the reporting period (June 2015 to May 2016), the first results have proven to be excellent, and Monitoring & Evaluation is continuously ongoing. Here are some of the main highlights from this reporting period.

After-School Sessions

Our after-school sessions have benefited:

- 481 kids in 2015
- 269 kids so far in 2016
- with 6,755 overall instances of attendance

We made this possible by holding:

- 241 after-school sessions in
- 7 communities throughout Chiang Mai

Smile Holidays

The Smile Holidays program has benefited:

- 134 children in October 2015
- 125 children in March 2016
- through 25 days of sessions

Qualitative assessments of Smile Holidays concluded that:

- Kids in attendance showed increased interest in all 4 key areas of childhood development (cognitive, psychosocial, linguistic and physical)

Through after-school sessions and Smile Holidays together, we have been able to benefit 569 kids in 2015, and 332 kids so far in 2016.

Through support from our programs and individual case management, 98% of the school-age kids in May 2016 were in school, compared to 80% in May 2014, and 95% of kids enrolled in school successfully completed the school semester or year in 2015 (not including those who migrated during that period).

Data also shows that the kids who attended Smile Holidays successfully learned about their Child Rights from the education sessions on Child Protection.

The Access2Education Project – in coordination with Baan Dek's other programs – also led to the following achievements:

(a) Access to non-formal education and tailored programs:

In 2015, 993 children benefitted from Baan Dek's activities throughout 27 communities.

(b) Access to Healthcare:

Throughout 2015, 60 children were vaccinated through direct assistance from Baan Dek.

(c) Individual approach based on children's critical needs:

Throughout 2015, 143 children benefited from individual tailored assistance from Baan Dek to address their critical needs (severe neglect, child labor, abuse, etc.).

After-school sessions and Smile Holidays combined have reached 11 communities over the reporting period, including 9 construction site camps, 1 government-run orphanage, and 1 public school. In our regularly held outreach sessions, we meet and identify the most critically vulnerable communities in Chiang Mai, focusing on migrant children in great need. We then develop partnerships and agreements with the necessary authorities to support them, assess their most critical needs, and we then tailor our support and programs according to those needs.

All activities are conducted directly on-site in each of these communities. Official agreements have been built and established with every private construction company and public institution (schools, local orphanages) we work with. We forge strong, multi-year partnerships that lead to long-term support and great impact.

In 2015, Baan Dek established a partnership with a leading Thai real estate company Sansiri PLC that led to greater results for children in critical need: a small school shelter was built in one community that supported 96 children in 2015, and this project is still ongoing today. The huge success of this CSR partnership also led to hiring 2 new teachers for daily non-formal education sessions in the community. To involve and empower community members, one of the teachers was a Tai Yai mother from the Burmese migrant community.

An interactive session on food and nutrition with community partners during Smile Holidays | March 2016



Financial Review

The budget agreed upon with the RCRT Foundation for the period of June 2015 to May 2016 for the Access2Education Project amounted to 11K €. The expenditures of the Project amounted to 11,3K €, consistently matching the resources allocated. Expenses are expected to remain constant throughout the second year.

June 2015 to May 2016

After-School	4.866 €
Smile Holidays	6.442 €
Grand Total	11.308 €

Conclusions and Future Perspectives

The Access2Education Project has been delivered on schedule for the period of June 2015 to May 2016. **Throughout that period, the Access2Education Project has proven a huge success. Sessions have also confirmed the urgent need for more critical support** – through assessments conducted for after-school and Smile Holidays sessions, we have gathered much more information about the children's vulnerability to domestic violence and other threats to their safety and basic quality of life that must be addressed with urgency.

Baan Dek Foundation will address these needs by continuing to develop and implement these sessions in addition to other programs such as the Superheroes Academy, which teaches essential life skills to kids as 'superpowers' (Vaccination, Protection from Insect-Borne Diseases, Child Rights, etc). The regular presence of these education-support programs has made it possible to strengthen Baan Dek's Individual Support Program and reach even more families with tailored critical support.

We are continuing to further our partnerships with public schools in Chiang Mai to support these kids' specific education needs. We are also developing a field research project with UNICEF that will help us to gather extensive information on migrants' access to essential Education, Health and Safety services in Thailand. This project will examine how to most effectively address this humanitarian emergency in South-East Asia and also encourage more construction companies to commit to supporting their workers' access to essential services.

One of the greatest challenges to supporting migrant children is the short period of time they are in the same place, since their families typically have to go through repeated migrations. In order to achieve long-term follow-up with the families we work with in Chiang Mai, we recently launched a Migrant Empowerment Program, which will train adults to be peer educators in their communities, both here in Chiang Mai and wherever they may migrate to in the future.

Access2Education has provided a very strong foundation for education support. **To our delight, these projects are extremely effective and have even carved out a clear path for future growth, which translates into greater response to urgent humanitarian needs.** Baan Dek will gladly provide the RCRT Foundation with further information if desired and, as



established in the written partnership agreement, will issue an Annual Report for the Access2Education Program in June 2017, covering the period of June 2016 to May 2017.

The Impact of Tailored Support: A new community arrives, 12 new kids in school for the first time

In May 2015, Baan Dek's Social Workers identified a new community of construction workers who just arrived in Chiang Mai from Cambodia. After developing a partnership and agreements with the construction company employing them, Baan Dek assessed the community's most critical needs and set up informational sessions in the community in order to encourage the parents to enroll their kids in school. It was an especially challenging situation: they arrived in Chiang Mai as the school enrollment period was about to end, and the parents knew nothing about the kids' right to go to the local school and couldn't afford to pay the school fees. The kids didn't speak any Thai, and spent their days unsupervised, running around in the construction area while their parents were at work.

Baan Dek's Social Workers actively addressed the situation by enrolling the kids and setting up tutoring classes every evening. Baan Dek covered the kids' school fees, and the construction company committed to paying for their school uniforms.



8 of the children from the camp who attended school for the first time in 2015.



On behalf of the
Baan Dek Team and
all of these children,
thank you for generous
and meaningful support!

