



# 20 20 ANNUAL REPORT

# DEAR BAAN DEK FOUNDATION PARTNERS,

It is with great pleasure that we present our achievements in 2020.

2020 has been an exceptional year for Baan Dek Foundation (BDF), both in terms of challenges and in terms of positive impact achieved. The outbreak of COVID-19 had unprecedented effects around the world and negatively impacted vulnerable groups. Though COVID-19 was mostly contained in Thailand throughout the year, the economic crisis disproportionately affected the populations living in construction site camps. To address critical needs, BDF designed a response plan and began providing humanitarian relief.

Despite the challenges presented during the year, BDF was still able to continue its mission of providing access to health, education, and safety services to vulnerable children living in construction site camps. In 2020, we provided direct support to over 2,000 children living in 52 different construction site camps. BDF also supported 513 children with tailored case management and helped 1,343 children access formal education, among other achievements. In addition, we have been able to maintain a strong focus on systemic impact during this difficult year, creating the tools and building the partnerships needed to encourage good practices in the Thai construction sector.

None of our success would have been possible without the support of our partners and friends. On behalf of the entire BDF team, we extend sincere thanks to all those who have joined us, inspired us, and helped us to make this work possible.

Our very best,



**Nicola Crosta**  
BDF Founder



**Magali du Parc**  
BDF Executive Director





# THE CHALLENGE

There are tens of thousands of children living in construction site camps with slum-like conditions in Thailand. These children are often left unattended in these severely hazardous living environments while their parents are at work on construction sites. They experience limited access to essential services and are at high risk of abuse and exploitation. BDF aims to ensure that vulnerable children, particularly children within the construction sector, have sustainable access to education, health, and safety.

After the outbreak of COVID-19 in Thailand in February 2020, the Royal Thai Government closed the country's borders and declared a State of Emergency on March 26, 2020 to prevent the spread of the virus, which outlined strict social distancing measures. A country-wide lockdown continued until June, with schools closed until July. The populations living in construction site camps were extremely vulnerable at this time, as workers experienced a significant drop in income. Many children were at risk of being abused, trafficked, or abandoned due to an increase of debt bondage, mental illness, family separation, and violence in communities. Children also lacked educational opportunities and were at-risk of dropping out of school or becoming exposed to illegal or risky activities.

It is clear that the impact of the crisis continues to affect the families we support. Thailand is currently experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 cases and as of January 2021, several provinces are in another lockdown. In addition, the economic downturn continues to be severe and the country's borders have remained closed since the State of Emergency declaration. Families continue to struggle with the aforementioned challenges, and the situation is steadily deteriorating. In addition, there has been worsening political instability throughout the country, which could also have adverse effects on the populations BDF works with.

# OUR WORK

By embracing international child protection standards, BDF is committed to enriching the development, health, and access to opportunities of every child. BDF works to improve the fundamental well-being of all vulnerable children living in Thailand through:



## 1 | Direct Impact,

through child protection, child development, and community empowerment activities.

## 2 | Systemic Impact,

through collaboration with the Thai construction sector and other key stakeholders to improve practices that impact children.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the related, unprecedented economic downturn in Thailand, this year BDF also provided emergency assistance to a large number of beneficiaries. BDF worked to respond to immediate needs, while maintaining our focus on delivering direct support and achieving systemic impact.



# DIRECT IMPACT

BDF provides direct support to children and families living in construction site camps through complementary field projects. Due to COVID-19 and the related lockdown, BDF suspended group activities for three months but continued individual case management activities and provided emergency support, to maintain long-term goals. BDF regularly surveyed the effects of the pandemic and economic crisis throughout lockdown and beyond to ensure beneficiary needs were met. Once restrictions were lifted, BDF resumed additional activities, many of which were adjusted to fit with the current situation in Thailand.

## 2020 Reach



**2,032**

children received direct support to contribute to improved overall well-being.



**52**

construction site camps, urban slums, or vulnerable communities were supported, and 5 of these are new communities in 2020.<sup>1</sup>



**10,000**

workers<sup>2</sup> inhabit the communities BDF reached with community support this year.

<sup>1</sup>Including 3 transport company camps, 42 construction site camps across Chiang Mai and Bangkok, 1 school, 1 orphanage for boys, and 5 urban slums.

<sup>2</sup>Estimation based on a small sample of communities (10%).

## Education



**79%** of children are enrolled into public schools or nursery. In Chiang Mai this is 94.8% from age 4, and in Bangkok this is 62.5% from age 5 (as some nurseries accept only from age 5).<sup>3</sup>

**1,343** children received support to access school including with enrollment, school equipment, uniforms, and preparatory homework.

**1,369** hours of non-formal education were delivered in communities in Bangkok and Chiang Mai despite the 3 month lockdown period, when the BDF team could not run group activities in camps.

**223** vulnerable women were empowered with life coaching, financial literacy training, upskilling, and/or training on developing an action plan over the course of 231 hard and soft skill workshop sessions, provided through the Dao Women's Empowerment Project in Chiang Mai.

**130** Peer Educators, trained to support community access to services, were in regular contact with BDF throughout the first COVID-19 lockdown period, and helped BDF maintain surveillance, understand changing needs in communities, and distribute aid.

BDF provides activities that promote child development, prepare school-aged children for integration into Thai public schools and prevent drop-out, and provide essential life skill education. BDF also provides training to vulnerable women and to community members to become Peer Educators, who support children and families in their own communities to access services. Due to the lockdown, schools were closed for three months and BDF was required to work closely with Peer Educators to monitor the situation in communities. BDF is focusing on helping children access educational opportunities and on building the capacity of Peer Educators.

<sup>3</sup>This enrollment rate comes despite 100% not attending school from February - June 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown in Thailand.





**86%**

of children have been vaccinated according to Thai standards<sup>4</sup> across Chiang Mai and Bangkok camps and urban slums.

**138**

Facebook posts were released since the onset of COVID-19 in February, providing information on COVID-19, the lockdown restrictions, how to support children during this time, etc. This platform reaches 828 Peer Educators and their extended network of community members, with audio posts in Thai, Thai Yai, and Burmese for workers who cannot read or write.

**14**

communities improved community safe spaces or WASH facilities. These improvements directly benefited roughly 570 children.

BDF improves water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in communities, provides health information to families, and supports children in accessing vaccinations and healthcare. During the lockdown, many children faced difficulties to access healthcare due to a lack of legal status. In addition, families living in construction site camps were extremely vulnerable to disease at this time, as they live in crowded living environments. BDF is focusing on improving the sanitation of living environments and providing access to health services.

<sup>4</sup>Required vaccines include: BCG, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Polio, Mumps/Measles/Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis.





## Safety



**513** children were supported through tailored case management in 2020 with 220 cases active as of December 2020.

**58** emergency child protection cases were managed, with 56 of these cases related to domestic violence affecting 75 children. These cases were supported by Social Advisors through tailored case management. This support includes immediate counseling and referrals as needed.

**26** average percentage point<sup>5</sup> increase in knowledge of parents and workers around child rights, with Peer Educators having a 93.6% endline understanding of child protection in Q4, and a 71.1% average endline understanding throughout 2020.

BDF improves the safety of living environments and provides one-on-one, tailored case management, including direct and immediate protection to families identified as at risk. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the number of cases BDF has been managing at any one time has, on average, almost doubled. BDF is placing more focus on providing immediate relief and support, while also boosting parental capacity and supporting the most at-risk children on a one-to-one basis.

<sup>5</sup>Highlight figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.





**10,219**

food sets (in addition to 3,620 milk/juice boxes) were delivered to children and families in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. 1,123 tailored food sets were additionally provided to individual cases.

**8,635**

hygiene sets distributed to children in communities so far this year, compared to 483 from 2019.

**286**

awareness sessions were provided on WASH related to COVID-19 and virus transmission across all 52 active construction site camps and urban slums in Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

BDF has been diligent in implementing time-sensitive and efficient precautions to counter the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining our core mission of protecting the health and safety of the children and families we support. To address critical needs, BDF began providing donations of food, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies to all families, and implemented public health awareness campaigns. BDF will continue to provide emergency support throughout the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak and afterwards.





# CASE STORY - MEET S.

S. is a 16 year-old girl who lives in a construction site camp with her father and stepmother. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, S.'s father lost work, forcing the family to struggle to survive. This challenge caused emotional tension within the family, and relationships deteriorated. BDF met S. when she reached out to a BDF Social Advisor for help in November 2020.

S. told BDF that her relationship with her stepmother was particularly bad. Her stepmother hurt her since she was a child and manipulated her father to turn him against her. In November, S.'s stepmother lied to her father, telling him that S. was spending time with a boy. S.'s father became angry and hit S. with a bamboo stick before forcing her to leave the camp.

A team of BDF Social Advisors provided counseling to S. and facilitated communication with her family. With the help of the Social Advisors, S. expressed her feelings to her father and was able to resolve the issue with her family. In addition, BDF provided S. and her family with COVID-19 emergency support, including monthly donations of food and hygiene supplies, additional supplies tailored to their needs, and school enrollment support.

To support her recovery after dealing with an abusive situation, S. is participating in BDF community-based violence workshops. These workshops empower participants to identify feelings of discomfort and to practice asserting themselves, as well as encourage participants to reflect on violence in general. In addition, S. is acting as a Youth Peer, empowering her community to learn life skill content.





# SYSTEMIC IMPACT



BDF achieves systemic impact in the Thai construction sector by working with major property and construction companies to improve living conditions for labor migrants and their families. During 2020 BDF also worked closely with construction company leaders to increase awareness of COVID-19 and measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

## Chiang Mai Framework for Action (CMFA)

BDF's joint research paper with UNICEF, "Building Futures in Thailand" (2018), examines the living conditions of migrant workers living in construction site camps in Thailand and aims to contribute to the spread of good practices in the private sector. The research presents the Chiang Mai Framework for Action (CMFA) as 12 standards that can be implemented by construction companies to improve living conditions for migrant workers and their children. The CMFA standards have four focus areas - infrastructure, health, rights and safety, and education - based on the needs commonly identified across camps and regulations in Thailand.

 <b>Infrastructure</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Improved safety of living environments</li><li>2 Improved waste management and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)</li><li>3 Opportunities and space to interact and play with other children</li></ol>
 <b>Safety</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4 Knowledge of child rights and child protection and their practical application</li><li>5 Knowledge of how to access services (health, education, legal documentation)</li><li>6 Improved social development and well-being (prevention of discrimination, domestic violence, child labor)</li></ol>
 <b>Health</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7 Access to vaccines</li><li>8 Access to health cards</li><li>9 Knowledge of common medical needs and responses</li></ol>
 <b>Education</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10 Preparation for integration into formal education</li><li>11 Access to formal education through school enrollment</li><li>12 School support through non-formal education</li></ol>

# Building Social Impact Tools

BDF is working to train staff from companies that are early adopters of the CMFA. Staff are trained on the CMFA and the complementary tools developed. These tools have been developed in collaboration with construction sector leaders and tested in the field. These tools are:



## 1 | Social Impact Guidelines,

explaining how to implement the CMFA.



## 2 | Self-Assessment Tool,

for construction site camps to check the status of camp living conditions.



## 3 | Reference Packs,

providing practical steps for camp managers, camp bosses, workers, and their children.

Companies can use these to independently improve camp living conditions and ensure children can access basic public services. The tools will be made publicly available on

[www.buildingsocialimpact.org](http://www.buildingsocialimpact.org)

BDF aims to form a network of construction sector advocates and champions to scale out the framework. Our main strategic partners in 2020 include UNICEF Thailand and Visavapat, Syntec, and Magnolia Quality Development Corporation Ltd. (MQDC), early adopters of the CMFA.



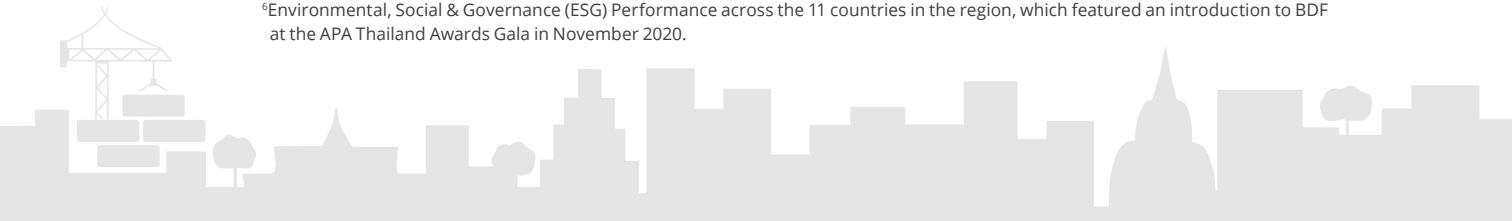




## Milestones in 2020

- 50** agreements with real estate and construction companies cumulatively since beginning work in the construction sector.
- 5** construction companies have fully committed to implementing the CMFA.
- 1** ESG<sup>6</sup> Technical Partner for PropertyGuru and the Asia Property Awards (APA), to advise on the new Special Recognition Award in terms of Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Performance.
- 44** camp management staff were trained to use the CMFA implementation tools, across 2 companies.
- 29** camps were assessed by companies using the Self-Assessment Tool BDF developed and improvement plans were made.

<sup>6</sup>Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Performance across the 11 countries in the region, which featured an introduction to BDF at the APA Thailand Awards Gala in November 2020.



## TOTAL EXPENSES

 **933,039€**

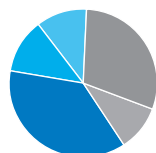
## TOTAL DONATIONS

 **1,192,315€**

## TOTAL CHILDREN SUPPORTED

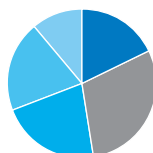
 **2,032**

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



### Overall Expense Spread

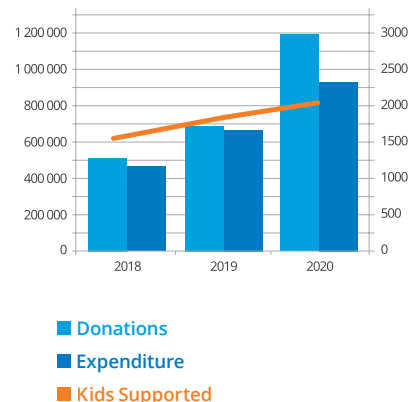
- 30%** COVID-19 Emergency Support (Chiang Mai)
- 10%** COVID-19 Emergency Support (Bangkok)
- 37%** Regular Activities (Chiang Mai)
- 12%** Regular Activities (Bangkok)
- 11%** Overhead



### Expenses per Type of Support

- 18%** Child Protection\*
- 30%** COVID-19 Emergency Support
- 22%** Child Development
- 20%** Community Empowerment / Systemic Impact
- 11%** Women Empowerment

\*Incl. COVID-19 individual support



The increase in 2020 revenue shows the exceptional generosity of our supporters during this difficult year. This allowed us to meet our mission during 2020, as well as to set aside precious resources for the challenging year that just started.

## INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS

Belloni Family, Paola Ciccognani, Gabriele & Valeria Ciccognani, Claudio & Silvia Crosta, Edouard & H el ene du Parc, Gary Ford & Nancy Ebb, Fournier Family, Gine & Ian Guilford, Michele & Laura Locatelli, Stani & Allegra Lucheschi, Maina Manuel, Nam Brown Family, Silvia Poli, Busaba Tejagupta, individual donors associated with NIST International School

## INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Agir sa Vie Foundation, Amadeus, Artelia Foundation, Bangkok Mothers & Babies International, Blue Fork restaurant partners, Cartier Philanthropy, Citylife, Edrington, Firetree Trust, IVL Foundation, Kindernohtilfe, Manan Trust, Mazars Thailand, PUR Projet, SFX Cinema, Strategies & Corp, Work Together Foundation, World Childhood Foundation, UBS Optimus Foundation, UNICEF Thailand, Valneva

On behalf of the entire BDF team, we would like to thank so many other individuals and organizations that provided us with support in 2020.

## CONTACT US

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