



# 2023 Annual Report

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# Dear Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, we are delighted to share our impact journey in 2023. Last year, we achieved significant results, impacting the lives of over **1,900 children** and **11,700+ adults**.

Throughout 2023, our dedicated caseworkers continued to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children and families while also handling emerging issues of families fleeing the civil war in Myanmar, seeking safety in Chiang Mai (Pillar 1). Among all those diverse cases managed, 56% successfully exited the program in 2023.

Under Pillar 2, our Community Empowerment Program continued to bolster community resilience, training community leaders to foster a better and safer living environment and connecting community members to essential public services such as education, health, and protection. As a result, more than 90% of the children we support are enrolled in public schools and vaccinated according to Thai standards.

In 2023, we also made significant progress towards our vision to generate systemic change and improve the well-being of an estimated 60,000 children and their parents living in construction site camps across Thailand. With 18 companies joining us in the Building Social Impact Initiative (Pillar 3), our Framework for Action is garnering recognition and opening doors to drive positive change in the construction sector.

This year also marked a transition in leadership, with a new Executive Director joining us while our Co-Founder and long-standing Executive Director transitioned to the role of Strategic Advisor. We invite you to delve into this report, where we aim to capture the passion and commitment of the BDF team to improve the well-being of vulnerable children and their families in Thailand.

Sincerely,

**Acha Sripaurya**  
BDF Chairperson

**Nicola Crosta,**  
BDF Founder

# What drives us

An estimated **60,000 children** live in construction site camps with slum-like conditions in Thailand. These children and their parents working in the construction sector are one of the most vulnerable groups. They face multiple hardships, including but not limited to living in an unsafe environment, lack of social integration, and difficulties in accessing public services such as protection, healthcare and education. In 2023, BDF continued to work towards improving the well-being of children living in the construction sector, by **supporting** their immediate needs, **empowering** their community leaders, and creating **systemic change** in the Thai construction sector.



# 2023 Highlights

## Our Reach

All figures presented in this report reflect BDF's achievements from January to December 2023.



# 1,900+

children who benefitted from BDF's intervention.



# 11,700+

adults were positively impacted by BDF.



# 76

construction site camps, urban slums, or vulnerable communities supported, and **7** of these are new communities in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Including 3 transport company camps, 71 construction site camps across Chiang Mai and Bangkok, 1 shelter, and 5 urban slums.



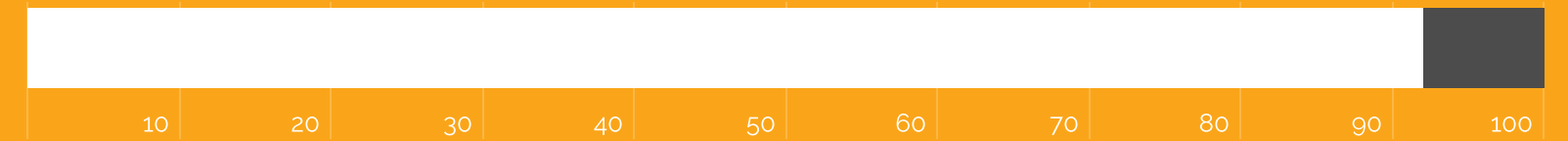
# 18

MoUs signed with like-minded companies from the property and construction sector who are committed to aligning their operations to business and human rights principles, and supporting the sector-wide adoption of the Building Social Impact (BSI) Initiative.



# 56%

of families under case management were able to independently support their children following BDF support. This result, which meets the 2023 target, demonstrates BDF's effectiveness in supporting highly vulnerable families facing complex challenges.



# 92%

of children aged 4 to 15 from construction site camps and urban slums supported by BDF are currently enrolled into public schools, providing them with the opportunity to achieve their full potential in life and break out of the cycle of poverty.

## 2023 Highlights

## Flagship Impact Indicators



# 92%

of children<sup>2</sup> have been vaccinated according to Thai standards, demonstrating an improved connection between local communities and the Thai health system.

<sup>2</sup> N= 1,070 among targeted Pillar 1 and 2 communities



# 100%

of construction companies who completed BDF training adopted better practices toward migrant workers and their children, showcasing the growing interest and the central role companies can play in addressing social issues in their supply chain.

# Dive into our Work

1 

**SUPPORT**

Responding to children's  
immediate needs

2 

**EMPOWER**

Empowering communities  
and their leaders

3 

**CHANGE**

Creating sustainable change  
in the construction sector

# Pillar 1 | Support

Respond to immediate child protection and child development needs

## Child Protection Program

220

families were enrolled into BDF's individual case management, supporting **462** individual children.

101

children exposed to domestic violence were assisted under BDF's Individual Support Project.

## Child Development Program

1,600+

children have been supported with school equipment and/or school fees.

2,000+

hours of child development activities delivered to vulnerable children.





## Lessons

In 2023, the Child Protection (CP) team improved case referral processes with partner organizations, particularly for specific needs related to health, legalization, case management support, and/or the provision of therapy or specialist services to beneficiaries. Thanks to these partner organizations, each individual received tailored and specific support aligned to their needs.



## Challenges

During the ongoing Myanmar civil war, BDF expanded its outreach to address complex cases like child labor and extreme poverty. To provide comprehensive support, the Child Protection and the Monitoring & Evaluation teams are developing a new classification system aligning with international standards, allowing for a better understanding and management of the diversity of cases BDF supports.

# Pillar 1

## Quotes from Families and Children



*As migrants fleeing from the civil war in Myanmar, we didn't know how to handle life in Thailand. BDF provided accommodation support, so we didn't need to look for a place to sleep every day and be homeless. BDF also helped with school enrollment, and provided school fees and uniforms. Now my son can speak better Thai than me. My wife also found a job.*

**- D., a father under the Individual Support Project**



*Since BDF started providing support, the main thing that has changed for us is our well-being. I can save more money, eat better food, live in a safer environment, and have more time to spend with my family. We were provided with legal support, hospital payment, accommodation fees and food support.*

**- K., a mother under the Individual Support Project**



*My parents didn't have enough money to afford school fees for all of us. Without BDF's support, we would not have had an opportunity to go to school nor have uniforms like other children. BDF supported us with school fees, school uniforms, and school supplies. We started attending school after moving to the community.*

**- N. and K., two children having received school fees support under Child Development Program**

# Pillar 2 | Empower

Empower communities and their leaders

## Community Empowerment Program

122

Peer Educators, trained to support community access to services, collaborating with BDF to help understand changing needs in communities and distribute aid.

182

vulnerable women engaged in upskilling training, financial literacy training, and/or work readiness activities. A total of **206** hard and soft skill workshop sessions were provided through the Women's Empowerment Project in Chiang Mai.

52

vulnerable women were accompanied in their empowerment journey to rebuild their confidence, improve their employability, and increase their income through the partnership between BDF and **Dao Ethical Gifts**, BDF's spin-off social enterprise.





## Lessons

BDF continued to strengthen its collaboration with public services, especially schools and health centers, while simultaneously empowering community leaders on the importance and ways to access health and education services. This model confirmed its effectiveness in better connecting communities to these essential services and will be further scaled up in 2024.



## Challenges

Migrant workers and their children still face significant barriers in accessing healthcare, especially due to the insurance scheme, legal documentation, discrimination, and healthcare costs. In 2023, BDF began developing an advocacy plan based on these challenges in order to raise awareness among public duty bearers and companies and initiate change. The aim is to improve the integration of workers and their children into the Thai health system.

# Pillar 2

## Quotes from Peers and Community Members



*In the past, the community wasn't a pleasant place. Thanks to the help of the Peer Educators, our community is more beautiful. Now, the community floor is more adapted to the rainy season, there is no garbage around anymore, the toilets are cleaner, and the Community Safe Space is really nice.*

**- Mae D., a community member**



*I feel proud of my achievements and happy I could help my community. Whenever they [community members] have a question or face any issues, they ask me. I can especially advise them on the process to get enrolled into school or how to get vaccination.*

**- Mae P., a Peer Educator in the same community**



*In the past, as men considered themselves superior to women, we did not have the right to speak out and share our opinion. Thanks to Women4Women training, we understand the importance of claiming our rights. Now, we dare tell men they should listen to our advice. We still face challenges, sometimes men don't want to listen to us, they don't care, but we feel motivated and would love to continue being W4W leaders in the future to keep fighting for our rights.*

**- M. and her daughter L., two Women4Women leaders**



*Youth Peers play an important role in the community, as many children cannot rely on their parents. For instance, Youth Peers support children moving into the community with school enrollment. After the arrival of new children, I will approach them and talk with the parents. I helped around three children in the community with school enrollment. I also invite newcomers' children to join activities with me, and I teach them Thai.*

**- N., a Youth Peer in a community**

# Pillar 3 | Change

Change practices of companies in the construction sector

## Systemic Impact Strategy



**18**

companies who have joined the Building Social Impact Initiative (BSI).

**9,859**

construction workers positively benefited from the BSI Initiative.

**149**

company staff trained by the BSI Initiative team.





3  
CHANGE



## Lessons

BDF acknowledged that private sector engagement (PSE) requires flexibility and patience, especially in terms of navigating private sector internal processes. As a result, BDF enhanced its PSE strategy, learning to understand companies' perspectives, identify mutual areas of interest, and speak the private sector's language. This yielded positive results, generating increased interest within the sector in businesses' social impact and sustainability, consequently leading to positive changes for workers and their children living in construction camps.



## Challenges

With the increased number of companies joining the BSI Initiative comes the challenge of assuring the quality control of BSI members' actual commitment to improving the well-being of children and their parents living in construction camps. To mitigate the risk of social washing, a designated BSI team member coordinates information collection and conducts regular spot checks in camps to ensure that commitments align with genuine positive change.

# Pillar 3

## Quotes from BSI Members



*The BSI Toolkit\* has supported us in having a greater understanding of families and children in the camps. It allows us to make meaningful decisions in terms of what to invest in improving the camp.*

**Dollachakorn Wong-In, Assistant General  
Administrative Department Manager,  
Visavapat Co., Ltd.**

*\*The BSI Toolkit is a set of open-source tools developed by BDF in collaboration with construction companies to improve their social practices.*



*By assuring our workers that we have measures to take care of their families, we alleviate their worries and foster a stronger sense of commitment.*

**- Mr. Jarunon Wongsuwan,  
Managing Director of 7 Makara Co., Ltd.**



*In the realm of ESG's\* social considerations, the focus often narrows to operations and employee welfare. Elevating the quality of life for workers and children is pivotal. That's why WHA Group is committed to playing a role in supporting this cause—recognizing the importance of the welfare and security of children in construction camps.*

**- Mr. Natthapatt Tanboon-ek,  
Chief Financial Officer, WHA Corporation PCL**

*\*ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance standards used to evaluate a company's impact.*



# Impact Story



Mae O. and Phaw T. have three children: T., aged 20, Te, aged nine, and A., aged one. While Phaw T. works as a construction worker in Chiang Mai, the mother stays home to care for their younger son. When they first met BDF, they were living in a construction site camp in slum-like conditions, unable to access education and health services. They faced tremendous financial strain as the father was the only breadwinner, which was insufficient to cover their daily expenses.

Through Pillar 1, BDF's Social Advisors (SAs) addressed their immediate needs by providing food and hygiene sets, covering each child's school fees and uniforms, and explaining how to obtain medical health insurance and access vaccinations.

Over time, while the family gradually gained financial stability and their situation improved, their needs evolved. In 2023, Te was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). BDF's Social Advisors provided counseling to the parents, who didn't know how to help their child and were feeling very anxious. BDF also covered medical fees.

T., the oldest, also graduated from a vocational school in technical engineering. T. was keen to continue studying engineering but could not afford university tuition fees. In response, BDF referred him to a partner NGO that provides scholarships for tertiary education. As a result,

T. is able to continue with higher education. T. also works part-time as a waiter and dreams of working for the Ministry of Energy.

Mae O. also experienced personal growth through her involvement in complementary BDF projects under Pillar 2. She joined Women4Women and the Women Empowerment Project, both aimed at empowering women and girls. Training topics included financial literacy, women's rights, positive communication, and leadership skills, which Mae O. especially enjoyed learning about.

Under Pillar 3, the company also demonstrated ownership by improving the living conditions of the community where the family lives. Initially, their community had garbage strewn about, toilets were in disrepair and unsafe, and the area was frequently flooded during the rainy season. Now, with active support and participation from the construction company, the community has transformed into a clean environment, with garbage removed, toilets renovated, safety measures improved, and better drainage, with the ground covered in gravel.

Today, Mae O., Phaw T., and their children are more empowered and able to navigate the Thai public system independently, thanks to the support provided by BDF across its programmatic pillars.



**Hear from the family on the following page!**

*“In the past, I was shy. I didn’t have the confidence to speak out. Following the [Women4Women and Women Empowerment Project] training, I feel more confident.”*

- Mae O., who feels empowered to make a difference in her community



*“We hope that T. will graduate and find a job so he can financially support us, especially by providing for A.’s student fees in the future.”*

- Mae T. and Phaw T., who both actively encourage T. to continue studying



*“Going to university is great for our future; we can earn better salaries and upskill our education level. I wish every child in the community could go to university.”*

- T., who is looking forward to pursuing future opportunities



# Maximizing Impact through our Ecosystem



Our  
recognition



Raising  
awareness



Collaboration  
with partners

# Our Recognition



## July 2023

The BSI Initiative was officially integrated into the Thai Green Building Institute (TGBI) company rating system, one of the most recognized green certifications in the construction industry in Thailand. This provides BSI members with the opportunity to earn additional points in the TGBI certification process, recognizing their efforts toward social sustainability. This acknowledgment has a significant impact, boosting the visibility of the BSI Initiative and generating increased interest among companies.



## November 2023

BDF is the winner of the Japan Social Development Fund Award (JSDF), which recognizes innovative ideas in the implementation of development projects for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in developing countries. BDF's winning innovative Project aims to scale-up a model of intervention that focuses on migrant workers and their children living in construction site camps to increase their health literacy and improve their connection to the Thai public health system.

\*The project discussed in this publication has been supported by the Global Development Network (GDN) and the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The views expressed in this report are not necessarily those of GDN or Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan

# Raising Awareness

## Beyond Wages



BDF published “Beyond Wages,” a survey on key retention factors among construction workers in Thailand. This short survey shows that family-friendly policies and good living conditions matter when workers choose to continue working for a company. This demonstrates the BSI Initiative’s strong impact and efficiency by further highlighting the links between worker retention and the implementation of the BSI Framework by companies.

## Voices from the sector



BDF compiled testimonials from partners in the Thai property and construction sectors in a series of videos called, 'Voices from the Sector.' These videos showcase the perspectives of construction industry leaders, explaining how adopting better practices toward workers and children living in camps leads to risk reduction, improved labor retention, and compliance with national and international sustainability frameworks.

## Sustainability Expo 2023 - National Geographic



On 6 October 2023, BDF was one of the featured speakers with Syntec Construction Public Co., Ltd., and National Geographic Thailand at the "GATHERING TALK" panel session titled "Home Is Where The Heart Is" during the SUSTAINABILITY EXPO 2023 (#SX2023). This session provided a platform for BDF to demonstrate how the BSI Initiative could be utilized by businesses to create a better living environment for migrant workers and their children.

# Collaboration with Partners

BDF leverages partnerships throughout its three programmatic pillars. BDF has developed a strong ecosystem of partners to maximize its impact, enabling child protection and case management, as well as access to education and healthcare for vulnerable children and their families.



36

private sector partners, including 18 BSI members



10+

CSO partners



6

public administration entities



60+

public schools



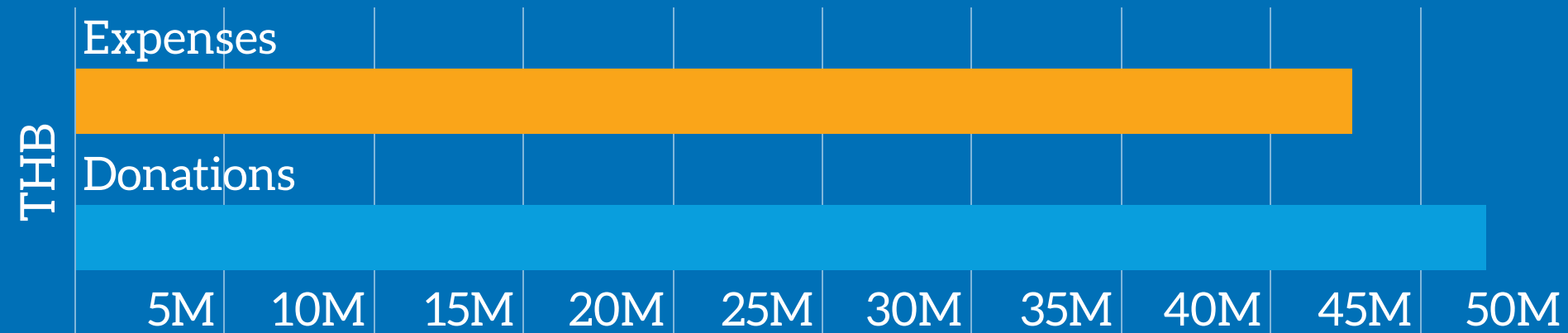
5

health service providers

# Finances at a Glance







Expenses

**42,696,693 THB**

1,129,542 EUR



Donations

**47,160,178 THB**

1,247,624 EUR

# 2023

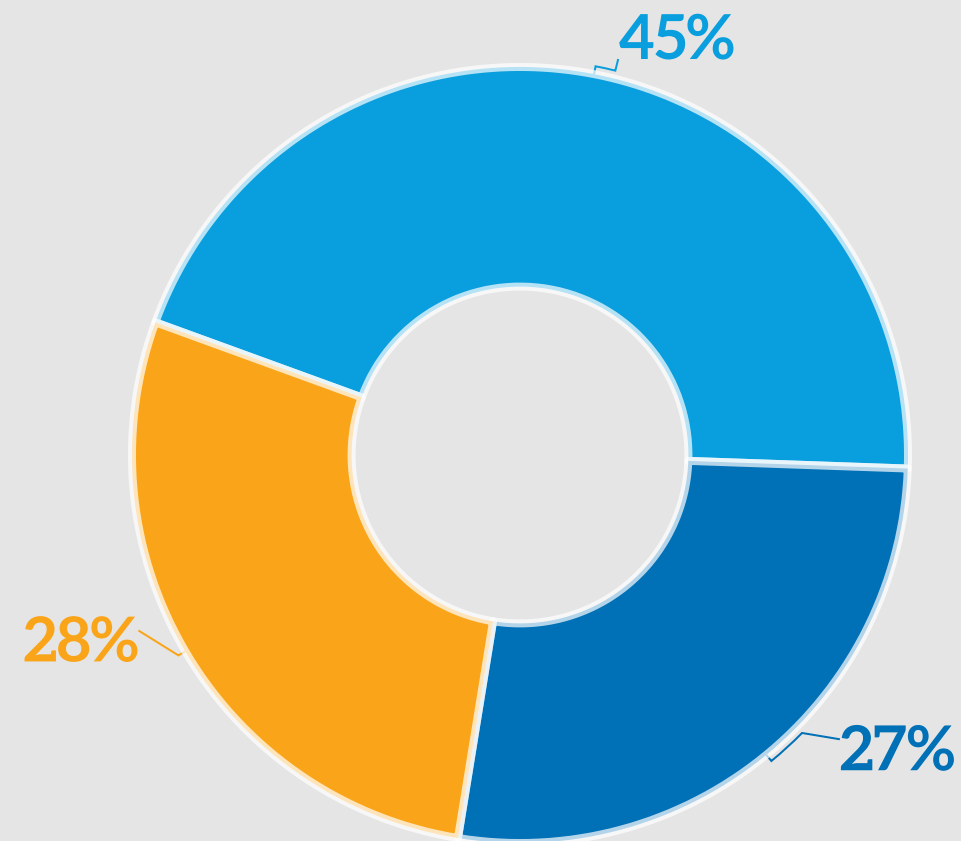
## BDF Income and Expenses



2023 was characterized by steady growth, with both income and expenses increasing by 18% and 26%, respectively, compared to the previous year. This increase primarily stemmed from a significant investment of resources under BDF's third Programmatic Pillar, which is aligned with BDF's Strategic Plan (2022-2025) to generate sustainable change in the Thai construction sector. Simultaneously, BDF continued to address the immediate needs of targeted communities through its first and second Programmatic Pillars.

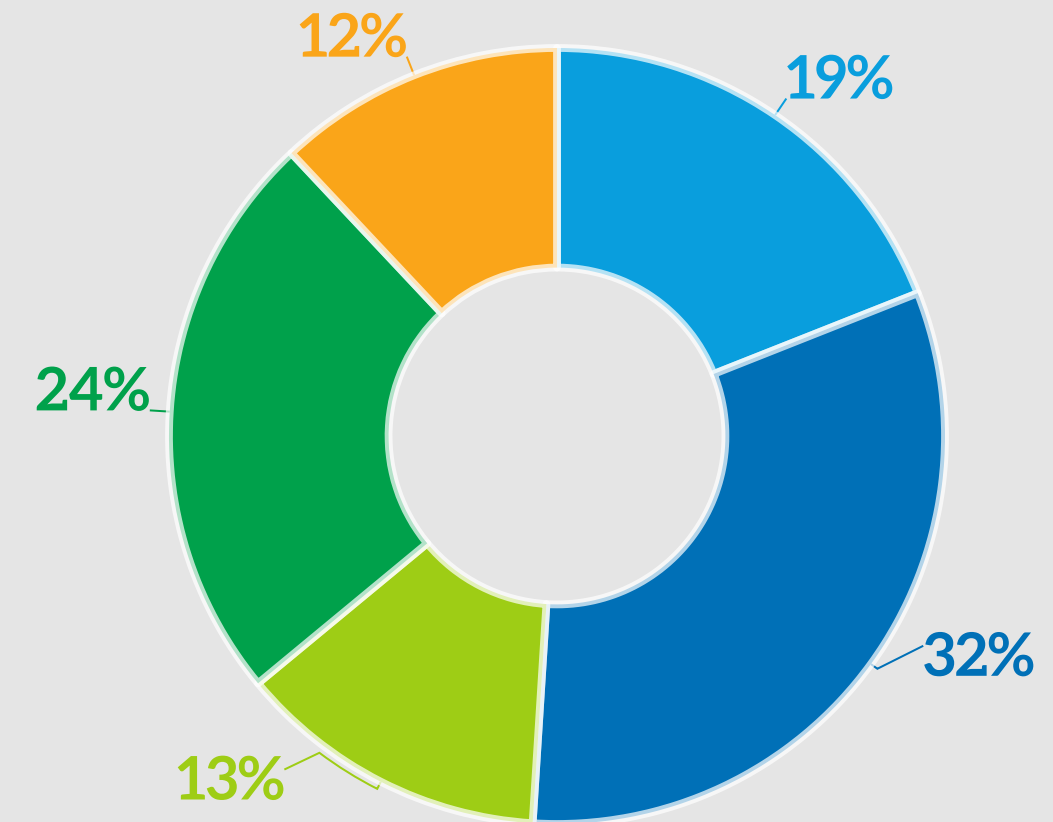
# Allocation of Funds

## Expenses across BDF Programmatic Pillars



- Child Protection and Child Development
- Community Empowerment
- Systemic Impact Strategy

## Distribution of Expenses



- Program Activity Costs
- Program HR Costs
- Logistic Support Costs
- HR Support Costs
- Overhead

# They supported us

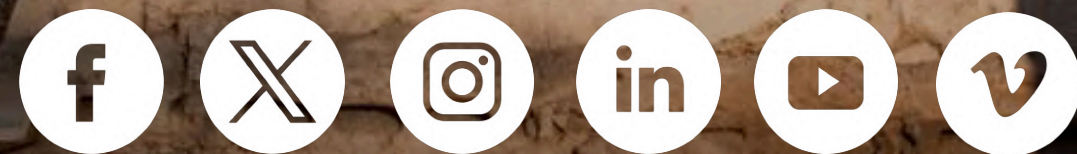
## Financial or in-kind partners contributing to BDF's mission

Agir Sa Vie, Artelia Foundation, Benevity, Chiang Mai Regional Health Promotion Center, Dao Ethical Gifts Co. Ltd., Edrington, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany), Firetree Asia Foundation Ltd., Give2Asia, Global Development Network, international schools in Chiang Mai and Bangkok, IVL Foundation, Julius Baer Foundation, Kids Home America Inc., Kids Home France, Kids of Italy, Kids Home United Kingdom, Kindernothilfe e.V., Manan Limited, Lighthouse Club Bangkok Branch, L'Oreal Fund for Women, Reed Smith LLP, Stiftelsen World Childhood, Tawingo Fund, TrustLaw, UBS Optimus Foundation, UNICEF Thailand, Valneva.

On behalf of the entire BDF team, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of our institutional, corporate, and private partners, the Board of Trustees, the Advisory Panel, and friends who provided us with technical, networking, and/or financial support in 2023.



# Get in touch



[www.baandekfoundation.org](http://www.baandekfoundation.org) | [contact@baandekfoundation.org](mailto:contact@baandekfoundation.org)

In alignment with BDF's Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Thailand's Personal Data and Protection Act, all individuals, including children — with their caregiver's consent — have authorized BDF to use their images for non-commercial external communications.

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