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IMPACT  
HIGHLIGHTS

# INTRODUCTION

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 their fundamental rights, and are at high risk of neglect, abuse, and exploitation. Baan Dek Foundation (BDF) aims to ensure that vulnerable children, particularly children within the construction sector, have sustainable access to education, health, and safety services.



# OUR WORK

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 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. Though COVID-19 has mostly been contained in Thailand, the economic crisis has disproportionately affected the populations living in construction site camps. BDF has worked to respond to immediate needs, while maintaining our focus on delivering direct support and achieving systemic impact.

We monitor the direct impact of our programs in short- and long-term intervals using the Planning and Managing Development (PMD Pro) cycle and Human Centered Design process and tools with our staff and beneficiaries. We monitor outputs daily and weekly, review data quarterly, and conduct participatory evaluations annually in order to ensure that our programs are consistently relevant and to maximize social impact. Systemic impact is measured against targeted milestones and indicators, such as the number of agreements established with construction and real estate companies.

2020 has been an exceptional year for BDF, both in terms of challenges and in terms of positive impact achieved. As the year comes to an end, the purpose of this report is to provide an overview of our impact during 2020 to our key partners. A more detailed Annual Report, containing final 2020 data as well as financial information, will be published as usual during Q1 2021.

# DIRECT IMPACT

BDF provides direct support to children and families living in construction site camps by supporting access to education, health, and safety services. Due to COVID-19 and the related lockdown implemented by the Royal Thai Government from March 2020, BDF suspended group activities 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.



## Flagship Indicators as of September 2020



**2,000+**

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

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.

## 93%

of children aged 4 to 15 from construction site camps and urban slums are currently enrolled into public schools across Chiang Mai and Bangkok, despite 100% not attending school from February - June 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown in Thailand.

## 1,129

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

## 1,058

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

## 119

vulnerable women were empowered with life coaching, financial literacy training, upskilling, and/or training on developing an action plan over the course of 135 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 COVID-19 lockdown period and helped BDF maintain surveillance, understand changing needs in communities, and distribute aid.



# Health

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 in accessing 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.



## 85.5%

of children have been vaccinated according to Thai standards<sup>1</sup> across Chiang Mai and Bangkok camps and urban slums.

## 124

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 792 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.

## 20

communities improved their infrastructure to support child protection, including the development of community safe spaces or WASH facilities. These improvements directly benefited roughly 430+ children.

<sup>1</sup> Required vaccines include: BCG, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Polio, Mumps/Measles/Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis.



# Safety

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.



## 453

children were enrolled into BDF's Individual Support Program to receive support through tailored case management, with 189 cases active as of September 2020.

## 49

emergency child protection cases were managed, with 40 of these cases related to domestic violence affecting 54 children. These cases were supported by Social Advisors through tailored case management. This support includes immediate counseling and referrals as needed.

## 23.7

percentage point increase in knowledge of parents and workers around child rights, with an average endline attainment of 59.9%.



# Covid-19 Emergency Support

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.



## 3,600

food sets (including 2,500 milk/juice boxes) were delivered to children and families in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. 1,024 tailored food sets were additionally provided to individual cases.



## 5,540

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



## 166

awareness sessions were provided on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) related to COVID-19 and virus transmission, across all 48 active construction site camps and urban slums in Chiang Mai and Bangkok.



# SYSTEMIC IMPACT



## BUILDING Social 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. Each of the aforementioned indicators of BDF's impact for 2020 is aligned to the CMFA standards.



### INFRASTRUCTURE



1. Improved safety of living environments
2. Improved waste management and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
3. Opportunities and space to interact and play with other children



### SAFETY



4. Knowledge of child rights and child protection and their practical application
5. Knowledge of how to access services (health, education, legal documentation)
6. Improved social development and well-being (prevention of discrimination, domestic violence, child labor)



### HEALTH



7. Access to vaccines
8. Access to health cards
9. Knowledge of common medical needs and responses



### EDUCATION



10. Preparation for integration into formal education
11. Access to formal education through school enrollment
12. School support through non-formal education





## Tools for Systemic Change

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 are:

- **Social Impact Guidelines**
- **Self-Assessment Tool**, for construction site camps
- **Reference Pack**, 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. These tools have been developed in collaboration with construction sector leaders and tested in the field, and will be publicly launched by the end of 2020 on [www.buildingsocialimpact.org](http://www.buildingsocialimpact.org).

## Milestones as of November 2020



- 48** agreements with real estate/construction companies cumulatively since beginning work in the construction sector.
- 5** construction companies have committed to implementing the CMFA.
- 1** public declaration of intent from the Thai Contractors Association (TCA) on behalf of its members to implement the CMFA in the construction sector.
- 1** new partnership launched with PropertyGuru and the Asia Property Awards (APA), to advise on the new Special Recognition Award for Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Performance across the 11 countries in the region, with featured an introduction to BDF at the APA Thailand Awards Gala in November 2020.
- 26** camp bosses covering 20 camps across greater Bangkok and 6 company management staff from two of the early adopters of the CMFA are halfway through the CMFA training course.
- 18** camps in greater Bangkok have been fully assessed with the Self Assessment Tool and action plans were drafted based on the priority needs in each camp.





Chiang Mai  
Bangkok



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

