




# INTRODUCTION

A photograph showing a man in a green long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans carrying a young child on his back. The child is wearing a patterned orange and black shirt. They are standing in a cluttered, makeshift living space with a roof made of wooden beams and corrugated metal. There are various items hanging from the roof, including clothes and a blue bag. The ground is dirt and there are some plastic containers and a black bucket in the foreground. The overall scene depicts a slum-like environment.

There are approximately **60,000 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 child protection services.

# OUR WORK

BDF works to improve the fundamental well-being of all vulnerable children living in Thailand through:

- 1. Direct support,** through child protection, child development, and community empowerment activities.
- 2. Systemic change,** through collaboration with the Thai construction sector to improve practices that impact children.



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year BDF also continued providing emergency assistance to beneficiaries. In April 2021, Thailand was hit by a severe third wave outbreak, which is still ongoing as of November 2021. BDF has worked hard to respond to immediate needs, while maintaining its focus on delivering direct support and achieving systemic change.

BDF monitors the direct impact of its programs in short- and long-term intervals using the Planning and Managing Development (PMD Pro) cycle and Human Centered Design process and tools with its staff and beneficiaries. BDF monitors outputs daily and weekly, reviews data quarterly, and conducts 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.

2021 has been another unprecedented 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 a summary of BDF's impact during 2021 to key partners. A more detailed Annual Report, containing final 2021 data as well as financial information, will be published as usual during Q1 2022.

# DIRECT IMPACT

BDF provides direct support to children and families living in construction site camps by supporting access to **education, health, and child protection services.**

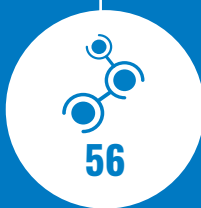


## flagship Indicators

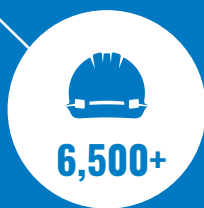
as of November 2021



children inhabit the communities that received direct support this year.<sup>1</sup>



construction site camps, urban slums, or vulnerable communities were supported, and **6** of these are new communities in 2021.<sup>2</sup>



workers inhabit the communities BDF reached with community support this year.

<sup>1</sup> This figure does not include children in schools that BDF works with, as schools remained closed for the majority of the year and implementing activities was not feasible due to the social distancing measures in place.

<sup>2</sup> Including 46 construction and transport site camps, and 10 urban slums. 5 camps closed this year.

# 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 pandemic, schools have been closed for prolonged periods throughout the year, which negatively impacted children's

development and mental well-being. In response, BDF leveraged its network of Peer Educators (including parents, youth, and women) to closely monitor the situation in communities, and support remote learning and school enrollment when permitted by the Thai Government during specific periods of the year (May - July 2021). BDF is focusing on helping children access educational opportunities and on building the capacity of Peer Educators.



## 90%

of children aged 4 to 15 from construction site camps and urban slums are currently enrolled into public schools across Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

## 1,100+

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

## 752

hours of non-formal education were delivered in communities in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, despite periods when BDF could not implement 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.

## 235

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



**School fees and school uniforms are very expensive, and we have been unemployed for a long time. After receiving BDF's help for a long time, now we are happy, warm, and are not starving. The children are happy that BDF bought their school uniforms.**

T., 38 years old



# HEALTH

BDF improves water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in communities, provides health information to families, and supports children in accessing vaccinations and healthcare. Throughout the year, many children faced difficulties in accessing healthcare and families living in construction site camps were extremely vulnerable to disease, as they live in crowded living environments. BDF is focusing on improving the sanitation of living environments and providing access to health services.



**92%**

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

**14**

communities improved their infrastructure to support child protection, including the development of community safe spaces or WASH facilities. These improvements directly benefited over **650** children.

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

“

Some of the people here have health cards, but that doesn't guarantee that they will receive service at the hospital. Most of us don't have enough money to go to the hospital.

M., 11 years old

”

# CHILD PROTECTION

BDF improves the safety of living environments and provides one-on-one, tailored case management, including direct and immediate protection to children and families identified as at risk. Due to the impact of COVID-19, many families lost their sources of income, forcing them into negative coping mechanisms such as accruing debt in

order to meet basic needs. BDF placed a greater focus on providing immediate relief and support, while also boosting parental capacity and supporting the most at-risk children. Families involved in case management reported that the food relief provided helped ease their financial burdens and sometimes removed the need to rely on further loans.



**70**

new children were enrolled in BDF's Individual Support Project to receive support through tailored case management.

**253**

cases were supported by Social Advisors through tailored case management. This support included immediate counseling and referrals as needed.

**140**

cases remained active as of **November 30, 2021**.



**Our community is right next to the road and we don't have a gate. It would be much safer for the children if we had a gate from the community to the main road.**

T., 13 years old



# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

(April to November 2021)

At the beginning of 2021, as the threat of a second outbreak of COVID-19 appeared imminent, BDF conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment, surveying almost 400 adults across 47 communities in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. The assessment sought to understand communities' immediate needs and their capacity for resilience in the event of a major outbreak.

The assessment revealed significant challenges related to unmanageable debt and work stoppages, with 86% of respondents stating that their main concern was lack of income, 64% facing debt, around half with debts of over 100K THB, and several with debts in the millions THB. Around one third of those in debt had multiple sources of debt, related to the cost of transportation, migration, medical bills, and loans to brokers. While these debts were mostly unrelated to COVID, BDF found that around 62% of adults borrowed between 1,000 and 5,000 THB to cope with reduced income during work or project stoppages in 2020.

In April 2021, clusters in Bangkok precipitated Thailand's largest outbreak of COVID-19, causing massive disruption to the construction sector and even full camp lockdowns in Bangkok during July and August. To respond to this, BDF acted quickly in developing an Emergency Response Protocol (ERP) to adapt activities and respond to communities' most critical needs.

The ERP included implementing a weekly Peer Monitoring System, where BDF Social Advisors systematically contacted community leaders and Peer Educators to give a brief assessment of the situation in

each community and the most pressing needs resulting from the lockdowns. In addition, BDF conducted weekly Voices from the Field sessions, where Social Advisors presented these needs directly from the field, which allowed BDF to prepare emergency support for those most in need.

To address these critical needs, BDF provided donations of food, hygiene products, and cleaning equipment to all families, and implemented public health awareness campaigns. In addition, BDF worked closely with community members to promote COVID-19 preventative measures to ensure the safety of every family and community.

A participatory workshop held in October with community members in Chiang Mai and Bangkok revealed that communities found the food donation support to greatly relieve the financial burden of securing food during prolonged periods of unemployment and work stoppage. It also prevented families from relying too heavily on credit with food vendors and sinking further into debt. Community members also shared that the sports and non-formal education sessions implemented by Youth Peers Educators were hugely beneficial in aiding parents to keep their children engaged and active during the prolonged period of school closure. Youth Peer Educators also played a critical role in distributing food and hygiene sets on behalf of BDF staff, as well as relaying on the ground information about the situation in each of their communities.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has caused my family's income to be greatly reduced, and some of the families in this community have no income at all. Luckily, BDF supported my family and provided my children with school kit donations, which was very helpful in this difficult situation.**

D., 36 years old



# Emergency Support

April 1st - November 15th



**34**

Youth Peer Educators led **303** non-formal education and sport sessions to support child development in their communities in the absence of BDF staff. **43** non-formal education kits were distributed to support the implementation of the sessions.

**65**

Community Safe Agents (BDF-trained adults on specific missions) have supported the implementation of the Emergency Response Plan.

**2,300+**

food sets were delivered with the support of the Community Safe Agents and Youth Peer Educators to children and families in communities Chiang Mai and Bangkok. **567** tailored food sets were additionally provided to individual cases, for a total of over **2,900 food sets**.

**500**

calls were made by BDF Social Advisors to Peer Educators, Community Safe Agents, parents, and community leaders in Chiang Mai and Bangkok to monitor the needs of community members.

**6,800+**

hygiene sets were distributed with the support of the Community Safe Agents and Youth Peer Educators to children in communities between April and November, compared to 5,540 from 2020.

**1,051**

flyers were distributed to families in communities in Chiang Mai and Bangkok to raise awareness on preventing domestic violence and family separation.

**100**

counselling sessions were provided to **46** children and families struggling with challenges related to the impact of the pandemic.

**639**

additional hygiene and food sets were provided to children supported through the Individual Support Project.

**216**

nursery kits were donated to support families with young children.

# 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 2021 BDF continued to work closely with construction company leaders to increase awareness of COVID-19 and measures to prevent the spread of the virus and support the well-being of families facing lockdowns and work stoppages. During the severe lockdown measures in Bangkok during July and August, pioneer companies partnering with BDF ensured that all workers received three meals a day, implemented social distancing measures, built extra hand washing stations, maintained COVID-19 surveillance mechanisms, and proactively worked with BDF to ensure the needs of children and families, especially infants and pregnant women, were met through donations.

## CMFA

### Chiang Mai Framework for Action



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, welfare and services, health, and education - based on the needs commonly identified across camps and regulations in Thailand. Each of the aforementioned indicators of BDF's impact for 2021 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



#### WELFARE & SERVICES



4. Camp rules and preventive measures
5. Supporting documentation and access to services
5. Improved social development and well-being



#### 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



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

recommendations for key stakeholders to actively improve living conditions for workers and their children



### Self-Assessment Tool

checklist to monitor progress 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 in early 2022 on BDF's dedicated website:

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

## Milestones

as of November 2021



**39** agreements with real estate/construction companies cumulatively since beginning work in the construction sector.<sup>1</sup>

**4** construction companies, including Syntec, Visavapat, CM Rimdoi, and Thai Polycons, have committed to implementing the CMFA in their camps.



**1** MoU signed with Magnolia Quality Development Corporation Ltd., declaring their commitment to implementing the CMFA with their contracting construction companies.



**30** camp bosses from 28 camps across greater Bangkok and 2 company management staff from 2 of the early adopters of the CMFA are halfway through the CMFA training course.

**28** 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.

Almost **10,000** workers have been impacted by the Systemic Impact initiative.

<sup>1</sup> BDF constantly strives to improve its monitoring systems as well as update the criteria for indicators. With this in mind, figures may change drastically between reports. However, this merely reflects the improvement of BDF's monitoring system to become more rigorous and accurate.



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

