2019-2020 FINAL REPORT
KOUNG JOR SHAN REFUGEE CAMP (KJSRC)

PROJECT
Stipends for English Teachers
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FACTS & FIGURES

Project: Stipends for English Teachers
Location: Piang Luang, Wiang Haeng District, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand
Partner: Koung Jor Shan Refugee Camp (KJSRC)
Sponsor: Mr. Gerard de Blok
Budget: 132,600 Thai Baht
Donation: 136,000 Thai Baht
Project cycle: 1st June 2019 - 31st March 2020
Beneficiaries: 8 teachers, 140 refugee children
PCF Contact: Acharee Hughes - Project Finances Coordinator

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Philanthropy Connections Foundation (PCF) is a non-profit organisation that was formed to support people in vulnerable situations. PCF works in partnership with local community organisations that know the issues and needs within their communities but lack resources of various kinds.

The Koung Jor Shan Refugee Camp (KJSRC) is an unregistered camp founded in 2002, which is located on the Thai-Burma border next to the town of Piang Luang, Wiang Haeng District in Chiang Mai Province. KJSRC has become ‘home’ to around 400 refugees who escaped the internal armed conflict in Burma. There are approximately 140 children living in the camp who are under the age of 18 and some of these children are orphans who do not have any family or parents.

The camp offers evening English language classes to these 140 refugee children. The aim of the English classes is to develop the children’s communication and English language skills and improve their chances for a decent job and someday get out of poverty. Other than providing immediate benefits to the camp residents, the classes are also open to community members outside of the camp. The classes are run by volunteer teachers who are paid a stipend, which although modest does provide an additional incentive for the motivated teachers to continue supporting their own community, while being able to cover their basic living expenses.

Apart from the stipends, Philanthropy Connections supports scholarships for youth who study at schools outside the camp and the boarding house costs for children who are without parents or relatives. PCF also supports a mother of four who escaped domestic violence, provides emergency food relief and has helped with a solar panels project.
PROJECT RESULTS

Project cycle: 1st June 2019 - 31st March 2020

Teacher Training

Throughout the reporting period, two teacher training sessions were conducted by the Education Coordinator. The Education Coordinator periodically meets with the teachers to discuss their concerns, achievements and challenges. A meeting is then arranged with all the camp residents to share the information learned with regard to the students’ educational achievements and current situation at the language school.

English Language Classes

To support and facilitate the educational development of children living in the camp and in nearby communities, Koung Jor provides beginner and intermediate level English language classes during the evenings for Grades 1-8. The evening language classes run for one hour a day from 6pm to 7pm from Monday to Friday. The curriculum is primarily based on the “LET’S GO” books, which is used as the main teaching material. The book is used to teach English to Grades 1-6 during weekdays, while the ‘Essential Grammar in Use’ and online lesson planning tools are used to teach Grades 7-8 during the weekends. The older children are generally busy with Thai school during weekdays and have other responsibilities at home for taking care of their younger siblings while their parents work in the field, therefore some of them are unable to attend the language classes during the weekdays.

After attending the English language classes, most of the students were able to read, write, listen and speak basic English. The students were very eager to learn and always ask questions in class.
Their parents expressed their appreciation to the camp and were very proud of their children for being able to understand and speak English. Some of the Grade 8 students who were able to speak English and demonstrated leadership skills were able to facilitate and lead the lessons to teach the lower level classes. Although these students never had prior teaching experience, they were able to teach the classes very well.

A number of students from the English language classes went outside Koung Jor to improve and develop their English language skills. When the students graduated, they were encouraged to return to Koung Jor camp to do their placement and internship. The majority of the students who returned to the camp have wanted to support their communities, help their families and serve as English teachers to help other students.

Recognition from Thai officials and outside communities

Koung Jor camp has had a very positive influence on the local community and has been recognised by Thai officials and neighbouring villages as a place that provides learning opportunities for the children. Guests who have visited the camp are very interested in the education system in the camp and can see that it is beneficial. So much so that many have donated educational materials to the camp, e.g. exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers and other stationery material that is always in demand.
Teaching Fees

Philanthropy Connections provides Koung Jor with **12,000 Thai Baht** per month for the teacher stipends. While this is a relatively low salary for the teachers, they are still happy to continue teaching English at the camp and supporting the community because of the benefits that it brings to the students. The teachers are dedicated and engaged with most of them interested in developing their teaching skills, while others are still completing their internships at the camp.

Without the stipends, the teachers realise that they would not be able to continue teaching the English language classes, and they express their gratitude for the financial support provided by PCF and sponsors.

Even so, their salaries require a small top up and so every month they collect **20 Thai Baht** from the students. Koung Jor is aware of the financial difficulties that the children and their families face, which is why they do not ask for any more than that. With this small fee, each teacher can receive an extra **140-150 Thai Baht** per month.

Examination results from the English Language Classes

On the **27th and 28th of February 2020**, the students took their final English language exam. The results of the exams showed that most students obtained high grades, while a small number of students did not perform as well (we have detailed results tables available if you wish to receive a copy).

On the **7th of October 2019**, two of the students from Koung Jor camp participated in a competitive English language examination at Piang Luang School in Wiang Haeng District with Ying Kham Leng receiving the top prize of a silver coin for her high score. Another student, Sai Jam Hurng went to Fang
district to compete against 26 students from schools all over Chiang Mai Province, and came in at an impressive 4th place.

Stationery sharing

Every three months the camp hosts a ‘stationery sharing’ day where the students are provided with free stationery i.e. notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers and rulers using the stationery donations received by guests who visit the camp.

Humanity awareness sessions and health trainings

Koung Jor camp has organised a number of training sessions for the students and teachers where organisations from outside the camp are invited to host these sessions. For example, twice a year, humanity awareness sessions are conducted at the camp to teach the camp residents about equality and human rights.

Student Success Story: Ying Seng Jing (aged 15, Grade 6 from Koung Jor Camp)

1. What have you learned from the evening class?

“I have learned LET’S GO BOOK and Essential Grammar in Use from grade 6. It is a useful subject that I need. I have also learned about short stories, how to introduce ourselves and conversations from the LET’S GO BOOK.”

2. Please explain the improvement of yourself before and after attending the evening class at KJSRC.

“I can read and write with good grammar structure when I write an English story. Clearly I can see that I am doing better in my presentation by speaking English. In the beginning I could not understand about English but right now I can say that, my listening, speaking, reading and writing are good.”

3. How does English evening class improve their English score at school? (completed by her teacher)

- good grammar skills
- always got high point than the others
- good team work
- she is active person

4. Other information you would like to share? (completed by her teacher)

“She tried hard for studying and she have never absent the class.”

COVID-19 Assessment

Due to the lockdown associated with COVID-19, the Thai government has banned group activities in both public and international schools. As it is currently summer break at Koung Jor camp, the impact is limited to the cancelling of evening English language classes, group activities and the Shan Summer Cultural training event.
BUDGET & ACTUAL COSTS

Project cycle: 1st June 2019 - 31st March 2020 (10 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Thai Baht (THB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Total costs for Teacher Stipends for 8 teachers</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.01. Stipend per teacher per month</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Administrative costs</td>
<td>12,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.01 Contingency Costs 3%</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.02 Administration Costs 7,5%</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (THB)</td>
<td>132,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount donated (2019-2020)</td>
<td>136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance remaining 2019-2020</td>
<td>3,400</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes on the budget:
If you agree, we would like to use the balance of **3,400** Thai Baht for the next project cycle (1st June 2020 - 31st March 2021). This amount will be subtracted from the budget in the new proposal.
IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

Throughout the duration of the project, the PCF Project Team is responsible for monitoring the project with KJSRC’s Education Coordinator, who provides us with quarterly reports on the programme progress and activities. We regularly discuss the progress of the programme with him and advise on any questions that arise.

Acharee Hughes
Project Finances Coordinator, PCF

Anupap Danpo
Project Coordinator, PCF

Sai Vijit
Education Coordinator, KJSRC
Grade 7 English Teacher
and Project Manager

Further Information and Photos

We have put together a collection of photos from the project that we thought you might like to view. Please see the video slideshow link here (opens a YouTube video).
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Mr. Gerard de Blok,

On behalf of Philanthropy Connections Foundation, our partner, the Koung Jor Shan Refugee Camp and all the teachers and students of the English classes in the camp, I offer my heart-felt thanks for your support for this project.

It is hard to imagine what a huge and valuable difference this programme offers to the, currently 140 children in the camp. Not only does it give them much better chances to escape their poverty later in life when they start applying for jobs, but what is also is essential is the notion for them, that there are people who care enough for them to help them with this opportunity.

That knowledge, that there are people ‘from outside’ who want to help them, has a great impact on how they see the world. Especially as these are refugee children who know that they have enemies who caused them to be in this situation.

Your continued support has an impact that cannot be overestimated.

In gratitude and with warm regards,

Sallo Polak
Founder & Executive Director
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT