



Report

“KM 42”

June 2015 – May 2016



1. General overview



Help without Frontiers works since 2002 in the city of Mae Sot, which is located at the Thai-Myanmar border. The friendship bridge connects the two countries and it is the most important border crossing between Thailand and Myanmar.

Mae Sot has officially around 50.000 inhabitants and an estimated 120.000 migrants from Myanmar. Additionally, by the end of 2014 over 90.000 refugees from Myanmar were living in refugee camps along

the border (UNHCR). Most of the migrants and refugees from Myanmar bring their children with them and leave them in Mae Sot with relatives or in the care of teachers in local migrant schools. Due to missing language skills the children are not able to enroll in public Thai schools. Out of the need for the children's education so called "**Migrant Learning Centers**" (**MLC**) emerged. 2015 a total of 67 MLCs registered with the Thai Ministry of Education were operating in the area of Mae Sot.

The Migrant Learning Centres are registered at the local Ministry of Education which improves the status of the schools and teachers as many of them live irregularly in Thailand

5 of such MLCs ("Ah Yone Oo", "Ah Yone Thit", "New Day", "Parami" and "KM42") are supported by *Helpen ohne Grenzen* (Help without Frontiers) Italy under the program "Ray of Hope (RoH) Schools". The schools are supported financially as well as logistically: during monthly headmaster meetings we pay teacher salaries, discuss problems, find solutions, receive monthly receipts and pay advance money for the coming month.

Nine additional MLCs ("P'Yan Daung", "Morning Glory", "Hope", "New Road", "Chicken", "Irrawaddy Flower Garden", "sauch Kha Han Sar", "Rosefield" and "Suk Ho Thai") are supported by other donors but are all administered under the "Ray of Hope" program. These 9 schools are hence not considered in this report.

Additionally, Help without Frontiers supports **3 dormitories**: "Parami" school, "P'Yan Daun" (financed by Help without Frontiers Austria) and "Mae La" dormitory in the refugee camp for a total of **123 children**. There will be an extra report on the dormitories. The dorms offer neglected and abandoned children as well as orphans a safe place to live. Some teachers live there and take care of them.

All schools teach following subjects: Thai, English, Math, Geography, Biology and History. Depending on the ethnic group some schools also offer Karen and Burmese as subjects.

The **stationeries** for all 66 migrant learning centers in and around Mae Sot were financed by the Region Trentino-Südtirol (Italy) and the organization "Spinning Top".



Overview of our "Ray of Hope" schools

a) Schools financed by Help without Frontiers Italy

"Ray of Hope" schools	Students¹	Teachers	Cost
Ah Yone Thit	90	6	18.061 €
Ah Yone Oo	143	7	23.631 €
New Day	420	15	50.450 €
Parami	675	30	87.120 €
KM 42	246	13	36.384 €
TOTAL	1,574	71	215.646 €

b) Schools financed by other donors

Other "Ray of Hope" schools	Students	Teachers
P'Yan Daung	137	13
Suk Ho Thai	192	7
Chicken	127	4
Irrawaddy Flower Garden	210	10
New Road	280	13
Hope	218	12
Sauch Kha Hang Sar	92	7
Morning Glory	404	16
Rose Field	107	5
Gesamt	1.767	87

A total of **3.341 students** in 14 "Ray of Hope" schools are taught by **158 teachers**.

2. Program goals

- To give access to education to all children despite of gender, religion and ethnicity
- To provide a safe and child friendly environment to children
- To improve the quality of education in "Migrant Learning Centers" (MLC)
- To improve the situation of illegal children in Thailand
- To work closely together with the Ministry of Education in Mae Sot
- To keep a good relation between donors, schools, local organizations and government organizations

¹ Numbers according to school enrollment list June 2015.

3. School programs in 2015-16

Besides the "Ray of Hope" schools who are financed mainly by Help without Frontiers Italy, we could implement other activities in the field of education which were financed by different donors. In 2015-16 Help without Frontiers successfully implemented **several additional education programs**. Depending on the language skills of the student and the long-term plan of the parents, the education team suggests the most suitable program.

The school "KM42" participated at following special school programs:

- Non-formal education according to the Thai curriculum (NFE)

The project started in 2013 at 4 schools with a total of 115 students for a period of three years. In the year 2014 additional 3 schools were added (total of 135 students). In 2015 a total of 11 schools with 240 students participated. 7 students from "KM42" participated. Target group are especially older students who have been enrolled to school very late and the parents plan to stay in Thailand for a long period.

- Non-formal primary education according to the Myanmar curriculum (NFPE)

The program started in 2014 at two Rays of Hope schools: "Parami" and Ah "Yone Oo" with a total of 80 students. Due to the positive feedback from both countries (Myanmar and Thailand) as well as the Ministries of Education the project could expand in the school year 2015-16 to additional 15 schools with 926 students. 81 "KM42" students participated at the NFPE program last school year. Target group are students who have been enrolled to school very late and the parents plan to return at some point to Myanmar. The curriculum is adjusted to the official NFPE Myanmar curriculum. The teachers are trained by members of the Myanmar Ministry of Education.



- Board exam according to Myanmar Government schools

During school year 2014-15 HwF TH implemented for the first time a pilot project with the "New Day" school. The education team wanted to assess the quality and level of the migrant learning centers as they use the official Myanmar curriculum. Hence, in March 2015 HwF TH invited Burmese teachers from Myawaddy to supervise final exams of Grade 4 and Grade 8 according to the official Myanmar government exams. 26 out of 31 have passed the exam which shows the good quality of the school. This year the exams have been implemented in all "Ray of Hope" schools. 5 KM42 students of Grade 4 attended this year. This diploma is officially recognized by the Myanmar Government and students can continue their studies in the higher grade if they are returning back.

- Enrollment in Thai Government schools

Depending of the language skills of the students and the long-term plans of the parents to stay in Thailand, the education team recommends that the children enroll in a Thai Government school. 89 children from "KM42" school participate in this program as the HwF TH team has excellent relations to the neighboring Thai school. Each year they allow a certain number of migrant children to enroll in this school.

- „School within School“ program

The program targets migrant children who are living in Thailand for a long term. The students can attend Thai public schools twice a week and participate at the Thai exams (according to the Thai curriculum). The aim of the program is to improve the Thai language skills of migrant students and receive official certificates from the Thai Ministry of Education. 42 “KM 42” students participated at this program.

Donor: Health Promotion Foundation (financed by the Thai Government)

Partner: Foundation for Rural Youth (FRY)

4. “Ray of Hope School” management

The school budgets are estimated by the school management team at the beginning of each school year. Help without Frontiers covered all costs: running costs like teacher salaries, rent, electricity, water, stationery, school uniforms, food and transport. The school uniforms were provided by our project “Happy Tailor” and the meals from our “yummy! Meals for schools” project.

All students received a student ID with his/her picture at the beginning of the school year. The teachers were registered with the Ministry of Education and received also an ID. This badge prevents our students and teachers from deportation.

The schools are managed by the headmaster in close cooperation with the education team of Help without Frontiers. Each school sends a representative to the monthly meetings to the Help without Frontiers office in Mae Sot. During the meetings the teacher salaries for the previous month are being paid, receipts are collected and advanced money for the coming month is given out according to the budgets. Challenges and needs are being discussed and information is shared. The school’s representatives report back to the headmaster.

Last year the Help without Frontiers education team went through some staff changes. Laura Thako took over the management from Khin Soe Mon and Phyu Thazin Oo (Iris) was hired to support the education activities. The team is responsible for the monthly meetings, monitoring of all activities and reporting to the different donors.



Laura



David



Iris

5. School activities with Help without Frontiers

The school year started in June 2015. The “KM 42” school held a small opening ceremony, to welcome the new and old students to the new school year.

During the school year different trainings for students and teachers took place; amongst others a training conducted by our Rays of Youth about basic hygiene and sexual reproductive health; a training for teachers about teaching methods; as well as a training for headmasters for an improved school management.



In November a **conference** about the successful results of our pilot project „non-formal primary education (NFPE) curriculum“ took place in Mae Sot. High level representatives from Thai and Myanmar authorities attended to learn about our good practice. Other organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and others underlined the forward-looking approach.

The school KM 42 is also part of the project „Mobile Literacy for Out-of-School Children Project“ collaborating with UNESCO, Microsoft, True Move (Internet provider) and Help without Frontiers. Mid-August 2015 a training for teachers took place to train them on how to use the tablets, different tools and curricula.

Help without Frontiers together with the organization „Peace Ball Action“ organized a **football tournament** from 16-17 May 2015 where 250 migrant children from 17 schools participated. Four professional Japanese football players showed the children tricks and trained them. This brought a lot of media attention both in Thailand and Japan.





During **study tours** in December all headmasters visited each school under the „Ray of Hope“ program. The aim was to share knowledge and experiences, learn from each other and improve the collaboration. The main focus was on income-generating initiatives like agriculture or stock farming as well as the involvement of the community/parents.

Help without Frontiers organized for all „Ray of Hope“ schools a **sport day** at Parami school. A total of 360 students and 22 teachers had fun together and competed against each other in different sportive disciplines.

The school continued to cultivate corn, beans, different sorts of lettuce, potatoes, bananas and papaya in order to increase the school income. Since last year the school also has 6 pigs and several chickens.



6. School profile and expenses: "KM 42" school

In this chapter we list the number of students and teachers as well as the budget spent in the school year 2015/16. The numbers represent the enrollment list in June 2015 submitted by each school to the HwF TH office.

The stationeries have been financed by the Region Trentino-Südtirol, Italy, and the New Zealand charity organization "Spinning Top".

6.1 Financial audit of our schools

From January to May 2016 an in-depth financial audit with the help of a consultant was conducted. The aim was to go through the accounting system of our schools and find out methodologies and procedures that make reporting easier and more transparent.



The main outcome was that many headmasters or people in charge of accounting have a lack of knowledge of financial procedures and how to keep records. This led to the fact that not all expenses were proofed by receipts (ie. buying from the local market) or in-kind donations from visitors were not recorded. Also many schools used up to 5 books to keep their records which caused some confusion.

School adopters: ACS Data Systems (Brixen), Bio Südtirol (Terlan) and Caroline Capito

Partner organizations: Colabora Birmania (Spanish NGO), Amadeus Asia Pacific (Spanish company in Thailand), Save the Children International (SCI)

General information:

Grade	male	female	Total
Nursery	24	17	41
Kindergarten	37	25	62
Grade 1	27	38	65
Grade 2	17	16	33
Grade 3	9	7	16
Grade 4	3	9	12
Grade 5	4	7	11
Grade 6	2	4	6
Total	123	123	246
Teachers	5	8	13

Drop-out Rate: The student number varies extremely month by month. Depending on harvest period more or less students attend school. Minimum in January: 183; Maximum in February: 269.

Help without Frontiers is supporting the school since 2008. The school is 42 km away from Mae Sot in the Pho Phra area. The area has a lot of agriculture and the parents of the students work as daily workers in the surrounding fields. Every Saturday the school gives additional music lessons, art, photography and other activities implemented by the



volunteers from the Spanish NGO Colabora Birmania to the interested students. There are Burmese, Karen, Mon, Rakhine and Paó children at the school.

School budget: Average exchange rate 38,899 B./1 Euro

Item	Approved budget		Expenditures	
	THB	EUR	THB	EUR
A Running cost	1.156.740	33.050	1.204.992	30.955*
B Food	74.400	2.126	47.040	1.205**
C Uniforms	142.800	4.080	92.478	2.367***
D Stationery	49.396	1.411	70.794	1.857***
Total	1.423.336	40.667	1.415.304	36.384

*Calculated according daily exchange rate

**Calculated with 0.30 EUR per meal

***Calculated with average exchange rate

Expenditures:

A) Running costs

Category	Approved budget		Total expenditures	
	BHT	EUR	BHT	EUR
A. Salaries	670.800	19.166	667.200	17.150
B. Supplies & teaching resource	152.800	4.366	100.873	2.582
C. Utilities	31.560	902	34.000	864
D. Facilities	12.000	343	9.517	251
E. Equipment/Furniture	-	-	-	-
F. Transportation	300.000	8.571	353.500	9.082
G. Social activities	-	-	-	-
H. Food	-	-	-	-
I. Medical and Health care	14.240	407	14.240	364

J. Capacity Building	-	-	-	-
K. Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total	1.181.400	33.755	1.179.330	30.293
L. General expenses (10 %)	118.140	3.375	118.140 ²	3.029
Grand Total	1.299.540	37.130	1.297.470	33.322

B) Rice

Month	Expenditures (Baht)			Euro
	Amount of rice sacks	Price per sack	Total costs	
Jun-15	12	560	6.720	
Jul-15	12	560	6.720	
Aug-15	12	560	6.720	
Sep-15	12	560	6.720	
Oct-15	12	560	6.720	
Nov-15	12	560	6.720	
Dec-15	12	560	6.720	
Jan-16	-	-	-	
Feb-16	-	-	-	
Mar-16	-	-	-	
Apr-16	-	-	-	
May-16	-	-	-	
Total	84	3.920	47.040	1.205

C) School uniforms

Uniforms	Approved budget		Total expenditures	
	THB	EUR	THB	EUR
Students	140.000	4.000	90.778,65	2.323,93
Teacher	2.800	80	1.699,61	43,51
Total	142.800	4.080	92.478,26	2.367,44

² The amount was taken from the approved budget.

D) Stationery

Stationery	Expenditures (Baht)			Euro
	Unit Distributed	Unit cost	Total costs	
Pencil	5.184	1,8	9.331	
Pen- Blue (Diamond 6080)	612	2	1.224	
Pen- Red (Diamond 6080)	183	2	366	
Exercise book 40 pages	4.692	4,85	22.756	
Exercise book 80 pages	3.900	7,75	30.225	
Eraser	2.657	0,55	1.461	
Ruler	201	1,45	291	
Sharpener	10	168	1.680	
Whiteboard pens	240	14	3.360	
Whiteboard dusters	20	5	100	
Total Expenditures			70.794	1.857

7. Challenges and Future Plans

Many schools at the border are facing closure due to financial constraints. Many donors and organizations are moving their activities inside Myanmar. However many families are staying in Mae Sot waiting how the situation will change and develop as in many places there is no infrastructure or even dangerous due to unexpectedly violent attacks.

Hence we are predicting increased student numbers in the coming school year which leads to higher costs maintaining the schools as we are absorbing students from other schools which will close. Help without Frontiers keeps the commitment of staying at the border to support the vulnerable migrant children as their needs are nonetheless given.

In the coming school year we will continue organizing further trainings and workshops for teachers, headmasters and students on different topics. Also, our Rays of Youth team will conduct several workshops, especially about garbage management, recycling and prevention of waste production as well as basic hygiene.



Help without Frontiers will continue implementing the administrative and financial support of all of our „Ray of Hope“ schools, including stationery and school uniforms. Unfortunately, our project “yummy! Meals for schools” was stopped in March 2016 due to financial constraints. Nevertheless we are looking for a solution so our students receive food and nutrition during their education. The aim is that the schools will cook the meals themselves and Help without Frontiers is covering the additional staff costs (chef), the building of a kitchen or renovation of an existing one and providing the ingredients and kitchen supplies. Currently we are looking for a donor for this idea.



In order to increase the income of our schools we will introduce more income-generating activities such as agriculture and livestock farming. So far some of our schools cultivated mushrooms, or other vegetables in small gardens, bred pigs or chickens.

We would like to thank especially the company ACS Data Systems (Brixen), the company Bio Südtirol (Terlan) and Caroline Capito (school adopters) as well as donors, teachers, staff and friends for their support and hard work!