

**Annual Report**  
**“Rays of Youth”**  
**January – December 2014**



## **1. Introduction and general overview**

In 2008 3 students of our schools attended a one-year training "Mekong Youth Net" by the organization DEPDC in Mae Sai in the North of Thailand. After their return they started a mini-project working with Burmese migrant youth in Mae Sot. Help without Frontiers decided to support the initiative under the name "Rays of Youth" as a new project.

„Rays of Youth“ is a project from youth for youth (peer to peer) who are passing on their knowledge and skills to youth in the Thai-Burma border and to unite these youth from different ethnic backgrounds. Through different activities and projects, the "Rays of Youth" project aims to bring together youth from different ethnic backgrounds, keep them from the streets and its dangers, and morally develop them for society.

### **1.1 Background and challenges**

Mae Sot is located at the Thai/Burma border. Many different ethnic groups from both countries live here together. Many young people have never seen their original home and are lacking future perspectives. Many people come illegally from Burma to Thailand, either fleeing the long and brutal civil war, looking for work or other reasons such as private problems, political reasons, statelessness or economic constraints.

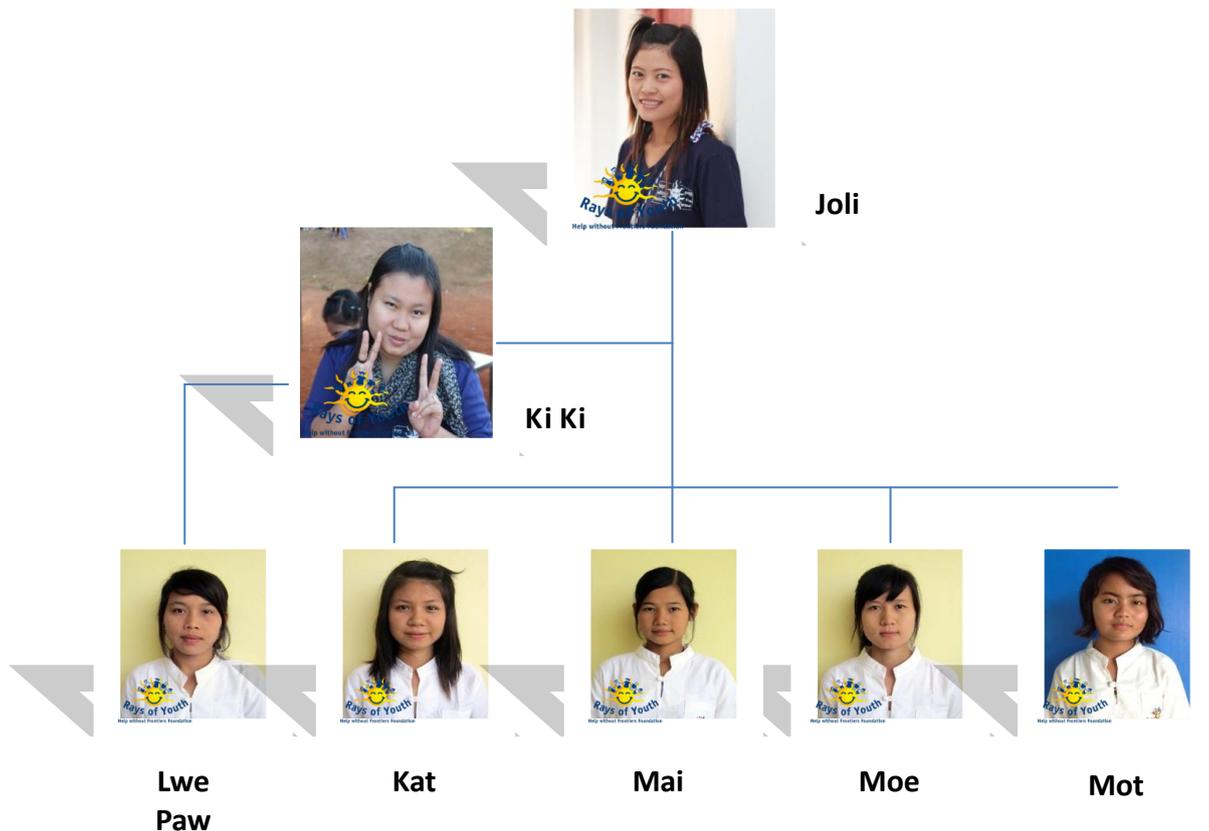
Problems such as child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, drug abuse and sexual exploitation are frequent among the migrant community. Being illegally in the country makes them vulnerable to these problems. Also, education possibilities, limited health access and poverty contribute to their lack of perspectives.

The project "Rays of Youth" is trying to fight these problems through awareness raising of the community and activities that foster the abilities of the youth. The aim of the project is to empower youth who might be at risk for these problems, to open their eyes and to prevent them to become victims. Knowledge and awareness are the key for a better future. By now the project is well known in and around Mae Sot but also in neighboring Karen State and within Thailand.

## 1.2 The „Rays of Youth“ team

In 2014 seven staff were working with the “Rays of Youth” project: Joli, Kiki, Kat, Lwe Paw, Mai, Moe and Mot. The 5 main areas of action are the peer leadership program, the music program, awareness raising activities in the communities, media activities and environmental awareness activities.

| Name                   | Position            |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Su Htet Lwin (Joli)    | Project Coordinator |
| Pawk Kaw Ki (Kiki)     | ROY Staff           |
| Pawk Htunt (Kat)       | ROY Staff           |
| Moe Moe Khing (Moe)    | ROY Volunteer       |
| Pawk Mai (Mai)         | ROY Volunteer       |
| Mot Mot San Lwin (Mot) | ROY Volunteer       |
| Mu Iwe Paw (Lwe Paw)   | ROY Volunteer       |



## 2. „Rays of Youth“ activities 2014

The highlights of the “Rays of Youth” activities in 2014 were on the one side the nomination of 20 new “Rays of Youth” participants for the peer leadership program, and on the other side the start of the “cross-border” project with Burma/Myanmar. The aim of this long-term project is the implementation of the successful RoY activities in Burma/Myanmar as well as the establishment of a good working network of community leaders, NGOs and political representatives.

In November 2014 the “Rays of Youth” team was invited by the police chief of Myawaddy (Burma/Myanmar) to perform a roadshow about the topics human trafficking and drug abuse. High level representatives as well as 1.200 participants came to the event. In the upcoming years more activities inside Myanmar will follow, to aim a well-working youth leader network in the future.

The “Rays of Youth” youth centre in Mae Sot was busy 171 days for “Rays of Youth” activities, whereat some events were simultaneously. A total of 2.595 students and teachers were attending the numerous trainings and workshops. In addition, the Rays of Youth centre was booked several times by different Help without Frontiers projects for meetings and events (app. 50 days per year). Hence, the youth centre was utilized on 220 days in 2014.

All videos produced by the “Rays of Youth” can be watched on the YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RaysOfYouth/videos>

### 2.1 „Rays of Youth Peer Leadership“ program

20 new students<sup>1</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> group) started their 2-year education with the peer leadership program. As RoY leaders they are role models for their peers and motivate them to follow them.

4 RoY peers of the first group were hired by Help without Frontiers as staff after their successful graduation of the leadership program. They work in the Rays of Youth project.



In order to enhance their capacities and self-esteem following activities/trainings were organized: empowerment of own personality, how to present and to speak in front of an audience, team building and spirit, gender sensitization, Thai language course, computer course, English language course, writing radio spots, production of short movies for awareness raising activities, active listening, speaking and presenting, moderating and

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<sup>1</sup> See list of participants in the annex.

organizing events, writing of proposals, drama, dance, how to include child participation, knowledge about ASEAN, Mekong-sub region, social science and environmental awareness.

In 2014 trained "Rays of Youth" leaders started their own 3 mini-projects in three schools (media training, community road show and a campaign). The whole RoY team supported these mini-projects through knowledge and capacity building.

In addition the "Rays of Youth" became a member of the LCYC (Local Community Youth Council) chaired by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) where youth relevant topics are discussed and points of action elaborated.

The "Rays of Youth" and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Burma Act and "Foundation for Child Development" organized the „*Migrant Youth Inspiration Camp - I do, I can, I share*“, where 70 students attended.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uO9A3FCu8Tk>



The list of all events can be found in section 3.

## 2.2 Music Project

In 2014 12 new youth were accepted in the music project. Hence, a total of 23 students are now learning instruments like guitar, keyboard, bass and drums. Four local music instructors come every weekend to teach the youth from 9 am to 4 pm in the RoY youth centre in Mae Sot. In the morning session each instrument group is practicing by themselves and in the afternoon they practice together as bands.



From April to May an additional summer course took place. During the 22 days summer camp the youth received additional music tuition and learned besides playing the instruments also more about music theory. A workshop about the history of music was conducted by Mr Chi Suwichan and a workshop on stage preparations was conducted by Mr A Chai (a famous Karen-singer).

During the summer camp all students slept in the youth centre. They cooked together and played games in the evenings. At the end of the camp the lessons learnt were tested in a written and practical exam.

Family and friends were invited to the summer camp closing party where the students received their certificates and showed their songs and performances they practiced during the summer camp.

A summary video about the summer camp can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDzviYu9Sos>

### Performances 2014:

- International Youth Day
- Opening ceremony of the "Student fellowship"
- World HIV/AIDS day event at Mae Tao clinic
- Christmas party
- Event against human trafficking „Don't Trust Anyone"



In 2014 they produced one album with 6 songs. All songs and videos of the Rays of Youth can be found on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/RaysOfYouth/videos>

### 2.3 Awareness raising activities

The awareness raising activities contained three main topics: health care, road safety education and drug abuse. All workshops were conducted in the framework of the "Peer Leadership" program. The aim was that the new Rays of Youth get practice in holding workshops in front of an audience.

Following workshops were conducted:

- Basic Hygiene Workshop: for 503 students who are primary students in 10 Migrant Schools.
- Traffic Rules Workshop: for 118 students who are in Grade 5 to Grade 10 in 2 Migrant Schools.
- Adolescent Health Workshop: for 115 students who are in Grade 7 to Grade 8 in 2 Migrant High Schools. (Video summary of the workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZPuaYiJlu4>)
- Drugs Awareness Workshop: for 108 students who are in Grade 5 to Grade 9 in 2 Migrant High Schools.

A total of **844 students** attended these activities.



## 2.4 Media activities

The highlight of the media activities in 2014 was the fourth place at the video competition against human trafficking with the short movie "Don't Trust Anyone". The movie was shot in collaboration with MTV EXIT.

In addition, the RoYs organized and attended several workshops about media:

- Creative media production workshop: Two trainers from Chiang Mai came to Mae Sot and taught the youth new movie techniques, cutting and editing skills and story board writing. Two short movies were produced during the workshop:
  - o „Offline or Online“ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx3EXROxWxY>
  - o „Love me love my dog“ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rf3abFeuPfi>

- Photography: Susan and Nat from Canada have conducted a three-day photography workshop in the framework of their project „My Story“ during the summer camp for 10 RoYs. At the end the photos were shown in an exhibition at "Borderline" restaurant in Mae Sot for a few weeks.



In addition the youth produced several short movies and videos:

- Documentaries:
  - o Distribution of stationery 2014
  - o Education campaign in Tung Kham
  - o Workshop about cartoon-drawing-techniques
- Music video:
  - o "Traps of Life"
- Project videos:
  - o „Child Friendly Space“ opening ceremony
  - o "Peer Youth Team Building" at the waterfall
  - o "Peer Youth" summer camp
  - o „Rays of Youth“ 6 month summary of activities
  - o „May Day“ video
  - o Talent Show against human trafficking
  - o National Youth Day 2014
  - o „Mix Culture Dance“ 2014
  - o „Student Fellowship“
  - o Campaign against human trafficking and drug abuse
  - o Migrant Youth Inspiration Camp: I do – I can – I share

All videos can be found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/raysofyouth>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/RaysOfYouth/videos>).

## 2.4 Environmental Awareness

The “Rays of Youth” team conducted workshops about the production of natural soaps and detergents as well as garbage management and organic agriculture in several schools in and around Mae Sot.



Following workshops have been conducted:

- Natural Detergent Workshop: for 41 students and teachers in 3 Migrant Schools.
- Garbage Management Workshop: for 76 students who are Grade 5 to Grade 7 in 2 Migrant Schools.
- Organic Crop Workshop: for 30 peer youth leaders from Group 1 and Group 2 in Rays of Youth Center.



## 2.5 „Cross-border“ project with Burma/Myanmar

Since 2014 the “Rays of Youth” are conducting their awareness raising activities also in Burma/Myanmar in the framework of the “Cross-border” project. At first, preliminary visits of target villages in Karen State were organized in order to build up a network of community leaders, teachers and political representatives. In addition a needs assessment was conducted to identify the specific needs and problems of the villages. The main questions were: which problems does the youth in these villages face? Which challenges are there? How can youth at risk be reached in order to prevent them from drug abuse and becoming victims of trafficking? The assessment lead to developing tailored workshops for the specific needs of the youth.

Following activities have been conducted in Burma/Myanmar:

- Participation at the International Day against drugs organized by the police in Myawaddy Myawaddy (26 June)
- Workshop on basic hygiene for 135 students at Monastic Education Center, Myawaddy (7 July).
- Workshop on children’s rights for 139 students at Monastic Education Center, Myawaddy (9 July).
- Drama performance about human trafficking for 165 students at Monastic Education Center, Myawaddy (8 August).
- Workshop on drug abuse for 103 students at Monastic Education Center, Myawaddy (18 August).
- Participation at the national Myanmar day against human trafficking organized by BCATIP (Border Cooperation on Anti-Trafficking in Persons) in Myawaddy (13 September)
- Campaign against human trafficking and drug abuse in the Monastic Education Center, Myawaddy, in cooperation with BCATIP, the Ministry of Education Myawaddy, „Women Association“ and „Mother and Child Care Association“ as well as the police chief of Myawaddy. 1.200 people (students, parents, teachers, members of NGOs and political representatives) attended the event (23 November) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhIk-5XwFQw>)



In the upcoming years we will continue to develop our activities inside Burma/Myanmar in order to establish a well working network of youth leaders in different states and divisions.



### 3. Collaboration with partner organizations and events 2014

The "Rays of Youth" project became known not only in Mae Sot but also within Thailand and neighbouring Burma/Myanmar.

The RoY team collaborates especially with following national and international organizations: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children, Plan International, Foundation for Child Development, MTV EXIT, LCYC – Local Community Youth Council, Friend Without Border, CPPCR, Mae Tao clinic, Burma Act und Development Education Program for Daughter and Community.



Zudem wurde das „Rays of Youth“ Team zu diversen Veranstaltungen in Mae Sot und außerhalb eingeladen, um ihre Arbeit zu präsentieren und/oder bei Musik- und Videowettbewerben teilzunehmen. Hier eine Übersicht:

#### Events in Mae Sot:

- World Children Day organized by CPPCR: the Roys performed role plays and drama sequences for the event (11 January 2014).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c3Kz4PK4Ho>
- „Holding Hand Film“ workshop organized by „Friend Without Border“ on techniques for short film production (April 2014).
- May Day 2015 organized by IOM for migrant workers from Myanmar. The RoYs were performing at the opening ceremony (1 May).  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuGo-tsYE\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuGo-tsYE_c)
- Youth summer camp organized by the local youth council chaired by IOM to develop leadership skills (Mai 2014).
- Drama workshops organized by the local youth council (IOM) (May 2014).
- „Community Worker Training“ organized by the local youth council (IOM). The RoYs were trained on how to reach out to the communities (August and September 2014).
- National youth day organized by the local youth council (IOM): panel discussions, exhibition and talent show were organized (September 2014).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5YQHziHH84>
- World AIDS Day organized by Mae Tao clinic. The RoYs performed a drama on HIV/AIDS topic (December 2014).
- Day against child trafficking organized by "Burma Act". The RoYs performed drama sequences and role plays against child trafficking (December 2014).

#### Events outside Mae Sot:

- Youth Fare in Udon Thani organized by MTV Exit on media production and fact finding against human trafficking (March 2014).

- Roadshow against child labour in Bangkok organized by „Foundation for Child Development“ (June 2014).
- Children on the Move Camp in Mae Sai organized by „Development Education Program for Daughter and Community“ to learn more about migration and human trafficking in the North of Thailand (October 2014).
- Roadshow about human trafficking and drug abuse in Myawaddy (Myanmar) organized by the Myawaddy chief of police (November 2014).
- Event on 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for children’s rights in Bangkok where the RoYs performed a drama on child abuse (November 2014).

#### **4. Plans for 2015**

In 2015 the activities in the framework of the “cross-border” project will continue; not only in additional Karen villages but also in other divisions and states inside Burma. The music group will produce an album with the composed songs and continue to perform at events. The songs will be combined with relevant topics that can be used during the community outreach sessions and roadshows.

In 2015 we plan to build an additional building used as dormitory for the Rays of Youth participants, a storage room for all projects and multi-purpose rooms used as meeting, training or performing rooms. So far, the youth is sleeping on mats on the ground in the youth centre.

The collaboration with other organizations will be strengthened and developed. In addition new financial sources for the RoY activities in Thailand and Burma will be identified.

#### **5. Thank you**

We would like to thank the company **Maico GmbH** for their long term support for the “Peer Leadership” program. Also, we would like to thank the **Wendelgard Lageder Project** (Margreid) and the **South Tyrolean Youth Symphony Orchestra** for supporting the music project.

In addition we would like to thank all donors in Thailand and Europe in order to continue the “Rays of Youth” project.

We would like to thank Sandra Knoflach from Brixen (Italy) for her time as volunteer at the „Rays of Youth“ project.

## 6. Annex

### 6.1 Expenses 2014

| Category  | Expenses            |                  |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
|   | Baht                | EUR              |
| ROY Awareness raising activities                          | 38.811              | 882,87           |
| ROY Leadership program activities (2 <sup>nd</sup> group) | 123.964,50          | 2.887,71         |
| ROY Leadership training                                   | 113.890             | 2.646,78         |
| ROY Media activities                                      | 163.919,50          | 3.760,86         |
| ROY Environmental awareness activities                    | 77.857              | 1.766,29         |
| ROY Campaigns   | 4.393               | 104,40           |
| ROY meetings and other activities                         | 6.634               | 156,64           |
| ROY Project management                                    | 168.646,13          | 3.834,04         |
| ROY Music project   | 294.572             | 6.811,15         |
| ROY Cross-Border project with Burma/Myanmar               | 221.550             | 5.128,42         |
| ROY Staff salaries  | 714.990             | 16.602,83        |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                     | <b>1.929.227,13</b> | <b>44.581,99</b> |

## **6.2 Participants Leadership Program 2014**

| <b>NR.</b> | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Age</b> | <b>Gender</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>School</b> |
|------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1          | Ka Prue Mu        | 15         | M             | 8            | KKB           |
| 2          | Kyaw Like Thein   | 15         | M             | 8            | KKB           |
| 3          | Aung Ghar Laung   | 15         | F             | 9            | KKB           |
| 4          | Paw Lar           | 14         | F             | 9            | KKB           |
| 5          | Pawk Saung Htee   | 18         | F             | 8            | KKB           |
| 6          | Thaung Kyar Khant | 14         | F             | 9            | KKB           |
| 7          | Mu Laung Eh       | 13         | F             | 8            | KKB           |
| 8          | May Yu Nwe        | 15         | F             | 8            | Parami        |
| 9          | Thi Han Thein     | 14         | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 10         | Tha Zin Aye       | 15         | F             | 8            | Parami        |
| 11         | Su Hlaing         | 14         | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 12         | Ei Shwe Zin       | 16         | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 13         | Mya Noe Way       | 13         | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 14         | Naw Htoo Hlaing   | 13         | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 15         | Eh Htee Mu        | 19         | M             | 9            | CDC           |
| 16         | Zaw Htet Aung     | 14         | M             | 7            | CDC           |
| 17         | Sai Kyaw Aung     | 15         | M             | 8            | CDC           |
| 18         | Aye Mon Chan      | 15         | F             | 7            | CDC           |
| 19         | Hlaing Hlaing Win | 14         | F             | 8            | CDC           |
| 20         | Ya Min Khaing     | 16         | F             | 9            | CDC           |

### **6.3 Participants Music project 2014**

| <b>NR.</b> | <b>Name</b>     | <b>Instrument</b> | <b>Gender</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>School</b> |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1          | Pawk Gay        | Gitarre           | M             | 9            | Parami        |
| 2          | Cynthia Oo      | Gitarre           | F             | 10           | Parami        |
| 3          | Pawk Sine Soung | Gitarre           | F             | 10           | Parami        |
| 4          | Thu Gay Soe     | Gitarre           | M             | 10           | Parami        |
| 5          | Moe Moe Than    | Gitarre           | F             | 6            | AYO           |
| 6          | Poe Lah Lah     | Gitarre           | M             | 6            | N B D         |
| 7          | Kaung M'unyar   | Gitarre           | M             | 12           | KKB           |
| 8          | Mu Ta Loung     | Gitarre           | F             | 10           | KKB           |
| 9          | Sar Ko Ko       | Gitarre           | M             | 2            | NBD           |
| 10         | Nay Shine       | Keyboard          | M             | 11           | CDC           |
| 11         | Esther Oo       | Keyboard          | F             | 8            | Parami        |
| 12         | Zin Mar Htwe    | Keyboard          | F             | 4            | AYO           |
| 13         | Jo Joe          | Keyboard          | M             | 11           | CDC           |
| 14         | Plaw Paw        | Keyboard          | M             | 8            | CDC           |
| 15         | Wai Yan         | Keyboard          | M             | 7            | Parami        |
| 16         | Hser Doh Wah    | Keyboard          | F             | 7            | Parami        |
| 17         | Wah Htun Htun   | Bass              | M             | 8            | Parami        |
| 18         | Plo Soe         | Bass              | M             | 7            | PYD           |
| 19         | D'Poe           | Bass              | M             | 8            | PYD           |
| 20         | Aung Pay        | Bass              | M             | 9            | Parami        |
| 21         | Saw Htee Shee   | Schlagzeug        | M             | 6            | NBD           |
| 22         | Moe Aye         | Schlagzeug        | M             | 6            | NBD           |
| 23         | Than Min Htwe   | Schlagzeug        | M             | 6            | AYO           |