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THAILAND

Baan Dek Foundation — Education for children in construction site camps



More information on un.org

The Thai construction sector employs around 600,000 migrant workers who reside in poor quality camps. Their children, approx. 60,000¹ in total, face barriers to accessing education.

The project 'Education for All', supported by the Julius Baer Foundation and implemented by Baan Dek Foundation (BDF), provides marginalised children access to quality education. It offers early childhood development, parenting activities,

prepares children for integration into the formal education system and prevents early school dropout. BDF systematically collaborates with companies from the construction sector, providing trainings that align with children's rights and business principles – and thereby creating sustainable change (Building Social Impact BSI Initiative).

In the first three months since its launch, the project has successfully reached over 133 children. It aims to reach 480 per year in Chiang Mai.

Quick facts

- Thailand, Chiang Mai
- Project support: 2023–2025
- Grant amount: CHF 60,000 per year
- Supporting families and their children while establishing innovative partnerships with construction companies and public services.
- Goal: Marginalised children living in construction site camps get access to quality education.

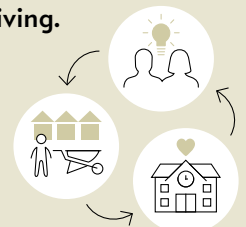
From exclusion and marginalisation...

Children in construction site camps lack social, cognitive and emotional development opportunities. They are often exposed to unsafe living conditions, violence and negative emotional stimuli.



... to being socially integrated and thriving.

Children in construction site camps are able to access the Thai education system and experience social inclusion. Their parents are empowered through knowledge and life skills on child development parenting, child protection and positive discipline.





“As my parents could not afford paying school fees for my two siblings and myself, my elder sister was planning to drop out of school to find a job and contribute to our family’s income. I thought it was unfair to my sister as she had to prioritize our education over hers due to our financial struggles. But when BDF offered to support us, I felt relieved and happy. I can continue going to school without having to worry that my sister would need to drop out of school because of me.”

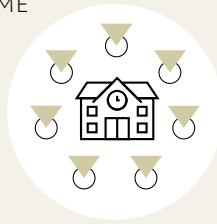
Y. (below), his mother (left) who works as a construction worker and his elder sister (right)

OUTPUT



Financial constraints are a barrier to education. Education for All will support **100 children with school fees**, helping them to maintain their school enrolment and/or to access education for the first time.

OUTCOME



Through the Education for All project, **90% of vulnerable children** living in targeted communities will be **enrolled in public school**, further bridging the education gap.

HIGHLIGHT



18 major companies from the property and construction sector in Thailand have made a commitment through the BSI Initiative to train their staff and **improve the well-being of migrant workers and their families.**

Reducing barriers to educational opportunities

- School closures following the COVID-19 outbreak dramatically limited children’s access to education.
- Older children were dropping out of school to earn additional income to support their families or to look after their younger siblings.
- When parents resumed work, they were forced to leave their babies and toddlers in crowded informal nurseries with little to no developmental stimulation.
- The project enhances the children’s and families’ social mobility and empowers them to obtain gainful employment or further education, breaking cycles of poverty and bridging the educational divide.
- The project contributes to developing knowledge on the specific needs and challenges of children, further supporting BDF’s BSI Initiative.
- The BSI, launched in February 2022, aims to change the practices of companies from the property and construction sector in Thailand and to foster a sector-wide behavioural change to improve the well-being of children, including in regards to access to education services.

About Baan Dek Foundation

For over twenty years, BDF is improving the fundamental well-being of vulnerable children living in urban slums and construction site camps by supporting their immediate needs, empowering their families and communities through a peer-to-peer approach, and creating sustainable change in the Thai construction sector.



More information about Baan Dek Foundation and their project in Thailand: baandekfoundation.org

Do you feel inspired by the Baan Dek Foundation project and would like to support it? Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love the exchange.



Write us at foundation@juliusbaer.com or find out more about us and our projects online.

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the grant Foundation of Bank Julius Baer is focused on reducing wealth inequality. It convenes leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supports projects around the globe where the privileged and disadvantaged work together towards a world of equal opportunities.

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