

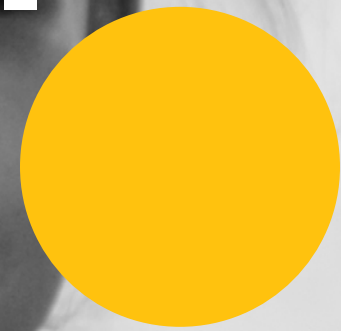


CHILD'S DREAM

IMPACT
REPORT

2 0 2 1

OUR
IMPACT



OUR

IMPACT

ACT

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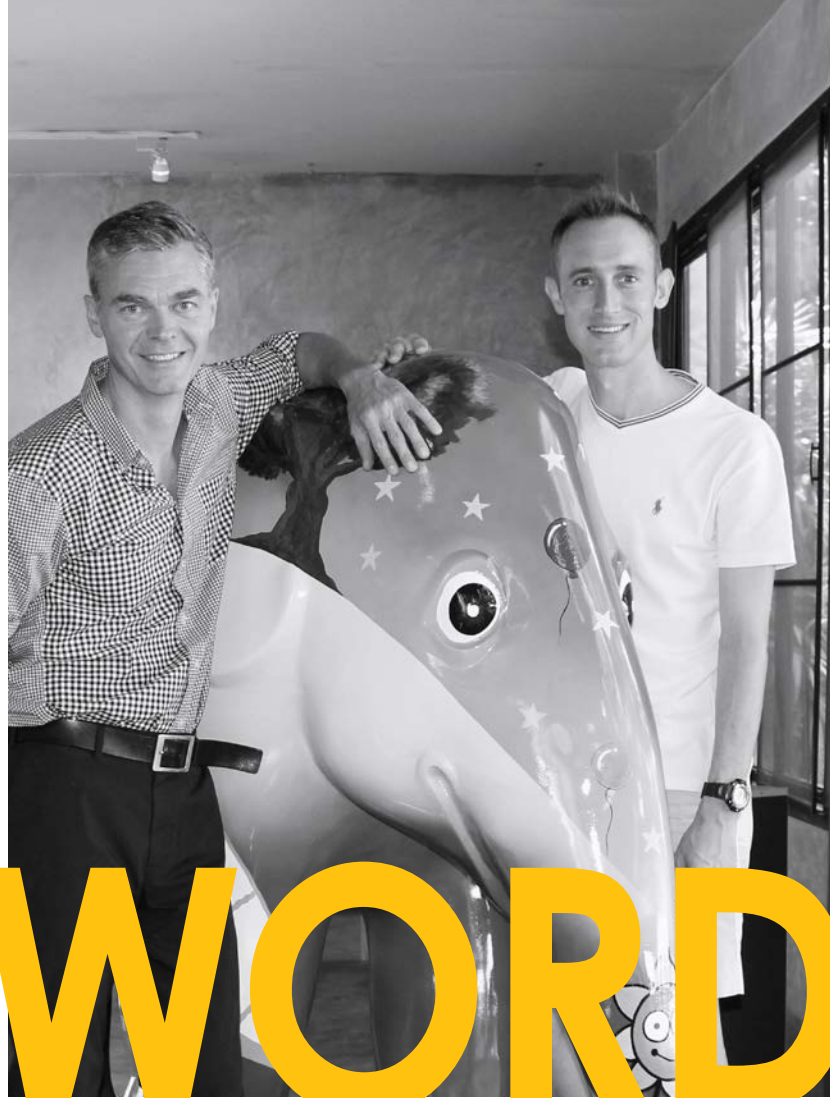
EMERGENCY RELIEF

131

IN NUMBERS



DANIEL SIEGFRIED / MARC JENNI
CO-FOUNDERS



FOREWORD

OUR WORK IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE SERVING OUR BENEFICIARIES WITH THE HELP OF OUR VALUED DONORS AND PARTNERS.

2021 started promising with the rollout of the vaccination plans and it looked like that COVID-19 could finally be a thing of the past. But then the delta variant spread in Asia before the vaccines were ready and soon bodies started to pile up in front of crematories. The situation was particularly bad in Myanmar and when we thought that it could not get any worse, the Myanmar military unlawfully tried to take over the control of the country in February 2021. The coup was met with an overwhelmingly united and determined resistance. Tens of thousands joined the civil disobedience movement preventing the military to govern the country. The military soon retaliated and deployed its old tactics of spreading fear and terror by indiscriminately arresting, torturing and attacking civilians. The result is a widespread civil war between the resistance made up of the People's Defense Force (PDF) and many ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) on one side and the military junta on the other side. Over 500,000 people have been fleeing for their lives.

500,000
OVER 500,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES.

Although Child's Dream focuses on improving health and education for long-term and sustainable development, our mandate also allows us to provide humanitarian relief if needed. And the need is enormous and still growing! We are able to reach over 110,000 of these vulnerable internal refugees through our local network of community-based partners. The impact of our humanitarian relief is also included in this impact report.

Since we also faced many operational challenges such as travel restrictions and temporary school closures due to COVID-19, we could not visit our school buildings in Lao PDR and Cambodia to do our standard evaluations. Our M&E team developed another evaluation technique that is based on qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews, case studies and focus group discussions. Over 30 hours of interviews were recorded and analyzed. The feedback from students, teachers, parents and education officers was overwhelmingly positive.

Despite the difficulties we also had some amazing highlights. 87% of our high school scholarship alumni are either studying or working. Out of those working, 77% feel that their monthly income is enough to support themselves. Our university scholarship alumni are continuing to be agents of change with 72% of alumni having jobs focusing on making a positive impact on their communities.

In this year's report we also included the impact evaluation of Youth Connect, which prepares and facilitates the transition to work for recent migrant high school graduates or out of school youth from Myanmar. 78% of the alumni found jobs within six months of finishing their apprenticeship with Youth Connect. 93% feel that Youth Connect helped them to secure a better income.

The fact that we can achieve this positive impact under very adverse circumstances motivates us to advance our mission. Our work is needed more than ever before and we are committed to continue serving our beneficiaries with the help of our valued donors and partners.

We hope that you appreciate this report and our transparency about the impact of our work. A special thank you goes to Sahara and Teresa (M&E Specialists) and Gene (Data Visualisation) and our extremely dedicated field staff who put in the extra effort to collect all the data needed.



Sahara Singh

SAHARA SINGH / M&E SPECIALIST



Teresa

TERESA / M&E SPECIALIST



Gene Lorca

GENE LORCA / DATA VISUALISATION

MISSION

IMPROVING HEALTH AND EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VISION

EMPOWERED PEOPLE RESPONSIBLY
SHAPING THEIR COMMUNITIES

STRATEGY

OUR STRATEGY FOLLOWS THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

WE DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND PARTNER
TO SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG ADULTS.

WE ADDRESS CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS IN MYANMAR,
LAO PDR, CAMBODIA, AND THAILAND RELATED TO:



BASIC OR
ESSENTIAL
HEALTH



RELEVANT
AND QUALITY
EDUCATION



RESPONSIBLE
LEADERS AND
QUALIFIED
SPECIALISTS



VALUES OF
PEACE AND
JUSTICE



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

HOW WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT

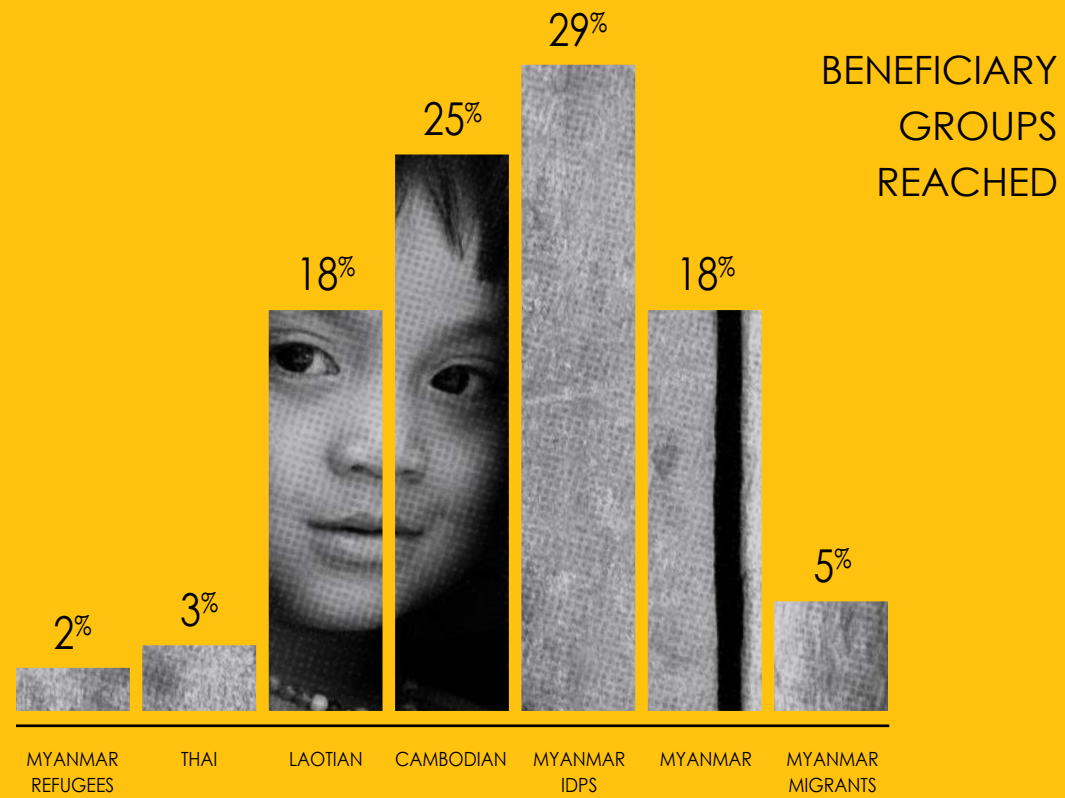
2021 was a challenging year. The COVID-19 restrictions did not ease, and Myanmar was hit by a military coup that paralyzed a country and pushed it to a state of civil war. Needless to say, these circumstances affected the implementation of many of our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. In Myanmar, we could not carry out alumni tracking surveys for three programmes, while on a regional level, we could not deliver our standard evaluations for the educational infrastructure projects. But when things get tough, the tough gets going, so we continued with our M&E efforts, by implementing what was going well and getting more creative. We mixed existing strategies with new tools and found innovative ways to grasp the level of impact brought by our interventions. We also expanded our evaluations to new programmes and built a solid framework to plan and assess emergency relief interventions with our partners.

To be more specific, we continued using results-based monitoring (RBM) and evaluation systems for several of our interventions. This methodology focuses on achieving well-defined changes. When using RBM, the first question we have to ask ourselves is what changes do we want to see? Is the community in need of conducive learning environments for their children? Is there a need for high school scholarships to improve school completion rates and job opportunities? These needs and changes are then translated into programme objectives, and effective M&E systems are usually able to measure to what extent these have been achieved. After identifying specific programme objectives, we create frameworks, log frames and indicators that measure outputs and outcomes. Outputs are services and products delivered to the beneficiaries. Outcomes are short-term and medium-term changes in behaviour, attitudes, knowledge, awareness and habits. Outcomes are the positive and meaningful changes we want to achieve for our beneficiaries. To make a few examples, one of the output indicators of our basic education scholarship programme is the number of secondary school graduates. Outcomes wise, the focus is on improving the higher education opportunities and job prospects of underserved children.

On the innovative side, in 2021, we conducted our first qualitative impact evaluation of our School Building Programme in Lao PDR. Since we could not travel and visit our schools, we decided to take advantage of the technological advances made during COVID-19 and used Zoom to collect interview data. Despite the internet challenges, we collected solid and precious data concerning the intervention relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. The results are presented in the educational infrastructure chapter. We also revised and updated all our scholarship surveys. Referencing the literature provided by the International Labour Organization, we tailored our data collection tools and added further questions focused on decent work and quality employment. Finally, together with our Myanmar partners, we developed professional tools and strategies that prepared us at assisting the populations affected by the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Myanmar.

In 2021 our teams collected humanitarian data in the field, surveyed hundreds of alumni, interviewed dozens of Laotian stakeholders, and assisted several patients. We discussed the results of these efforts and formulated action plans that built on strengths and addressed the weaknesses of the programmes.





*1,030,293

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
REACHED AS OF JANUARY 2022



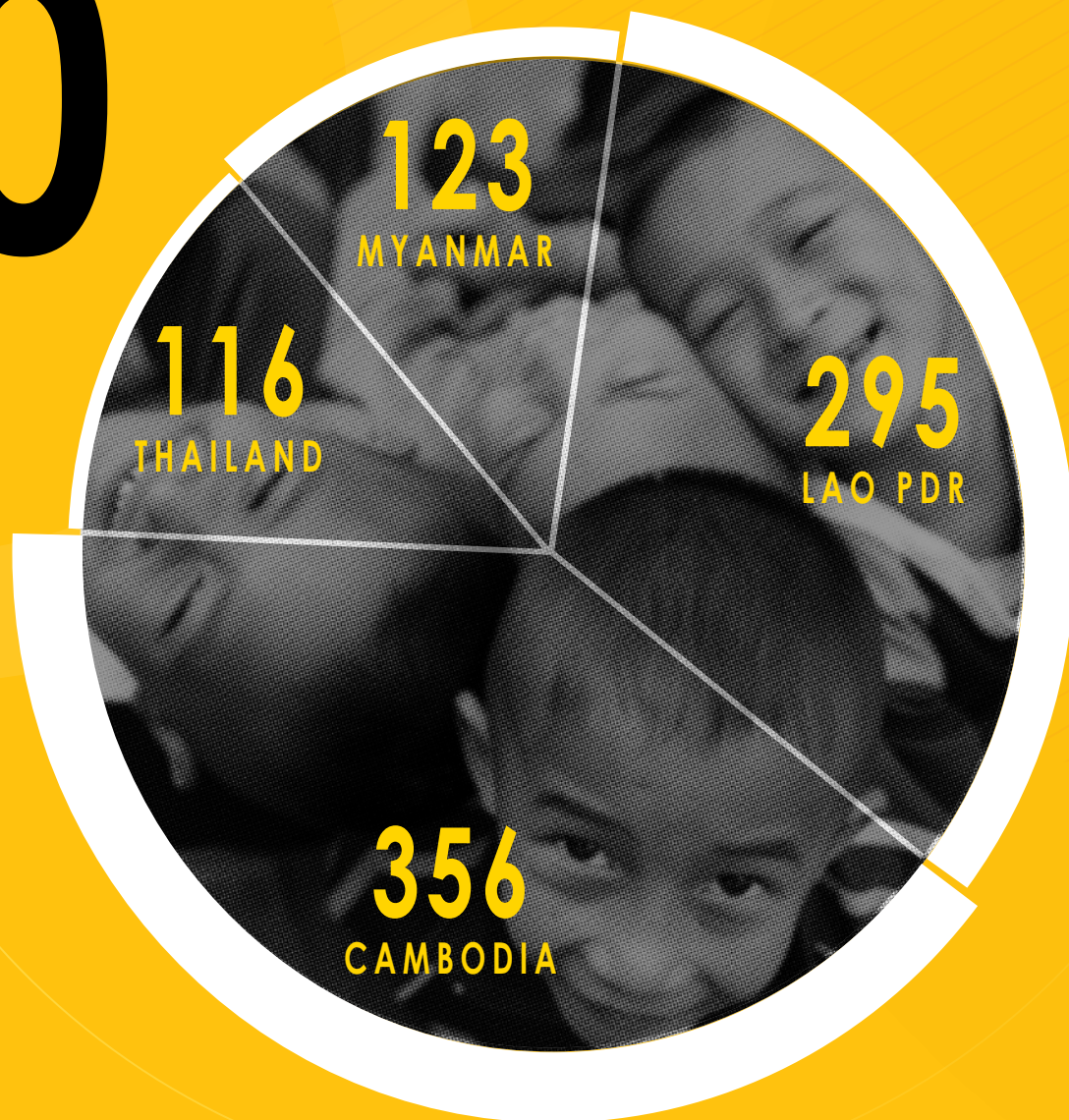
*The number includes
all direct beneficiaries
reached by current and
past interventions
implemented by
Child's Dream.*

293,311

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY CURRENT
PROJECTS AS OF JANUARY 2022

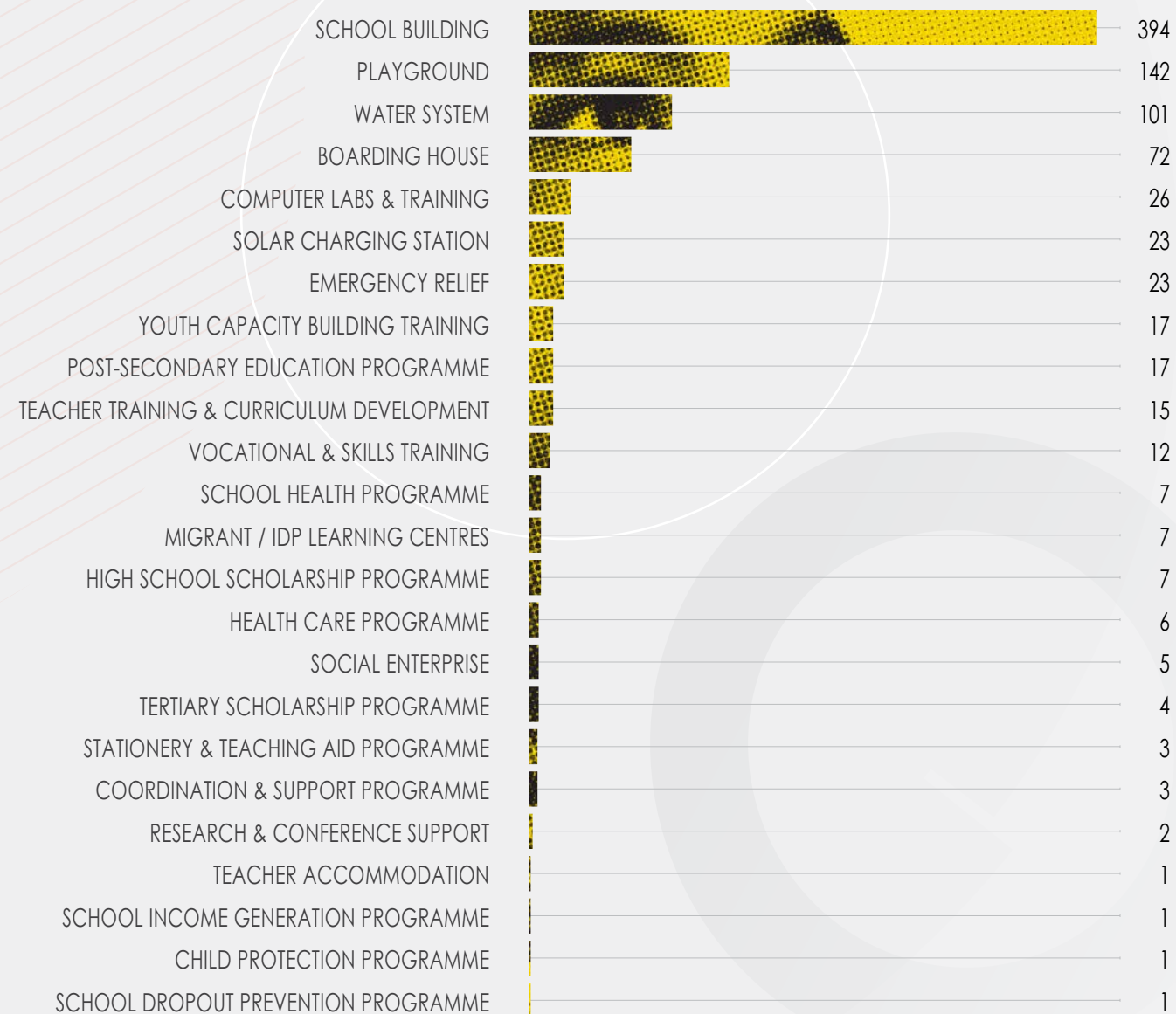
890

CURRENT
PROJECTS
AS OF
JANUARY
2022



COUNT OF CURRENT PROJECTS BY INTERVENTION TYPE AS OF JANUARY 2022

TOTAL N=890



HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

2,639

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAMME



WHY WE DO IT

BRIDGING THE GAP

We initiated Child's Dream High School and Vocational Scholarship Programme to provide middle school students from rural and marginalised communities with the opportunity to continue education at a higher level. Implemented in Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand, the programme aims to improve the continuation rate of students between lower and upper secondary, by providing financial support to help them in continuing and completing their upper secondary education. Accepted students receive full scholarship support which covers all education related costs, as well as funds for living and transportation in their three years of upper secondary study. The academic year and the implementation timeline differ across countries.

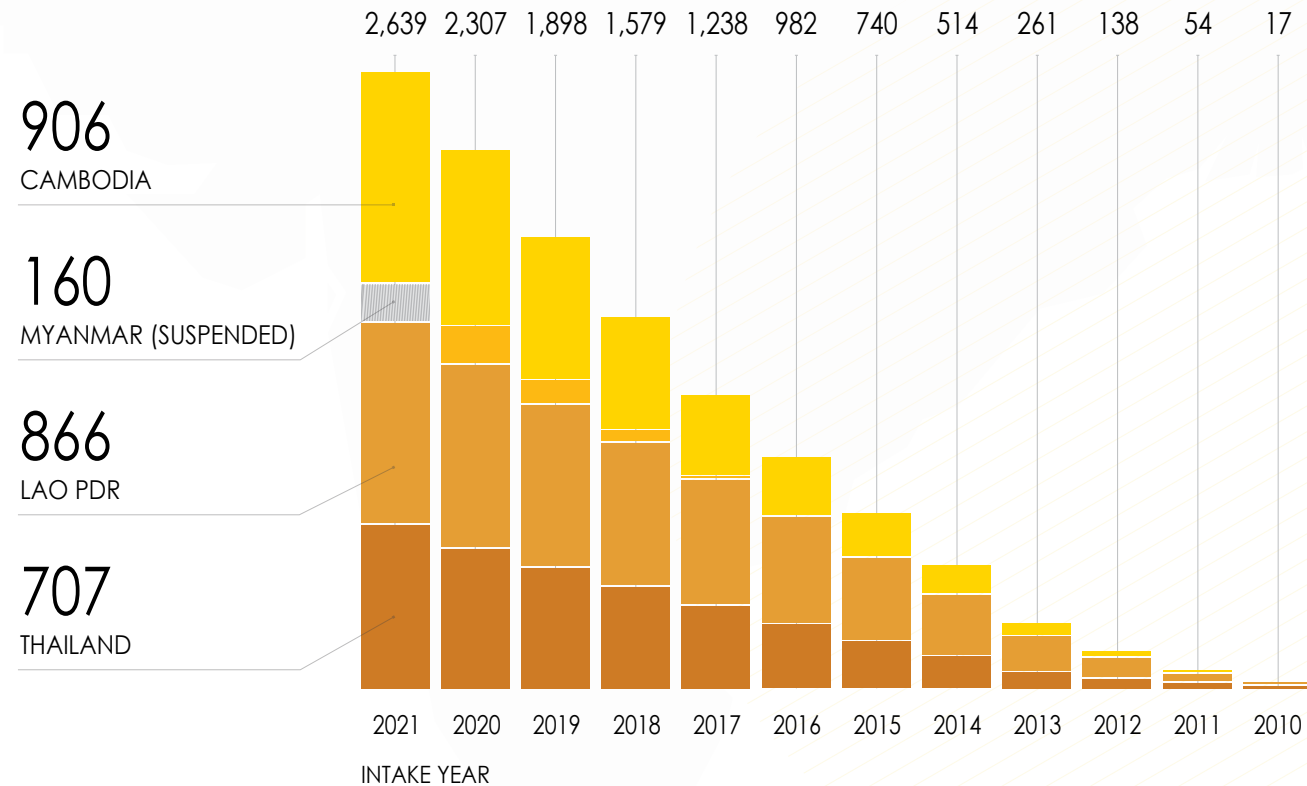


HOW WE COLLECT THE EVALUATION DATA

Every year, we send a survey to alumni who graduated one and two years before to understand programme outcomes. Recent graduates are not invited to participate in the study to ensure that results only reflect the situation of those who graduated at least one year before. Duplicate respondents are removed from the dataset, and all answers are cross-checked and cleaned for consistency to reduce bias. The survey collects information concerning how the programme contributes to the students' preparation to pursue higher education and employment upon graduation. In 2021, the survey included new questions aimed at understanding in more depth the alumni working conditions. Using as a guide the "School to Work Transition Survey Guide" of the International Labour Organization, last year questions sought to understand the quality of the employment opportunities found by the alumni. Questions inquired about employment and financial security, contractual arrangements and so on. The findings reflect the self-reported survey responses of the 353 survey respondents surveyed in 2021.

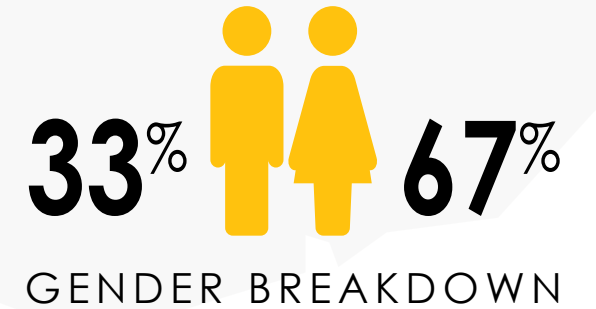
BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY

RUNNING TOTAL OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAMME BY COUNTRY FROM 2010 TO 2021



A GROWING PROGRAMME

The scholarship programme expanded from 17 beneficiaries in 2010 to 2,639 in 2021. While in 2021, the interventions in Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR did not see major changes, the Myanmar programme had to be suspended, which is why, last year, the number of students did not increase. Considering gender breakdowns, a higher share of females applies and passes the programme entry requirements.



THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

After the coup in February 2020, the Myanmar education system fell into chaos. Already highly affected by COVID-19 restrictions, protests, boycotts, civil disobedience, and civil war rendered attending school impossible and unsafe for millions of students. In light of the tragedy unfolding in the country, Child's Dream had to temporarily suspend the programme and wait for the situation to stabilise.

BENEFICIARIES STATUS

BENEFICIARIES SINCE 2010, % OF TOTAL

38.8%

ACTIVE

5.9%

DROPPED

5.0%

DISCONTINUED

50.3%

COMPLETED

N=2,639**OUTPUT IN NUMBERS**

From 2010 the programme enrolled 2,639 scholarship students. Of these, 1,024 are currently studying, although 115 are currently not attending school, as they belong to the Myanmar programme. 1,328 completed high school, 155 dropped out, and 132 were discontinued. Similar to last year, Cambodia has the highest number of active students (411), while Lao PDR counts the highest number of graduates (510).

84%**COMPLETION RATE****84%**

COMPLETED

8%

DROPPED

8%

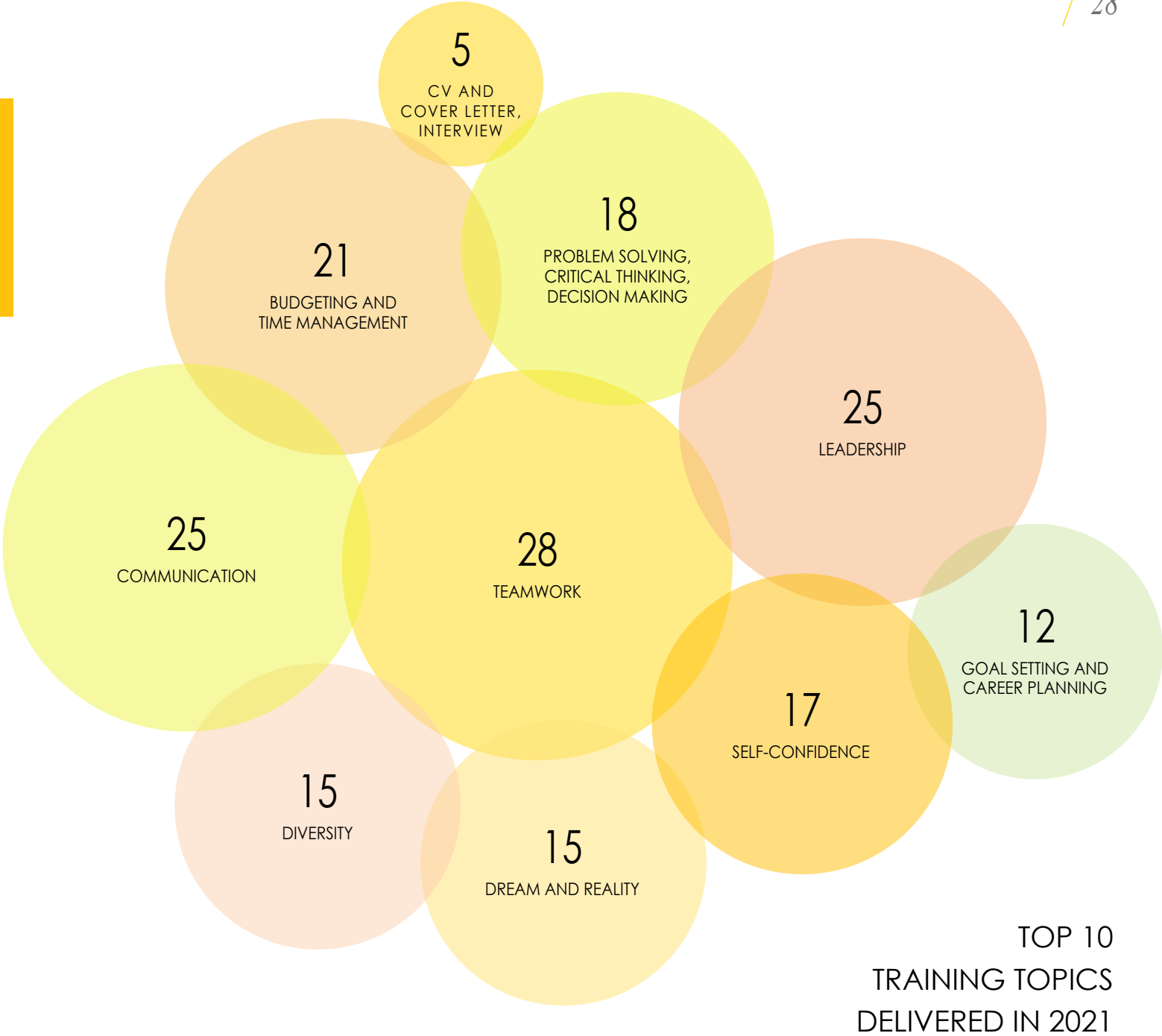
DISCONTINUED

POSITIVE COMPLETION RATES

All four focus countries recorded positive completion rates, as 84% of the scholarship students enrolled in the programme completed high school.

2021 CAPACITY BUILDING

One of the main programme activities is to provide capacity building training to the scholarship students. Teaching soft skills and personal development is important to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary tools to improve their personal and professional lives. Across Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia, the managers organised several scholarship camps. The most popular training topics were teamwork, leadership, communication, and budget-time management. At the end of each camp, students filled in feedback forms to help us evaluate and improve training quality. On a scale of one to six (1=very bad, and 6=very good), the students rated on average 5.8 the quality of the camps. In support of this rating, during the end of the programme survey, which the students have to fill in before graduation, the majority of the scholarship students expressed a high level of satisfaction with the camps, with many claiming it to be the favourite part of their scholarship experience. The findings reflect the importance of these skills, as they are not taught by official curricula but still prove key in life.



89%

RESPONSE RATE

HIGH RESPONSE RATE

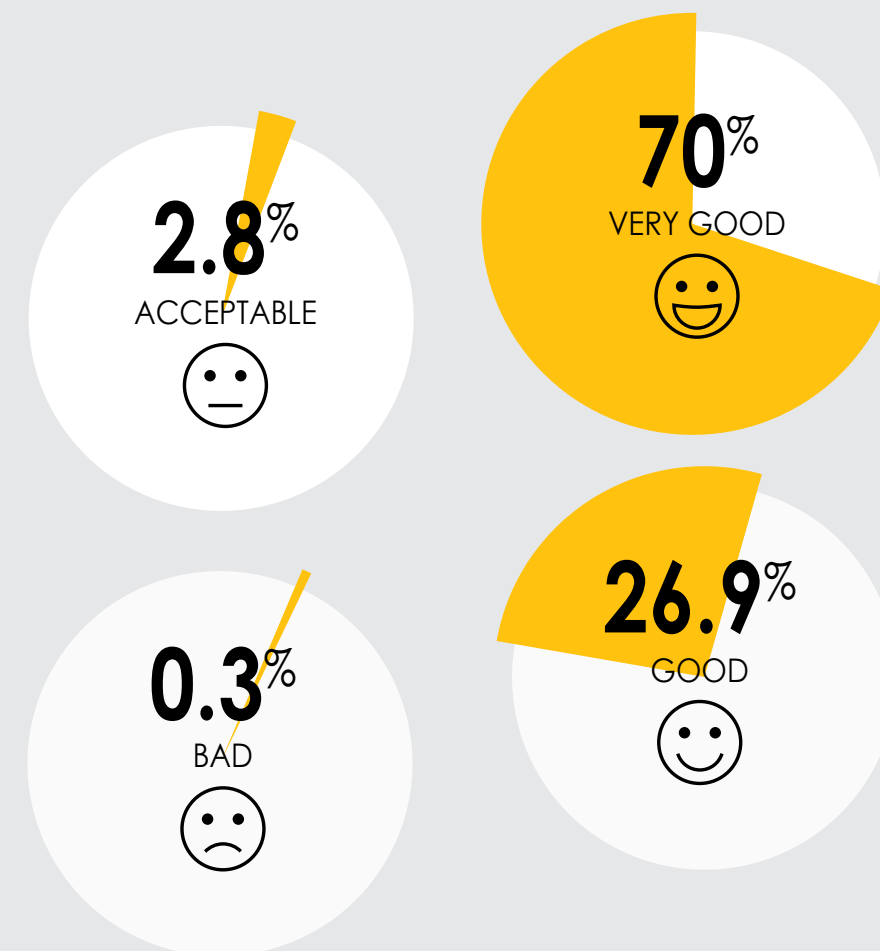
In 2021, we sent the alumni tracking survey to 398 beneficiaries who graduated in 2019 and 2020. Due to security concerns and communication issues, the survey did not track the alumni who graduated from the Myanmar programme. We received 353 valid responses, 111 from Cambodia, 127 from Lao PDR and 115 from Thailand. Overall, the figures correspond to a response rate of 89%.

GREAT PROGRAMME REVIEW

The survey asked the respondents to rate Child's Dream services and support. Similar to the previous year results, the majority of the alumni provided happy feedback on the assistance received. Only one respondent gave a negative rating, and 10 picked the acceptable option.

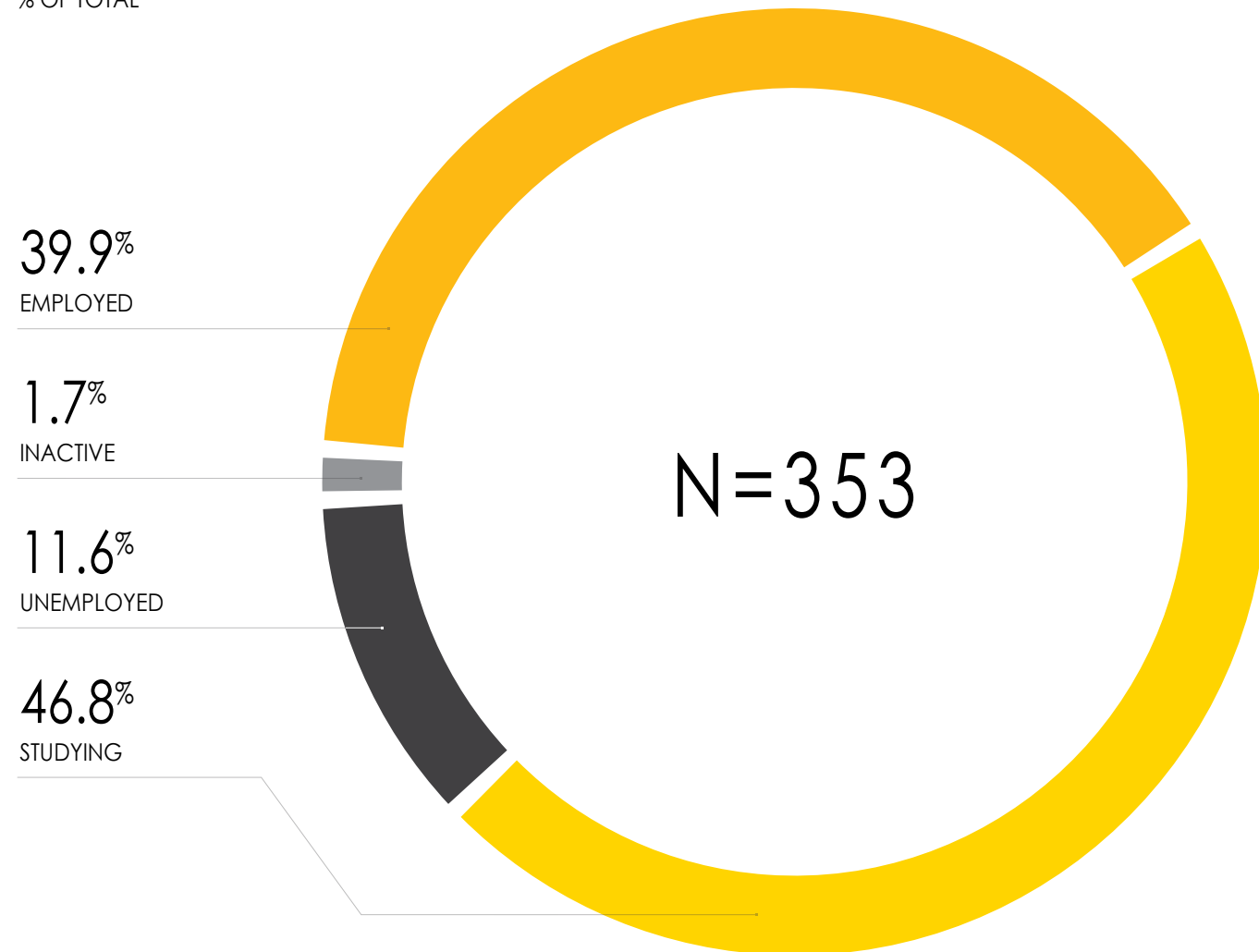
WHAT STUDENTS SAY

RATING OF CHILD'S DREAM SUPPORT
% TOTAL, N=353



CURRENT SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS

% OF TOTAL



OUTCOME SNAPSHOTS

The alumni tracking survey captured a snapshot of the respondents' main occupations in 2021. 46.8% of the respondents were studying, 39.9% were working, 11.6% were unemployed, and 1.7% were inactive. We define as inactive those alumni who are outside of the labour force and are not looking for any employment or study opportunity, as they might have chosen to be homemakers. As with previous years' results, outcomes are different across the three countries of operation. Labour markets are shaped by local contexts and economic trends, with the result that alumni have different opportunities available to them, depending on where they are located. For instance, while in Thailand, 70.4% of the respondents were studying, in Lao PDR, 55.1% were working. Even in last year's survey, many alumni lamented facing employment opportunity issues due to the economic downturns caused by COVID-19.

CHANGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Unemployment rates are remarkably lower than in 2020, and employment rates are a bit higher. Such differences are caused by changes to the survey questions and the increased number of vocational alumni who answered the questionnaire. It is expected that graduating more vocational alumni will impact the outcome figures by raising the employment stats. It is interesting instead to notice that edits to the questionnaire changed the unemployment and inactivity results. Before this year survey, alumni who worked on the farm or for family gain would consider themselves out of work. In 2021, the alumni who had this kind of employment were directed to choose the employment option when answering the current situation question. So, students who previously picked the unemployment option, selected the employment one this year, as any remunerated activity that supports people's livelihood is considered employment.

77%

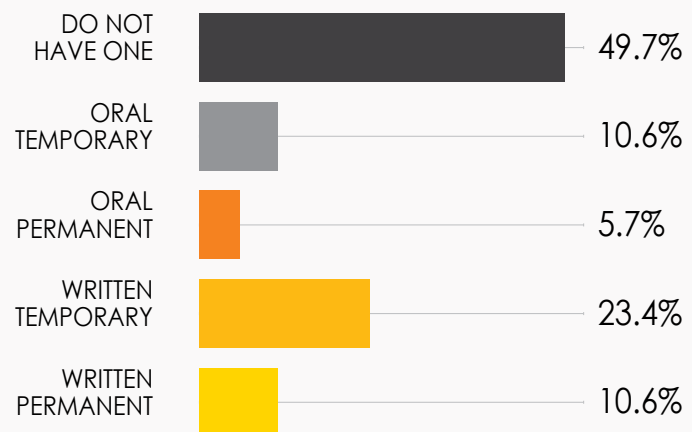
**OF THE EMPLOYED
ALUMNI SAID YES,
MY MONTHLY
INCOME IS ENOUGH**

A GLANCE AT DECENT EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

All employed alumni further responded to specific questions concerning the quality of their employment. 40% of the respondents work in for-profits, 24% have more than one job, 11% are public servants, and another 11% work for their family business. Alumni also indicated the status of their job and financial security. 77% feel that their monthly income is enough to support themselves, while 49.6% of the respondents do not have any contractual arrangements. These figures resonate with the features of the local job markets. Many vocational professions often do not provide contracts, and it is the norm to have oral agreements and understandings. The analysis also showed different reasons behind the insufficient monthly salaries, among which age, low remunerations and high urban living costs played a big role.

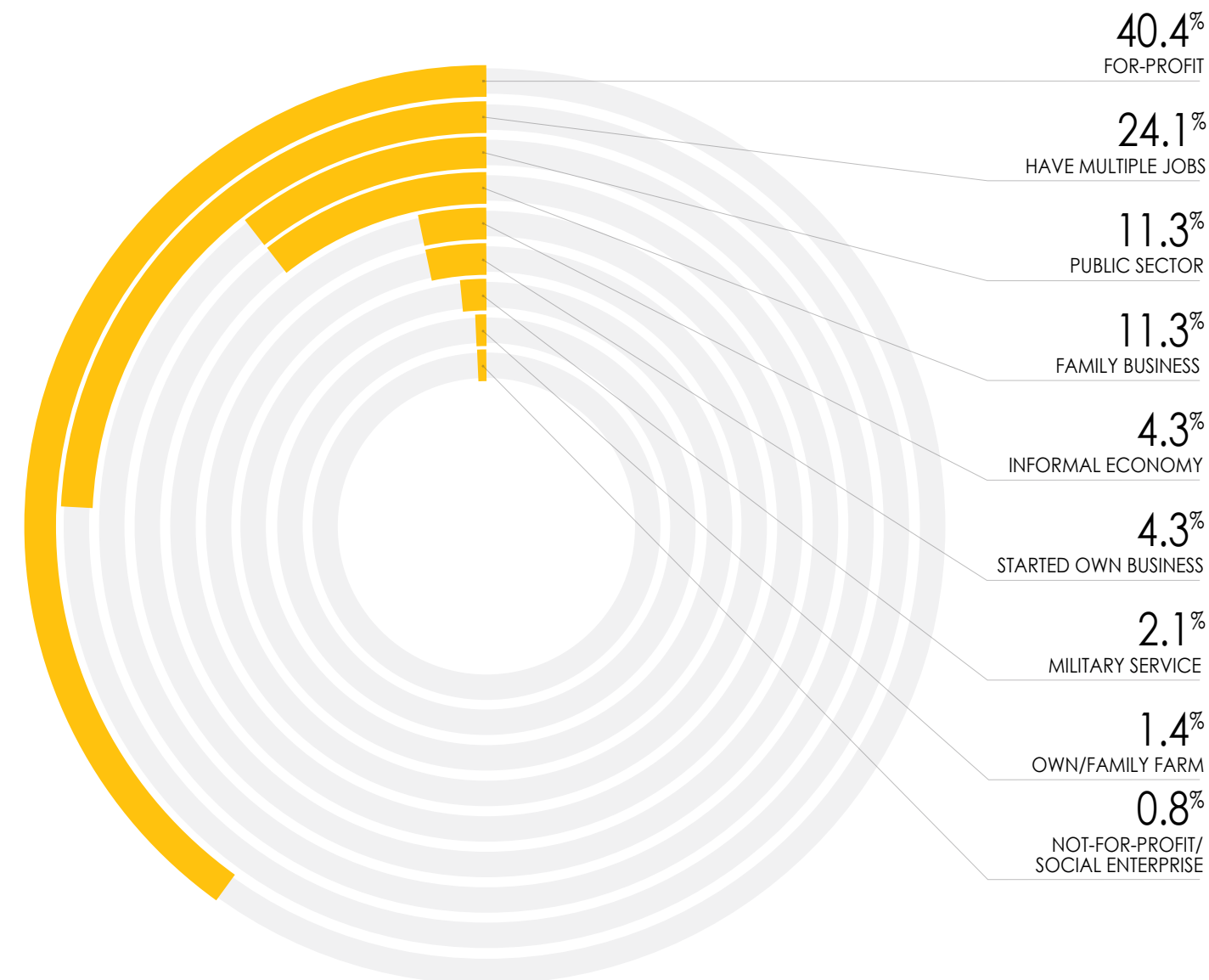
EMPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENT BY CONTRACT TYPE

% OF TOTAL, N=141



RESPONDENTS' CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

% OF TOTAL, N=141



DEGREES AND CERTIFICATIONS PURSUED AFTER GRADUATION

% OF TOTAL, N=165



66%
BACHELOR
DEGREE



8.5%
OTHER
CERTIFICATES



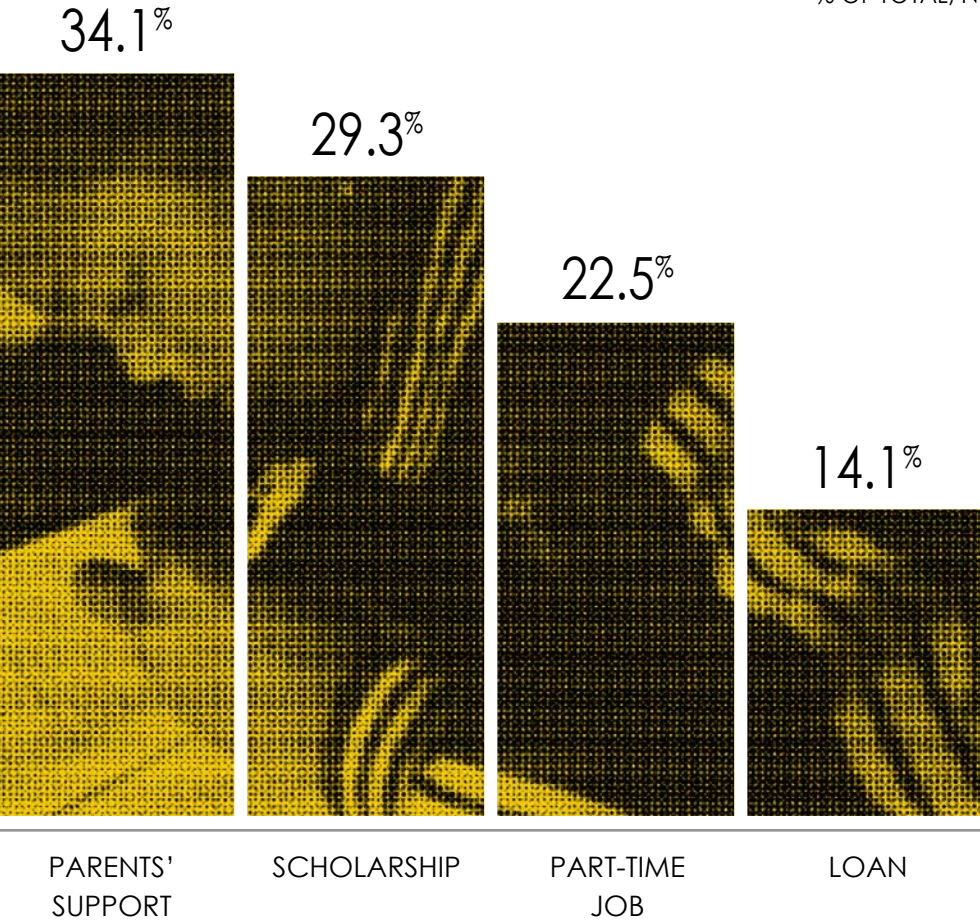
25.5%
VOCATIONAL
COURSES

HIGHER EDUCATION

66.1% of the alumni pursuing higher education have enrolled in bachelor degrees. Another 34% are undertaking either vocational courses or other certificates. The most popular areas of study are STEM, economic and finance and medical sciences. When asked the funding sources of their studies, most of the Thai and Cambodian alumni mentioned receiving a combination of parental support and scholarships, and a portion also found part-time jobs.

FUNDING OPTIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA

% OF TOTAL, N=131



**WITHOUT THIS
SCHOLARSHIP,
I CANNOT IMAGINE
WHERE I WOULD
STAND TODAY, SINCE
I USED TO THINK OF
QUITTING MY
EDUCATION AFTER
LOWER SECONDARY
SCHOOL.**

My name is Hong Hey, and I am 22 years old. I am a primary school teacher and a private teacher at the Singapore Helm Institute of Education - SHINE.



I am an alumnus of the Child's Dream High School Scholarship Programme, part of the 2015 intake. During my last year of lower secondary school, I heard an announcement from the school, advertising that Child's Dream was selecting students from poor families for its High School Scholarship Programme. After the announcement, a friend of mine asked me to apply for it together. At first, I thought that I did not fit the criteria because my grades were not outstanding. I hesitated but as my family was in trouble, I finally filled in the application. My parents had a big loan and migrated to Thailand, leaving me and four siblings with our grandma.

During the three years of scholarship experience, I have learned a lot, thanks to the capacity building provided, the scholarship camps, and all the other activities of the programme, which go beyond mere financial support. Without this scholarship, I cannot imagine where I would stand today, since I used to think of quitting my education after lower secondary school. Without this opportunity, I might be a migrant worker with my parents, who are still working in construction to support my younger siblings. Last but not least, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Child's Dream, which made this programme to support children in Cambodia who want to study. You guided us to THINK BIG and DREAM BIG. I wish you all the best and hope you will keep supporting the younger generations. Thank you!

FROM THE TESTIMONIAL SENT TO CHILD'S DREAM UPON REQUEST

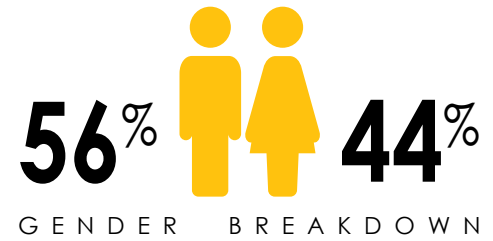
CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND

2,066

COUNT OF PATIENTS

2,137

COUNT OF CASES



WHY
WE
DO
IT



REDUCING CHILDHOOD MORTALITY AND LONG-TERM DISABILITY

CMF supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, specifically Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

Established in 2006, CMF provides access to life-saving operations and medical interventions for infants and children. In promoting the health service, we prioritise treatments of congenital disorders, as it is one of the leading causes of child mortality. The surgical procedures are normally expensive and complex; the majority of families cannot afford the necessary medication, let alone the costly operations. With approx. 150 patients annually, our targeted beneficiaries are children aged 0-12 who have been diagnosed with cardiac disorders, anorectal malformations, and neural tube defects. Without financial support and access to quality health care, many of these children either die prematurely or are crippled by disability, and are unable to attend school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

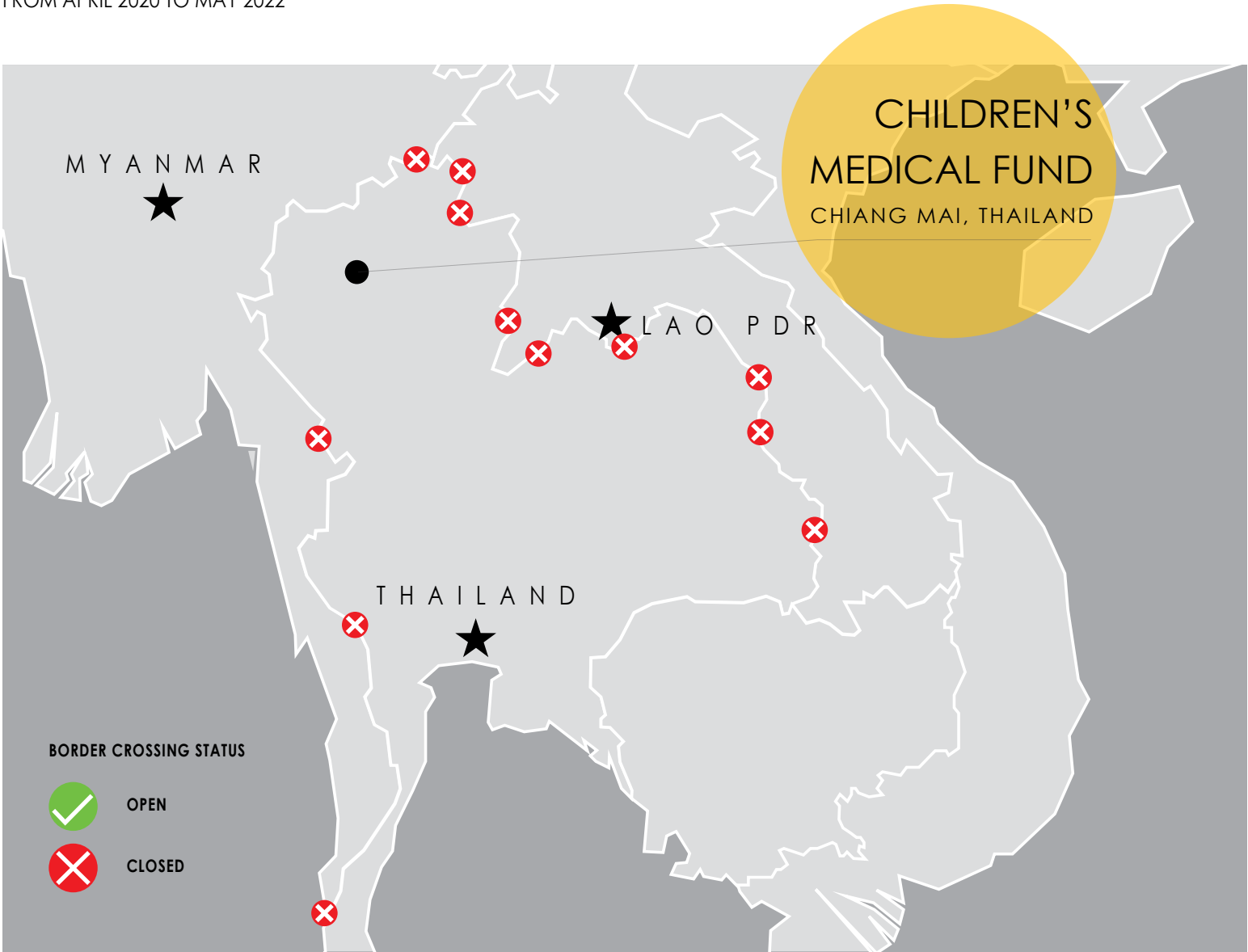


HOW WE COLLECT THE EVALUATION DATA

Patients' information and medical records are stored in a database designed for keeping track of health treatments. For monitoring and evaluation purposes, information is cross-checked against medical reports every six months. Programme statistics are regularly produced to understand outputs and outcomes.

BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN THAILAND-MYANMAR AND THAILAND-LAO PDR

FROM APRIL 2020 TO MAY 2022

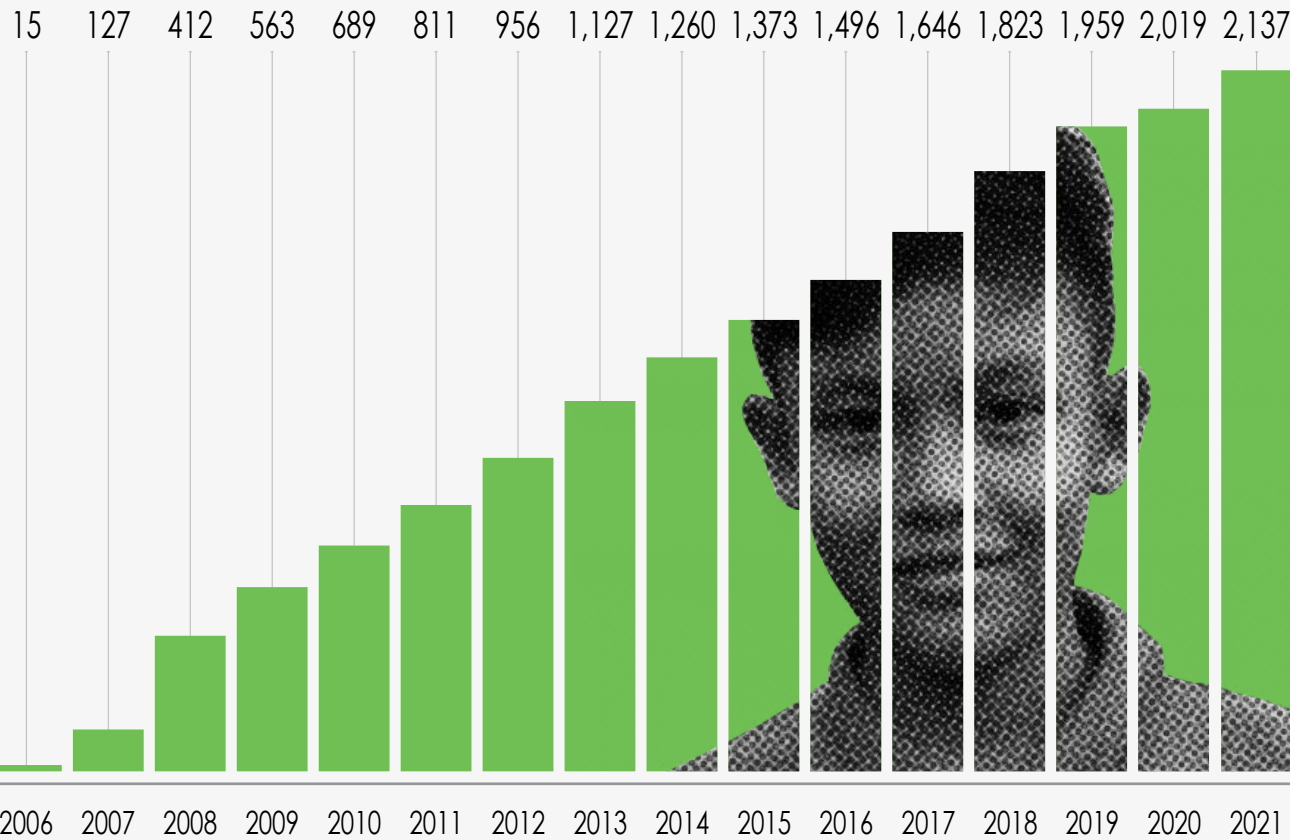


EXPANSION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Due to COVID-19, the border crossings between Thailand and Myanmar and Thailand and Lao PDR were closed from April 2020 to May 2022. Since patients from these countries could not travel to Thailand and seek medical treatment, we could not accept new patients travelling from these areas. We, therefore, decided to add two temporary interventions to address the current urgent health needs in Thailand, mainly caused by COVID-19 and poverty. For the first intervention, we agreed to provide financial support to Thai paediatric cardiac patients aged 0-12 years, who cannot afford medical procedures, surgical special equipment, and special medicine and post-op therapeutic milk formula for infants. These costs are not covered by the Thai social security fund and need to be paid by the parents, who often have to go into debt. These cases must be referred to us via the social welfare department to ensure that the family is, indeed, in need. The second project provides financial support for refugee children aged 0-12 years, referred by refugee camp clinics and local hospitals operating in Mae Sot, Mae Sariang, Umpang or Mae Hong Son. We apply different criteria and limited the intake to 15 patients per month. So far, we have received mostly preterm neonates with respiratory distress syndrome and low birth weight.

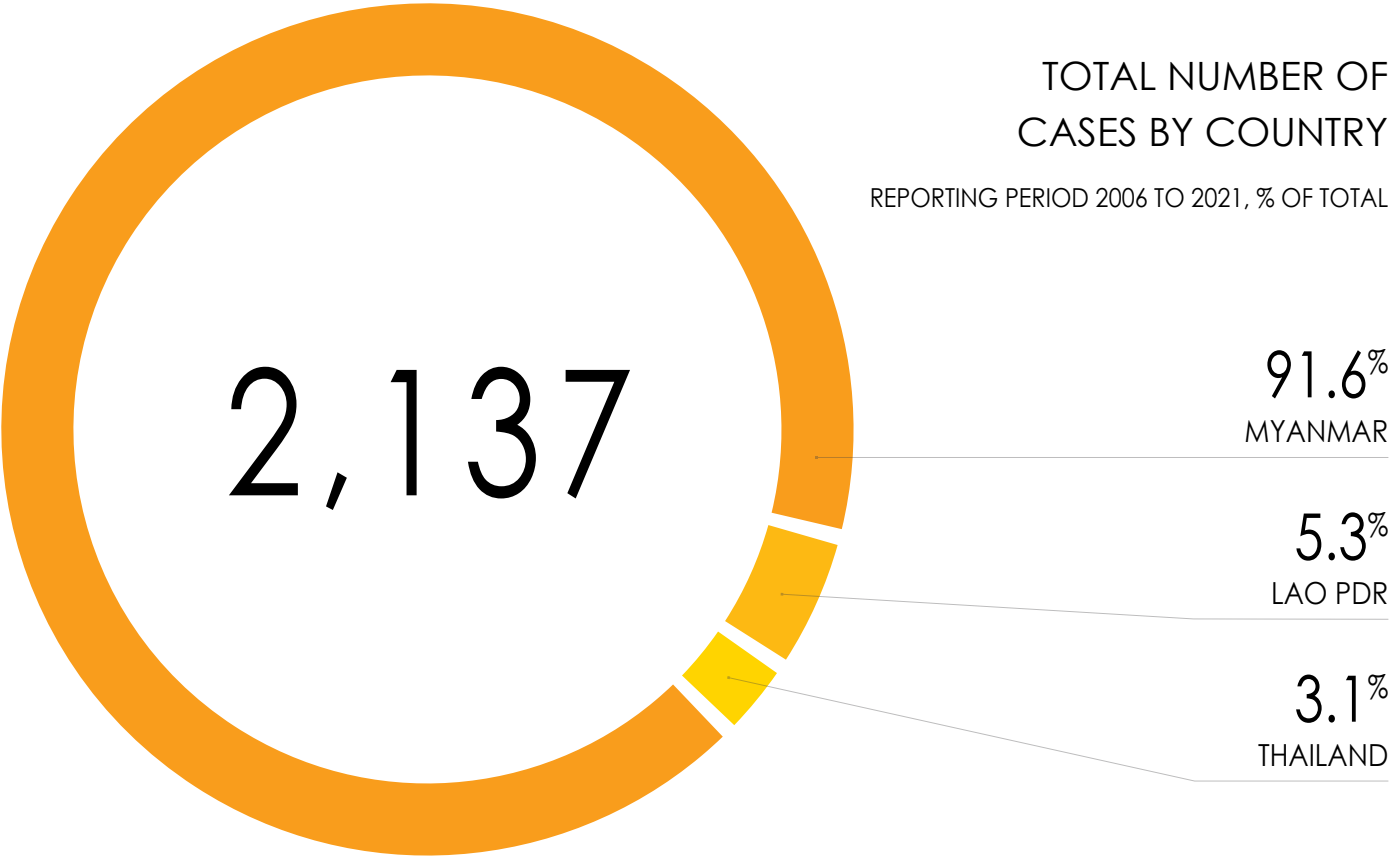
RUNNING TOTAL OF CASES

REPORTING PERIOD 2006 TO 2021



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES BY COUNTRY

REPORTING PERIOD 2006 TO 2021, % OF TOTAL

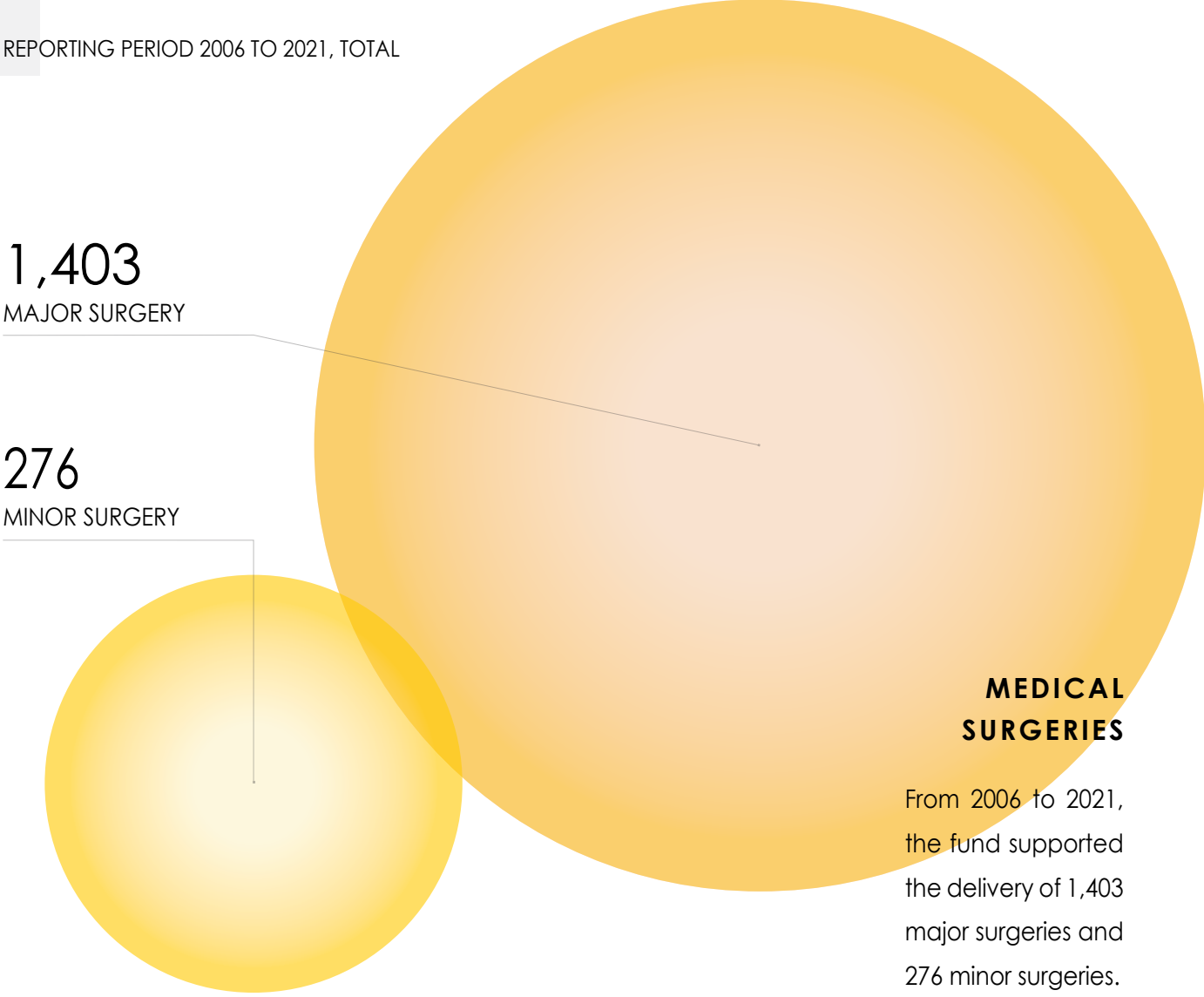


A STEADY INFLOW OF PATIENTS

One patient can suffer from more than one disorder, which results in more than one case per patient. At the end of 2021, the programme counted 2,137 cases, corresponding to 2,066 patients. Most children are either from Myanmar or are Myanmar descendants, and only 5.3% of the cases are from Lao PDR. As previously mentioned, due to the COVID-19 border restrictions imposed since April 2020 in the region, in 2021, the programme also started accepting critical cases from Thailand. We recorded 67 paediatric patients who could not afford their expensive medical bills in Thailand. Gender wise, 56% of the patients are male, and 44% are female.

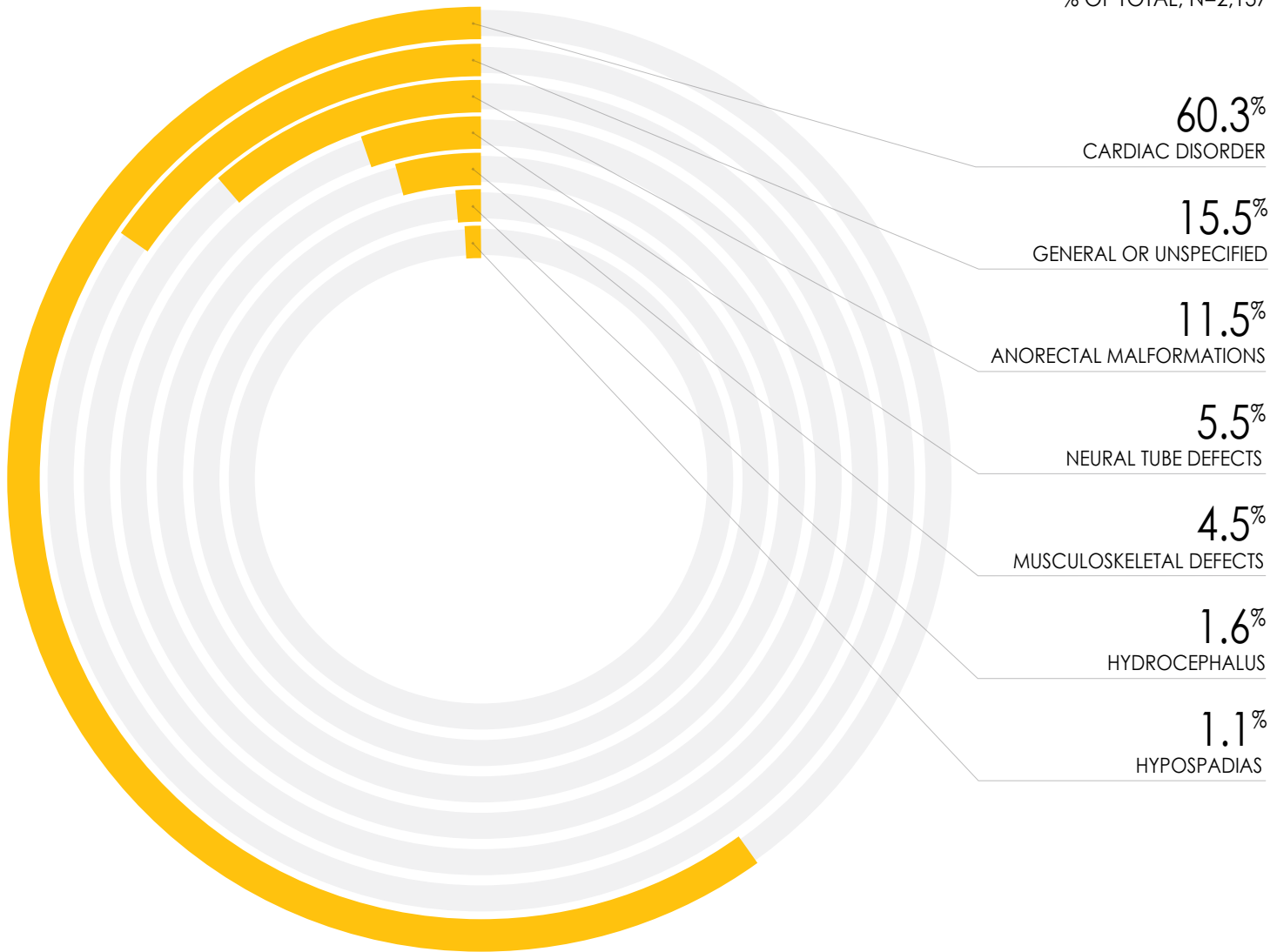
COUNT OF SURGERIES SUPPORTED SINCE THE START OF THE PROGRAMME

REPORTING PERIOD 2006 TO 2021, TOTAL



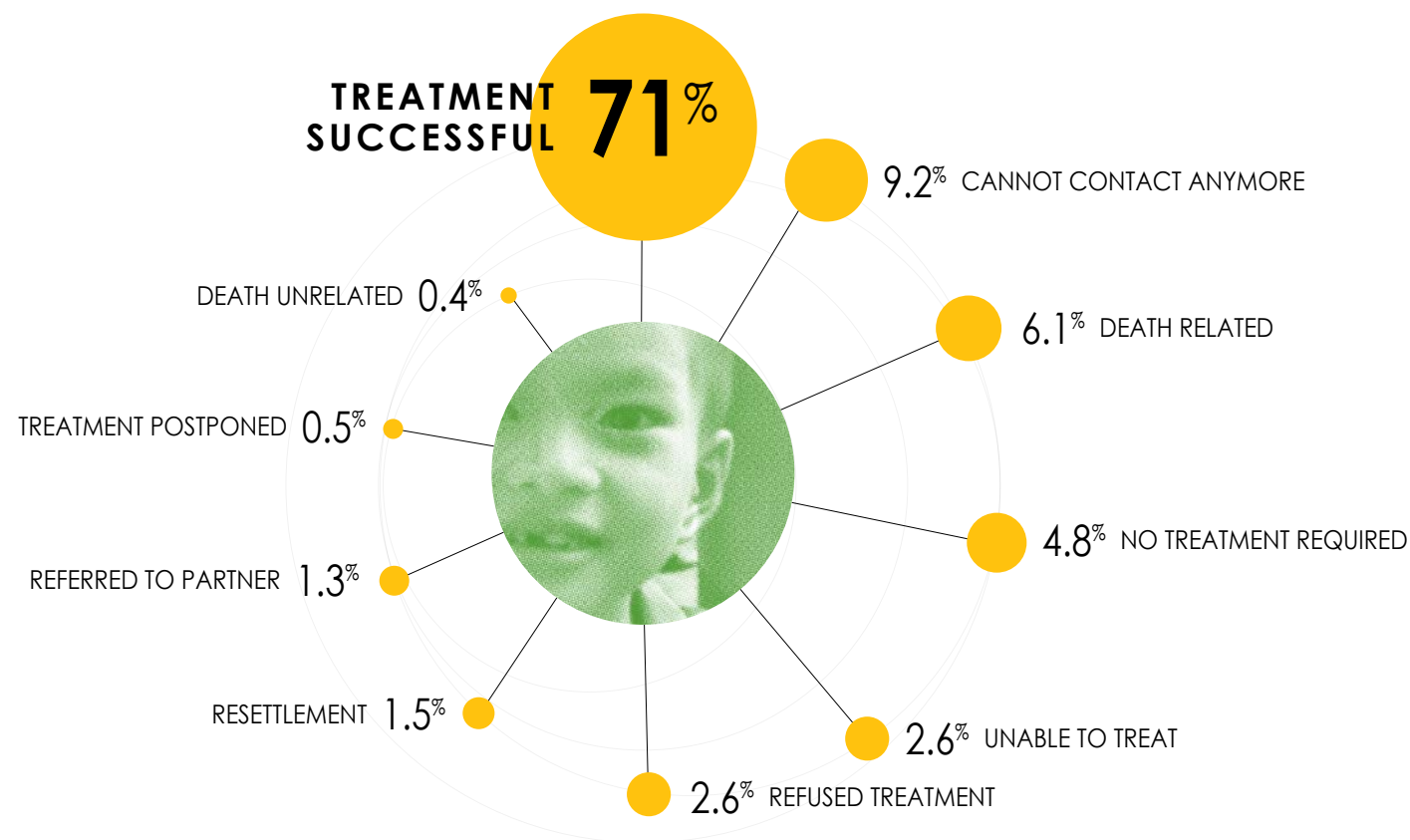
CASES BY MEDICAL CONDITION

% OF TOTAL, N=2,137



CLOSED CASES BY CLOSING CAUSE

REPORTING PERIOD 2006 TO 2021, % OF TOTAL, N=2,039



4.6%

ONGOING

95.4%

COMPLETED

CLOSED AND
ONGOING CASESREPORTING PERIOD 2006 TO 2021,
% OF TOTAL, N=2,137

DIFFERENT CLOSING REASONS

Of the 2,137 cases recorded, 95.4% (2,039) have been closed, and another 4.6% (98) are ongoing.

71% of the cases were closed because of successful treatments and full patient recovery. Unfortunately, last year, the second most frequent closing reason was the inability to contact patients. Border restrictions and the devastating effects of the military coup in Myanmar affected our ability to reach many patients. Power and internet cuts, displacements, and security concerns impacted the Myanmar beneficiaries' capacity to contact the programme managers and access health care. Mortality rates are set at 6.1%, with patients passing away because of the gravity of their conditions. Another 4.8% healed without requiring any treatment. Other closing reasons include patients' refusal of treatment, patients' resettlement to a third country, patients' referral to our partners, or inability to treat the medical condition.

83%
LIVES
SAVED17%
LIVES
IMPROVED

83% of the successful treatments were lifesaving. Depending on the severity of the condition treated, the programme either saves lives or improves them. The majority of the cases recorded were life-threatening, as cardiac disorder and other congenital malformities treated by the programme can prove fatal if left untreated.

Pawika was born at Nakornping Hospital in June 2022 by normal delivery. The doctor soon realised that the newborn suffered from poor health and detected a heart murmur. The echocardiography showed multiple defects in her heart, so the medical personnel requested immediate surgery. The cost for the treatment was more than 180,000 baht, way above the parents' financial capacity. Indeed, Pawika's parents are legal migrant workers. They hold a Thai security migrant card that covers medical costs for their baby for up to 100,000 baht (USD 3,334), not enough for the urgent surgery. When her father found out about his baby's illness, treatment plan and estimated cost, he was very concerned that he could not get enough money to pay the hospital bill. At the same time, a social worker at Maharaj Hospital asked Child's Dream to support the family. After the baby was accepted into the programme, Pawika was admitted to the hospital for 87 days. She received open-heart surgery to repair the coarctation. She suffered from post-op complications, mild subcostal retraction, lung infiltration and hypertension due to post-coarctation syndrome.

After a successful surgery and a long recovery, her father said to the managers of the programme:

I FEEL VERY LUCKY THAT I DECIDED TO MOVE TO THAILAND 15 YEARS AGO. IF I WERE IN SHAN STATE, MYANMAR, MY BABY WOULD HAVE DIED BECAUSE IN MY COUNTRY WE DON'T HAVE ANY FREE TREATMENT



PAWIKI WITH HER FAMILY

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, YOU SIMPLY CANNOT GET TREATMENT. WE ARE A POOR FAMILY, BUT CHILD'S DREAM DONORS GAVE US A CHANCE, A NEW LIFE FOR MY BABY. WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU AND THE THAILAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. I HOPE THAT MY COUNTRY WILL BE BETTER SOON.

YOUTH CONNECT FOUNDATION

TRANSITION PROGRAMME

674

MYANMAR MIGRANT STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAMME SO FAR



WHY WE DO IT

CONNECTING YOUTH TO DECENT WORK

We initiated Youth Connect back in 2008 to improve employment opportunities for migrant youth from Myanmar. Migrant students who graduated from migrant learning centres in Thailand did not have the appropriate skills, knowledge, network and legal documentation that would allow them to find decent jobs. As a result, many students ended up in dangerous, illegal and exploitative working conditions.

Based on a detailed survey among local businesses about their skill needs, Youth Connect developed a specific curriculum to address these needs required by the local economy. The programme provides vocational training, apprenticeships, and career services to support migrant students in transitioning to safe, productive and independent lives and to prevent exploitation and trafficking.



HOW WE COLLECT THE EVALUATION DATA

The Transition Programme intends to facilitate the transition to work for recent high school graduates or youth out of school. In 2021, we elaborated surveys and indicators to measure the Programme outcome. We followed the "School to Work Transition Survey Guide" of the International Labour Organization to tailor our questionnaires. The latter collects information concerning how the programme contributes to the students' preparation to secure decent employment. Decent employment is here intended as secure work that pays a fair income, guarantees safety and generally respects workers' rights. Questions inquired about income, contractual arrangements, job satisfaction, job security, and so on. The alumni tracking survey was sent to students who finished the training course in 2019 and 2020. Recent graduates were not invited to participate in the study to ensure that results only reflect the situation of those who graduated at least one year before. Duplicate respondents were removed from the dataset, and all answers were cross-checked and cleaned for consistency to reduce bias. The findings reflect the self-reported survey responses of the respondents surveyed in 2021.

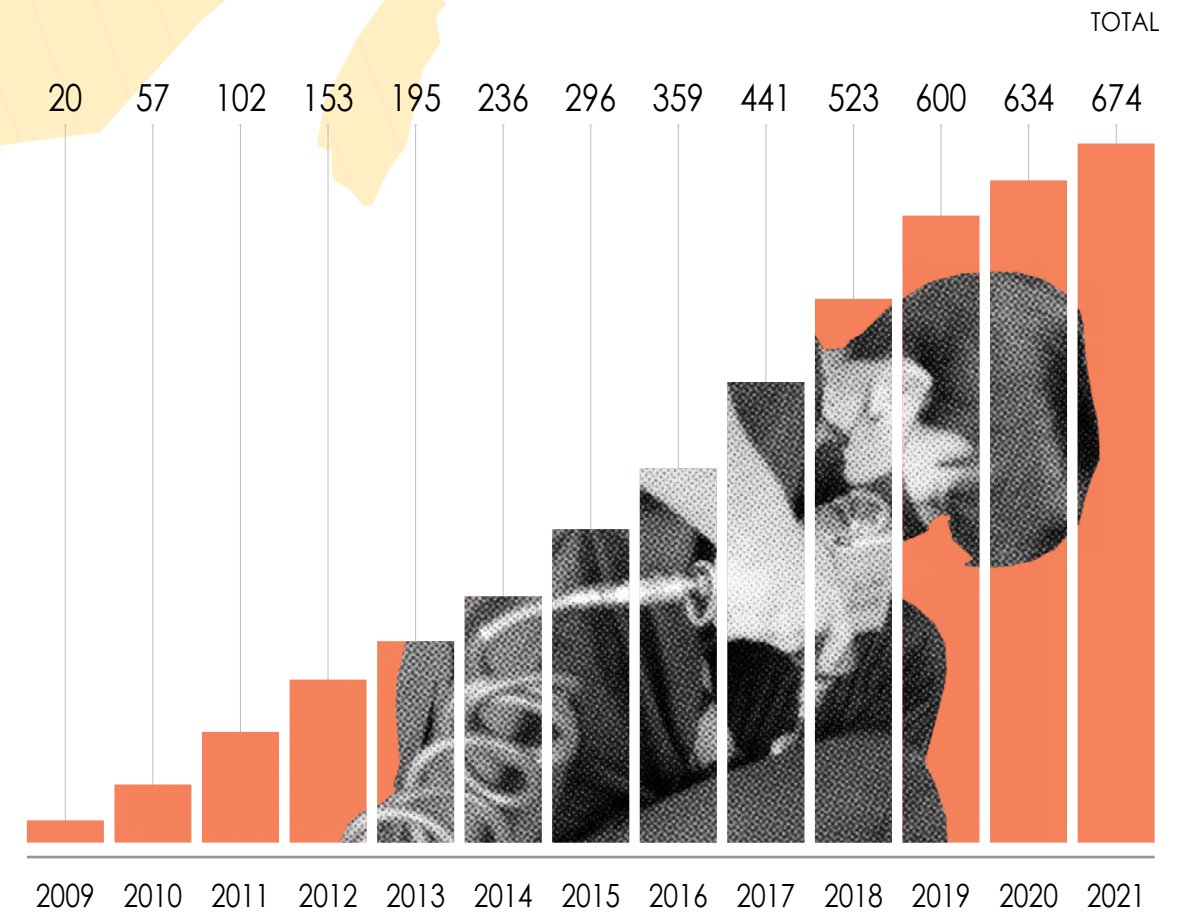
NAW PYI TAW, MYANMAR

BANGKOK, THAILAND

YOUTH CONNECT TRANSITION PROGRAMME

MAE SOT, THAILAND

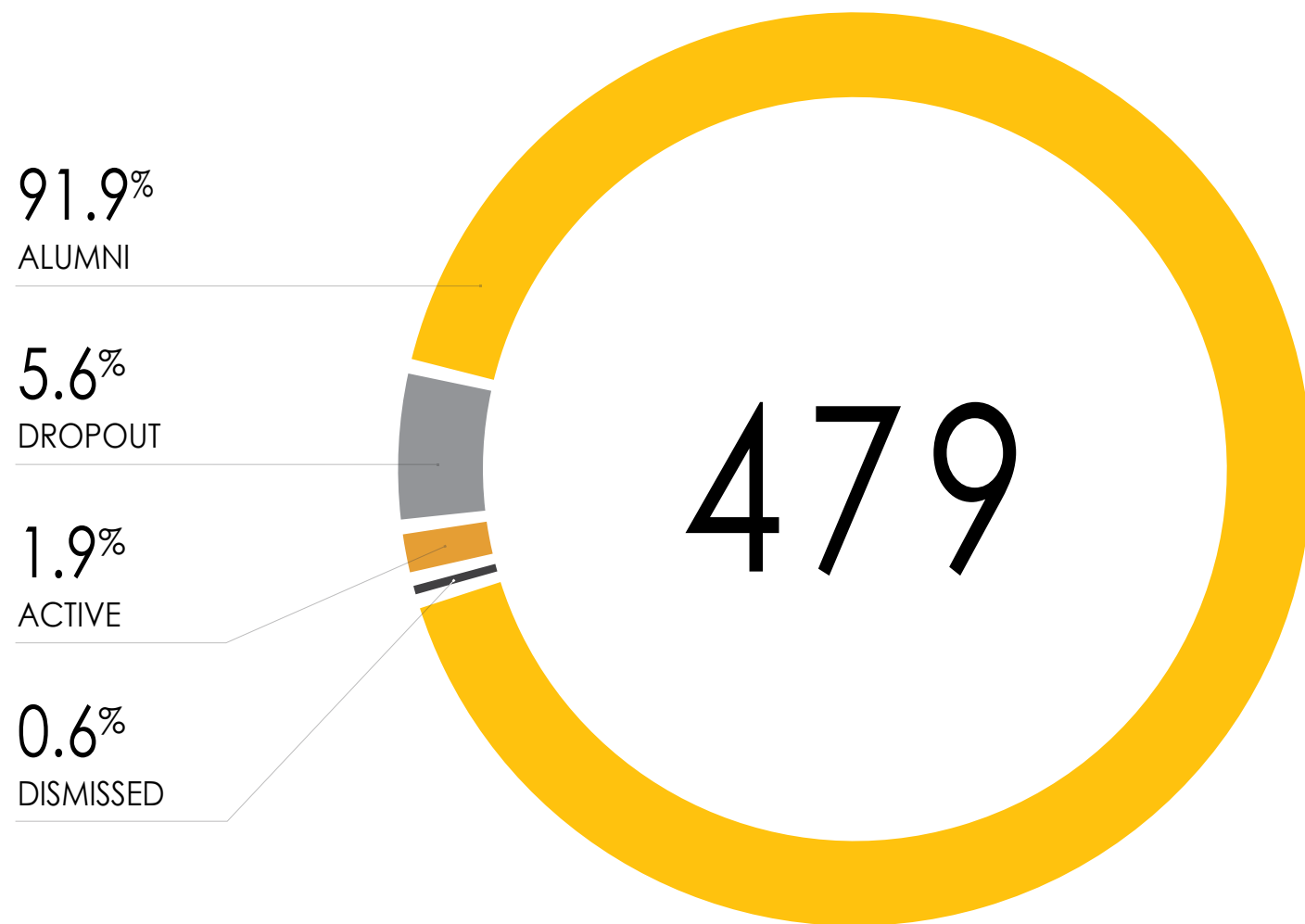
RUNNING TOTAL OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE TRANSITION PROGRAMME



The Youth Connect Transition Programme was started in 2009, after a pilot and needs assessment study provided information concerning what skills are sought by employers in Mae Sot. Every year the Transition Programme runs at least two training batches of six months each, recruiting around 60 students a year, although numbers can vary. Students must have passed three months of basic training before applying for the Transition Programme. The goal is to recruit motivated students who have received basic preparation in the Thai language and other soft skills. As of December 2021, the programme enrolled 674 migrant students from Myanmar.

TRANSITION PROGRAMME STUDENTS BY STATUS

2014 TO 2021 INTAKES, % OF TOTAL



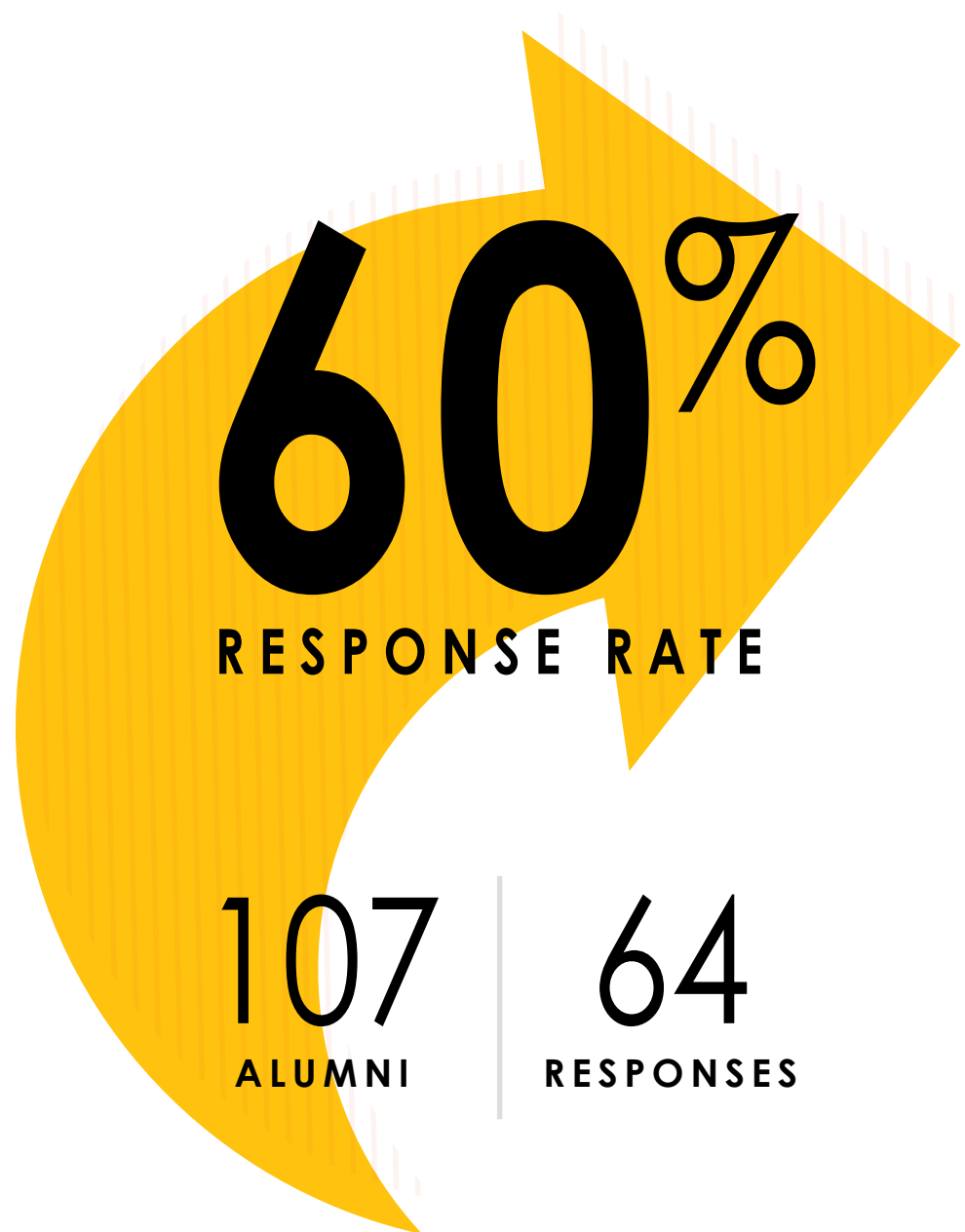
OUTPUT IN NUMBERS

As of December 2021, the Transition Programme enrolled 479 students. Of these, nine were studying, 440 graduated, 27 dropped out of the programme, and three were dismissed. These figures correspond to a graduation rate of 93.6%, a dropout rate of 5.7% and a discontinuation rate of 0.7%. Figures for the reporting period 2009-2013 have not been included in the calculation because in 2014 the student database management was changed. For consistency's sake, only figures from 2014 onwards have been reported.



HIGH RESPONSE RATE

In 2021, we sent the alumni tracking survey to 107 beneficiaries who graduated in 2019 and 2020. We received 64 valid responses for a response rate of 60%. While the response rate is still positive, many alumni were not contactable as they have been known to have returned to Myanmar.

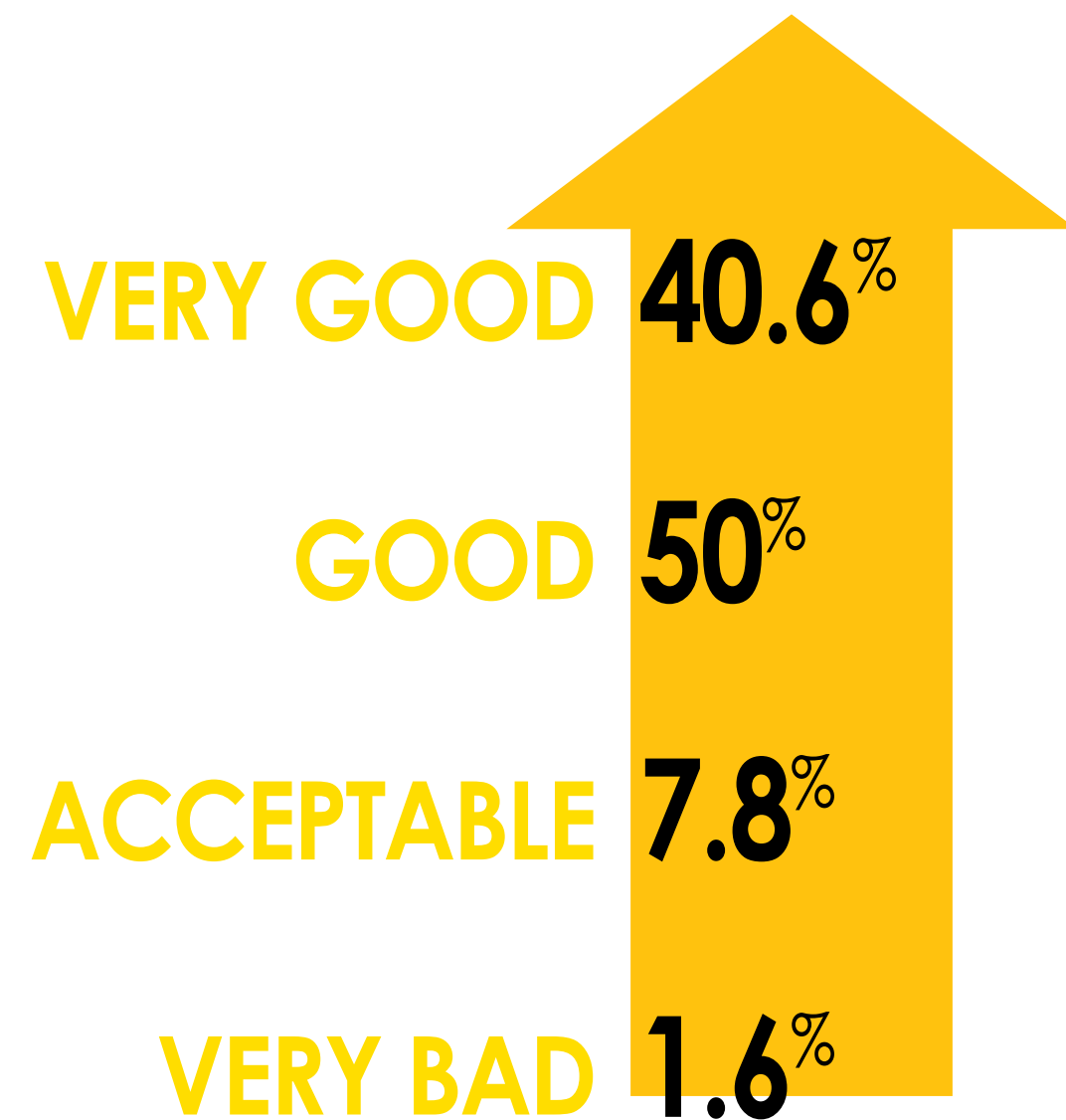


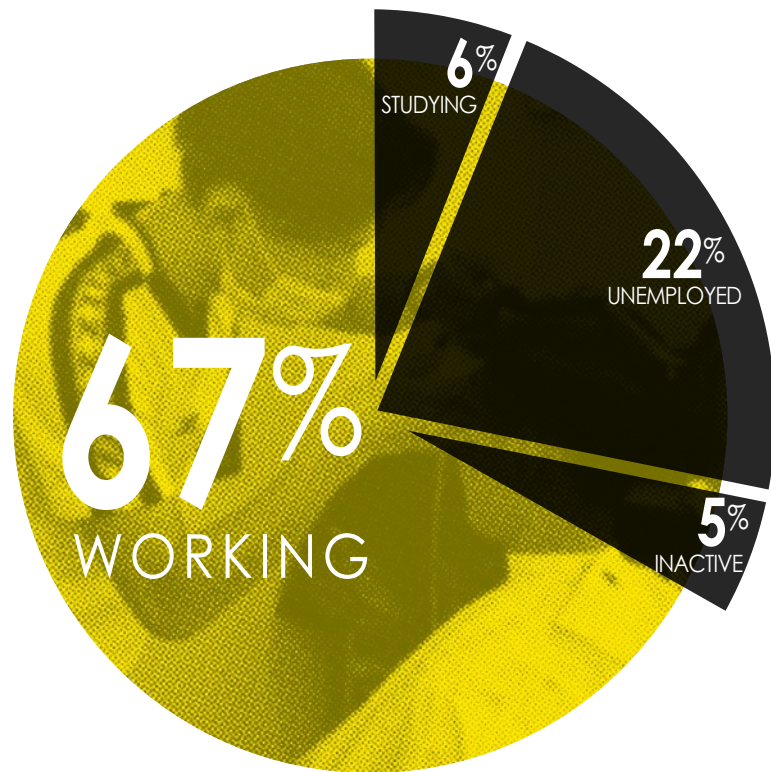
PROGRAMME FEEDBACK

The respondents rated Youth Connect services and support concerning the transition programme. 90.6% of the survey respondents gave positive ratings, a few expressed more moderate views, and only one rated the question negatively.

ALUMNI RATINGS OF YOUTH CONNECT SERVICES AND SUPPORT

% OF TOTAL, N=64





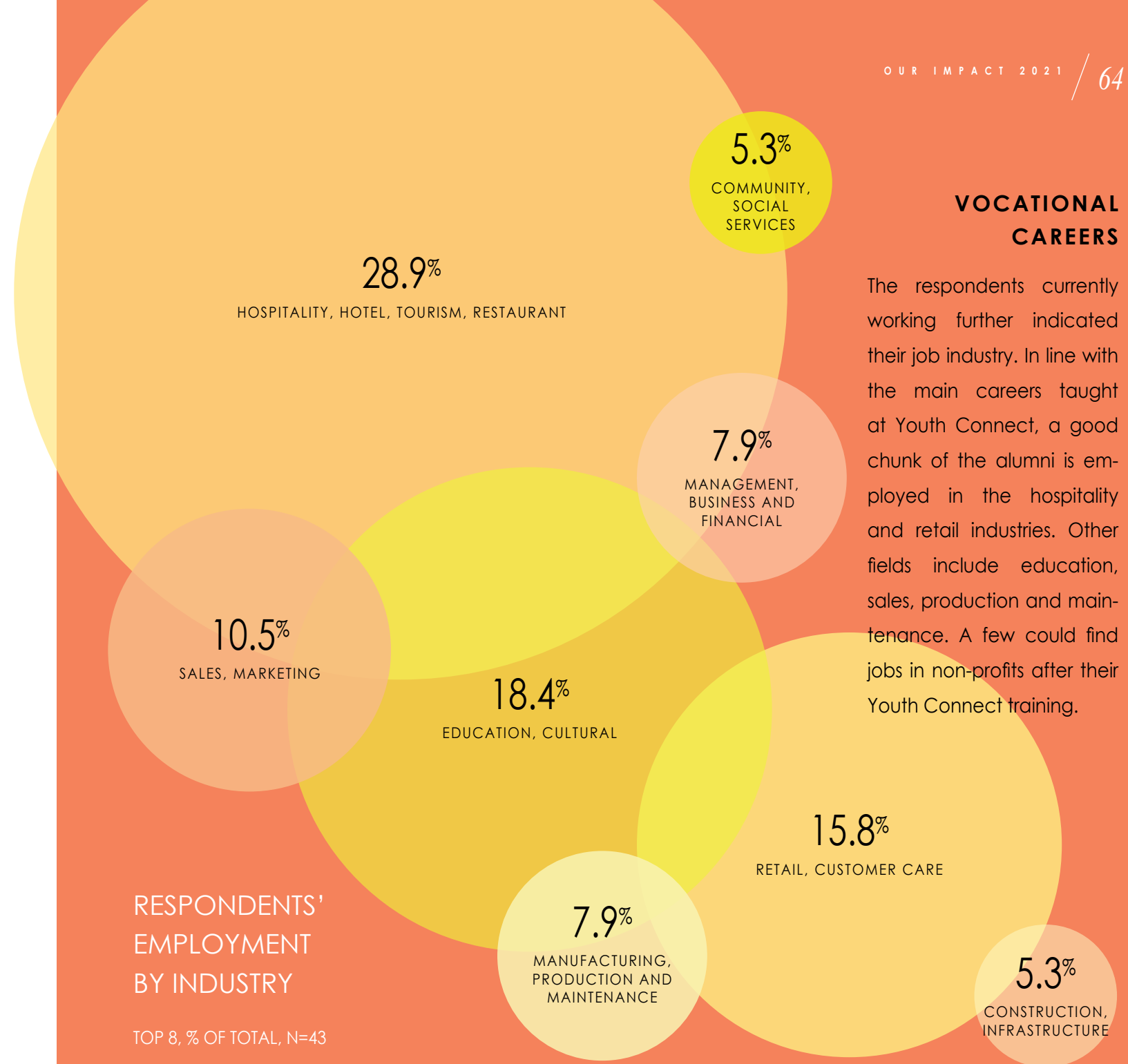
CURRENT SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS

78%

OF THE ALUMNI FOUND JOBS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF FINISHING THEIR APPRENTICESHIP

CURRENT SITUATION SNAPSHOT

We asked the alumni to indicate their main occupation at the time of the survey. 67% of the respondents were working, 6% were studying, 22% were looking for jobs, and 5% were inactive (inactive definition: jobless and not looking for opportunities). Those looking for jobs indicated different reasons for their unemployment. Among these, we found the lack of legal status and documents, lack of jobs in the refugee camps, low pay, unfair treatment at work, and return to Myanmar. Many of these motives resonate with the harsh conditions met by migrant workers and youth when searching for employment in Thailand. Difficult working conditions, harsh migration rules, tough job markets and the adverse effects of COVID-19 on the economy are all factors that nowadays affect the lives and opportunities of many migrants here in Thailand. Those studying are undertaking various courses offered by BEAM, the Map Foundation and the University of People.

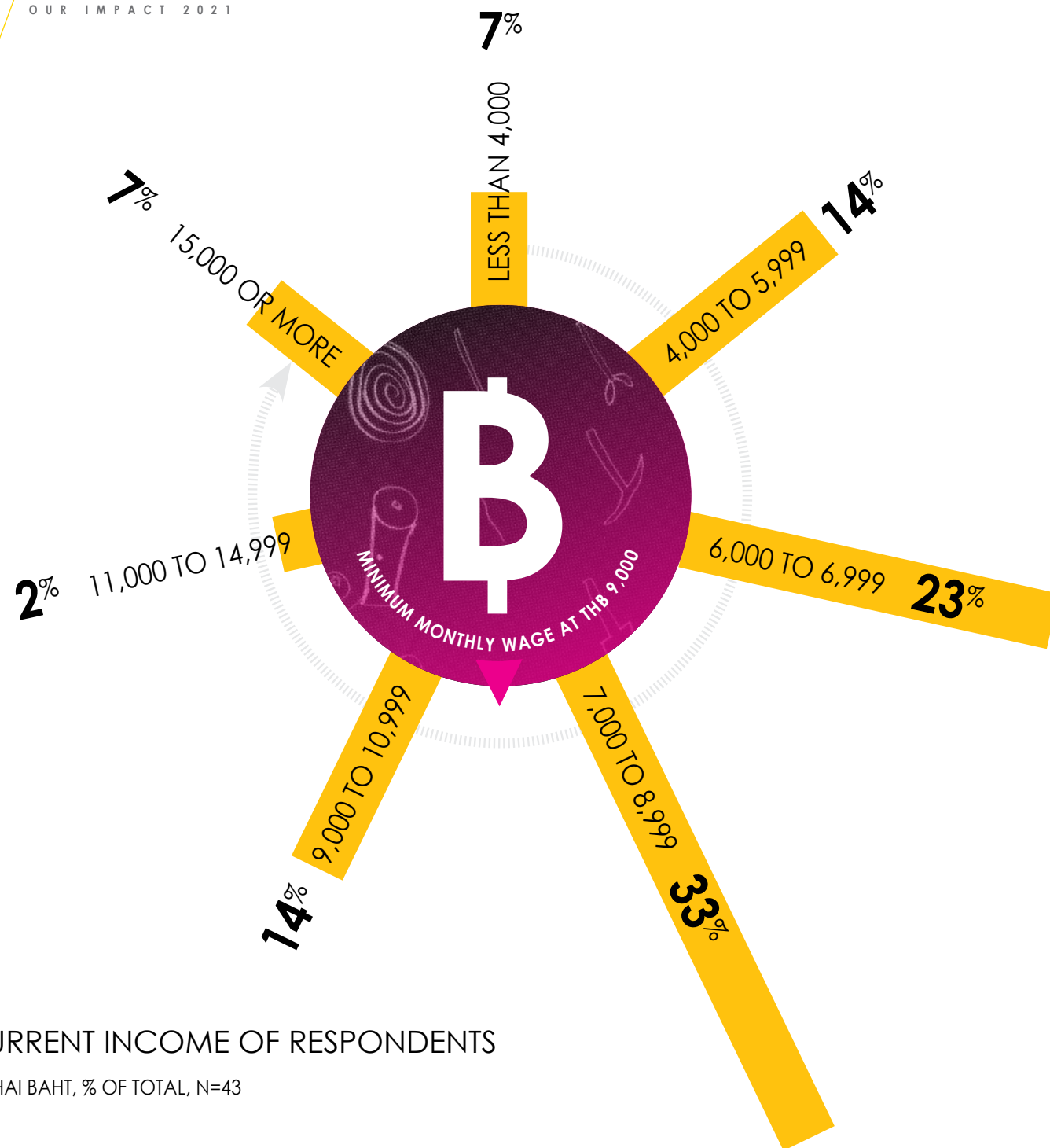


RESPONDENTS' EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

TOP 8, % OF TOTAL, N=43

VOCATIONAL CAREERS

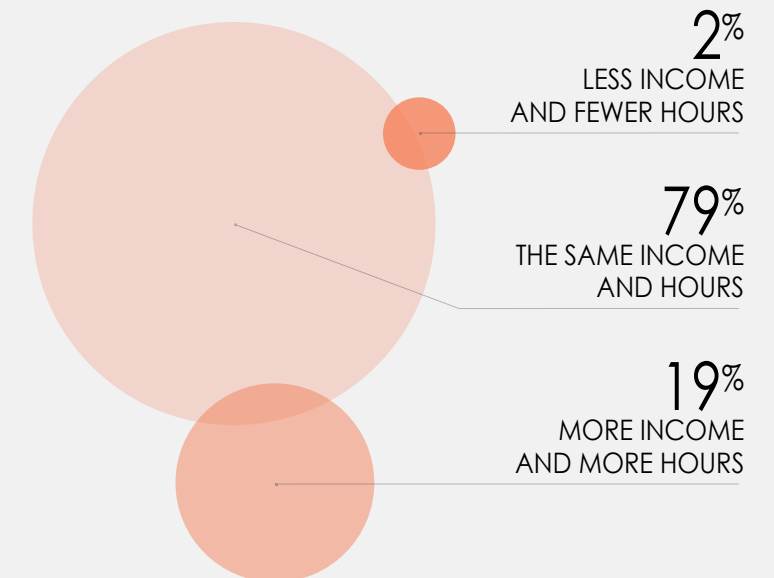
The respondents currently working further indicated their job industry. In line with the main careers taught at Youth Connect, a good chunk of the alumni is employed in the hospitality and retail industries. Other fields include education, sales, production and maintenance. A few could find jobs in non-profits after their Youth Connect training.



INCOME FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The survey asked several questions to understand to what extent the alumni working were able to secure decent employment. Income varies between alumni, with some respondents receiving low wages and others getting fairer salaries. Only 23% of the respondents make minimum wage (set at around 9,000 baht a month), and 56% earn between 6,000 and 8,999 Baht a month. 93% of the respondents feel that they could access better income opportunities thanks to Youth Connect. When looking at underemployment or over employment, only 2% would want to work less, and around 19% would prefer to work more for a higher monthly income. Although these figures might sound concerning, they are relatively positive, as it has been widely documented that many migrant workers suffer from exploitation and dire working conditions in Thailand. While there is room for improvement, the figures highlight that most students can access fairer income than the averages registered among migrant workers.

GIVEN THE CHOICE,
WOULD YOU OPT FOR:



93%

**OF THE ALUMNI WORKING FEEL THAT
THE YOUTH CONNECT TRAINING HELPED
THEM SECURE A BETTER INCOME**

IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS,
HOW LIKELY YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO KEEP YOUR MAIN
JOB?

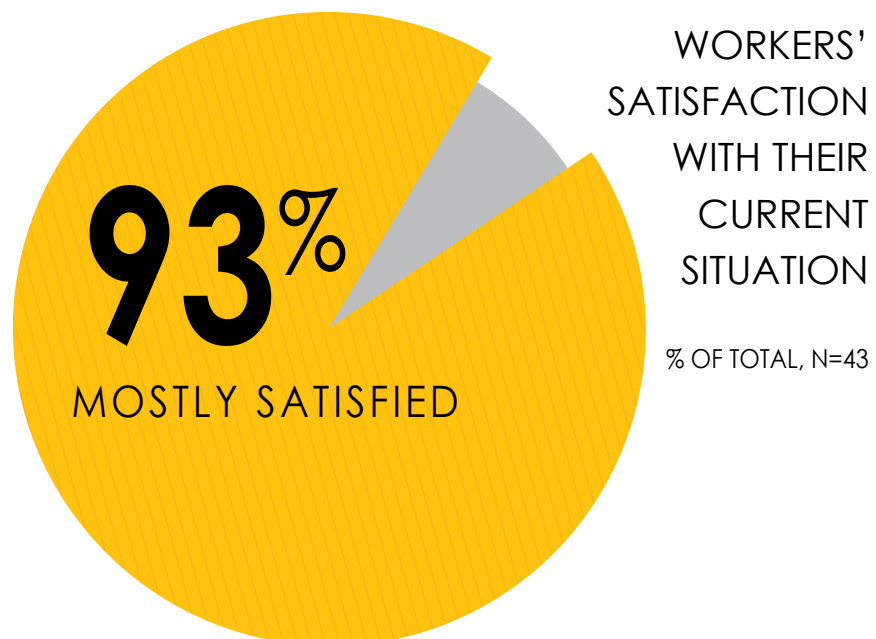
74.4% LIKELY

9.3% NOT LIKELY

16.3% DO NOT KNOW

JOB SECURITY

When looking at job security, 74.4% of the respondents feel that they will likely keep their jobs for the next 12 months if they want to, while 16.3% do not know. The finding positively highlights the feeling of job security shared by the majority of the alumni.



HAPPY WORKERS

Another important aspect of decent employment is satisfaction with one's situational outcome. 93% of the alumni working feel mostly satisfied with their current job. This figure offers positive clues about the alumni's perceptions of conditions and prospects with their current situation. Overall, outcome figures could benefit from improvement, but are relatively positive when considering the dire working conditions faced by many migrants in Thailand. In 2022, we will carry out further in-depth research with the alumni surveyed in 2021, and we will develop solutions aimed at supporting the programme alumni. The aim is to further improve the programme outcomes of decent employment.

My name is Khant Paing Chaw. I am 20 years old, and I have a younger brother. My mother works in a factory while my father is disabled and suffers from an airborne disease. I came to YCF with the help of a teacher. After learning that YCF provides education and training to young people like me who have graduated high school and are out of work, I became interested and attended the YCF training. At Basic Training, I gained a lot of experience in emotion management. It helped me a lot in my life, as I became serious about how to plan and get started on my future life goals. Moreover, I started to learn what I am passionate about during the intensive training.



KHANT PAING CHAW AT WORK AT HEBRON

**I GAINED A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN EMOTION MANAGEMENT.
IT HELPED ME A LOT IN MY LIFE, AS I BECAME SERIOUS ABOUT
HOW TO PLAN AND GET STARTED ON MY FUTURE LIFE GOALS.**

I had the opportunity to do an apprenticeship at Hebron, where I encountered a family-friendly atmosphere among the staff. After my apprenticeship, I was hired at Hebron and gained further experience and knowledge. In Hebron, all of my colleagues are very kind. We consider ourselves brothers and sisters, and we are always there for each other when in need. In Hebron, I feel the family love. Thus, I would like to give my special thanks to the donors and teachers for opening such opportunities for young people. May they be more successful and work for the benefit of the people.

FROM THE TESTIMONIAL SENT TO CHILD'S DREAM UPON REQUEST

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME



WHY WE DO IT

WHY WE BUILD EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

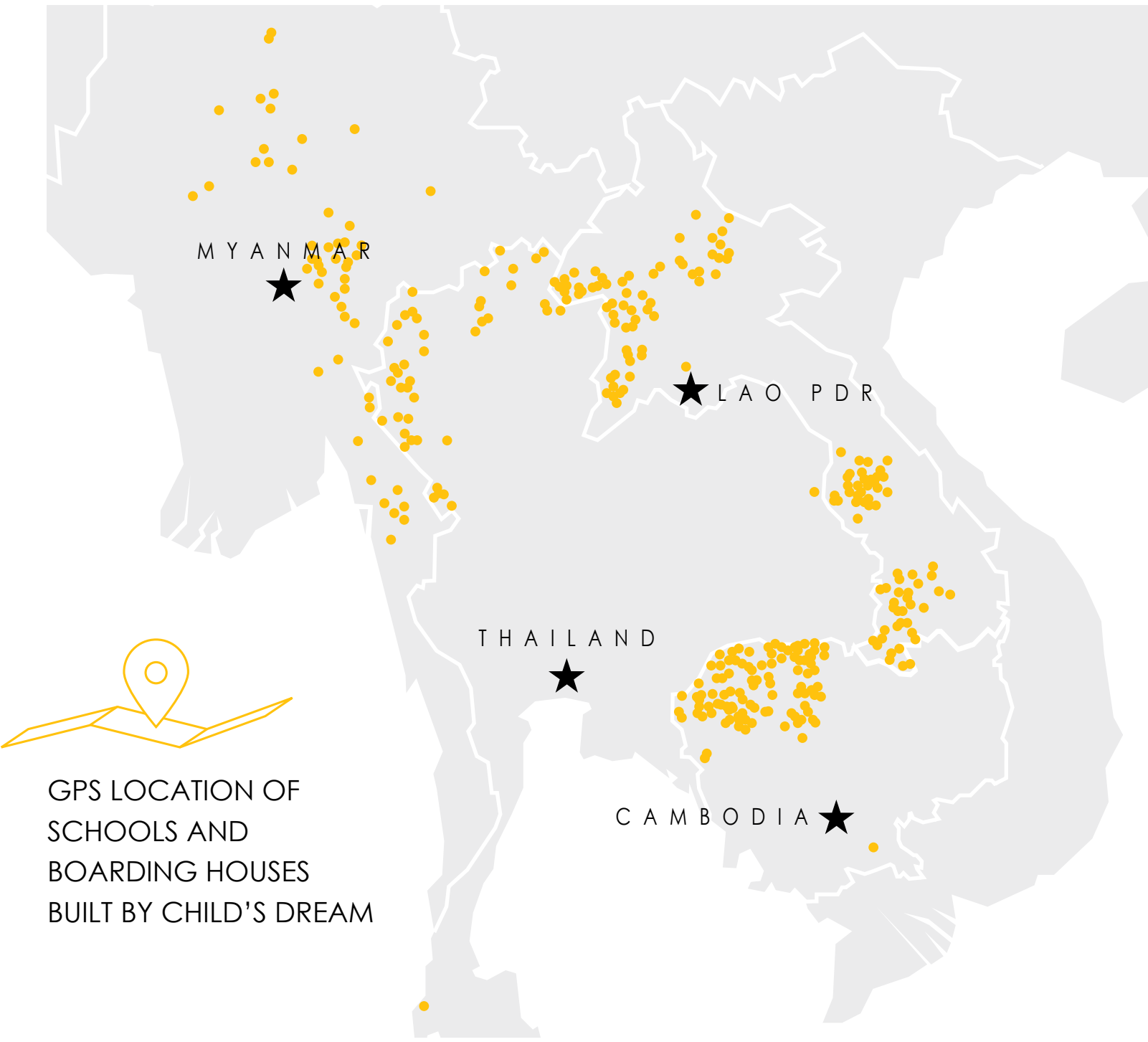
We strongly believe that a safe, secure and conducive learning environment is essential for the educational success and wellbeing of the students and teachers. Therefore, we support children and youth in accessing education by providing quality education infrastructure, either building completely new schools, replacing dilapidated ones which were unsafe and unhygienic or constructing additional classrooms to reduce crowding in classes.

Access to secondary education remains challenging in remote areas as students live too far from school and parents cannot afford the traveling or boarding expenses. In the rainy season, many students receive no education due to travel difficulties or dangers such as flooded roads. Some students have to take shelter in basic bamboo huts offering little protection. To address these problems, we build secure boarding houses at centrally located secondary schools to offer free, safe and supervised accommodation. Our educational facilities provide the students a high standard learning and living environment.



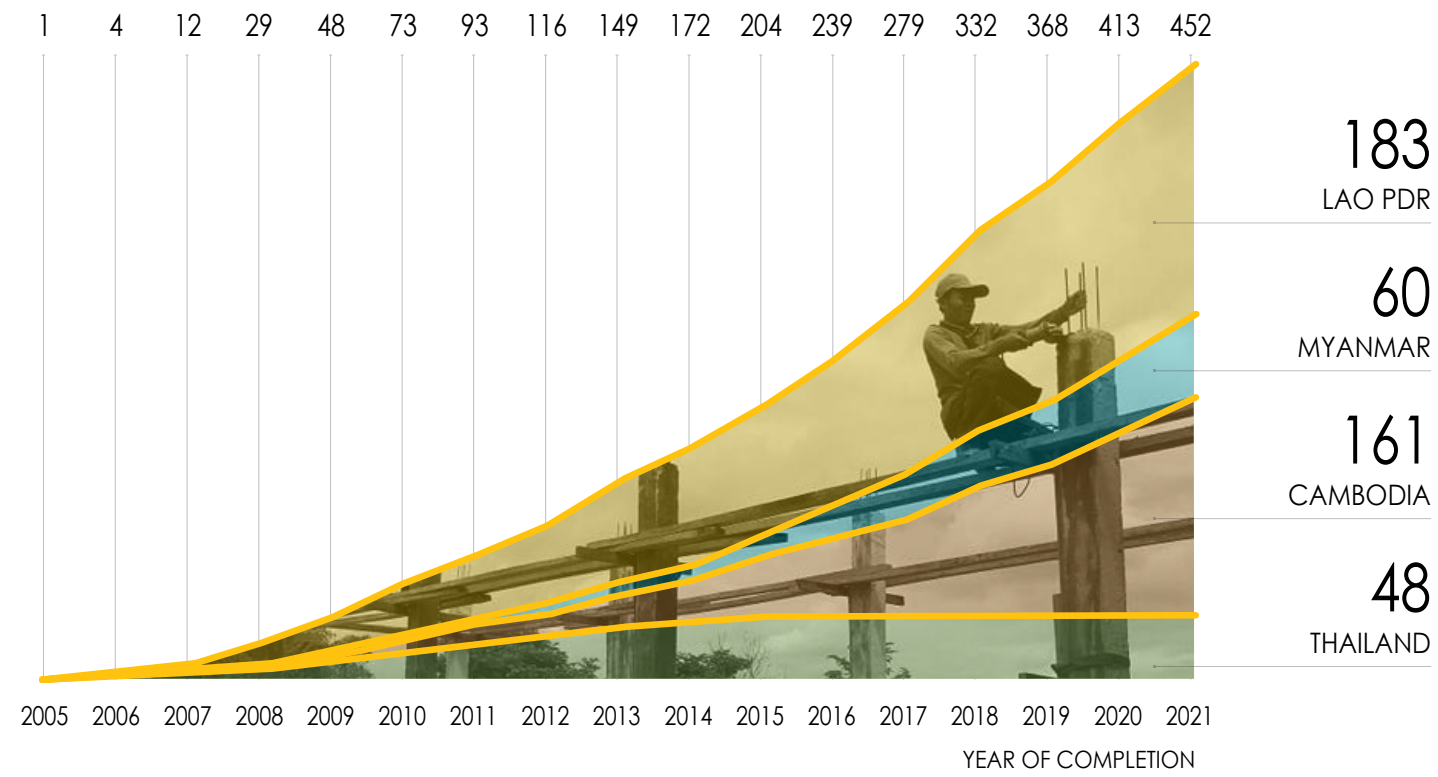
HOW WE COLLECT THE EVALUATION DATA

We use different strategies to assess programme outcomes. One of our standard procedures is to visit and evaluate schools and boarding houses after two years, after five years, after 10 years, and after 15 years of their completion date. During these visits, we evaluate the maintenance of the infrastructure, school management, school sanitation and hygiene and student dropout rates and completion rates. Indicators include cleanliness, ventilation, brightness, school compound safety, quality of walls, roofs, ceilings, floors and furniture, toilet cleanliness and so on. The aim is to ensure that children can study and live in safe and clean environments and assess how the infrastructure provided affects access to schooling. Child's Dream considers further support if the school or the community cannot fix severe infrastructural issues. Note that, in 2021, we could not implement any standard evaluations due to travel restrictions. Another way we used to explore the programme impact is through interview data. We used in-depth interviews, case studies and focus group discussions for understanding impact, effectiveness, relevance and sustainability of our school buildings projects implemented in Lao PDR between 2015 and 2020.



RUNNING TOTAL OF INFRASTRUCTURES SUPPORTED BY COMPLETION YEAR

RUNNING TOTAL FOR 2005 TO 2021 REPORTING PERIOD



During the period 2005-2021, Child's Dream built 452 school infrastructures across Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia. Numbers vary according to the country of operation. In Lao PDR and Cambodia, there is a greater need for educational infrastructures, thus explaining the high numbers of buildings supported. The political turmoil and conflicts of Myanmar rendered the implementation of the programme difficult, while in Thailand, the government has stepped up its support to remote communities and provided the needed school infrastructures. The teams stopped the Thai intervention in 2016.

452
SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURES

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND BOARDING HOUSES

As of December 2021, we fully constructed 380 school buildings and 72 boarding houses. The interventions respectively reached 111,473 and 4,318 beneficiaries. Most of the beneficiaries of the boarding houses are also counted under the school building projects as often students' accommodations are supported after the school has received extra classrooms from Child's Dream.



TOTAL NUMBER OF INFRASTRUCTURES SUPPORTED BY PROJECT TYPE

RUNNING TOTAL FOR 2005 TO 2021 REPORTING PERIOD

380 SCHOOL BUILDING

72 BOARDING HOUSE

COUNT OF BENEFICIARIES FOR SCHOOL BUILDING AND BOARDING HOUSE INFRASTRUCTURES

RUNNING TOTAL FOR 2005 TO 2021 REPORTING PERIOD

111,473 SCHOOL BUILDING
BENEFICIARIES

4,318 BOARDING HOUSE
BENEFICIARIES

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



BEFORE



BEFORE

DAMNAK THMEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Damnak Thmey Village is located in the Banteay Meanchey Province of Cambodia. 1,307 people live in the village area, and the majority of the residents rely on subsistence farming and plantation work to make a living. Damnak Thmey Primary School was founded in 2001, caters to primary school students aged five to 12 years old and employs ten teachers (five females and five males). Before Child's Dream intervention in 2021, the school had two buildings with a total of six classrooms. One of the infrastructures counted three classrooms and was built in 2015. As it was still in good condition, it was considered safe. However, the second building, which included three classrooms as well, was made of wood in 2006. The wood had become severely rotten, and the building was on the verge of collapse. To address this situation, we supported Damnak Thmey Village with one new concrete school building with four fully-furnished classrooms to replace the dilapidated wooden building. It will allow the students to learn in a safe and motivating environment, encouraging them to finish their primary level education. This new building will also provide teachers and students with a more productive learning space and emphasise the importance of education to the students and all community members. The school currently counts 257 students (119 girls, 138 boys).



AFTER



AFTER



NAM SONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nam Song Primary School is located in Xaignabouli Province, northern Lao PDR. Nam Song village has a population of 1,249 individuals, who mostly rely on subsistence farming, plantation work, animal husbandry and construction work. The school was established in 2004 and consisted of three school buildings with six classrooms. One of the buildings was made of concrete and wood, and while still safe, it was in poor condition, as it had cracked walls and cracked floors. Overall, it did not provide a motivating learning environment. The other two buildings were built by the community in 2010, for temporary classroom space and were made of wood and thatched roofs. These buildings were structurally unsafe and in dire need of replacement. The gaps in the roof and walls allowed rainwater to pour in, causing the dirt floors to become extremely muddy. Additionally, the interior dividing walls had huge holes in them and allowed noise to travel between classrooms, resulting in a chaotic learning environment. Finally, the entire school had only one toilet. We provided a new school building with five fully-furnished classrooms and built four new toilets to help improve the sanitation standards of the school. The school currently has 161 students (87 boys, 74 girls) and employs eight teachers (six males, two females).



IMPACT EVALUATION

FOCUS AREAS OF THE IMPACT EVALUATION

LUANG PRABANG

XAIGNABOULI

SAVANNAKHET

CHAMPASAK

★ L A O P D R

72 INTERVIEW
PARTICIPANTS

30:51:32 INTERVIEW
HOURS

16 INTERVIEWS WITH KEY
INDIVIDUALS AND BENEFICIARIES

11 FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSIONS

HOW WE CONDUCTED THE IMPACT EVALUATION

The research study explored different questions concerning the educational infrastructure programme in Lao PDR. Good internet access and long term collaboration with the Laotian stakeholders were among the factors that led us to choose Lao PDR as the focus area of the study. We agreed to focus on the projects implemented between 2015 and 2020 to collect accurate and specific interview data. Throughout this period, Child's Dream built 49 schools across four provinces and reached 11,865 direct beneficiaries. For the purpose of the evaluation study, we sampled 19 schools out of 49 located across all four focus provinces.

The evaluation used qualitative methods to collect data. We mainly used interviews to ask questions to different programme stakeholders and beneficiaries. Indeed, we interviewed village leaders, government representatives, principals, teachers, parents and students. The interviews were carried out through focus group discussions and in-depth one on one interviews.

The main purpose of the evaluation was to identify and analyse the programme's outcomes and impact on the beneficiaries and their communities. We also explored the sustainability of the infrastructures and how these responded to the needs of the target beneficiaries. We used the data to formulate and collect feasible recommendations for improvement. We reported some of the main findings in the following pages. We thank all the participants for providing us with useful information that helped us prove and improve our intervention in Lao PDR.

WHY WE CONDUCTED THE IMPACT EVALUATION

The political and health crisis of the last two years taught us that it is not always possible to carry out our standard assessments to check the maintenance and school management of the school buildings and boarding houses provided. Since, in 2021, we could not carry out any of our planned evaluations, we developed and implemented an online research study to explore in more depth the impact of our school infrastructure programme.

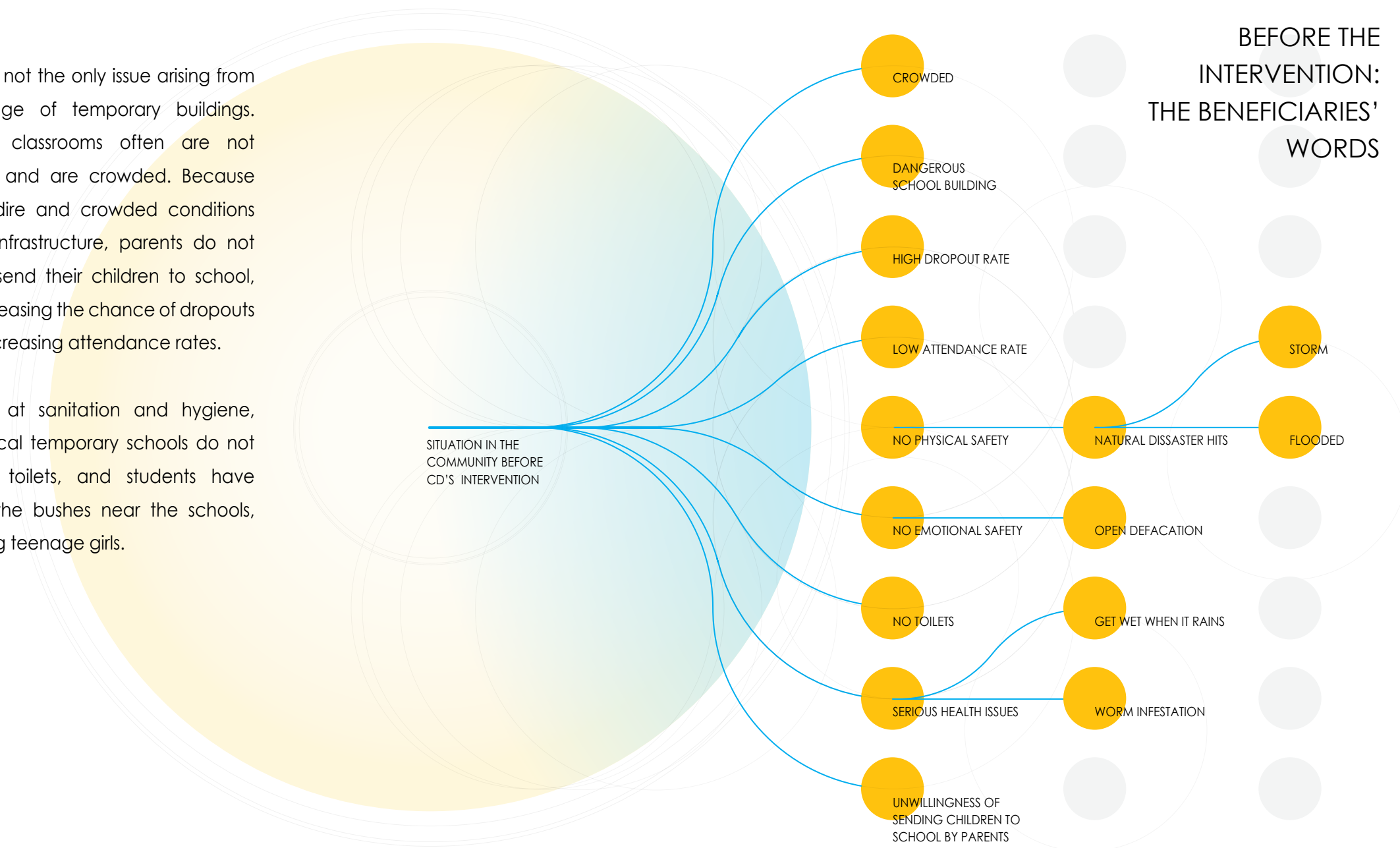
UNSAFE AND CROWDED TEMPORARY BUILDINGS

The graph displays the most mentioned themes across all the interviews when discussing the situation before Child's Dream intervention. According to the accounts collected, in the absence of standard infrastructure provided by the government, students often have to study in old and fragile school buildings built by the community. These feel unsafe and do not provide a conducive study environment.

Temporary schools are typically built with limited resources by the community. They are not always safe for children and teachers, especially in the case of rain or a natural disaster. Children, therefore, have to study in generally not safe school buildings that are vulnerable to weather conditions.

Safety is not the only issue arising from the usage of temporary buildings. Indeed, classrooms often are not enough and are crowded. Because of the dire and crowded conditions of the infrastructure, parents do not always send their children to school, thus increasing the chance of dropouts and decreasing attendance rates.

Looking at sanitation and hygiene, often local temporary schools do not provide toilets, and students have to use the bushes near the schools, including teenage girls.



BECAUSE THE SCHOOL WAS NOT GOOD, THERE WAS NO SAFETY. FOR EXAMPLE, SINCE CLASSROOMS WERE MADE OF BAMBOO SLATS, IT WAS RAINY AND LEAKY DURING THE RAINY SEASON, WHICH MADE THE STUDENTS WET. SOMETIMES THE CLASSROOMS WERE NOT GOOD, AND TERMITES AND WOODWORMS CAME OUT. SOMETIMES IT WAS VERY WINDY, AND IT BLEW OFF THE THATCHED ROOF AND THE WOOD WOULD FALL ON THE STUDENTS.

A TEACHER FROM XAIGNABOULI PROVINCE, LAO PDR

IN THE OLD BUILDING, WE DID NOT HAVE TOILETS. SO, I WENT TO THE FOREST WHENEVER I WANTED TO USE THE TOILET. IT WAS SO DIFFICULT, NOT COMFORTABLE, AND THERE WERE A LOT OF MOSQUITOS.

A STUDENT FROM LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, LAO PDR



AFTER THE INTERVENTION: THE BENEFICIARIES' WORDS

appreciate decreases
decorating
encouragement
graduating
attendant
protecting motivated playing expanded
gardening continue improved assigned
completing beautiful opportunity
dropout outcomes important
qualified complete gathering
developed standard inspired
favorable attractive cleanliness
hygiene environmental satisfied mobilize
contribution enrolment flowers
graduation

IN THE PAST, THERE WERE NO BUILDINGS IN SOME AREAS. AND IN SOME AREAS, THERE WAS ONLY THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL. AFTER COMPLETING THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL, THEY HAD TO GO TO CONTINUE THE UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL AT NAKASANG, OR IF SOME OF THEM HAD RELATIVES IN OTHER PLACES, THEY WOULD GO THERE. IN CONTRAST, THOSE WHO DIDN'T HAVE RELATIVES, JUST STAYED IN THE VILLAGE AND DIDN'T CONTINUE...HOWEVER, AFTER WE GOT THIS SCHOOL AND EXPANDED IT TO THE SECONDARY, IT'S CONSIDERED THAT THE DROPPING OUT RATE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE VILLAGE DECREASED, SO THEY STUDY UNTIL THEY COMPLETE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEVEL.

A PRINCIPAL FROM CHAMPASAK PROVINCE, LAO PDR

MY CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL MORE REGULARLY THAN IN THE PAST; IN THE PAST, THEY DID NOT WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE THE SCHOOL WAS DIRTY AND THEY GOT WET WHEN THEY WERE SITTING TO LEARN. HOWEVER, NOW THEY GO TO SCHOOL AS ALWAYS AND NO NEED TO MOTIVATE THEM, AS THEY ARE ACTIVE IN GOING. I ALSO DO NOT WORRY ABOUT MY CHILDREN WHEN THEY GO TO SCHOOL.

A PARENT FROM LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, LAO PDR

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EDUCATION RATES

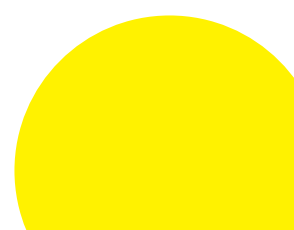


As clearly shown in the word cloud and quoted texts, many interviewees highlighted that education improved in their community as a result of the Child's Dream intervention. To start, children could better access and continue their education as the programme provided safe, quality infrastructure and removed some physical barriers to learning. The new buildings substituted the unsafe temporary infrastructure built by the community. In some instances, the new schools also created access to school cycles, like secondary education. Often communities can cater for primary school buildings, but cannot provide for upper levels. As a result, the children who finish primary school face challenges in continuing their education because they need to move to other locations to access their secondary education.

Removing physical barriers to education increased access to school and improved education rates. Interviewees mentioned that enrollment rates increased and

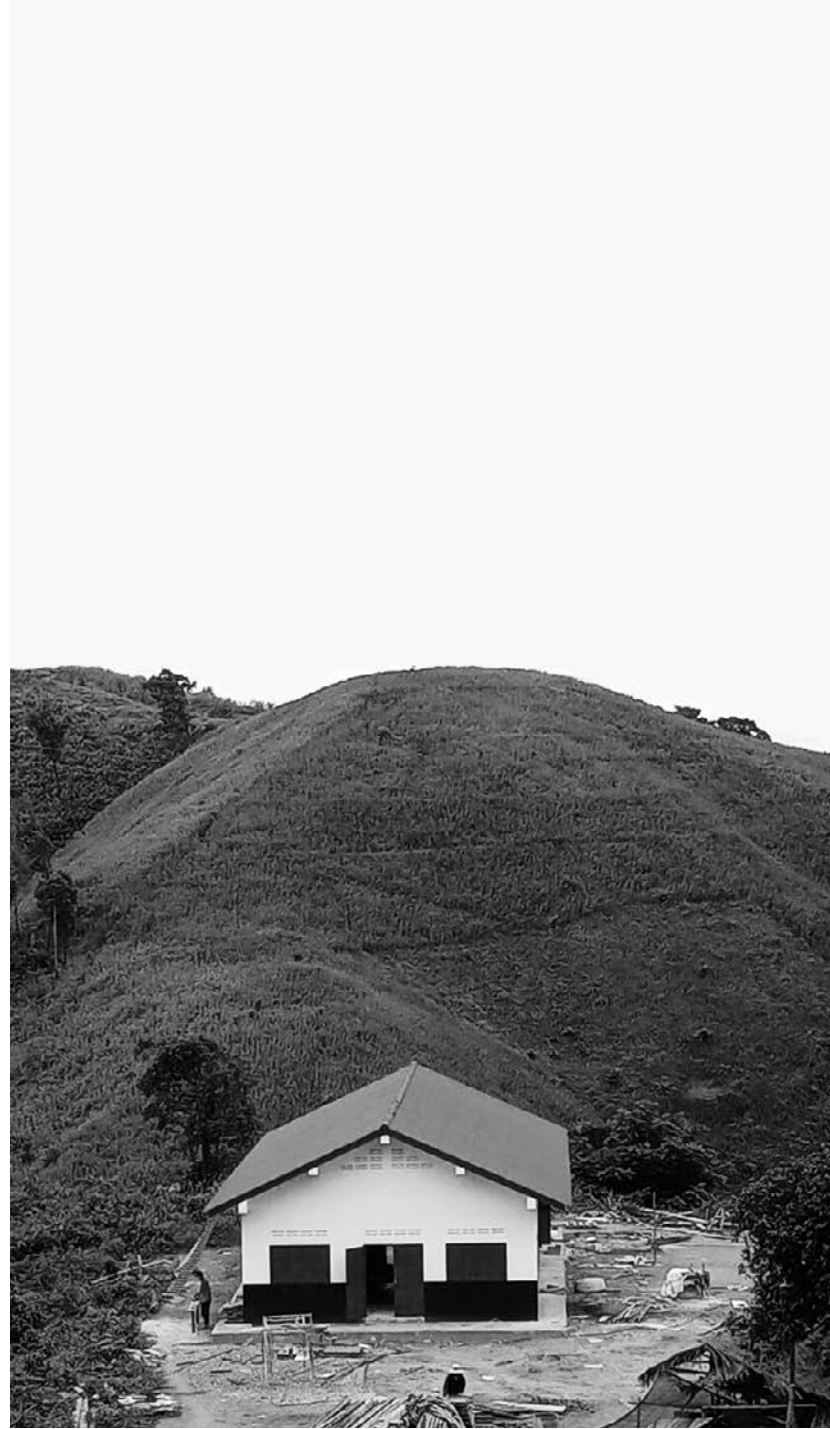
student dropout rates decreased. Many talked about children increasing their motivation to come to school after seeing "their new and beautiful buildings" that provided a conducive learning environment. Likewise, parents felt more confident sending their children to school due to the increased safety. The school infrastructure programme succeeded in decreasing dropout rates as a result of the more convenient school facilities, whose proximity also reduced transportation issues and increased continuation rates.

The interviewees' testimonials highlighted that the school building programme is effective and relevant when addressing the issues of access to education in the four target provinces. The programme is on track to achieving its outcomes and goal of promoting the right to education and rendering schools accessible regardless of social-economic status.



PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITY AND PARENTS ON EDUCATION

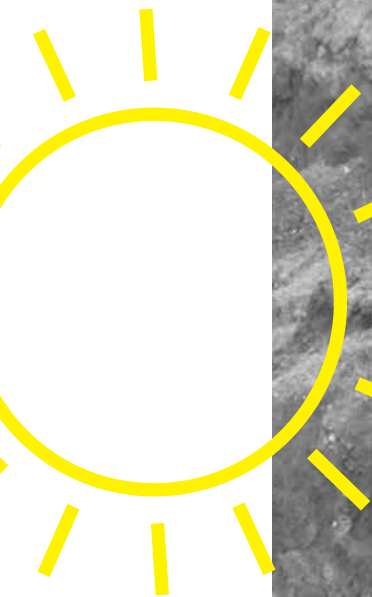
After the new school building, the perception of parents and the community toward education changed significantly. They realised the importance of education for their children's future and encouraged them to go to school regularly.



**WE CAN SAY UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY
ABOUT EDUCATION BEFORE AND NOW ARE VERY
DIFFERENT, AND NOW COMMUNITY'S UNDERSTANDING
ABOUT EDUCATION HAS INCREASED, SENDING THEIR
CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS MORE AND MORE.**

A VILLAGE LEADER FROM SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAO PDR

LONG TERM IMPACT



The study also sought to understand the unforeseen and long-term impacts of the intervention. Improving access to education and providing conducive learning environments are clearly defined programme outcomes, but projects also bring unplanned changes. In this regard, the interviewees' testimonials uncovered interesting findings.

IMPROVED HEALTH

Among the long term impacts mentioned, many interviewees highlighted that the new school buildings improved the beneficiaries' health and safety as a result of the increased physical safety. Before the new infrastructure, when it rained, students were more exposed to weather conditions, which in turn made them more prone to sickness. Moreover, as most of the schools did not have toilets, students had to go to the forests, which directly affected physical and emotional safety.

BEFORE CHILD'S DREAM INTERVENTION, IN THE WINTER, THE STUDENTS HAD COLDS SINCE THEY KEPT SITTING IN THE CLASSROOMS THAT WERE DAMAGED AND DEFECTIVE.

A VILLAGE LEADER FROM SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAO PDR

REDUCED COMMUNITY'S BURDEN

The intervention eased the communities' responsibility and financial burden for their school buildings. As previously discussed, in the absence of government support, communities build temporary schools for their children. However, thanks to Child's Dream buildings and facilities, it is no longer necessary to construct temporary infrastructures. The saved amounts are used for other needs, such as school gardens or maintenance costs.

THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE DELIGHTED AS THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF THE PEOPLE'S CONTRIBUTION. IT'S CONSIDERED THAT THE FOUNDATION HAS ALLEVIATED A LOT THE BURDEN ON THE PEOPLE IN OUR VILLAGE.

A VILLAGE LEADER FROM XAIGNABOULI PROVINCE, LAO PDR



SUSTAINABILITY

A key aspect of every development project is sustainability and ownership. It is not enough to provide material relief; communities must be able to own and sustain over time the facilities provided. Infrastructures should be well managed by keeping them clean and maintained and repairing what gets broken. During the impact evaluation, we, therefore, explored whether the communities actively participate in the maintenance of the school buildings provided.



IF OUR HOUSE IS NOT PROTECTED, IT WON'T LAST FOR LONG, SAME AS THE SCHOOL PREMISES AND TABLES, WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO US. I'VE CLARIFIED TO THEM THAT MUCH FUNDING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO US. NOW, IF WE WANT TO USE IT FOR LONG, WE HAVE TO LOOK AFTER AND PROTECT IT.

THE HEAD OF XAIGNABOULI (LAO PDR) DISTRICT OF EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OFFICE

The impact evaluation showed that after the intervention, the communities' ownership and participation in school building maintenance increased. With the encouragement of the government departments, communities and school staff give labour and financial contributions for maintaining the facilities.

WE CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL BUILDING SUCH AS REPAIRING, FENCING AND SWEEPING. TEACHERS ASKED US TO DO IT. WE HAVE TO HELP THEM WITH CLEANING AND FENCING FOR THE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

A PARENT FROM LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, LAO PDR



PERSISTING EDUCATION CHALLENGE

During the interviews, we asked several questions to understand the current educational needs and education challenges faced by the communities. Despite the intervention's positive changes, the targeted provinces still face several obstacles:

1. LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES AFTER GRADUATION DEMOTIVATES STUDENTS AND INCREASES DROPOUTS
2. POVERTY AND EARLY MARRIAGE NEGATIVELY IMPACT EDUCATION RATES
3. UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES DRUG ABUSE AMONG PARENTS AND YOUTH
4. ETHNIC MINORITIES FACE LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM
5. COVID-19 INCREASED DROPOUTS AS CHILDREN ARE NOT SENT BACK TO SCHOOL DESPITE THE END OF LOCKDOWN MEASURES
6. SCHOOLS LACK QUALIFIED TEACHERS DUE TO THE VOLUNTEER TEACHER SYSTEM AND LACK OF TEACHING/LEARNING MATERIALS
7. POOR ROAD CONDITIONS IMPAIR SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENTS IN REMOTE AREAS LACK TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL
8. LACK OF WATER SOURCES SEVERELY IMPACT HYGIENE, SANITATION AND TOILET USE
9. STAKEHOLDERS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MONITOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DUE TO A LACK OF CONSTRUCTION KNOWLEDGE

I FEEL COMFORTABLE BECAUSE IN THE PAST, MY BROTHER CONTINUED HIS STUDIES AFTER COMPLETING LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUT HE HAD TO CONTINUE IN ANOTHER SCHOOL AT A HIGH COST, WHICH CAUSED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. MY MOTHER USED TO SAY THAT SHE WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO CONTINUE. FORTUNATELY, CHILD'S DREAM PROJECT CAME TO BUILD A SCHOOL FOR US, WHICH MADE STUDYING CONVENIENT AND REDUCED THE COSTS SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY. I CAN JUST TAKE A BICYCLE AND I DON'T WASTE GASOLINE BECAUSE THE SCHOOL IS CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE.

FROM THE ONLINE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH CHILD'S DREAM



Bounmy is an 18-year-old girl currently attending Don Khone Secondary School. She is in her last year of high school and agreed to have an interview with us to discuss the impact of the school building provided by Child's Dream in 2016.

According to Bounmy, after Child's Dream provided a new school building, studying until high school became more convenient. Before, students had to use a boat and a private motorbike to reach the nearest school, which was a prohibitive cost for most families in her village. In the past, students often dropped out of their education due to school distance and economic reasons. In her family alone, only one of her older brothers could complete high school, while the other two had to drop out and help the family on the land. When asked why she decided to continue to high school, she responded that it is now more convenient and not expensive. She also remarked that if she had to move to another area, she would have dropped out of school like her two brothers. Her statements indicate that education access was a challenge in the area and that a new school building removed some of the physical barriers to schooling.

When inquiring about the outcomes of having a proper school building, Bounmy mentioned that the new school infrastructure helped reduce classroom crowding. Previously, she had to share one bench with two other students instead of one. Teaching quality also improved. Formerly, classrooms were partitioned by bamboo walls, which did not insulate the sound from one class to the other. Teachers could hear each other's explanations and therefore lose their focus. Better walls and buildings solved the issue. In terms of hygiene and sanitation, providing proper facilities solved different inconveniences. Upon receiving four new toilets, the students started using standard sanitary infrastructures instead of going to the surrounding forest, thus improving safety and hygiene. During the interview, Bounmy also mentioned that some challenges remained even after the intervention. The quality of the school furniture received was not the best, and the lack of tiled floors rendered cleaning the classrooms quite difficult.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME



WHY WE DO IT



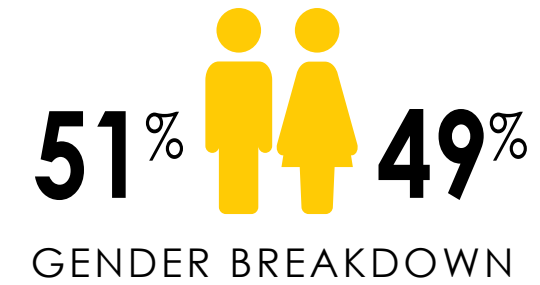
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Child's Dream believes that a country can only develop in a sustainable and peaceful way if all members of society can access quality education, fulfil their aspirations and potential, apply their knowledge, and contribute towards the development of their communities. Our University Scholarship Programme provides scholarship support for academically strong students to attend tertiary education in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. With the advantage of higher education, youth have improved skills and knowledge, access to better employment and serve as future contributors and leaders to the development of their communities.



HOW WE COLLECT THE EVALUATION DATA

To understand programme outcomes, every year, we send a survey to alumni who graduated one, three and five years before. Recent graduates are not invited to fill in the questionnaire to ensure that results only reflect the situation of those who graduated at least a year before. Duplicate respondents are removed from the dataset, and all answers are cross-checked and cleaned for consistency to reduce bias. The survey collects information concerning how the programme contributes to the students' preparation to pursue quality and timely employment upon graduation. In line with the programme objectives of forming leaders and specialists, the study also explores if and how the USP alumni are engaged in impactful careers in their specialisation areas. The findings presented reflect the self-reported survey responses of the 88 respondents surveyed in 2021.

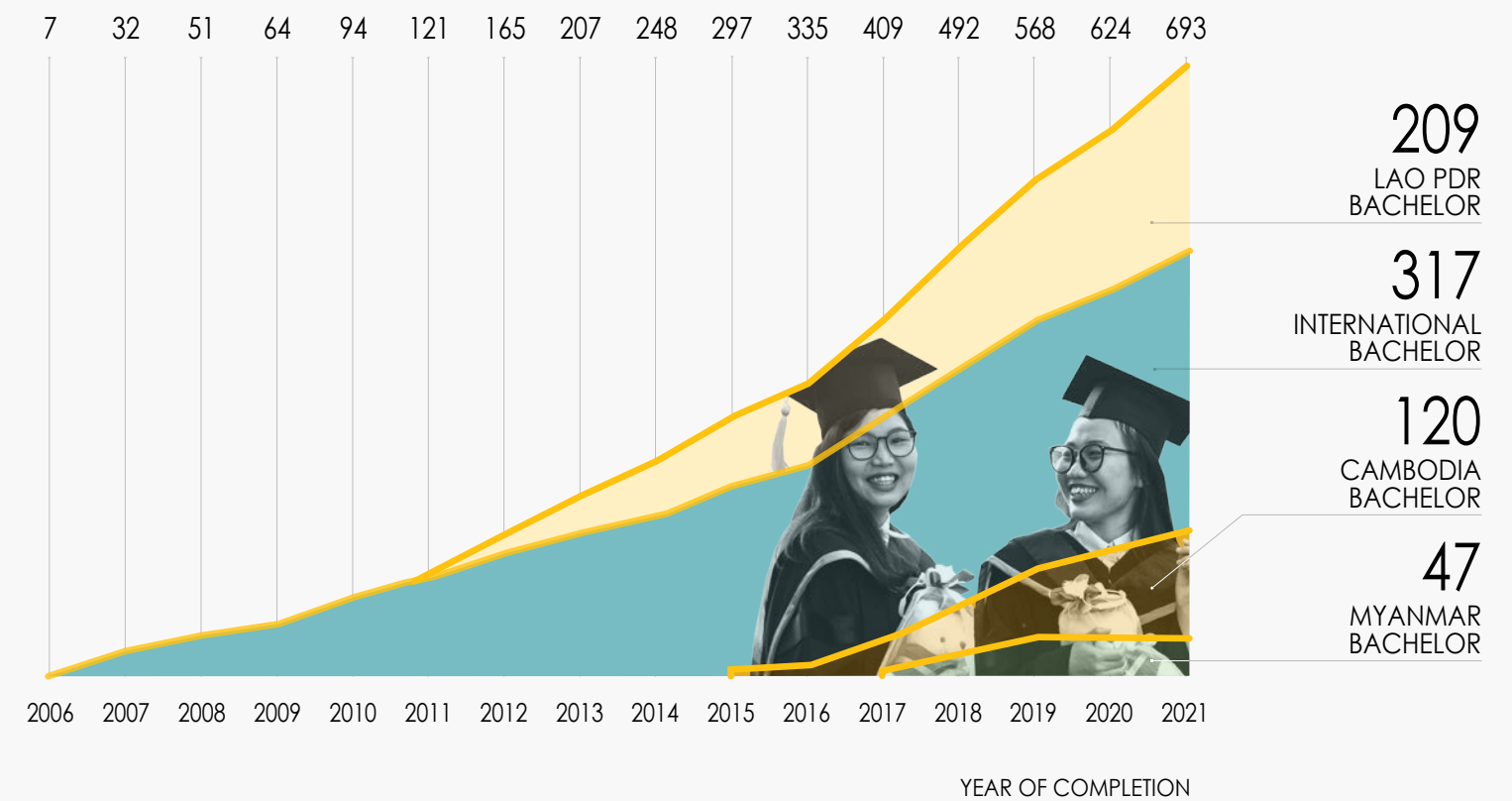


Since 2006, the programme enrolled 693 scholarship students. Gender breakdowns show a slightly higher amount of males, although overall, the programme is gender-balanced.



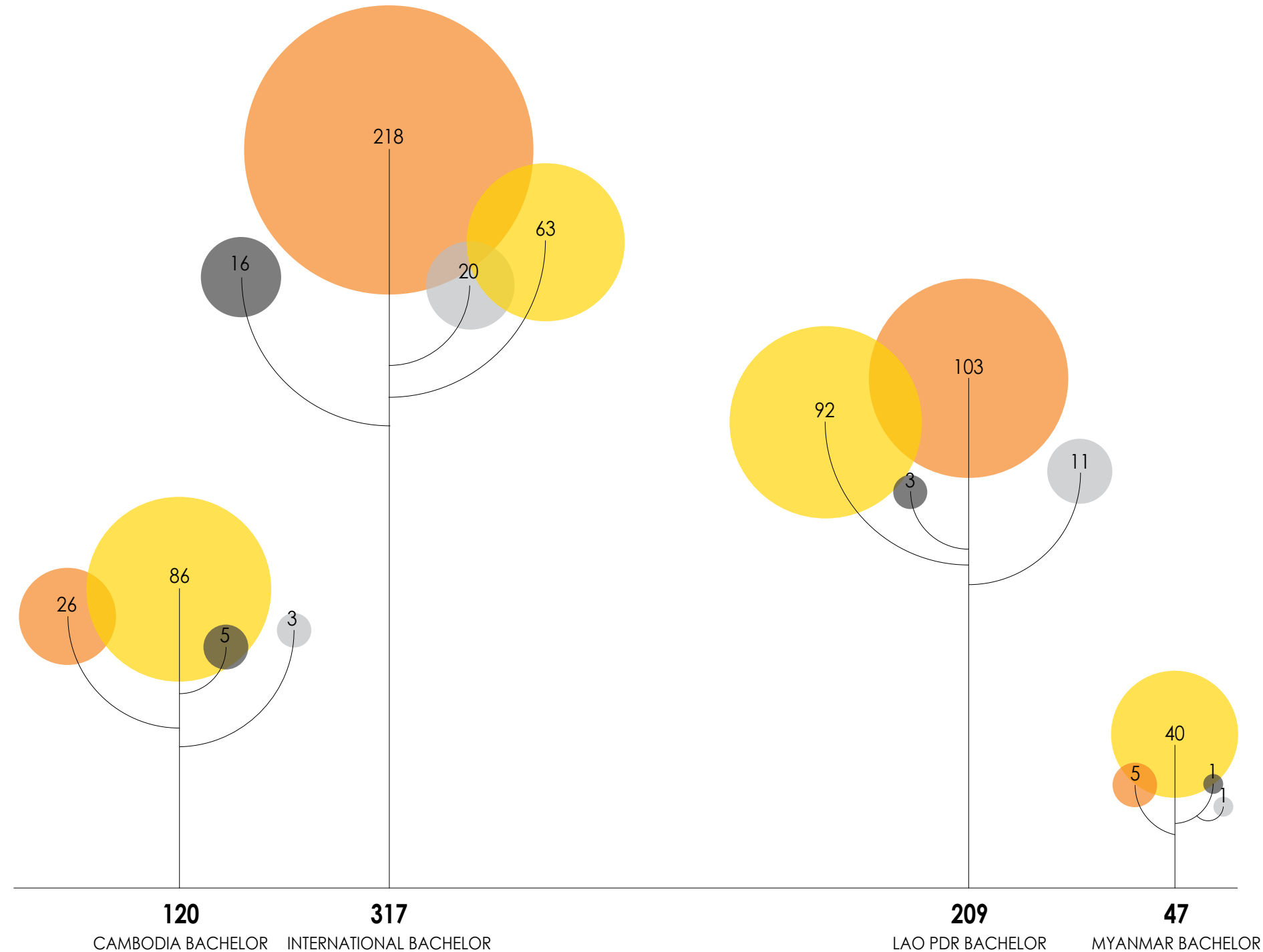
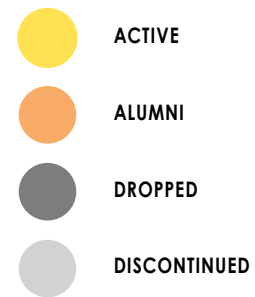
RUNNING TOTAL OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE USP PROGRAMME/ BREAKDOWN BY PROJECT

RUNNING TOTAL FROM 2006 TO 2021



SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS STATUS BY PROJECT

N=693



OUTPUT IN NUMBERS

The programme in Lao PDR has the highest number of students currently studying, while the Myanmar International Bachelor counts the most alumni, as it was started in 2006. The Cambodia Bachelor was launched in 2015, and it tallies 120 students. In 2021 the Myanmar Bachelor was suspended due to the insecure political context and did not recruit any new students.

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP MYANMAR BACHELOR

After the coup in February 2021, the higher education system in Myanmar was left in a shambles. In an effort to crush dissent and protests, campuses were raided and occupied by military forces and academics and other higher education personnel were suspended from their positions or, in the worst case, arrested for opposing the coup. At the same time, staff and students continued their civil protest, and many refused to attend and deliver classes. This level of insecurity forced Child's Dream to suspend the programme and await more secure days.

GRADUATION RATE

CALCULATION MADE WITH INTAKES UP TO 2017, % OF TOTAL



281 scholarship students are currently studying, 352 are alumni, 25 dropped out, and 35 were discontinued. These figures correspond to a graduation rate of 87.3%, a drop-out rate of 5.2%, and a discontinuation rate of 7.5%.

STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

% OF TOTAL



51%
ALUMNI

5%
DISCONTINUED

4%
DROPOUT

40%
ACTIVE

82%

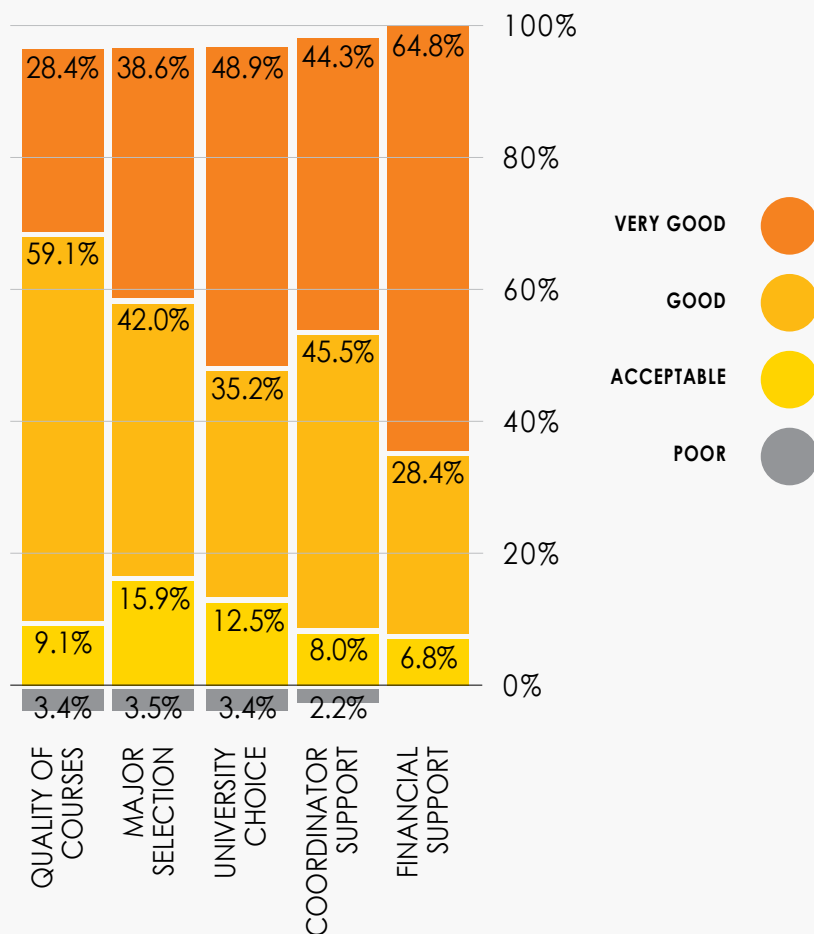
RESPONSE RATE

107
ALUMNI88
RESPONDENTS**HIGH RESPONSE RATE**

The alumni tracking survey was sent in 2021 to 107 beneficiaries who graduated in 2016, 2018 and 2020. The survey did not track the Myanmar Bachelor alumni because of internet disruptions and security concerns. We received 88 valid responses, 11 from the Cambodia Bachelor, 34 from the Myanmar International Bachelor and 43 from the Lao PDR Bachelor. Overall, the figures correspond to a response rate of 82%.

RESPONDENTS' RATING OF CHILD'S DREAM SUPPORT

% OF TOTAL, N=88

**ALUMNI FEEDBACK**

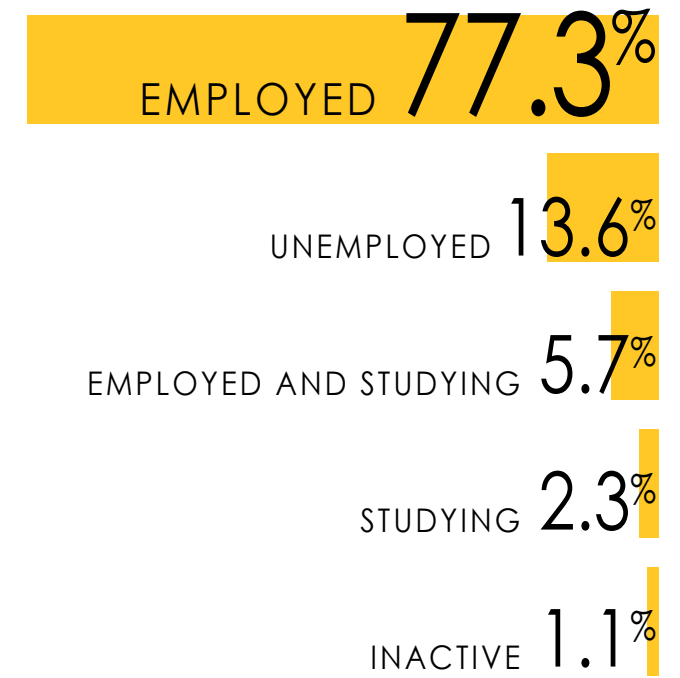
The survey asked the alumni to rate the scholarship services across five categories. Overall, the alumni feedback is positive and encouraging, and only a few gave negative or moderate ratings. Financial support and the support received scored the highest.

POSITIVE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES AND INCREASED ENROLMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

77.3% of the respondents are employed, 5.7% are working and studying, 2.3% are enrolled in higher education, and 14.7% are unemployed or inactive. Compared to last year's results, the employment and education outcomes are more positive. While some alumni still indicated COVID-19 as the reason for their unemployment, it is plausible that some job seekers reversed to education instead of keeping seeking work, thus increasing the portion of alumni pursuing higher education. Better employment indicators might also be caused by the lower response rate recorded for the Myanmar International Bachelor. Many of these alumni are still in Myanmar, and due to security concerns and communication disruptions, a portion of these were not contactable.

CURRENT SITUATION OF RESPONDENTS

% OF TOTAL, N=88



81%

OF THE RESPONDENTS
FOUND JOBS RELATED TO
THEIR FIELD OF STUDY

72%

OF THE RESPONDENTS HAVE
OR HAD JOBS FOCUSED ON
MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT
ON THEIR COMMUNITIES

86%

OF THE RESPONDENTS
FOUND JOBS WITHIN SIX
MONTHS OF GRADUATION

RESPONDENTS' CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

% OF TOTAL, N=68



EDUCATORS, HUMANITARIANS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The alumni engaged in impactful careers indicated their area of interventions and their main tasks at work. Top employment fields are education, humanitarian response and sustainability, while the most cited duties are teaching, training and project management. Many of our alumni are teachers, humanitarian workers and project managers.

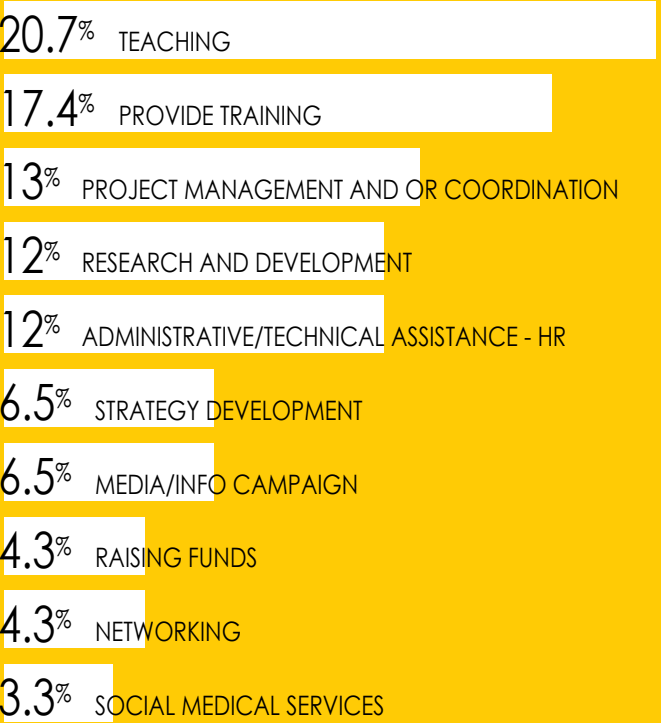
MAIN EMPLOYMENT FIELD

TOP 10, % OF TOTAL, N=53



MAIN TASKS AT WORK

TOP 10, % OF TOTAL, N=53



DIFFERENT EMPLOYMENT PROFILES

All alumni further responded to questions concerning their occupation. 43.8% of the respondents working are employed at for-profit organisations, while 32.9% are working at non-profits. 13.7% are public servants, and the remaining answers see alumni working for their own/family businesses. Results differ across programmes. In Lao PDR and Cambodia,

only 9-10% of the respondents work for non-profit organisations, while the figure is way higher for the Myanmar International programme, where the majority of the alumni work for philanthropic associations. Differences are due to the different labour markets and contexts in which our alumni seek jobs.

FROM THE TESTIMONIAL SENT TO
CHILD'S DREAM UPON REQUEST



Hello!

My name is Ean Sna. I am a fresh graduate of Civil Engineering from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC). I am really excited to share with you my experience as a Child's Dream Scholarship student, and I am really thankful for what Child's Dream offered me and the other students.

I would like to share my story of before I was sponsored by Child's Dream for my bachelor degree. When I was in grade seven, I saw a flyer advertising a scholarship for students whose families could not afford high school. From that day on, I committed myself to study really hard and get good results, as I really wanted a scholarship. After I finished lower secondary, I applied for the High School Scholarship at Child's Dream. I reached the interview stage with Ms Chum Sreylin and Mr My Sinoeuy, who visited me in my own home. After the interview, they informed me that I was going to get a phone call if I passed the scholarship interview.

I did get the phone call! It was the most memorable day of my life, and I was so excited on that day. Since then, I became a third-generation student supported by Child's Dream for the high school level. During school, I met my kind-hearted donor in the Child's Dream Siem Reap office, who unfortunately passed away in 2019. While in high school, Child's Dream also announced that there was a scholarship for students who wanted to study at university in Phnom Penh, so I tried hard to also get a scholarship to further my studies in the capital. I remember I had the interview with Mr Khlok Yem, Pi Tu and Mrs Chea Channary. I managed to become a Child's Dream second-generation university student after the results of BACC II announced that I got a grade of B. I was very happy because it was a dream that came true! I made it again!

DURING MY FIVE YEARS OF UNIVERSITY, I HAD BOTH THE GOOD AND BAD EXPERIENCES OF BEING TWENTY. HOWEVER, THESE EXPERIENCES TAUGHT ME A LOT, TO BE STRONGER, TO LEARN, TO FACE NEW CHALLENGES AND TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS.

During my five years of university, I had both the good and bad experiences of being twenty. However, these experiences taught me a lot, to be stronger, to learn, to face new challenges and to make better decisions. Most of the classes were not easy, and loads of assignments kept me on track and sometimes also burnt me out. University life has taught me a lot about self-discipline, respect, time management and things that I would never experience with my colleagues if I didn't get a scholarship. After graduation, I worked with a consultancy for ten months. Currently, I am working with a construction company and will try my best to improve myself and donate what I have learned to my community through volunteering and charity. Not only that, I will help with the construction sector in my country as much as I can and learn from my seniors along the way.

In the future, I want to study for a Master's Degree in Construction Management. Unfortunately, we don't have this in Cambodia. If Child's Dream has a scholarship for Master's Degree, I will apply for it. Lastly, I would like to deeply thank Child's Dream for sponsoring my studies throughout my high school years and university years. I am so grateful and words cannot express how happy I am to be one of your alumni. I would like to wish all CD teams the very best in their work and hope they will continue to support the underprivileged throughout the Mekong Sub-region. May God bless you all!

Respectfully,

Sna

EMERGENCY RELIEF

A YEAR OF VIOLENCE

On 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military staged a coup and declared control of the country almost three months after the country's second democratic election. The event derailed years of effort to establish peace and has brought the country to its knees. In response to the military takeover, civilians and armed groups have voiced their opposition to the regime with daily protests in most towns and cities. The resistance has been met with brute force, and it has sparked ongoing conflict and hostilities between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), as well as People's Defence Forces (the latter is the armed civilian resistance). As a result of conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty has dramatically increased. According to the UN Development Programme, nearly half of Myanmar's population, around 25 million people, is heading towards poverty in 2022. Increasing poverty has also raised food security and malnutrition issues across the country.

A year after the military coup, the security and humanitarian context in Myanmar is still suffering from intense hostilities. The ongoing conflict has seen the loss of civilian lives, destruction of homes and livelihoods, and a surge in refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). The OHCHR counted that the violence has killed at least 1,500 people, while many also suffered from injuries. Among the civilians killed in the conflict, more than 114 were children.

As of February 2022, 441,500 people were internally displaced across the country due to the violence sparked after the coup. Such displacement comes on top of the 370,400 IDPs displaced by conflicts before the military takeover. Humanitarian needs are escalating. Food, water, shelter relief items, as well as access to health and education, are urgent needs for thousands of IDPs. Aid needs to be physically delivered to those in need, but access is currently extremely limited and difficult due to bureaucratic blockages, conflict, and increased military checkpoints. Local responders and volunteers are providing critical assistance where they can. Child's Dream and its network of local partners have been delivering aid in response to the wide displacements in Kayah, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Kayin states.

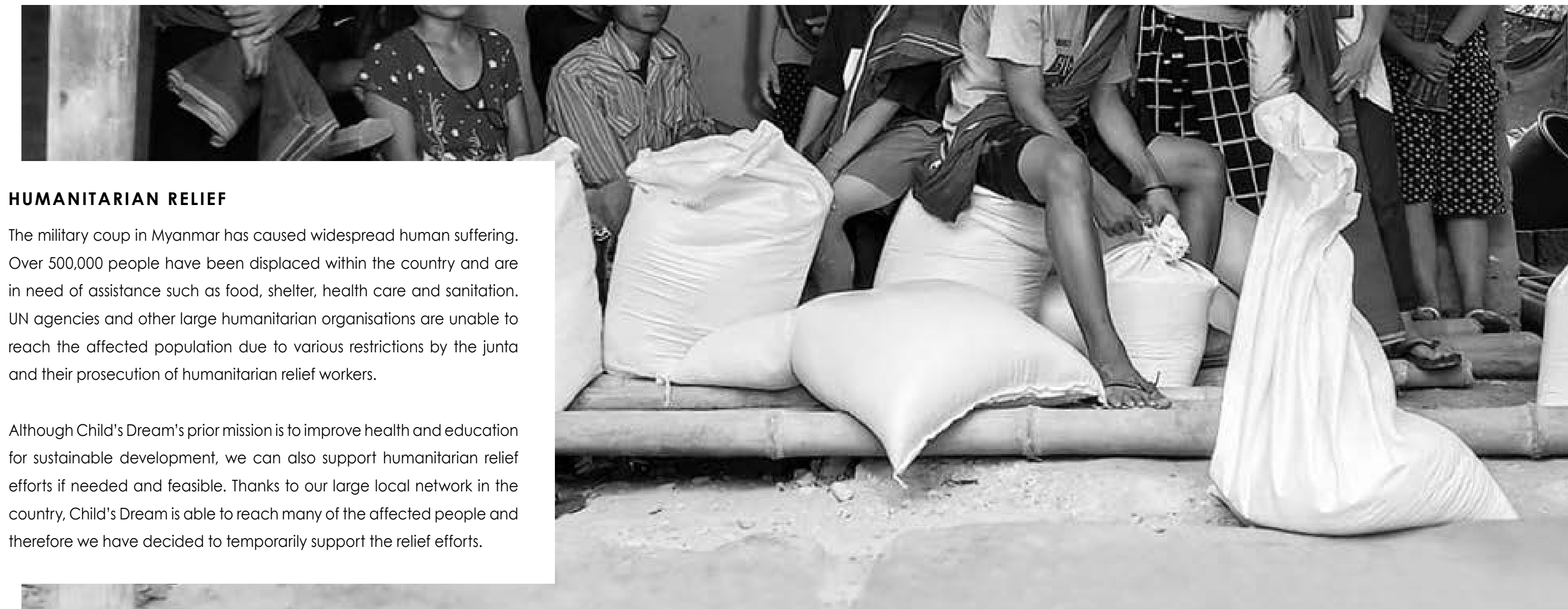
441 K IDPS ACROSS MYANMAR DISPLACED
BY CONFLICT SINCE FEBRUARY 2021

370 K IDPS IN RAKHINE, KACHIN, CHIN
AND SHAN DUE TO CLASHES OCCURED
BEFORE FEBRUARY 2021

232 K IDPS IN SOUTHEAST MYANMAR
DUE TO ONGOING CONFLICT
SINCE FEBRUARY 2021



WHY WE DO IT



HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

The military coup in Myanmar has caused widespread human suffering. Over 500,000 people have been displaced within the country and are in need of assistance such as food, shelter, health care and sanitation. UN agencies and other large humanitarian organisations are unable to reach the affected population due to various restrictions by the junta and their prosecution of humanitarian relief workers.

Although Child's Dream's prior mission is to improve health and education for sustainable development, we can also support humanitarian relief efforts if needed and feasible. Thanks to our large local network in the country, Child's Dream is able to reach many of the affected people and therefore we have decided to temporarily support the relief efforts.

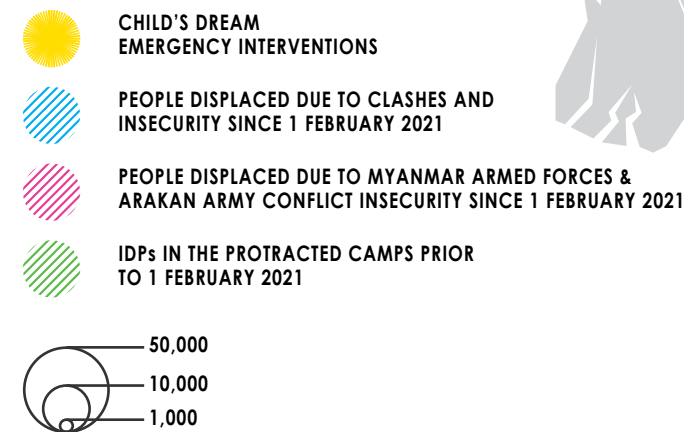
EMERGENCY RELIEF HAND IN HAND WITH OUR LOCAL PARTNERS



Not long after the coup, Child's Dream started receiving proposals and requests for emergency relief from well-established partners across Myanmar. In light of the accessibility issues faced by other larger humanitarian organisations, we agreed to answer such requests and became relief actors in areas where aid does not easily arrive. We created appeals, mobilised resources, and set up systems to support the needs of the displaced populations. We agreed to focus the interventions on the states of Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Kachin and Shan. Kayah is the area that receives the most support from Child's Dream, as it has been one of the locations that suffered the most from displacement and war. We supported food security, health, logistics, non-food items (NFIs), nutrition and shelter.

Our teams and partners provided rice, dry food, medical supplies, shelter materials, warm clothing and blankets and access to health services.

SOURCE: OCHA, MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN UPDATE NO. 15, 15 FEBRUARY 2022



FOCUS AREAS OF CHILD'S DREAM EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS

KACHIN

CHIN

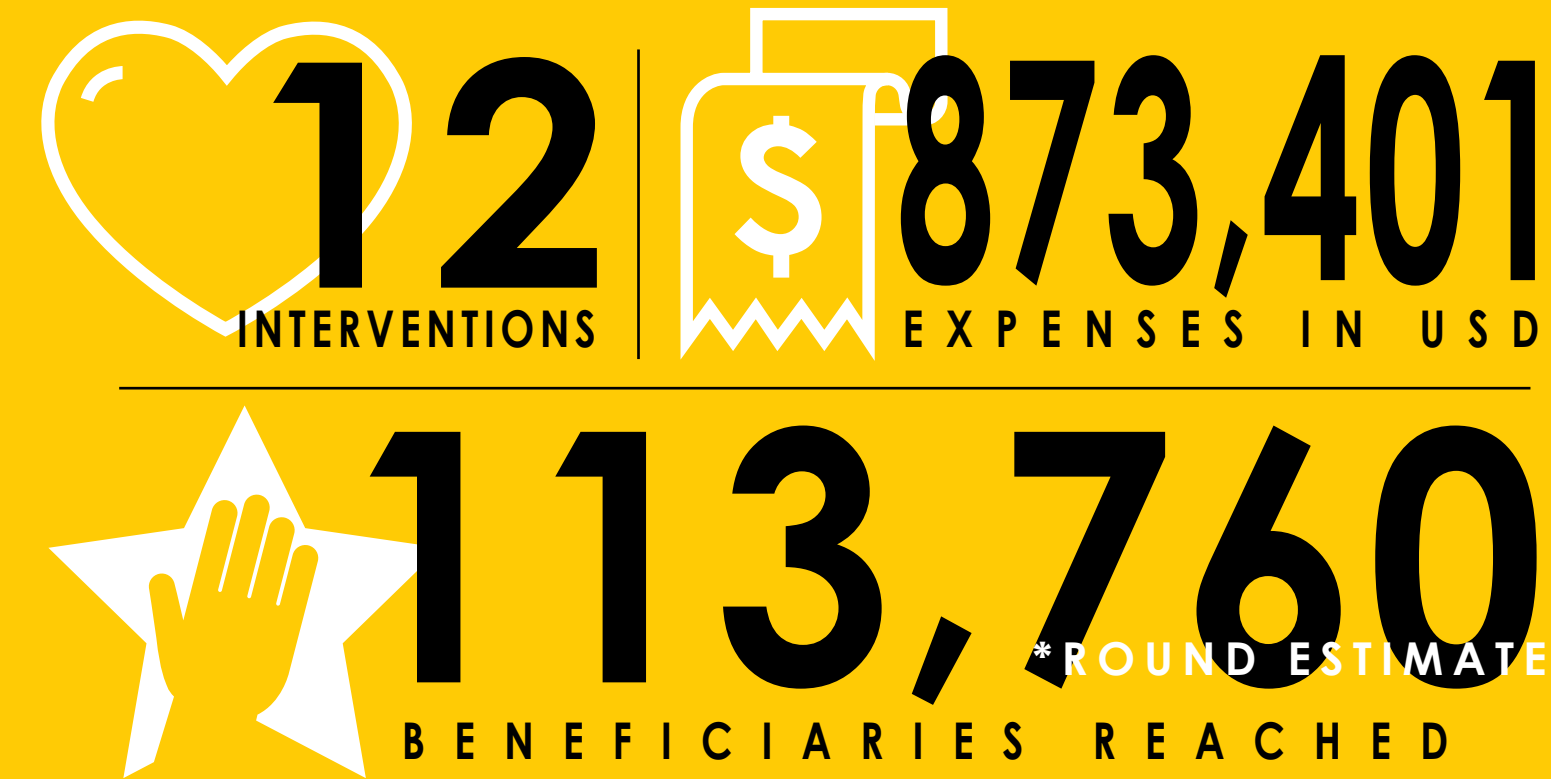
SHAN

KAYAH

KAYIN

NAW PYI TAW

2021 EMERGENCY RELIEF OUTPUTS



EMERGENCY RELIEF IN OUTPUT NUMBERS

In 2021, together with our local partners, we planned and implemented 12 emergency relief interventions. We spent a total of USD 873,401 that reached an estimated 113,760 beneficiaries. Most of the efforts focused on food security and health, as we widely distributed rice, dry foods, salt and cooking oil, covid prevention kits, first aid kits, and other medical supplies. We also supported emergency health services for 45 pregnant women who needed cesaerians and the respective nutritional supplies for their infants (nutritional supplies are categorised under nutrition). We also invested in temporary shelters, warm clothes and blankets for the winter nights. Food security counts for the highest expenditure and beneficiary reach. In 2022, we are continuing our efforts, as conflicts and tensions have intensified and needs are escalating.

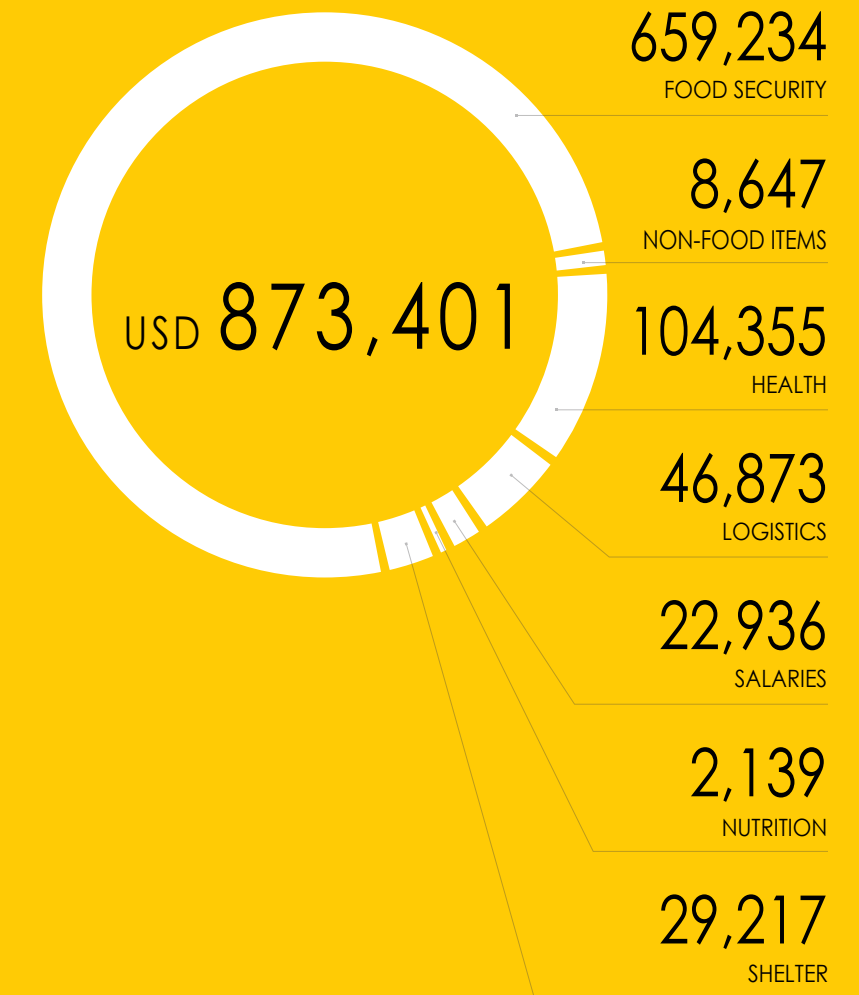
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES BY CLUSTER

TOTAL, SOME BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED MULTIPLE PROVISIONS



TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY CLUSTER AND EXPENSE

TOTAL IN USD



IN NUMBERS



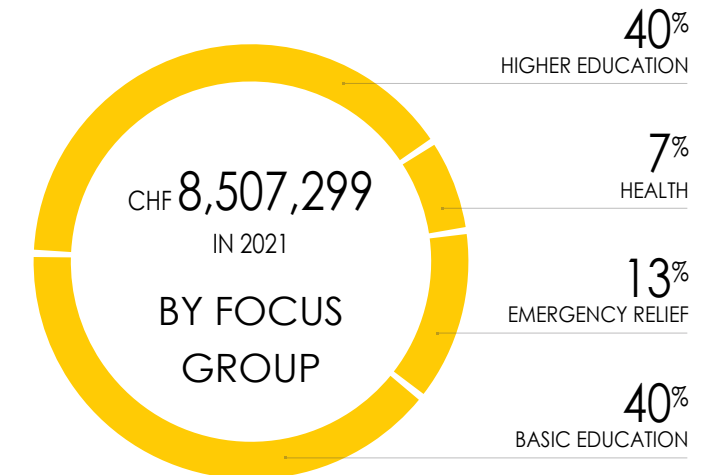
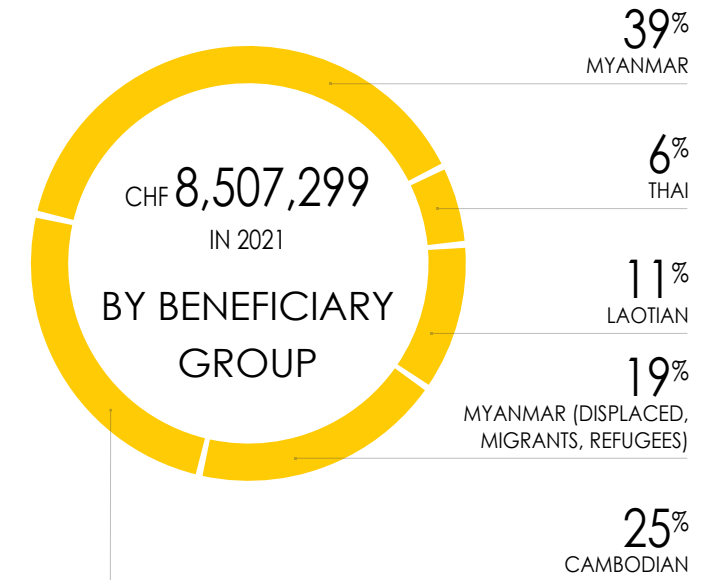
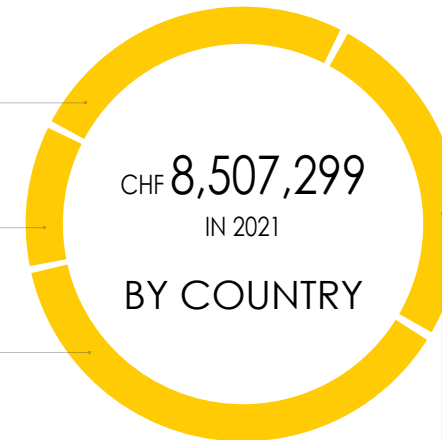
PROJECT EXPENDITURE

25%
CAMBODIA

11%
LAO PDR

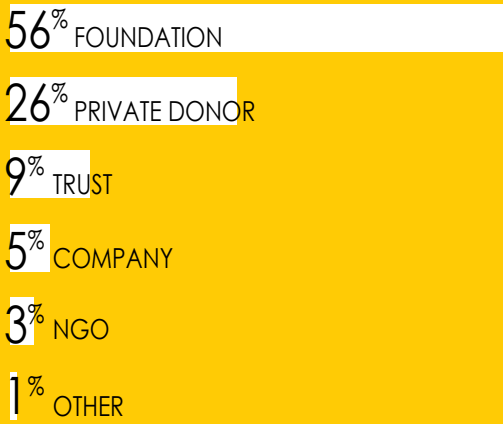
38%
MYANMAR

26%
THAILAND



TYPE OF DONORS

CHF 9,590,633 IN 2021

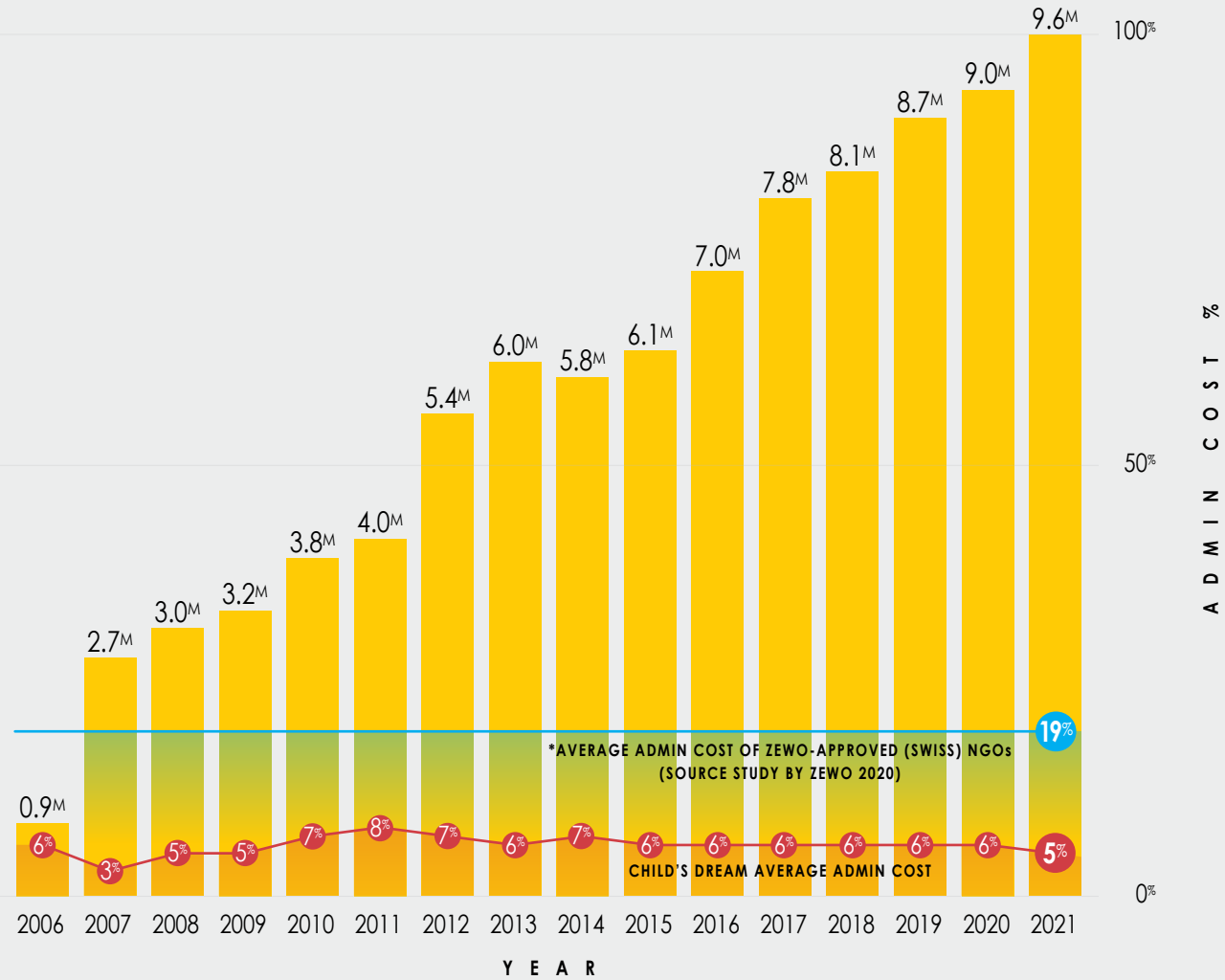


ORIGIN OF DONATIONS

CHF 9,590,633 IN 2021



DONATION VOLUME
(M CHF) VS. ADMIN. COSTS (%)

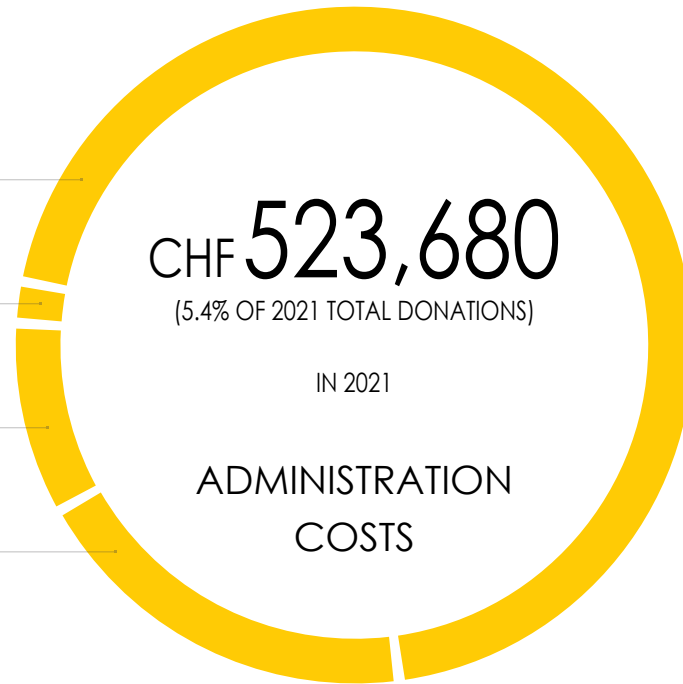


70%
PERSONNEL COSTS

2%
FINANCIALS AND OTHER COSTS

9%
ADMIN, IT, LEGAL, AND TRAVELS

19%
DEPRECIATION AND PROVISION



OUR VOLUNTEERS

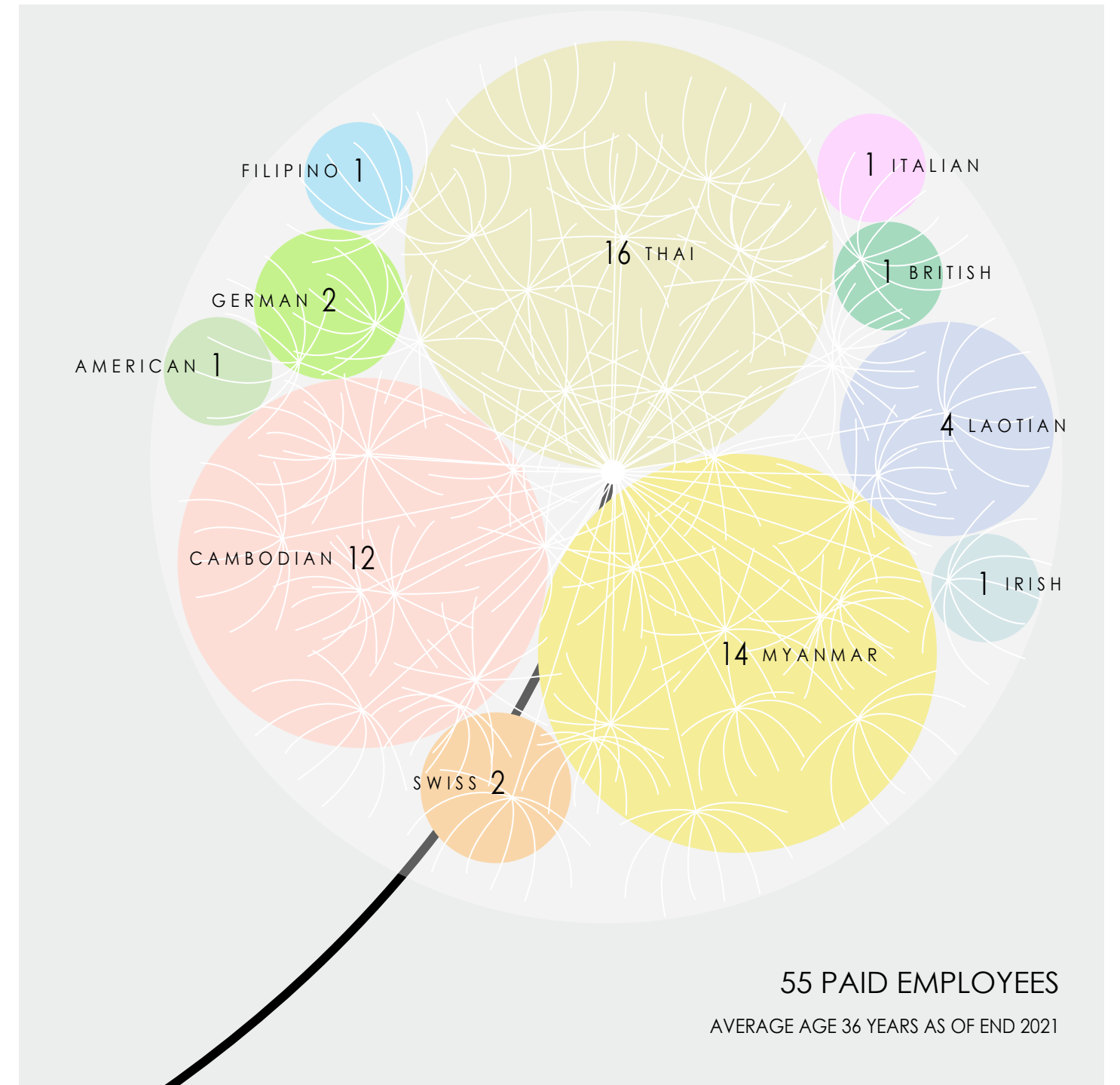
3,984

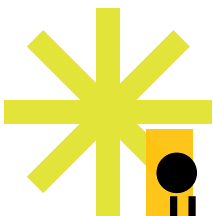
TOTAL NUMBERS OF FREE HOURS
WORKED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2021

2.1

MAN-YEAR
IN 2021

We rely heavily on volunteers to perform certain administration tasks. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent border closings, the number of volunteers was lower than usual.





**OUR
IMPACT**

childsdream.org

