MINGALARBAR MAE SOT LEAGUE

PlayOnside enters 2019 with its hands full of projects. Our annual tournament, the Mingalarbar Mae Sot League is getting into its final stages, with finals and closing ceremony. Because of exams at the different schools, we had to finish the tournament in the beginning of February. With 67 teams participating across 5 different categories, many children get the opportunity to play every week. Prior to the tournament we changed the point-system, to put more emphasis on the PlayOnside Life-Skills Curriculum, and to reward the teams that took focus not only on the on-field performances, but also on the different topics covered by the life skills. This change was a great success, and made the competition much more even. Teams that have struggled before losing games regularly, now had a chance due to the Life-Skills.

After 9 weeks, it was time for the finals - a big day for all the schools involved.

From PlayOnsides perspective it was great to see that trophies were evenly distributed across many schools. Previously one school has won most categories, but this year it was nice to see schools like Social Action for Women winning a trophy for the first time, and also the Hsa Tu Gaw school impressed us both on and off the field.
A proper Closing Ceremony to say "thank you" to all the schools showing commitment over three months, has become a trademark for PlayOnside. In the tournament we are spread across 3 different locations, and we never get to meet everyone at the same time. But the Closing Ceremony is different.

Here we all gather together, 900 children, teachers, headmasters, parents, volunteers and staff from PlayOnside - for a day of different fun activities. The winners of the tournament get their well deserved trophy, but to celebrate participation, diversity and fair play is the of course the most important part. Friendships are formed across the different schools, and we wrap up the day with lunch and ice cream for everybody.

This year, across the big University field in Mae Sot we had different stations with different activities for the teams. With the help of partners like HCTC, Minmahaw School, and Teacher Focus Myanmar, we ran 20 different stations with different activities for the children. Also a special thanks to Karim Damji having a meditation station, tremendously popular with the kids. Afterwards it was time to say good bye, good luck with exams, and see you all next season!
In order to reach our objective of gender equality, female local role models in the community are essential to reach our goals. And if these role models are women coaching and playing football turns to multiply the impact when we promote Gender Equality. Last year, after seen more and more young female teachers interested in football, both coaching and playing themselves, and their eagerness of learning more about the game we offer the opportunity to run specific training with them.

A group of 12-16 teachers from different schools join every week to the PlayOnside girls football team, improving their skills and by experience learn methodologies and activities that can implement during their training sessions with the children.

After two years of practice, it was time to seriously test the skills developed in the UN Global Goals World Cup in Bangkok.

The team had to choose one of the global goals to promote, and for PlayOnside and this team in particular, it was an easy choice. The girls promoted Global Goal 5 – Gender Equality in an incredible way. More important than the trophy, was the experience for the team, and the PlayOnside Girls Team did not only
win the tournament, but also the hearts of everyone watching this great event. Coming back to Mae Sot, telling about their experience, they will show the young girls in our program that everything is possible if you work hard and you work together. PlayOnside is so proud to have so many great female role models in the team, and this tournament was a great boost for everyone involved in the organization.

WHAT ARE THE GLOBAL GOALS?
The Global Goals, also called The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL GOALS WORLD CUP?
GG World Cup was established to create sports events inspiring amateur athletes to become champions of the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals and drive progress and change in their communities. Since the first tournament in Copenhagen, Denmark, the event has been held around the world, promoting and spreading knowledge about the Global Goals through football.
GREEN ISLAND

The Green Island project is a collaborative project between our friends at Estudio Cavernas and PlayOnside, financed by our partner, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy.

The project consists of two phases. The first phase is the construction phase, implemented by Estudio Cavernas. This phase of the project started in October 2018, and is the construction of a football field, a community center, and a playground inside the garbage dump in Mae Sot.

When the construction of the field and the community house was finished, it was time for playful learning through different child-centred activities.

3 times a week, we have a football training and classroom activities for the children living in the garbage dump community. We help out with homework, have different projects, in subjects like math, social science, science, Thai and critical thinking.

The objective of the Green Island Project is to bring joyful education to this particularly marginalized group. We will run this project for years to come, and we look forward to see these children growing up and to embrace opportunities and hopefully a future life outside the garbage dump. And the key to a better future, is education.
MINMAHAW PROJECT

Over the first quarter PlayOnside held a community empowerment course at our local partner Minmahaw school, focusing on the role of sports for development. Through 3 months the students at Minmahaw learned about project management, project implementation, lesson planning, budgeting, defining objectives, monitoring and evaluation and risk management in projects. This project has been run over the last few years, and it is a great experience, both for the PlayOnside coaches to promote our program, and for the students to learn about sports.

The project was finalized with an amazing student-organized tournament at the school.

STARFLOWER PROJECT

Our StarFlower project is football project for migrant children with physical and mental disabilities. We run this project all school year, and in March we had a great closing ceremony. It is fantastic to see the development of these children, and how they gain confidence and skills at the football field.

Everyone received a well-deserved medal for their commitment and efforts over the course of the year. It was emotional to say goodbye to these kids, but fortunately we start up the project again when the schools starts in June.
SUPPORT
To run the program, we are very grateful for the support we get, both encouraging words, and financial support. It is really heartwarming and inspiring for us to see how our program engages friends and families. Below is a short appreciation of people, companies and foundation supporting our work in the first quarter.

BB BANK AS
BB Bank and its CEO Espen Johannesen has been faithfully supported PlayOnside since 2015. For 2019 the contract was renewed and BB Bank wanted to increase their support with 20% compared with 2018. We are very grateful for having BB Bank as our main sponsor.

GALVAN FAMILY
Every month the Galvan Family, with PlayOnside president of the board, Carlos Bravo Galvan as the main driving force, arrange a second hand marked in Madrid. The market is becoming an institution in Barajas, and generates a stable income to PlayOnside. Thank you so much for the support!

TROND MOHN
The Norwegian businessman and philanthropist Trond Mohn gave a generous gift to PlayOnside in February. This is the second time Trond shares his wealth with PlayOnside, and the support from him means a lot for the long-term financial sustainability of PlayOnside.

THE KAVLI TRUST
The Kavli Trust has supported PlayOnside since 2017, and 2019 will be the last year Kavli and PlayOnside partners together. Even though our collaboration comes to an end, we are very grateful for the support we have received over these years, and wish you all the best for all the amazing projects you support.

GRIEG FOUNDATION
Grieg Foundation was a new partner in 2018, and in January it supported PlayOnside with a substantial amount. Grieg Foundations supports humanitarian projects all over the world, and we are humble and proud to be a part of their portfolio. We hope to extend this partnership for many years!

PRIVATE DONORS - FRIENDS AND FAMILY
Every month friends and family support us with their hard-earned money. With many people supporting us regularly, it really adds up, and is a substantial part of our funding. Thank you!