

GREEN ISLAND

**CLOSING
REPORT**



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

The Thai/Burma border region is home to hundreds of thousands refugees and migrants from Burma (Myanmar) escaping civil war, ethnic violence, poverty, and lack of opportunities in their native homeland. Due to its proximity to Burma, many choose to settle in the Thai border town Mae Sot, home to more than 100.000 Burmese refugees and migrants. Here they live in the shadows of Thai society, working as day labor in the informal sector.



Some has decided to settle at the garbage dump, scavenging and living on the leftovers of modern consumerism. Around 500 people live on the Mae Sot garbage dump, and more than half of them are children.

The social problems in this particular community on the dump are magnified. Many of the children do not attend school, and child marriage and teen pregnancies are not uncommon. For the children whom do attend school, the drop-out levels are significantly higher than the regular migrant communities. Drugs and alcohol abuse amplifies these problems further. The Green Island aims to address these problems.



KEY SUCCESS INDICATORS IMPACT

KEY SUCCESS INDICATORS

Prior to implementation, PlayOnside did an extensive field research, that included the identifying and involving key stakeholders, in the community, a thoroughly assessment of needs, and potential risks or problems we might face implementing the project.

We defined key indicators defining the project success.

Key Indicators that we will continue to monitor over the course of the project is

- Overall participation rate in the PlayOnside activities
- Girls participation rate in PlayOnside activities
- Initial attendance rate in regular school
- Dropout rates from school

IMPACT

As it is still early days for PlayOnside regarding this project, we have not any final quantitative data regarding the impact. However we have different individual statements from stakeholders.

"I really like Green Island. On the football field I can play with my friends."

*8 years old girl, participating in the PlayOnside project
Green Island*

"I have never seen such a big smile on the face of my daughter. Thank you so much, PlayOnside"

Parent of a 11 years old, participant at the Green Island project.

"Before the Green Island we had nothing to do. Now we have so much different games almost every day."

*13 years old boy, participating in the PlayOnside project
Green Island*

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE 1

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

During the rainy season in 2018, the area suffered significant flooding, something we did not anticipate when we budgeted the project. That means we had to do some adjustment in the design, raising the cost of the project. We lifted the building, to avoid flood-water into the community house, and we installed a drainage system underneath the field.

The construction period lasted from November 2018 until February 2019, employing local labor from the garbage dump community. The local labor was paid local salary, above the minimum wage.

By using local labor, we are able to provide a fair income to people living in the community, which is one of the goals of the project.

Deforestation is a big problem, not only in Thailand, but also in Myanmar.



Illegal logging in the border region is not uncommon, and if we were to purchase new timber, it would most likely be illegal timber. Therefore all the wooden materials used in this project are recycled/reused materials, and not one single tree has been cut for the construction of the Green Island Project.

The roof is made of thatch, a local and environmentally friendly roofing technique, ensuring the architectural design is adapted to the local cultural context.

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE 2

PLAYONSIDE ACTIVITIES

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, PlayOnside runs activities at the project site.

The activities are fun-based, sometimes with football training, and sometimes with classroom activities.

The lesson plan is flexible and adapted to the needs and wants of the local community.

A close relationship has been established with the community leaders and other representatives of the community. This is imperative to ensure a smooth implementation of the project to achieve the learning outcomes for the children.

During the school break in April/May 2019, PlayOnside ran a Summer School, with classroom activities every day. The attendance level dropped in the middle of the School, due to the Buddhist



New Year, with following celebrations.

However, after the celebration, the numbers started to increase again, and we finally 19 students had participated in more than 80% of the classes received a diploma for participation.

After the Summer School, PlayOnside went back to regular activities, including football/teamwork sessions, movie nights and dance classes and art classes.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL COST IN THAI BAHT

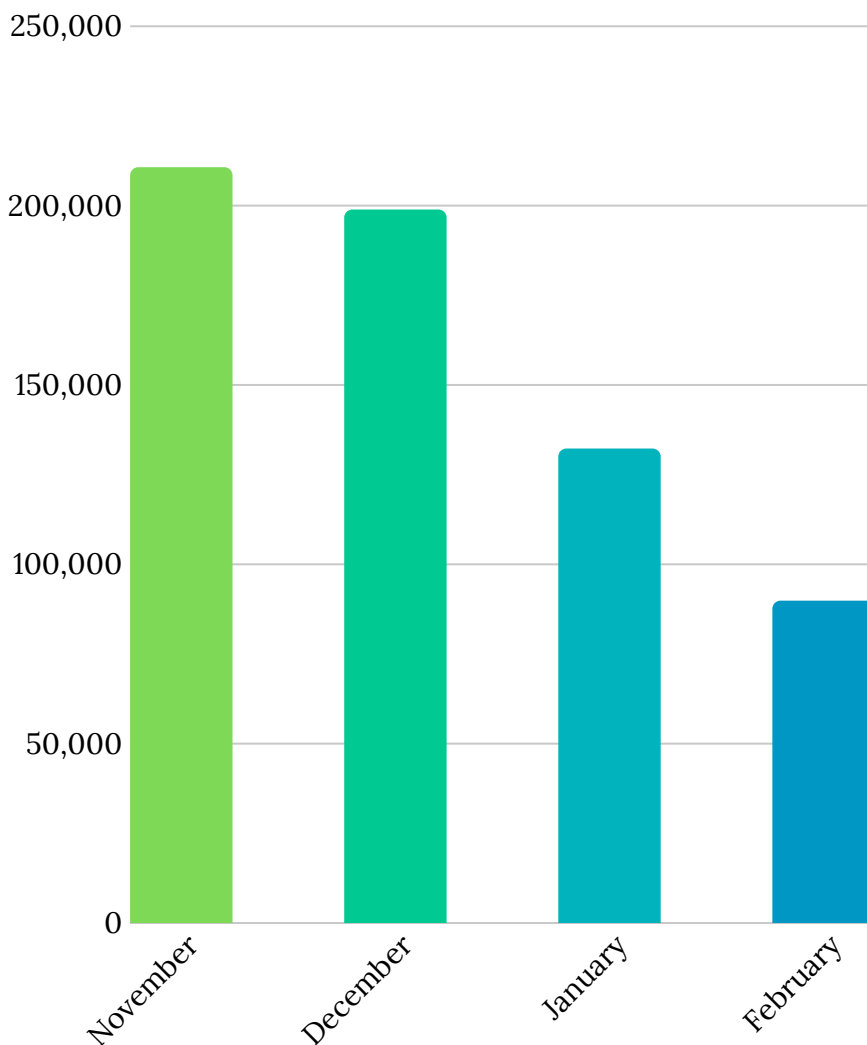


FIGURE 1.

Project was implemented in the period of November 2018 until February 2019. The figure on the left, shows when the funds from Siemens Gamesa were spent.

Total cost of the construction of the project was 630.150 Thai baht*

*In euros: 18.122 (exchange rate 21.06.2019)

Comments to the budget:

We slightly overran the budget for the construction. This was partly due to architectural adjustments, and partly due to depreciation of the Euro compared with Thai Baht.

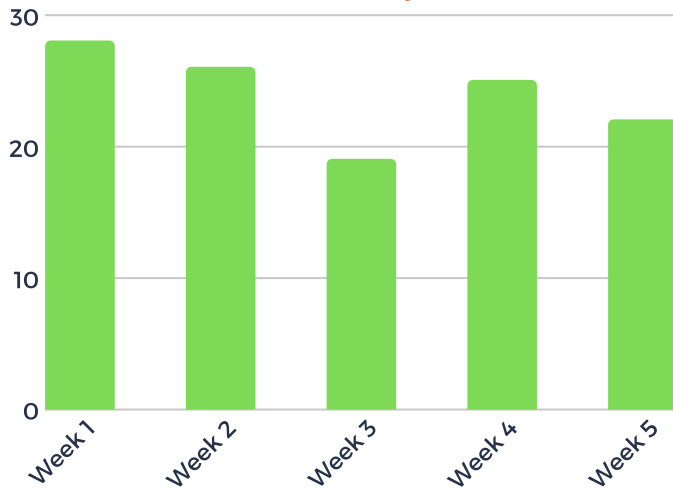
However, this was not dramatic at all, and did not pose any threat for the project. Estudio Cavernas held a tight financial control during the process, and the extra cost was absorbed by PlayOnside.



KEY NUMBERS

AND LESSONS LEARNED

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE SUMMER SCHOOL, APR-MAY



OBJECTIVE OF SUMMER SCHOOL

The main objective of the 5 weeks Summer School was to improve the Thai, English, and critical thinking skills of the children enrolled in the project.

PROJECT MANAGER FEEDBACK

The numbers of participants in the Summer School were lower than initially expected. However with a smaller group, we were able to give the necessary attention to the individual students, and that enabled us to hold a high quality throughout the project

ZIN MIN NAING, PROJECT MANAGER - PLAYONSIDE

LESSONS LEARNED OVER THE 5 WEEKS SUMMER SCHOOL:

- The children in the community had big problems adapting to the structures when attending school
 - This is probably because of lack of experiences, and parents not putting the necessary boundaries for acceptable behavior.
- Implementing regular routines was essential for the children to have a positive learning experience.
- To achieve a long-term impact, PlayOnside needs to run regular activities, with routines the children understand and accept.
- The learning outcomes improved significantly over the course of the summer school.
- We saw a significant increase in confidence, level of English and level of Thai over the 5 weeks course.
- We expect to see a further improvement over the coming months.
- By June 2019, all of the students attending the Summer School, and the regular three weekly sessions by PlayOnside, are enrolled in school.

3

Weekly sessions of child-centered life-skill activities ran by PlayOnside

4

new football teams from the community, all participating in the upcoming Rainy Season Tournament

36%

girls participation rate

Plan for the future

PlayOnside will continue to improve the garbage dump community, closely collaborating with local community leaders.

For the coming months and years, we will continue to run weekly activities at the Green Island. In the rainy season, We will build new sanitation facilities in the community, and involve especially the girls in gender-awareness projects.

We are flexible regarding the project design, but there are some topics we will cover for the coming months.

Teamwork: Practical classes focusing on working together as a team.

English: Classroom activities to improve the English level of the students.

Environmental Awareness: In June 2019 we planted 40 different fruit trees in the community garden behind the football field. Maintaining the community garden, learning about the different trees, and the nutritional values of the different fruits will be implemented in the classes.

Health Awareness:

In the community, there are many young mothers. We will consider holding classes for the mothers regarding the nutrition for babies and young children.

