



Quarterly Report

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2019

GREEN ISLAND OPENING CEREMONY

As we wrote in the report last quarter, the construction of our new project “Green Island”, was finished in the beginning of March, and in April, it was time for an official opening. Our partners, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Company (SGRE), financed the construction of the project, through their CSR - program. We invited SGRE to attend the opening ceremony, and we were very happy to welcome Lisa and Klaus from Siemens Gamesa, who came all the way from Hamburg, Germany to attend the event.

Sixty children from the community participated over a two full day’s football



festival, bringing the whole community together. We arranged a World Cup, with the children learning about different countries.

Eight nations were represented in the tournament of Fair Play, and unsurprisingly the Norway team won the prestigious trophy after a thrilling final against India.

For PlayOnside this was the perfect start of this project. We manage to engage the parents in the community, and the "All-Star Game" between the Mama team and the PlayOnside coaches team, was the highlight of the weekend, attracting big crowds, laughter and smiles. We are looking forward to have this project running regularly throughout the year, and to empower and educate the children living on the garbage dump.

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



GREEN ISLAND SUMMER SCHOOL

In Thailand and Burma, the end of March marks the end of the school year, and the height of the hot season. The schools close down, and it is time for summer holidays. However, summer break in the migrant communities on the Thai/Burma border is not like summer holidays in the west. The possibility to go to the beach, to travel, and to explore new experiences in different places is limited.

So summer school break means for many migrant children a boring period with not much to do. Last year, PlayOnside went to Karen State Burma, to hold a Summer School. That was a great experience, and we will repeated it again this year - more about that experience later.



This year, the PlayOnside team is bigger, stronger and more experienced, so we decided to split the team, and hold two different Summer Schools simultaneously, one in Mae Sot, and one in Kawkareik Township, Burma.

A PlayOnside Summer School is a different type of schools than what the children are used to in the regular academic year. The focus is on child-centered fun-based learning activities.



The learning objective is to engage the children, increasing their self-confidence and social and interpersonal skills. Through the different activities, we are encouraging critical thinking and focus on teamwork and team building activities.

All classes are in English, and though the level of English varies a lot, we adapt the curriculum so the students will feel accomplishment, and slowly and gradually improve their English skills.



For the Green Island Summer School we had around 25 participants. We divided the group into two different classes; the youngest class were from seven to ten years old, and the oldest from eleven to fifteen. The school was running every weekday for six weeks, with classroom activities in the morning and football and outdoor activity games in the afternoon.



The children participating are all living in the community on the garbage dump in Mae Sot. The children growing up in this community face more challenges than other migrant children do. In general, life is a bit tougher at the garbage dump. Therefore we believe that this type of education is very beneficial for this particular group, and even though the summer school is only for six weeks, the learning process does not stop by the end of Summer School. We plan to carefully follow up this group when the academic year starts in June 2019.

COACHING TRAINING

BEGINNER LEVEL

A key element of reaching the long-term goals of PlayOnside is to empower and educate young local leaders. A key component of this strategy is our coaching training. Over the years, we have developed, in collaborations with partners like International Football Education and Premier Football Academy Bangkok, a coaching training with different levels.

In June, we arranged a beginner level coaching training, with 14 new local coaches, eager to learn about football coaching, and role modeling through sports. The new coaches are primarily teachers at different migrant learning centers, whom with we closely collaborate.



The coaches will be responsible of coaching their own teams in the upcoming tournaments, and Pyae Sone, PlayOnside's own coach coordinator, will closely follow them up throughout the season. Previously, because of lack of resources, we have not been able to follow them up as closely as we are planning to do now. By being by their side, when they run their own training sessions, we are capable of giving valuable inputs and make corrections.

The coaching training is a 16 hours course over two days, with weekly follow up the next three months. The first part is a theoretical part, learning about the positive benefits of team sports for children's development, the role of the coach as a mentor and role model, and the importance of positive feedback and equal access to opportunity.



KAWKAREIK SUMMER SCHOOL

In the remote Karen village, with the difficult name Thong See Thong Suu, PlayOnside held a successful summer school in 2018. Around 120 students participated for the 6 weeks camp last year, and we have gotten regular requests from the students to repeat the project this year.

And of course, PlayOnside could not resist such a request from students eager to learn. In April, half of the PlayOnside-team, traveled across the Friendship bridge, separating Thailand and Burma, and deep into the heart of Karen State, to implement yet another six week summer school.



This year we had less participants, totally around 60 students. A PlayOnside Summer School is about playful and participatory learning, with focus on English skills. All classes, Math, Sciences, Social Studies, Football, Dance, Music, and Art are all in English.

A main objective of the school is to encourage and promote teamwork, confidence and critical thinking skills. Thus, we spend less time in front of the blackboard, and more time on the floor together with the students, working in groups with different topics.





This way of learning lowers the distance between teacher and students, and encourages the students to solve problems together in groups. This is very different from the traditional Burmese educational system, but we believe that if you bring fun challenges into the classroom, the final results get better.

Also this year the Summer School was a great experience for PlayOnside, and even though we did not make any promises we hope to be able to repeat the project also in 2020.





HPA-AN FRIENDSHIP GAMES

Women's football is on the rise in Myanmar, and more and more girls are stepping out of the kitchen and strapping on their football boots and enter the green fields.

In Hpa-An, the capital and biggest city in Karen State, we got in touch with two local female teams, Zweekabin Myay and Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW). A mini Friendship Tournament was arranged, and we also had the opportunity to explain a bit about our program in Mae Sot. We also learned about how female football is perceived girls in Myanmar, and what opportunities that are available young women's opportunity to play in their homeland.



As PlayOnside is growing and expanding our reach, it is nice to get an overview of what is happening across the border. Hence, to meet with other teams and projects promoting gender equality through football is a great start.

We will explore the opportunity to invite these teams to Mae Sot in the future, to continue expanding our network across the border.



CHAING MAI FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT

It was a busy quarter for the PlayOnside women's role model team. After returning from the Hpa-An friendship games in Karen State, the team traveled to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand to visit our partners at Lanna International School. The girls' football team from Lanna visited us in Mae Sot in February, and this time we went to Chiang Mai to take part of a Friendship Tournament they arranged for us. PlayOnside participated not only with the teacher team, but also a girls' student team.

To be able to travel to other parts of the country to play football, make new friends and improve our skill set is a great opportunity for the girls in the PlayOnside



program. To have partners like Lanna school, who not only arranged this event, but also fund raised to cover our travelling costs, means a lot to us. The students in Chiang Mai baked and sold cakes at the school, sold PlayOnside t-shirts, and held presentations about our program, to raise awareness about the migrant situation in Mae Sot. PlayOnside was even mentioned in the school bulletin.

The tournament was a great success, and we in PlayOnside are so grateful to have partners like Lanna supporting us. We are already planning a new event together with them, this time in Mae Sot. It is mutually beneficiary both for PlayOnside Lanna to keep this collaboration running, and we are looking forward to hosting them in Mae Sot in November/December this year.

NEW STAFF

Naw Tah Mu Lah, or O-Shape that is her nickname, is a young, enthusiastic Karen woman who joined PlayOnside in June. She recently graduated from Minmahaw school, an English immersion course based in Mae Sot. Her excellent English skills, leadership skills, and organizational skills will be of great benefit for the organization. She will coach three different teams this season, but she will also have responsibility of arranging different events, lesson plans, and curriculums of PlayOnside.



Moo Ku Paw is a 21 years old Burmese woman, who also joined PlayOnside as a part time coach in June. She is the previous captain of the AFC girls team, that participated in Rainy Season Tournament in 2018. She has volunteered as a post-match discussion moderator in different PlayOnside events, and we were very excited when she accepted the offer to join PlayOnside as a football coach and role model for the young girls in the program. She is a passionate football player herself, and we are looking forward to see her grow in the coming years.



Ye Yint Thet is a former teacher at SAW School, a long-term partner school of PlayOnside. Now he is a full time teacher at Farm House 2, a newer school in the PlayOnside program. Ye Yint is a great football player himself, and is very excited to join PlayOnside as a part-time coach. He will coach two teams from Farm House 2, plus he will be partly responsible for our program at Green Island. Ye Yint brings a lot of teaching experience to PlayOnside, and will be a great mentor, not only for the children, but also for the rest of PlayOnside .

