

ADRA ASIA focus



Basic Education

VOL 3 | NO 1
DEC-FEB 2023

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ADRA



ADRA

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PUBLISHER
ADRA Asia Regional Office

ADRA ASIA
focus

VOLUME 3 | NUMBER 1
December - February 2023

ADRA Asia Focus, launched in 2021,
is the official quarterly magazine
of the ADRA Asia Regional Office
serving 17 ADRA offices in Asia, so
all may live as God
intended.

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This quarter, we focus on how ADRA is
increasing access to Basic Education to
ensure all children have opportunities
to attend school and thrive.



This quarter we take you to

THAILAND

CAPITAL
Bangkok

LANGUAGE
Thai (Siamese)

POULATION
71.6 Million

CURRENCY
Thai Baht (THB)

Quick Facts



1980s
ADRA Office first
established



2.1 AS OF 2022
Million children dropped
out-of-school



16,751
Displaced students
received learning
supplies during the
pandemic by ADRA



THE CYCLE OF EDUCATION STORIES FROM THAILAND

I was only 4 years old when my family left Myanmar. Too young to really remember my home.

With 9 brothers and sisters, it has been difficult for our family.

But I'm the lucky one. I will be the first person in my family to graduate from school.

My dream is to become a teacher and open a school back in Myanmar. I've already talked with the village leader about the prospect of opening such a school.

I've seen what girls go through.

My sister dreams of joining a beauty pageant. My hope is to support girls get an education in a safe environment enabling them to achieve their dreams.

10 years I have lived here.

In Myanmar, I didn't have an opportunity to attend school. But here, I do.

My favorite subjects are Geography and English.

Soon, I will graduate from school to go and study teaching.

Once I'm a teacher, I will return to this school and help other students achieve their dreams.

I want to be the kind of teacher that cares for their students and teach lessons that can be applied in life.

I see many young people engage in drugs. Only if you have an education can you find work and live a good life.



[CLICK TO WATCH | THE CYCLE OF EDUCATION](#)

REGIONAL FOCUS

Education is the building block of every society, yet today 57 million children remain out-of-school, with access particularly limited for those displaced, stateless, migrant, disabled and marginalized. Studies show those who leave school early are vulnerable to unemployment, poverty, and early marriage.

In 2005, Thailand adopted the Education for All policy. Though school enrollment rates have increased in year's past, many children continue to experience barriers to these education services.

Education is one of the core pillars of ADRA's work. In Asia alone, ADRA is supporting basic education programs across 12 countries.

1948

UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
STATES RIGHTS TO
EDUCATION FOR
EVERYONE

57

MILLION CHILDREN
REMAIN
OUT-OF-SCHOOL
GLOBALLY

2.1

MILLION
CHILDREN DROPPED
OUT-OF-SCHOOL IN
THAILAND IN 2022

KOREA



ADRA Korea supports child sponsorship programs in multiple countries such as Myanmar, India, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam and Nepal. These programs aim to eradicate illiteracy rates and increase access to quality basic education for primary and secondary students.

MYANMAR



Myanmar has the largest education program portfolio in the region targeting basic education, formal and non-formal education and vocational training for children, youth and adults alike. ADRA has been working to improve access to basic education services by renovating or constructing schools and facilities, supporting teacher stipends, building capacity of teachers through training, distributing learning and teaching materials and supporting curriculum development among other activities.

THAILAND



In Thailand, ADRA is working to improve access to quality basic education for displaced students living in the 9 temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border. ADRA is distributing teaching and learning materials, supporting teacher stipends, and providing career counseling to students among other initiatives.

PAKISTAN



In Pakistan, ADRA is working to reduce drop-out rates of students by improving learning environments through school renovations, increasing access to education for poor and marginalized children, supporting education fees, and distributing learning and school supplies.

BANGLADESH



In Bangladesh, ADRA is supporting those marginalized, such as slum children and orphans, gain access to a quality education in an aim to reduce poverty and improve socio-economic conditions.

BASIC EDUCATION SERVICES IN THAILAND



ADRA recognizes that education can help reduce vulnerability, safeguard against violence, abuse, and exploitation. We further recognize that any child or adult with an education has the opportunity for a better future, though not all have equal access to education.

In Thailand, the Education for All policy was adopted in 2005 which provides children free universal education regardless of their nationality. However, language barriers, discrimination, lack of access to resources, and financial hardship create barriers towards education, particularly for many migrant, stateless and displaced children. ADRA Thailand is addressing some of these barriers through a range of projects and initiatives.

Thailand is a focus country for ADRA's **Every child. Everywhere. In School** campaign with a goal to support migrant children access education. In Thailand, approximately 200,000 of 364,000 migrant children are out-of-school. ADRA Thailand has advocated to the Ministry of Education and worked with schools to provide language support, effectively reducing the rate of out-of-school numbers. Overcoming language barriers makes it possible for children to remain in school.

A stateless person is one who under national laws does not enjoy citizenship. Statelessness is sometimes referred to as an invisible problem because stateless people often remain unseen and unheard. Officially there are over 500,000 individuals recognized as stateless in Thailand, many of whom are children. A life without legal identity means they are discriminated against with limited to no access to education, healthcare, social protections and are therefore

at higher risk of violence, exploitation, trafficking, and child labor.

ADRA Thailand's *Statelessness Reduction and Community Sensitization (CSP)* project runs sensitization events to reduce discrimination and stigma in schools working with district education officials to register these children. Once registered, they can enroll and continue their education under the Thai Universal Education Policy.

Presently, ADRA Thailand works with the local government in Chiang Rai province to assess school children and support their enrollment into Thailand's civil registration system. Students receive a temporary identity number which allows schools to incorporate them into their books and receive government appropriations. The project has further worked in collaboration with Asia Pacific International University to offer 10 University scholarships a year for stateless persons as a pathway towards citizenship.

The Thailand Education Council in January 2022 reported that 1.2 million children had dropped out of school resulting from poverty, family issues and other factors that make it hard for them to study. ADRA Thailand's *Keep Girls Safe (KGS)* project in Chiang Rai province responds to some of these challenges by providing education support to children at risk of dropping out of school.

ADRA Thailand partners with 8 schools to provide scholarships which cover the costs of school supplies, lunches, medical expenses, and education related expenses. ADRA also provides safe shelter to these girls who are at risk, not only of dropping out of school, but of



being forced into early marriage, child labor or human trafficking. These girls are given the opportunity to live in a safe nurturing environment with the promise of an education right through to university.

Two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have left far-reaching impacts on most aspects of life, including education. Globally, UNHCR estimates that 48 percent of all refugee children remain out-of-school as a result. In Thailand, despite school closure in 2021, there was an increase in enrollment numbers in the temporary shelters.

During the pandemic, ADRA Thailand implemented the *Basic Education Support towards Transition (BEST)* project with its partners providing continued education support through home-based learning approaches. This enabled children to remain engaged with their teachers, and as such, school dropouts were mitigated. The BEST project also made it possible for 749 teachers to remain in class by paying their monthly stipend, while 16,751 displaced children across 7 temporary shelters received scholastic materials and supplies. Additionally, 39 schools received much needed repairs creating safer learning environments. ADRA Thailand continues to work with the Office of Vocational Education Commission under the Ministry of Education to facilitate training programs to youth within the temporary shelters to develop skills and abilities for employment.



Elvis Walemba
ADRA Thailand

STAFF FOCUS

2
YEARS
WITH ADRA

1

When did you first join ADRA and why?

I joined ADRA Thailand in 2021. Working in the area of education is part of my interest and the work that I choose in ADRA is also relevant to my background and past working experiences. I also believe that I have lots of room to contribute, especially in education as I previously worked for other organizations who were supporting education.

2

What do you love most about your position?

Working in this position provides me with the opportunity to work and connect with the parents of the students, community leaders, and education personnel to support access to education, especially for children and young people who have limited access to a quality education. This is what I love to do and it is also part of my interest to work in education. My position as a Project Manager also allows me to influence the design of interventions.

3

Can you tell us about one of your most memorable experiences working in ADRA?

The career counseling training for high school students is one of the activities implemented under our education project. When I see the results of the trainings expressed by the high school students that the training and discussions motivated them for taking more commitment to their learning, pursue their career goals, and create hope for the future - this makes me feel that is my most memorable experience working for ADRA. To support and help people, not only with learning materials, but also their emotional healing especially when they have limited hope.

4

What does the work of ADRA mean to you?

The lifestyles and the values of ADRA create a positive and healthy working environment and bound everyone to be a team and ADRA as one. ADRA's work isn't only providing support to those who are in need, but also revealing the love of the Mighty God with care, and compassion, etc.



Meet
**Phanu (Chai)
Sukhikhachornphrai**
Project Manager
ADRA Thailand



NEWS FOCUS

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, ADRA distributed 55 ring slabs in Jiyanpur and Kalia Union. These concrete ring slabs act as barriers to open sewage systems reducing risks of contamination. ADRA is raising awareness on hygiene to protect against general diseases and working to improve WASH practices in vulnerable communities.



CAMBODIA

Through ADRA's partnership with the Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF), youth from CCF visited the Jombok Hoas Adventure Learning Program to learn and experience what's available for future 'camping trips' centered on leadership for their students. The program, implemented by ADRA Cambodia, has seen the participation of 1,104 students since 2022.



JAPAN

Recently, ADRA Japan was recipient of the 'Japan Fundraising Grand Prize' awarded by the Japan Fundraising Association. This award is presented to those who have made pioneering efforts in this sector. ADRA Japan was most notably praised for their fundraising efforts towards the crisis in Ukraine by raising 600 million Yen in support of ADRA's response.



LAOS

Through ADRA's PACCA project, participants representing 10 provinces/districts, took part in a cross exchange visit focused on clean agricultural development. During the visit, the team met with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in Champasak Province, among others, and participated in activities to promote teamwork, planning skills and coordination.



INDIA

In India, ADRA is raising awareness on menstrual hygiene and increasing access to sanitary pads for girls in schools across Tinsukia, in the tea-garden communities of Assam. ADRA is working to reduce stigma's and increase period positivity by implementing fun filled curriculum's for girls that include poem recitation, dance and song.



INDONESIA

ADRA's REAF II project conducted farmer field school training on cocoa in Bangga village for 12 female participants. The training covered the importance of agroecosystems increasing skills on good agricultural practices. The training proved that women are able to support their families and learn, with an ability to empower themselves and others.



MONGOLIA

A natural phenomenon unique to Mongolia called Dzud, arises from summer drought following heavy snowfall impacting grazing pastures and livestock mortality. ADRA Mongolia recently supported 150 vulnerable herders with monetary grants of 300,000 Tögrög (\$85) to buy livestock feed, such as fodder and hay, to survive the harsh winter in two soums of Zavkhan Province.



MYANMAR

In Myanmar, ADRA conducted a cleaning campaign in a village in Kayin State with the participation of the local community. The community learned about solid waste disposal management by classifying rubbish as either organic; packaging, such as single-use food containers; or recycling, such as glass, plastic and metal.



NEWS FOCUS

NEPAL

Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) affects approximately 9-35% of women in Nepal, significantly impacting their quality of life. Through ADRA Nepal's WISH project, ADRA is conducting free reproductive health camps to enable women and girls access to treatment for POP, and other reproductive health conditions.



PHILIPPINES

ADRA joined Southern Asia Pacific Division Youth Director, Pastor Ron Genebago, in visiting the Philippine Advent College, that serves almost 5,000 students, to conduct psychological first aid training to teachers and pastors. Pastor Ron commented, "I have never seen ADRA this visible and locally connected with the church and the community."



KOREA (SOUTH)

Last year in December, the Pungsan Jeongja Regional Children's Center in Andong, discussed ways they could help refugee children in Lebanon after hearing of ADRA Korea's after-school center in the refugee camps. Over 2 days, 29 children raised pocket money equaling 400,000 won donated to ADRA to help support educational expenses.



SRI LANKA

In January, ADRA donated school supplies to 110 students at Bopagoda Primary School in the Akuressa Matara District. Inflation rates and the current economic conditions across Sri Lanka have made school supplies unaffordable for many families. This in turn has hampered many children's abilities to gain a quality education.



THAILAND

Country Director of ADRA Thailand, Quentin Campbell, recently visited two temporary shelters for displaced persons from Myanmar to monitor ADRA's EU funded BEST project. The BEST project aims to improve basic education to schools in the shelters by distributing learning materials, teacher stipends, providing career counseling and other services.



TIMOR-LESTE

In February, ADRA partnered with Pro EMA, a local NGO, to provide a 5-day training on food hygiene practices to 13 cooperative members. Trainees learned about appropriate hand washing techniques, proper uniforms for processing, how to maintain a clean kitchen, and controlling food temperatures.



VIETNAM

In Vietnam, ADRA held the first training course for syntropic farming as part of their SCAPE project in Ba Vi, Ha Noi. Syntropic farming relies on intelligent, bio diverse and dense planting schemes helping farmers better understand regeneration and maximizing photosynthesis. The aim of the SCAPE project is to increase income through improved agricultural practices.



ADRA ASIA

The ADRA Asia Regional Office welcomes Terence Cole to the role of Regional Finance Director. Terence is from the Philippines and was previously Finance Director of ADRA in Mongolia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Just prior to coming to ADRA Asia, he managed Project RISE, a micro finance and livelihood project with ADRA Philippines.





Earthquakes

STRIKE TÜRKİYE & SYRIA

Your critical support is needed! Through your donation, ADRA is able to respond immediately whenever disaster strikes.

[GIVE NOW](#)