

Alternative Education (School for Children) and Community Development Project for Displaced Children and Migrant Workers' along the Thai- Burma Border in Mae Sot Thailand

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Name: Alternative Education (School for Children) and Community Development for Displaced Children and Migrants' Workers' Children along the Thai - Burma border in Mae Sot, Thailand

Funding Amount Requested **366906 THB (11,288.65 USD)**
Project Period April 2007 – April 2008 (multi year funding)
Date of Submission April 25, 2007
Project Proponent David Eekhof
Implementing Organization Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy (PPDD)

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Dear Madam/Sir:

I would like to submit this project proposal on behalf of Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy (**PPDD**) and the respective targeted communities. The project is entitled "**Alternative Education (School for Children) and Community Development Project for Displaced Children along the Thai-Burma border in Mae Sot**", Thailand. The objectives and the end goals of the project are to provide for basic education, safer conditions, school materials and facilities and critical and analytical teaching methods to displaced and stateless children in the Thai-Burma border area.

Since Mae Sot has an active movement for education and human rights for the local Burmese communities both non-Burmans and Burmans, the emphasis of the project is to support and improve the local existing educational initiatives and to implement alternative teaching methods, introduce community organizing and development as a framework in developing and improving local community situation and children educational needs.

The project generally consists 3 phases:

- Phase 1: Building of a new school and the provision of school materials and equipments including teaching materials, and school facilities.
- Phase 2: Opening and daily operations of the school, teachers' training, and the implementation through teaching of alternative education and methods.
- Phase 3: Implementation of the community development and organizing component which would be the active involvement of the community in the school program, awareness raising on human rights issues and concerns especially that which concerns the rights of the child, formation of parents, teachers and pupils organization, and regular community meetings and dialogues in addressing issues such as child labor in the area.

In as far as the project is concern, the school program coordinator of PPDD made some consultations already with teachers of the school, parents of the students, grassroots people living within the vicinity of the school and networked with the Burma Migrant Workers Education Committee (BMWEC). These different stakeholders went through project conceptualization, planning, analyzing external and internal factors that need to be considered for project effectiveness and efficiency. The phase 1 of the project is already being implemented however the financing of the building of the project has not been secured. For the moment, some members of the community are financing the first phase of the project with the promise that PPDD will reimburse them as soon as the project secured full funding from donor agencies or individuals.

In terms of funding, PPDD is currently being funded for its administrative operations by the Guangjo Memorial Foundation, a human rights organization based in South Korea.

However, this funding is very limited. It is not even enough to cover the whole administrative operation of the organization. The staffs of PPDD are working in voluntary basis which show their commitment to the goals and objectives of PPDD.

On the other hand, a new fundraising scheme has been devised by the staffs of PPDD. PPDD was able to make concession with a local bar and restaurant in Mae Sot to possibly make some contributions to the school project and so far the organization has been successful. The said business establishment will contribute 10% of its profits for development and the running costs of the school. This is however not enough to support the whole project cost for a year and even the next coming years as the school will expand and grow. There is a need for more mobilization of funds to secure the full amount of financial resources for this project.

In this regard, **PPDD** would want to ask for financial support from your good office to make a realization out of this project. And this is the very reason why we are submitting this proposal to you. If in any case you have more questions or the information is not clear, feel free to contact the program coordinator or PPDD director, and we will be more than willing to explain or provide you with the necessary information needed. Thank you for the opportunity and we hope to hear a favorable response from your good office. We are indeed looking for a meaningful and fruitful partnership with you to work for a better future for the children from Burma.

Good luck to you.

Sincerely yours,

David Eekhof

Project Coordinator

Noted by:

Anna Malindog

PPDD director

II. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy is a regional organization working for the grassroots people using community development approach. It currently focuses on two important programs, - international and local advocacy on "business and human rights", and educational programs: alternative school building and development, inside Burma, and for displaced children on the Thai- Burma border.

The roots of **PPDD** lie in the Philippines, where it was working in the slum areas of Manila. However the organization only began operating under its current name in 2003, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. There it implemented its first project, an alternative school for Burmese youth, teaching (advanced) English, basic politics, economics,

democracy and globalization. Other occasional engagements of **PPDD** before include a consultancy position for the Nationalities Youth Forum of Burma (NYF) both on organizational development, fundraising and on its training program on "Land Confiscation and Research" in 2005. It also contributed written articles for the national online magazine of Korea, and conducted numerous trainings along the different border areas of Burma, It has currently a consultancy status with Rakhine Women's Union (RWU). The organization has wide network of organizations and working in most cases in cooperation with its network in low profile manner. It is also a partner of CAP International and the Alumni Program of Earthrights School Burma of Earthrights International in capacity building and advocacy project on "business and human rights" to help facilitate a movement on this in the region where it operates. Currently, it is forging a working relationship with Interface Development Intervention (IDIS) on its "International Awareness and Network-Building Campaign to Educate the Japanese Market on Environmental and Social Issues on Philippine Cavendish Banana Production and Trade".

Moreover, PPDD is working on one of its main programs, the educational program on alternative schools for children. The name of the project is "**Alternative Education (Children School) and Community Development for Displaced Children along the Thai-Burma border in Mae Sot, Thailand**". The project basically focuses on how to teach pedagogic alternative education and teaching tools and methods for displaced children and children inside Burma. Furthermore, the project also looks at how it can possibly help the served communities and constituencies have access to educational opportunities, develop in themselves analytical thinking, and strengthen their capacities to understand deeply the value of community development and the importance of human rights values and principles. This project indeed embodies the vision and goals of PPDD and that is development for the marginalized sector of society and that basically includes displaced children and peoples.

III. **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Few people are aware of the crisis that Burma as a country is facing. Burma is located in the mainland Southeast Asia and being leveled to be one of the poorest countries in the world. Politically speaking, the country is under military rule for the past 40 years or so and the country is confronted with different kinds of human rights problems and social unrests. People in Burma live in fear from their own government. The human rights record of Burma has been termed to be one amongst worst cases in the world. Burma has virtually never experienced a democratic system of government. The country's economic situation is worst coupled with gross human rights violations and abuses, many of its people are fleeing and running away from the country and are seeking refuge in other countries like Thailand, India, Bangladesh and even around the China-Burma border. The moment these Burmese people reach even just the borders of these countries they automatically become "internally displaced people" who are considered to be stateless people with no security and no freedom of mobility. In effect, they are considered to be illegal immigrants not necessarily refugees since the Thai government is not a signatory to the United Nations convention on refugees.

On the other hand, those who fled to the Thai-Burma border and had lived there for sometimes are facing problems of trying to provide educational opportunities for their

children. Their children are considered to be illegal and are suffering the same fate that of their parents. Automatically, these children are either considered to be internally displaced children or illegal migrants without any status or security whatsoever. These children are said to be born illegal and are not registered, not recognized by any state. These children become stateless people who do not have citizenship in any country and not protected by any laws of any country.

The worst scenario of all that adds to the bleak and dismal condition of the children in Mae Sot is the fact that they don't have any access to good and quality education that will help develop them to become mature and responsible individuals. In consequence to this condition, children become vulnerable to different kinds of abuses, such as child rape, threats, child labor and child abuses of whatever kinds.

The Thai government currently has a toleration policy for migrant schools at the border because of the international pressure of some organizations and governments, but this did not make any difference on the situation of the people from Burma who stayed in the Thai-Burma border.

IV. PROJECT BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION

Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy started the "**Alternative Education (School for Children) and Community Development for Displaced Children along the Thai- Burma border in Mae Sot**" project in March 2007. After a Christmas beneficiary action project, providing clothes to children in 2006, **PPDD** came into contact with Burma Migrant Workers Education Committee (BMWEC) and expressed its views and plans for the Light School. In return, BMWEC presented the situation of the school. Light School is a new starting school just outside the town. The school was without support and physical structure and was under bad conditions there wasn't even a solid roof.

Light school has been operating since September 2006 with two teachers, and 40 students. The students range from kindergarten (4 yrs old) to third grade (6 years old). Most children don't go to school especially those who can already be employed for work. They usually work with their parents tilling the fields.

PPDD initiated several dialogues with the teachers, and the parents of the children, and agreed to support the school, and also establish alternative teaching methods. The school will be relocated to a bigger field, with more room and expansion possibilities, located at a 100 meters distance from its current location. There the community will construct a solid school building for the children, with materials and financial support provided by **PPDD**. BMWEC agreed to provide teacher training, for the teachers, and provide additional teachers, because the school will likely expand in the near future. Also the school will be registered as part of BMWEC member school. This is for the primary reason of incorporating the school to a larger network of schools operating in Tak province which to some extent the school will benefit from it through protection and security from the scrutiny of Thai government.

Project Components:

Phase 1: Building of a new school building and the provision of school and teaching materials and facilities

This is already in the process of implementation. The local community is taking charge of this. This started on the 26th of March, 2007. Materials and labor are being provided by the local community. However, it has been agreed upon between PPDD and the local community that the financing of the project will be paid after funding is secured for this project by PPDD. Whatever amount the local people spent on the construction of the school building PPDD will reimburse them after it secured resources from donor agencies.

The school building construction estimatedly will be finished by end of May 2007 before rainy season starts.

Projected Outcomes of phase 1:

- a solid school building with expansion possibilities
- a school building which will provide shelter to its students
a relatively comfortable school with school materials and facilities that will facilitate good learning atmosphere for children.

Phase2: Opening and daily operations of the school, teachers' training, and the implementation through teaching of alternative education and methods.

This will take effect on June 2007. During this time, teachers of the school will participate in the teacher's training. The classes start this time and in the class children will be educated on children's basic human rights, and environmental issues, in a way that they will understand. These things will be incorporated in the curricula of the school for teaching children in an alternative way. The community development and organizing part of the project will also take place in this phase where formations of teachers, parent and students committee will happen and the community roles and involvement will be defined in this phase as well.

Projected Outcome of phase 2:

- provision of basic education to internally displaced and migrant workers' children from Burma.
- provision of school materials and facilities to both teachers and children (pupils)
- provision of comfortable school building to internally displaced and migrant workers' children from Burma which offers safety and good environment for learning.

Phase 3: Implementation of the community development and organizing component which would be the active involvement of the community in the school program, awareness raising on human rights issues and concerns especially that which concerns the rights of the child, formation of parents,

teachers and pupils organization, and regular community meetings and dialogues in addressing issues such as child labor in the area.

The **phase 3** of the project basically refers to the community development and organizing part of the project where the community is being empowered to participate and to take part in the development of the alternative school for children. In this phase, the project will facilitate the discussion of community issues and also the formation of community based organization such as the teachers, students and parents association who will be responsible in responding to practical issues that school will have to face and address. In this phase parental involvement in the affairs of the school and the students will be mobilized. A parental board and monthly meetings between the school and parental board will be organized. The school will also be used as a venue to discuss community issues, such as improving the local security situation, basic hygiene, cleanliness, health and sanitation, and finding resolution to the issue of child labor prevalent in the area. **PPDD** will try to encourage local people to enroll their older children in school, and let them stop working. Already **PPDD** has received promises from parents, that when the school will be opened they will also enroll their older children. Furthermore, PPDD will in this phase conduct initiatives and activities that will raise the awareness and educate the community on human rights issues and concerns in general with special emphasis on children's rights.

Projected Outcomes of phase 4:

- Establishment of a parental board
- A decrease in number of children involved in child labor in the area
- Formation of parents, students and teachers' association
- Increasing number of older children enrolled in the school
- Building and raising awareness on human rights in general with especially emphasis on child rights.
- Generally speaking improvement of local conditions

V. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

To offer an alternative teaching education and methods teaching to children in general to develop their analytical and critical thinking at an early stage.

- To provide educational facilities and materials to deprived, marginalized and under privileged internally displaced and migrant workers' children from Burma.

To create an environment where children can develop themselves holistically.

To decrease the number of child labor in project areas.

To raise awareness on basic human rights in the local community

To empower local community

- To improve local circumstances and environment

VI. TARGET BENEFICAIRIES AND AREAS OF THE PROJECT

The main beneficiaries of the project are the 40 students in the school. But the project will soon expand and aims to include currently working older children in the in the area

to attend school. The secondary beneficiaries of the project are local communities of the area where the project is located.

VII. NETWORKED AND COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee (BMWEC) – a community based organization in Mae Sot. This organization basically is in-charge of maintaining schools for children operating within Mae Sot and Tak province. They provide teachers’ training, work on resource generation to fund the schools and monitor the schools in terms of its operations.

VIII. OVERALL TIME FRAME AND WORKPLAN OF THE PROJECT

Timeframe	Phase and activity	Person/organization in charge
26 March 2007 – 1 June 2007	Phase1 of the project	PPDD + the community + parents of the children + BMWEC
June 1, 2007 -	Phase 2 of the project	School staffs (teachers) + PPDD
June 1, 2007 -	Phase 3 of the project	PPDD + school staffs + local community

IX. OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The overall impact of the school project will hopefully be the creation of a better community environment for the local people and children of the project area. Another important output of the project is the empowerment of the local community to take part on issues important to them and to the whole community such as the provision of basic education to children, raising awareness and address local issues they constantly face in daily basis, education and awareness building on human rights concerns i.e. child rights, formation of local and community based organizations and discussion and resolution to issues like child labor in the area.

X. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

The keyword and basic philosophy behind all of **PPDD**’s projects is community empowerment. This means that **PPDD** encourages communities to take initiative, and present their own ideas and views about issues. The whole project will be implemented by the local community, with supervision of the school program coordinator of PPDD. Local people are encouraged to take their own approach to things, in consultation with the school program coordinator of PPDD.

PPDD prefers to take a backseat position in the overall administrative operation of the school as much as possible but will to some extent be supervising the whole operation and will offer suggestions if necessary to see to it that administrative matters will be

running smoothly. PPDD will assume a supportive role and will back up local initiatives. However, PPDD will be responsible more in raising funds and resources for the project since local people still lack the capacity to do so.

XI. PROJECT MONITORING & REPORTING

The project will be monitored on a day-to-day basis by the project coordinator. Monthly reports will be sent to the PPDD director for checking and monitoring of the projects progress, available on request for the funder. The reporting to the funding agency will be done on a regular basis, as requested by the funding agency, in the form of reports, or other if so required by the funding organization. If the funder wants to visit the project area, we will be happy to accommodate, a request can be send to any of the contact persons listed in the proposal and arrangements will be made, if possible. **PPDD** will also keep a picture and video database about the project’s progress, which will be included in the monthly reports.

XII. PROJECT EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK MECHANISM

The evaluation of the project will mainly be done by assessment of the respective community. In the course of the projects implementation, the people involved directly in the project will constantly be asked for feedback and if they feel their needs and goals are being met. **PPDD** deems the project as a success if the community indicates their needs and goals are fulfilled. Also **PPDD** will always look back to the project objectives stated and see if they are being met, or if it is on the right track for meeting those conditions. The **PPDD** director will have a monthly check on progression of the projects and discussion with the program coordinator about the implementation of the projects.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Item	Unit cost	Unit need	Yearly need	Totalⁱ
1. Salary for teachers				
1a. Teacher’s salary	2500 THB	3	12	90000 THB
1b. Cook’s salary	1000 THB	1	10	10000 THB
Subtotal				100000 THB
2. stationary goods for students				
2a. text books	35 THB	50	1	1750 THB
2b. exercise books	90 THB	70	1	6300 THB

Item	Unit cost	Unit need	Yearly need	Totalⁱ
2c. Pens	150 THB	10 boxes	1	1500 THB
2d. Pencils	10 THB	200	1	2000 THB
2e. Rulers	40 THB	10	2	800 THB
2f. Erasers	50 THB	10 boxes	1	500 THB
2g. Color pencils	20 THB	50	1	1000 THB
Subtotal				13850 THB
3. Teaching materials & Teaching support				
3a. Whiteboard markers	220 THB	50	2	2200 THB
3b. A1 papers	100 THB	10	1	1000 THB
3c. Red pens	150 THB	2	1	300 THB
3d. Thick paper	10 THB	30	1	300 THB
Subtotal				3800 THB
4. School furniture				
4a. Whiteboard	600 THB	4	1	2400 THB
4b. Chairs	120 THB	10	1	1200 THB
4c. Tables	600 THB	5	1	3000 THB
4d. Cardboard	1500 THB	3	1	4500 THB
4e. Mats	100 THB	10	1	1000 THB
4f. Water pot	100 THB	2	1	200 THB
4g. Dusters	150 THB	2	1	800 THB
4h. Ice box	300 THB	2	1	300 THB
Subtotal				12900 THB
5. School lunch (no Saturdays and Sundays)				
5a June	5 THB	41	22	4510 THB
5b July	5 THB	41	23	4715 THB

Item	Unit cost	Unit need	Yearly need	Totalⁱ
5c August	5 THB	41	22	4510 THB
5d September	5 THB	41	22	4510 THB
5e October	5 THB	41	23	4715 THB
5f November	5 THB	41	22	4510 THB
5g December	5 THB	41	12	2460 THB
5h January	5 THB	41	23	4715 THB
5i February	5 THB	41	21	4305 THB
5j March	5 THB	41	11	2255 THB
Subtotal				41205 THB
6. Facilities improvement				
6a Rent	500 THB	1	12	6000 THB
6b Drinking water	500 THB	1	10	5000 THB
6c sanitation	300 THB	1	10	3000 THB
Subtotal				14000 THB
7 School construction and materials				
7a Posts	100 THB	50	1	5000 THB
7b Nails	40 THB	15	1	600 THB
7c Cement	120 THB	25	1	3000 THB
7d Sand	300 THB	10	1	3000 THB
7e Stone	600 THB	5	1	3000 THB
7f Line	160 THB	50	1	7200 THB
7g Bamboo	10 THB	200	1	2000 THB
7h Locker	50 THB	5	1	250 THB
7i Toilet ring	150 THB	6	1	900 THB

Item	Unit cost	Unit need	Yearly need	Totalⁱ
7j Toilet cup	200 THB	2	1	400 THB
7k Bricks	4 THB	2000	1	8000 THB
7l Zink plates	275 THB	6	1	1650 THB
7m labor costs	100 THB	5	10	5000 THB
Subtotal				40000 THB
Administrative cost on PPDD side 20% out of the total project operation cost = 45 151				
School program coordinator stipend = 8 000/month x 12 months = 96 000				
<u>Project operational cost</u>				<u>225755 THB</u>
<u>Overall project cost</u>				<u>366 906 THB</u>

ⁱ All costs are given in Thai Baht, because that is the local currency in which all the expenses will be paid. The current course of THB to the dollar is 1USD: 33.8THB