

## One Sky Foundation 2014 Report

### Child Protection and Family Support

Open cases from 2013	28
New cases in 2014	82
Total number of cases worked with in 2014	110

In 110 cases

Children	264
Adults	196



Life is tough at the border and many families live in fragile circumstances. Often families need help to get back on their feet, to improve their living situation, to be able to keep their children in school, to cope with depression, trauma, heavy drinking, violence, drug abuse and lack of income. Thanks to your support One Sky helped a lot of families to stay together and to move forwards in their lives.

9 Children were removed from danger in 2014. One Sky has the government authority in these cases as the provincial social services team cannot reach this far with their limited resources.

We are grateful for the support of World Childhood Foundation, 3 L Foundation and the Canton of Schaffhausen (c/o Urs and Markus) that makes our work Child protection and family support possible.

## Counselling (In the One Sky Counselling Room)



26 Children (and their families) received counselling from the One Sky psychologists in 2014. Thanks to Telia Sonera and 3L Foundation for making our dream for a counselling room become a reality.

Having a quiet and professional space to work with Children makes a huge difference. Some of the children given support in 2014 included: an 8 year old girl who was raped at school, a 10 year old who lost her arm in an accident and was frightened to go to school (and her Mum who was struggling with her guilt and fear that her daughter might never be able to marry) and an 11 year old girl left alone after supporting her 26 year old Mum as she died a slow and painful death from HIV Aids.

Thanks to Tara from Baby Bonding Thailand who introduced us to the Merak Clinic in Bangkok. Our 2 counsellors have a chance for a weekly debrief about the cases with the very experienced and caring Bangkok team.

Thanks also to Silke, our good friend from Holland for excellent training again this year. It's great that the team can have bespoke training in the subjects of their choice from such an experienced child psychologist.

## Community Workshops in Child Protection and Prevention of Abuse

### **Prevention activities**

Child protection awareness and child personal safety training	7 community sessions	292 participants
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The One Sky team deal with a lot of physical and sexual abuse of children. For the first time the team obtained an arrest warrant for one case in 2014, but the man ran away inside Burma.

A notorious teacher finally had to resign after being caught abusing two young girls. But he was able to pay the parents and has so far avoided any prosecution.

Helping children to recognise danger and to understand the feelings they experience when they don't feel safe is a first step in preventing abuse of children. Equipping children with self awareness and confidence to say no and to find someone they trust is the goal of the One Sky sessions. Prevention work was made possible in 2014 by support from World Childhood Foundation, Canton of Schaffhausen and 3 L Foundation.

### **Child Development Group**

(Working with Children with learning disability and their parents to develop basic skills and improve parent understanding and practical skills)

6 sessions at the office base – transport provided, Parents and Children attend together	20 regular attendees.
Specialist medical advice, therapy and treatment at the provincial hospital for learning disabled, physically disabled and children with behavioural problems.	5 to 10 children plus parents taken for a monthly appointment.





The group meets once a month for activities. Parents are encouraged to practice the techniques and activities at home with their children in between the sessions. It is very rewarding for the parents and One Sky team when they see improvements in the children motor skills and cognitive skills.

## Education

Our education support work is made possible by the generosity of Life Prep Foundation, Little Feet Foundation, Harrow International School and the British Womens Group in Bangkok.

Children supported to enrol in school for the first time this year, including support with the registration process and also uniform costs.	87
Information sessions with parents during education outreach – explaining the school registration process and the rights of children in Thailand to go to school.	49
Children attending full time 1 preparation class this year (One Sky supports the salaries of the 5 teachers – classrooms and daily management by La Salle Foundation).	121
Primary Schools signing MOUs with One Sky confirming that they will refer children for support if they drop out of school.	13
Referrals from schools for children who have dropped out	65
Number of children able to stay in school with support	50
Basic classroom and teacher 3 days a week for children in a remote plantation who are unable to reach Thai school.	27
Support with transport costs to school for children from poor families living far from school	108



## Income Generation



5000 brooms per month generating 25,000 baht (£500 or \$800) for 16 families. We are able to pay 30% more to the workers for each broom thanks to the flexibility of our donors in allowing us to use the Foundations funds as interest free capital to buy the broom flower grass in the dry season and store it to keep everyone working when the rain comes, with the Foundation funds recycled back into the projects they are needed for later in the year.

Our friends and family play a vital role in selling brooms in Bangkok and the UK, most of our brooms are sold as wholesale and margins are very tight. Brooms sold one by one by our supporters help to raise the money that we need to pay our workers a fair wage. Thank you to Ann, Julie-Ann, Richard, Jan and Colin.

The business is set to grow in 2015, with more families joining and our first order for export to the UK thanks to help from the Missing Sock in Cambridge!

## Social Welfare



Thanks to generous support from around the World we were able to provide \$21,000 in direct financial aid in 2014.

Sometimes just a little money can make the difference between a child going to school or not, a little extra food each week can keep children healthy and strong.

A major part of our Social Welfare budget pays for emergency medical care for children. Without Thai citizenship medical care is not free and life saving treatment can cost hundreds of pounds that many families just don't have.

This year we received 29 boxes of good quality second hand toys and children's clothes from CARA in the UK. The toys were taken to nursery schools in Myanmar by our close partner the Border Health Initiative and both organisations have been distributing the clothes among the poorest families we work with.

In 2014, together with the Border Health Initiative we distributed 16,000 litres of milk kindly donated by schools in Bangkok and 3000kg of rice and dried foods from a temple in Bangkok and a partner NGO.

## Fun Activities for Children and Families





In the school holidays we see some children lose weight and the numbers of children experiencing abuse and neglect increases. During the long school holiday in 2014 we worked with our local partners to organise a holiday camp for more than 70 children. Activities included BBoy dance with a great teacher from Vietnam supported by the BBoy team from the Hub in Bangkok (drop in centre for street kids in Bangkok run by our good friends at Child line Thailand), bracelet making, African dance, swimming and educational sessions about the dangers of trafficking.

Eckie the clown from the Gift of Happiness Foundation in Bangkok came to see us 3 times in 2014 and together we visited all 14 of the primary schools in our area where Eddie gave a great show for the whole school!

### **Study trip**

With generous support from Hrothgar Investments Ltd the One Sky Team made a study trip to Cambodia at the end of 2014. We took with us staff from some of our vital government partners from the provincial 1300 crisis shelter, provincial social services and from the local hospital. The trip was a great success and has cemented our relationship with the government departments whose authority is vital for One Sky to be able to protect children when working alone in the remote border area.





The very impressive social work team at Angkor Hospital for Children. They will go to incredible lengths to find mothers who abandon their babies at the hospital and in almost every case the problems the mother faces can be overcome with a little help. Very inspiring for all of us and great to know that we are part of a network of professional NGO's dedicated to upholding the best interest of children in our work.

Thank you to Vuthy from Friends International who was our expert guide and translator for the whole trip. As a major international NGO in the region Friends International have welcomed us into their CYTI network and we have gained technical support and advice from our large partner.

We learnt a lot from Damnok Toek, Friends International and the Sangkheum Centre about their work to reintegrate children with their families from the growing number of fake orphanages in Cambodia. These examples of good practice will help us in 2015 as we start work to reduce the number of children living in institutional care in Sangkhlaburi whose families need support to help them stay together.

### **CRC Coalition**

We feel very proud that One Sky was invited to join the Thailand CRC Coalition (Convention on the Rights of the Child) in 2014, just our second year. This came as recognition of the groundbreaking work in child protection in a remote border area full of challenges and with no previous services available. This puts our voice right at the heart of the future development of effective child protection services for all of Thailand.

Already from this group One Sky and the provincial social services department have begun a joint venture to interview every child living in the 17 children's homes in Sangkhlaburi. In 2015 we plan to see greater control of the numbers of children being pushed into institutional care and with guidance from our more experienced Cambodian partners we will start to help some of these children to return home.



Following our membership of the CRC Coalition we were visited by Government Shelter for Children and families Yala Province (Southern Thailand) and Social Development and Human Security Office, Samut

Songkhram Province. These government departments wanted to know more about how effectively a local NGO can work in partnership with the provincial government departments. Both visits were a great success and we received very positive feedback.

### **A few more highlights from 2014**

We really could write many more pages! We like nothing more than when our friends and supporters are able to visit us and see more of our work, bringing their enthusiasm, ideas and feedback to help us become stronger and ever more effective. Here are just 2 of our major highlights from 2014.



In 2014 we were able to buy our first vehicle – our fantastic second hand pickup truck. It is a huge asset and has enabled us to maximise the support we can offer to vulnerable children and their families. Thanks to Telia Sonera, Canton of Schaffhausen, TBBHI and CARA for making this possible.



In October we were invited to attend a fundraising event at the Radisson Hotel in Sydney as guest speakers. Each year Peter and his amazing team hold a gala dinner to raise money for World Childhood Foundation. Previous speakers included the founder of Friends International, so we were humbled to be asked to the 2014 event. Thanks to the hard work of everyone at the Radisson, they set a new fundraising record on the night!

Wat and I were incredibly spoiled by Peter, Andrew and their team at the Radisson during our 3 night stay and we are extremely grateful for their kindness, encouragement and sincere interest in our work.

THANK YOU for your continued support. Please contact us if you would like any more information about our work or our goals for the future.

We hope this report shows our determination to help children in need right now in this moment and also our goal to work towards long lasting change by working with government and other partners to bring about changes in how children are provided for in Thailand.

We dream of a world where NGO's like One Sky are not needed.

The One Sky Team  
February 2015.

