



TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH NEW CLASSROOMS IN BO KAEW

PROPOSAL FOR MARTYN

INTERVENTIONS
COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thai children born into low income households face many challenges. Thailand suffers from a large divide between the urban rich and the rural poor. On top of this, Thai children born into poverty are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.ⁱ Without wealthy parents to provide private schooling, children depend on poorly funded state-schooling.ⁱⁱ

Siloam Child Development Centre in northwest rural Thailand facilitates a child development programme to empower young people to meet their full potential. With educational support, social care and vocational training, the centre supports children held back by low family incomes so they can become confident, self-sufficient adults. Opening up opportunities and improving self-esteem reduces the chance of children finding themselves trapped in child commercial exploitation.

However, overcrowded and inadequate facilities are preventing the centre from delivering an effective programme. A recent expansion in sponsorship numbers has meant children are trying to learn in overcrowded temporary huts made of bamboo which cause injuries. There have been accounts of cuts from the broken bits of bamboo and unstable flooring. Moreover, some age groups must have lessons outside. These are often cancelled in the rainy season, as learning becomes impossible.

For the cost of £12,034.57, the centre will construct three new classrooms. The extra space will significantly improve concentration and enjoyment for children of all ages. As a result, centre attendance and participation will improve, meaning that children will engage more with the programme, improving their prospects. Moreover, adequate facilities, instead of broken huts with leaking roofs, will significantly improve quality of life for the children and staff members.

Together, we can empower the centre to create a safe space, which is essential for children and young people to learn, play and plan a better future.



Natlada is one example of Thailand's greatest threat to children: vulnerability to abuse. Before a Compassion Thailand staff member rescued her and registered her in a child development centre, she was living in a home affected by extreme poverty and drug addiction. Today at 17, she is thriving and learning how to protect herself from abuse through a special Compassion life-skills training class.

PLANNED INTERVENTION

OBJECTIVES

- 🔧 To construct a building with three classrooms.
- 🔧 To improve the child development programme and community support with facilities.

CONTEXT

- 📍 Siloam Child Development Centre, Bo Kaew
- 👥 200 Compassion-supported children will directly benefit

Siloam Child Development Centre has supported children with education, health, social care and vocational training since 2005. Two years ago, the centre staff and church elders applied to the local authorities for public space to give the children more room. Since then, the number of Compassion-supported children at the centre has risen.

In response, the centre built bamboo huts as temporary classrooms. In the last 6 months there have been 15 instances of children injuring themselves from falling through gaps in the floor and from bamboo that sticks out from the structures. Moreover, when it rains, the roof leaks, meaning lessons must be cancelled and children sent home.

The main form of income for Bo Kaew's community is day labouring. Subsistence farming is another common way that food is put on the table. Families on average earn the equivalent of £1.80 a day. Despite a rise in gross national income between 1987 and 2004 of 125%, large disparities between the rich and poor remain.ⁱⁱⁱ The closest major city to the centre is Chiang Mai, a popular tourist destination. However, the northern region has the highest poverty rate in Thailand.ⁱⁱⁱ



Inside the temporary bamboo hut at the centre.



In September 2015, UN world leaders set a transformational course for the future of human development by creating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Along with other major charities, such as UNICEF and Save the Children, Compassion puts these goals at the heart of our work, in order to combat poverty and inequality and transform our world.

Sustainable development goal seven calls on the world to “achieve the goal of universal primary and secondary education, affordable vocational training, access to higher education and more”.^{iv} Through this intervention, we will answer this call.

Thailand’s education system has continued to deteriorate since a 2012 study found that almost one-third of the country’s 15-year-olds were “functionally illiterate”.ⁱⁱ

INTERVENTION DETAIL

Siloam Child Development Centre will implement this intervention. They will organise the construction materials and hire labourers to construct a building with three classrooms. Caregivers of Compassion-supported children and church members will contribute labour to the construction process. Some of the construction materials will be gathered from the community, such as sand, wood and rock. This will empower the community with a sense ownership over the facility.

The classrooms will be used by the centre primarily as a space to implement the child development programme. Activities and lessons on topics such as sanitation, disease prevention, singing, drama, life skills, career guidance, bible verses, health screenings and nutrition will be carried out in the new classrooms.

With the additional space, the centre will be able to separate activities according to age. This will improve programme effectiveness and the children’s concentration.

In addition, the centre will use the new space as a long-term training resource centre for caregivers and community members.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The success of this intervention will be evaluated by one of Compassion Thailand’s partnership facilitators. They will be looking to confirm the following indicators of success have been met at the end of this intervention:

- ✦ The children will have three additional classrooms ready to host them for age-separated activities.
- ✦ The attendance rate will have increased.
- ✦ Child development progress reports will show improvements in child progress at the centre.

As part of the evaluation and monitoring of this intervention, there will be an initial project visit, progress visits and an evaluation. Material prices, human resources costs and the effects of weather and natural disasters will be monitored, and the strategy adapted accordingly.

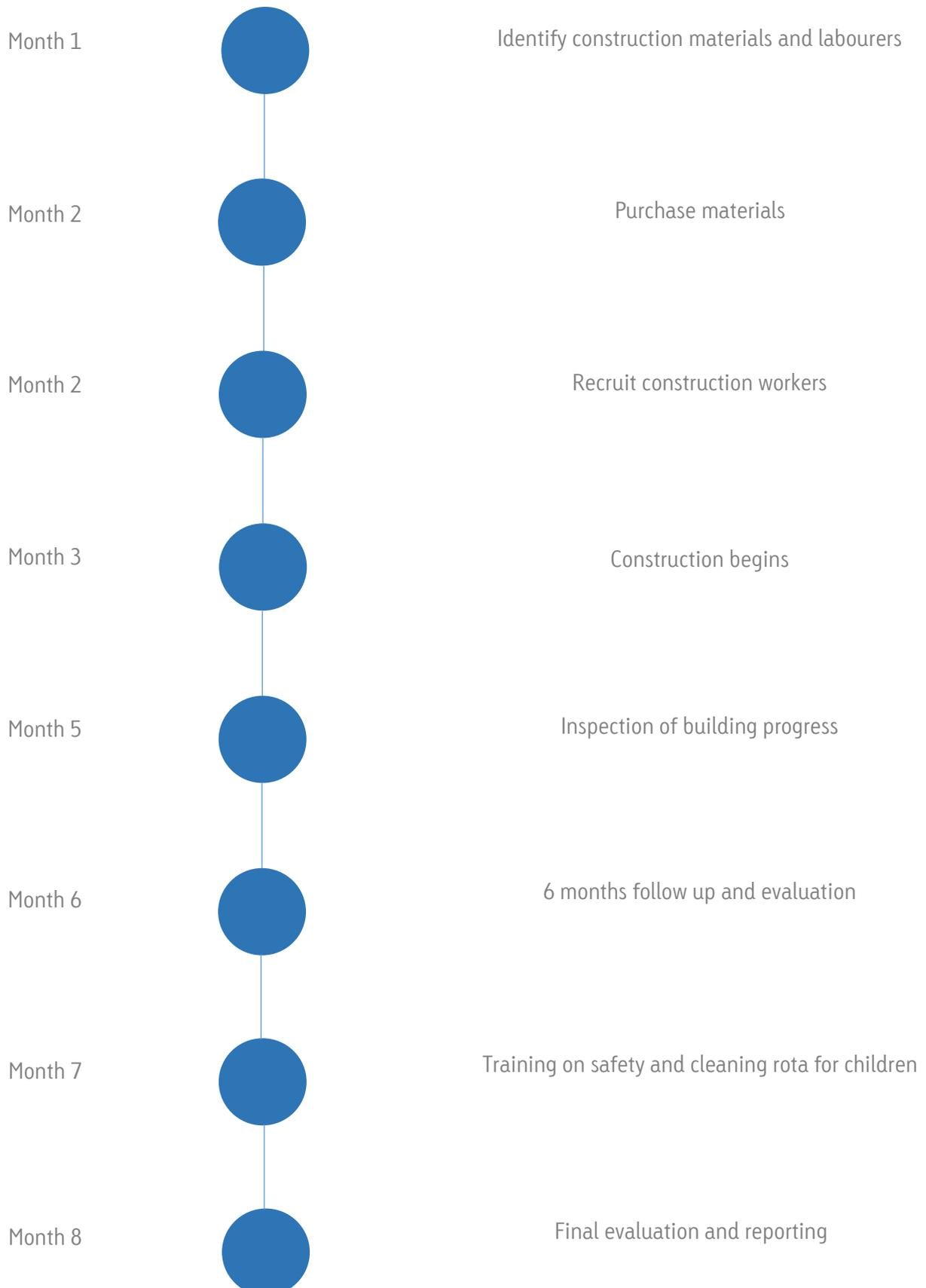


Children learning outside, due to a lack of classrooms.



The temporary bamboo hut used for activities.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE



CLASSROOMS AND COMPASSION: A STORY OF SUCCESS

The Chokloo community, in Thailand, hugely benefited from the construction of new learning facilities in 2018. The children at this Compassion child development centre were burdened by noisy and uncomfortable conditions that were disruptive to their learning.

Nareerat, a teenager at the centre, says the old building had a leaking roof and not enough floor space.

Four new classrooms were successfully constructed. Nareerat explains: “It has become livelier as the clean and large space has meant more children can gather together. I feel comfortable and secure at the centre and during activities.”

Even when it is raining, it doesn't impact our studies anymore. My friends also look happier when they come to the centre. Moreover, there are desks and a nice floor for the children to sit on. When the building is divided into classrooms, children can pay attention while studying well because there is no disturbance. It makes me and my friends very happy to attend the centre.”

“It is now a lot easier to pay attention in the new, clean classroom.”

- Nareerat



The completed learning facility at Chokloo Child Development Centre.



Sa-nguan, the director at the Chokloo Child Development Centre says:

“Since this intervention was completed, the children have been very happy at the centre. They are more motivated to pay attention in lessons and during activities.

They are more comfortable in the classrooms as they are divided by age group. They can concentrate much better because there is no loud surrounding noise disturbing them anymore.

The church has become better known and there is increased collaboration in the community. We can ensure the parents that their children will be safe throughout the development programme.

The church now has greater capacity to support children. There is sufficient space for the activities for children at the centre.”



BUDGET

ITEM	AMOUNT REQUIRED	LOCAL CONTRIBUTION*	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
Construction materials	£7,697.54	-	£7,697.54
Professional welder	£694.66	-	£694.66
Professional bricklayer	£1,389.32	-	£1,389.32
General builder wages	£750.23	£750.23	-
Transportation of construction materials	£402.90	£125.04	£277.86
Plaque	£200.00	-	£200.00
Administration	£1,775.19	-	£1,775.19
TOTAL	£12,909.84	£875.27	£12,034.57

*Although the centre does not have the resources to fund this intervention alone, local funds raised will make up £875.27 of the total cost. All Compassion interventions include a local contribution, to encourage ownership by the local community.

Thank you for your generous fundraising of £10,897.38. For this vital classroom construction to be fully funded, just £1,137.19 remains.



THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this proposal, this intervention in Thailand will change lives.

A safe building is a basic requirement for learning and child support. New classrooms are desperately needed in this community and will cause great excitement for the children. They will also significantly improve the centre environment for the staff and community. Most importantly, it will improve the learning and participation of the children. Your support will have a direct effect on releasing children from poverty as they will acquire skills, an education and confidence in the new facility.

Thank you for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of 200 children in Thailand and supporting wider global education efforts.

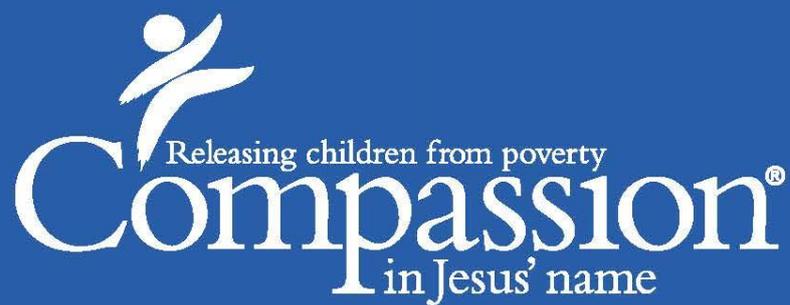
If you would like to ask any questions about this intervention, please contact Mike Robins on 07889 213645 or at MichaelR@compassionuk.org.

ⁱ ECPAT, *Sex Trafficking of children in Thailand*: www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Factsheet_Thailand.pdf

ⁱⁱ **The Economist**, *Poor schools are at the heart of Thailand's political malaise*, January 2017: www.economist.com/asia/2017/01/19/poor-schools-are-at-the-heart-of-thailands-political-malaise

ⁱⁱⁱ **World Bank**, *Thailand's Poverty Maps*: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPGI/Resources/342674-1092157888460/493860-1192739384563/10412-13_p241-260.pdf

^{vi} **UN**, *Sustainable Development Goals*: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/



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