

Loi Tai Laeng Primary School Shan State, Myanmar/Thai Border



Grant Category:	Education
Implementing Agency:	Child's Dream Foundation
Project Status:	Completed
Start Date:	Jan 2011
Completion Date:	Apr 2011

Project Description

Construction of new school building with twelve fully equipped classrooms, a canteen with equipped kitchen, teachers' office and 12 toilets. The community established its own small school in 2000 with 27 students and two teachers, but demand has increased exponentially with the school now providing education to nearly 800 children including 265 orphans.

Objective

Construction of a new school building for the internally displaced children of the Loi Tai Laeng community. The community is Stateless so has no access to government funds and as a result of the extreme tensions in the area it also has limited access to other forms of external assistance.

Impact

The improved learning environment of the new school has enabled the school to accommodate the continually increasing student population.

The new school has resulted in increased attendance rates leading to improved educational performance. It has also seen a reduction in dropout rates.

Background

In 1996 the Burmese military regime conducted a mass forced relocation campaign in the Shan State, during which more than 300,000 villagers were forced to evacuate their homes at gunpoint. Many fled to Thailand, however some remained in hiding in the jungle until they emerged in 1999 to establish the internally displaced people (IDPs) community of Loi Tai Laeng. Today more than 5,000 people from the Pa-Long, Pa-O and Shan ethnic groups live in the community.

The community has to deal with the dual challenges of the highly volatile political environment with only the Shan State Army for protection, and the harsh environment of mountains 1,400m above sea level. The community is largely dependent on farming and small shops for income.