



Completion Report

MMR-MNO-IDP Karen State Myanmar
Reporting Period: July 2012 – August 2016

Jungle Schools – Thai-Burma Border

Budget: \$142,911.30 over the life of the project

Update:

Entrust Foundation supported three schools on the Thai-Myanmar border over a four year period. These schools were in conflict zones and the students were often displaced from their original villages because of fighting. One school was in an internally displaced persons' camp. The schools were the only place these children could receive an education. While the education is not officially recognised, the children are taught Karen, Burmese, English, History, Geography, Science and Maths, with a focus on peace education and conflict resolution. By teaching both local language and Burmese, the schools are preparing the students to engage with the wider community as peace brings an opening of the area.



One of the schools we supported



Access into one of the areas where we worked

Two main schools were supported over the years. The first had between 900 and 640 students per year over the four years – this was in the internally displaced camp, and the lower numbers reflects the efforts of families to slowly reintegrate and attempt to pick up their lives in their old villages. (A difficult process when often others have relocated to those areas themselves.) The second school had between 120 and 90 students each year. This is a more stable location and it is likely that this school will continue to operate, adjusting itself to the changes in the education system as peace takes hold.

Over the four years, an average of 53 teachers were supported with a small stipend. These funds allowed the teachers to remain in their local communities to teach instead of seeking work elsewhere.

The communities built and maintained the schools themselves, and this has given the communities a sense of pride and achievement. As the schools are open to all, it has also been a way of developing cohesion in an area where religious as well as ethnic differences have been so divisive.

We are encouraged by what has been achieved over the four years of this project. We are confident that while our participation has ended, the work will go on, adapting to the changing circumstances in Myanmar. On behalf of the 1000+ students you have impacted, thank you for laying the foundation for them to meet this new Myanmar with confidence, hope and education.



A group of Karen students