

Supporting Teachers in Conflict Zones

MMR-HOP-STC-P02



Thai/Burma border, Myanmar



Education

2 Year Project: Sept 2023 to Aug 2025

Total Budget: \$67,000



Overview

This project supported 38 teachers and provided educational materials to two schools serving displaced and refugee families along the Thai–Myanmar border. Despite the ongoing conflict, infrastructure destruction, and the 2021 military coup, communities remain deeply committed to education.

Families face extreme hardship, often fleeing bombings with little or no resources. Both schools had to be fully evacuated after attacks; one was completely destroyed. Yet, thanks to the determination of teachers and students, classes continue in temporary locations, ensuring children’s learning is not lost.

Objectives

Impact



Provide salaries for 38 teaching staff

Providing wage support for 38 teachers has increased educational stability through higher teacher retention. Teachers are better able to provide for their families, and students benefit from consistent, quality instruction, ensuring a stronger and more supportive learning environment.



Increase to 437 student enrolments

School enrolments remain strong, with 437 students currently enrolled across the two schools. The schools have built significant trust with parents, which is crucial for their confidence in sending children to school despite the challenging circumstances.



Provision of educational materials

Providing school supplies has directly improved the quality of education, enabling students to practise writing, spelling, and mathematics, while equipping teachers with tools to enhance their instruction and better demonstrate key concepts.



Training and Development Course to upskill teachers

Over 150 teachers enhanced their skills in curriculum development, child safety, and classroom management, creating safer, more effective classrooms and a brighter learning experience for thousands of children. Additionally, a dental team was organised, with 132 teachers receiving care.

Life change

- Expanded access to education provides children with safer, more empowering learning opportunities, giving them the skills and knowledge to build better futures.
- A stable and well-supported teaching workforce strengthens teacher skills and confidence, resulting in higher-quality instruction and improved student learning outcomes.
- Children gain resilience and hope, enabling them to thrive despite the challenging circumstances they face daily.



Saw Poe Taw's Story

"I am only 17 and I had to flee my home and live far from my parents. At first I was very scared and unsure what would happen to me. But at HTL, my friends and teachers have welcomed me, and I now have a safe place to stay, enough to eat, and the chance to continue my studies. Without your support, I could never afford school materials, and I don't know where I might have ended up. I can now focus on learning, dream about the future, and make my parents proud, even from afar."



After the bomb...

HTL school - prior to being completely destroyed by bombs.

Saw Khu Gay's Story

When Saw Khu Gay first joined KLS school ten years ago, he thought it would be a temporary role to meet his immediate need for work. However, with support from our partner and Entrust, his wages have provided stability for his family and allowed him to continue doing the work he loves. Today, Saw Khu Gay is a passionate teacher, deeply committed to his students and their future. As he explains, "What started as a temporary position has evolved into a deep sense of belonging. While the salary isn't substantial, the reward of empowering young minds is immeasurable. Your support is crucial, enabling us to pursue our dedication to these children's education."

