

Education Support

(Last reviewed September 2015)

One Sky's Education Support project was designed to comprehensively tackle barriers that stop children in Sangkhlaburi from attending school.

Today, our Education Support project focuses on three key areas:

- **Facilitating education enrolment**
- **Widening access to education for children in remote areas**
- **Minimising school dropout**

Facilitating enrolment:

Facilitating enrolment has been a crucial part of One Sky's work since our early days. Each year we help over 100 children from poor families enrol in school.

We facilitate enrolment by:

- **Raising awareness about children's rights to education in Thailand.** In 2015 One Sky designed and put up over 250 posters in local communities, aiming to raise awareness about migrant children's right to access mainstream education in Thailand and explain how to enrol.
- **Providing translation services and enrolment advice.** The Thai school enrolment process can be difficult, particularly for migrant families who speak little Thai. Our staff members explain enrolment procedures to families, accompany children through the enrolment process and provide translation where needed.
- **Providing financial support to enable school enrolment.** We cover costs for school uniforms and transport to school for children from poor families.

Widening education access:

We also work towards widening education access for children in remote areas by:

- **Providing a teacher for a small school on a remote plantation.** In some remote areas it is presently impossible for us to facilitate reliable access to education in Thai schools. Currently, we provide a teacher three days per week to a remote Sangkhlaburi plantation, where children are otherwise isolated

without reliable access to education. Meanwhile, we are working with the village leader and local education authority to find a more permanent solution.

Minimising school dropout:

Having made significant progress on school enrolment, in 2014 we widened our focus to include school dropout. We are working to minimise dropout through:

- **Referrals from local schools.** In 2014 we signed agreements with all 14 primary schools in Sangkhlaburi, who agreed that they would notify us if any child was absent from school for more than four days without a known reason. In 2014 we received 65 referrals from local schools, enabling us to support two thirds of these children to return to education.
- **Research into education dropout in Sangkhlaburi.** There has been little systematic analysis of data on the extent of school dropout in Sangkhlaburi and reasons behind it. To date, we have collected data from all 14 primary schools in Sangkhlaburi on dropout rates, aiming to find which schools are particularly in need of support.

We are also currently in the process of conducting a research project to analyse major reasons for children dropping out of education, helping us to find ways of identifying children at risk of dropout as early as possible and devising strategies to support them.

- **Designing targeted interventions.** Using data collected through research we will design new interventions aimed at tackling key factors behind dropout. We are initiating pilot projects in September 2015, with full programmes to be implemented in 2016.