



Children of the Forest Education Programmes - Impact 2021-2022

COF provides two levels of preparation classes to prepare migrant children for study in the COF Free Grade School or in other Thai government schools in Sangkhlaburi. One class is for younger children and one is for older children. Children in these classes have often been out of formal education for some time. The preparation classes enable children to develop Thai language skills and basic education before transitioning into regular schooling.

COF also continues to support older migrant children and teens in the Thai government Korsonor distance learning program. Students attend one compulsory day at the Korsonor office and can attend COF's Korsonor classes on the other days. There are three levels, elementary, junior high school, and senior high school.

Due to the education needs of older out-of-school migrant children and teens, COF now also provides a beginner pre-Korsonor preparation class. This provides Thai literacy and numeracy skills so they can sit and pass the required entrance tests to proceed to regular Korsonor elementary classes.

COF has an MOU with the Thai government-recognised Korsonor program and is the sole location for Korsonor classes in Sangkhlaburi.

The 2021-22 data for the Program Agreement with Child's Dream and in this report come from COF records of attendance, test results, records of completion and surveys completed by COF Preparation and Korsonor teachers assessing observed changes in the behaviours, skills and well-being of the students they are working with.

Numbers in Child's Dream-supported COF Classes 2021-22

- Younger Children Preparation	53
- Older Children Preparation	22
- Korsonor Beginner class	50
- Korsonor Elementary	25
- Korsonor Junior High School	5
- Korsonor Senior High School	8
Total	163

Situation Update: Effects of disruption to preparation and Kosnor classes due to covid-19 and Myanmar coup

Some of the children and teens in the preparation and Kosonor classes were unable to attend classes due to disruption along the border area due to covid-19 and especially the

effects of the military coup in Myanmar. In particular, border closures due to conflict on the Myanmar side including around the Three Pagodas pass areas adjacent to Sangkhlaburi, meant COF could not access some students who lived in that area.

COF staff did reach some of these students through outreach visits but often the older students would be moving around looking for work. There was approximately 30 in this group. Some were given homework practice assignments to keep up with the school they could not attend, others received encouragement to return to their studies as soon as they were able.

Some received medical support and or rice support where necessary from COF's outreach team. Some of the older Kosonor students who are already young mothers received milk support or family support. Many of these students mentioned pressure from parents/adults to find work. This last year we have noticed many families moving houses which in some cases made it very difficult for us to even find certain students.

Summary of Results

The Program Agreement outlines the following needs of migrant children and teens we work with, activities that address them, sustainability/prevention issues, outputs, beneficiaries, indicators, resources, comments on risks and assumptions, and achievement, justification and conclusions for each.

This summary report outlines the results and relevant comments for these following activities by COF.

1. Basic education and Thai language skills

- Preparation 1 classes for younger children
- Preparation 2 classes for older children
- Pre-Kosonor distance education preparation literacy classes for older children and teens
- Kosonor elementary
- Kosonor Junior
- Kosonor senior high school

2. Vocational and Life Skills education for all children and teens in preparation and Kosonor classes

3. Development of self-confidence and self-esteem for all children and teens in preparation and Kosonor classes

4. Documentation and ID for stateless children and teens

5. Awareness raising with children and teens about risks from trafficking and exploitative work

1. Basic education and Thai language

Indicator: Examination results

- Preparation One 43/53 (81%)
- Preparation Two 22/22 (100%)
- Pre-Kosonor literacy class 31/50 (62%)
- Korsonor Elementary 21/25 (84%)
- Korsonor Junior HS 5/5 (100%)
- Korsonor Senior HS 8/8 (100%)

Overall, 130/163 = 80% pass rate for children and teens in 2021-22.

Younger children's preparation 1 classes are usually for 2 years. This class had a large intake of new children in 2020 and at this stage they are yet to finish their 2 years at the Preparation 1 level.

In 2022 22/22 (100%) children from Preparation 2 class passed exams and are graduating to Grade 1 at COF Free elementary school.

Each level in Kosonor – elementary, junior high school, and senior high school- usually takes 2 years to complete. Students study at their own pace and some start classes outside regular school term rotation.

Covid-19 restrictions and border closures due covid-19 and post-coup conflict in Myanmar, have disrupted some students attendance to COF Kosonor classes and they could not take their final examination at this time.

2. Vocational and Life Skills

Indicator: Teacher attendance records and observations

Teachers in preparation and Korsonor classes identified an overall 80% improvement in children's vocational and life skills.

Skills taught included:

- rice farming
- vegetable growing
- broom making
- snack making

Note: These results apply to the children who were regularly attending during this time. Out of all children enrolled the improvement rate is 60% as some children could not participate in activities during covid-19 disruption.

3. Development of self-confidence and self-esteem for all children and teens in preparation and Kosonor classes

Indicator: Teacher observations of children and teens participation in class and extra-curricular activities such as sports and art.

90% of children improved their confidence and self-esteem. This was noticeable in their staying safe during the covid-19 situation in Sangkhlaburi . A lot of education was also conducted about vaccinations assisting the children's confidence.

Improvements in self-esteem and self-confidence observed by teachers include:

- making new friends
- making decisions
- working with others
- taking responsibility for their actions

Note: The percentage of students who improved in confidence was based on observation of students attending, not all students enrolled.

4. Documentation and ID for stateless children and teens

Indicator: COF records of students enrolment in preparation classes and Thai government records of enrolment in Kosonor distance education

163/163 (100%) of children and teens in preparation and Kosonor classes have COF ID or Thai education ID.

All children in younger and older children's Preparation classes and Beginner classes for Kosonor are registered with COF with COF ID numbers. Children and teens in Kosonor elementary, Junior High School and Senior High School are registered in the Thai government education system.

Records of attendance and recognised certification in the education system assist in future applications for Thai ID.

Additionally, 23 children and teens have also received a guarantee paper (Bai Lhap long) for the process of securing a Thai ID card:

Prep 1(8), Prep 2(8), Korsonor Elementary (3), Kosonor JHS (2), Kosonor SHS (6).

5. Raising awareness of protection risks from trafficking and exploitative work

Indicator: Teacher observations of students' awareness of protection risks

Overall, 90% of children improved their confidence. Especially in regards to staying safe through the covid-19 situation in Sangkhlaburi .

A lot of work was done on education about vaccinations and this improved the children's confidence also.

Other improvements in their self-esteem and self-confidence observed by teachers include:

- making new friends
- making decisions
- working with others
- taking responsibility for their actions

The percentage of students who improved their confidence and self-esteem was based on observation of students attending classes, not all students enrolled.

Conclusion

In 2021-22, Children of the Forest faced the ongoing challenge of Covid-19 and the school closures and social and economic disruption this has caused for migrant communities and the children we work with. Additionally, the February 2021 coup in Myanmar and resulting armed conflict has led to border closures further restricting movement including for some students trying to return to their communities and to COF preparation or Kosonor classes.

The preparation and korsonor programs demonstrate the interconnected value of basic education, Thai language acquisition, protection, risk awareness, work and life skills, self-esteem and self-confidence. As well as the academic results and progression into regular education, our preparation and Korsonor classes provide a reliable and constant social safety net for the migrant children and teens we work with.