



Children of the Forest: Activity Report July 2019 - July 2020

A summary of the activities of Children of the Forest education, protection, health, counselling and social work, outreach support and sports programs.

Covid-19 Response

A significant development in the July 2019- July 2020 period was the Covid-19 Pandemic since March of 2020.

The COF school (as with all schools in Thailand) was closed between late March and early July.

Physical distancing, hygiene and handwashing stations, temperature screening and security measures were implemented at COF over this period. COF also conducted its Covid-19 response outreach education activities to migrant children we support in the community who could not attend school over this time.

On-site at COF

- COF 'Morning School' /nursery for all children inside COF Child Protection Centre 5 mornings per week
- An average of 78 children per week attended morning school 5 days per week 93% of children showed improvement in their Thai, maths and art
- Covid-19 prevention training for all children in COF Child Protection Centre
- 3 meals per day, 7 days per week for approximately 120 children inside COF Child Protection Centre
- Health checks 5 mornings per week inside COF CPC An average of 94 children & 48 adults per week per week received health checks 40 children & 18 adults were identified as being of concern 12 children & 14 adults were referred for further treatments. 0 were covid19 cases
- 14 children stayed in COF isolation for 14 days after returning from the city
- 1 mother and her child 8 years old stayed in COF isolation for 14 days after being of concern. Neither turned out to be covid19 cases.

Outside COF

- Average of 110 children per week received home visits and one to one learning in Thai, English, Math, Art and Farming

- 90% of children showed improvement in their Thai, math, art ability. 78% improved their ability to grow a survival garden
- 100% enjoyed the teachers visits and felt supported and less afraid.
- Average of 105 children & 60 adults per week per week received health checks
- 25 children & 16 adults were identified as being of concern and 17 children & 8 adults were referred for further treatments. 0 were covid19 cases
- 100% of villagers and children involved felt supported and less afraid due to COF covid19 response home visits
- 154 families received support packages
- 39 mothers and their 43 children received formula milk
- 68 families received special rice support of 8kg of rice per week for the 6- week period of this report



Covid-19 effect on sports and COF 's response

In Thailand, all sports leagues and competitions were cancelled from March to June 2020. The COF sports program plays an invaluable role in the self-development of so many stateless children. Removing it, even temporarily, could have been disastrous. We therefore created a safe, Covid19 aware internal program for the 150 on site children. Daily football practice continued on the small COF pitch. Regular jogging was also organized around the COF rice and vegetable farm. With no funder many children were playing and running in bare feet, yet the numbers of participants never dropped!

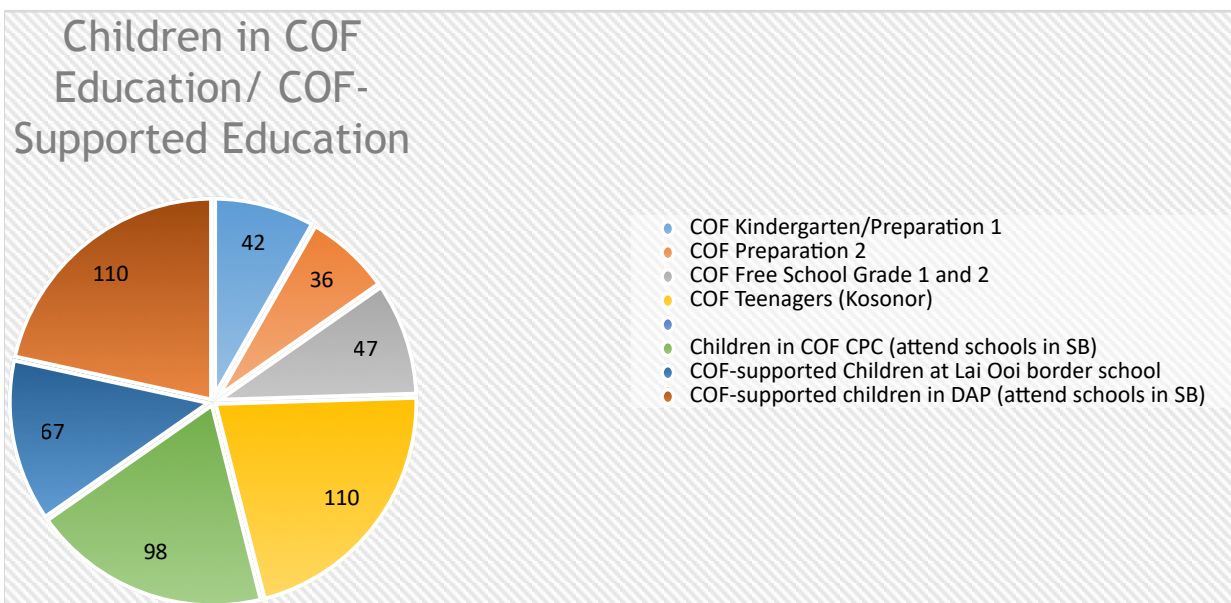
Summary of COF's regular program activities

Children of the Forest Education Program

510 children are in COF education or COF-supported education:

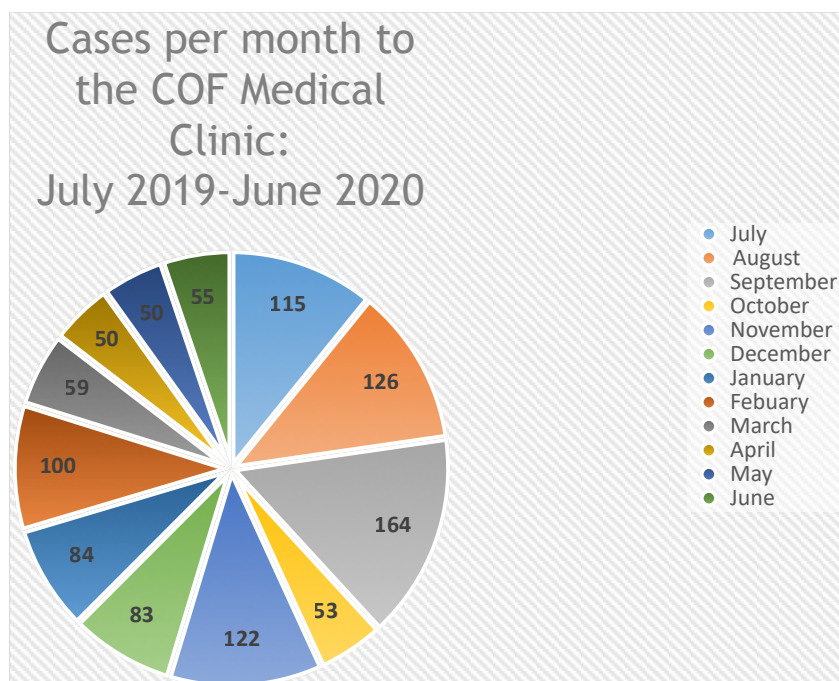
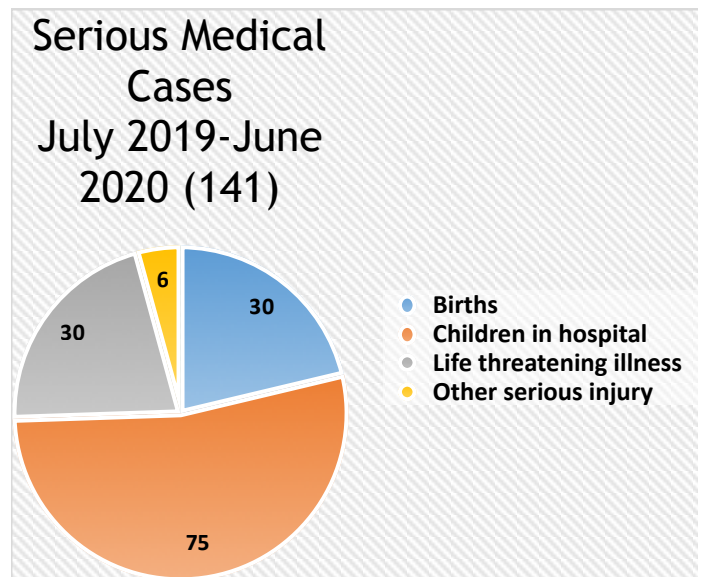
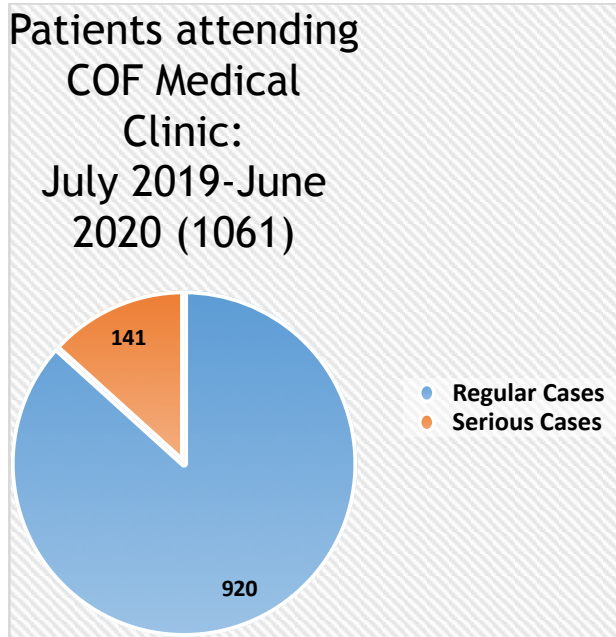
Kindergarten and preparation classes for children who are too young, or whose language and skills are not yet ready to enter Thai school system

- COF Free grade school with an emphasis on Thai language acquisition for Grades 1-2
- COF-run classes support teens in Kosonar correspondence education: junior, high school and senior high school
- Children from COF Child Protection Centre at schools in Sangkhlaburi
- Children from Distance Adoption Program supported by COF at schools in Sangkhlaburi
- Former children from COF still supported in education in schools in Sangkhlaburi
- Children at Lai Ooi school on the border, supported by COF



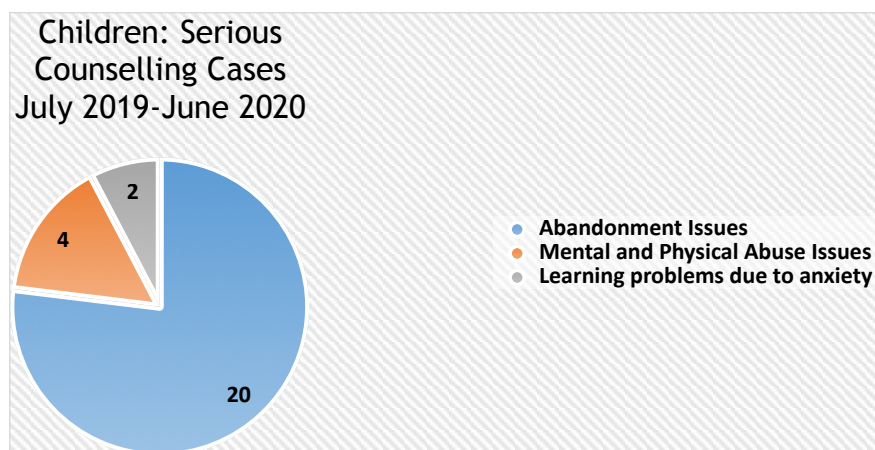
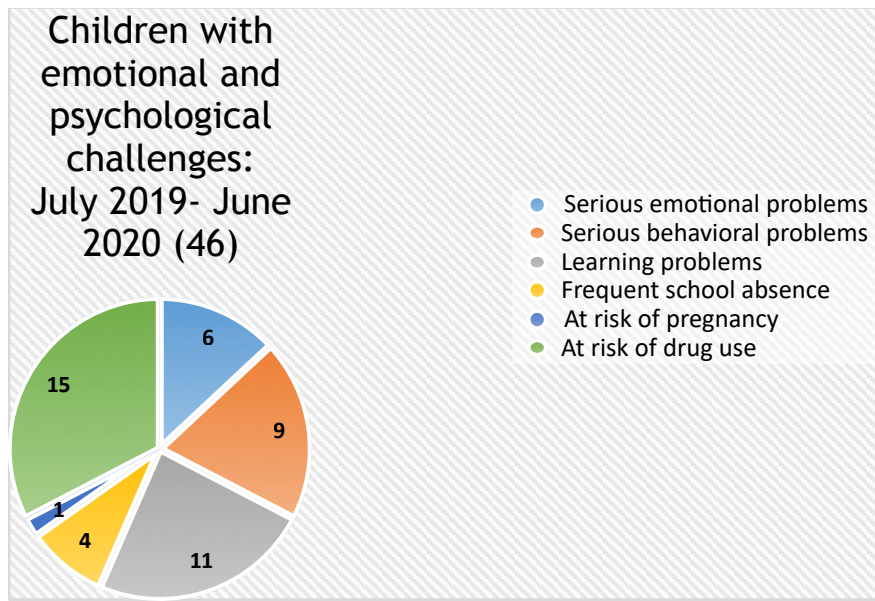
Children of the Forest Medical Clinic and Health Program

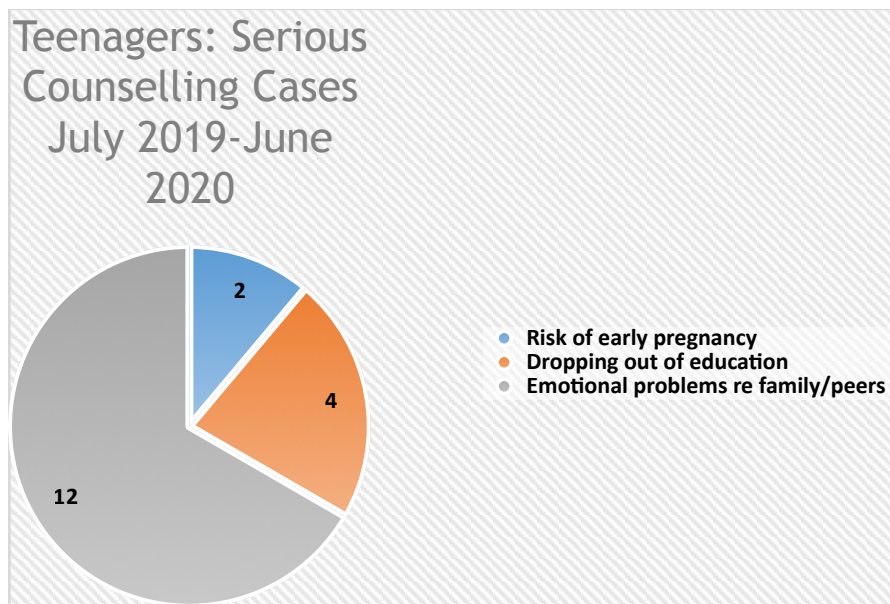
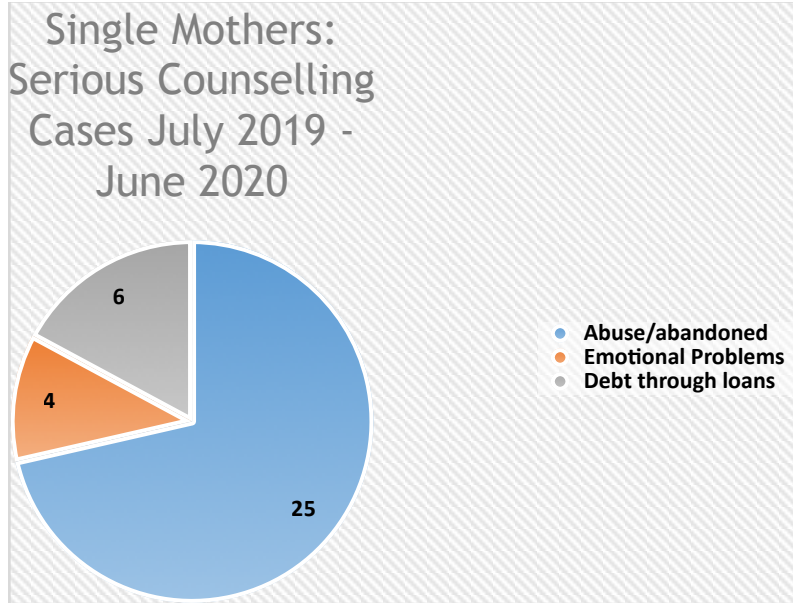
From July 2019-June 2020, 1061 people sought assistance through the COF medical clinic. The COF Medical Clinic provides essential health support for at-risk stateless migrant children and mothers. The clinic can provide immediate medical treatment as well as assisting with language issues and bureaucracy for hospital admissions for serious cases. The medical staff can also provide or refer on social work and counselling services for children, and single mothers with accompanying children.



Social Support and Counselling

These services are available to all children and single mothers with accompanying children, as well as to other children in the wider community through the COF social work and outreach program. This includes working with children and families with problems at home, children with attendance issues at school and other emotional/psychological difficulties or challenges. COF has a dedicated social worker, outreach worker and UK-trained and qualified counsellor.





Outreach Rice and Milk support

In 2019-20, outside of the Covid-19 emergency period, as part of its support to struggling migrant families, Children of the Forest supplied rice to 52 families with 79 children in need. The majority were households of unsupported single mothers. COF supports single parents through the rice program in 13 villages, plantation and factory settlements. COF also supports approximately 70 children with breakfasts at Lai Ooi border school.

In 2019-20, 31 mothers received milk from COF. The milk assisted poor, single and unsupported mothers, and mothers unable to produce milk for their children due to other health problem



Arts Program

- 160 children per month attend arts classes taught through COF
- US-qualified dedicated arts teacher
- Focus on creativity and expression to develop self confidence and self-esteem
- An example of the value of this creativity, in 2019, the “The Last Mountain”: A comic-style learning resource focused on sustainable farming practices was developed with input from the children and the guidance of the art teacher



Farming Program

The COF farm provides an environment for children to learn farming skills and develop an understanding of sustainable farming practices. The farm also enables production of some commodity crops contributing to COF's future sustainability.

A total of 298 children: 179 students from COF school, preparation and kosonor classes, as well as 119 students from Baan Unrak School (where many children from the COF CPC attend) participated in educational and practical knowledge and skills-building farming activities including:

- Harvesting (June), drying (November) and threshing (January) rice
- Preparing and cultivating vegetables
- Cultivating fruit trees
- Cultivating mushrooms
- Cultivation and knowledge of herbs
- Raising catfish
- Cultivation of coffee
- Cultivation and preparation of cherry tea



Sports Program

Sports help develop teamwork, self-confidence and self-esteem. They also provide free-time, after school or weekend activities in a safe environment away from risks such as substance abuse, gangs and trafficking.

In regular times, these approximate numbers of children were involved in sports activities:

- Football – 100 children from the COF home participating 3 times per week
- COF football teams, with teams each for girls and boys, compete in local and provincial tournaments
- Running - 50 children participating 2 days per week

In 2020-21, we estimate that, overall, 350 children will benefit directly from the sports programs. Being stateless excludes teenagers from many things most teens take for granted. With involvement in the football teams and tournaments in other centres there are opportunities for the children to participate in local and provincial level competitions. This enables them to experience travel and new places and people they would not normally have within the confines of the border zone.

Football activity highlights in 2019-20

March 2019:

COF Girls play in Prime Ministers Cup, played over 5 days in Kanchanaburi sports stadium (220km from Children of the Forest base). The Thailand Prime Minister's Cup is a "closed tournament" exclusively for Thai girls' teams from high schools, colleges and universities all over Kanchanaburi province. Due to COF staff's lobbying, our girls' team, as reigning champions of Sangkhlaburi district, were allowed to participate. Competing against teams with far superior facilities and many more students to select teams from COF girls achieved a very creditable third place. They also gained a special commendation for "fair play" as the team receiving the least yellow cards in the tournament.



November 2019:

Sangkhlaburi District Tournament. This popular annual tournament was held at Sangkhlaburi sports stadium. Teams from schools and villages around the district participated with one team travelling 75km to take part. Due to a lack of support for girls' football in this region Children of the Forest sponsored the girls' tournament.

Fielding a team of younger and less experienced players COF United Boys did exceptionally well. After losing their semi-final 2-1 to the tournament's eventual winners, COF boys won a thrilling 3rd place play off final 5-4.

COF United girls' team progressed to their final playing against arch-rivals, Sangkhlaburi High School. With the scores tied at 0-0 after 90 minutes, COF Girl's main striker, Goy, scored the winning goal in extra time to win the game for COF Girls 1-0.

December 2019:

COF GIRLS CHRISTMAS FUTSAL For many years girls' football has hardly featured in Sangkhlaburi sports events However now, thanks to COF organizing and managing girls' tournaments, many more schools and villages are forming girls' teams This year teams from Sangkhlaburi district schools and villages took part in COF's main girls' tournament played over two weekends on the COF futsal pitch. Matches were played in a highly competitive, yet sporting manner with COF United "A" team winning a thrilling final against a team from Songalia District. COF Girls "B" team won an equally exciting third place play off final against a team from Wat Wang, Mon Side. Congratulations to all teams that took part in this celebration of Sangkhlaburi "Girl Power" futsal and football.

