



## Children of the Forest Foundation: Theory of change

(Updated February 2021)

**COF aims to bring meaningful and lasting change to the lives of stateless migrant children and single migrant mothers. The children and mothers we assist are living in extreme poverty and at high risk from abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Our focus area is the Sangkhlaburi area of the Thai-Myanmar border zone.**

**Through COF's interconnected social safety net of protection, education and health care programs, our mission is to empower vulnerable children and mothers to a safer and brighter future with the life choices and opportunities all people deserve.**

To improve protection of stateless migrant children and single mothers through documentation::

- *If* children are enrolled and recorded in the Thai education system and children/mothers requiring healthcare/ birthing assistance are registered through Thai government hospitals, *then* they gain documentation improving access to government services and a path towards gaining formal ID, reducing exposure to threats of exploitation and trafficking faced by undocumented migrants.

To provide access to immediate, free and safe medical assistance and health care:

- *If* the COF Medical Clinic is accessible to stateless migrant children, mothers and families in the wider migrant community, *then* their immediate health needs are able to be met, and they have an entry point to access the wider social safety net of protection and education programs at COF, including COF school, counselling services and women's empowerment training. COF's clinic and healthcare services have also been central to our response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

To enable migrant children's success and progress in education, they need personal and family stability to stay in and succeed at school:

- *If* COF social and outreach workers support children in the community, conduct follow-up visits to families and assist in obtaining ID, *then* children will stay in school and drop-out rates and risks of exploitation or trafficking are minimized.

To enable access to education:

- *If* stateless migrant children have assistance from COF to attend schools in Sangkhlaburi with transport, school fees, books, uniforms and lunches, *then* practical and financial obstacles preventing access to schools due to poverty are reduced.

To improve Thai language skills and improve access to education:

- *If* COF provides elementary education in Thai language grades 1-3 through the COF Free School and preparation classes for children not yet ready to enter formal Thai schools,

*then* migrant children will be able to continue elementary education and transition effectively into the Thai education system.

To develop self-confidence, keep children active and connected with their education in a safe environment, their involvement in sports and arts activities are important:

- *If* children are engaged with school-time, after school and weekend sport, art and vocational activities, *then* they will stay engaged with their education, develop self-confidence and be safe from exploitation.

To respond swiftly and effectively to sudden and unexpected challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic or political instability and its resulting effects on migration:

- *If* the COF outreach team works in a consistent and holistic manner, *then* they will have the necessary knowledge and experience to mobilize in event of drastic changes to the local environment.