Working Together
Someone who is ‘stateless’ is not formally recognized as the national of any country.

In Thailand, stateless migrant workers are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Employers can pay to register migrant workers, but it is cheaper for them not to. Instead, migrant workers are often paid below minimum wage, work and live in poor conditions, and live in fear of abuse from employers or deportation by government authorities.
The Situation For Stateless Migrant Children Born in Thailand

Ethnic Mon, Karen and Burmese migrants have moved to the Sangkhlaburi area in Thailand to escape decades of conflict, persecution and economic hardship in Myanmar.

Children born into these communities also have no formal Thai ID and are therefore stateless.

They face many barriers to accessing education, and risks from exploitation in low paid and dangerous work or from child traffickers.
Key Challenges for Migrant Children

- Poverty
- Lack of Thai language
- Pressure to work to support families
- Breakup and dislocation of families
- Risk of exploitation and people trafficking
- No Thai ID
Who We Are

Children of the Forest (COF) is an established and trusted, locally-based NGO working with stateless migrant children in Sangkhlaburi, Thailand.

For thirteen years, we have provided education, protection, and healthcare to around 5,500 at-risk stateless, migrant children.
Who We Are

Children at COF now have an opportunity to go on to fulfilling futures, further education and sustainable livelihoods.

Children of the Forest
Home and school for children - Sangkhlaburi, Thailand
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>COF Free School and Child Protection Centre opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>COF Mother and Child protection programme launched</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>COF Outreach Education, Health and Farming programmes launched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>COF is registered as a Thai Foundation and as an official satellite elementary school under the Thai Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>COF Youth Services programme launched</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>COF is granted 501(c)(3) charity status in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>COF is invited to speak at two international conferences on child rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>COF invited to present on education for stateless children at The Conference on Democracy in San Francisco USA</td>
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COF’s international Profile on Children’s Rights

‘UN Conference on the Rights of Children’ - October 2015 in New York

COF was invited to and presented at this UN conference focusing on children’s rights and solutions to the growing problem of homeless, abused, and trafficked children.

COF was introduced by Mr. Jack Healey, world-renowned human rights activist and long time director of Amnesty International.


COF spoke at this symposium in London hosted by CORAM, one of the UK’s oldest children’s charities. The symposium was chaired by Professor Ginny Greiman of Harvard Law School.
Since 2012 COF has Administered an Annual Budget of Approximately 360,000 USD
Annual Budget by Sector

Operations (This includes all administration salaries)

Child protection 36%
Health 8%
Education 46%

In 2017 COF administered a yearly budget of approximately $US 360,000/ €290,000.
In 2018 COF’s budget is 350,461 USD

Main Donor contributions to COF in 2018

- Kelly Family Foundation through Amicus of Thailand 75,000
- Mission Bambini Italy 43,000
- Lee and Thelma Bortolotti 34,000
- EMA 33,161
- Child’s Dream 33,000
- COFA Zurich 31,500
- Zanzetti Foundation Italy 29,000
- Eva Trige Andersen 26,300
- COF UK 16,000
- Danish Women’s Network 9,500
- Patana International School Bangkok 7,700
- New International School of Thailand 7,000
- Just Trust Fund UK 5,300
- B Hip (Pending)

Total $US 350,461
Our Situation Today

In 2018 we face a shortfall in funding in 2 critical areas of our work:

(1) Outreach Education (11,200 USD)
(2) Child Protection Residential Centre care (17,800 USD)

Like many NGO’s operating along the Thai-Myanmar border, we now face difficulty in attracting new funding.
Due to financial challenges, the COF Free School has been reduced from 6 grade classes to 2.

We are fortunate new sponsors have agreed to support those remaining classes.

The challenge we face is to integrate 80 students (from 3 cancelled COF grade classes) into Thai government schools.

To do this we must provide financial support for school fees, uniforms and transportation to school. We require 4,500 THB /140 USD per child per school year (11,200 USD per year for 80 children).

We also seek funding for a social worker to support these children and their families to ensure they remain in education and safe for as long as possible.
Home at any one time to between 100 -125 children  COF Child Protection Residential Centre currently has a funding shortfall of 17,800 USD.

Other organisations in Sangkhlaburi often refer at-risk children in crisis situations to COF’s protection centre. Without the protection of family or community, these children are highly vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of child exploitation. They have nowhere else to go.

This part of our work continues to meet an essential need in Sangkhlaburi.

The full annual cost for our 24 hour residential child protection centre is approximately 120,000 USD per year.
Children of the Forest is open to innovative and creative partnerships with NGO’s or corporate donors who share our vision for a better future for stateless migrant children in Thailand...
Thank You

We would love to hear from you
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