



THA-LIF-ISF-P01 Chiang Rai, Thailand  
Reporting Period: January – June 2020

## Integrated Support for Families

**Budget:** \$19,300. \$10,973 needed for Year 2 of a two-year project. Year 2 began 1 July 2020.

### The Project:

The project is located in the far north-east of Thailand in rural villages and towns near Chiang Rai. The project provides HIV/AIDS and drug awareness education programs in Thai rural schools, prisons and communities together with simple income-generating projects to support families from the school who are afflicted by the disease, and other poor families. By educating and supporting affected families with health education and simple income-generating projects such as chickens and pigs, it allows children to be kept in school, in a family and in a community.

### Outcomes and Impact:

**Coronavirus** impacted Thailand early (late January 2020) and communities were put into lockdown quickly. As the situation unfolds, it appears that schools will resume in early July, even though the school year was officially due to start in May. It has been a worrying time for families related to this project, many of whom live in poverty, struggling to make ends meet. Informal jobs dried up as people were locked down, putting even more financial stress on families. Entrust funding has meant that the staff have continued to be paid during these months. It has helped our partners to survive, support the community with food handouts and health education and to plan ahead.

- HIV/AIDS and drug awareness sessions were held with 550 students in two schools in January.
- The first program for youth in the Chiang Rai detention centre was also held. Further programs in the Youth Detention Centre, the Jail Extension program and the Women's Prison have been pushed back into the second half of 2020, pending access.
- To date, 4 out of 15 planned income generating projects have been set up before COVID-19 restrictions took place. These comprise a chicken-laying project, one with crickets and two with a small catfish farm. The remainder will be set up in July/August as restrictions lift, together with a youth camp and World AIDS Day programs.
- The team of 3 staff visited Australia in March (sponsored by donors in Australia) to visit supporters and to spread the message of their work. This was a great opportunity for relationship building.
- Over 900 community members were helped from March – June through food parcels, hand sanitizer, health education and visits to poor families to support them practically and emotionally during this tough time.

Entrust Project Manager Jenny Crameri visited our partners in early February. She said, *“The reach of our partners into the community has built up over many years. The relationships are everything – trusted, caring, practical – and they ensure that thousands are supported each year with knowledge, contact points and practical advice. It is a great testament to our partners to see families kept together and supported.”*



Nong Frame is 8-years-old and lives with his poor grandparents. His father died in an accident and his mother's whereabouts are unknown. Our partners are helping Nong Frame's family to set up an income-generating project to raise catfish. Frame says, *“I am really excited and happy that we have so many fish. My job is to help feed the fish and clean the tanks. When they are big we are going to sell them at the market and this will help feed my family and send me to school. I love to eat bbq-d catfish! This is such a help to my family.”*

*Left: Grandfather releasing the catfish whilst Nong Frame watches on.*

**Frame and his family are so thankful for your support – thank you!**