



UPDATE REPORT

MAY 2019



Dear friends,

I am in the office this week, but traveling north to small towns and villages over the next few weeks. Rainy season is starting in upper Thailand, so the weather will get cooler. 31°C today in Pattaya (70% humidity).

We are spending money very carefully, we should spend more — think education and livelihood programs. As you know, our financial struggles make life difficult, so we proceed slowly. Suffice to say, when you have the right people who care about our work and its long-term success, anything is possible.

We always strive to help families, schools and communities to do what's doable. Here's a few examples:

1. We offer student scholarships to help disadvantaged girls participate in school. 1,500(THB) to 5,000(THB) per student per year. The effects of poverty on children are devastating and have lifelong consequences. Uncertainty produces stress and hunger/poor nutrition takes a toll on health. We work with principals, parents and grandparents to address both poverty and vulnerability. We awarded 26,500(THB) in March and April to students.

2) Income generating projects — agriculture, animals and small activities in villages with bamboo baskets and cooking utensils, sewing shirts and cooking meals. We help families/schools to develop ideas and improve skills. We cannot make all problems go away, but people are striving to make life better through real projects. Last month, we funded a small cassava farm 30,000(THB) and next week we will fund a chicken farm with 50,000(THB).

3) Sanitation is a huge problem in rural and remote communities. We are implementing education programs and highlighting the importance of sanitation and hygiene. Sometimes 'small miracles' happen and we can construct toilets. Actually, several times in the last few years, including this year, we wanted to construct a toilet or washroom, but couldn't.



4) Families deal with many serious situations with girls being pulled to the city through the hands of traffickers, brokers and criminal networks. Family members are destitute, or poorly educated, and vulnerable. Girls living in rural areas and townships are offered well paid jobs, greater opportunities to find work, better health care and education. Tens of thousands of women and girls are being lured into the sex trade where they are exploited. We organise workshops for children, families and schools to provide guidance and support. Practical advice for parents and grandparents is really important in rural areas.

We have invested 1,115,290(THB) (AU\$50,695) in projects so far this year. I deeply believe in our programs, but I do have issues with operational risk (raising adequate funds is a critical issue). Our goal is to achieve practical, well thought out projects that will succeed over time. While we know that funding pressures will always exist, we also believe that the only solution is to build strong relationships with every supporter in every community and ultimately raise funds to grow our programs. There is much more work to be done.

Going into the final month of last year, all the uncertainty of funding was definitely on the minds of all our team. The most difficult part of uncertainty, at least for me, is figuring out what to do and what plans to make (avoid a calamity). It can be hard to project calm strength when uncertainty rules the day.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions that haven't been answered, please don't hesitate to contact me: justin@onethousandvillages.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin'.

Justin Whitecross
CEO

Waranya joined our team in 2009. She shares the vision and commitment to community engagement. Waranya continues to work with programs that aim to prevent trafficking of girls and women. She believes in education and equipping children with skills and experiences. She is taking time off this year to take care of her father, who is recovering from serious heart surgery. Waranya loves cooking!



Cassava farming project, Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand. Planted before rainy season and harvest in 8 months. Community project involving families and young people. Funds raised will support families who need the most help.

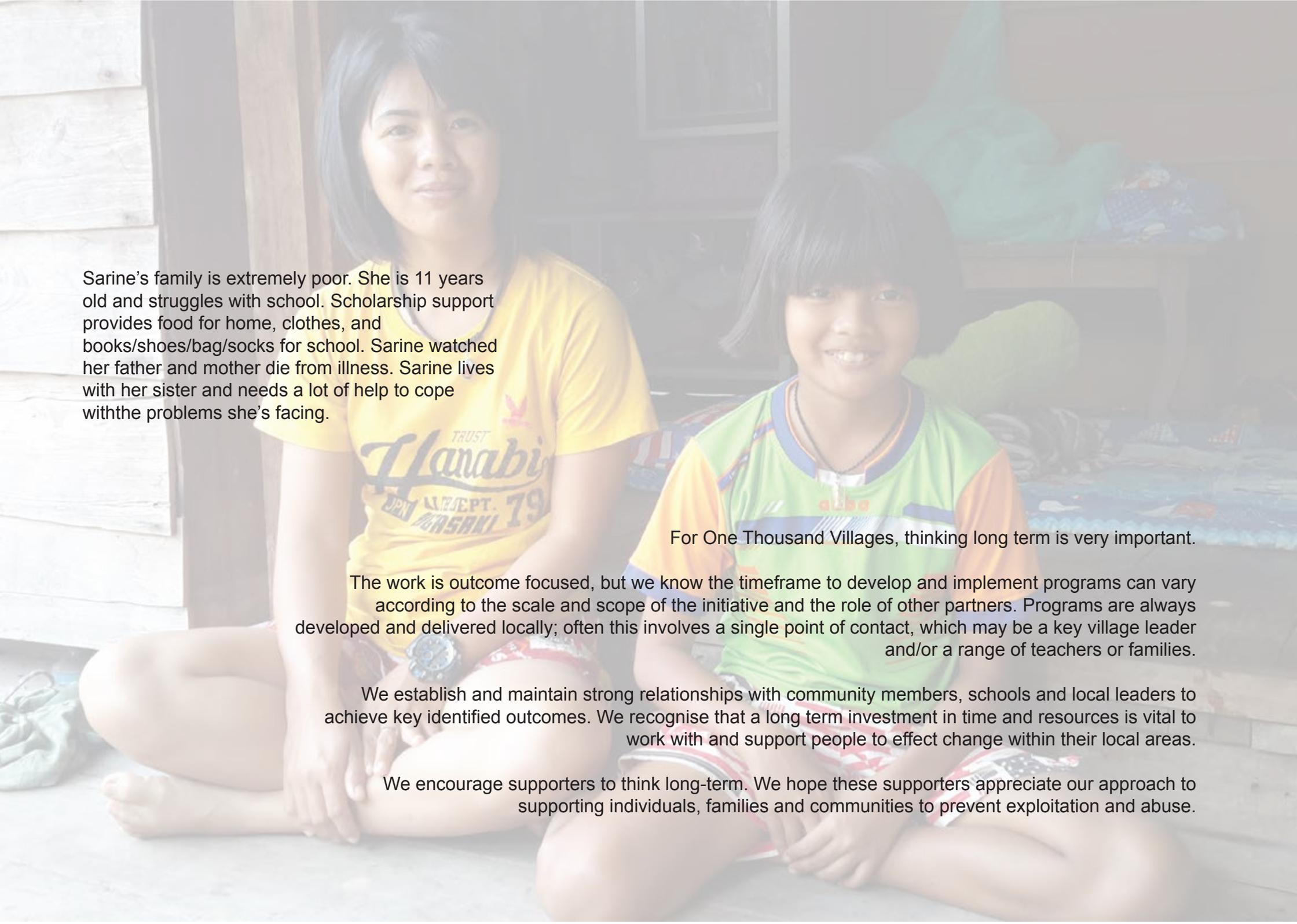


Rattikarn lives with her mother and grandmother. She is 9 years old and very motivated to learn and do well in school. Scholarship provides school uniform, shoes, books and funds for bus to school. Rattikarn is very willing to help her mother and grandmother at home. Most important, school teachers are very encouraging and supporting Rattikarn in school.



Aritsara and Artitaya live with their father and grandmother. Two clever sisters. They are growing up in poverty, but they have a cohesive family. Despite many challenges, their father is committed to their education (mother left the family two years ago - bad relationship with her husband). Grade 6 (primary school). Scholarship used for school uniforms, shoes, bags, books, and petrol for motorbike transportation to and from school.



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt with 'Hanabi' and 'TRUST' printed on it, sits on the floor. Next to her is a young girl with dark hair, wearing a green and orange t-shirt with 'alpa' printed on it. They are both smiling slightly. The background shows a simple room with wooden walls and a bed with blue and green bedding.

Sarine's family is extremely poor. She is 11 years old and struggles with school. Scholarship support provides food for home, clothes, and books/shoes/bag/socks for school. Sarine watched her father and mother die from illness. Sarine lives with her sister and needs a lot of help to cope with the problems she's facing.

For One Thousand Villages, thinking long term is very important.

The work is outcome focused, but we know the timeframe to develop and implement programs can vary according to the scale and scope of the initiative and the role of other partners. Programs are always developed and delivered locally; often this involves a single point of contact, which may be a key village leader and/or a range of teachers or families.

We establish and maintain strong relationships with community members, schools and local leaders to achieve key identified outcomes. We recognise that a long term investment in time and resources is vital to work with and support people to effect change within their local areas.

We encourage supporters to think long-term. We hope these supporters appreciate our approach to supporting individuals, families and communities to prevent exploitation and abuse.

REDUCING RISKS OF EXPLOITATION

We believe in the power of education and awareness for girls that are at risk of exploitation. Adolescent females are the most vulnerable group for sex trafficking. Our programs are designed to educate girls who are most at risk, improving knowledge and attitudes among young girls and families. Trafficking in women and girls, primarily subjected to sexual exploitation and forced labour, has been a long-standing problem in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Victims are trafficked from rural areas to urban centers. Poverty, education, and health deeply affect the vulnerability of girls and young women. More than 3,000 girls receive education from us every year. We will continue to design and implement programs for specific communities, providing key education to tens of thousands of children.



AT A GLANCE

Established in 2002

Charitable not-for-profit organisation in Australia and Thai Foundation

Our geographic scope includes Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia

10,000 individuals reached by our interventions each year

Our mandate covers basic education, livelihood development, health and psychosocial health

Our offices are in Pattaya (HQ) and Melbourne

12 paid employees



Information for Donors

Donations to One Thousand Villages are tax-effective in Australia.

Please see the 'donation' page on our website www.onethousandvillages.org for details on payment options.

Donations to One Thousand Villages can be made via bank transfer, cheque, credit card or PayPal.

Contact us, come and visit!



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