

Progress Report for 2020
Child and Youth Development Programme,
Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation

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Vision: Focus on educational development of children and youth for the sustainable improvement of the quality of their lives and that of the community.

Target Group: Children, youth, women, poor families and people who lack opportunities.

Operational goals:

1. Promote education and development of children, youth and poor families.
2. Promote the development of quality of life for people in the community.
3. Promote the protection of children and women from various forms of abuse.
4. Promote and support revolving fund in order to promote careers, self-help for families and the community, in the form of Savings Groups.
5. Promote human rights activities for disadvantaged groups in every target group, especially for children, youth and women.
6. Promote operations for benefitting the target groups, in collaboration with government agencies and the private sector.
7. Promote and support trainers to teach quality of life, protection of the environment and advancement of society.



Sr Sutisa Utalun (licensed social worker - roles and responsibilities)

1. Sub-committee for Promotion of Early Childhood Development, Nong Khai Province
2. Working Team for Capacity Building Networking for the Protection of Children and Youth in Nong Khai Province
3. Prevention and suppression of human trafficking – NGO contribution.
4. Sub-committee for Provincial Protection and Occupation Development (Gor.Kor,Aor)
5. Catholic Committee of Social Development for Women, the Diocese of Udonthani
6. President of MOT Thailand Foundation
7. Psychosocial counselor at the Nong Khai Provincial Court

Student Statistics 2020

We were extremely grateful that with the support from organisations and individuals, we were able to provide sponsorship in 2020 to 569 students: 216 boys and 353 girls from 139 schools and 120 villages.

It was a year like no other for the children and their families. The government issued a 'stay at home' order in March and schools were subsequently re-opened in July. Learning went 'on-line'

but many of the children in our target group were disadvantaged, as they lacked suitable technology or had no-one at home capable of guiding them. When schools did open, it was up to each school's governors, to set the protocol, though mask wearing was- and still is – mandatory.

Children of Sponsorship Programme 2020																							
Good Shepherd Sisters Nongkhai Thailand																							
NO.	Name of the sponsors	Number of children	Kindergarten			Primary			Secondary			High School			Vocational			High V.			University		
			M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1	G.S.O.S	28	0	0	0	2	5	7	1	6	7	0	2	2	0	4	4	0	3	3	0	5	5
3	GLGS	25	0	0	0	6	9	15	0	3	3	0	4	4	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	ACASEA	44	0	0	0	4	7	11	3	8	11	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	1	5	4	6	10
5	WFA, Australia	71	0	0	0	12	4	16	14	5	19	8	11	19	1	7	8	1	5	6	0	3	3
6	EFK,Germany	125	2	0	2	20	22	42	16	19	35	8	9	17	4	10	14	3	9	12	0	3	3
7	Audrey	7	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
8	Australia	29	0	0	0	7	4	11	4	1	5	4	3	7	2	1	3	1	2	3	0	0	0
9	Enfants	53	0	0	0	8	15	23	3	10	13	3	2	5	2	3	5	2	1	3	1	3	4
10	Mary's Friends	187	9	11	20	15	42	57	29	44	73	2	12	14	4	6	10	0	5	5	2	6	8
	Total	569	11	11	22	74	110	184	70	98	168	28	46	74	15	35	50	11	27	38	7	26	33
	Man	216																					
	Female	353																					
	Total	569																					

There were 22 students in kindergarten, 184 in primary school, 168 students in secondary school, 74 students in high school, 50 students in vocational education, 38 in Pre-Bachelor's Degree and 7 in Bachelor's Degree.

At the beginning of 2021, our long term partners, World Families Australia and Give Love Give Smile, sadly had to cease their support and we are grateful, along with the students, for their past assistance.

Congratulations to seven students who completed their Bachelor's Degree



1. Miss Ganyaporn Khotsila, Sponsored by Khun Johan and Sietske Razenberg in Holland

Ganyaporn graduated with Bachelor of Public Administration from Rajabhat Udonthani University. In February 2021, she began working with the Government district office in Ban fang with a salary of She presently works as a salesman selling coffee and she earning is 10,500 baht a month



2. Miss Kanokwan Phothisala, Sponsored by Acasea, France (M.et Mme Alexandre et Béatrice BOIVIN),

Kanokwan graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the Northeastern Institute of Vocational Education. She presently works as a staff member at ISUZU Hieb Nguan Nongkhai

We were sad to hear of the death of Madame Boivin in December 2020.

She had visited the project and kept regular contact.



3. Mr. Danai Bannarak, Sponsored by Acasea, France

Danai graduated with a Bachelor of Chemical Science from Mahasalakam University. He is currently seeking employment.



4. Mr. Kajornsak Sowsuwan, Sponsored by Acasea, France

Kajornsak graduated with a Bachelor of Communication Arts Program Degree, from Rajabhat Ban Somdej Jaopraya University.

He presently earns for living by selling goods on line and receives between 15,000 – 20,000 baht a month. He is also waiting for military conscription.



5. Miss Pimvipa Rattanachai, sponsored by World Families Australia (CH & Son Fromm)

Pimvipa graduated with Bachelor Degree in Accounting, from Udonthani Business Administration Technology College. She is now working in Japan and her salary is 20,000 baht a month



6. Miss Surisa Teerat, Sponsored by Mary's Friends, Norway (MOT attn. Mrs. Karoline Enga Husby).

Surisa graduated from the Bachelor of Arts Program in Thai for Communication from Rajabhat Udonthani University. She presently works as an assistance teacher at a school in Sri Chiangmai sub district, Nong Khai province and her salary is 9,000 baht per month.



7. Miss Naiyana Singha, Sponsored by Mary's Friends, Norway (Mr Terje Olsen) Graduated with Bachelor of Science in Biology from Rajabhat Udonthani University. She presently works at District Agricultural Office Project 1 Tambon 1 New Theory of Agricultural and her salary is 9,000 baht.

Seven students completed Pre-Bachelor's Degree



1. Mr. Theerayuth Bussaba, Sponsored by Eltern Fuer Kinder (EFK, Germany - Khun Ralf Schmitt)

Theerayuth completed a Pre-Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Power Technology from Nongkhai Technical College. He presently works at Nong Khai Side Car Limited Partnership. His salary is 9,000 baht.



2. Miss Nithiphon Phannuwong, Sponsored by Eltern Fuer Kinder (EFK, Germany - Khun Berta Geubig)

Nithiphon completed a Pre-Bachelor of Business Computer from Nongkhai Vocational College. She is seeking employment.



3. Miss Panumas Kaewchin, Sponsored by World Families, Australia - Khun H & T Duchene)

Panumas completed Pre-Bachelor of Accounting from Nong Khai Vocational College. February 2021, she secured a job with a phone company in Nong Khai.



4. Miss Namfa Pananoak, Sponsored by Australia New Zealand Women's Group (Thailand)

Namfa completed Pre-Bachelor of Accounting from Nong Khai Vocational College. She presently works at 7/11 and earns 300 baht a day.



5.Mr. Kunathip Homhuan, Sponsored by Enfatns Du Mekong, France (M/MME Jean Et Paullette Braessolette)

Kunathip completed Pre-Bachelor of Machine Shop Mechanics from Nong Khai Technical College. He presently works at a construction site in Bangkok and he earns 300 baht a day



6. Miss Suweeraporn Chaisongkram, Sponsored by World Families, Australia (Khun Leanne Jackson)

Suweeraporn completed Pre-Bachelor of Logistics from Business Administration from Udon Thani College of Business Administration and Tourism. She presently works at a wheel factory in Rayong province, she earns 330 baht a day.



7.Mr. Suphakit Kaewkoonmuang, Sponsored by Cecil and Angela Ward(Canada)

Suphakit completed Pre-Bachelor of Accounting from Asean Technology Nongkhai College. He presently works at Mheepool Equipment Limited in Bangkok. His salary is 9,000 baht.

Sponsorship distribution

Sponsorship payments were made to the children on different occasions during the year, corresponding with the school semesters.

On 8th May 2020 the program distributed sponsorship for the first semester of the education year 2020 at the “Sufficient Farm” Learning Center for Human Resources Development and Empowerment - SLC (former Village Vocational Training Centre VVTC),presided over by Mr. Ronnachai Jitwiset, Nong Khai governor , along with network partners.



December 2020, saw the program distributing sponsorship for the second semester 2/2020 at the SLC, sparating the students into two groups a day in order to reduce the risk of coronavirus Covid-19 infections.



Mary's Friends Norway

Mary's Friends have always had their own programme for distribution taking place four times a year.

- The fourth installment from 2019 was distributed on 9th January 2020 at the office of Child & Youth Development Program of the Good Shepherd Sisters Nongkhai Foundation.
- The first installment for 2020 on 20th May 2020 at the SLC.
- The second installment of 2020 was distributed on 1st August 2020 at the SLC.
- The third installment for 2020, was presented to the students on 27th December 2020 at the SLC

Meeting with students' guardians

A meeting was organized by the Child and Youth Development Program for the sponsorship students and their guardians, on 9th February and on 15th May 2020, in order to inform them about the operational plan and regulations of being together. Guidance was also provided in writing letters and educational level appropriate information was given. Students' progress records were noted. The students were encouraged to engage in skills training for leadership and personal assertiveness. They were instructed as to appropriate behavior, hygiene and presentation when attending school. The guardians – either parents or grandparents were guided in how to safe guard the children in their care.



Visitation

The usual regular visitation of the students and their communities in order to evaluate, oversee and collect information was not able to be carried out in the usual manner during the 'stay at home' period. During this time, the staff kept in contact through phone calls and with the older children, through social media. Visits were still carried out when emergency cases arose and this provided an opportunity to assist the target group with social welfare needs as appropriate. Information received was, as usual, able to be reported to sponsors. After the recommencement of visits, we assisted the children with their annual letter writing and thank you letters when gifts were received. This year, gifts took the form of essentials – food, milk and money, as families, impacted by the pandemic (through lost employment), struggled to make ends meet.





Few foreigners were able to visit the programme after March 2020. Victoria, a representative of the organisation Enfatns Du Mekong (France) was one of the few visitors, along with Mr. Sebastian Beryer from Germany.



Community Activities

The objective of the **Savings Group** which was established for villagers in the Ban Fang sub district almost 20 years ago, is to strengthen a saving discipline among members, allowing them to borrow money when financial needs arise and limiting the abuse from loan sharks.

There are currently 340 members from 4 service areas. The saving starts from 50 baht up. The committee of the savings group organises an annual meeting once a year in order to consolidate the best way of working together. In 2020, this meeting took place on 13th March, where the financial report was given and a review of saving practices, loans and interest was made.

The resolution for 2020, was that each member can borrow between 10,000 – 20,000 baht at a time, with there are 3,500,000 baht held by the group.

Members of **Ban Fang Community Support Group** number 1,088 families. The objective of this group is to provide financial support when families have to plan a funeral for a loved one. Each family pays 20 baht, renewable after 10 deaths in the community. Members, on the death of a family member, receive 19,600 baht, as well as flowers and Chan flowers for the cremation.



Distribution of rice

On 10th February 2020 - pre-Covid 19 restrictions - , we welcomed Mr. Bernard Low and friends from Singapore. They provided rice and canned fish to 50 families, who were experiencing financial difficulties in the difficult situation in the area of Wat Tard sub district and Ban Fang sub district.

A second group accompanied by Khun Bernard, visited on the 20th February and again distributed food. This time it was to 50 families in the Sakrai sub-district.



Resource personnel support

With the vast experience and qualifications of the Child and Youth Development Team, it has been valuable to engage with others and pass on valuable skills. Such support was provided formally on a number of occasions through workshops and seminars.

- 14th January 2020 - staff in human resource development at the Office of Child Development and Rehabilitation Center, Nong Khai Province and the Department of Child and Youth Affairs Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. There were 20 participants.



- 22nd -23rd August 2020, - resource persons for training in “Social Engineering” at the Child & Youth Development and Rehabilitation Center, Nong Khai Province. There were 25 participants



- 3rd September 2020 - resource personnel in cognitive matters “Sexual health and adolescent pregnancy“ at Sri Chiangmai Municipal Office, Nong Khai province.



- 27th October 2020 - conducted activities in collaboration with the Mekong Association and Mot Thailand 2019, gathering with Network Organization in Nong Khai province. There were 50 participants



Follow up and Evaluation

An external evaluation of our programme was carried out on the 12th – 13th November 2020, by Asst. Prof. Dr. Bhuchong Senanooch and Prof. Benjabhorn Buasamlee. We gathered to discuss the programme’s goals and the execution of our work, along with our network partners. The process has not yet been finalized but we received positive feedback from the evaluators, applauding our programme as a model for others.



Meetings and Training for the sponsorship staff

The on-going education and skills updating of our programme staff, is vital for the health of our work and the benefit of the students being assisted. To this end, the following opportunities to do this, took place:

- 8th – 9th August – Child Protection Policy : a joint meeting with other Good shepherd programmes, in order to develop a guidebook for raising awareness in the community regarding the protection of children. Held at the Camillian Social Center, Lad Krabang, Bangkok.



- 2nd September 2020 Meeting for operational planning with Child and Youth Development Programme staff at the Sufficiency Learning Centre. (SLC). The purpose of this gathering was to summarise and review the operations of the previous year, as well as planning the way forward ie. defining roles and conducting a SWOT Analysis - strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the workplace.



- 18th September - meeting of Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation staff from all projects, held at the SLC, in order to clarify operational guidelines and policies within the organization.



- 5th -6th December 2020 - joint training on “Child Safeguarding Policy” ‘Training of Trainers’, at Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation. The objective was to build in depth understanding on child policy and to train staff to be lecturers in the movement towards universal Child Safeguarding.



- 11th -14th December 2020 - “Human Resources Development” seminar for the staff of the Child & Youth Development Programme, conducted by Fr Apisit Kritsaram at Ban Haruethat Lanna Church, Hang Dong district, Chiang Mai province. The objective was to promote human resource development. Following the input, a plan was made for future use.



Network Activities

The programme engages with a network of agencies, both government and non-government, in order to best benefit those in the target group. To this end, we met with others intent on securing the welfare of the students and their families and others in the community with whom we work.

- On 29th January - joint meeting of the Early Childhood Subcommittee.
- 3rd February - Central Police Investigation Team for suppressing human trafficking, visited Sr.Sutisa Utalun and all staff of the Child & Youth Development Programme, in order to request information on areas of protection against human trafficking.



- 12th March - with staff of Nong Khai Shelter for Children & Families, assisted five families in need.



Self-Help Activities : Equitable Education Fund (EEF)

A government incentive, the Equitable Education Fund, focuses on occupational skills development, for people who lack funds and opportunities to engage in such activities. It uses a community based approach.

Project Name: The New Way of Agriculture Project to develop career-based groups of women on a ladder based approach moving from learning to implementation.

- Objective :
1. To develop occupation skills of people who lack knowledge and opportunity
 2. To develop those engaged to access marketing channels
 3. To increase the income of such groups.

- Target Group :
1. Two sub districts in Muang district Nong Khai
 - Porchai sub district, Wat Tart sub district, where women's lack of education and opportunity opportunity has led to unemployment.

The group consisted of 50 guardians of the sponsorship students.

2. The area of Ban Fang sub district, Sra Krai district, Nong Khai. This district was formerly the poorest sub-district of Nong Khai, where lack of education was common and unemployment high. Former attempts to transform the community failed through the lack of marketing opportunities. 50 people were selected.

Follow up activities with this group group

6th November - a forum for practitioners was held, to plan the implementation of the new agricultural way of life development (Core Team) who gathered with Dr. Pipop Hussa, the Group mentor and Mr.Preeda Bootdeewongs - resource person from Nong Khai Agricultural Office and village lecturer, in order to plan for other activities.



- 9th – 10th November Training first step Group 1: “Learning the principles of understanding in agriculture for a new way of occupation.

Of the original 50 participants from group 1, 39 attended the session, held at the SLC.



- 23rd -24th November Training first step Group 2: “Learning the principles of understanding in agriculture for a new way of occupation. 51 women attended.



- The project will have practical applications that are currently being carried out. The project will end in May 2021.

Additional Network meetings

- 14th – 26th August, Sr.Sutisa and staff joined a workshop to improve the proposal for “Developing an experimental system for skills development for disadvantaged labourers”. Held at Vaffire Meeting Room, Muangthong Thani, Nontaburi province



- 7th – 8th October , Sr.Sutisa and staff joined a Regional Action meeting for “Project Management systems and preparation of financial and accounting reports”, at the Convenient Hotel in Khon Kaen province.



- 30th – 31st October , Child & Youth Development Programme staff attended “Learning process workshop for occupation development in 21st Century, using community based approach”.Held at Bhiman Garden Hotel.



- 5th – 6th December Some of the staff attended a workshop on “Empowerment assessment” at The Convenient Hotel in Khon Kaen province.



Welfare and protection work

Protection of children

We find that a number of students in the programme, have difficult home environments and when this is discovered – especially if abuse or negligence is involved – we will intervene to assure the welfare of the child.

We have been able to find placements of the ‘at risk’ students in boarding schools for term time. During holidays, they can either return home for a short period or be accommodated in the Good Shepherd residential programme in Bangkok. This past year, 11 students were in this category - 4 students in Rajpracha Nukroh School, 6 students in Mary Uppatump in Nakorn Pratom province and one student from Assumption Technic Nakorn Panom. The program also assisted them with school supplies.



Protection of women



The Nong Khai Provincial Court has established a psycho - social counseling clinic, providing well-trained psycho-social counselors who provide advice to those in the court system for free. Sr Sutisa works in the clinic as a counselor, twice a month. defendant and the general public without any cost.

This is a great service as those within the system often do not have recourse to counseling in times of emotional, mental and financial stress.

The clinic provides preliminary consultation to create incentives for remedial action for offenders in drug related or non-serious cases. It also provides rehabilitation option to sex offenders and those who inflict domestic violence, building a network of referral to other healthcare facilities.

Through her work in the clinic, accommodation and employment was able to be offered to one Laotian woman who had been the victim of employer abuse. After a few months residing in the Sufficiency Learning Centre, her mental and emotional state improved and with the help of local police, she was able to acquire the papers necessary for remaining in Thailand.



Covid-19 related support

Lao workers

The impact of the coronavirus Covid-19, was an economic one for Thailand. Companies, businesses, shopping malls and restaurants were greatly affected, resulting in the reduction of employees and subsequent layoffs. Some companies shut down altogether, causing many Thai workers and foreign workers to lose their jobs. The unemployed workers had to return to their homes and this included migrant workers from Laos.

Many travelled from Bangkok and other provinces to Nong Khai's Thai-Lao Border Checkpoint on the Mekong River, Nong Khai.

Some of them came by bus and some by vans, organised by both Thai and Lao people who hoped to benefit from the Lao workers' predicament, collecting money for their 'service'. However, the Thai-Lao Border had closed during the pandemic, which posed serious problems for the returnees once they reached Nong Khai.

Laos Immigration could also not accept many Lao workers due to having limited place for quarantine and so the arrivals had to rent rooms for many days in Nong Khai until such a time they could return to Laos.

The migrant worker recruitment agency is located near the Thai-Laos border and having seen many Lao workers in difficulty, they began providing basic assistance.






Knowing the nature of our work, they reached out to the Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation and we began by firstly providing breakfast to the Laotian workers at the Thai-Lao border checkpoint.








It became clear that they would be waiting for many days and local residents of Nong Khai were scared about possible Covid-19 outbreaks. The Foundation therefore coordinated with local government agencies to find a way to help these workers by providing accommodation and food during until they could return. This was done using the facilities of the Village Vocational Training Centre, with food expenses and supervision provided by the government and private agencies supported food expenses and the foundation provided dormitory as well The Foundation supported different groups of workers from May to July 2020.




Local family support

Fourteen families affected economically by the outbreak of coronavirus Covid-19, were assisted with resources to carry out activities for income-generation. This fund, named "Nutritional and livelihood support for families severely impacted by Covid-19 " was sponsored through Misaan Cara and theGood Shepherd International Foundation.

No.	Name of the family leaders	Supporting	Amount	Amount	Pictures
1	Nong Khai Shelter for Children and Families	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
2	Home for boys	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
3	Ms. Nibhawadee Bootsaba	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
4	Ms. Noopha Janklin	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
5	Ms. Saengjan Rajchabootr	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
6	Ms. Praphatsorn Kesanooch	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	

7	Ms. Sutorn Katebootr	Khonkaw Mushrooms	500 bags	5,000.00	
8	Ms. Samien Kantasri	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	
9	Ms. Darunee Sichankaew	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	
10	Ms. Jul Kaewprom	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	
11	Ms. Urairat Jitphat	Fund to invest in selling native chickens.	20 chicken	5,000.00	
12	Ms. Chareon Amaruek	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	
13	Ms. Tavinant Mita	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	

14	Miss Rungnop Bomkote	Native Chickens/food for chickens	30 chicken	5,000.00	
Total				70,000.00	

MOT Foundation Thailand 2019

MOT Foundation Thailand 2019, with its President, Sr Sutisa Utalun, has been carrying out their activities for local school participants (director and teachers).

The MOT concept is a uniform management tool that makes it easy for MOT Thailand to make decisions, become self-motivated, with the power to make things happen.

The MOT vision is to build a warmer and safer society, and the MOT mission is to develop robust youth, by strengthening awareness and courage. MOT Thailand works with the local school participants (directors, teachers and coordinators) to build 3 values and 4 principles in their students.

Values: courage to live, courage to care and courage to say no

Principles: work proactively, promote culture - build responsibility, reinforce the positive and celebrate the whole person.

During the year 2020, 190 participants from government schools were trained to be the MOT coaches by using MOT Basic Education and in November of 2020, 14 Catholic schools participated. There are 33 MOT schools, 190 MOT coaches in Thailand and 5,838 youth taking part in the MOT programme.

The outcome from the activities was the exchange of knowledge and an interest in conducting the activities and MOT's curriculum in their schools. The activities provided were:

- 7th June - seminar on "Capacity Development of MOT Coaches" at UD Green View Hotel, in Udon Thani province. Discussed were the operational practices after the re-opening of schools. (post 'government 'Stay at Home') There were 20 participants.



- 13th – 14th June - meeting preparing coaches in readiness for MOT Basic Education for school directors and teachers in each participating school. Held at UD Green View in Udon Thani province. . There were 20 participants.



- 1st – 2nd August - "Human resource development" for staff of UD Green View Hotel using MOT Programme. Held in same venue with 50 participants.



- 31st August – Training on “Human resource development” for the Elderly, at UD Green View Hotel using MOT Programme. There were 50 participants.



- 16th – 18th November – Training in “Mot Basic Education” for school directors and teachers from schools in Nong Hhai and Udon Thani and Bueng Kan. 50 participants.



- 27th – 29th November “MOT Basic Education” The training was provided to school directors and teachers from 14 Catholic schools.



Self-Help programme initiatives

The Krua Suan Pakinee restaurant (Convent Kitchen Garden)

The restaurant was taken over three years ago from the Regina Centre, as the Child and Youth Development Programme were looking for ways to offset some of their expenses. It was beginning to do well at the start of 2020 but Covid-19 soon changed that. While take-aways were made available during the ‘stay at home’ and the restaurant opened again in July with restricted seating, patronage was not enough to make any gains financially.

Organic garden

The organic garden is situated in the convent grounds, close to the Child and Youth Development Office.

Currently, farmers in Thailand, use a lot of chemicals when growing vegetables. Consuming such produce will cause accumulated toxins to build in the body and causing various diseases. The residue is also detrimental to the soil, waterways and environment as a whole. The Child and Youth

development programme made the decision to convert an area of the convent grounds into a covered organic garden a few years ago and in the past twelve months, production has been prolific. Produce is provided to families in need, used in the Krua Suan Pakinee restaurant (managed by the Child and Youth development Programme), with any surplus sold. It will be used as a model for agricultural activities to promote healthy growing and eating.



“Sufficiency Farm” Learning Center for Human Resources Development and Empowerment Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation

When the Good Shepherd Village Vocational Training Centre closed in March 2020, after 36 years of a much praised programme, offering skills training to northeastern farmers in an array of agricultural activities, Sr Sutisa saw its potential to continue as a centre of learning but instead of focusing on farmers, it would instead be offered as a base for community development for schools and local communities.

The “Sufficiency Learning Centre (SLC) – for human resource development and empowerment”, is still committed to skills training and informal education and will, like the VVTC in the past, be offering its facilities for use by NGOs, Government Departments and community groups. While the VVTC focused on farmers and improving their quality of life, the Sufficiency Learning Centre, will primarily focus on schools, offering its skill development activities, to teachers and students, while keeping alive the traditions of farmers committed to working the land for self-sufficiency.

During 2020, the grounds were redesigned with the pro-bono assistance of local government. This was to establish an optimum learning environment for those who will use the existing facilities - seminar halls, dormitories, dining room, salas, work stations, and administration block - established over the years through our funding partners. However, since opening, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the SLC could not have been able to run at full capacity, as training numbers were limited.

Between May and June, the project received support through local government, co-ordinating the redesigning of the grounds with the Nong Khai Provincial Office and the Nong Khai Provincial Administration Office, which provided 31 days use of heavy duty machinery with labour, for free. Learning stations were marked out with canals dug and the land ploughed in for replanting.



Resources provided:

1. 1 backhoe
2. 2 trucks
3. 1 tractor
4. 1 trailer car
5. 8 staff and workers

In kind estimation:



No.	Particulars	Baht
1	- Two backhoe x 15,000 baht (rental fee) x 31 days	1,147,000
2	-Two trucks x 3,200 baht (rental fee) x 31 days	198,400
3	- Two tractors x 64,000 baht (rental fee) x 31 days	396,800
4	-Two trailer car x 1,000 baht (rental fee) x 31 days	62,000
5	-Fuel 600 litres x 19 baht x 31 day	353,400
6	- 10 staffs and workers x 130,200 baht x 31 days	130,200
	Total	2,287,800

All in the above table was supported by Nongkhai Provincial Administration Office

The expectation of the Sufficiency Learning Centre is to provide a model of a sufficiency farming for access by the following groups:

- Students and teachers from schools and places of learning;
- Selected individuals from target villages for training in agricultural practices
- Children and youth with social problems who wish to learn to be self-reliant;
- MOT Thailand for youth empowerment programmes
- NGOs and GOs wishing to conduct their own training/meetings/seminars

It will work to promote conservation of the environment – soil, water, forest – in regard to the culture of the Isan (northeastern) people, thereby preserving successful traditional methods of agriculture, while adopting new practices.

Activities under “Sufficiency Farm” Learning Center for Human Resources Development and Empowerment

1. Agricultural Center for learning



Animals were acquired through donations and the grounds are now home to goats, cows, wild pigs, turkeys, ducks and chickens –all of which will be used for education of visiting groups. The existing mushroom station was revitalized and the tradition of cultivating mushrooms for training and for sale, continues.

One crop of organic rice was planted and harvested, providing another example of sufficiency farming for the groups targeted for training.

2. Providing facilities: seminar rooms, dormitories, food and beverages.



For the past 36 years, donors made possible the acquisition of excellent facilities possible with office block, seminar halls, accommodation for 200 (dormitories and single rooms), dining hall and outside salas for activities. We are pleased to continue utilizing such facilities.

1. Chicken Noodle Restaurant



The former food stall/co-operative store at the front of the grounds, financed by the BCTFN in Bangkok, had extensions made to it and now runs as a noodle shop serving takeaway and sit down meals for those working locally. Staff were sent for training in Udon Thani where they learnt the trade from a successful shop owner, with support of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand.

To reduce electricity costs, solar panels have been installed in the compound with a donation from Khun Veronika Leeb in Austria.



Expectations:

1. Having organizations, community groups or individual, visiting or taking part in seminars, workshops continuously through the year.
2. To provide a learning center for the conservation of the environment, soil, water, forest and culture.
3. Acquiring a revolving fund from the learning center's "Sufficiency Farm" activities.
4. That children and youth with social problems particularly, can learn to be self-reliant.
5. Reducing unemployment.



It is a 'work in progress' but we are pleased to see the exceptional facilities of the VVTC continuing to be utilized.

*We in the Sponsorship's Programme, together with our students,
would like to thank all of you - our benefactors and friends - for your
encouragement and support throughout the past year.*

*We wish you a blessed and joyful Easter.
May you always find prosperity and good health.*

Child and Youth Development Programme,
Good Shepherd Sisters Nong Khai Foundation