

STEP AHEAD

History Highlights -- Strengthening Families Across Thailand

2002-2003



The Step Ahead journey begins. Rented office, hired 4 staff, learning trip to study microfinance in Manila, Philippines.

Delivered microfinance services to 60 families in 2002 with mentoring and training in Bangkok's largest slum community, Klong Toey

In 2003, we reached over 200 families with microfinance services

2004 -2005



Opened Step Ahead Training Center in Southern Thailand's Khao Lak district sourcing development training to over 1500 tsunami survivors: English, Computer, Hospitality, German, etc.

Built, staffed and opened two child development centers (CDC) in post-tsunami Khao Lak, Phang Nga Province, Southern Thailand

2006



Built, staffed and opened two more child development centers (CDC) in Khao Lak

Created community economic development initiatives across post-tsunami Khao Lak: purse making, eco-tourism, mushroom and orchid farming

Microfinance program in Klong Toey grows to serve over 500 families

2007



Staff researches Thai laws regarding child protection and caring for at-risk children and orphans.

Step Ahead writes first Safeguarding Policy

Step Ahead begins to shift focus prioritizing family and community based orphan care after study and research

2008



Started Klong Toey Kid's Club delivering English and computer training. Started weekly Kid's Club

Step Ahead Training Center in Khaolak delivers training to over 3000 tsunami survivors since opening

Pioneered "Keeping Families Together" (KFT) program with Orphan's Promise to serve orphans and vulnerable children in communities

2009



Reached 1,200 Step Ahead member families with micro-finance in Klong Toey

Launched ITSERA brand purses with a dozen women at-risk in Pattaya

Registered in USA as a 501c3 non-profit

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2010



Registered as a Thai Non-profit Foundation

Began training faith-based organizations and churches on caring for orphans and widows in their communities

Continued to develop curriculum for Keeping Families Together program.

2011



Began transitioning Bangkok's microfinance program to promoting microfinance services and training in collaboration with local grassroots Saving and Credit Associations (SCA) in Klong Toey in order to focus on holistic family strengthening services.

2012



Developed Safe and Informed Migration (SIM) training as a trafficking prevention model partnering with community organizations, schools and local government across Northeastern Thailand (Isaan).

Continued to support transition of Bangkok's microfinance services to Saving and Credit Association

2013



Relocated ITSERA Purse Project to Isaan collaborating with a community economic development program

Keeping Families Together program started in Isaan (KhonKaen)

Continued Safe and Informed Migration (SIM) training in Isaan (Khon Kaen and Buriram)

2014



Step Ahead builds capacity by delivering training to NGOs, mission agencies, and Thai government leaders on the legal framework, as well as the scale, scope and impact of alternative care and why family is best for vulnerable children.

2015



Government advocacy works begins. Step Ahead joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition (CRCCT) and is a founding active member of the sub-group ACT (Alternative Care Thailand)

Keeping Families Together program starts in Bangkok's Klong Toey Slum.

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2016



Step Ahead staff attend World Without Orphans Global Forum

Cofounded Strong Families Alliance Thailand (SFAT)

Step Ahead attends LUMOS Deinstitutionalization Training with Senior Thai government officials in London

Step Ahead and ACT attend International Alternative Care Conference in Geneva

2017



MILESTONE: 1000 families served through Step Ahead child development centers.

Step Ahead partners with ChildLine to start foster care services: training, recruitment and placement of asylum seeker and refugee children living in Bangkok Immigration Detention Center to foster care

2018



Step Ahead joins Government Task Force to draft foster care legislation

Step Ahead joins the Coalition for Refugees and Stateless Persons

Step Ahead supports Senior Thai officials to attend LUMOS Deinstitutionalization Training in London

Step Ahead joins Government Task Force to work on MOU and SOPs to end detention of children

2019



First Alternative Care Conference in Thailand

Step Ahead attends Trust Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI) training in Dallas with 5 senior officials

Step Ahead showcases work at MOU signing ceremony to end the detention of children.

Step Ahead partners with LifeRaft to start Freedom for Families Program to reunite refugee children with mothers

2020

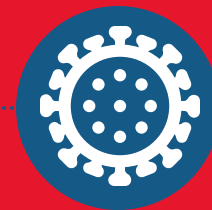


New Step Ahead Theory of Change developed envisioning a Thailand where all children grow up in safe and nurturing families.

Updated KFT Toolkit, which includes 5 manuals to support NGOs, churches and government social workers to implement their own programs.

Partnered with 42 NGOs, churches and government ministries.

2021



ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM WORK FROM HOME

Covid-19 third wave hit Klong Toey Slum especially hard. Our staff is coordinating the relief efforts. A Social Work Hotline for families has been developed, training for hotline translators into Burmese and Khmer languages, delivery of food packets, and support for rent, utility payments and health insurance to families in our programs.