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## Dear BAAN DOI friends,

at the beginning of 2021 it looked like Thailand was handling the pandemic really well, but since April, more and more Covid 19 cases appeared. We made safety measures and preventive actions a priority in our home, our Outreach Support Program and also at our office.

That means, that we are mostly staying at home or at our farm and closing the doors to non-family members. Furthermore, the children are spending more time learning online than going to school and our office staff changed to working at home several times. Also, our supported families and teachers were contacted more online instead of actual home or school visits. Masks and ATK Testing have become a standard procedure and preventive quarantine had to be organized quickly at times.

Fortunately, BAAN DOI's children, families and staff have all been healthy and well!

Health is one of the main focus areas of our Outreach Family Program. Alongside, ensuring our families have access to good education, that non-Thai citizens are supported to obtain official registration and developing Life Skills. We are currently supporting over 50 families regularly and many more with our emergency fund. In this Newsletter our staff members; Ae and Archa talk about the ways we are supporting families in need and their motivations. Also Saenghom, a young women, who was

supported by our OCS program, shows us where she is now.

A special part of this newsletter is the review of the first joint charity activity that was organised by our 3 associations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. This was the Charity Bike Tour around Constance Lake in July 2021. It was a really successful tour and beneficial in many ways!

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter!

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year for 2022!

Barbara Meisl & BAAN DOI Team





## OCS - BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program

The Outreach Child Support Program has been an important part of BAAN DOI's work since the very beginning. The program runs complementary to our BAAN DOI home which provides a new home and a loving family for children who do not have relatives anymore, or for children who are not safe in their current environment.

The focus of our Outreach Child Support Program is different. Despite all the hardships the families are facing, we highly encourage them to care for their children by themselves and assist them to conquer the challenges of parenting and raising children.

BAAN DOI is able to assist 50 families a year, who become an active part of our program and are willing to learn and grow together with us. But many more are being supported by our emergency support or through one time support for education. There are many families in our area that need assistance. BAAN DOI guarantees an equal procedure of selection to all families without discrimination of any kind based on age, race, color, gender, language, religion, disability and political or other opinions. If we are not able to support a family, we make sure to collect their data and refer them to other organizations.

Next to the urgency of support, another important criterion is the willingness to cooperate with us and also the openness for real sustainable change.

Our support system is based on 4 pillars and for each of them different resources are available.

1. Health, the families learn how to provide an environment that allows for the healthy development of their children.
2. Education, the families learn how to set and follow educational targets together with their children.
3. Legal Registration, the families gain knowledge about their rights and how they can claim them.
4. Income generating activities, the families have the chance to develop additional life skills for activities which will help them to save funds and earn additional income.

Our 2 staff members, Saowalak Janwong (Ae) and Archa Chermue are responsible for the management of the program. They organize the field surveys, the screening process and new admissions to our program. They organize all activities plus monitor and evaluate them. They directly work with the families and keep in touch with them. We asked them how they work and what motivates them.



*Above: A family from the family support program*

*Left: Assortment of seeds for the families, father of the family growing vegetables*

*Below: Families learn how to keep chickens and are able to generate a small income from it*

Despite strokes of fate and poverty, and especially when children have lost their parents, it is best for them to stay with their relatives and grow up in a familiar environment.





## OCS - BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program Interview with Ae



Above and left:  
Ae during home visits



Ae is BAAN DOI's assistant director, she is our team leader and holds an important position in the OCS project. Ae is responsible for networking and organizing the activities.

Please tell me something about the activities in the program.

When we receive the information that a child or family needs help, the first thing is to get in contact and schedule a home visit. Based on all the gathered information following our criteria, we then decide if the family can be accepted in our regular program, will receive one-time emergency assistance or be referred to other organizations.

Our program focuses on assisting families and being there for them but other regular activities include offering trainings about different subjects that correspond to our targets. The trainings are about child rights, education possibilities and education goals, health and child development, as well, as online safety and vocational skills training. We want to create a sustainable change in the life of the families.

The families also receive monthly regular funds for the child's education and in some cases medical care.

You have mentioned a sustainable change in the life of the families, what makes your program sustainable?

It is actually the interaction of different aspects that come together in the program. Giving the children the chance to receive a good education can lead the whole family to a better life and break the cycle of poverty. In addition, our aim to lead stateless families to understand and claim their rights in terms of legal registration. This is an important step, which can be life changing and open up many possibilities for the families.

Our support for life skills development and income generating activities empowers the families to be able to care for their households and children in a better way and earn additional funds to do so.

Lastly but most importantly is the change in the mindset of the families, that makes a real difference. Many families think they are the victim of unfortunate life circumstances. With our assistance they actually become stronger and more confident, especially in controlling different areas of their life and claiming their rights. It's the shift in mindset that we are aiming for and which makes the change sustainable.

Ae, what motivates you in your work?

Many parts of the work are challenging and that fulfills my need for constant development. What probably motivates me the most are the house visits to the families.

It's so good to know, that the families are happy to see us, they show us their progress and are proud of what they have done. Life gets better, instead of complaining about their life circumstances they invite us to walk around their houses and show us everything that has changed in the meanwhile. They seem to be proud if they can save money and spend less. They start to see the value of their children's education more and more, especially if the youngsters are able to complete their education and get a job. It means so much for them.

**Thank you very much Ae!**

Ae is a teacher by profession and has been involved with BAAN DOI from the beginning.

Together with Barbara and Graziella, she built up BAAN DOI and taught them the Thai language.

Today, she is the assistant director, child protection officer and team leader.



Archa gives plants and seeds to a family



Below:  
Archa during a school visit and a home visit



"Personally, it makes me happy to know that I am a part of the family's journey towards a better life.."

## OCS - BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program Interview with Archa

For the past 3 years Archa Chermue has been our program coordinator. He is directly assisting the families and is responsible for Health, Education and Legal Registration as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the program.

Can you shortly explain in which areas BAAN DOI is supporting the families and what is the main target?

The main target is for families to take care of their children well, that they understand their responsibilities, have the knowledge, skills and resources to raise their kids and hopefully one day will not need us anymore.

How do you monitor the program and what shows you that BAAN DOIs support is successful?

We do home and school visits to talk to the families, the children and the teachers twice a year. Home visits and interviews are actually the best way to gain information, they show us the realities of the families and give us the chance to connect and also observe.

We also have a tool called the family book, in which the families independently note important information about their progress with health, education, the registration process and income generating activities.

We use all the gathered information, evaluate it and use it to further develop and strengthen our approach.

Now that there since April 2021 are many COVID infections in your working area, how has COVID 19 affected your work?

This year we had to postpone many activities like trainings and camps with the families. Also, many of our monitoring activities could not be done by visits. We also adapted our program and made COVID 19 prevention measurements a part of it. So, we changed a lot. Instead of house visits we connected with the families on social media and via phone.

What motivates you?

It always motivates me, when I get the chance to talk to the families and children and see the changes in them. Personally, it makes me happy to know that I am a part of the family's journey towards a better life.

Many thanks dear Archa!



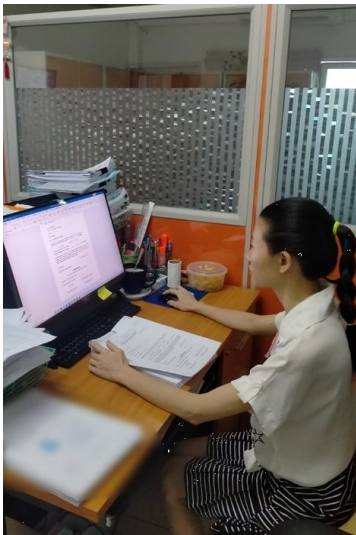


## A success story from the Outreach Child Support Program - the story of Saenghom Saiwong



Saenghom at her university graduation...

... and at her workplace as a tax consultant



Dedicated and motivated students from the BAAN DOI orphanage, but also from the BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program, have the chance to complete a university education.

Means the dream of a self-determined life can come true.

Saenghom Saiwong is a young woman, who has been supported by our Outreach Child Support program. For the last few years, she has been working at an accounting company (Thai CPA company) as an assistant auditor.

Our assistant director Ae, who was a Vocational College teacher before, connected her to BAAN DOI in 2013. Ae saw the girl collecting PE bottles after school to get some additional funds and she talked to her. She learned that the girl had lost her father and that her single mother was barely able to feed her whole family. So the girl had to take care of her school fees by herself and also organize her own money for lunch.

The girl mentioned that she was dreaming about continuing her education further, but that she lacked the funds for it. That's how the journey together with BAAN DOI began and from this time on, Saenghom did not have to worry about her education funds anymore.

After Saenghom graduated with a Bachelor's degree in accounting, she started to work. 25 % of her earned money goes to her family home.

As her mom's health worsened so she now needs her daughter's support for the regular expenses in the home.

At the moment, Saenghom is also preparing herself to sit the tests to become an independent auditor and saving up money in order to open her own company in the future.

"I really want to thank the staff and the sponsors at BAAN DOI for the chance I have been given. If there is anything I can do for BAAN DOI, please let me know. I would be happy to give something back. Without BAAN DOI I would not be where I am today, and I will never forget that. Thank you so much."

Saenghom at an event of the BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program





Above: In the harbour of Kreuzlingen/Switzerland

Left: Graziella with her daughters at the start

Below: Enjoying the evening together at Don Bosco Haus Eriskirch

Food truck with Joe and Nadine

Susi and Hannes showing us the way



## The BAAN DOI Charity Bike tour around Lake Constance 2021 has been a real success!

From the 9th to the 11th of July, 2021, there were 55 participants who biked around Lake Constance in order to support BAAN DOI raise funds to buy a tractor as part of their agriculture project. They gave everything and all of them could cycle the planned route and reach the goal. Altogether 26.612€ / 1.047.597 THB has been raised from the event.

The start was on Friday in the Austrian City; Bregenz. The sky cleared up and the sun was shining, so the participants reached Friedrichshafen in Germany while enjoying the beautiful weather.

The highlight of the evening was the meeting in Don-Bosco-House. Delicious sandwiches and sausages had been prepared for everybody. Graziella Ramponi-Najai introduced the project and shared her personal experience.

At the raffle, everybody could try their luck and win amazing prices. The video from BAAN DOI was especially appreciated and increased everyone's motivation even more.





The next morning started with an energizing breakfast at the Weltladen Friedrichshafen and then the tour continued to Konstanz. The five children who participated were particularly delighted to receive a stamp at every stopover, where there were helpers waiting for them with happy faces and delicious snacks and beverages. It was also at the stopovers that all the bikers met each other and everybody could feel a special sense of community.

On Sunday, the route brought us back to the Swiss part of the lake and then back to Bregenz. Thanks to the bike helmets and the safety and hygiene standards, we all arrived safely at our goal!

The first common event of the three supporting associations; BAAN DOI Germany, BAAN DOI Austria and BAAN DOI Switzerland was a great success. Lake Constance stands for the connection of our 3 countries. With the common goal of supporting BAAN DOI Thailand, the Charity Bike Tour has been an extraordinary experience!

Special thanks to the organisers Susi and Miri from Germany and all their helpers!

*Above: Delicious breakfast at the Weltladen Friedrichshafen*

*Left: Musical interlude by Liz and Miri in Meersburg*

*Below:  
Destination reached..... back in Bregenz  
Representatives from Germany, Austria and Switzerland*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Next Charity Bike Tour  
around Lake Constance**

**15.-17.09.2023**

**For more information  
on the tour and how to  
support it, please visit**

**<https://baandoi.org/charity-fahrradtour-bodensee>**





# Thank you very much



**BAAN DOI — Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children**

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Chiang Rai, Thailand**

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