



**Lives Changed
Communities Transformed
Bo Kluea, Thailand**

Bo Kluea Area Programme

Total population: 14,901

Project start: October 2008

Number of Families: 3,206

Project end: September 2021

Girls: 991

Boys: 1,045

Women: 6,342

Men: 6,523



Background

Bo Kluea district is in Nan province in the northern part of Thailand. It is one of the border districts next to Laos and is in a valley located far from the urban area. In World Vision's initial assessment phase, it was found that 90% of villagers were living below the poverty line.

Most villages are located in remote areas, with 40% on mountainous terrain, making farming difficult. There was also a lack of dependable water supply and proper infrastructure. In addition, this remote area belongs to the National Parks Department and the Forestry Department, and families do not own the land they farm on. Families also have insufficient water for daily consumption and lack equipment to purify water.

Children under five were often deprived of early childhood education as parents search for work in other districts and brought their young children along after the harvest or in the dry season to supplement family income. Living conditions were difficult as families had insufficient and unstable income, limited access to clean water sources, and children lacked access to and completion of quality education opportunities.



How the Journey Began

World Vision's work in Bo Kluea started in 2008, with aims to alleviate the poverty of households and ensure the well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable. Upon initial assessment and analysis of the key needs in the community, the project in Bo Kluea was split into three phases. Phase 1 (2008-2012) focused on addressing key needs like food security and development in both education and health. After evaluation of phase 1 operations, phase 2 (2013-2017) was designed to focus on improving the economic development through income-generating programmes for sustainable and self-sufficient livelihoods. The last transition, phase 3 (2018 - 2021), shifted our approach to community empowerment and participation to ensure long-term sustainability of all programmes and interventions.

World Vision implemented key development interventions targeting issues in education, economic development and access to clean water by providing the infrastructure needed. The interventions include constructing water tanks and filters, providing training to improve agricultural productivity, training and necessary equipment to support supplementary sources of income, equipping schools to provide quality education to children, and other activities to alleviate poverty in the community.

The ultimate aim of World Vision's project in Bo Kluea is to bring about sustainable development that can be fully undertaken by the local communities by working in tandem with national agencies and officials.

Support provided for supplementary occupations, like rearing egg-laying hens, to the children's families for income generation and consumption in their households.



Economic Resilience & Food Security

When World Vision started work in Bo Kluea district, preliminary assessment found that the community had the largest number of the poor compared to other communities, with 9 out of 10 people living under the poverty line. Poverty was rife, as poor families struggled with a lack of technical knowledge and skills for farming, low income and lack of infrastructure. Additionally, the hilly terrain made farming difficult as there was a lack of dependable water supply and proper infrastructure.

As such, people were also unable to produce enough food to feed their families. Only 70% of registered children in the community had access to adequate and nutritious food.

To assist families in improving their farming productivity, World Vision provided training on new agricultural methods to boost their knowledge about rice farming. A total of **20 families were trained** to sustainably transfer technical agricultural knowledge to other interested families in the community.

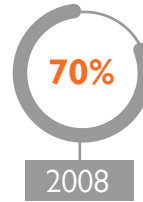
A community learning centre was established as a hub to transfer knowledge regarding supplementary occupations, provide training on fish farming, chicken-rearing and vegetable-growing, among other activities.

Aside from such training, World Vision provided animals and necessary equipment needed to start these supplementary economic activities. Families faced with malnutrition were also given chickens, pigs and vegetables, reducing household expenses and generating extra income. As a result, **100% of children in the community have access to adequate and nutritious food**, and no longer suffer from malnutrition.



1,700 community members benefited from technical skills training on supplementary occupations

Children who have access to adequate and nutritious food:



Study tour for occupational knowledge and skills provided to interested families.



Healthcare

Initially, the community in Bo Kluea was largely unaware of preventive healthcare for their children, and there was a lack of accessibility to healthcare services provided by the government. Limited clean water resources and poor hygiene and poor sanitation practices also resulted in children suffering from infections and diseases that were largely preventable. World Vision implemented a **healthcare mobilization network** for people in Bo Kluea community, a collaborative initiative involving government health agencies, hospitals, health centres, healthcare organizations and village health volunteer groups to mobilize healthcare efforts across 23 villages, ranging from surveillance, to education and necessary follow-ups. **Families with malnourished children participated in the Breakfast project**, providing parents with ingredients and cooking equipment needed to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for their children. As a result, the rate of stunting and malnutrition in children has decreased significantly.



The healthcare network, with the district public health department, jointly promoted proper health management to all households.



Stunting in children under 5 years old



Malnutrition in children under 5 years old



Children aged 0-6 years old have **age-appropriate development**



Children **vaccinated** against Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Polio & other diseases





Clean and sufficient water supply for daily consumption was made accessible to children and families.



Water & Sanitation

Around 40% of Bo Kluea area consists of hilly terrain, which makes accessibility to water for drinking and irrigation purposes even more difficult. Farmers had to rely on rainwater to irrigate crops, which resulted in crop failure during the dry season, affecting their income greatly. Families also suffered from a lack of supply of water for daily consumption due to poor accessibility to water and a lack of proper water filtration equipment. World Vision stepped in to provide clean water sources to the community and schools **by constructing water tanks and wells, and providing water filtration systems. The community received training on water source management, supervision, preservation as well as guidelines for basic repair and maintenance of the water system.** Latrines were also constructed and training on sanitation management was conducted to improve the communities' knowledge on household sanitation management.



30 villages benefited from the formation of water system management committees



Education

Children in Bo Kluea had limited access to quality education when the project first started. The journey to school itself was a treacherous one due to constant rainfall, resulting in mudslides and uneven surfaces along the roads. Children under 5 were often deprived of early childhood education as parents would bring their young children along when they search for work in other districts during the dry season or after the harvest to supplement the family income. Additionally, schools lacked the educational necessities and training for teachers to provide a holistic education for children. World Vision provided **transport fares for children** to cover long distances to travel to school. **Dormitories were also constructed** and equipped to ensure easier access to education. **113 teachers were equipped** with sufficient educational materials, media and equipment to support the students' functional literacy skills. In addition, World Vision supports educational bursaries for children to complete their education. **Learning camps** were held to improve the reading, writing and numeracy skills of children.



Use of instructional media for the learning development of primary school students.

To tackle the issue of the lack of life skills and occupational training for youths in the community, schools were supported to provide **life skills training** in activities like growing crops, rearing livestock or other alternative occupations that they may be interested in pursuing. **Youth core leader groups**, together with local government organisations and schools, led efforts in youth group activities that involved the enhancement of life skills, such as leadership and communication skills, as well as vocational training to increase their readiness for future career options. **Youth committees** were also involved in community advocacy activities that addressed issues like child protection at the village, sub-district and district level, by working closely together with the local government and relevant stakeholders.



86.47% of primary school children have achieved the literacy skill passing standard

1,240 children benefited from learning camps

1,270 youths received occupational and life skills training



Occupational skills training for youth in schools.

“You made my dream come true”



Patchareeporn, nicknamed Chamot, grew up in a household of 4 consisting of her parents and younger brother. Her parents struggled to make ends meet, working as rice farmers and taking on daily-wage jobs, living day by day with low and unstable income.

According to Loi, Chamot’s mother, **“Our family was very poor. We had a small rice field but no backyard for any extra crop-raising activities. When we finished rice farming, we got any wage-paid jobs available, like working in plantations or manning orchards, and not every day was that job made available.”**

Fortunately, Chamot enrolled into World Vision’s sponsorship programme when she was in kindergarten. During her primary and secondary school years, she received educational necessities, such as educational kits, school bags and school uniforms, and benefited from the various interventions that World Vision implemented in the community.

Chamot’s mother shared, **“We saved up some money for the children’s education and got the government’s educational loan too. When the children were young, World Vision supported our family in many aspects so that we could reduce our expenses and use our income to support our children’s education.”**



Chamot was able to complete her education with World Vision’s support, even furthering her studies to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Chamot was able to fulfil her dreams to become a teacher, allowing her a chance to give back to her community and provide other children a chance to fulfil their dreams too.



The family also received training and tools needed for supplementary income, like chicken-rearing and vegetable-growing, providing the family with food for consumption and supplementing their household income. As a result of World Vision's support, Chamot, now 23, graduated from the Bachelor of Arts Programme in Sports Management from Thailand National Sports University (Chiang Mai Campus). Upon graduating, Chamot has returned to Bo Kluea and is giving back to her community by teaching in a local school in the community.

“I am really happy to be a World Vision sponsored child. I was very glad whenever World Vision staff handed out educational necessities to me, like educational kits, uniforms and school bags. I had a dream to become a teacher. When I had a chance to further my studies in university, I chose to study sports, a field which I like. I want to be a Physical Education teacher. I like playing sports and I am glad to work in a nearby school so that I can look after my parents and brother, and also to teach children in the community. I am so happy!” Chamot said happily.

Chamot's world was changed because of the opportunities World Vision and her sponsor provided to her, unlocking her potential and allowing her a chance to pursue her dreams.

“ I am grateful to my sponsor for your support, it is because of you that I had good opportunities given to me. Without your help, my parents would have so much more difficulty supporting the family. I wish you happiness. I will work hard to develop myself and the village as best as I can. Thank you! ”



**We couldn't have
done it without you.
Thank you!**

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