

annual
review
2016

Rights of Migrants in Action

The Life Skills Development Foundation: Reaching for Improved Access to Services and Employment Opportunities for Shan Migrant Domestic Workers in Northern Thailand

Project timeframe: February 2016 – November 2017

Key features

The project of the Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF) works to increase the efficacy and reach of the Core team, composed by Shan migrants, to improve migrant workers' access to services by establishing a 24-hour hotline, training a network of response team volunteers and setting up career advancement centres in five satellite field offices in the districts most populated by migrants.

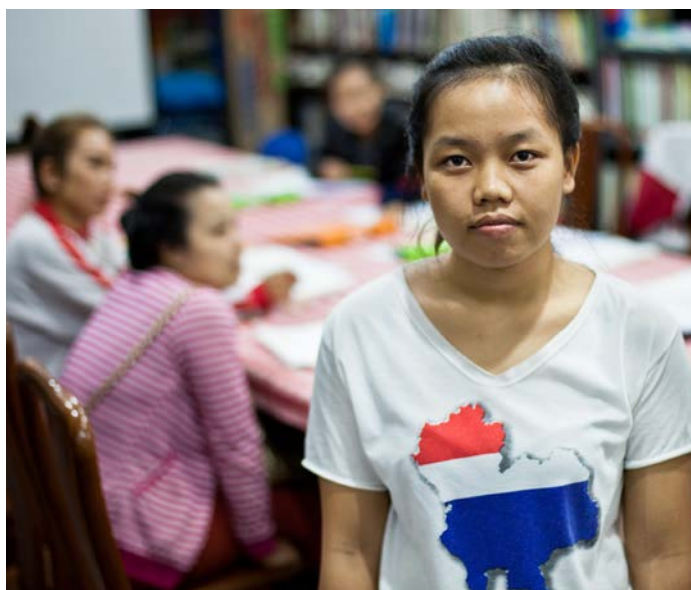
In 2016, all five Career Advancement Centers (CACs) were successfully established in five district areas in Chiang Mai Province: Muang, Sansai, Sankampaeng, Hang Dong, and Doi Saket.

The Centers are fully equipped and ready for the core team and volunteers to provide planned services to Shan migrants. One of the most effective and popular services has been the language class, which is offered in Thai and English for language skill enhancement and development, enabling attendees to broaden their career opportunities and to communicate more powerfully with different groups. Additionally, TLSDF team organised life skills training workshops for community members that teach skills like dish washing



liquid and liquid detergent making, vegetable gardening, and indoor fish farming to help develop individuals' livelihoods. Through workshops like these, beneficiaries can save the costs of some daily expenses and learn skills that will help with income advancement.

The services of the CACs and the presence of the RISE program has become increasingly recognized and appreciated in the community. The core team has conducted a strong public relations campaign mostly through radio broadcasting and site visits, primarily targeting factory areas and residential communities on construction sites. As the number of Shan workers who have participated in the RISE program, the core team has started another activity with the PR campaign by distributing dishwashing and laundry detergent to other Shan communities to share a sample of the products made during the trainings and show people what the centers provide. These efforts have made project target audience increasingly involved and aware of the DG DEVCO-supported program, and they all show interest in participating in CAC activities.



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This project is funded by
the European Union

In addition to the information being shared about the activities, the project team received 154 phone calls with people inquiring about work permits, passports, and other similar issues. This evidence shows that the RISE program and activities are increasingly known by Shan people living in the target areas, and that the centers are seen as the go-to-resource for a variety of problems.




Another responsibility of the core team has been to conduct case response and case management, which has been occurring more frequently since all the centers have been established. Their main activity has been to identify cases, collect data and reports, counsel Shan migrants in need, and assist in all cases. Most of the reports deal with health problems and need urgent help, and the RISE program has been able to provide prompt problem solving for these dire cases.

Besides the activities provided for the beneficiaries, TLSDF also supports building the capacity of core team. Specifically, the project team organized two training sessions which focused on migrant rights and human rights, how to manage and run projects, com-

munication and cooperation strategies within teams, background on the RISE program for the volunteers; and on the case management and case conference strategies. Weekly meetings are held with the core team and aim to discuss many diverse topics with the core team to help develop and improve the skills they will need to lead the centers, such as budget spending, activities planning, and following up on case management. The core team attends all weekly meetings, and feels that these trainings are useful for their work and project implementation.



Number of people reached in 2016

Activity				Indirect recipients
Trainings and workshops with MWF, core team and volunteers for centers set up	16	8		
Core team and volunteer capacity building	15	7		
Languages classes	24	54	9	1930
Vocational workshops	12	23		
Public Relations activities	Number of radio audiences and community visits reached over 3,000 people from September – December 2016			
Case incident reports (includes counseling and provided assistance)	9	4	2	8

Looking ahead to 2017

Expand service provision in all centers

Language classes and vocational training workshops will be available for beneficiaries in all five centers.

Establish apprentice trainings for core team and volunteers

The core team and several volunteers will participate in workshops with other experts and NGOs who have knowledge in a variety of topics, so that they can strengthen their skill set and capacity to provide services in the district centers.

Conduct public relations campaigns

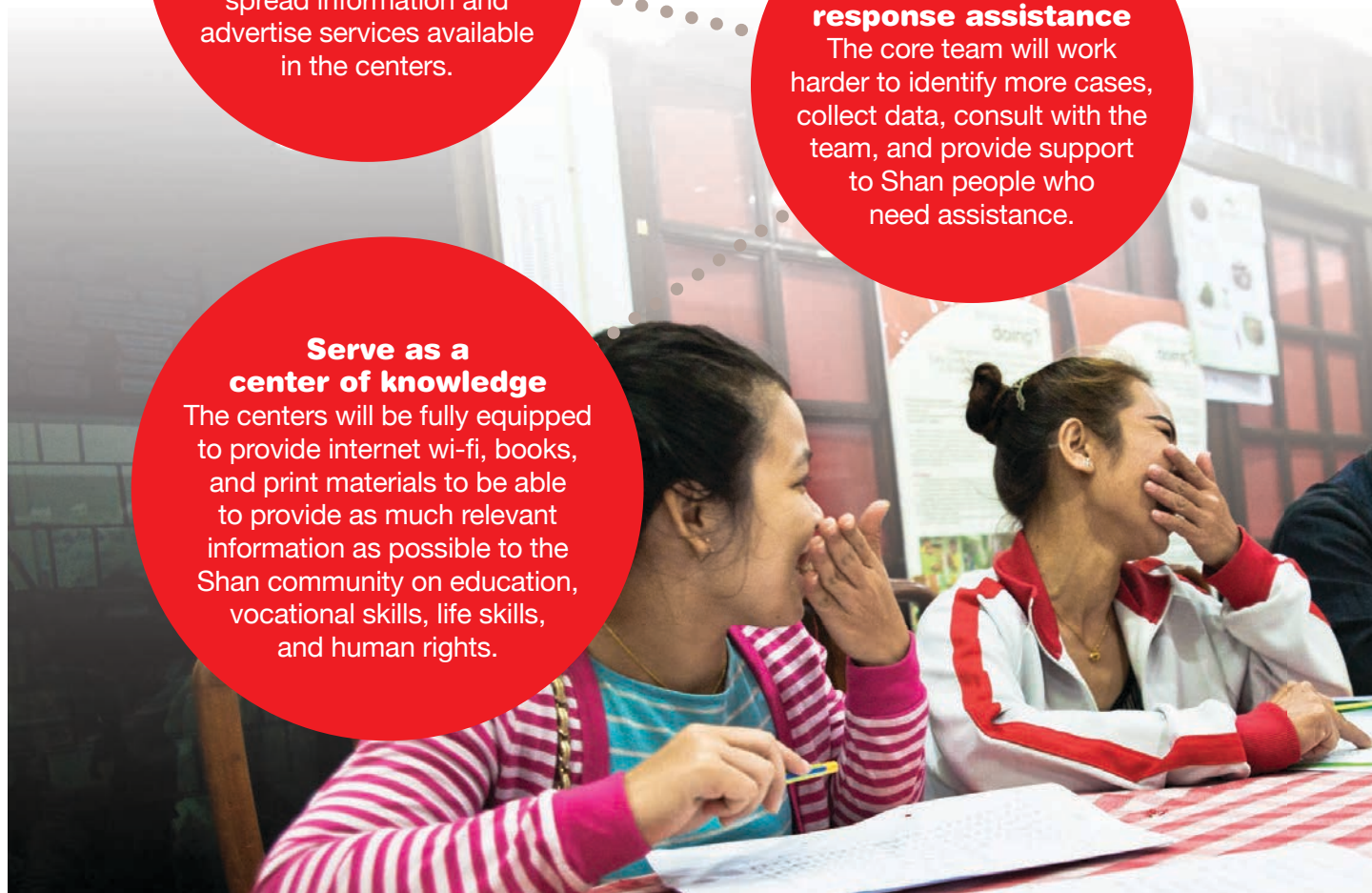
The radio broadcast and field visits in the Shan community will be used to spread information and advertise services available in the centers.

Provide case response assistance

The core team will work harder to identify more cases, collect data, consult with the team, and provide support to Shan people who need assistance.

Serve as a center of knowledge

The centers will be fully equipped to provide internet wi-fi, books, and print materials to be able to provide as much relevant information as possible to the Shan community on education, vocational skills, life skills, and human rights.





“I’ve been participating in the activities since the center opened because I was just so interested in all the ideas and activities that the core team and program started. The first project I joined was making the dish washing liquid. Now that I know how to make it, I can make something that I use and save money that I would normally spend, which is so good and helpful. I was even more excited when my daughter enrolled me in the Thai class that the centers offer, because I couldn’t read and write Thai well. I’ve been attending Thai class for 2 months now, and I can see how much better I’ve gotten in writing and reading Thai. I’m so proud of myself. This month, I already registered for the English class the

center offers, because I want to improve my English skills to be able to communicate with foreign customers. I’m happy, and it’s a great place to meet friends. Everyone is so friendly and very helpful. I want to encourage all my friends to join the activities, as it’s such a welcoming place and it’s all free. Thank you so much to the program supporters. I don’t know how to repay them. Right now, I try to do my best by focusing on the lessons and bringing food to share with all my friends. I’m sure I will absolutely join the next activity, as it is very useful and I enjoy participating in this program very much.”

- Ying, 47-year-old female, current occupation: selling coconuts.



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