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## **Project Title: From Garden to Market – Empowering People**

### **Brief Project Description**

To establish a garden at the Hand to Hand housing community (Baan Ruang Muang Maprung) as a learning centre for local unemployed or underemployed people to learn to grow Thai herbs mushrooms and vegetables to sell and feed families. The residents at the Baan Ruang Muang Maprung have been growing vegetables, herbs and flowers in small garden beds since May 2019. We have been successful at growing edible plants in smaller quantities including lemon grass, kale, eggplant, passionfruit and more. This produce has helped to feed the residents as well as having a small surplus to sell at the local market. We have knowledge of the type of ground which is a hard sandy clay base and based on this we understand that raised garden beds will need to be built and top soil added to create good growing conditions.

The garden will be open to 6 students, who will be taught gardening skills and will be responsible for caring for their patch of gardening land. The students will also be trained in budgeting and sales skills to build their own businesses for the future.

Each student will be responsible for taking this knowledge and resources to a poor slum community in the Pattaya area to help the residents establish their own community garden, turning wasteland into productive spaces providing food and building strong communities.

The local market is 5 minutes from the Baan Runag Muang Maprung housing where goods can easily be sold fresh on a daily basis. Research shows our product will stand out in the market.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **1.The prevention of hunger, and the improvement of livelihood security.**

Our foundation works with families and individuals who are marginalised in society due to poverty, a lack of education and unemployment. Adding to this issue, they often lack proper house registration which is required to apply for employment and government assistance schemes. These people live in slum communities in the Pattaya area without much hope of being able to improve their life circumstances. The

Garden to Market- Feeding the Poor project is designed to provide them with skills to grow their own food in small spaces using minimal space, minimal water and minimal expertise. Additional training will enable them to cook 'nam prik' which will then be sold at the local market, thus leading to providing an income for their families. This 2 pronged approach will help to alleviate hunger and provide livelihood security.

## **2.Improved access and control of resources for marginalised communities.**

People who live in the poor slum communities not only lack education and training but they also lack resources that enable them to embark on income producing activities.

By providing this group of people with a new start in food growing, we will assist them and their community by providing a new and sustainable food source as well as a source of income. Our aim is to reduce their reliance on food handouts from organisations such as Hand to Hand Foundation, and also ensure that during holiday seasons when most assistance programs are not available these people will have continued access to food and income.

### **The objectives are as follows:**

1. Lay a pathway to eradicate minor flooding and erosion which could possibly affect the gardens.
2. Appoint a lead coordinator for the project.
3. Appoint 6 main gardeners who will be trained to grow quick growing produce at the Baan Ruang Muang Maprang.
4. Collaborate with experts from the Meechai Bamboo School to plan and plant gardens.
5. Build a shade cover to protect the gardens.
6. Prepare garden beds for planting of edible plants.
7. Plant crops and care for them until ready for harvest.
8. Provide food for the residents at Baan Ruang Muang Maprung
9. Sell produce at the local market and to local restaurants.
10. Train people from 5 slum communities in Pattaya to grow edible plants.

Invite international schools and other NGO and government organisations to participate in the project.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. Training for the Hand to Hand participants will have been done by the volunteers from the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation.
2. Areas for growing plants will provide adequate shade and protection for gardens to be constructed.
3. An eco friendly composting system will be set up to reduce the amount of waste and provide nourishment for the gardens.
4. Baan Ruang Muang Maprung gardens will be producing edible plants that will help feed the residents and can be sold in the market place to provide income support for 6 gardeners.
5. Residents from 5 slum areas in Pattaya will be trained how to grow edible plants and resources donated to establish food gardens in each of these communities.
6. Within each slum community a leader will be trained to ensure equitable labour and sharing of the harvest.

7. Five slum areas in Pattaya will have their own community gardens producing food for the residents to share and eat.
8. A successful collaboration with international schools in Pattaya and Bangkok giving students an opportunity to implement environmental studies in a real life situation, raise funds and complete community service requirements for their graduation.
9. Collaborate with the local Banglamung government district who would like to build a model around this program with the hope of replicating it elsewhere.

**Project Start Date: October, 2020**

**Project Duration:**

Garden set up: 3 months

First 6 students trained with harvest ready for market: 8 months

Review of first round of training: mid 2021

Second in-take of students: October 2021

The aim is to have a new in-take of students every 6-8 months and for the project to be ongoing.

**Sustainable Food Growing (Began May, 2019)**

We have involved the community at the Hand to Hand housing (Baan Ruang Muang Maprung) to grow edible plants for both consumption of the community residents and also to sell at the local market. In addition to this, we have established small community gardens in local slum areas, providing the resources and the training for people to have their own small garden to grow food.

These 'mini' gardens were established with the support and partnership with local St Andrews International School and Regent's International School Pattaya. The students grew seedlings which were then dispersed throughout the slum communities we visit each week to expand the small community gardens. Banglamung government officials have also been keen to help us establish this program and they have provided seeds which have been distributed by us to the communities.

Khun Mechai Pattana founded the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation in 1974 and he has successfully established an education system for disadvantaged children from Burma and Thailand with the assistance of the Royal Patronage and the Bill Gates Foundation. Their vision is to provide not only education but also life long learning. A major part of this is to teach the students to grow their own food and also construct buildings using natural resources such as bamboo so they will be self sufficient when they return to their families. Khun Mechai has agreed to assist us with the set up of our local gardens as he has experienced decades of success in this area. Please refer to their website <http://www.mechaifoundation.org/> for more information.

**Participants:**

**Project Leader**

Sunny Atitya is a single mum who has a son in university studying engineering and he is currently on our scholarship program. Sunny has been a resident at our Baan Runag Muang Maprung housing estate since May 2018 and she has proved herself to be a very reliable leader in the community. She has been entrusted with the supervision and management of the tools for our furniture making project and she has been very successful in making furniture herself and managing the small team of craftsman. She enjoys gardening and she has been a key person in helping us set up the small edible gardens we currently have established. Sunny will be employed by the foundation at 6000 baht per month. She has free housing and food at the Baan Ruang Muang Maprung housing estate.

### **Gardeners**

There will be 6 gardeners and these people will be chosen from adults in our current support programs. This includes residents from the Baan Ruang Muang Maprang housing estate, pre school parents, scholarship parents and members of the slum community. Both male and female candidates will be considered. The candidates will be chosen based on due diligence they have displayed whilst being supported by our programs, interest in gardening, physical ability and fitness to be involved in such work, in need of income and a willingness to sign a contract to be in the program for at least 12 months. These 6 beneficiaries will be given free training and resources. When the produce is sold at the market they are entitled to keep 50% of the gross income, with 25% being invested back into the project and 25% being invested into the new garden projects in the slum communities. An estimated number of beneficiaries in this group would be 12 adults and 12 children.

### **Baan Ruang Muang Maprung**

The residents of this community will also participate in the program assisting with the watering and caring for the plants. Adults and children who assist will be given produce to help provide food for their families. The allocation of this produce will be at the discretion of the project leader Sunny. There are 24 beneficiaries.

### **Slum Communities**

Each of the 6 farmers will be assigned to a slum community to reach, teach and mobilise the residents into growing food. Below are the community areas with the minimum number of beneficiaries. This will increase as the project develops.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
Goh Pai Slum	20	30
Nong Yai Slum	16	16
Khao Talo Slum	20	36
Hua Yai Slum	24	17
Pluta Luang Slum	30	20

### **Other successful projects:**

Based in Pattaya Thailand, Hand to Hand is an organization that recognises human rights apply to all age groups. We seek to protect those who are marginalised regardless of their race, age or religion. We achieve this by showing providing services and support. This includes clothing, medical support, housing, education and assistance in legal documentation.

Hand to Hand began in January 2009 as a small unregistered organization feeding the children and adults in the local lock ups. By August 2009 we had begun to care for children and their families from the local slums by providing food, water, and medicines. We also began a free preschool program to educate the children who had no access to schools, as well as an after school program.

In October, 2010 Hand to Hand became a registered foundation with the Thai government (registration number Chor Bor 11). By this time, we were assisting the poor in local hospitals, providing a kids club and scholarships to children from the slums. The focus of the foundation is keeping families together by providing for their needs. Many of these parents would have abandoned their child into an orphanage simply so that they can have access to education, food and housing.

Since we began, Hand to Hand has worked with the Thai government, police, social welfare and other NGOs to develop and implement programs.

**Internet Safety Campaign (2011- 2012)** Hand to Hand developed an implementation of an internet safety campaign sponsored by the British 'International Child Protection Network' (ICPN), 'Child Exploitation and Online Protection' (CEOP), Pattaya City Sports Club and Pattaya City government.

*Funding given by Pattaya Sports Club for the project was 55, 000 baht*

**Child Safe Organisation Campaign (August 2013- 2014)** In 2013-14 the Hand to Hand Foundation ran a child protection training program which continued for 8 months. This program was sponsored by 'End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism' (ECPAT) and the Pattaya City government. At the completion of the project every participating organisation had written and implemented a child protection policy in their organisation/school.

*Funding given by Pattaya Sports Club for the project was 169, 290 baht.*

**Housing Development Grant Baan Ruang Muang Maprang (2016- 2018)** In February 2017 Hand to Hand applied to receive a grant from the Moody Methodist Endowment Fund in Galveston, Texas USA. A grant of \$100 000 US was given to purchase land and build 8 units to house poor families from the local slum areas. The Hand to Hand Foundation raised an additional \$200 000 US enabling us to complete the project.

The housing estate is now home for 7 families, with 3 of these families becoming foster carers for other children who have become orphaned due to the death of parents. An additional 2 children are also fostered by families in this community as they have been abandoned by their parents. We are providing short term care whilst the social welfare officers plan the best options for their futures.

One of the rooms is used by the social welfare officers of Banglamung to interview child abuse and neglect victims as it is equipped with CCTV cameras. It is also used for Hand to Hand Foundation administration and meetings with government officials.

*Funding given by the Moody Methodist Endowment Fund for the project was 3,200,000 baht.*

*Additional funds raised by individual sponsorships 4,000,000 baht*

**Furniture Making (October 2018 till present time)** In October 2018 several hundred wooden pallets were donated and some unemployed people began to pull them apart and make simple stools for use at Hand to Hand Foundation. In January 2019 Bosch, Thailand offered to help with tools and training to enable the workers to build furniture that was stronger and saleable.

By the end of 2019 we had sold many pieces of furniture which provided an income for a single dad, and 5 other workers. An additional donation of quality second hand tools was donated by Bosch.

*Funding given by Bosch Thailand for the project was 7,000 euros.*

**Cooking School (Began in May 2019)** Bosch Thailand generously donated an oven, mixer and other cooking supplies. This is an ongoing training project for unskilled and unemployed people. This has also expanded into teaching unemployed and unskilled women to cook not only cakes and biscuits but also basic Thai dishes. Some of these students are now using these skills to sell food at the local markets and are able to generate a small income to feed their families.

In addition to this foreigners have been welcomed to the community kitchen to learn to make some basic Thai recipes. Groups pay 10,000 baht for the day and enough food is cooked to host a small banquet. The poor from the Baan Ruang Muang Maprung and local area are invited to join the banquet for free. In this way we are able to provide a unique Thai experience and feed the poor at the same time