Chiang Mai Private Children’s Homes Research & Survey

Operated by  MSDHS & Alternative care Thailand (ACT)

Supported By  World Childhood Foundation, Sweden
The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has developed a National Action Plan on Alternative Care for Children, Phase 1 (Also referred to as the Alternative Care Roadmap) with the aim of strengthening families, protecting children from being unnecessarily separated from their family, and reducing the use of institutional residential care in order to transfer the care for children back to their original families and communities.

Mr. Juti Krairerk
Minister of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
Goal

To survey and study the nature of and operation of private children's homes in Chiang Mai Province. To be a model for Thailand in the process of documenting private children’s homes.

To help the government identify and supervise the operation of private children’s homes in accordance with the UN guidelines for alternative care.
Children list

PMJ CM

Online survey

Alternative Care Thailand (2015-Now)

Member list

Chiang Mai private Children home association

Survey Team

Not known about before the survey

MSDHS CM

119

ACT

198

CCHA

79

65

Three existing sources were combined

Not on any list before the survey
March-May

1. Project proposal
2. Gather and review data, design questions, learn tools
3. Prepare document

(Pretest)

June

July-October

Oct-Nov

Summarize & analyze

** 5 collectors traveled by car and motorcycle for a total distance of 10,487 kilometers.**
Data collection plan for all 25 districts in Chiang Mai Province, starting from the center of Chiang Mai city, outside and remote areas.

7 districts in the city area

- Muang
- Sansai
- Doi Saket
- Mae Rim
- Saraphi
- Hang Dong
- San Khamphaeng

6 districts near by the city area

- San Pa Tong
- Chom Thong
- Mae Wang
- Mae Taeng
- Mae On
- Phrao

9 district far from the city area

- Up north
  - Chiang Dao
  - Chai Prakan
  - Fang
  - Mae Ai

- Eastern side
  - Samoeng
  - Galayani Vadhana

- Down south
  - Hod
  - Omkoi
  - Mae Chaem
Guideline questions to collect data

1. General information, location, year of operation, contact coordinator
2. Projects and activities of the organization
3. The number of children, Boys & Girls, and the problematic state of the children
4. Number of personnel, qualifications and expertise
5. Model and operation
6. Problems, Obstacles, and Suggestions
Information overview
number summaries Private child shelters in each district, Chiang Mai Province

- 175 active private children’s homes were identified
- 143 agreed to be interviewed
- 32 homes refused to be interviewed
- 1 district where we found no private childcare facility (Doi Tao)
- 2 districts (San Kamphaeng and Mae On) found only one
survey results

- Identified 203 children’s private children’s homes
- 28 homes have closed
- 175 homes still operating,
- 59 have been registered,
- 2 registered according to the Human Trafficking law Act,
- 57 registered according to the Child Protection Act
- 143 homes took part in interviews
- 32 refused to take part
Discover
Among 175 homes identified how many were registered?

- Yes 116 (66%)
- No 59 (34%)

89% related to Christian organizations, such through funding or applying religious principles to children.

Among 143 interviewed, 133 (94%) operated by an organization.

- Foundation 93
- Religious organization 35
- Another type of organization 5
- Individually 10

Characteristics of Private Children's Homes in Chiang Mai Province

Reasons for not receiving a license:
- 19: Don’t know how to the process
- 10: Never heard of this requirement
- 8: in the process but not complete yet
- 17: not able to meet the requirements
- 11: have no intention to register
- 28: Other

Working with which group of audience?
- 59: general family
- 59: not specific group
- 33: Children
- 17: Disable illness
- 16: elderly
- 15: Single father/mother
- 8: pregnant mother
- 6: homeless
- 5: People with learning/mental difficulties or illness

Work issue:
- 48: Others
- 46: missionary work
- 44: Goods Welfare
- 37: Scholarship
- 27: Vocation
- 27: Health
- 18: Child Protection
- 5: nationality
- 5: Do not know

Are there others project or activity?
- Yes: 94 (66%)
- No: 49 (34%)
The Children
Who are the children in the residential Care? (Gender, age, and problem)

94 homes (65%) have double orphan
99 homes (70%) have single orphan

But there were 116 children are double orphan or 3%
and there were 363 children are single orphan or 9.6%

The most three common reason for children to be under the care

Two areas stood out:
1. Lack of money and opportunity for education
2. Parents neglected or were incapacitated

Reasons for the children to be in your care

1) Double orphan
2) Single orphan
3) Poverty
4) Lack of educational opportunity
5) Children with physical difficulties or disable
6) Children with learning/mental difficulties or illness
7) At risk of committing crime
8) Homeless or missing children
9) Victims of domestic violence or being exploited and trafficked by the family members
10) At risk or victims of abuse or being exploited and trafficked by non-family members
11) Neglect
12) Parents incapacitated
13) Unhealthy care
14) Parents with behavior issues or illegal
15) Others
Who are the children in the residential Care? (Gender, age, and problem)

- **3,780 Children found in 143 children’s homes**
- **The average number of children in each home is 26.5**
- **Highest number of children reported 6012 and maximum capacity 6366**
- **Estimated number of children from 175 homes is 4,652**

*Anecdotally we believe that covid resulted in a drop in numbers which is now on an upward trend again*
The most common minimum age was:
• From birth or no age limitation
• From 5-6 years old or children in primary school and able to help themselves
• From 12-13 years or attending to middle school

There were 83 children (2.2%) have no identity card at all

The number of children in each facility

- Less than 5 people
- 6-25 people
- 26-50 people
- 51-75 people
- 75-100 people
- Above 100 people
Child Care Provider
(personnel, qualifications, expertise, perspective)
Reported in interviews with 143 homes:

- 591 caregivers
- 1,242 other staff and volunteers

An estimate number of 175 homes:

- 723 caregivers
- 1,519 other staff and volunteers

Numbers of the homes that at least have one child specialist:

- Nurse: 42
- Psychologist/Counselor: 47
- Social worker: 48

Rating scale on organization/project’s level of understanding:

- *Most of the homes were confident in their skills more than the principles of working with children*

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<th>3 principles</th>
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<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand Child Projection Act 2546</td>
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<td>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>UN Guidelines for Alternative Care</td>
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<th>4 skills and satisfaction with childcare</th>
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<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
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<td>Case management</td>
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<td>Psychosocial support</td>
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<td>Child development &amp; Child care</td>
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<td>Satisfaction with childcare</td>
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Operation and well-being of children
Operation and well-being of children

Child protection policy

- **81 (57%)** Yes
- **62 (43%)** No

Are children required in the faith based activities?

- **119 (83%)** Required
- **24 (17%)** Not Required

Numbers of homes related to religious practice from the 143 homes

- **127 (89%)** Christian
- **7 (5%)** Others
- **9 (6%)** Not at all

There were 9 registered homes that have no child protection policy. Ministerial regulations strictly highlight the principles and methods of the registration process, but have no mentioned on the child protection policy.

Support needed

Would like from the government

- **105** Training
- **94** Fund
- **74** Visit and care
- **42** Help get license
- **36** Others
- **16** None

Problems and challenges

1. Not enough budget
2. Cannot get a license to operate
3. Behavior issues among children
4. Stateless and undocumented children
5. Not enough staff
6. Lack of qualified or suitably skilled staff
7. Problems with your building/location/facilities
Feedback & suggestion from the children’s homes to the government

- Requirement for cooperation from the government units: 19
- Help to get a license: 18
- Funding/ money and materials/tools: 16
- Communication and partnership with MSDHS.: 15
- Others: 14
- Training and updates from the government: 6
- A support for equal education: 4
Many homes do not have their own nurse and prefer to take their children to the local clinic or hospital when needed.

Many homes claimed that their care-givers could support the children's mental health by using their religious guidelines.

There seems to be a lower number of visitors/volunteers for the homes that are financially supported by one sponsor.

Some ministries run 6-7 homes in different provinces (Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak).
Observation and suggestions from the data collectors

Many of the informants did not fully understand terms and meaning used in alternative care e.g. family strengthening, and reintegration.

There was one children’s home preferring not to show any sign posting of the home to protect their children from being discriminated by outsiders.

A recommendation to review the operating process of the children’s homes to align them more with the UN guidelines for alternative care

Another recommendation is to set a specific time of the year to extend the registration in order to make the work of the MSDHS officers easier and more efficient (e.g. the due date is Dec 31st, but the extension process can start from Oct 1st of every year.)
Teamwork members

Kantamanee Ladaphongphattana  Project consultant
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Thank you for the support of
Chiang Mai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Alternative Care Thailand, and Chiang Mai private children home’s association
Thank you

If you would like to discuss any of these findings or would like to hear more about the work being done since this survey, please contact us via oneskythailand@gmail.com