

#5.SPORT AND PLAY PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES FROM BURMA

RIGHT TO PLAY 2002 - Thailand

<http://righttoplay.or.th/en/our-impact/sport-and-play-program-for-refugees-from-burma.html>

All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.

Topic relevance

PLAYING TOGETHER / YOUTH ORIENTED / EDUCATION

Factor of success CREATING OWNERSHIP

Type INITIATIVE/PROJECT

Language English

Target population

Children and young refugees living in camps.

Further information / Contact

www.righttoplay.or.th/en

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Synthesis of the good example

The Sport and Play Program for Refugees from Birma (Myanmar) in Thailand seeks to address a number of key challenges that present barriers to the holistic development of children and youth in a refugee setting. The main aim is that children and youth in schools in the camps benefit from regular play and sport based learning activities. These activities are aligned with specific learning outcomes that promote healthy physical, emotional and social well-being. Right to Play's teachers and coaches combine sports, critical reflection, play and local action to activate personal healing, increasing the children's capacity to make meaning of the conflict and improve their social learning. The program is designed with the following objectives: provide regular and inclusive sport and play activities to improve the physical, emotional and social well-being of refugee children and youth/ improve and support quality basic education for students in the seven refugee camps along the Thailand-Burma/Myanmar border/ facilitate progress towards sustainable education solutions by enhancing cooperation collaboration networking and policy discussions amongst relevant stakeholders.

Context and approach

This project, developed by Right to Play, uses the power of play to develop critical life skills in children which support their physical, intellectual and social development and drive quality education, child protection, peaceful communities, gender equality and health and well-being. Their unique approach to play-based learning keeps children safe and healthy, improves educational outcomes, creates equal opportunities for girls and boys and builds bridges between diverse communities.

Highlights and outcomes

It is a good example on how games improve the life quality of refugees living on camps. Educational games engage children to participate in the programs, and encourages them to examine their experiences, relate those experiences to what they already know and apply that learning to their daily lives. This strategy helps children adopt and maintain lifelong healthy behaviours and attitudes. This good example will help you to understand: how children learn best when they are experiencing lessons through play/how to promote inclusion and builds gender-positive attitudes/how play and educational games provides refugee and host-children with an outlet to express themselves and create positive interactions with one another/how to break down the barriers of social isolation and even, the depression they may be experiencing as a newcomer settling into a new country, community, culture and life/how to create a safe environment where they can share their thoughts and feelings openly with their host-city peers.

Information about project/organisation's holder

Right to play is a global organization, using the transformative power of play to educate and empower children and youth. Through playing sports and games, they teach children essential life skills that will help them overcome the effects of poverty, conflict and disease in disadvantaged communities, so that they can create better futures and drive lasting social change in their communities and beyond. Founded in 2000 by four-time Olympic gold medalist and social entrepreneur Johann Olav Koss, their programs are facilitated by more than 15,800 local volunteer Coaches and more than 550 international staff. The programs are specifically designed to provide kids the knowledge and skills they need to overcome adversity. They focus on creating positive, sustainable change in four areas: quality education, health practices, peaceful communities and gender equality. They work in more than 20 countries around the world in both development and humanitarian contexts.