



## Appeal Letter

### For Funding for KWO's Early Childhood and Special Education Lunch Program

Date: 15th March 2019

**As of April 2019, KWO will no longer receive support for the lunch programme provided through our Early Childhood Education project and Special Education project.** The Border Consortium (TBC), a long term supporter of the communities in the refugee camps, providing crucial support in terms of nutrition, shelter and camp management, is no longer able to fund this. Over the last 5 years TBC has had to make a series of cuts to support for the refugees, including food support and shelter, as donors began withdrawing their support for the refugee camps and focused their aid on work inside Burma.

**KWO does not want to cut the lunch programme. Now more than ever, the vulnerable in the camps, need our support.**

The **Special Education Project** is the **only service for children under 13 years old with disabilities.** Our project promotes Inclusive Education, conducts play sessions and home visits and supports the families of the disabled, including very young children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to malnutrition. Our lunches, provided 5 days a week, give the children a crucial and stable source of nutritious food. **We are deeply concerned that stopping the lunch programme will have adverse effects on children and their families, both in terms of mental and physical health. Currently 320 children with disabilities benefit from these daily lunches.**



**Our Early Childhood Education project, provides pre-schoolers from 2 to 5 years old with a daily nutritious meal. We know that good nutrition at this young stage of life is imperative for the development of children mental and physical health. We have similar concerns about the health and development of our 1,792 nursery children.**

**For families of young children and for those with children with disabilities, the stopping of school lunches will be very stressful.** In recent years, everyone in the camps has faced serious cuts to their food rations. Every family is struggling to provide adequate nutrition, more people are needing to seek work outside the camps to find money to supplement their incomes. We are seeing higher levels of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and crime. Parents of young children and children with disabilities, often cannot seek work outside of the camps, as they cannot leave their children. We have seen so many cases of disabled children with malnutrition. **We are gravely concerned about how ration cuts and potential cuts to the lunch programme will impact on the most vulnerable in the camps.**

**We believe that the lunch programme provides essential nutrition for the children it serves and takes some of the stress from the parents.**

**KWO is therefore urgently seeking a grant and donations towards this lunch programme in the camps. To continue to provide these lunches, we need to raise 1.8 million baht (approx. USD 56,000), this works out to USD31 per child per year.**

**This letter will be difficult to read however we feel it is important to let you know of the challenges we are facing in the schools with regards to funding so you can better understand what is happening to us. We appeal to you for help. You can help us by directly providing personal donation for these children and or share this letter within your network or around people you know.**

**Thank you!**

**From KWO Central**

**For more information: Contact KWO at [kwocentral@gmail.com](mailto:kwocentral@gmail.com)**