



Quarterly Report (January-March 2008)
Cross-border Project Against
Trafficking and Exploitation
of Migrant and Vulnerable Children



Save the Children
UK

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Community Advocacy for Child Protection

Rights to nationality

During the Stateless Children's Day organised by Development Centre for Children and Community Network (DCCN), stateless children at the north western border of Thailand in Mae Hong Son Province shared their feelings about their situation and requested the government to look at their problem carefully and take action seriously. The event combined fun and advocacy work in one. Local musicians performed a concert near the banks of Salween River while the field visit of authorities at all level was conducted in the community. This is a breakthrough for policy implementation as policy makers had witnessed how people who do not have nationality suffer. They promised to take care of the birth registration issues closer.

Reaching Migrant Children and Promoting their Rights through Songs

At the beginning of this year, the Cross-border Project supported InSight Out, a creative project for migrant children, in hosting the Durgas, a band from Germany, to perform six mini concerts to migrant children at learning centres, schools and clinic along the border of Thailand and Myanmar in Tak province. Their concert is a part of "Make it Happen" campaign that brought them to many countries in Asia to promote the healing forces of music to children. The performance of the Durgas brought joy to the children although they could not speak the same language. The trip of the Durgas served as Save the Children's entry point into this new target prov-

ince of the project. Through the concert, Save the Children was able to get in touch with community groups and organisations in the area who are potential partners and targets for the child protection programme. Mae Sod in Tak province is home to thousands of Burmese refugees and undocumented migrants and for many years had been one of the main entry routes for trafficked persons.

Contests to draw children's involvement

The drawing contest took place in Vietnam covering the issues of trafficking, child abuse and child labour. 2412 pictures were sent in and 36 awards were given to participants. The youngest participant was 9 years old. The children's drawing were later published as a picture package and developed as an IEC tools to use in peer education activities for children.

In China, fourteen children from primary schools in Yiliqi township of Xinjiang Province participated in speech contest on child protection at the government meeting room. The speeches reflected how children understand trafficking issues and how do they use skills and knowledge they have gained from the project to protect themselves. The competitors also gave useful suggestions on how they would like to improve the children centres. Moreover, the judges, who were children and adults, could test the competitors' knowledge by asking questions to make sure that they really understand protection issues. There were 150 children and parents attended this contest.

