



Report for
Higher Education Program (GED)
2019-20

Submitted by
BEAM Education Foundation

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Executive Summary

What the program will do:	BEAM's Higher Education GED Program will teach 34 students math, science, social studies and language arts to pass the GED exam in March of 2020.
Who will benefit:	34 students from underprivileged migrant backgrounds will directly benefit. The migrant communities in Thailand and home communities in Myanmar will also be indirect beneficiaries as our students volunteer and give back.
Where the program takes place:	Teaching activities will take place at BEAM Education Foundation in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
When the program will end:	Students will begin taking their GED exams in March 2020 . Some students may be allowed to start earlier or later, depending on teacher recommendations.
Why the project is important:	Without access to higher education, these students will be shut out of better career opportunities and better life opportunities . This is a major contributor to generational poverty . BEAM helps students get accreditation, find scholarships, gain the confidence to become community leaders, learn critical thinking skills, and improve their language and cultural understanding to live in a global world.

1. Background

Currently, Thailand hosts about 3 million migrants from Myanmar, which is around 5% of Thailand's overall population, mostly in northern cities like Chiang Mai. This population makes significant contributions to the Thai economy by working in agricultural, industrial, and service sectors. 65 percent of this population is between the ages of 18 to 25, and mainly come from rural ethnic communities of Myanmar. Due to their status as migrant workers, which is oftentimes a tenuous legal status, there are many barriers for migrants to access to social services including education.

BEAM Education Foundation (BEAM) was founded in 2010 as a registered non-profit educational foundation responding to the rising educational needs of mostly Burmese migrants and refugee youth living in Thailand. BEAM envisions local, people-oriented, peaceful, and developed communities in Myanmar and Thailand sustained by empowered local communities and comprehensive education. Since 2010, we have proved that migrant youth have a high potential to become leaders and bring positive change in their communities - especially in marginalized border communities with the fewest opportunities and least development.

BEAM has run the GED Program as part of the Higher Education Preparation and Community Young Leaders Development Program since 2013. This program is designed to provide migrants and border youth with a classroom for pursuing accredited education, professional development training, research training, internship and community impact projects, and an ASEAN youth network. BEAM has extensive experience in training youth for pursuing higher education, professional development, building professional networks, and empowering them to engage in community service.

2. GED Program for Higher Education

The GED (General Education Development) exam, an American-based and internationally recognized non-formal high school diploma course, allows students without a formal education background to receive an official high school diploma which can then be used for accessing tertiary education. The GED exam has four subject tests: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science. The exam is conducted entirely online, and includes one essay response.

The GED Program at BEAM Education Foundation is a one-year program, aiming to prepare the students to pass their examinations and apply for college and university. BEAM's academic year begins in May with one month of academic preparation courses, followed by three 4-month terms. Classes are provided both in the morning (9am – 12pm) and in the evening (6pm – 9pm) sessions. Students are free to choose the session that best fits their schedules. Additional classes are offered in the afternoons and on the weekends. Students are encouraged to start taking their official GED exams in May and April, although some students may test earlier or later, depending on teacher recommendations.

Migrant students from many different ethnic groups in Myanmar come to BEAM Education Foundation to study together with the hopes of achieving recognized high school certificates and applying to international programs at universities. All courses are taught by native English speakers to effectively prepare students for their exams. Beyond the focus on tests and admission to college, students of BEAM Education Foundation increase their knowledge, participation, social interaction, communication, and critical thinking skills.

On 7 May 2019, BEAM Education Foundation commenced a new academic term for the GED program. 34 students were accepted for the 2019-2020 academic year.

2019-2020 Academic Calendar

New Student Orientation	7 May 2019
Academic Preparation	9 – 31 May 2019
Term 1	3 June – 23 August 2019
Term 1 Exams	2 - 7 September 2019
Term 2	9 September – 13 December 2019
Term 2 Exams	16 – 19 December 2019
Term 3 (some students begin taking GED)	6 January – 20 March 2020
Term 3 Exams	23 – 26 March 2020
Students complete official GED exam	27 March – 30 April 2020

3. Teaching Activities

BEAM's curriculum has been using a student-centered teaching approach with connected topics covered in class to real world situations, as this is important for the students' overall comprehension and retention. This also gives students not just a theoretical understanding of each lesson, but also knowledge of its practical application. All teachers give homework assignments and assign projects to encourage independent study.

Subject	Topics Covered
Academic Preparation	Study skills: asking good questions; notetaking; keeping a calendar; speed reading Research: basic research strategies; using Google effectively; trustworthy sources Personal development: goal-setting; responsibility; time management Computer basics: email; Microsoft Word; social media; security and protection Other: how to find and apply to scholarships; how the GED exam works
Math	Numbers and operations: fractions; decimals; percents; whole numbers Measurement: units of measure; mean, median, mode; probability Algebra: simplifying and solving equations; graphing lines; inequalities Geometry: Angles and lines; triangle rules; perimeter, area, volume
Science	Science Basics: scientific method; tools and models; reading diagrams Life Science: classifying organisms; cell structures and processes; inferences Physical Science: scientific laws; chemical equations; observation and prediction Earth and Space Science: scientific theories; understanding 3D diagrams
Social Studies	Geography: types of maps, map components; countries and terrain U.S. History: Revolutionary War to present; American culture Civics and Governance: Democracy; U.S. Constitution; branches of government Economics: Micro/Macro principles; reading graphs and charts
Reasoning Through Language Arts	Grammar: parts of speech; sentence structure; clear language; vocabulary Informational texts: main idea; author's purpose; fact and opinion Fiction texts: Plot and conflict; theme and moral; characterization Reading comprehension: critical thinking; figurative language; summary Writing: Outlining; essay organization; rhetorical devices; supporting detail
Extra classes and activities	Volunteering: tutoring younger students; BK House English Language Cultural Exchange Club Bee's Youth Club Student exchange activities with students in Thailand, USA, and Singapore Youth Leadership Conference

4. BEAM Students



Our current students hosting exchange students from Singapore.

Our students are from diverse backgrounds representing 12 ethnic groups and ages 17 to 33. Most of our students come from the refugee camps in Mae Sot. This year's group is 65 % female and 35% male. All of them passed BEAM's entrance exam and interview to join this year's class.

5. Past Success

27 students from the 2018-2019 BEAM cohort have successfully passed their GED exams. Of these, 11 students have been accepted into university. The others will work, volunteer, and apply for scholarships for one more year before applying to universities.

In 2017-18 academic year, 16 students successfully passed the GED. In the academic year prior, 17 students all passed their GED exams. All these students become and contribute to BEAM's growing alumni network. Currently, according to our students' achievement database, 26 BEAM students have graduated from a 4-year university, and 74 BEAM students are still studying in university. Many BEAM students are working back in their communities as teachers, and health care professionals, NGO workers, small business owners, and in other areas.

6. GED Exam Fees

Through existing partners, donors, and volunteers, BEAM is able to provide free tuition to all students. The GED exam for international students costs US\$300 (\$75 per subject for four subjects).

EXPENSES				
<i>Line Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i># of Students</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
GED Exam Fee	\$ 300.00	34	\$ 10,200.00	The GED exam for international students costs US\$300 (\$75 per subject for four subjects).
INCOME				
Current partners	\$ 300.00	16	\$ 4,800.00	Our current partners have committed to funding 16 students.
Need		18	\$ 5,400.00	We still need to fundraise for 18 more students by March 2020.

In collaboration with Mae Tao Clinic/CDC School and Bracket Foundation, BEAM helps provide some GED students with the funding needed to take the official GED exam in limited budget. BEAM focuses on providing coverage of exam fees for those students who are ready for specific subjects of the GED exam. For instance, once a student is ready to take the math subject, we provide funding for the math exam fee, instead of providing complete coverage for all four subject exams in a lump sum. Every subject teacher formally assesses and guides each student through the test-taking process.

7. Conclusion

With minimal resources and little overhead, BEAM was able to directly impact the lives of 39 youths through this year's CYLD program. Despite challenging backgrounds, these students have or are well on their way to obtaining entrance to higher education. BEAM staff, teachers, and students have worked very hard to not only prepare these students for the GED test, but to also expand their

worldviews, excel at university, and gain leadership skills and the drive to improve themselves and their communities.

This last value of improving communities also ensures that BEAM's indirect beneficiaries increase every year. The benefit of this program goes to both students and their communities. BEAM has evidence of alumni (many university graduates) working as volunteers and development workers in their communities. At the end of the program, migrant students and marginalized people achieved non-formal upper secondary level education (GED) and improved necessary academic and English language skills applicable at university or a higher education level and became community leaders.

There are many challenges that BEAM needs to overcome in order to make this work successful. BEAM relies heavily on the extraordinary dedication of its volunteers, staff, students, and partners to overcome these challenges. Thank you for being one the great partners we trust to tackle these challenges with.

8. Administration

The Foundation Director oversees the program, approves fund disbursement, analyzes progress, and provides guidance.

The Higher Education Program Coordinator and Associate were in charge of program resource organization, implementation, monitoring, fund allocation, facilitation, and reporting.

The BEAM admin team and teachers also collaborate in administration and in assessing student progress in the CYLD program. This includes monitoring students' progress as well as identifying issues and needs among the administration, students, volunteers, and teachers.

The Admin and Finance Manager was in charge of approving and controlling fund disbursement, accounting and internal auditing, and logistic support.

The Admin and Finance Assistant was responsible for keeping the cash book, bookkeeping, checking and preparing receipts.

9. Contact Information

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