

# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Dek Noi Pattana Foundation



## Reflections from teachers on the Thai-Cambodian border, Surin Province

**Kanoung Saikaew**

**Parents, grandparents and teachers of many early childhood development centers (ECD centers) have been affected from the clashes on the Thai-Cambodian border resulting in the closure of many ECD centers supported by Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF).**

The gunfire on the 24th of July, forced everyone to evacuate their homes and relocate to a shelter. There was a range of feelings during the incident including fear, life and property insecurity, stress, anxiety, a sense of loss, sadness, resentment and dissatisfaction. DNPF would like to relay the perspective and experience of teachers, parents and children who were affected by the incident.

DNPF still recalls the shaking voice of Khun Kasani Ladi (Kru Gae) from Ban Phanom Din ECD center citing the incident. Kru Gae and other teachers quickly ran and carried the children to parents and grandparents who came to

pick up their children. After making sure that all the children were with their parents and grandparents, Kru Gae then ran to the bunker beside the ECD center and stayed there until the head of the village came to pick her up to reside at Ban Chua Plerng shelter in Prasat district. At the shelter Kru Gae tried to reduce stress and give positive energy to the survivors by organizing activities for children and parents. She thanked everyone for the kind contribution in supporting the Panom Dong Ruk community at Ban Chua Plerng shelter.

The following are reflections from teachers of various ECD centers:

*"I am saddened by the incident and hope such losses do not happen again. The event has left children and parents feeling anxious, especially those children who evacuated live with grandparents. Government support is needed particularly mental health care for those affected."* (Kru Papada Saadeam, Ban Sa ECD center).

*"The recent border conflict, where bullets struck villagers' homes, has left many people feeling afraid and unsettled. Residents at Ban Rom Yen School Shelter are experiencing panic and insomnia. There is a need for daily necessities and clothing at Thap Tan in Sangkha district."* (Kru Latin Champasuk from Ban Kanadmorn ECD center).

*"The recent unrest along the Thai-Cambodian border has resulted in widespread concern regarding ongoing hostilities. Residents, including children, continue to experience anxiety due to explosions and emergency evacuations from their homes. As of July 24, many individuals remain worried about their homes, pets, cattle, and buffaloes, and have been unable to return until authorities provide clearance. Psychological effects such as stress and depression have become increasingly prevalent. There is an urgent need for assistance, including daily-cooked fresh food, snacks, milk for children and the*

elderly, toys and learning materials for children. Activities for parents to relief stresses are also needed." (Kru Somrat Saktom, Ban Jarn ECD center)

"Following this incident, children and parents, are very frightened and stressed out. Due to limited resources for the evacuators, some children have been unable to attend school." (Kru Niguy Thongnarin, Ban Bak Charang ECD center)

Teachers at the Thai Border ECD centers in Surin, near Cambodia, expressed concerns about the physical and psychological impacts of conflict, such as insecurity, separation, fear, stress, lack of opportunity, limited education, and hunger. They urged prompt support from government, private sector, and related groups to address these urgent needs, especially once the conflict ends.



## Early Childhood Development pilot project in Roi Et Province

Anuje Sirikit

**Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) team made a monitoring visit to Roi-et during the second quarter of 2025. The Foundation started its expansion of quality early childhood development program in Roi-et around two years ago. Thanks to Khun Preecha Somseesai, Chief administrator of Noan-sa-nga subdistrict organization (SAO) who initiated the idea of expansion and made a request to Khun Ian Porter, Chair of DNPF.**

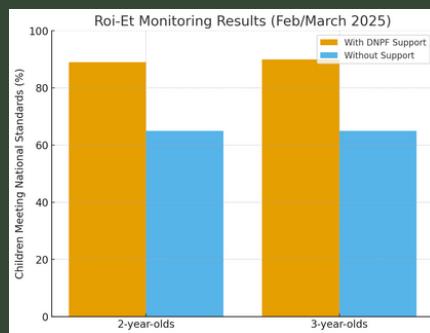
Khun Preecha applied his experience and lessons learned from working with DNPF in Surin to start a high quality ECD initiative in Roi-et by creating a shared understanding of the importance of early childhood development among stakeholders with strong support from the chief executive of Noan-sa-nga SAO.

Upon the request of Khun Preecha, DNPF team visited Noan-sa-nga and Ban Noan Jan and met with the Chief Executive of Noan-sa-nga SAO who is very supportive of the idea of a model center. DNPF then met with the Rector of Roi-et Rajabhat University (RERU) to request his support in letting the Faculty of Education members give technical support in the implementation of the pilot project.



Two years on Khun Preecha reflected that positive feedback from parents and grandparents on the rapid progress their children and grandchildren are making in developing physical, intellectual, social and emotional skills was very encouraging. The progress made within a short period was due to the collaboration of stakeholders involved, i.e, RERU, Roi-et local authority, DNPF, teachers, parents, grandparents and communities.

RERU recently measured the development of the children's skills in Noan-sa-nga and Ban Noan Jarn ECD centers in Noan-sa-nga SAO relative to the development of the children's skills in two neighboring centers that are not receiving support.



By February/March 2025 89% of 2-year-olds and 90% of 3-year-olds in the two centers receiving support met the national standards for being able to independently perform key skills. By contrast, in the two centers not receiving support only 65% of both 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds met the national standards for independently perform key skills. Khun Preecha reflected that he was very happy with the monitoring results of children's skills development. He thanked DNPF and RERU for all the support and said that he will continue to support the ECD program wherever he is appointed.

Ajarn Thitinan Udomsan from RERU expressed that she has seen much improvement at the two ECD centers in Noan Sanga SAO, supported by DNPF particularly after the coaching program was implemented. The good monitoring results of children's skills development were seen after the coaching support to teachers. It was also a good opportunity for RERU pre-service students to have hands-on practice at the ECD centers.

A heart-felt reflection from one of the parents saying that she was very pleased with the development her son is making. Her son wouldn't speak when he first entered the ECD centers, he has now made much progress blending in with other children by speaking and playing with the group. She thanked everyone at the meeting for all the support they had given to her son. Ajarn Kanoung Saikaew interpreted the good monitoring results of children's skills development at the meeting and gave guidance on how the team can further support teachers and children, particularly on language skills development.

Kru Prai Kru Bell, Kru Thip and Kru Chompu, ECD teachers of Ban Noan-sa-nga and Ban Noan Jarn ECD centers appreciated the support particularly coaching from RERU and as a result children's development skills have improved enormously.

In future, DNPF will be working with RERU and the Roi-Et Provincial Administration on how best to build on the experience and lessons learned from the pilot project.





## Strategy to improve the quality of early childhood development model centers.

**Kanoung Saikaew**

The Surin Provincial Office for Local Administration (DLA) convened a meeting during the second quarter of 2025 in cooperation with Surindra Rajabhat University (SRRU) and the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF), aimed at implementing the strategic plan effectively. The primary objective was to establish clear operational guidelines for the advancement of the Early Childhood Development Centers in Surin effectively.

The Surin Provincial Office for Local Administration and stakeholders and leaders from 173 SAOs approved a development strategy and quality improvement plan for the Surin Early Childhood Development Model Centers (2025-2027). The plan aims to:

1. foster cooperation to improve the quality of ECD model centers,
2. expand efficient teacher training, coaching and mentoring networks, and
3. promote experience sharing, monitoring and evaluation of children development skills, and collaboration with parents and communities in early childhood development.

For expanding ECD centers in the 2025-2027 school years, it is essential to focus on multi-dimensional quality improvement for the Surin ECD model centers. Key areas include:

1. enhancing early childhood brain development;
2. providing opportunities through daily activities;
3. advance training for teachers and care takers;
4. strengthening coaching and mentoring for teachers;
5. creating supportive environments for physical and emotional growth;
6. promoting essential life skills for 21st-century children; and
7. involving parents and communities to effectively nurture children's development for sustainable adulthood.

Surin Province strives for children to reach their full potential by providing comprehensive care and development across physical, mental, emotional, social, disciplinary, and intellectual

domains ensuring quality and age-appropriate support for all children. Surin will continue to support children's happiness, well-being, basic rights, human dignity and along with encouraging participation and acceptance to ensure that young children develop appropriately and thrive to be a vital force for the nations' future development.



In this context the DLA is now building on the good progress Surin has already made with the support of SRRU and DNPF in improving the quality of ECD programs in nearly fifty centers. In particular, it is identifying which new centers should be brought into the program and supported in the 2026-2027 school year. DLA's overall objective is to ensure that all the more than 500 centers in the province are able to implement high quality ECD programs within the next five years.



## Igniting Early Childhood Potential, Transforming Isaan's Future

Ian Porter

DNPF is working with the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), UNICEF, the World Bank and the Puer Khon Thai Foundation on a major event on early childhood education and development (ECED) in NE Thailand (Isaan). The event is titled: "Igniting Early Childhood Potential, Transforming Isaan's Future". All the provinces in Isaan will be invited to attend the event together with national organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector, political representatives and development partners. The event will be held in Korat at 28-29 January 2026, with the overall objectives:

1. To share experiences across provinces in Isaan on the opportunities for and challenges in rapidly improving the quality of ECED and the development of the children's skills; and
2. To encourage provinces in Isaan interested in improving the quality of ECED to adopt and implement proven effective models.

Teams from five of the twenty provinces in Isaan will be invited to share their experiences, including teams from both Surin and Roi-Et that have been supported by DNPF. The expected outcomes of the event include:

1. Increased awareness of the importance of high quality ECED and the opportunities to quickly enhance quality;
2. Recognition of the importance of regular in-service training and coaching of teachers and caretakers as well as rigorous monitoring of the development of children's skills;
3. Appreciation of the need for all stakeholders (provincial government officials, universities, local authorities, education management committees, teachers, parents and grandparents) to work together to support high quality development centers;
4. Development of communities of practice among key stakeholders to learn from each other; and
5. Enhanced initiatives for high quality ECED leading to improvements in the skills (physical, intellectual, social and emotional) of many more 2-4 year old children in Isaan.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

