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REPORT



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# Who we are



**LUSH**

Lush Life Films is a Spanish-German filmmaking and photography collective, primarily based in Mae Sot, Thailand.

Located at the Thai-Burmese border, Lush Life Films focuses on collaborating with local and international NGOs and partners by providing creative services such as photography and video production. Our aim is to use different methods of creative storytelling to encourage impactful and sustainable social change. By working closely with marginalized communities, we aspire to provide a platform which projects and empowers local voices and perspectives.

**Life**



# Context

Mae Sot is a small municipality in Tak province, Western Thailand, sharing a border to Karen state, Myanmar. Given the complexities of Myanmar's past and present, in regards to its political, social, economic and environmental instabilities and prolonged ethnic conflicts with systemic attacks on ethnic minorities, Mae Sot has become a center of refuge and transition zone of migrants for many years.

As a result of Myanmar's most recent coup d'état induced humanitarian crisis by the military on February 1st 2021, the number of Myanmar residents seeking refuge in neighboring countries has sky-rocketed. Given its proximity to the border, Mae Sot is, even more than before, receiving a growing number of refugees and displaced people by the day. As Thailand is not part of the Geneva Refugee Convention, any displaced person within Thailand is faced with severe difficulties regarding any legal rights, including the right to work, protection from deportation or chance of resettlement. Lush Life Films aims to not only raise awareness of these situations, but rather contribute towards empowering individuals in telling their stories and introducing creative storytelling methods like film and photography as ways forward.



# Migrant Learning Centers



Tak province is home of 65 Migrant Learning Centers (MLCs), forms of independently funded educational institutions tailored towards providing education to children and young adults with migration backgrounds. MLC's aim to complement the Thai government system by providing access and opportunities for migrant children. For the past 3 years, Lush Life Films has focused on collaborating with a variety of MLCs, offering workshops and vocational trainings in film and photography, as additions to the standard curriculum.

## Minmahaw Collaborations

Minmahaw School is a post-secondary boarding school where migrant youth from Myanmar between the ages of 17-23 years old are provided with international-orientated learning opportunities and vocational career pathways. Their goal is to enable students to enter higher education or programs with international accreditation like the GED (General Education Development).





## Filmmaking as an Elective

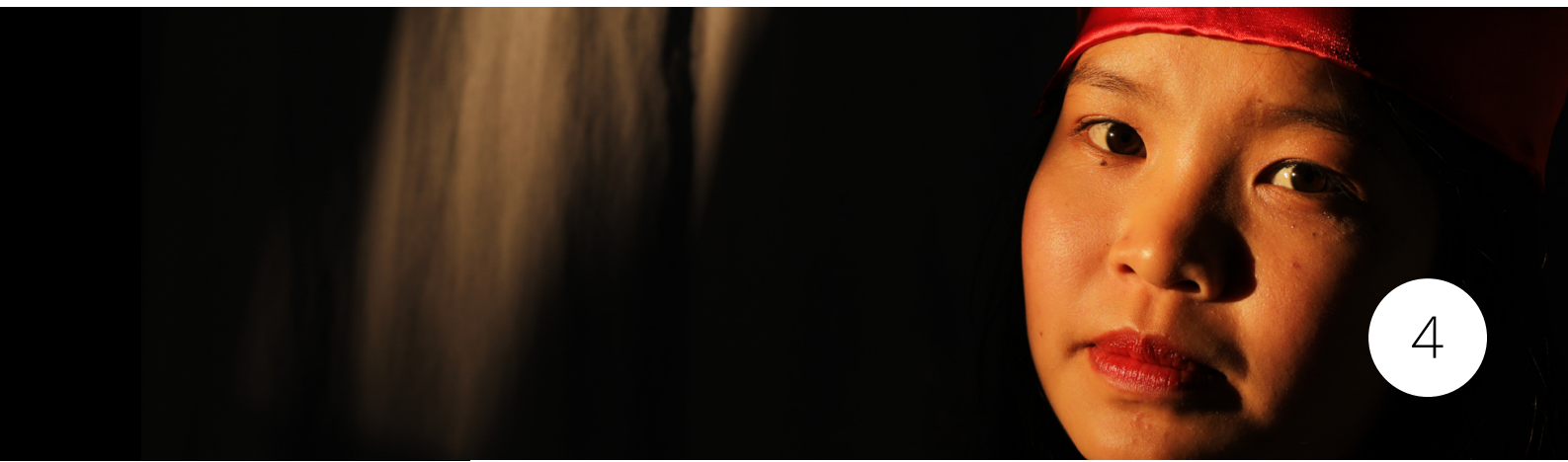
Lush Life Films has provided filmmaking workshops in the form of an elective class to Minmahaw students, focusing on teaching basic skills of film production like storytelling. By separating the students into different teams, we encouraged an individual's development of leadership and teambuilding skills. The end result was the creation of a music video.

## Vocational Training

Building on the elective filmmaking class, Lush Life Films further offers vocational trainings in filmmaking, for students interested in this line of profession. During the length of approximately one school term, students have the chance to gain a deeper understanding of filmmaking practices,

by learning about story and character development, developing technical filming and lighting skills and being introduced to post-production software.

Here, our main objective is to give the students a real insight into the filmmaking industry, placing their ideas and visions into the foreground. The goal is to encourage and inspire filmmakers and photographers of the future, highlighting that a job within the creative industry is as much of a possibility as any other vocation. At the end of the term, students will have produced their individually planned, directed and executed short films. These provide the students with a tangible outcomes which can be used for applications of future career opportunities.











# Emotional Education



Help Without Frontiers is a nonprofit organization based in Mae Sot, Thailand, which aims to address the root causes of violence, discrimination, and poverty by focusing on promoting education, health and protection of children and youth of migrant communities.

In 2022, Lush Life Films produced a five-part educational training video as part of Help Without Frontiers' Mental Health and Psychosocial support in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.





# Investing in the Future



Rosa Peris is a Spanish nonprofit organization based in Barcelona, Spain. Their mission is to end cycles of transgenerational poverty in the city by supporting young women on their educational paths. By offering scholarships and further financial, academic and psychological support, they focus on enabling higher education opportunities.

Honoring the organization's 2-year anniversary in July 2022, Lush Life Films developed and filmed their very first promotional video which characterized the organization and its practices.





# Power of Football



PlayOnSide is a non-profit organization founded in Spain and Norway, who focuses on using the art of football as a tool for social change. They are strong advocates of social inclusion, and gender equality and empowerment within the Myanmar migrant community.

Lush Life Films has worked in collaboration with PlayOnSide for the last 3 years, providing promotional material in the form of theme-specific videos and imagery for their various social media platforms and website.









# Teaching Values



PFA is a Bangkok-based football academy which focuses on providing tailored and optimum quality standards, encouraging its teams and players to excel in competition. Their working philosophy is based on respect, compromise, dedication, and fair play.



Lush Life Films started this collaboration through the production of promotional video content and has now developed a video format called 'Let the Players Talk', which puts individuals within the academy into the foreground, giving them a platform to reflect on their own experience within the academy and football itself.





# Responding to Covid



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) represents the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, delivering development assistance and relief to vulnerable populations in over 130 countries. Based in multiple locations throughout Thailand like Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, ADRA developed their PREVENT as a response to Covid 19 and tailored towards Mae Sot's migrant community. Lush Life Films accompanied various community visits, documenting ADRA's project execution and interviewing various project participants. The result was a video describing the project and its positive impact within the local communities.





# Recognizing Exceptionality



Mae Tao Clinic was founded in 1988, to provide health care services to fleeing students of the pro-democracy movement and its resulting brutal repression in Burma. Now, the clinic has expanded and is known for their free health care services to anyone in need, regardless of ethnicity or legal status.

In May 2022, Dr Cynthia Maung, the founder of Mae

Tao clinic was awarded the Korean Gwangju Prize for Human Rights. Lush Life Films was contracted to provide material of Dr Cynthia's work in Mae Tao clinic, which was then used at the award ceremony. The video servers as a thank you to Dr Cynthia's commitment towards promoting human rights, peace and democracy through her work.





# Previous Years







# Guiding Success



Women With a Mission supports displaced and migrant students residing along the Thai-Myanmar border on their educational paths. They provide scholarship programs, vocational trainings and English-learning programs, working in collaboration with local Migrant Learning Centers.

In 2019 Lush Life Films worked together with WWAM covering their 2-day English Learning camp and their Career Pathways Conference held in the same year. The results were videos which summarized the events and the provision of additional audiovisual content.





# Entertainment for Awareness



Zoomin is a media outlet which focuses on generating video content for a global audience with a variety of themes, styles and length. Lush Life Films has worked with Zoomin by providing video footage of different subject matters regarding Thailand, like the famous Thai dish of ant soup, the reality of waste management or a portrait of one of the PlayOnSide coaches.











# Creating within Space

ESTUDIO  
CAVERNAS

Estudio Cavernas is a social architecture organization committed to achieving sustainable construction in marginalized communities by developing well-adapted architecture that reflects a local culture and environment.

Lush Life Films documented the planning and construction of Green Island community center and surroundings, in Mae Pa, Tak. We further provided additional audiovisual material and produced a video which follows the construction process.





# THE LUSH LIFE



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