



**Alternative Care
Thailand**



CHILDHOOD

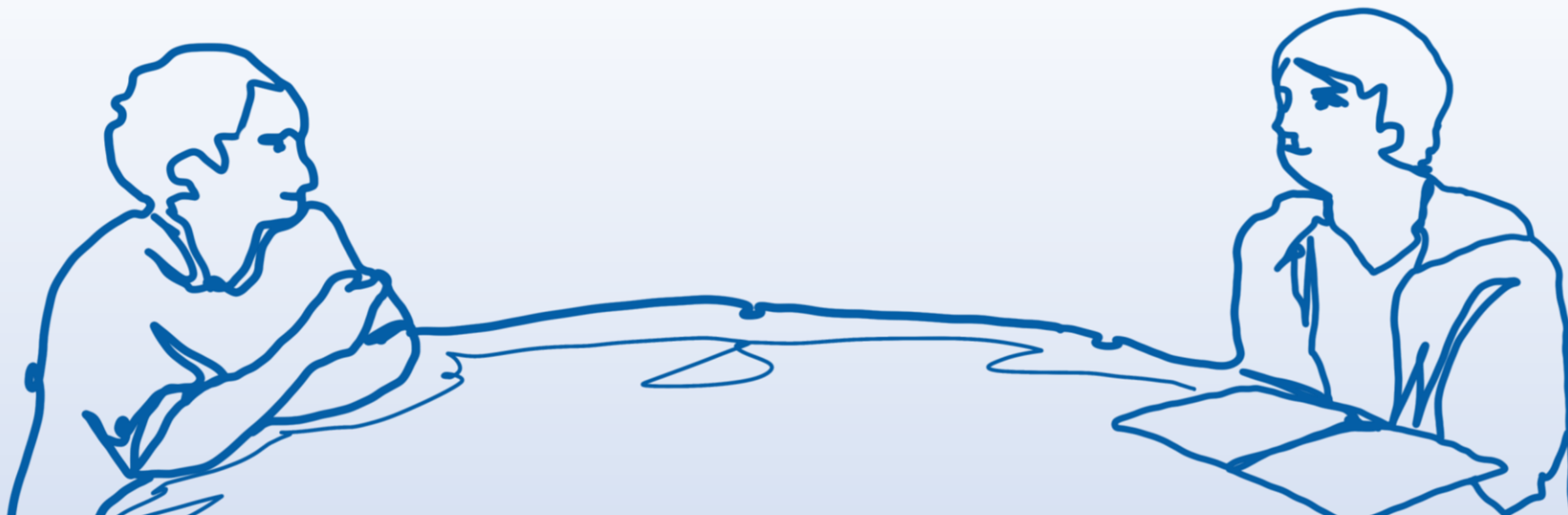
WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

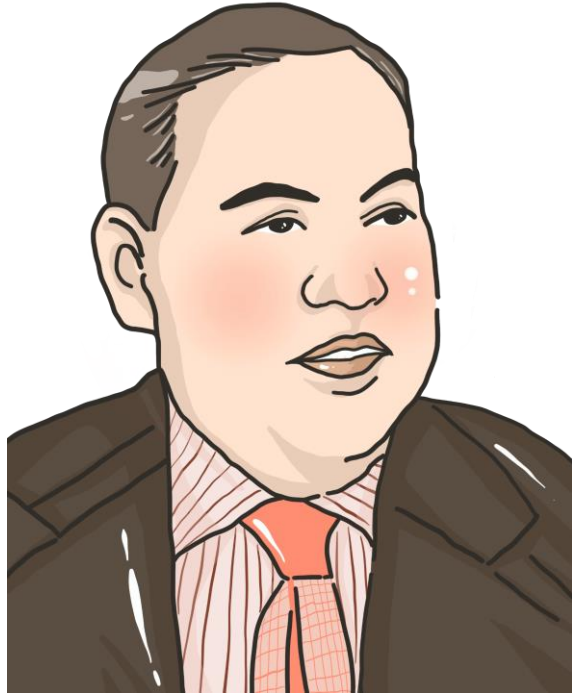
FOUNDED BY H.M. QUEEN SILVIA OF SWEDEN

Chiang Mai Private Children's Homes Research & Survey

Operated by MSDHS & Alternative care Thailand (ACT)

Supported By World Childhood Foundation, Sweden





Mr. Juti Krairerk

Minister of the Ministry of Social Development and
Human Security

“

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has developed a National Action Plan on Alternative Care for Children, Phase 1 (Also referred to as the Alternative Care Roadmap) with the aim of strengthening families, protecting children from being unnecessary separated from their family, and reducing the use of institutional residential care in order to transfer the care for children back to their original families and communities.

”

Goal

To survey and study the nature of and operation of private children's homes in Chiang Mai Province. To be a model for Thailand in the process of documenting private children's homes.

To help the government Identify and supervise the operation of private children's homes in accordance with the UN guidelines for alternative care





source of information and how to find private children's homes



Children list

PMJ CM

MSDHS CM

119



Online survey

Alternative Care Thailand (2015-Now)

ACT

198



Member list

Chiang Mai private Children home association

CCHA

79



Survey Team

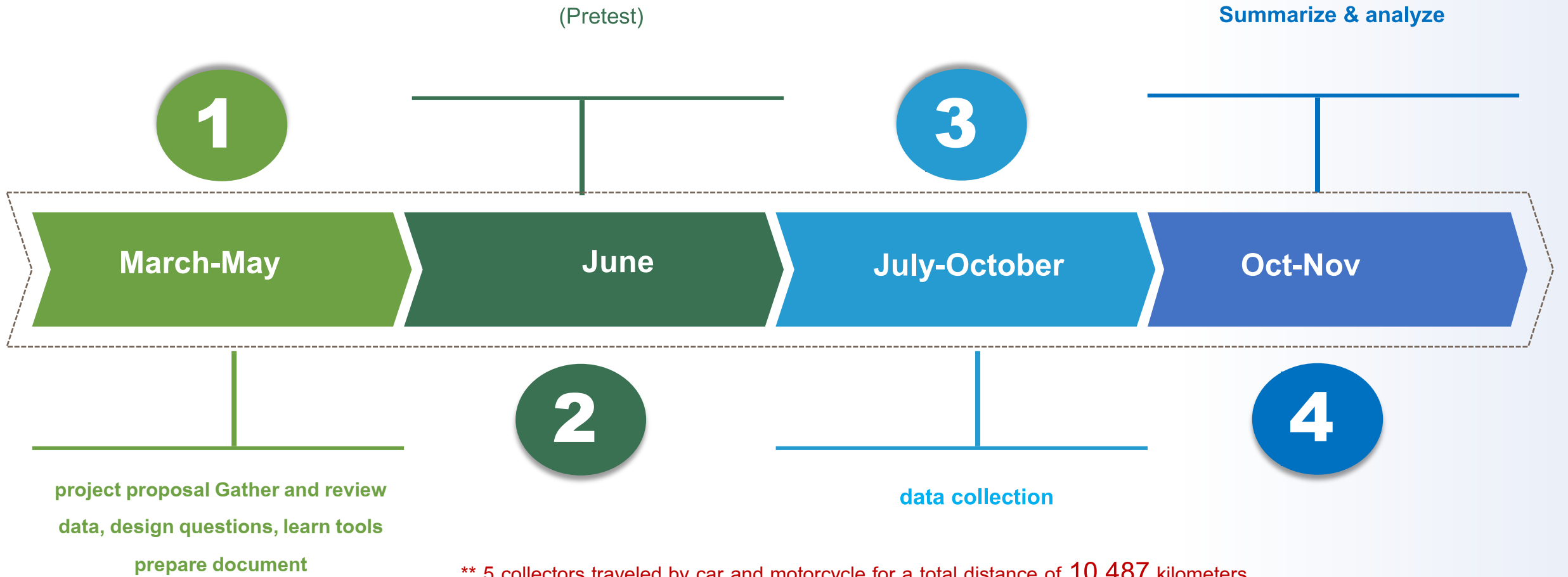
Not known about before the survey

65

Three existing sources were combined

Not on any list before the survey

March - November 2022



Data collection plan for all 25 districts in Chiang Mai Province, starting from the center of Chiang Mai city, outside and remote areas.

7 districts
in the city area

- Muang
- Sansai
- Doi Saket
- Mae Rim
- Saraphi
- Hang Dong
- San Khamphaeng

6 districts near by the city area

- San Pa Tong
- Chom Thong
- Mae Wang
- Mae Taeng
- Mae On
- Phrao

9 district far from the city area

- Up north
 - Chiang Dao
 - Chai Prakan
 - Fang
 - Mae Ai
- Eastern side
 - Samoeng
 - Galayani Vadhana
- Down south
 - Hod
 - Omkoi
 - Mae Chaem

Guideline questions to collect data

1

General information, location, year of operation, contact coordinator

2

Projects and activities of the organization

3

The number of children, Boys & Girls, and the problematic state of the children

4

Number of personnel, qualifications and expertise

5

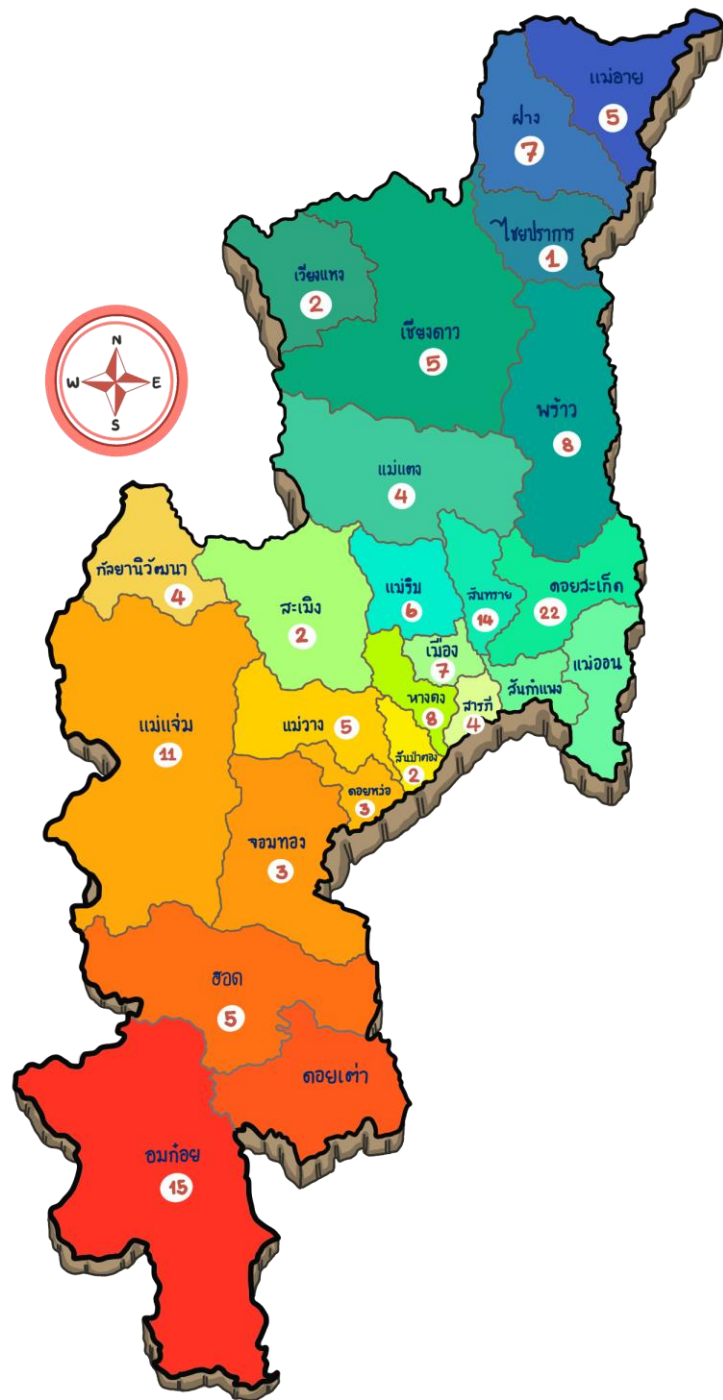
model and operation

6

Problems, Obstacles, and Suggestions



Information overview



number summaries

Private child shelters in each district, Chiang Mai Province

- 175 active private children's homes were identified
- 143 agreed to be interviewed
- 32 homes refused to be interviewed
- 1 district where we found no private childcare facility (Doi Tao)
- 2 districts (San Kamphaeng and Mae On) found only one

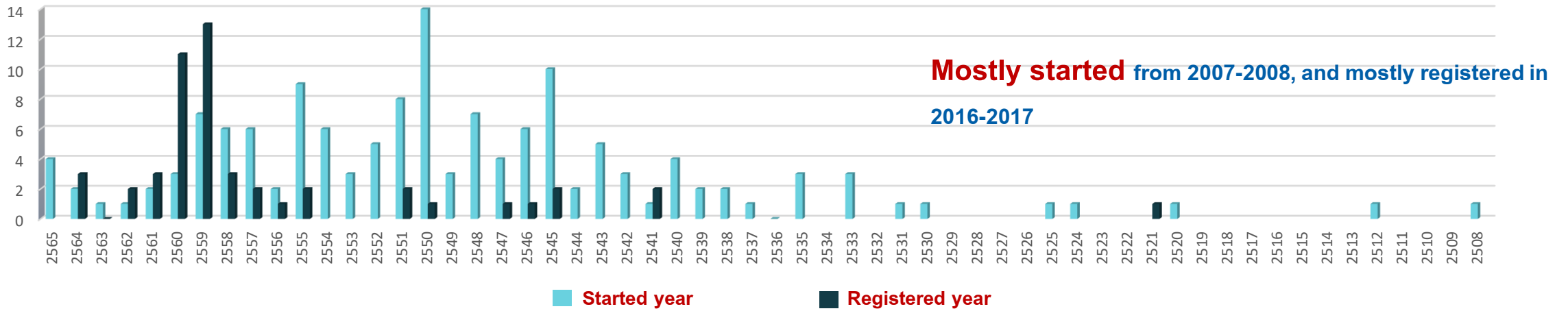
survey results

- Identified **203** children's private children's homes
- **28** homes have closed
- **175** homes still operating,
- **59** have been registered,
- **2** registered according to the Human Trafficking law Act,
- **57** registered according to the Child Protection Act
- **143** homes took part in interviews
- **32** refused to take part

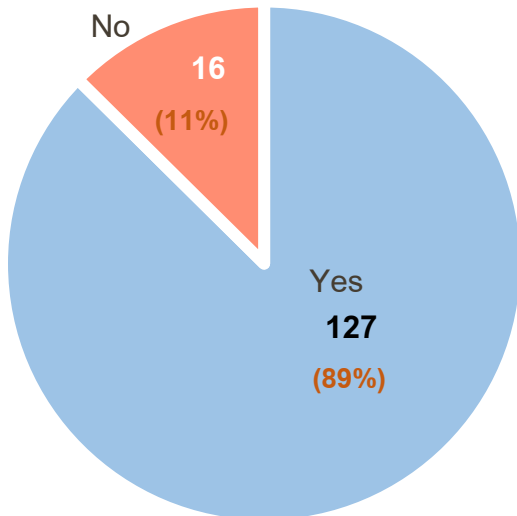
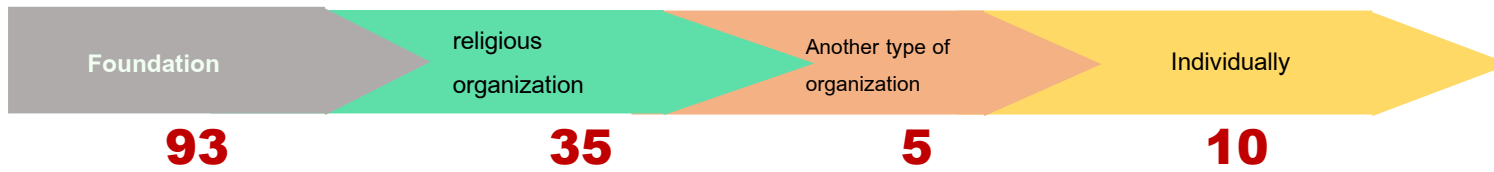


Discover



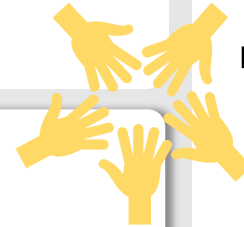
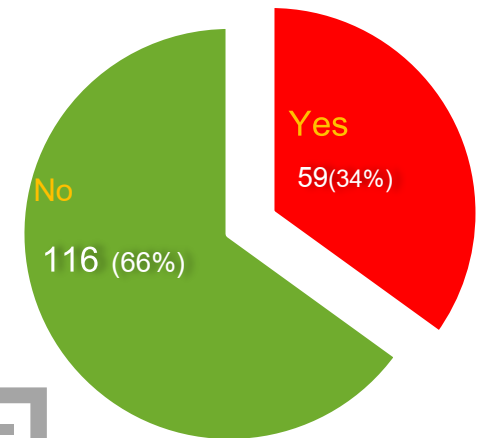


Among 143 interviewed, 133 (94%) operated by an organisation



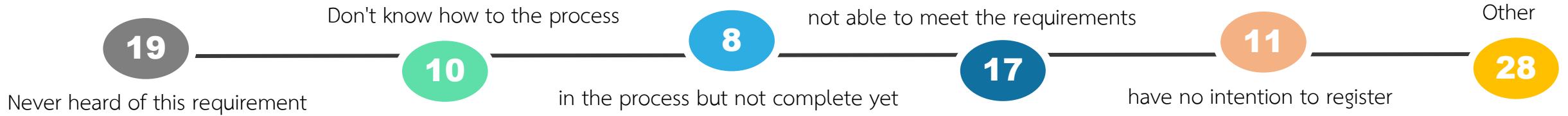
89% related to Christian organizations, such through funding or applying religious principles to children

Among 175 homes identified how many were registered?





Reasons for not receiving a license



have no intention to register & others reason

- 6 Studying information, preparing to submit
- 4 don't think their project is required to register
- 4 Less than 6 Children
- 3 Decision making is elsewhere
- 3 Blame the government process not themselves
- 1 Don't see any benefit.

Are there others project or activity?

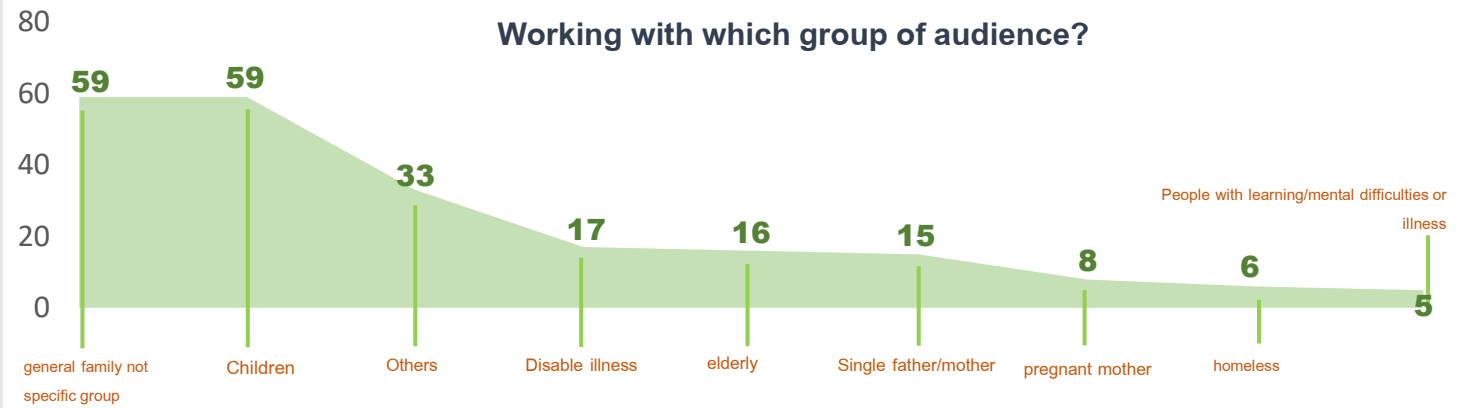
Yes

94 (66%)

No

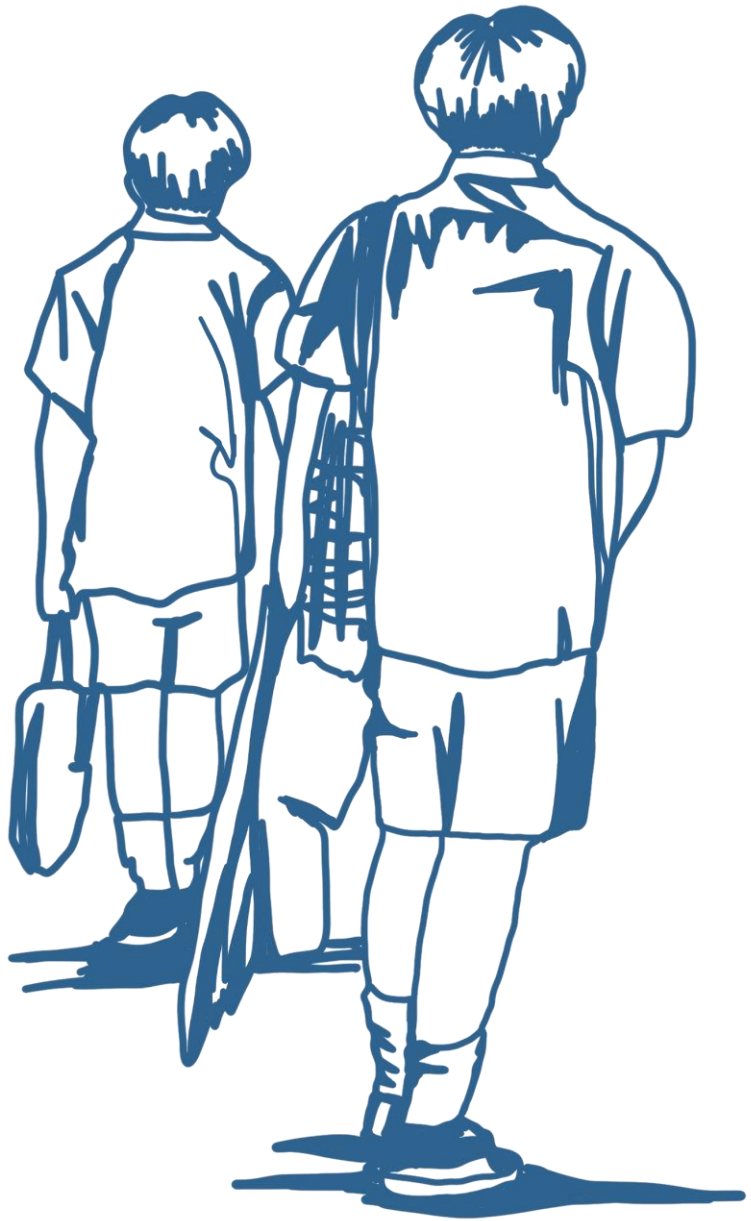
49 (34%)

Working with which group of audience?



work issue





The Children

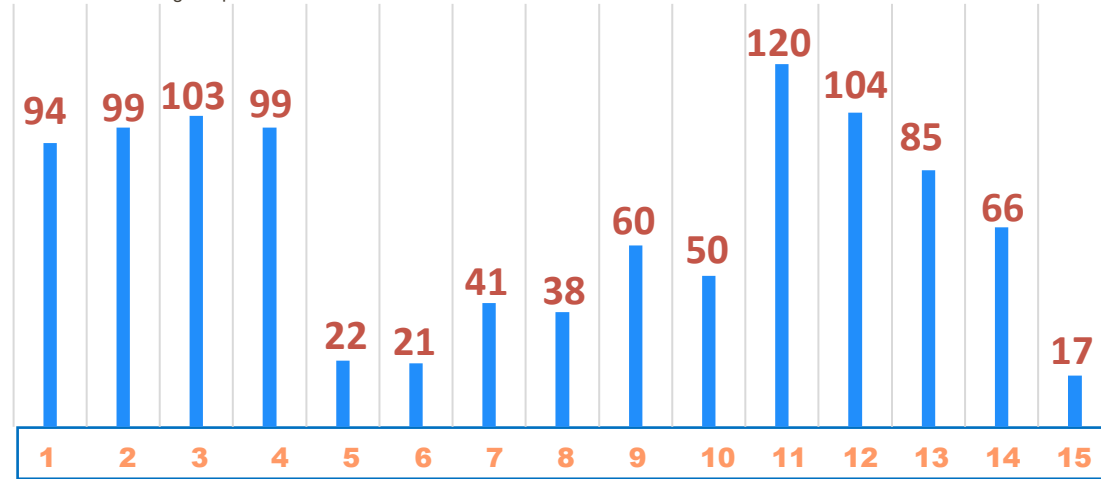


94 homes (65%) have double orphan

But there were 116 children are double orphan or 3%

99 homes (70%) have single orphan

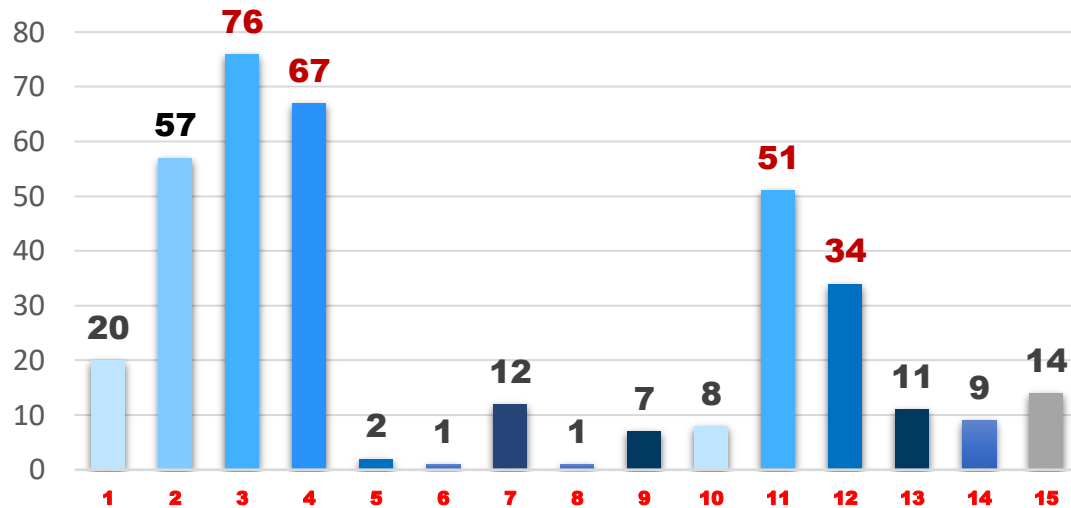
and there were 363 children are single orphan or 9.6%



Reasons for the children to be in your care

- 1) Double orphan
- 2) Single orphan
- 3) Poverty
- 4) Lack of educational opportunity
- 5) Children with physical difficulties or disable
- 6) Children with learning/mental difficulties or illness
- 7) At risk of committing crime
- 8) Homeless or missing children
- 9) Victims of domestic violence or being exploited and trafficked by the family members
- 10) At risk or victims of abuse or being exploited and trafficked by non-family members
- 11) Neglect
- 12) Parents incapacitated
- 13) Unhealthy care
- 14) Parents with behavior issues or illegal
- 15) Others

The most three common reason for children to be under the care

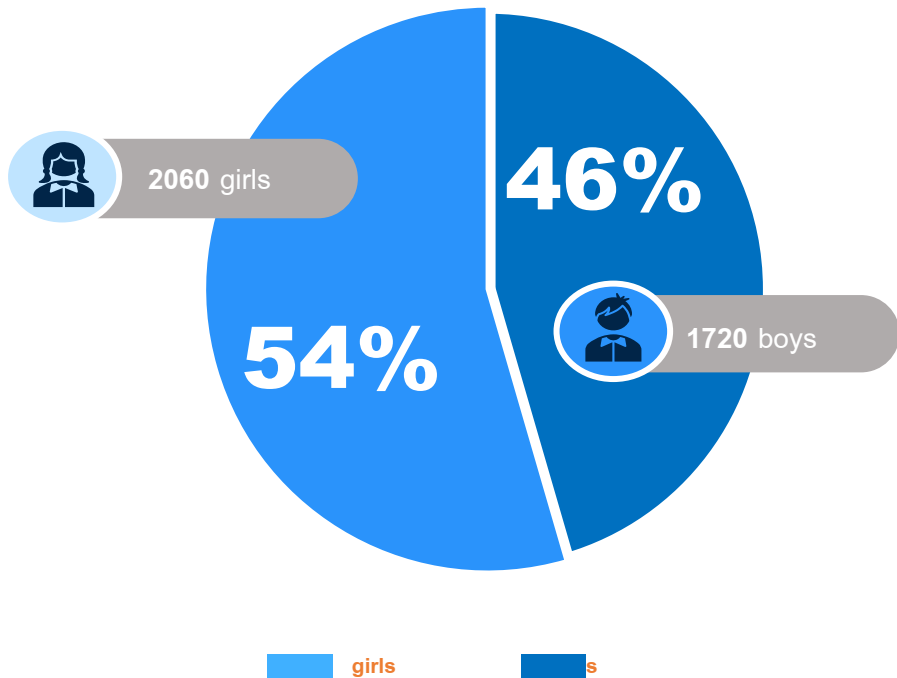


Two areas stood out:

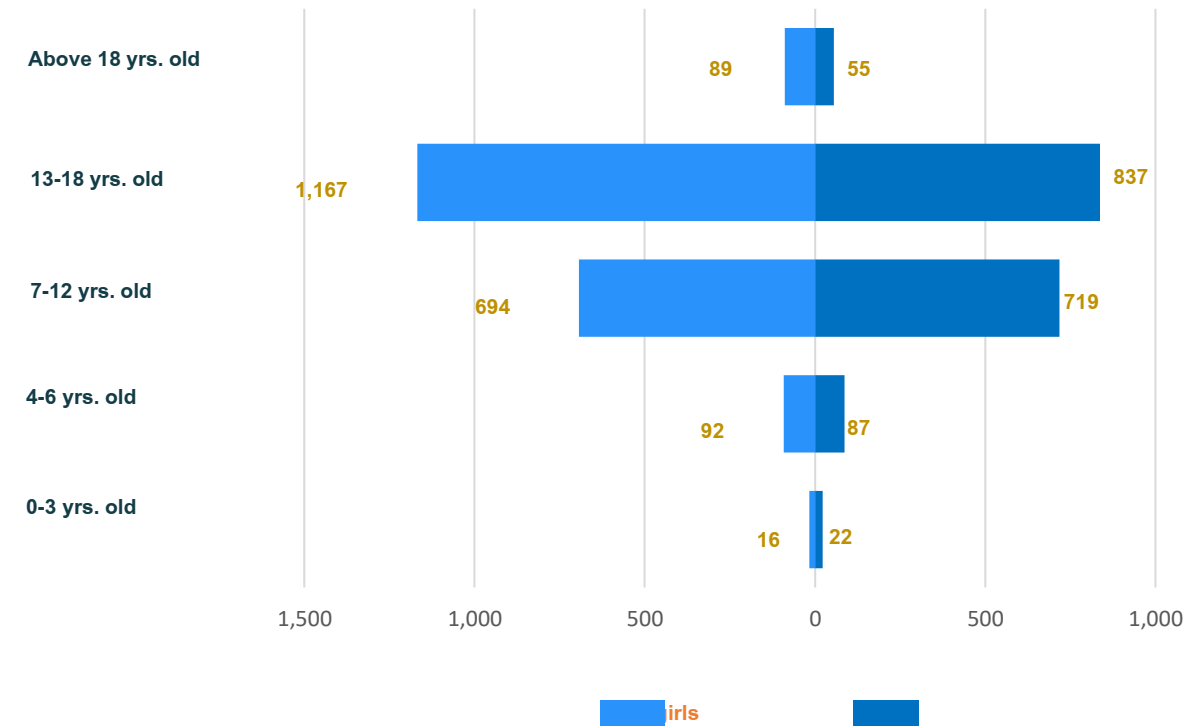
1. Lack of money and opportunity for education
2. Parents neglected or were incapacitated



Numbers of children in Chiang Mai private children's homes



Numbers of children in each age level



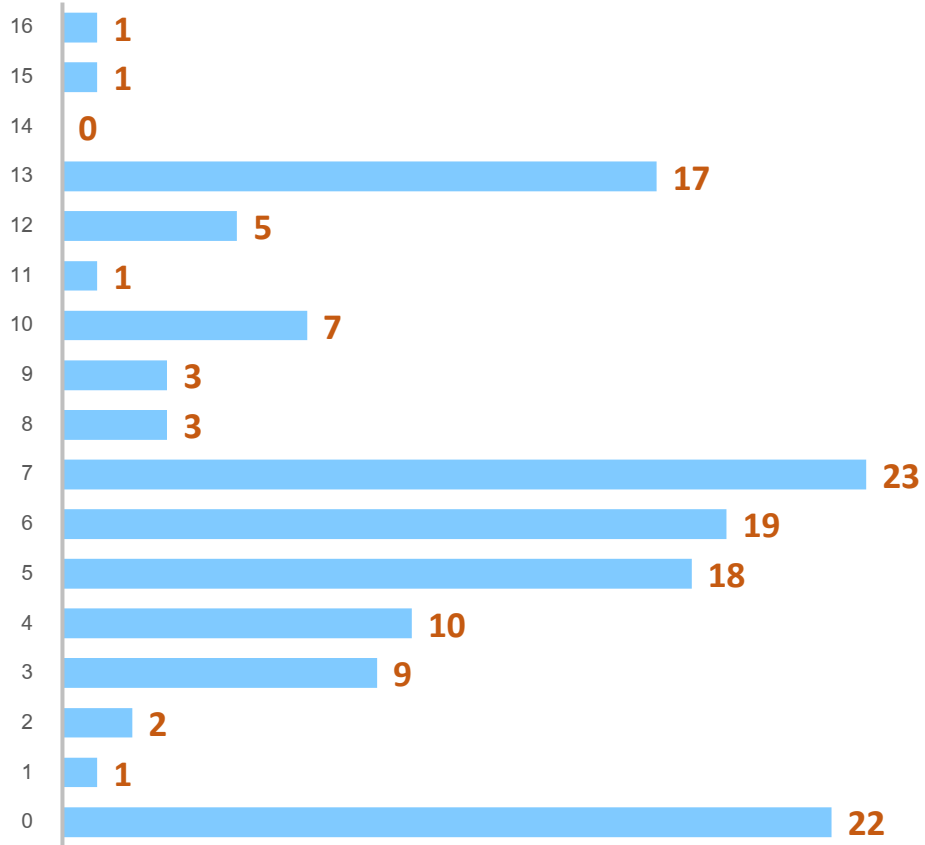
3,780 Children found in 143 children's homes

The average number of children in each home is 26.5

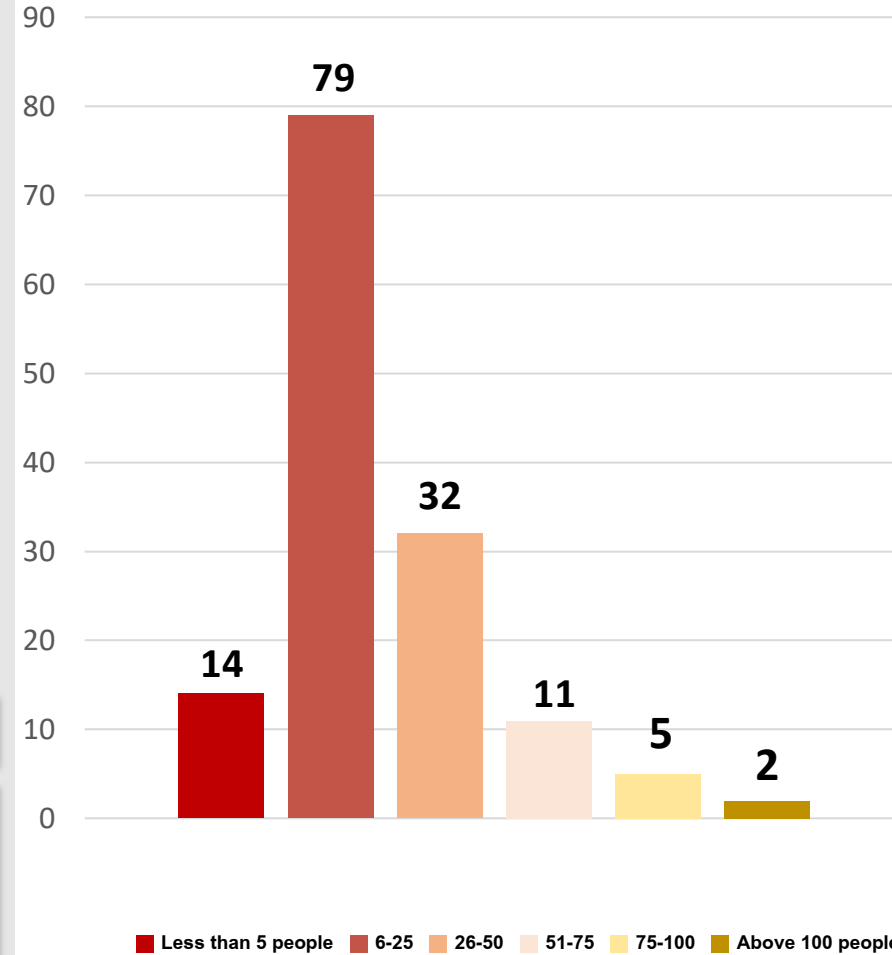
Highest number of children reported 6012 and maximum capacity 6366*

Estimated number of children from 175 homes is 4,652

* Anecdotaly we believe that covid resulted in a drop in numbers which is now on an upward trend again



The number of children in each facility



the minimum age for children to enter into your care

The most common minimum age was:

- From birth or no age limitation
- From 5-6 years old or children in primary school and able to help themselves
- From 12-13 years or attending to middle school

There were 83 children (2.2%) have no identity card at all



Child Care Provider

**(personnel, qualifications, expertise,
perspective)**



Reported in interviews with 143 homes:

591 caregivers

1,242 other staff and volunteers

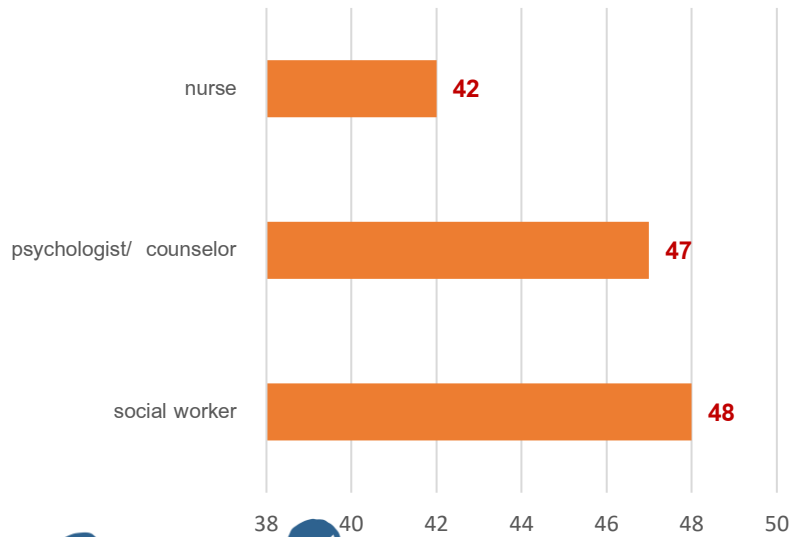
An estimate number of 175 homes:

723 caregivers

1,519 other staff and volunteers

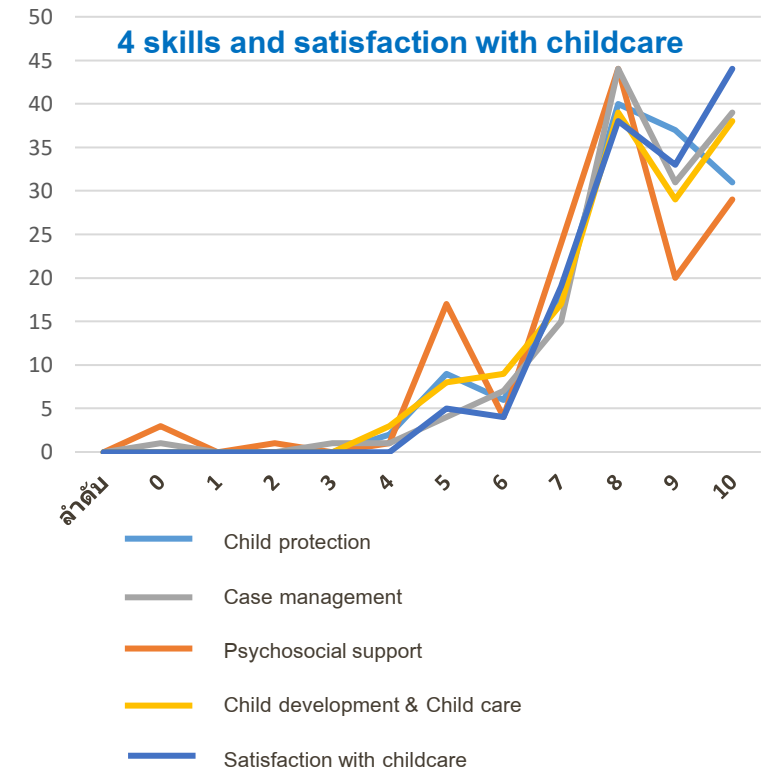
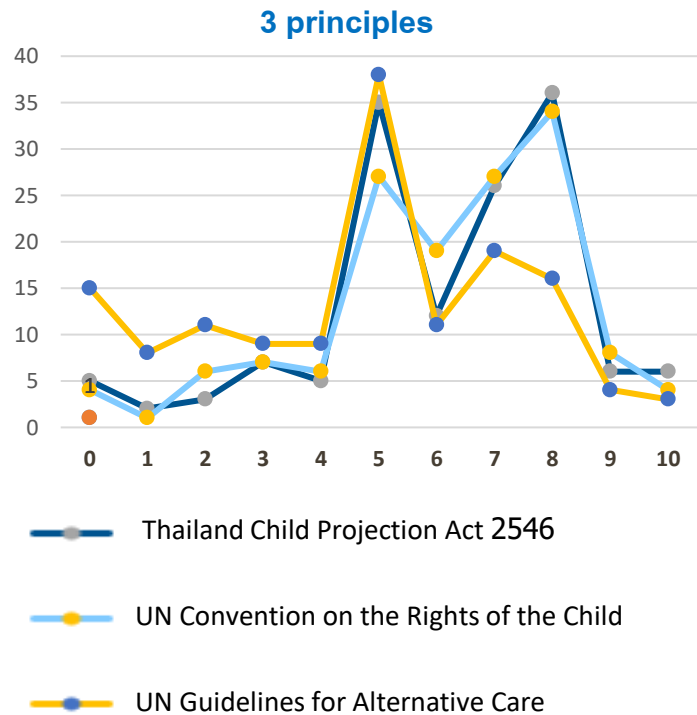
Numbers of the homes

that at least have one child specialist



Rating scale on organization/project's level of understanding

*Most of the homes were confident in their skills more than the principles of working with children



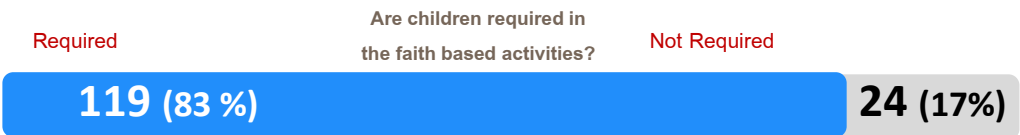
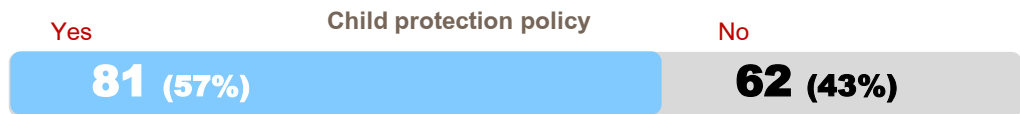


Operation

and well-being of children

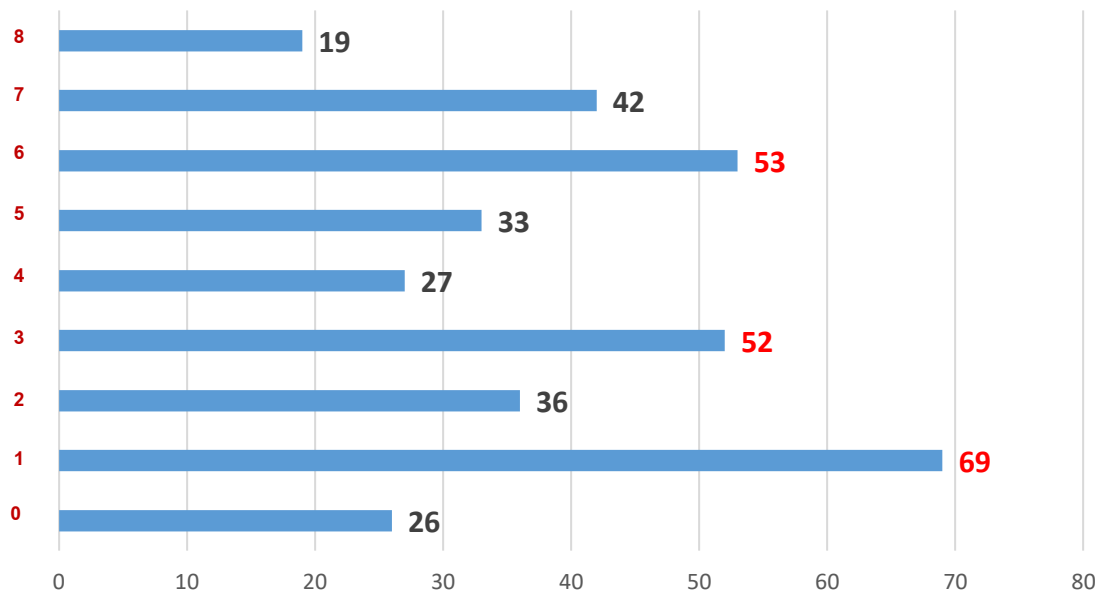


Operation and well-being of children



	Child protection policy	No child protection policy
Registered	45	9
Unregistered	36	53
Total	81	62

There were 9 registered homes that have no child protection policy
 ministerial regulations strictly highlight on the principles and methods of the registration process, but have no mentioned on the child protection policy

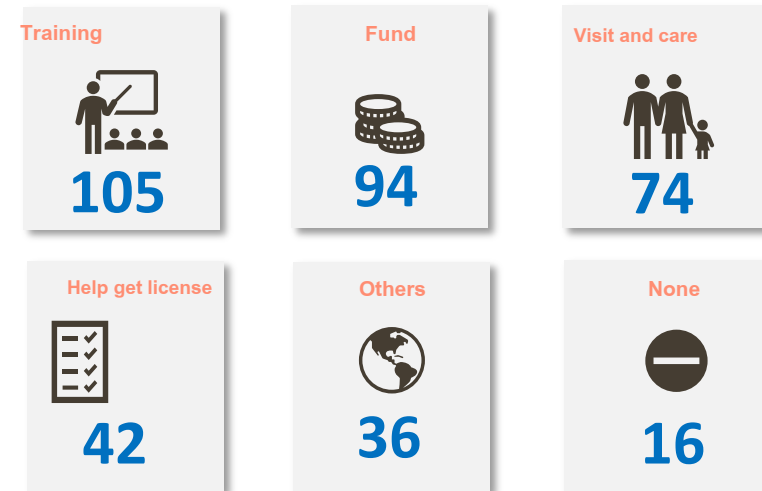


Problems and challenges

- 8 Others
- 7 Problems with your building/ location/ facilities
- 6 Lack of qualified or suitably skilled staff
- 5 Not enough staff
- 4 Stateless and undocumented children
- 3 Behavior issues among children
- 2 Cannot get a license to operate
- 1 Not enough budget
- 0 None

Support needed

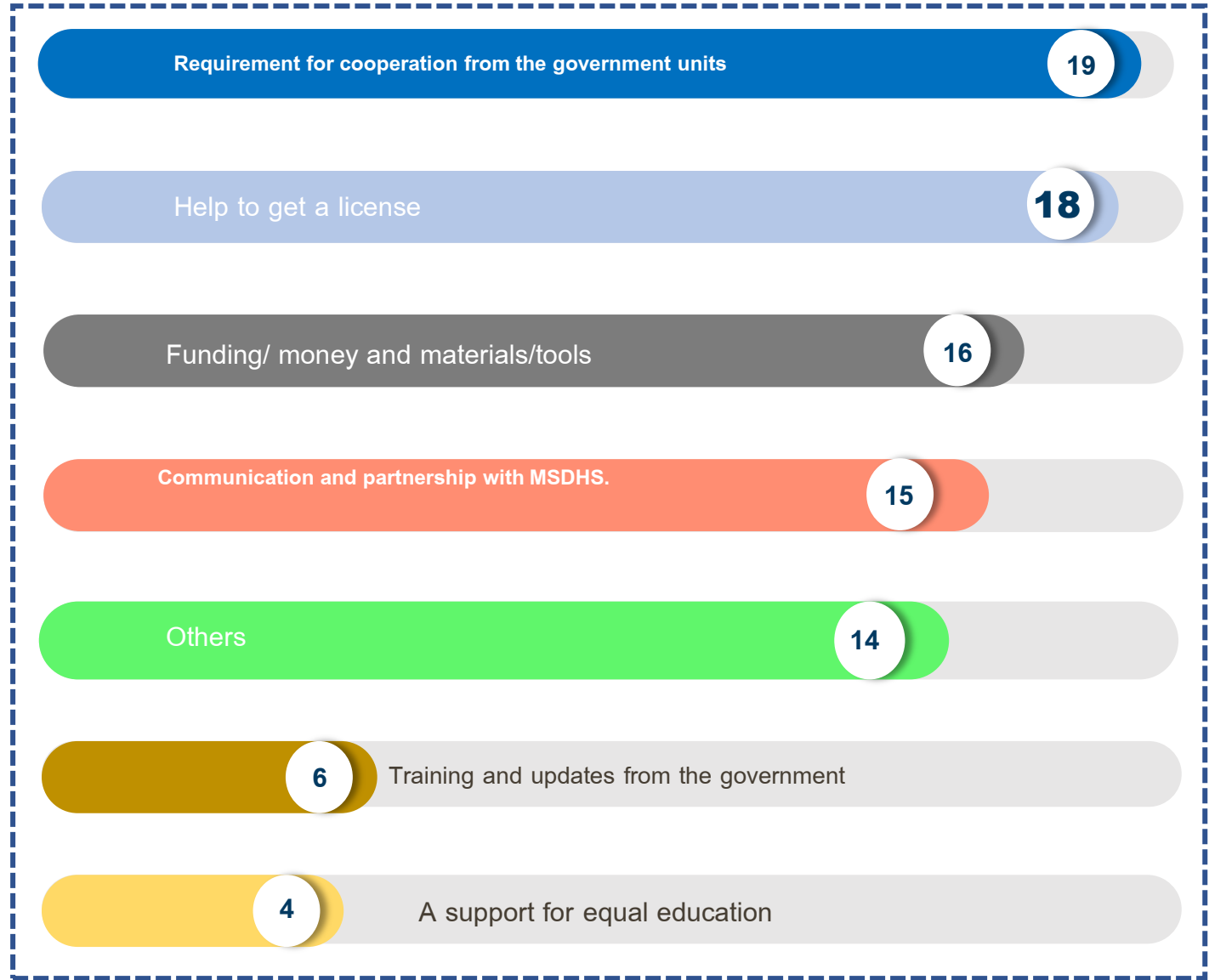
Would like from the government



Feedback

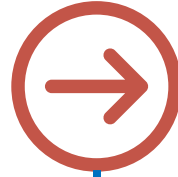
& suggestion

from the children's homes to the government



Observation and suggestions from

the data collectors



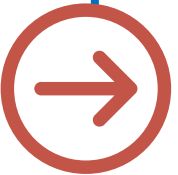
Many homes do not have their own nurse and prefer to take their children to the local clinic or hospital when needed.



Many homes claimed that their care-givers could support the children's mental health by using their religious guidelines.

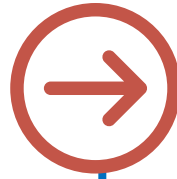


There seems to be a lower number of visitors/volunteers for the homes that are financially supported by one sponsor.



Some ministries run 6-7 homes in different provinces (Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak)

Observation and
suggestions from
the data collectors



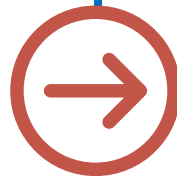
Many of the informants did not fully understand terms and meaning used in alternative care e.g. family strengthening, and reintegration.



There was one children's home preferring not to show any sign posting of the home to protect their children from being discriminated by outsiders.



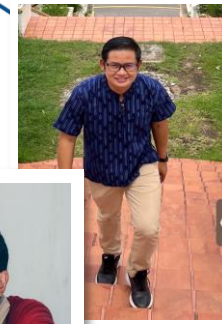
A recommendation to review the operating process of the children's homes to align them more with the UN guidelines for alternative care



Another recommendation is to set a specific time of the year to extend the registration in order to make the work of the MSDHS officers easier and more efficient *(e.g. the due date is Dec 31st, but the extension process can start from Oct 1st of every year.)*

Teamwork members

- Kantamaneer Ladaphongphattana** Project consultant
- Andy Lillicrap** Researcher
- Wiwat Thanapanya** Researcher
- Wimol Dinu** Information collector/Proofreader
- Ya Sae-war** Information collector/Graphic-designer
- Rukchanok Chachayutkul** Information collector
- Pranop Sithipong** Information collector
- Chalermkhuan Chutima** Information collector – Admin



Thank you for the support of

Chiang Mai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Alternative Care Thailand, and Chiang Mai private children home's association



Thank you

If you would like to discuss any of these findings
or would like to hear more about the work being
done since this survey, please contact us via
oneskythailand@gmail.com