



Project Report Circus Play 2024-25



Dear Supporter | Donor | Friend...

Thank you for reading this report. We hope it will explain what we do and how we do it, what it costs and the rewards it brings to the participants and their communities.

Our project in [Mae Sot](#) began earlier this season starting with delivery from October 24th 2024 (with meetings and connection visits from Oct 18th) and the project ran until Jan 3rd 2025.

(Notes on the story of our work with Myanmar communities since 2014 at the end of this Report.)

For the third year running we worked with [Help Without Frontiers](#) (HWF) Migrant Learning Centres (MLC) which we will refer to as “schools” in this report.

In addition we worked closely with Spark Circus and had 2 visits from Spoon Circus teams. Both groups are using circus and play with Thai and Myanmar communities.

Key Outcomes:

75 workshops to HWF supported schools (MLCs) working with 350+ students a week.

15 workshops at other schools (MLCs).

We worked with Spark Circus and Spoon Circus, co-operating, to make a mini-Circus festival and two fire Shows for the public in Mae Sot.

We trained 8 Myanmar young adults over 4 weeks to become basic Circus Trainers, funded by Spark Circus.

We trained one Myanmar adult to be a Circus Trainer and he started to lead our Circus Workshops in Schools.



There are many photos on our website. Go to <https://circusplay.org/project-photos/>

Workshops

HWF schools: 75. The average number of children we worked with per week was between 350 and 400, varied by the schools being open and students available re: exams, holidays, other activities. Class sizes varied from 20 to 50. See Class sizes spreadsheet below.

Workshops at Learning Centres not affiliated with HWF: 15. (New Wave, “Passport” Catering training centre, KKB, Social Action for Women & Children, Heavenly Home, Friday’s School.)

Training for new Circus Tutors: 18 sessions (with average 7 students)

And Stardust Kids Circus Class: 8 (average attendance 5 children)

Day	Date	AM	PM	Participants		
Thurs	October 24	Irrawaddy		40		
Fri	October 25	P Yan Daung	New Day	50		40
Mon	October 28	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Tue	October 29	Rose Field/ KM 42	Hope	50	50	50
Wed	October 30	Chicken		30		
Thu	October 31	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		30
Fri	November 1	P Yan Daung	New Day	40		35
Mon	November 4	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		25
Tue	November 5	Rose Field/ KM 42	Hope	50	50	50
Wed	November 6	Chicken		25		
Thu	November 7	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		30
Fri	November 8	P Yan Daung	New Day	40		30
Mon	November 11	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Tue	November 12	Rose Field/ KM 42	Hope	50	50	50
Wed	November 13	Chicken		25		
Thu	November 14	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		60
Fri	November 15	P Yan Daung		40		
Mon	November 18	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Tue	November 19	Rose Field/ KM 42	Hope	30	50	50
Wed	November 20	Chicken		25		
Thu	November 21	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		30
Fri	November 22	P Yan Daung	New Day	40		30

Mon	November 25	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Tue	November 26	Rose Field/ KM 42	Hope	40	50	50
Wed	November 27	Chicken		25		30
Thu	November 28	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		20
Fri	November 29	P Yan Daung	New Day	40		35
Mon	December 2	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Tue	December 3	KM 42	Hope		50	50
Wed	December 4	Chicken		25		
Fri	December 6	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	35		25
Mon	December 16	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	40		30
Tue	December 17	P Yan Daung		50		
Wed	December 18	New Society		30		
Thu	December 19	KM 42	Hope	50		50
Fri	December 20	Sauch Kha Hong Sar		25		
Mon	December 23	Irrawaddy	Ah Yone Oo	45		25
Tue	December 24	KM42	New Day	50		30
Thu	December 26	New Society	Sauch Kha Hong Sar	30		20
Fri	December 27		Hope			50
Thu	January 2		Ah Yone Oo			22
Fri	January 3	Irrawaddy		25		
	Sessions	45	30			
	Total sessions	75				
	Student numbers			1425	300	1047
	Total student engagements			2772		
	Mathematical average class size		36.96			



New Props

105 juggling balls, made locally, 5 pairs of stilts purchased locally, 4 unicycles purchased locally; 10 diabolos and 3 frisbees brought from UK. These props added to the props that we brought in 2023 and 2024 winter seasons. These props were also used by Spark Circus during their work February to August 2024 and used currently in their 2025 project.



We are getting good use of the props. Some will need replacing soon.

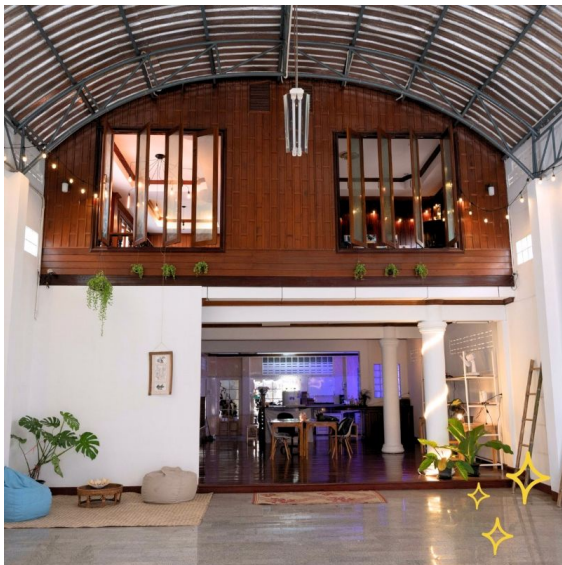
We tend not to leave props with the schools as we continue to see evidence they are NOT being used in the months when we are not present. We came across donated hula-hoops being used as fencing at one school!

We give juggling balls to students who have learned to juggle 3 balls.

We'd love to give out diabolos, plates, flower-stick also, but we don't currently have the funds to purchase these resources.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS also delivering circus in Thailand.

[Spark Circus](#) pay half the rent for a building to facilitate their project work (from mid-Jan through the dry season months) so we had use of Stardust Studio (shared with [Lush Life Films](#))



This Studio space has proved a significant development for Circus activities in Mae Sot. Spark Circus store all our props at Stardust Studio and we are happy for them to use them during the year.

Spark Circus asked us to run a training project for young Myanmar adults during Nov 2024. We (Jules) trained 8 young adults for 4 sessions per week for 4 weeks at the Stardust Studio. The training featured a performance by the trainees at two public shows - one at Stardust Studio for an invited audience and one at the public outdoor Bar/Restaurant venue Memories of Mae Sot.

[Spoon Circus](#) (which also operates in the USA) is based in Pai, north-west Thailand and came to visit us in Mae Sot twice. There is a big circus scene in Pai as it's a back-packer destination with lots of young tourists passing through. Spoon connected with us and Spark Circus and together we planned the visits.



Nine Artists from Spoon made the long journey from Pai and delivered workshop sessions from Nov 14th – 18th and together we made the 1st Mae Sot Circus Festival, with a finale family show and Fire Show at Memories of Mae Sot on Sat 17th Nov. This show attracted about 150 people (families) for the Family Show and about 300 people for the Fire Show. The first ever in Mae Sot!

Spoon returned with 6 Artists 18th – 22nd Dec for more workshop sessions and we made a (smaller) show at Memories of Mae Sot on 21st Dec.

We are in discussion with Spoon Circus about how to make a Thailand Foundation that includes Circus Play. We hope that this Foundation will become registered in 2025, but creating a Foundation is a bureaucratic challenge.



Spoon Circus made dozens of juggling balls, poi, staves and hula hoops. They donated many of these props to schools and the remainder were added to the collective workshop resources.

NEW LOCAL TRAINER



One of the people who joined the training project for young Myanmar adults had recently arrived from Yangon and we have taken him on as a Tutor and continue his training and development in

real-life workshops. He is called Little Bird. He is a self-taught Magician and has his own magic show. He has been learning circus skills and is now a part of our team, delivering workshop with me.

We all work in Mae Sot thanks to the generosity and kindness of local Thai and Myanmar individuals and thanks to the practical and tacit support of NGOs.



We often realise and are aware that Circus Play is vulnerable in Thailand. We are not a registered entity here. There are many organisation and groups doing good work in Thailand without the correct documentation and the “white” people doing the work don’t get stopped, flagged or questioned; however, this is a risk. That is one reason we don’t expand our offer to artists and people to join us in our work. And it’s a block to raising funds in Thailand or from international foundations, INGOs, corporate donors.

We’d like to become a registered company or charity but we haven’t found people willing to become Directors or Trustees. If YOU would like to help secure our future projects, please get in touch!



INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

We were visited by David Mason who runs the [Mobile Mini Circus for Children in Afghanistan](http://www.mobileminicircus.org), a full-time professional in the field of social circus. The work that MMCC has done and is still doing is outstanding and to be admired. They are dealing with the restrictions placed on them by Taliban government and still managing to work! They have started work in Ethiopia and in Bangladesh at Cox’s Bazar in the Refugee Camps for about 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. David has seen our work here and will try to advise on further development.

Help Without Frontiers have asked for a budget from us to see if they can facilitate some funding for our work next season. We live in hope for that support.

Transport costs were higher than planned this season.

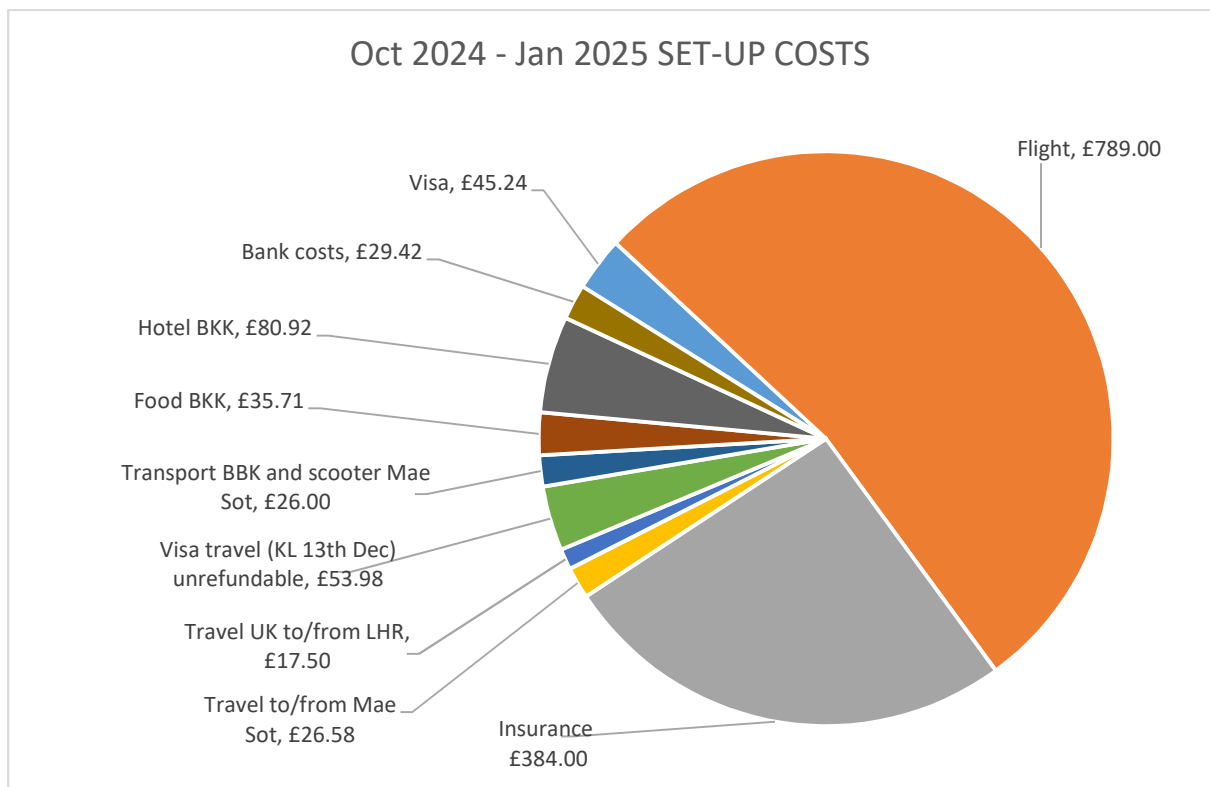
Hiring a car from a car-hire business is way beyond our budget so we have the loan of a car from a friend in Mae Sot. We paid £450 for an engine rebuild and in return had the car to use for 90 days gratis. Unfortunately the car needed the whole steering rack and new tyres in addition to make it safe to drive, another £250. We decided to make the air-con work also at £30. Although these costs are higher than planned we did get the use of the same car for very little cost in the previous two seasons, so overall, over three seasons, we see the cost as acceptable. And our generous friend now has a car that he can use ongoing. We do have to support the local community who kindly help us deliver our project.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditure GBP	£1,468.78
Expenditure THB (excl. Spark Circus project)	£2,967.04
Total expenditure	£4,435.82
Income via SCI accounts	
Donations PayPal	£825.53
Donations Wise	£422.00
Bank costs	-£21.24
	£1,226.29
Income as GBP	
GBP	£813.27
AUD	£38.75
NZD	£102.06
THB	£46.00
CAD	£210.77
USD	£0.00
EUR	£15.50
Total income	£1,226.35
misc funds in Paypal account from 2023-24	£7.31
Fee paid to Jules	£1,233.66
Balance	-£3,202.16
Other expenditure and income	
Spark Circus Training of Trainee Tutors	
Expenses	£277.24
Fee	£277.24

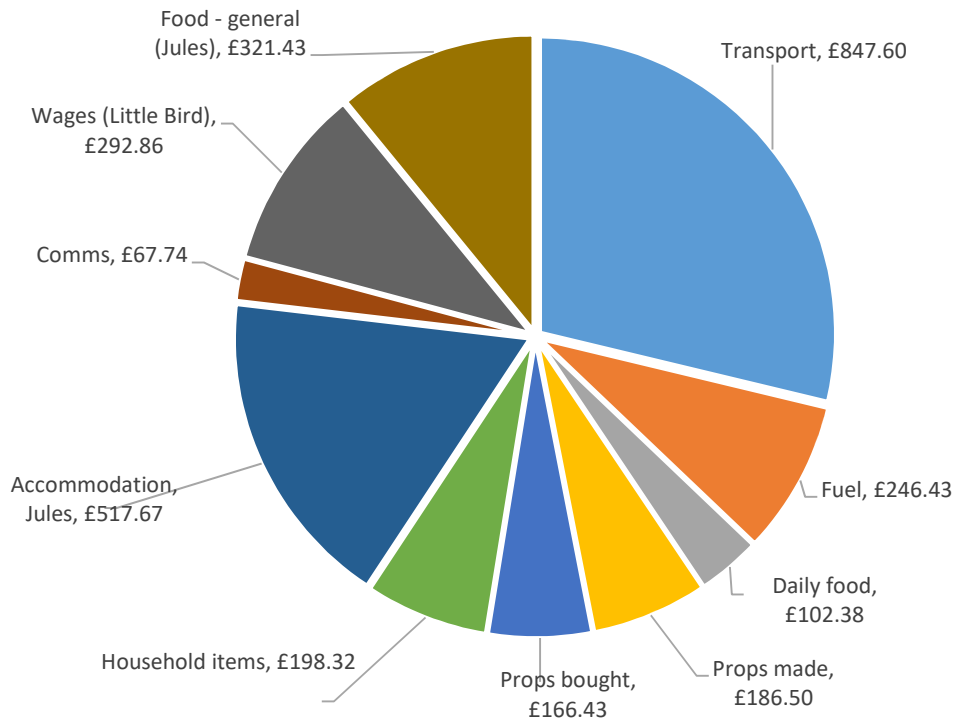
COSTS ANALYSIS

Costs per sector			
SET-UP COST		THB	GBP
Visa	Extension	THB 1,900.00	
Flight	UK:BKK:UK		£ 789.00
Insurance	professional travel ins.		£ 384.00
Travel to/from Mae Sot	Coach	THB 520.00	£ 14.20
Travel UK to/from LHR			£ 17.50
Visa travel (KL 13th Dec) unrefundable			£ 53.98
Transport BBK and scooter Mae Sot		THB 1,092.00	
Food BKK		THB 1,500.00	
Hotel BKK	BKK		£ 80.92
Bank costs	ATM/Western Union	THB 440.00	£ 18.94
See Book-keeping for all exact figures		THB 5,452.00	£ 1,358.54
Total as GBP	£1,488.35		FeX: £1 = THB 42



DELIVERY COST IN MAE SOT				
Transport	Car loan	THB	20,000.00	
	Car Repairs	THB	14,934.00	
	Fuel	THB	10,350.00	
	Grab Taxi	THB	665.00	
Food	Jules & Little Bird (lunches and drinks only)	THB	4,300.00	
Props	Making	THB	7,833.00	Juggling balls, Staves, etc.
	Buying	THB	3,000.00	Stilts, Unicycles, balls
	Purchased UK			£95.00 Diabolos and frisbees
Materials	Household items	THB	8,329.36	cooking, tables, kitchen, etc
Comms		THB	1,345.00	computer monitor (in storage)
Accommodation (Jules)	Mae Sot	THB	21,742.00	
Comms	Phone/Data	THB	1,500.00	
Wages	Little Bird	THB	12,300.00	
Food Mae Sot and travel		THB	13,500.00	
		THB	119,798.36	£95.00 FeX: £1 = THB 42
Total as GBP	£	2,947.34		

Oct 2024 - Jan 2025 Delivery costs Mae Sot (as GBP)



Summary

Income from Donations: £1226.35

Expenses

- Delivery in Mae Sot: £2,947.34

- "Set-up" costs: £1,488.35

Total: £4,435.69

Balance: -£3202

Difference covered by Project Manager, Jules.

Practically speaking, getting donations up to £3500 is our target for 2025-26. We are unlikely to get a low cost vehicle to rent again and we want to employ/support more Myanmar or Thai young adults as trainers. We need to find funding to achieve this goal.

CircusPlay is a continuation of the project started in the Autumn of 2014 in Yangon when [The Serious Fun Committee](#) made the 1st Yangon Juggling Festival happen. We continued that project in Yangon each dry season (Oct- Feb) until the pandemic in 2020 and renamed it [Social Circus Myanmar](#) in 2016. In 2022 it became possible to travel again, but not into Myanmar due to the military coup and subsequent civil war. We created CircusPlay to work with Myanmar communities on the border around Mae Sot and connected with [Spark Circus](#), Help Without Frontiers and this season with [Spoon Circus](#).

Full Book-keeping data is available to anyone on request.

Book-keeping and bank accounts are checked and reviewed by [Social Circus International](#) before funds are released to Circus Play. directors@socialcircusinternational.com

Thanks for reading this report. Jules Howarth, project manager and lead circus tutor, Circus Play.

Updated July 30th 2025, Glastonbury, UK.

Further info: email info@circusplay.org

Or contact Jules UK 0770 4357715 (phone, whatsapp)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/socialcircusmyanmar>

Report ends.

