

# INSIGHT OUT!

Photo Storytelling Project



[www.insightoutproject.org](http://www.insightoutproject.org)

## What We Do

InSIGHT OUT! Photo Storytelling project trains youth in conflict and post-disaster settings to express themselves through photography, writing and public events.

The project promotes youth leadership by amplifying their stories and voices in their communities. We train refugee, migrant and at risk youth in any country where we are invited to share our program.

InSIGHT OUT! encourages cross-cultural exchange in workshops by bringing together kids from diverse ethnic, racial and religious communities to shoot photos; create art; and make new friends.

Since 2005, we have organized workshops for over 1,000 youth and young adults in Burma/Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and the United States.

## Workshops

InSIGHT OUT! offers basic photography and journal writing skills to young people displaced by armed conflict, political upheaval and affected by social inequities as a media form for them to document their daily lives and their aspirations.

We organize group exhibitions at the community and national level, publish youths stories in media and promote leadership by hosting Youth Ambassadors to publicly speak at events.

Our project partners with local NGOs and schools in the communities where we work to recruit participants for workshops taught by media and humanitarian professionals in the



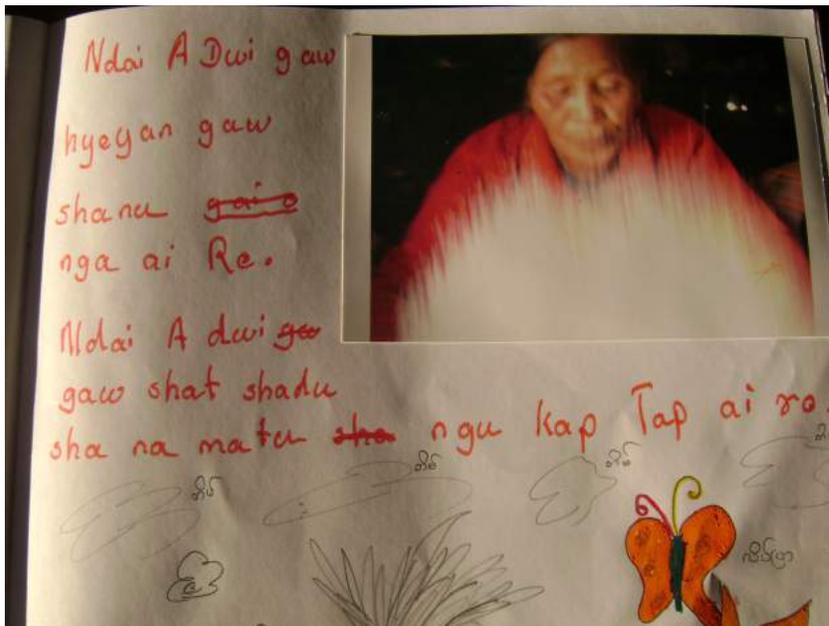
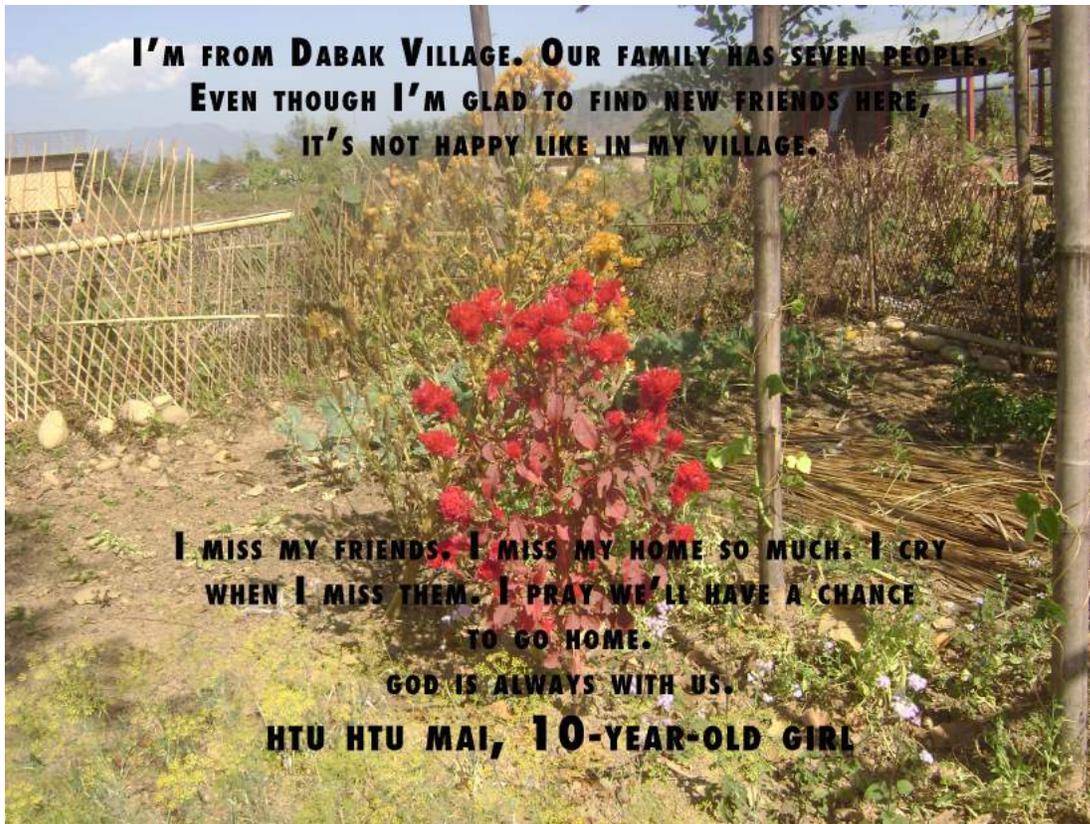
camps or schools where they live.



Workshops are organized during school holidays or as afterschool and weekend programs. Youth are divided into groups with a lead trainer and local staff as a co-trainer and translator. Youth receive a Photo ID card to identify with their group.

Participants are given specific photo assignments and photo prints are mounted in journals where youth write prose or captions for their images. Arts and crafts materials are used to decorate journals as another form of creative exploration.





## Photo Exhibitions

InSIGHT OUT! has organized successful group photo and story exhibitions in partnership with the Goethe Institut, Phuket Aquarium and Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in Thailand, at the Chobi Mela Festival in Bangladesh, the Angkor Photo Festival in Cambodia, at Pansodan Scene Gallery in Burma/Myanmar and the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts in San Francisco.



## Youth Leadership and Cross-Cultural Exchange

InSIGHT OUT! has organized and implemented numerous large-scale youth exchanges following a series of workshops.

In Thailand, we organized the Saphan Jai Festival in Khao Lak province showcasing a large photo exhibition and concert featuring local and international musicians with dance performances by Thai Muslim, Thai Buddhist, Moken and Burmese migrant children.

We also organized a Youth Caravan in southern Thailand, bringing a group of 60 participants to the Phuket Aquarium on Children's Day where they spoke at the opening of their exhibition and gave a mini workshop demonstration to visiting children. The participants included

children who travelled from Thailand's southern restive provinces to Phuket to join their peers from Phang Nga province.

In Burma/Myanmar, we brought three Youth Ambassadors from Kachin IDP camps to speak at the Black Orchids exhibition held at the Pansodan Scene Gallery in Yangon. While in Yangon for the first time, the youth met with National League for Democracy leaders and newly elected MPs, 88 Generation Group leaders and gave press interviews to national print and broadcast media. They spoke at the opening night of the exhibition, which was opened by civil society leader, Ko Min Ko Naing to a packed audience.

### **Media Publication**

Photos and stories created by our participants and interviews with our youth have been published and broadcast in national, regional and international media including: Bangkok Post, The Nation, The Irrawaddy, Seven Day Journal, MRTV, ABC Australia, Asian Wall Street Journal and GEO magazine among others.

### **Our Team**

InSIGHT OUT! was founded by a group of professional photojournalists in the aftermath of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Photographer Suthep Kritsavanarin is a lead trainer of the project along with veteran photographer Trix Rosen. Human rights advocate Debbie Stothard joined our team in Myanmar in 2013 as a Workshop Manager and post-production supervisor.





Director Jeanne Hallacy is a documentary filmmaker and media professional with decades of professional media experience in Southeast Asia.

We work closely with our local partners to impart computer and media skills during the workshops and collaborate on planning public events in their communities.

### **Funders**

InSIGHT OUT! has been a grantee of the Open Society Foundations since 2005. We have received funding from UNICEF Thailand and Indonesia and the German Embassy in Thailand and Save the Children in Thailand. Corporate in-kind sponsorship was received from SONY Thailand and Unilever Thailand. The US Embassy in Myanmar funded a workshop in Kachin state in 2016-17.

### **2018-19 Myanmar Project Plans**

#### **Kachin State**

InSIGHT OUT! held a self-funded volunteer workshop with Kachin IDP youth in the Jaw Ma Sat camp in July 2018.

**The youth's photos were featured in Frontier Myanmar.**

<https://frontiermyanmar.net/en/through-their-own-eyes-displaced-kachin-youth>

## **Rakhine State**

InSIGHT OUT! plans to build upon the successful workshops we have held in Kachin IDP camps by offering interfaith workshops in Rakhine state.

We plan to hold two workshops in Rakhine State with self-identified Rohingya Muslim youth in IDP camps and Rakhine and Maramagyi and other ethnic youth living in a village on the outskirts of Sittwe. The photos created in each respective workshop will be shared with the other community in a local event to prompt guided discussion as a seminal peace building initiative.

## **Myanmar Exhibition and Youth Ambassadors Meet**

We plan to organize a group photo exhibition by early 2019 showcasing the work created in all the workshops and will invite Youth Ambassadors from each community to speak at the opening.

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