

Field Trip Report

Date: 7th May 2019

Location: National Races Village

Introduction

Every year, children enrolled onto SANNI Foundation's sponsorship program are taken on a field trip. The purpose is to give the children a day of fun, expose them to new things they can't normally experience at home and motivate them to dream further than the boundaries of their present hardships.

Last year, the children went to an amusement park and had a lot of fun running around and playing games. This year, they went to the National Races Village; a large park in south Yangon where people can learn about the many different ethnicities of Myanmar set in a green and spacious park.

Every child enrolled onto the SANNI sponsorship program was invited with their caregiver. In the end, 200 children and 150 caregivers came to the village with 40 MAM staff volunteering to help assist.

Program

The children, parents and caregivers arrived at MAM's Thazin Orchid Clinic early in the morning to eat breakfast and get ready for the fun day ahead. Almost none of the children had ever been to the National Races Village and they were excited to see what it was like. The Child Support team gave every child new matching t-shirts and hats, to make the day feel more special and to make them easily identifiable.

Most of SANNI's sponsored children rarely, or never, leave their immediate community, so these SANNI trips are designed to give them the chance to explore and experience new things. For children who have been sponsored multiple years, and have made friends with other SANNI children, this was the time to meet each other again and catch up. For children recently enrolled onto the program, this was their first SANNI trip and many were not expecting so many children and started to understand what it is to be a part of the SANNI family.



SANNI children collecting their breakfast before the day begins



Parents and children getting on the buses

At 9am the buses arrived at the National Races Village and everyone helped to unpack all the food, water and boxes from the buses. Then all the children and their parents or caregiver were organised into teams and were told the plan for the day.



Helping unpack water from the buses



Sorting everyone into teams

Each team was assigned an MAM guide with a factsheet made by the Child Support team with interesting information and stories about the ethnicities they were exploring at the park. Then, once everyone had seen everything, there would be a fun game to test how much everyone remembered, with winners in each team awarded a prize. The Child Support team wanted this trip to be about having fun whilst developing important life skills like team work and interacting and communicating with new, different, people.



Learning about traditional Shan state weaving



Learning about traditional musical instruments – in this picture you can see a Mon state crocodile-shaped stringed *Mi gyuang* and a large bent harp called a *Saung Gauk*



Children from the SANNI-supported Motherhouse



Playing with Myanmar puppets



Listening to stories about mythical animals



Exploring traditional houses



This SANNNI boy was captivated by the Myanmar dresses



Team photo!





Having some fun!



Friends walking together



Feeding deer



After everyone had explored the park, everyone joined together again for lunch and games. Thura, Child Support Manager, had created a special dance for the day and taught everyone the moves. Soon, the whole hall was filled with everyone dancing and laughing!



Prizes were given to children who had been the most active and participatory throughout the day. The Child Support team wanted to promote how engaging with people and being motivated to learn is a good thing that will be rewarded



Although, for some, a little rest was needed!



Presents were also given to all the children so no one felt left out.





Each year, the SANNI Myanmar family grows and the MAM-SANNI partnership continues to support children who are in serious need of support for their health, education and living standards. But as this trip shows, it's also important to give children the opportunity to explore, learn, be social, and simply have fun!

On behalf of all the children on this field trip, the Child Support team would like to express their great thanks and gratitude to the SANNI Foundation for providing the funds to organise this trip. Very few families can afford to have these sorts of experiences and this trip has created lasting memories for the children, as they continue to learn and grow, as a member of the SANNI family.

