

IWITNESS TRIP

The IWitness Global Citizens program engages IKEA co-workers and customers in projects funded by the annual IKEA Good Cause campaigns. The program sends co-workers to projects run by IKEA Foundation partners to see how these projects help some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Since IKEA opened its first store in Indonesia in 2014, IKEA Indonesia has participated in two IWitness trips. The first trip was in 2016 where six co-workers visited programs run by Save the Children in Bandung, West Java. The second one was in 2017 where another six co-workers visited Mae La Refugee camp in Thailand, a program carried out by Handicap International.



Save the Children – Inclusive Community Development and School for All (IDEAL) program

The trip to Bandung was to see Save the Children's Inclusive Community Development and School for All (IDEAL) program. The IDEAL project started in January 2016 and is situated in the West Java Province. The goal is to increase access to quality inclusive education for children with disabilities to attain their right to education and protection.

The five-day trip to Bandung District was very full of activities. The first day was spent at Save the Children office where we were briefed about the program, how to interact with children and the do's and don'ts during the trip.

The second day, IKEA team went to an Elementary School in Cipinang Village, Cimaung Sub-district, where IKEA co-workers were divided into three groups and played a role as a teacher for grades 1, 2, and 3. The second half of the day was spent at a junior high school also located in the same village to help the students with their extracurricular activities.



On the third day of the trip, IKEA team visited an Elementary School in Jamika to assist students in running their campaign activities and spread the communications to the community. The next day, the team spent the entire day in Cimaung Sub-district to decorate an early childhood center with the help of the community. The last day of the trip was a visit to witness the inauguration of a child-friendly park in Soreang Sub-district. The equipment used in the park is supported by IKEA Foundation.



Handicap International – Mae La Refugee Camp, Thailand

The IWitness Trip in 2017 was to visit Refugee Camps in Thailand run by Handicap International in providing early childhood development opportunities to children with disabilities and other vulnerable children in refugee camps. The goal of the program is to create spaces where children with and without disabilities, children of all kinds, can come together in a safe place, and play and learn together.

Since 1984, Thailand has provided refuge to people fleeing violence in Myanmar, and more recently to economic migrants. The population in the Thai refugee camps, located along the Myanmar-Thailand border, is now estimated at 111,000 people.

Almost half of the population of the camp is under 18. Most children are born in the camp; they do not have birth certificates and are stateless, which jeopardizes their future.

One of the camps that the IKEA Team visited was Mae La Camp, the largest refugee camp with more than 40,000 refugees, only an hour's drive away from Mae Sot, the nearest town.



The life of the refugees is quite restricted in the camp because they usually cannot go out. Most of the refugees rely heavily on the weekly food distributions and the humanitarian assistance provided by international NGOs and community-based organizations.

In Mae La Camp, children have no place or opportunity to play. For children with disabilities, it is even more difficult. A lot of them are hidden away, because places in the camps are simply not accessible especially if they are in wheelchair or if need a walking device to assist.

The four day trip to the camp was used by the IKEA team to interact with the children at the camp by having toy making workshops, a visit to the rehabilitation center as well as home visit to families with disability family member.

