

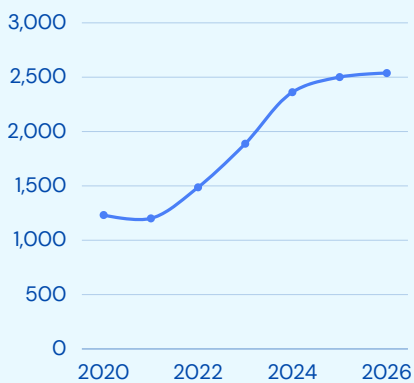
# School Leavers 2025-26



Help Without Frontiers Thailand Foundation (HWF) provides support to students and teachers at ten Migrant Learning Centres on the Thai-Myanmar border. These MLCs provide mother-tongue education to migrant and displaced children from Myanmar, and opportunities for access to training, healthcare, and protection services.

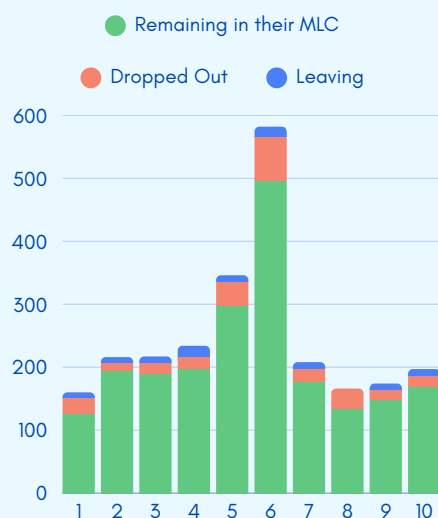
Migrant communities in Thailand face a range of challenges that can affect school enrolment. While some students drop out of MLCs during the school year, others leave their school at the highest offered grade and seek out new opportunities.

HWF monitors enrolment at these MLCs so that we can try to support children and their families as their education journey progresses. The data below shares information on the number of children leaving school during and at the end of the 2025-26 academic year, their next steps, and their future plans.

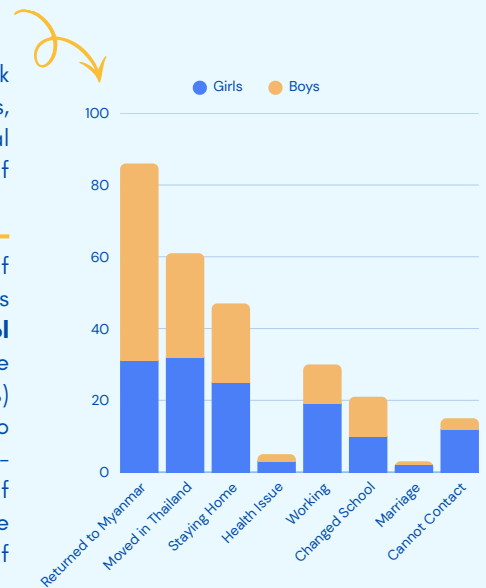


Student enrolment at MLCs across Tak Province has increased dramatically since the Myanmar military coup in February 2021. Enrolments at the ten MLCs supported by HWF have increased from 1,201 in the 2021-22 academic year to 2,538 in 2026-27; student numbers at 52 other MLCs in Tak Province also reflect this change over time. Many students were turned away from schools at the start of the school year due to a lack of capacity.

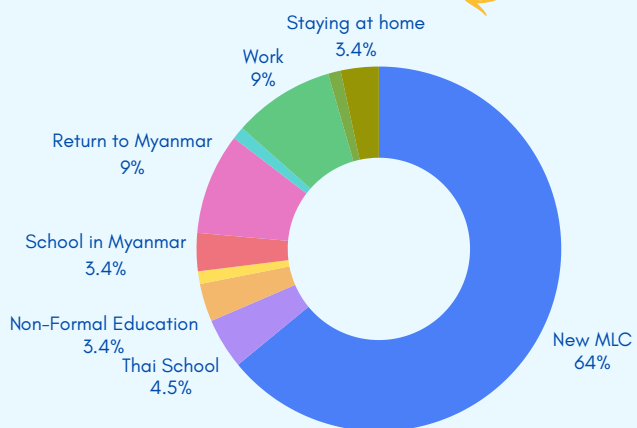
During the 2025-26 academic year, 268 students **dropped out** of HWF-supported MLCs - 10.7% of enrolled students. The leading cause of dropping out was a change in location - whether returning to Myanmar or moving to a new place in Thailand. A significant portion (47 students) also dropped out to stay at home for various reasons, including taking care of younger siblings or family members with health issues. 30 students dropped out of their MLC and began working, including in factories, agricultural work, and general stores.



More girls dropped out of school to work than boys. They began work in small shops, packing flowers, and other agricultural work. The majority of these girls (12 out of 19) were below the age of 16.



At the end of the school year, a number of students reached the end of their MLC's highest Grade level and became **school leavers** - 89 students in total across the ten MLCs. Of these 68 students (76%) remained in education, by transferring to another MLC, a Thai school, or a non-formal or vocational program. Eight of these school leavers began working, while three are staying at home, taking care of family members.



MLC teachers also asked their student leavers about their future dreams. The most common responses were teacher (26%), doctor or nurse (21%), and mechanic or engineer (5%). Other careers with multiple mentions included designer, makeup artist, flight attendant, and businessperson.

### Needs and Recommendations

- new learning spaces to cater to increasing number of children seeking education access
- training support to help Myanmar children and youth upskill to access good employment opportunities and reach their potential
- provide livelihood opportunities to migrant families to improve household income and reduce the need for student dropout
- sensitive SRHR training to address the issue of child marriage
- Thai language support to facilitate transfers to Thai schools