



Waymaker Learning Centre Frist Quarter Report: May 2026



Growing Up Between Nature and Uncertainty

The village raised us gently, in the rhythm of water, mud, rain and forest.

We bathed in rivers or shared water tanks, laughing as the current carried our worries away. The earth was our playground, soft mud between our fingers, rain falling freely on our faces. With handmade toys and endless imagination, we created our own worlds.

The forest and river fed both our hunger and our curiosity. We chased fish, caught prawns, crabs, and snails, our small hands learning the ways of survival and joy at the same time.

Life at home was humble, simple houses, simple meals of rice and vegetables, sometimes enriched by what we gathered from the river or forest.

Yet, even in this innocence, fear found its way in. The distant roar of aeroplanes and the sight of armed uniforms would silence our laughter. We did not fully understand, but we felt it, the shadow that lingered over our childhood.

A Place to Be Safe, to Learn, to Dream

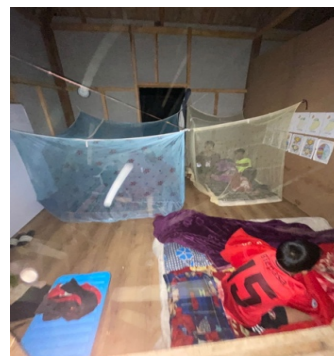
In 2026, this year, we have 145 students from 15 villages across the region. Due to limited space and resources, we are unfortunately unable to accommodate more children who are in need of education.

As the crisis in our region continues, childhood has changed in ways no child should have to experience. The ongoing conflict and forced conscription across the region and country, many young boys are currently living in fear of forced arrest and recruitment to carry arms. Families are increasingly seeking safe places where their children can stay and continue their education without fear and insecurity.



With few safe options left, parents started sending their children to our learning centre not just for education, but for protection. What was once simply a place of learning has quietly become one of the very few places where young people can still feel safe.

Each day, more young boys arrive to sleep in the school building. Some come carrying small bags, others with nothing at all, but all of them come with the same need to learn, to be safe, and to hold on to a sense of normal life. Within the centre, they feel a place where fear does not follow them inside.



At Waymaker Learning Centre, lessons continue. Laughter slowly returns. Children sit together, study together, and begin to dream again. In a time of uncertainty, the centre stands as a quiet promise: that even in crisis, children deserve safety, dignity, and a future.



Today, the school stands as something different; a place of safety in the middle of that uncertainty. For many children, it is more than just a place to learn. It is where they can sleep without fear, where they are protected, and where they can simply be children again.

Within its walls, hope begins to grow. Books replace fear, friendships replace silence, and dreams begin to take shape. What was once just a place of learning has become a safe haven a place where children are not only protected, but also given the chance to imagine a future beyond fear.

Here, in this school, safety becomes the foundation for hope, and hope becomes the path to a better future.



At the same time, our school continues to serve the wider community in many important ways. It regularly hosts meetings with students' parents, provides a safe place for community members to raise concerns and discuss local issues, and supports different emergency response meetings during times of crisis. The space has become an important centre for ongoing community needs, coordination, and support.



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Keep Learning and Hoping!

Beyond safety and learning, the children are also rebuilding a sense of purpose and responsibility in their daily lives.

Within the school compound, they spend time gardening planting vegetables, nurturing the plants.

They are also learning about waste management, keeping their surroundings clean and organised. Together, they take part in plastic segregation construction, collecting and sorting waste and plastic, understanding how to care for their environment and their community.



These small daily activities are more than just tasks. They give children a sense of normalcy, dignity, and pride. In a time when so much feels uncertain, these moments of learning and doing help them feel grounded again. They are learning how to live, how to care, and how to build a better future for themselves and for their community.



Community leaders, mothers and grandmothers



In the evenings, after long days of worry and work, they come.

Mothers, grandmothers, and community leaders walk quietly to the centre, often in small groups. Some arrive early, others much later, but many stay waiting patiently, sometimes until 11 p.m. just for a chance to speak.

They do not come empty-hearted. They come with stories, with gratitude, and with hope.

One by one, or group by group, they sit with us. They speak about their children, how they are changing, how they are learning, how they are smiling again. Their voices carry both relief and emotion. Some struggle to find the words, but their presence says enough.

It became difficult to host everyone individually, so they began coming in groups, standing together as a community. Together, they expressed their deep thanks to the WMT team not only for teaching, but for protecting their children, for giving them a place where they can feel safe and learn.



Again and again, they ask us to pass on their words.



“Please tell those who support you... thank you.”

“Please let them know our children are safe.”

“Please tell them they are giving our children a future.”

In those quiet, late hours, under simple lights, their gratitude fills the space. It is not formal, not written, but deeply felt.

And in that moment, it becomes clear, this is more than a school. It is a shared hope, carried by a whole community, and entrusted to everyone who stands with them.

Thank you from WMT Team

Thank you for your support again. This would not be possible without your support. You are not only supporting education, you are protecting lives and shaping hope in the midst of crisis.

But the need continues to grow. More children are arriving, more families are seeking safety, and the responsibility we carry together is becoming greater each day.

We kindly ask for your continued support to sustain and expand this work. With your support, we can ensure that every child who comes to us is not turned away, that they are welcomed, protected, and given the opportunity and a chance to learn and dream.