

# E91 LIFT Campaign

## Saa Paper Project – Chiangmai, Thailand

### Rapha House International

#### *Saa Paper*

There are many mulberry trees, or Saa, growing in Northern Thailand. These trees have a very special characteristic: they shed their bark once a year just after the rainy season. The bark can be easily pulled off the tree without harming the tree in the process. It is from this bark that Saa paper is made, making Saa a quintessential renewable resource.

#### *Process*

The Saa bark is boiled in large vats filled with water and ash until the fibers in the bark separate and become a thin pulp. The artist then dips a wooden frame with a fine screen into the pulp mixture. The pulp is gently swirled around in the frame, allowing the water to drain off, leaving a thin layer of matted fibers on the screen. The frame is then set in the sun to dry, and the completed sheet of paper is later peeled out of the frame.

#### *Why Saa paper?*

Rapha House always wants to choose vocational training programs that are relevant to our girls and their culture. The Saa paper industry is growing quickly in Northern Thailand, and mulberry trees are a highly accessible and renewable resource. If Rapha House is ever unable to provide jobs for these girls (or if they choose not to work for us), **this training will provide them with the skills they need for sustainable freedom.** There are many businesses, small and large, that sell Saa paper, and often times they are purchasing it from other artisans making it out of their homes.

#### *Start-up Costs*

Here is the breakdown of estimated costs:

\$80,000 *Vocational training building*

\$5,000 *Equipment + furnishings*

\$5,000 *Trainer salary for 1 year*

\*We currently have a vacant cottage that can be used until the training building is complete.



The bark is boiled until the fibers separate to pulp.



The wet pulp on screens set out in the sun to dry.



The Saa paper is ready to be made into products!

**RAPHA HOUSE**

Love. Rescue. Heal.