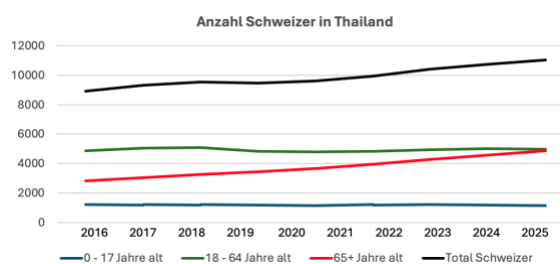




Dear Members of the Swiss Society Bangkok,

The Swiss community in Thailand is on the move – and it is growing. The number of Swiss nationals living in Thailand continues to increase, once again highlighting the attractiveness of our host country. According to the foreign population statistics from December 2025, 11'030 Swiss citizens are officially registered in Thailand – an increase of 281 people compared to 2024.

At the same time, a look at our five Swiss associations in Bangkok, Hua Hin, Phuket, Koh Samui, and Chiang Mai shows that only around 1'100 individuals are members of one of these associations. This discrepancy illustrates how diverse – but also fragmented – our diaspora is, and that not everyone feels the need to primarily engage within the circle of fellow Swiss nationals while living abroad.



Source: [Auslandsschweizerstatistik](https://www.auslandsschweizerstatistik.ch/)

Particularly striking is the growing number of Swiss retirees choosing to spend their later years in Thailand. With a share of 44%, or 4'877 individuals (+307 compared to 2024), Thailand has the highest proportion of Swiss citizens over the age of 65 among all Swiss communities abroad worldwide.

This development brings both opportunities and challenges, whether in terms of social networking, healthcare provision, or integration into the existing community. Older individuals, in particular, often face difficulties in obtaining adequate health insurance. In this context, National Councilor Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter once again submitted a parliamentary postulate during the summer session of the National Council. You can read more about this in the ASO News.

As mentioned earlier, our diaspora is highly diverse. Alongside retirees, it includes working professionals, entrepreneurs, digital nomads, adventurers, dual citizens, and many others. In this edition, we would like to highlight one of them: we are pleased to feature an engaging interview with Swiss professional footballer **Charyl Chappuis**, who shares insights into his career and his connection to both Thailand and Switzerland.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to a report shared with us by our member Ursula Anliker. It sheds light on the important work of the organization “Child Protection in Thailand,” which is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of children—an effort that deserves our attention and support.

I wish you an inspiring read and thank you for your interest and your connection to our community.

Josef Schnyder
President SSB

Interview with CHARYL CHAPPUIS

Charyl Chappuis was born in Switzerland and first gained wider recognition as part of the Swiss U-17 national team that won the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2009, alongside players such as Granit Xhaka and Ricardo Rodríguez.

He began his professional career in Switzerland (including with Grasshopper Club Zurich) before moving to Thailand in 2013, where he enjoyed considerable success with clubs such as Buriram United and Muangthong United.

As a member of the Thai national team, he won, among other titles, the AFF Championship in 2014 and 2016.



What motivated your move to Buriram in Thailand in 2013?

My move to Buriram was driven by several factors. One of the most important was the opportunity to play in Thailand—the home country of my mother. I have always had a close connection to Thailand, and the idea of continuing my career there while experiencing the country from a different perspective was very appealing.

At the same time, I found myself in a challenging sporting situation in Switzerland. I was therefore open to new opportunities. From the very beginning, Buriram United showed great trust in me from the very beginning and made it clear that they were very keen to sign me. This sense of appreciation, combined with

the club's clear vision, played an important role in my decision.

Looking back, it was a bold step—but one I have never regretted. From a sporting perspective, I was able to develop further and gain many valuable experiences. Off the pitch as well, this move had a lasting impact on my life. The strong support from fans and the growth of my presence on social media opened up many new opportunities that I could never have anticipated.

Today, I can say with full conviction that moving to Thailand was the right decision—both on and off the pitch. It has shaped my career, enriched my life, and made me the person I am today. For that, I am deeply grateful.

What does Switzerland mean to you today, and do you actively maintain ties to the country?

Switzerland will always remain an important part of my identity. I was born and raised there, received my football education there, and had many formative experiences—both in sport and in my personal life. In particular, my time with the Swiss youth national teams and winning the U-17 World Cup in 2009 are among the most cherished memories of my career.

Even though I have now lived in Thailand for many years, I continue to maintain close ties to Switzerland. A large part of my family lives there, and I try to return regularly to spend time with relatives and friends. Switzerland is a place where I will always feel at home.

At the same time, I am proud to carry both Swiss and Thai cultures within me. Both countries have shaped me and made me who I am today. Switzerland will therefore always hold a very special place in my heart.

Can you imagine returning to Switzerland in the future?

Yes, in principle, I can certainly imagine that. Switzerland is my homeland—my roots are there, and I still have many personal connections to the country. Family, friends, and the many memories of my youth and football education continue to tie me strongly to Switzerland.

In recent years, I would probably have said without hesitation that I see my long-term future in Thailand. However, since the birth of my son—who is now almost 15 months old—this question has naturally taken on greater importance. Becoming a father makes you reflect on different things: the future, quality of life, nature, climate, and the environment in which your child will grow up.

That said, I am very happy with my current situation. Thailand has become my home over many years—I have built my life here and feel very comfortable. For now, I still see my future primarily in Thailand.

At the same time, I deeply value Switzerland and can well imagine that my son will also develop a strong connection to both countries. My wish for the future is to always have the possibility to live between both worlds—perhaps with Thailand as our main base, but with regular stays in Switzerland.



How do you experience life in Thailand compared to Switzerland—what do you particularly appreciate about each country?

I consider myself very fortunate to know both countries so well, and I value different aspects of each. Switzerland stands for a high quality of life, safety, stability, and stunning natural landscapes. The mountains, lakes, and distinct seasons each have their own unique appeal. Whenever I am in Switzerland, I also appreciate the structure and reliability that characterize everyday life there.

Thailand, on the other hand, has shaped me in a completely different way. I love the openness and warmth of the people, the culture, the

food, and the sense of joy that you feel here every day. Life is often more relaxed, and people have an incredible ability to remain positive even in difficult situations. I really admire that mindset.

Of course, both countries have their advantages and disadvantages, but I try not to compare them directly. Instead, I focus on taking the best from both worlds. Thanks to my Swiss and Thai roots, I feel deeply connected to both cultures. If I'm honest, Thailand has had a particularly strong influence on my life in recent years. I have had many of my most meaningful experiences here, both professionally and personally. At the same time, Switzerland will always remain an important part of my identity. I am grateful to be able to call both countries my home.

What advice would you give to young Swiss abroad who want to pursue their own path internationally?

I would encourage them to stay open to new experiences and to have the courage to follow their own path. Living abroad offers many opportunities, but also comes with challenges. Things don't always go according to plan, and especially in difficult moments, it is important to remain patient and believe in yourself.

For me personally, moving to Thailand was one of the most important decisions of my life. It allowed me not only to grow as a footballer, but also to learn tremendously as a person. Living in a different culture broadens your perspective and helps you see the world through new eyes. At the same time, I would advise young Swiss abroad never to forget their roots. There is something special about embracing multiple cultures—you don't have to choose one over the other; you can be proud of both.

In the end, it's about finding your own path and doing what truly makes you happy. If you stay open, work hard, and seize opportunities with courage, doors can open that you may never have imagined.

Thank you—and I wish you continued success in your professional career, as well as all the best for you and your family.

Q1 REVIEW

Get-Together, 21 April:

Following Songkran, around a dozen SSB members and guests gathered for our April get-together at the CHESA Restaurant and enjoyed a warm and friendly evening filled with engaging conversations and new encounters. As there was no formal presentation, the evening focused entirely on exchange and socializing in a relaxed atmosphere.

Get-Together, 19 May:

Consul General Jacques Baudevin gave a presentation on the activities of the Regional Consular Centre in Bangkok. The information shared, as well as the engaging discussions with our members, were greatly appreciated.

Get-Together, 16 June:

We had the pleasure of welcoming Yvonne Urfer, one of the first teachers at the Swiss School Bangkok, as the evening's guest speaker. With her remarkable storytelling talent, she took us on a fascinating journey back to the early days of the Swiss School in Bangkok. The special atmosphere of the evening was further enhanced by the presence of two former students who had once been taught by her. They were included in the talk, bringing the stories vividly to life and creating both nostalgic and light-hearted moments among the audience.



On our website, under "Gallery 2026," you will find detailed reports along with numerous photos from our events.

https://ssb.or.th/gallery/gallery_2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

11 July Jass Tournament, Restaurant SwissCorner

21 July Get-Together, Restaurant Chesa
Priska Rüegg presents her new cookbook

1 Aug. Swiss National Day, Garden BBQ at the Swiss Embassy with Swiss folk music and a traditional Swiss buffet



18 Aug. Get-Together, Restaurant Chesa

15 Sep. Get-Together, Restaurant Chesa

19 Sep. "Metzgete" at Jacky & Tom's

For more information and updates please visit our website:

<https://www.ssb.or.th/events/events>

Do you have an interesting topic you would like to present to our members at a Get-Together? A hobby, a special journey, or an area of expertise? If so, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with us: vicepresident@ssb.or.th



OSA NEWS

1) Health Insurance

Swiss citizens living abroad outside the EU/EFTA lose access to the mandatory Swiss basic health insurance scheme upon leaving Switzerland. Older individuals in particular - especially those with pre-existing medical conditions - often face significant challenges as a result: private insurers frequently accept them only at very high premiums, impose exclusions on coverage, or refuse coverage altogether. This can lead to underinsurance or even a complete lack of insurance, with potentially serious consequences in the event of illness.

The Swiss Health Insurance Act (KVG) is explicitly based on the principle of solidarity and prohibits risk selection through mandatory insurance and compulsory acceptance. However, the exclusion of Swiss citizens abroad outside the EU/EFTA means that these fundamental principles no longer apply to a growing segment of a population that has contributed to the system for many years. This represents a structural inconsistency in the current legal framework.

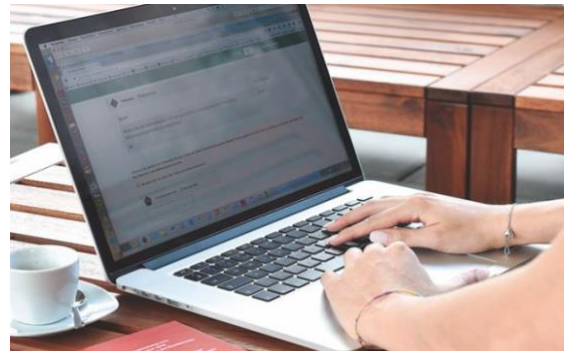
On 1 June 2026, National Councilor Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter (The Centre) once again submitted a parliamentary postulate on this issue in the National Council, with the aim of examining this gap in coverage and identifying a possible solution for Swiss citizens living abroad outside the EU/EFTA. The underlying rationale is that a voluntary, solidarity-based continuation scheme could not only provide greater security for those affected, but would also make economic sense, as Swiss retirees abroad help relieve the Swiss social and healthcare system - for example, by not relying on supplementary benefits or costly long-term care and nursing homes in Switzerland.

Links:

[Postulat Text](#)

[Argumentarium](#)

2) E-Voting



Good news: The Canton of **Lucerne** will introduce e-voting for Swiss citizens abroad in September 2026. This means that Swiss nationals registered in the canton's electoral roll will already be able to participate electronically in the vote on 27 September.

In the Canton of **Neuchâtel**, the introduction of e-voting for Swiss citizens abroad is planned for 29 November 2026.

The pilot programs in the cantons of **St. Gallen**, **Thurgau**, and **Graubünden** will continue. In the Canton of **Basel-Stadt**, investigations are still ongoing following an earlier incident. However, it is expected that Basel-Stadt will return to e-voting in the coming months. In addition, the cantons of **Geneva** and **Basel-Landschaft** are expected to join within the next two years.

A first fundamental decision on how and when e-voting can be transitioned into regular operation is anticipated in 2028.

Unfortunately, some cantons still lack the necessary legal framework for e-voting, and political action is required in this regard.

As a reminder, in order for Swiss citizens abroad to participate in votes and elections, they must be registered in a cantonal electoral register. Interested individuals should contact the embassy where they are registered and indicate where they wish to vote. The embassy records this information in the system, after which the relevant municipality is automatically informed and sends the voting materials directly to the individual.

The Calls Most People Never Hear

Child Protection in Thailand and the Work of Childline Thailand Foundation

Thailand is widely recognized for its resilience, hospitality, and sense of community. Over recent decades, the country has undergone rapid economic, technological, and social transformation, creating opportunities for millions across urban and rural communities alike. Yet alongside this progress, many children remain profoundly vulnerable: to violence, neglect, exploitation, family breakdown, and the mounting pressures of an increasingly complex digital world.

These realities cross every boundary. Vulnerable children live in major cities and provincial communities, within migrant and asylum-seeker populations, and in online spaces that geography cannot contain. Most of them remain invisible.

In Bangkok, the contrast is especially sharp. Beneath the rhythm of one of Asia's most dynamic cities exists a quieter reality: children navigating abuse, instability, or severe emotional distress largely out of public view. Some live in homes where conflict has become normalized. Others face online exploitation or isolation without a trusted adult to turn to. A growing number of children and teenagers are struggling silently with anxiety, depression, and the psychological weight of modern life.

For children in crisis, the most important thing is often surprisingly simple: having someone answer and listen.

That is the role of Childline Thailand Foundation.

Founded in 2003 and formally established as a foundation in 2008, Childline Thailand Foundation operates the national **1387 child helpline - free, 24 hours a day, every day of the**

year. Through telephone and digital channels, including social media and messaging platforms, the organization provides counselling, emergency intervention, referrals, and long-term support coordination, ensuring children can seek help in whatever way feels safe and accessible.

Behind every call is a response process that involves far more than listening. Many calls come from children who have never previously spoken to an adult about what they are experiencing. Depending on the situation, cases may require coordination with hospitals, schools, police, social workers, or government agencies. Some children need immediate protection. Others need counselling, family mediation, or simply a trusted adult who takes their situation seriously.

In 2025, Childline Thailand responded to children and young people more than **82,000 times**. That is roughly **225 children every day**, nearly **one every seven minutes**. The organization's trained counsellors, psychologists, and social workers handle cases spanning domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness, trafficking, online exploitation, mental health crises, and neglect.

The scale of need is difficult to absorb. Every day, at least six children contact Childline regarding violence, while many more seek urgent help related to food, shelter, or healthcare. In 2025 alone, the Foundation provided more than **12,200 meals** and **660 emergency overnight services** for children in need, alongside continuing educational programs for street-connected youth.

Childline Thailand's work extends well beyond emergency response.

The Foundation is part of several national and international child protection networks, including Child Helpline International and International Social Service - contributing to cross-border collaboration, safeguarding standards, and regional advocacy. One of its most significant

efforts has focused on ending corporal punishment against children. For many years, physical punishment remained culturally accepted in homes and schools despite clear evidence of long-term psychological harm. Childline joined national and international efforts to raise awareness and push for stronger legal protections.

In March 2025, Thailand passed landmark legislation banning all forms of violent discipline against children across homes, schools, and care facilities - a development welcomed by child protection organizations worldwide. Such reforms matter beyond legislation: child protection is not only about responding to crises after harm occurs, but preventing cycles of violence before they become embedded across generations.

This preventive mission has taken on new urgency in the digital era. Children today face risks that did not exist a generation ago: online grooming, cyberbullying, and sexual exploitation through digital platforms are now central concerns globally. Thailand's rapid digital adoption has created real opportunities for young people, but also serious vulnerabilities, particularly for those without stable support systems or digital literacy.

Over more than two decades, **over one million children** across Thailand have reached out to Childline for help. Beyond direct services, the Foundation reaches hundreds of thousands more annually through digital outreach and child protection awareness campaigns.

None of this happens without cost...

Every answered call, every meal provided, every child guided toward safety represents not just professional commitment, but resources. The 1387 helpline operates every hour of every day because people and organizations have chosen to make that possible. When that support

contracts, so does the Foundation's capacity to respond. Somewhere in that gap is a child who needed to reach someone and couldn't.

For many members of Bangkok's international community, Thailand is not simply a place of residence, but a society in which they have built careers, friendships, and families, and one with a long tradition of international contribution to educational, healthcare, and humanitarian causes. Child protection is no different, and in many ways, more urgent. Organizations working on this frontline do not need awareness alone. They need partners willing to translate concern into practical, sustained commitment - through funding, professional collaboration, and the kind of long-term engagement that allows essential services to remain stable, responsive, and available.

Most people will never hear the calls that arrive at 1387 late at night. They will never meet the teenager trying to escape violence, the child sleeping rough after family breakdown, or the young person quietly carrying fear and isolation with nowhere to turn.

But the line exists. Trained people answer it. And for the children who call, that fact alone can alter the course of an entire life.

Whether it continues to exist, at full capacity, fully staffed, available every minute of every day, depends on decisions made by people who will never need to call it themselves.

That is both the challenge and the opportunity.



To learn more about Childline Thailand Foundation and how to support its work, visit www.childlinethailand.org.