



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



ChildFund Myanmar is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 36 million children and their families in 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

ChildFund Australia began working in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) in 2012 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.

Projects are implemented with a range of local civil society organisations, and focus on child protection, access to quality education, and increasing youth resilience, both in urban and rural areas. Disaster risk response, gender equity and disability inclusion are mainstreamed across all activities.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

The fiscal year of 2023-2024 has come to an end and ChildFund Myanmar is delighted to share the achievements we have made together with our partners amid the continuing challenges.

The community-led approach in our Child Protection Program continues to serve the needs of children and provide safer environments for them. The children lead the risk mapping in their communities and through coordination with child protection groups develop approaches for safer communities for them. The Child Safe Centres also serve as the place for children to improve their child protection knowledge and skills, to develop and practice their social skills and enhance their networking.

Our social and emotional learning program continues to provide space and opportunity for children and young people, empowering them to face the challenges in their lives through their own capacity and peer support. At the same time, they were provided with an enabling environment where the parents, caretakers and the community support their leadership to apply their developed capacities and skills for the development of their communities. The Community Youth Centres are also serving as the hub for young people to gather and exchange ideas, share knowledge and stay connected physically.

With a focus on locally led development, our CSO strengthening project works with grassroots community-based organisations working in vulnerable communities where they are enabled through training and mentoring to develop their capacities to take lead in their community response to child protection and development. This is implemented in parallel with our continued support

to our local implementing partners to strengthen their program delivery and organisational capacity.

In 2023, Cyclone Mocha hit Rakhine State which was declared a natural disaster area. The cyclone caused extensive destruction to many villages leaving vulnerable people homeless and in need for urgent support. Working together with our local partner, we have delivered food packages and personal hygiene kits to over a thousand households across seven sites in Rakhine as an early emergency response, meeting the urgent needs of children, young people and communities affected by the disaster.

On behalf of ChildFund Myanmar, I wish to thank our development partners, our donors and our stakeholders for their continued support. I would also like to extend our thanks to the children, young people and the communities we are working with, whose interest and enthusiasm for their own community development make our work possible. Children and young people in Myanmar continue to face significant challenges and, with the dedicated ChildFund Myanmar team committed to our vision, we look forward to working together with our partners to empower the children and young people in Myanmar for a better life.

**WIN MAY HTWAY**  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



A Child Protection Advocate in the Making

Fourteen-year-old Sandy, from a small village in Mandalay, used to spend most of her time at home playing with her younger sister. Her loving parents, concerned for her safety, preferred their children to stay close to home.

Then, her uncle, a member of a ChildFund-supported Child Protection Group, invited her to join a newly formed Child Representative Group.

The Child Representative Groups offer children and young people a space to come together and learn about child protection and child rights.

Initially, Sandy felt hesitant and unsure in the group setting. But by observing and learning from her peers, she gradually gained confidence. After just three meetings, she found her voice, actively engaging in discussions and contributing to the group’s efforts to improve the safety of children in their community.

Through the group, she learned about child rights, child protection, and how to access support services for children at risk. She learned about identifying and responding to risks, and she discovered the power of her own voice in advocating for herself and others.

“Because of the project, I have more friends, and I am more confident,” Sandy proudly shared. “I dare to come forward and talk.”

Empowered by her new knowledge, she eagerly shared what we learnt with her friends and family, including her younger sister and grandmother and even conducted peer-to-peer awareness sessions.

“I used examples of child protection cases when I share child protection knowledge, and encouraged my friends to share their thoughts freely, because it’s better for all,” explained Sandy.

By providing children with a platform to learn, connect, and advocate for themselves, the Child Representative Groups are unlocking children’s potential and creating a ripple effect of positive change within their communities.

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YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED THROUGH CHILD REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS



## Empowering Children Through Safe and Supportive Environments

Twelve-year-old Maung would often disappear at night without telling his family leaving them terrified for his safety. But things began to change when his mother attended a meeting about a new child safeguarding class in their village.

Designed for children aged 7 to 12, the class offered a safe space for learning, playing, and developing essential life skills. Seeing a glimmer of hope, his mother enrolled him in the program.

Through the child safeguarding program, Maung learned the importance of respecting his parents, contributing to household chores, and communicating his whereabouts. He began to understand the value of education, attending school regularly and completing his homework. He even started dreaming about his future and setting goals to achieve his aspirations.

His mother was overjoyed to witness the positive changes in his behaviour. "I really appreciate the project," his mother shares. "My son is changing his behaviour and becoming a clever boy for us. Before, he never listened to us and would get angry when we didn't give him what he wanted."

Inspired by the program's impact on her brother, his sister even joined the project as a Child Representative, advocating for the rights and wellbeing of other children in their village.

Maung's story highlights the transformative power of child-centred programs that provide safe spaces for learning and growth. By equipping children with essential life skills and fostering a sense of belonging, these programs can unlock their potential and pave the way for a brighter future.



## A Champion for Change: One woman's Impact on Child Protection

Daw Su Su Mon, a 42-year-old mother of three from Mandalay, always had a passion for helping others, but she lacked the confidence, and often the time to join community groups.

This all changed when she received an invitation from ChildFund Myanmar to join a newly formed Child Protection Group (CPG), a diverse team of dedicated individuals committed to safeguarding children.

Through trainings led by ChildFund Myanmar and partners, she gained valuable knowledge about child rights, child protection and how to create a safer environment for children. She also honed essential skills in facilitation, communication, and social mobilisation.

"As a mother and a CPG member, I need to understand child protection issues to keep my children and others safe," Daw Su Su Mon explained. "I share my experiences with other parents and encourage them to seek help from CPG when needed."

Through the project's intervention, she has become a driving force for change in her village and vocal advocate for children. Her dedication to child protection has not only increased awareness and access to services but also fostered a sense of collective responsibility for the wellbeing and safety of children.

"I believe that violence and abuse will soon decrease in our village," she said with pride. "I am proud to be a CPG member and hope the project continues."

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**I believe that violence and abuse will soon decrease in our village.**

Daw Su Su Mon, Child Protection Group Member



# Strengthening Partners Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

ChildFund in Myanmar is actively supporting partners to improve their child safeguarding processes and policies to ensure all children are safe and protected.

Daw’s unwavering commitment to child protection is evident in her work as a community mobiliser with the Child Development Association (CFN). Her dedication stems from her experience as a teacher, where she bravely reported a case of sexual assault against a child and supported them in court, despite facing personal consequences. This ignited a fire in her – a determination to advocate for children’s rights and ensure access to child protection services for all.

Drawn to CFN’s commitment to child safeguarding, she applied for a community mobiliser position. Since 2022, she has become a valuable asset to the team and an advocate for child safety in her community.

“When I applied for a job at CFN, I was impressed by their commitment to child safeguarding,” Daw Win explained. “I knew they had a systematic approach to protecting children. I felt there should be clear rules and procedures in place.”

Through a comprehensive induction and training program run by child protection staff from ChildFund Myanmar, she deepened her understanding of child safeguarding policies and procedures. Now, she confidently shares her knowledge with community members, supporting parents and caregivers to protect children from harm.

“I’m truly glad to be an employee of CFN,” Daw Win Su Hlaing shared. “It is an organisation that emphasises child safeguarding policy. I will try my best in the project implementation process for children.”

With the support of ChildFund Myanmar, CFN has strengthened its child safeguarding policies and supported staff to create a safer future for children in Myanmar.

By investing in staff development and organisational capacity building, ChildFund Myanmar is supporting local organisations to strengthen their policies, improve organisational commitment to child safeguarding at all levels and enhance staff understanding of child protection. In turn, fostering a culture of safety and protection that helps create lasting change for children.

“I felt there should be clear rules and procedures in place for child safeguarding”  
  
Daw Win Su Hlaing, Child Development Association

# COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Myanmar:



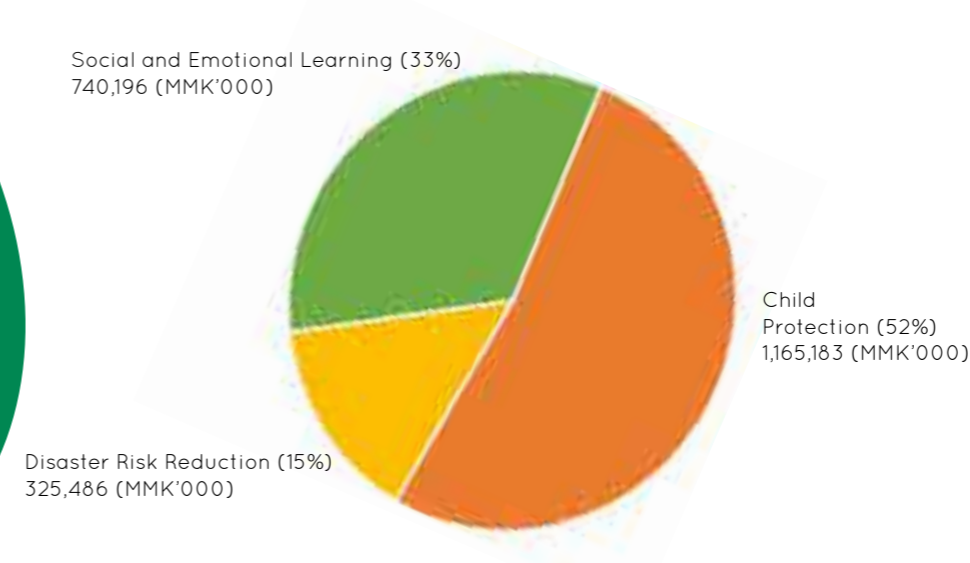
- Child Development Association (CFN) • Ratana Metta Organisation

# Financial report for year ended 30 June 2024

REVENUE	FY22-23 (MMK'000)	FY 23-24
Donations	361,926	459,746
Grants	742,347	1,869,820
Other income	90,386	32,007
Total income	1,194,659	2,361,573

EXPENDITURE	FY 22-23 (MMK'000)	FY 22-23 (MMK'000)
Program and projects	972,682	2,230,865
Program support	103,837	103,043
Accountability and administration	120,374	27,655
Total expenditure	1,196,863	2,361,573

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE MYANMAR FY23-24



**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

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