

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021

ABOUT CHILDFUND MYANMAR

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 12 organisations which assists almost 23 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 and gender equity are mainstreamed across all activities.





Over the last year children and young people across Myanmar have faced crisis after crisis.

Staff, local partners, and the communities in Myanmar have experienced significant political upheaval and the spread of COVID-19.

The flow on effects of these events have left children out of school, families struggling to put food on the table and children uncertain about their futures.

Despite this, I have been inspired by the children and youth we work with and our staff who have continued to demonstrate their resilience.

The military coup at the start of 2021 has created an environment of significant instability, distress and fear for children and families.

These circumstances have been compounded by a third wave of COVID-19 that swept across the country in June. At its peak, there were thousands of cases being reported every day, with the actual number likely to be much higher due to low testing capacities. Access to health care has become increasingly difficult.

Despite these significant disruptions, ChildFund has continued to support children and their families the best we can. This has meant distributing personal protective equipment to families to slow the spread of the virus and supporting local communities with food and other necessary supplies.

Some of the work in this report was undertaken prior to the military coup. This includes empowering youth leaders, teaching young girls vital life skills through a series of workshops, and upgrading the infrastructure in local schools to provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

Thank you to our supporters, partners, local organisations, and volunteer network for their unwavering commitment to standing in solidarity with children and young people during such challenging times. The steadfast support from the ChildFund community has been more valued than ever, and we remain committed to empowering children and young people.

Looking to the future, we are energised and ready to launch four new programs, working with local partners to serve the needs of the children.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to our staff, volunteers and the children and young people in Myanmar for their resilience and dedication during such extraordinary circumstances. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret" followed by a stylized, cursive flourish.

Margaret Sheehan
CEO
ChildFund Australia

We want every child with whom we work to be able to say:

I AM SAFE



Safe and secure schools

Children should be safe in any environment. This includes at home, at school and in all spaces within their local community.

One ChildFund Myanmar program is ensuring that young people can access a quality education in a friendly, supportive, and secure environment.

When developing education projects, ChildFund consults with education specialists, teachers and school management staff to ensure the necessary resources are provided to meet the physical safety needs of children while they are learning.

This includes building new schools, renovating buildings, constructing new fences and safe walkways, and installing fire alarm systems in urban and rural areas.

At the opening of a new three-classroom primary school building (pictured above) in Yangon, a teacher said: "This area is a developing community with many low-income families, and I am thankful for this safe and strong building."

I AM EDUCATED

Young girls learning life skills

Education is more than attending school lessons; it's also about building vital life skills that set children up for success in the future.

ChildFund worked with a local partner organisation to educate more than 800 young women through weekly sharing workshops.



During these sessions they explored topics such as the beauty of diversity, stress management, expressing yourself, building relationships, setting goals and many other topics.

These conversations are facilitated and guided by trained community volunteers.

Because of the program, Thae Thae (pictured above), one of the young girls taking part, has now set a new goal to undertake a university level education.

She continued to build her skills and knowledge at these weekly sessions over the course of the year.

"I am happy to participate in the weekly circle and I enjoy the activities - drawing, life lessons through growing plants, all the games, the good discussions and all the other activities," Thae Thae said.



Young girl going to school.



Volunteers distributing information about COVID-19.

I CONTRIBUTE

Empowering young leaders

ChildFund Myanmar believes in empowering children and youth so they can reach their full potential.

Our youth empowerment program is training young people on valuable life skills, through workshops, coaching and hands-on leadership practice. Participants in the program have gone on to become Youth Ambassadors in their communities and leaders in local youth groups.

Youth groups in project villages across the country were provided with funding to undertake community development projects in collaboration with village elders.

In one village, the youth group worked with the community to organise and manage a garbage collection campaign. This project was initiated, implemented and led by Youth Ambassadors.

In another region, a youth group made and distributed fabric face masks to families so they could protect themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Youth volunteers helping out their communities during COVID-19.

This helped to slow the spread of the virus through the community and meant that families could keep themselves and their children safe.

"In the future, we aim to take the lead in all development work in our village," said one Youth Ambassador.

I HAVE A FUTURE

Helping to protect families from the impacts of COVID-19

Myanmar does not have the necessary infrastructure, resources and systems to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, so when the country was struck by a second wave of COVID-19 in late 2020, many children and their families were left struggling.

With movement restrictions and widespread lockdowns in place, ChildFund Myanmar worked with vulnerable children and communities who were experiencing lost income and financial insecurity as a result of the pandemic.

ChildFund supported hospitals and healthcare services to implement COVID-19 preventative measures so that frontline staff could take care of themselves and patients in

the community. This support was extended to maternal and children's hospitals.

To ease the economic burden on vulnerable children and families, ChildFund also distributed food packages in Yangon. Vital health information was also shared through conversations with families, distributing pamphlets and videos, and through community announcements.

Our trained volunteers explained how members of the community could protect themselves and their families from the spread of COVID-19. They also discussed how families could manage rising levels of stress with stay-at-home orders becoming a part of daily life and still care for their children.



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:



Authorities and Department officials of Mandalay Region, Tanintharyi Region and Yangon Region

• CFN: Child Development Association • Future Light (FL) • Girl Determined • Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS) • Jackson Family Foundation • Monastic Education Development Group (MEDG) • Phoenix • SPECTRUM (SDKN) • ChildFund Myanmar Team

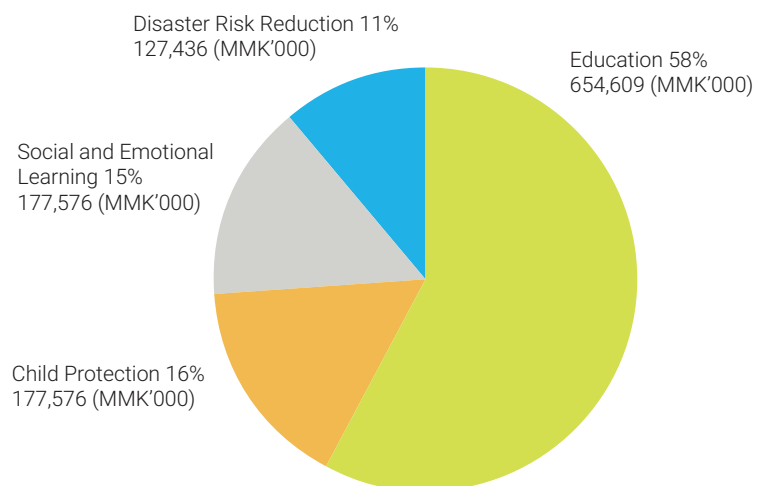
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2021

REVENUE	FY20 (MMK'000)	FY21 (MMK'000)
Donation	145,153	100,994
Grants	1,735,349	1,115,167
Other income	0	61,548
Total revenue	1,880,502	1,277,709

EXPENDITURE	FY20 (MMK'000)	FY21 (MMK'000)
Program and projects	1,721,813	1,135,106
Program support	54,236	143,844
Accountability and administration	55,880	101,730
Total expenditure	1,831,929	1,380,680

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY2021 (MMK'000)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au