

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

ChildFund Myanmar is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent and non-religious 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 more than 9 million children and families in over 50 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 with children, their communities and local organisations and governments to create lasting change, respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote children’s rights. Projects are implemented in partnership 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.

ChildFund Myanmar

Address: Room 201, ShweLaYaung Tower (Tower A), ShweHinTha Condo, Corner of Pyay Road and ShweHinTha Street, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Phone: +95 (01) 507 401

ChildFund Australia

Address: Level 8, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills NSW 2010
Phone: 1800 023 600
Email: info@childfund.org.au
Website: www.childfund.org.au

Designer: Sally Woodward-Hawes
Photography: Joceyln Pederick and ChildFund staff

FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



ChildFund Myanmar, as a child-focused international development organisation, has continued its work and programs to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable children.

The organisation has developed its first Country

Strategic Paper (2016-2020) with a specific focus on our child protection, education and resilience programs. Following the recommendation from a comprehensive review of our country program last year, and with our new Country Strategic Paper, this year has seen a consolidation of our programs both in thematic and geographical areas.

ChildFund Myanmar and our partners have worked to establish, and improve, platforms for children and youth to have a voice in community life and decision-making, while also developing their leadership skills and self-confidence.

This year, we strengthened the community-based child protection groups that manage child protection cases and interact closely with the people who oversee child protection. Moreover, our support of the government’s child case management system has ensured that children and their families have access to appropriate support systems.

This year has seen significant growth in our resilience work. Our youth empowerment project, integrating the Global Community program, has empowered girls and boys from villages to take leadership roles in their

communities. Another leadership project has also started this year – one which gives adolescent girls the tools to cope with a range of issues and to encourage the development of their leadership skills.

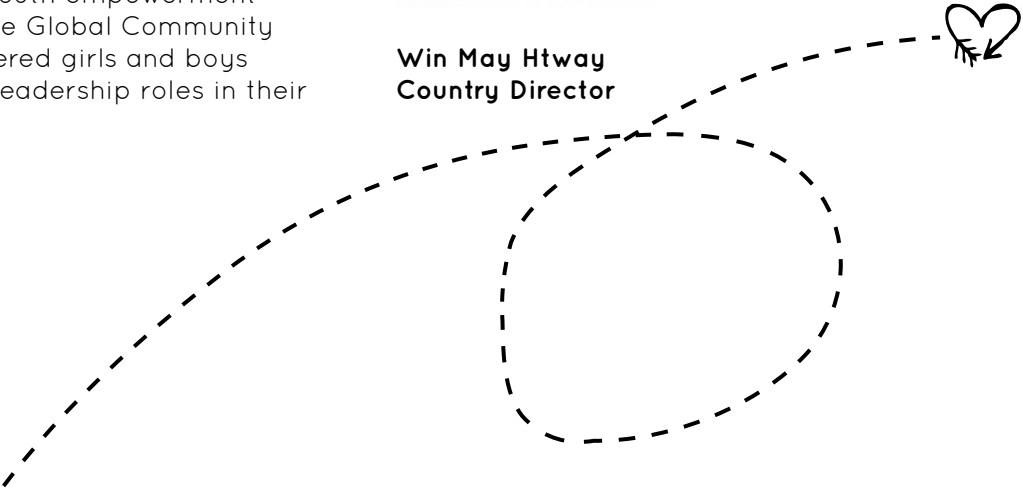
With our partners, we have enhanced the quality of education for children. This has been achieved through providing training and developing guidebooks for teachers and parent-teacher groups, supporting the establishment of learning centres, and constructing classrooms and libraries – creating better and safer environments for students.

We have also contributed to the capacity development and sustainability of our partners by collaborating closely with them on project design and proposal writing; and supporting them in developing their organisational policies.

For all these achievements, we are thankful to the relevant government departments at national and sub-national levels for their support, our partners for their collaboration, the children, youth and communities for their active participation, and our staff for their commitment and dedication. And, on behalf of the children of Myanmar and the communities with whom we work, I would like to thank our donors for their generous contributions over these many years.

Yours sincerely,

Win May Htway
Country Director





I AM SAFE



UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

“Before joining my local children’s group, I stayed at home and did housework. I only had a few friends. I did not participate in community or social activities,” says Khin, who comes from a village in Dawei district.

Established by Future Light, a partner of ChildFund Myanmar, Khin’s local children’s group runs regular awareness-raising sessions for children and youth.

These sessions are crucial, as they help children recognise their rights, and understand more about risks and safety.

“It’s at the children’s group where I first learnt about child rights and child protection.”

By actively participating in group meetings and activities, Khin has improved her communication

skills and confidence, and can share her newfound knowledge. Recently, she was selected as a group leader and representative at regional and national child forums – meeting with, and learning from, policy makers.

“I feel more confident to share my experiences than before, and I am happy to lead my group and help local children stay safe,” Khin says.

PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION

ChildFund Myanmar has been working with local partners to improve the teaching quality and education governance processes at state, monastic and community schools.

This includes providing advanced teacher training and establishing learning support rooms with teaching and learning aids at Teacher Daw Saw’s school. Parent-Teacher Association members have also learnt about their roles and responsibilities in improving school governance.

Daw Saw, who recently attended a ChildFund-supported workshop, said: “Now I can explain the lessons better by using special tools and aids. I feel happy when the children can grasp the lessons.”



I AM EDUCATED

CHILDREN SPEAK UP

ChildFund Myanmar aims to create an environment for children where they can speak openly about their rights and concerns.

Students recently participated in a child rights event as well as a preparation meeting on education advocacy. ChildFund provided training and facilitated meetings, empowering children

to talk to relevant authorities and stakeholders about topics of importance.

Fifteen-year-old Khant is an active member of a children’s group in Yangon, and takes part in activities such as forums and study visits. He says: “I am glad to be part of this children’s group. I can meet with children from other communities and get the chance to discuss our issues with elders.”



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS

As Myanmar opens up to the world, new opportunities are emerging – along with new risks. It is vital that girls are equipped with the knowledge, skills and power to navigate these challenges and make informed life decisions.

ChildFund, in partnership with Girl Determined, gives girls in Myanmar the education and support they need to overcome these challenges. A structured leadership and life-skills program has been developed to bring together adolescent girls from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds to enhance their access to education, health knowledge, participation in decision-making and personal development. The curriculum



spans across communication skills, teamwork and goal setting, to self-esteem, healthy relationships and diversity. Gender norms are also challenged through participation in sports, commonly not available to girls and young women in Myanmar.



I AM HEARD



I HAVE A FUTURE

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 Kachin State (MoeKaung, Myitkyina, WineMaw), Kayah State (Hpruso), Mandalay Region (MahaAungMyay, Pyigyitagon), Sagaing Region (Shwebo), Taninthayi Region (Dawei, Launglon, ThaYetChaung, YePhyu), and Yangon Region (East Dagon, North Dagon, ShwePyiTha) • Child Development Association CFN • Future Light (FL) • Girl Determined • Johnson Family • Jackson Foundation • Kan-Tet-Khone Monastic School (KTK) • Local Development Network (LDN) • Monastic Education Development Group (MEDG) • Precious Stones • PYOE Social Development Group • Shwebo Social Services Group (SSSG) • Spectrum (Mandalay)

IMPROVING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Eight-year-old Khet Khet is a student who dreams of becoming a teacher. She wants to help others, gain financial independence, and ease the burden on her family. But she knows this will only be possible if she can complete her education.

“If my mother is not able to work and we have no money, I am worried I won’t be able to go to school. If I cannot go to school, I cannot be a teacher. I will have to be a servant and do what others ask of me,” she says.

Khet Khet attends a monastic school, which serves the most vulnerable children in her community. The school provides free lessons; however, the classrooms are small, noisy and

overcrowded. Khet Khet’s class is taught at one end of the room, while another teacher instructs a different grade at the other end. It can be hard for students to hear properly and concentrate. Additionally, many teachers do not have formal qualifications.

While monastic schools are important educational institutions, they often find it difficult to run effectively due to limited resources, inadequately trained teachers and unsafe school buildings.

“At this moment, the classrooms are open spaces. If it rains it’s very hard, with water splashing in, we cannot teach anymore. With heavy rains, the school has to be closed, so the lessons get

delayed,” says Daw Kyi, Khet Khet’s teacher.

As a result, ChildFund Myanmar is helping to enhance school environments so that children can improve their learning. By supporting the construction of a two-storey brick building with five classrooms at Khet Khet’s school, students can benefit from a safe, well-equipped learning environment.

At ChildFund, we believe that every child should be able to say: “I am educated”. So in Myanmar, we are not only committed to building more and better classrooms, we are also training teachers to deliver quality lessons to young minds.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2017

INCOME STATEMENT	2017 (MMK'000)	2016 (MMK'000)
Income	1,206,744	897,501
Expenditure	1,205,747	884,380
Excess of income over expenditure	997	13,121

BALANCE SHEET	30 JUNE 2017 (MMK'000)	30 JUNE 2016 (MMK'000)
Total assets	172,045	115,419
Total liabilities	129,513	73,884
Net assets	42,532	41,535

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au