

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016

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 the developing world.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists more than 14 million children and families in 63 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, following the country's shift from decades of military rule to a newly elected government. Child-focused development programs are being delivered in a partnership approach working with local groups and organisations, focusing on the areas of child protection, education, sustainable livelihoods, water and sanitation, health and HIV and AIDS.

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

Editor: Larissa Tuohy

Photography: ChildFund staff

Front cover: Noah, age 12, Myanmar



FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

THE PAST 12 MONTHS represent a milestone year for Myanmar. The first free general election was held in November 2015, with the newly elected civilian government established in April 2016.

On top of this historic transition, the country has witnessed other monumental changes. The Myanmar government agreed in late 2015 to become a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. This requires states to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces under the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities. Current child-focused laws in Myanmar are now being revised to reflect this important change and other changes in policy.

In addition, the government has taken great strides in developing its Youth Policy, which will give this under-represented group of the population the opportunity to voice their concerns and participate in public discussions on issues which affect them.

For ChildFund Myanmar, 2016 has marked the first comprehensive review of our program operations. Since our establishment in 2012, ChildFund Myanmar has partnered with a range of local civil society organisations, contributing to their capacity development while working with children to assist them in realising their rights.

In particular, ChildFund's programs have focused on addressing the needs of Myanmar's most vulnerable children and youth, including street children, trafficked children, and children living with HIV and AIDS.

Projects in the areas of education, health and child protection mean that, four years later, many children and families are benefiting from improved community-based child protection systems, townships now have strengthened child rights committees, and children have improved access to higher quality schooling in safer environments.

ChildFund's work with children has also prioritised initiatives which promote greater child participation.



Children have not only been given the opportunity to express their views, but to have those views heard. This is particularly evident in our recently launched Global Community Program, which is also empowering youth to take a more active role in the development of their communities, in turn building their personal resilience.

All these achievements have only been made possible with the generous contribution of our donors, the support of the relevant government departments at national, regional, township and village levels, the collaboration of our partners, the active participation of children, youth and communities, and the dedication of our staff.

As the next phase of our work begins, we remain committed to ensuring every child in Myanmar can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I am heard. I have a future." Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this vision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Win May Htway".

Win May Htway
Country Director
ChildFund Myanmar

I AM HEARD

DEVELOPING LOCAL LEADERS

HTAY WAS BORN in a small village in Kayah State. At the age of two, she left to live in Loikaw City, only moving back to her village as a teenager. Concerned about returning to a place where she had no friends and was unaccustomed to the way of life, Htay was excited to get involved with ChildFund Myanmar's Global Community Program, and signed up to become a Youth Ambassador.

As part of the program, young people are trained to become local leaders and taught how to use digital media to talk about their experiences and identify challenges in their community – from access to clean water, to quality education. ChildFund also provides them with the tools to develop local solutions.

"It is my priority to make friends in my new home and participate in this program which is working for the development of my village," Htay says.



Htay (centre) is a Global Community Ambassador

I AM SAFE

SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

CHILDFUND MYANMAR has supported the strengthening of community-based child protection systems in Yangon, Mandalay, Kachin and Tanintharyi, working with local organisations to reinforce systems and mechanisms to ensure children are kept safe from harm.

In addition to establishing and supporting local child clubs and child protection groups, ChildFund has worked with its partners to raise community awareness on a range of child rights and child protection issues. It has also addressed cases of child protection where abuse and neglect have occurred.

During the last year, 37 cases of child abuse, trafficking and exploitation have been reported and referred through the new community system.



I HAVE A FUTURE



THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP

IN MYANMAR, many vulnerable children and youth, such as those from poor families or living without adult care, do not have birth certificates, and therefore have not been able to apply for a citizenship card when they come of age. Along with this, many face difficulties due to the high costs of applying for the citizenship card, a lack of knowledge around the application procedure, and limited available information to complete the application form.

The citizenship card is a gateway to free movement, access to proper jobs and many other opportunities, so it is a vital asset. As such, ChildFund has been working with local partners to provide financial and technical support to vulnerable children and youth. With the ability to now apply for this essential document, many young people now have access to a wider range of services and opportunities for their future.

I AM EDUCATED

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

MANY FAMILIES are unable to afford the costs of sending their children to government schools in Myanmar. As a result, a significant number of children attend schools provided by local monasteries, which offer free education and training to vulnerable and marginalised children.

Monastic schools do not turn anyone away. This means many are under-staffed, under-funded, and over-crowded, particularly in urban areas - with schools often lacking enough teaching rooms for the many children attending.

With ChildFund Myanmar's support, a new school building at Kan-Tet-Kone monastic school was completed this year. With nine new classrooms and a library, the school now provides better learning spaces for children, and will improve the overall quality of their education.





THANK YOU

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 Ayeyarwady Region (Ingapu, KanGyiDaunt), Kachin State (MoeKaung, Myitkyina, WineMaw), Kayah State (Hpruso), Mandalay Region (Madaya, MahaAungMyay, Pyigyitagon), Mon State (Thahton), Sagaing Region (Shwebo), Taninthayi Region (Dawei, Launglon, ThaYetChaung, YePhyu) and Yangon Region (East Dagon, Insein, North Dagon) • Child Focused Network (CFN) • Future Light (FL) • Industrial Bank of Korea • Johnson Family • Kan-Tet-Khone Monastic School (KTK) • Local Development Network (LDN) • Precious Stones • PYOE Social Development Group • Shwebo Social Services Group (SSSG) • Spectrum (Mandalay)

A NEW OUTLOOK FOR YAMONE

IN MYANMAR, an estimated 11,000 children are living with HIV. Access to healthcare services is limited, particularly in rural areas.

Yamone was diagnosed during childhood. She and her mother are both HIV-positive, with her father passing away from the disease 11 years ago.

Growing up in a poor area, Yamone often suffered from fevers and nausea due to her illness. She also faced discrimination in her community, even within her own family.

Her poor health, coupled with the stigma she experienced, prevented her from going to school and living a normal life with her friends.

To support young people like Yamone, ChildFund Myanmar has been working with Spectrum – a local organisation in the Mandalay region – to provide basic healthcare to children and families affected by HIV and AIDS, and connect them with peer health groups and support networks.

Yamone and her mother now receive home-based healthcare, while Yamone has also undertaken life-skills training and benefitted from resources to support her education, including a bicycle and a school uniform.

“Due to the bicycle, I am now able to go to school more easily. I am also able to go to quickly pick up the antiretroviral medicine that I need for my health, all on my own,” Yamone explains.

Yamone’s confidence has continued to soar with support from her peer health networks. Now she speaks openly about her HIV status in order to raise awareness among young people in her community.

Education and awareness not only help to reduce stigma, but are crucial to helping children and youth recognise and understand the symptoms and implications of HIV and AIDS. This encourages young people to seek medical assistance early on and prevent new HIV infections.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2016

Income	2016 ('000 MMK)	2015 ('000 MMK)
Income	897,501	1,114,184
Expenditure	884,380	1,105,899
Excess of Income over Expenditure	13,121	8,285

Balance Sheet	2016 ('000 MMK)	2015 ('000 MMK)
Total Assets	115,419	105,615
Total Liabilities	73,885	77,202
Net Assets	41,534	28,413

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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