

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 – 2020

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 16 million children and their families in over 60 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.

ChildFund Myanmar

Address: No. C - 4, Thazin Street
Hlaing Yadanar Housing, Hlaing Township,
Yangon, Myanmar
Phone: (+95) 09 766 824 239,
(+95) 09 766 824 039

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

Author: Win May Htway and Ei Thazin

Editor & designer: Rita Mu

Photography: ChildFund and partner staff

Front cover: Yadanar, age 11, Myanmar



At ChildFund Myanmar, we have finished the financial year in the midst of a global pandemic. With the first case in the country reported in March 2020, the organisation has quickly adjusted and adapted its programs,

while continuing to implement essential support and services to children, youth and communities.

While the current context presents a range of challenges to our work, and will do so into the future, it is important to reflect on the many positive developments that have occurred.

Throughout this year, both before and during COVID-19, ChildFund and its partner organisations have endeavoured to build safe and protective environments for children, in which they have greater opportunities to contribute and participate, and in which their rights are recognised and upheld. Our overarching goal is to create a positive future for some of the country's most vulnerable children and youth.

ChildFund has continued to work closely with local partners and government departments to strengthen and enhance child protection systems. This includes better case management, helping community members to identify children at risk, and creating processes to ensure vulnerable children are safe from harm.

We also ensure that children and young people are active participants in this work, and ChildFund promotes their meaningful participation through training, workshops and other activities that help build their knowledge and skills.

With more youth having access to digital communication methods, ChildFund is delivering online safety training in schools and the broader community.

Education remains a core focus of our projects. In a country where many children are forced out of school and into work at an early age, ChildFund is providing non-formal education activities to out-of-school youth. This is helping young people return to the formal school system, or develop vocational skills that provide them with more opportunities for better paid employment.

In partnership with Myanmar's monastic school system, ChildFund is helping to create protective and high-quality learning environments for students. This includes establishing student councils so children can contribute to the development of their school; establishing school management frameworks; and training teachers to use child-centred methods as part of Myanmar's new educational curriculum.

Youth are also being encouraged to take on leadership roles. This includes working alongside community leaders to develop Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans. Workshops on issues critical to young people – including reproductive health and environmental management – ensure these young leaders have the knowledge they need to act as representatives for their peers as well as role models to the generation to come.

ChildFund has always used a localisation approach in its work in Myanmar. Every project we implement is done in partnership with civil society groups, and one of our key objectives is to build the capacity of these organisations and their staff. This includes providing a range of training and mentoring support. Over the past year we supported our partners as they developed internal policies, and implemented projects to support children living with disability.

This work with children, partners and communities, and the positive change that I witness daily, is only made possible because of the support from our donors, the commitment from national and local governments, the collaboration of our valued partners, and the active participation of the children, youth and their communities whom we serve.

I would also like to thank my colleagues at ChildFund Myanmar and ChildFund Australia for their energy and dedication to our mission.

In the coming year, despite the uncertainties we currently face, ChildFund remains committed to working in partnerships to bring positive, meaningful and lasting change to the children and youth in Myanmar.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Win May Htway'.

Win May Htway
Country Director
ChildFund Myanmar

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

I AM SAFE

Informed communities help keep children safe from COVID-19

When the COVID-19 crisis hit Myanmar in March 2020, ChildFund Myanmar quickly adapted its projects to help protect communities and prevent the spread of the virus.

This included working with the Child Development Association to distribute vital health information about infection prevention methods to individuals and families.

Kyi, a staff member from the Child Development Association, said: "I felt proud to be distributing pamphlets to the community so that the families, including children, could be protected from the virus."

"It was quite challenging as our project township was a COVID hot spot in Yangon."

Teachers have received training on COVID-19 and members of ChildFund's youth groups have been supported to conduct activities in their to raise awareness about the virus. Young people in these groups have also been making face masks for families who cannot afford to buy them.

ChildFund is also helping to strengthen child protection case management systems during the pandemic. This will ensure appropriate systems and processes are in place to support vulnerable children and young people.



Staff members from a local partner of ChildFund Myanmar have been helping to educate communities in Yangon about the virus.

I AM EDUCATED

Adapting in Adolescence

Adolescence can be a challenging time for children. It is a time where children are more susceptible to external influences, and their decisions and actions can shape their futures. Adolescent children also experience a myriad of physical and emotional changes that they may not easily understand.

ChildFund Myanmar and local partner, Burnet Institute Myanmar, are helping children to be better prepared for, and navigate, this period of their lives by ensuring they have access to information and resources about adolescent and reproductive health in their communities. Teachers are also being trained to ensure the topic is taught in schools.

For the first time, many children are now learning about their bodies and emotions, how to take better care of themselves and prepare for the physical and emotional changes ahead.



Children take part in an adolescent and reproductive health class.

I CONTRIBUTE

Student councils empowering young leaders in schools

In the communities in which ChildFund Myanmar works, there are limited opportunities for children to voice their opinions and ideas.

In schools, ChildFund Myanmar has partnered with the Monastic Education Development Group to help promote and support student groups, and student councils, to ensure children have a say in their education and can contribute to development projects that impact them.

Student representatives from these groups participate in school management committee meetings, sharing the needs and concerns of their peers.

Grade 4 student Moe (pictured right) is a member of the student council at her school. One of the council's most important achievements was the upgrade of the school playground.

"We discussed and planned how we could improve our school," she says.

"I am happy that I have the opportunity to work in a team with other students, and to be involved and contribute to school activities."



I HAVE A FUTURE

Environmental education for sustainable communities

Myanmar is prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, landslides and earthquakes. These disasters, as well as environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change, can be devastating for remote and rural communities.

By teaching children about environmental conservation and sustainability, communities have a greater chance of managing these impacts, and surviving and thriving in the future.

ChildFund Myanmar has been working with local partner SPECTRUM-SDKN to promote environmental education in schools. Through dedicated lessons, students are learning how to take care of their environment through activities such as planting trees, cleaning their school grounds and taking part in important environmental events.

Grade 4 student Phyto, who won a drawing competition in 2020 to mark World Environment Day, says there are two things that he would like to change in his school. "The first thing is for students to adopt the habit of separating dry and wet waste disposal for a cleaner environment," Phyto says. "The second is that students plant trees in the school

compound because that is the best way to control soil erosion and have a greener environment."





ChildFund Myanmar's non-formal education classes have helped 12-year-old NuNu to continue learning.

I HAVE A FUTURE

Non-formal classes helping children return to school

In many disadvantaged communities in Myanmar, children are often forced to drop out of school because of economic hardships at home. These children often enter the workforce in low paid jobs, or stay at home to take care of younger siblings so their parents can work. High rates of early school leavers perpetuates the cycle of poverty in these communities.

The vast slum community in Yangon is an area where many children miss out on an education. ChildFund Myanmar and local partner Hope for Shining Stars are working in this community to ensure families do not have to choose between their children's education and paying for basic living expenses.

ChildFund and Hope for Shining Stars' non-formal education classes are providing out-of-school children with the chance to continue learning, and eventually return to formal education. These non-formal education classes provide literacy and numeracy

lessons, as well as vocational training to ensure children can take up skilled and better paid jobs in the future.

Twelve-year-old NuNu (pictured above) had to leave school and go to work to support her family. Through non-formal education classes, NuNu has been able to continue developing her literacy and numeracy skills.

With the encouragement and support of her teacher and ChildFund, NuNu has now returned to formal education at a government school and is doing well in her studies. Instead of working she is helping her family with household chores.

"I hope to be well-educated, and I am trying to learn the best I can," NuNu says.

"I wish other out-of-school children can have the chance to continue their education like I did, so they can have a better 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 Mandalay Region, Tanintharyi Region and Yangon Region
- Burnet Institute Myanmar • Child Development Association (CFN) • Future Light • Girl Determined
- Hope for Shining Stars • Jackson Family Foundation • Monastic Education Development Group
- Myanmar-Kinderhilfe Stiftung • Phoenix • SPECTRUM-SDKN

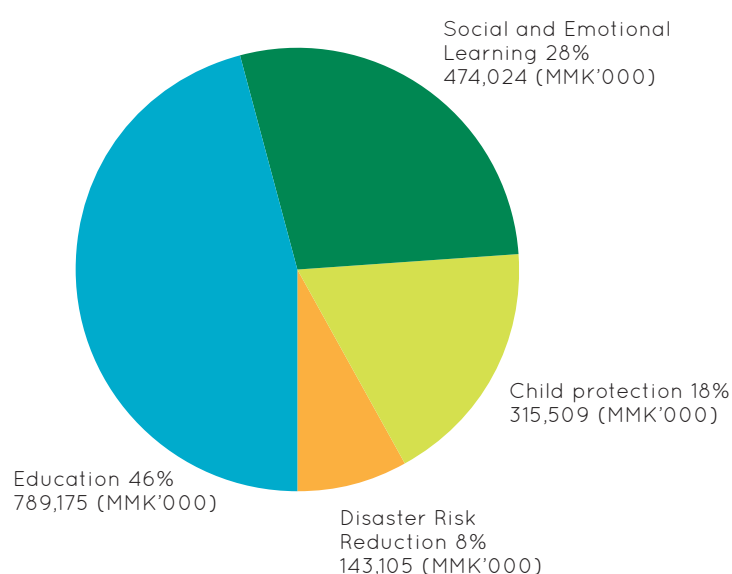
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2020

REVENUE	FY1920 (MMK'000)	FY1819 (MMK'000)
Donation	145,153	301,804
Grants	1,735,349	1,560,222
Total revenue	1,880,502	1,862,026

EXPENDITURE	FY1920 (MMK'000)	FY1819 (MMK'000)
Program and projects	1,721,813	1,697,512
Program support	54,236	39,543
Accountability and administration	55,880	60,474
Total expenditure	1,831,929	1,797,529

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE
FY1920 (MMK'000)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au