

ChildFund
Myanmar

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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.

ChildFund Myanmar

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

This year ChildFund Myanmar marked its 10-year anniversary. Over the past decade, we have worked through challenging circumstances to bring meaningful changes to the children, young people and communities we support.

In our daily work, our vision for a world without poverty, where all children and young people can say: “I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future,” has been our guiding light.

In Myanmar, children and young people still face challenging circumstances. Poor access to quality education and health care, and insufficient protection from harm and abuse prevent them from reaching their full potential.

This year, we worked with our partners to develop and enhance local community-led child protection systems and mechanisms. Children and young people were empowered to become local representatives and leaders through ChildFund-supported trainings and mentoring programs, which focused on improving their life skills and leadership skills to help them take care of their social and mental wellbeing.

Our local partners are critical to our work. Since 2012 when ChildFund Myanmar was established, we have been working with local partners to strengthen their capacities and systems to help deliver impactful projects for children and young people. In addition to our continuous support of project implementation and reactivating and realigning core policies so they reflect and address current environments, we have also supported our partners with refresher trainings on gender and disability inclusion.

On behalf of the ChildFund Myanmar team, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to our generous donors and partners for their ongoing support. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the dedicated members of the ChildFund team who have worked tirelessly with me through thick and thin to continue to serve the children and young people of Myanmar.

According to the 2023 World Food Programme report, 46.3% of Myanmar’s population is living in poverty. While there will be challenges for the new financial year, we will continue working with our partners to help improve the lives of children and young people in Myanmar so they can lead healthier, safer and more fulfilling lives.

WIN MAY HTWAY
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



8,324

PEOPLE REACHED



3,455

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED



4

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

3

CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS

1

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECT

1

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

1

EDUCATION PROJECT

OUR IMPACT

Strengthening our child protection capacities

Safeguarding children’s welfare is paramount to our vision for a world without poverty where all children and young people can say: “I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future.”

ChildFund staff and our partners, are critical to supporting and implementing our vision. We run workshops and coaching on our core policies, such as child safeguarding, alongside annual refresher trainings, to ensure that anyone working for or with us are aware of our code of conduct and can provide the appropriate protection and care for children. Training equips staff with the necessary skills to assess and analyse situations, enabling them to create safe and supportive environments for children and identify and report any concerns. ChildFund staff facilitate these trainings, working together with our partners to review their existing policies so they align with our current policies and procedures.

“In the past, I had limited understanding of child safeguarding and child protection terms that other staff members were discussing at the meetings,” shared Khin, Human Resource Officer from our partner local organisation . Khin has been working closely with staff from ChildFund in revising her organisational policy and procedures and attended refresher trainings on policies. “Now, I can conduct child safeguarding orientation sessions and child safeguarding trainings for our organisational staff members,” she said.

Better practice for a brighter future

Twelve-year-old Min was spending most of his time playing games online. He was neglecting his studies and not paying much attention to life outside of the screen. All this changed after Min’s mother, concerned about his education and wellbeing, attended a ChildFund-supported child protection awareness session and learnt about the benefits of ‘child safe gathering spaces’.

Child safe gathering spaces are set up in the communities where the children can meet regularly and the project team, together with child representatives, provided structured trainings and support focused on child well-being. Some of the topics covers development of life skills and pursuing recreational activities linked with their hobbies. Since his mother signed him up to local activities, including art workshops, Min spends more time pursuing new hobbies and playing with friends in real life. “I still play games but much less than before,” he said. “I spend my time painting, attending group meetings and sometimes helping my family.”



Life skills set youth up for success

Learning to cope with new emotions and everyday challenges is critical to a young person's development, setting them on a path for future success in their personal and professional lives. These life skills are often taught by parents or at school. But in Myanmar, only 50% of children make it to high school, and many of their parents don't always have the resources or capacity to provide them with the appropriate guidance and support they need. As a result, too many young people across the country are missing the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Community-based youth groups, supported by ChildFund, in Yangon and Bago are helping to address teens' mental health and wellbeing and help them navigate this foundational period of life. In these groups, led by community leaders, youth learn to build self-resilience and develop their leadership, social and emotional skills. This is particularly important given the rates of depression (27.2%) and suicidal ideation (9.4%) are substantially higher in Myanmar than regional averages. An early introduction to mental health awareness can help provide teens with the tools to cope with challenges and crises, and positively influence their lives.

For Ye, 13, attending the group and training sessions has been empowering and helped to build his confidence. "Now, I know how to set goals and have been able to share the things I learnt from my trainings with my siblings and friends," he says. Ye's mother has noticed positive changes in her son's attitude and behaviour. She says he has become more social and spends more time with friends, and is optimistic about his future.

Trainings also included a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education. Lessons focused on self-care; teens learnt about changes in their bodies and how to identify and manage new feelings and emotions, including relationship dynamics, in a safe and healthy manner.

“

Now, I know how to set goals and have been able to share the things I learnt from my trainings with my siblings and friends.

Ye, 13

Promoting protection at home

Scolding, screaming and beating children have long been methods of discipline for many parents in Myanmar. This was the case for 23-year-old Pan, who left school in Grade 10 to support her family.

Pan's parents struggled to make ends meet, often working long hours and juggling multiple jobs. As the eldest child, it was expected that Pan would take care of her younger siblings. Without examples of positive parenting, Pan modelled her disciplinary style off her parents and neighbours. She didn't have any other framework for how to raise or treat her younger brothers.

However, Pan was inspired to change her ways after attending a ChildFund-supported training session focused on child protection. Since attending the session, she has learnt new skills for managing conflict and best practices to raise children in a safe and supportive environment. Pan said her behaviour towards her younger siblings had changed for the better. "I no longer beat them or speak rudely to them," she said, explaining that she now has more knowledge and the skills to deal with stressful circumstances.

5,193

CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH OUR CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS.

Becoming a leader for change

Speaking in front of others, especially strangers and elders, is nerve-racking for most young people, and Tin, 17, was no exception. As a child growing up in a small village, he was shy and not very forthcoming. But Tin found his voice after attending ChildFund-supported child rights and child protection workshops in his community.

“I can now speak out in front of people,” Tin said. “I can stand up for my rights.”

The workshops are run by local partner staff who teach young people about Child Rights and Child Protection. They have helped equip young people like Tin with the knowledge, skills and confidence to protect themselves from risk, and harmful and abusive situations.

Tin was selected as a youth leader by his peers during these workshops, as they recognised his enthusiasm, positivity and goodwill towards others. He is now a Child Representative, working to create a safe space for young people through peer-to-peer training.

“Thanks to the trainings and support from the project, I now know the responsibilities of a Child Representative and can help protect young people in my community,” said Tin.

200

YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL PROJECTS.

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:



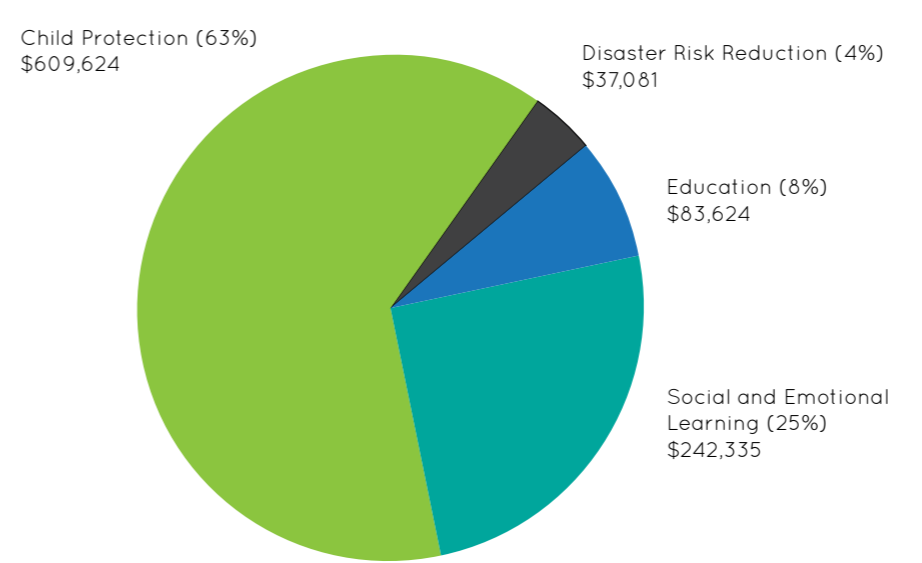
Authorities and Department officials of Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Tanintharyi Region and Yangon Region • CFN: Child Development Association • Future Light (FL) • Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS) • Ratana Metta Organization (RMO)

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE	FY 21-22 (MMK'000)	FY 22-23 (MMK'000)
Donations	299,727	361,926
Grants	497,591	742,347
Other income	0,00	90,386
Total income	797,318	1,194,659

EXPENDITURE	FY 21-22 (MMK'000)	FY 22-23 (MMK'000)
Program and projects	569,973	972,682
Program support	147,714	103,837
Accountability and administration	89,537	120,374
Total expenditure	807,224	1,196,893

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 22-23 (MMK')



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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