



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

Annual Report 2022

Dear donors and sponsors,

While the consequences of the corona crisis are diminishing, the consequences of the military coup are only increasing in Myanmar. In this overview you can read what this means for the country, the population and our projects.

The corona crisis

In the autumn of 2021, the population was severely affected during the second corona wave. In the past year, we saw a peak in February and a small rebound in September. The situation is now like in Europe: corona is still present, but to a mild degree. According to official figures from the WHO, about 640,000 people in Myanmar have been infected since the start of the corona crisis. About 19,500 people are said to have died. This only concerns the registered cases.



In reality, the infection and death rates are many times higher. The vaccination campaign only started in 2021 and that was much too late. Meanwhile, 63.5% of the population has been vaccinated once and 50% is fully vaccinated. About 60 million people live in Myanmar. It is estimated that three-quarters of them have had corona and that the death rates are at least ten times higher. We'll probably never know for sure. What we do know for sure is that the crisis has had a huge impact on social life, employment, education, healthcare and economic conditions in the country. More on that later.

The military coup

The other crisis in Myanmar is caused by the military coup, which took place on February 1, 2021. President Win Myint, state adviser Aung San Suu Kyi and other leading members of the government's National League for Democracy (NLD) party were detained by the military leadership. Immediately after the coup, massive protests arose, which continued to swell in the weeks that followed. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators demanded the release of their leaders and the restoration of civilian rule.

Myanmar was a military dictatorship from 1962 to 2011. A civilian government then returned, led by Aung San Suu Kyi. This Nobel Prize winner had been campaigning for democratization since the late 1980s and had spent years under house arrest. However, the army continued to keep a big finger in the pie and seized power again in 2021.



The army cracked down on the demonstrators in the spring of 2021. International news agencies reported, based on local witnesses, that soldiers fired live ammunition at the demonstrators. The number of dead is estimated at two thousand and tens of thousands of people have been arrested.



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

The Tatmadaw, as the armed forces in Myanmar are called, declared that it seized power and declared a state of emergency over widespread concerns about (alleged) fraud during the November 2020 elections. State adviser Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint have since sentenced to several long prison terms.

The largely peaceful demonstrations and civil disobedience campaigns have turned into armed resistance in the past year. That resistance consists of about 250 loosely organized local defence groups, urban resistance cells and ethnic armed organizations, which together have about 50,000 members.

The junta retaliates mercilessly and conducts a reign of terror throughout the countryside. Villages are burned and looted, people are threatened and tortured, and people flee. There are also attacks on schools, because insurgents are said to be hiding there.

Due to the violence of war, millions of children and young people in Myanmar cannot go to school. In areas where resistance groups rule the roost, people are diligently working on their own education system.



All these events create a violent downward spiral, with insurgents intensifying their resistance, while the authorities respond with even harsher repression. There is currently no prospect of improvement or peace.

Spiral of poverty

The double crisis has caused a lot of suffering in Myanmar. The country has been pushed back into the spiral of poverty. International companies have withdrawn, orders for factories

have been cancelled, businesses and shops were forced to close their doors, hotels and restaurants no longer had guests, rural people were no longer allowed to trade their agricultural products in the city and so on. Many of Myanmar's day laborers have barely had any income in the past two years. Theft is currently the order of the day. International aid was still being provided in 2020, but since the military coup in early 2021, this is no longer the case. The population has been left to fend for itself.

Our position

As a foundation, we continue to focus on our two orphanages in Minethouk and try to do that as well as possible. We have no government involvement and we keep ourselves aloof from politics. It is restless in and around the nearby city of Nyaung Shwe, but fortunately we do not notice much of the disturbances at the orphanages.

Bright spots

Is there only misery in Myanmar? No, fortunately not! There are also bright spots. The schools in Myanmar were able to reopen their doors in June 2022 after two years of lockdown. The 36 girls and 24 boys we are responsible for have been attending the local government school for six months now. The first week of school was a nice reunion for everyone.



Incidentally, the children and staff have not been idle during the lockdown:

- The staff members of the orphanages provided math, language and computer lessons for the girls and boys.
- The children and young people have nevertheless studied hard under supervision.



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

- A number of grade 11 and 12 students have taken online classes, which were provided by teachers from the capital Yangon.
- Two young people took lessons in the field of accountancy via the online platform LCCI.
- Six older girls were able to participate in vocational training. In the Netherlands we would call that professional internships. For two months they worked in pairs in a hairdressing salon, sewing workshop and weaving workshop.



Composition of the group

Orphans, semi-orphans and children from very poor families live in our orphanages:

- Of the 36 girls in the girls' home, 15 are orphans and 14 are semi-orphans. The other 7 have both parents, but those parents cannot take care of them.

- Of the 24 boys in the boys' home, 8 are orphans and 12 are semi-orphans. The remaining 4 have both parents, but those parents cannot take care of them.
- Of the 60 children, 11 come from very poor families.

The staff

The two orphanages form a warm and close-knit community. Everything is going well. There is discipline, but there is also a lot of time for fun. The children all have their tasks and help well. The staff members create the right circumstances for this. The staff consists of the following persons:



U Tet Tun
Orphanage father
and head of both houses



Daw Mya Sein
Cook for both houses



U Bran Saing
Staff member of the boys' home
Tasks: computer teacher,
supervision and health



Daw Nilar Aye
Staff member of the girls' home
Tasks: math teacher,
supervision, health and garden

Project volunteers

During a normal year, volunteers from abroad are regularly guests in our orphanages. They then stay in a guesthouse in the city of Nyaung Shwe and undertake all kinds of activities with the children after school. That is a wonderful experience for both parties. The volunteers make a valuable contribution



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

to the lives of the orphans and to that of the staff members. Often volunteers are sent out by us as board. Their feedback is interesting to us. Due to the double crisis in Myanmar, we have not been able to welcome volunteers in 2022.

The girls house



To give you an idea of the girls' home and its surroundings, we have added some images to this annual report. The kitchen is located at the girls' house, where meals are prepared daily for the girls and the boys. The older girls take turns helping our cook Daw Mya Sein. It's fun for them.



Rice, meat, fish and oil are bought on the local market, but many vegetables and fruit come from the own vegetable garden. There is plenty of space around the houses to grow fruit and vegetables. Because the houses are on the shore of Inle Lake, the soil is fertile. The children enjoy helping Daw Nilar Aye with the gardening.



The boys house



The boys' house is within walking distance of the girls' house. Both houses are very similar in construction. The building has a number of large areas where the boys can study, recreate and watch television.



When the children go to the government school, they wear a school uniform. This is common practice in all schools in Myan-



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

mar and helps to ensure that everyone is equal and looks equally decent. In the orphanages the children just wear casual clothes.



Special in Myanmar is that the girls often speak better English and are less shy than the boys.



Maintenance of the buildings

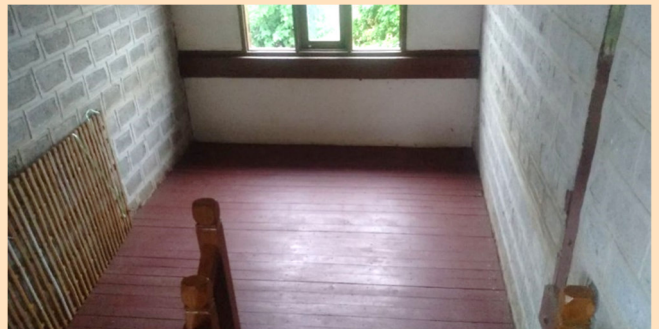
Every year we carry out minor maintenance on both houses and outbuildings. We think it is important to keep it in good condition. We carried out major maintenance in 2022. Below is a short impression of the work:



Maintenance job 1: The renewed roof of the kitchen of the boys' house



Maintenance job 2: The renewed concrete floor in the kitchen of the girls' house



Maintenance job 3: Part of the renewed wooden floor in the boys' house



Maintenance job 4: Part of the renewed wooden floor in the girls' house



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

Maintenance job 5: Renewing the gutters, downspouts and rainwater storage of the girls' home

Future plans

On page 3 of this annual report we told about the vocational training, in which six girls participated. We would like the young people in the orphanages to do more of these types of professional internships. Think of internships in the field of sewing, making clothes, gardening and carpentry. In the local workshops, the young people learn skills that will be useful for the rest of their lives.

Four older girls have finished high school. They would like to go to the part-time university in the city of Nyaung Shwe and are currently waiting for their starting permit. Two boys have started their Nationalities Youth Development studies again in the city of Sagaing.

It is also important that the children become digitally skilled. Each house has a computer lab. As a foundation, we were able to purchase a number of new laptops last year. U Bran Saing provides the computer lessons.



We also want to purchase a number of steel clothes racks from a local workshop, on which the children can hang their clothes to dry.

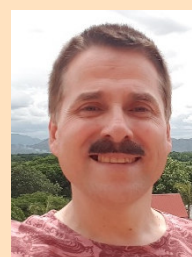
Governance & Synergy

At the beginning of 2020 you were informed about the board change at the Care for Children foundation. The new directors also support another foundation that is active in Myanmar, namely the World Child Care Foundation. Both foundations operate side by side.

The current board consists of the following people:



Lucas Harms
Chairman



Nico Schoenmakers
Secretary



Camiel v.d. Heiden
Treasurer

The World Child Care Foundation has been active for 13 years in the metropolis of Mandalay in Myanmar. The foundation supports the Phaung Daw Oo High School. That is a huge Buddhist monastery school, where normally 7,500 children from poor families receive free education, from kindergarten to secondary school. The foundation supervises two residential groups with a total of 300 girls and boys on the school grounds and has set up an English & Life Skill Program for young people who have completed their secondary education.



The cooperation offers future prospects for the young people in the orphanages in Minethouk. If the threat of war diminishes, the World Child Care Foundation can annually allow a number of young people to participate in the aforementioned English & Life Skill Program in Mandalay. The young people learn to speak English well, obtain a Cambridge certificate and participate in training courses in the areas of self-confidence, self-knowledge, critical thinking, debating, communication, active citizenship and environmental awareness.

In education, healthcare, retail and ICT, the demand for talented and good English speaking young people is high. With the certificates in your pocket, the chance of a better job and an independent existence is much greater. The Care for Children Foundation supports the World Child Care Foundation



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

in a modest way to create a study and workplace in Mandalay for a number of young people from Minethouk. It is good to know that this was still approved by the old board in the period that both foundations started working together. As soon as possible, a number of young people from Minethouk will study in Mandalay.

Financial situation in 2022

In the second half of 2022, it was not possible to transfer money to Myanmar because Western Union was blocked. Fortunately, we were able to transfer money to the Thai bank account of the PDO High School in Mandalay through the World Child Care Foundation. This was then transferred to the orphanage father Tet Tun.

Income:

- The Care for Children foundation received an amount of € 5,000 from the regular sponsors.
- € 3,885 was received in individual donations.
- Due to the lockdown and the war, local income from tourists was nil.
- No subsidy from the local Social Welfare Department has been received in 2022.
- The total income thus came to € 8,885.



Outgoing:

- The annual local costs for the two orphanages, salaries, living expenses and education amounted to approximately € 11,324
- The contribution for education and vocational training amounted to € 5,050.
- € 6,900 was spent on major maintenance.
- The bank charges amounted to € 850.
- The third and final contribution for the World Child Care Foundation amounted to € 5,000.
- The investment in a new website amounted to € 1,810.
- The total expenditure thus came to € 30,934.

Website Care for Children

In 2022, our attention has been focused on the contacts with U Tet Tun and his staff, the current projects, the transfer problems and major maintenance of the two orphanages. Behind the scenes we have been working hard on a new website, which will go live in the spring of 2023. We think it is important that our foundation has a professional look. Hopefully this annual report will also give us the necessary confidence that we as a board have our affairs in order.

Our method

The Care for Children foundation has plenty of work to do in the coming years. We can do this thanks to the support of our regular sponsors on the one hand and our loyal donors on the other. It is good to know that we spend 100% of your contribution on site. Because our foundation is run by enthusiastic volunteers, we have no salary costs, no travel costs and hardly any overhead costs. We try to keep it as transparent as possible for you. Every euro donated is a euro on location. By spending the collected sponsor money on site, we not only help the children, but we also stimulate local entrepreneurs. Because everything in Myanmar is relatively cheap, we buy everything locally. The local staff works with local companies that are not government-related. Thank you in advance for your support and interest in 2023.

Our belief

In 2023, may your dreams be bigger than your fears and your actions louder than your words. **True friendship is based on closeness, solidarity and the willingness to share everything.** When you light a light for another, you also light your own path! That is our conviction, our wish and our good intention for the new year. We wish you and all our other donors, sponsors and interested parties a healthy, inspiring and peaceful 2023!

Care for Children

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