



Annual Report 2020

Dear donors and sponsors,

For over three years now, Myanmar has been in the news more than ever before. There are many positive developments with regard to health care, facilities, labor and economic growth. Under the leadership of President Win Myint, the government has also radically reformed education.



But we hear little about all this in our Western world. It is mainly the elections and genocide that are widely reported in the media. That is understandable.

A democratic transition was set in motion in Myanmar in 2011. In 2015, a civilian government headed by Aung San Suu Kyi was elected. In 2016, the Netherlands opened an embassy in Myanmar to support the democratic transition. The National League for Democracy (NLD) has now won the elections for the second time. "The Lady" plans to work with the 39 ethnic political parties in the country and has invited them to a government of national unity.

There is still conflict in several regions, such as Rakhine province. Myanmar is under international fire for allegations of genocide against the Islamic Rohingya minority in 2017. Aung San Suu Kyi denies this and speaks of targeted military action against rebels. The Dutch government strongly condemns these abuses and is an international leader in bringing the guilty to justice through the International Criminal Court.

It was clear from the start that the democratic transition would create not only opportunities, but also major challenges and tensions. The military rulers only partially withdrew. Myanmar is still struggling with many internal conflicts and the human rights situation remains worrisome.

Meeting with the ambassador

Our new secretary Nico Schoenmakers had an inspiring meeting with the Dutch ambassador Wouter Jurgens in February 2020. At the embassy in the former capital Yangon, they spoke extensively about the country, the culture and the support of the Dutch government for agriculture and business. The latter is done to achieve sustainable economic growth and to improve the human rights situation. The Netherlands believes that a combination of a critical attitude and support is the right balance to strengthen democracy. The ambassador listened carefully to the project stories and gave some good advice.



Our position

As a foundation, we continue to focus on our two orphanages in Minethouk and try to do that as well as possible. The conflict area is far from our project and we are not aware of the disturbances. We have no government involvement and we do not interfere with politics.



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

The corona crisis

During the first corona wave, Myanmar seemed to be spared. The borders were closed and air traffic stopped. This happened fairly quickly after our secretary Nico Schoenmakers returned from his working visit in February 2020. In the period up to the summer closure - in Myanmar it is summer holiday in April and May - the number of infections slowly increased, also around Inle lake. Some children visited relatives during the summer recess, but most of the children have remained safe on the property.

When schools in Myanmar should have started again on 1 June, the country went into lockdown. While the first wave of corona infections had progressed in the Western world, the number of infections in Myanmar was steadily rising. For a time, most of the shops were also closed. In August it seemed for a while that the tide was turning, but soon the whole country went into lockdown again.

The government school in Minethouk, where the children normally go, has been closed for months. In many ways, 2020-2021 is a lost school year, not just in Minethouk, but across the whole country. The government has not yet made a decision on the final exams in March 2021, but we do not expect them to take place.

The corona crisis has pushed the country back into the spiral of poverty. Orders for clothing factories were cancelled, companies and shops were forced to close their doors, hotels and restaurants had no more guests, rural people were no longer allowed to trade their agricultural products in the city and so on. For many of the day labourers in Myanmar, this means that they no longer have an income, with all the consequences that entails. Some emergency aid is provided nationally.



Fortunately, it is not all doom and gloom. Our 60 girls and 26 boys are doing well. Until now, it has been possible to keep corona out. In the meantime, a lot of things were going on in our orphanages:

- The staff of the orphanages provided language, math and computer lessons for the girls and boys.
- 18 girls took sewing lessons in 2019 and 2020 and are now very skilled with the sewing machine.
- 2 boys and 3 girls have completed accounting training at LCCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry).
- 1 girl has completed a hotel training and worked in a hotel until the lockdown.
- 4 boys worked in a car repair workshop until the lockdown where they learn the trade of car mechanics.
- 2 girls graduated as a nurse in early 2020 and are now working in the hospital.
- 2 boys and 3 girls were informed in June that they had obtained their high school diplomas.



Composition of the group

In Myanmar it is often the case that when one of the parents dies, the other elder can no longer take care of the children, because hard work is needed to earn a living. Therefore, in our homes we have orphans and semi-orphans:

- Of the 60 girls in the girls' house, 23 are orphans and 27 are half orphans.
- Of the 26 boys in the boys' home, 10 are orphans and 10 are half orphans.
- Of the 86 children, 16 come from very poor families.



Over de kinderen

STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

The staff

During working visits to our orphanages we see again and again what a warm and close-knit community the groups form and how disciplined everything goes. The staff of the orphanages consists of the following persons:



U Tet Tun

Orphanage father
and head of both homes



Daw Mya Sein

Cook for both homes



U Bran Saing

Head of the boys home
Tasks: computer teacher,
supervision and care



Daw Nilar Aye

Head of the girls home
Tasks: math teacher,
supervision, care and garden

Project volunteers

Volunteers from abroad are regularly guests. These volunteers stay in a guesthouse in Nyaung Shwe city and do all kinds of activities with the children after school. Before the lockdown, volunteers from Germany, France and Japan drew, sang, danced and practiced English with the children. That is a wonderful experience for both parties. The volunteers make a valuable contribution to the lives of the orphans and that of the staff members. Volunteers are often sent out by the foundation board. Their feedback is interesting to us.

The girls home



To give you an idea of the girls home and its surroundings, we have added some images to this annual report. At the girls home is the kitchen, where daily cooking is done for the girls and the boys. The older girls take turns helping our cook Daw Mya Sein. They enjoy that!



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



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

The boys home



The boys home is within walking distance of the girls home. In terms of construction, both buildings are very similar. The boys home has a number of large halls where the boys can study, recreate and watch television.



When the children go to government school, they wear a school uniform. This is customary at all schools in Myanmar and helps to ensure that everyone is equal and looks well cared for.



Special in Myanmar is that the boys are often a more shy than the girls. You notice that at almost all schools.

Maintenance of the buildings

Every year we carry out maintenance on both homes and the outbuildings. It is important to keep them in good condition. We have installed new toilets and showers at the boys home.



We also placed new drinking water tanks next to both homes, placed a roof on the large water reservoirs and renewed the roof of the kitchen at the girls home.



Future plans

We don't know how long the lockdown will last. U Tet Tun and his staff have all kinds of plans for 2021 to keep the children and youngsters active and teach them skills. We call that vocational training. Think for example of lessons in sewing, making clothing, gardening and carpentry. These are skills that will be useful for the rest of their lives.

It is important that the children also become digitally skilled. Each house has a computer room. In order to allow several children to participate in the computer lessons of U Bran Saing at the same time, there is the wish to purchase two extra laptops per house. We hope that we can respond to this wish in 2021.



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

Remedial teaching for graduation students

When the schools reopen soon - which is still very much the question - the final exam for grade 11 students will be in sight. The exams are normally in March. However, the youngsters have missed many lessons. If it is still worth it, we want to temporarily recruit one or two all-round teachers who can bring our graduation candidates to the right level in a short time.

Maintenance of the buildings

It is time that a number of wooden floors in the houses will be renewed. It is also desirable to place a fence around the girls home. Myanmar is a relatively safe country with little crime, but caution is important at all times. Some concrete floors also need to be repaired here and there. We would also like to purchase a number of stainless steel clothes racks on which the children can dry their clothes.



Board change and synergy

At the beginning of this year you were informed about the board change at the Care for Children foundation. Former chairman Maria Overmars and former secretary Simon Goede have found the board of the World Child Care foundation willing to also lead the Care for Children foundation. Both foundations will function side by side for the time being.

The World Child Care Foundation has been active in the large city of Mandalay in Myanmar for 11 years. The foundation runs projects at Phaung Daw Oo High School. This is a huge Buddhist monastery school, where 8,500 children from poor families receive free education every day, from kindergarten to high school.

The World Child Care Foundation supports three dormitories with a total of 400 girls and boys on the school grounds and has set up an English & Life Skill Program for the youngsters who have finished their high school.

The collaboration offers future prospects for the youngsters in the orphanages in Minethouk. The World Child Care Foundation can annually let a number of youngsters participate in their English & Life Skill Program in Mandalay. The youngsters learn to speak good English, obtain a Cambridge certificate and participate in training courses about self-confidence, self-knowledge, critical thinking, debating, communication, active citizenship and environmental awareness.

In education, healthcare, IT, business and tourism, the demand for talented and good English speaking youngsters is high. With the certificates in the pocket, the chance of a good job and an independent existence is a lot more likely. The Care for Children Foundation supports the World Child Care Foundation to a modest extent to create a study and workplace in Mandalay for a number of youngsters from Minethouk. It is good to know that this was approved by the old board during the period that both foundations started working together.

The new board members

The new board of the Care for Children foundation consists of the following persons:



Lucas Harms
Chairman
Nuenen



Nico Schoenmakers
Secretary
Berlicum



Camiel v.d. Heiden
Treasurer
Rosmalen

We thank the old board of Care for Children for the commitment, trust and transfer of a healthy foundation. We will continue the good work and the warm contacts of founder Cor Visser (†), chairman Maria Overmars, secretary Simon Goede and the other board members with just as much passion and dedication.



STICHTING CARE ♥ FOR CHILDREN

Financial situation in 2020

Local income from tourists in January, February and March (before the lockdown) was € 1,425. The subsidy from the Social Welfare Department amounted to € 9,650 and in corona support the orphanages received € 975. The total income on site in 2020 was € 12,050. This amount was fully spent on rice, oil, clothing and school supplies. Of course, this income and expenditure stream is clearly accounted for in the books.

The Care for Children foundation received an amount of € 4,825 from the regular sponsors. € 9,325 was received in individual donations. The total income in the Netherlands in 2020 was € 14,150. Expenditure amounted to a total of € 20,350. That money was spent on salaries, food, firewood, toiletries, health costs, electricity, internet, maintenance and a contribution to the World Child Care foundation for the follow-up study of a number of youngsters from Minethouk. This means that in 2020 a total of around € 6,000 was deducted from the balance sheet.

Website Care for Children

The website of our foundation has been a bit neglected this year. Our attention has focused on the contacts with U Tet Tun and his staff, the current projects and the corona problems. Although the website may not fully convey this, you can be sure that with the new board we have things under control. For example, we have set up a new financial administration for the staff, which provides a lot of clarity for them and for us. And hopefully the new structure of this annual report will also give the necessary confidence. Next year we will build a new website, on which we will post the latest news and this annual report.



Our method

There is plenty of work to be done for the Care for Children foundation 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. In this way we try to keep it as transparent as possible for you. Every euro donated is one euro on location. By spending the collected sponsorship money on site, we not only help the children, but we also encourage local entrepreneurs. Because everything in Myanmar is relatively cheap, we never take (used) materials or items with us, but purchase everything locally. The local staff works with local businesses that are not affiliated with the government. Thank you in advance for your support and interest in 2021.

Our vision

We cannot change the world, but on a small scale we can mean a lot to each other. Or to put it in the words of Nelson Mandela: **The meaning of our lives lies in the difference we make in the lives of others.** That is our conviction, our wish and our good intention for the new year. We wish all our donors and sponsors a healthy, inspiring and carefree 2021!

Care for Children

C Nico Schoenmakers (secretary)
A Milrooijseweg 9, 5258 KE Berlicum, the Netherlands
T +31 73 5215544
M +31 6 10306983
E info@worldchildcare.org
W www.careforchildren.nu
B NL64 RABO 0383 5730 84 or
NL39 INGB 0009 3905 67

