



Pre-School Centres for Vulnerable Children - Myanmar

Budget: Year 9 - \$21,000 - fully funded! Year 10 - \$22,000 starts May 2020.

The Project:

This project supports two pre-schools in slum/poor areas in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. The pre-schools act as a bridge into the community with the aim of equipping young children to enter the government school system. We have been working with our partners for nine years which has allowed the kindergartens to consolidate and provide a quality program to children, and by extension to families. Children are followed through the schooling system into secondary school, with our partners providing a supportive network.

Progress Against Objectives and Impact:

- This school year, 96 children are enrolled in the two pre-schools.
- The classes have been divided into two levels: pre-school (3-4 years) and kindergarten (4-5 years), with pre-schoolers learning basic social skills, personal hygiene, art, craft and music, while kindergarten students learn Burmese, English, Maths and Science to prepare for transition to school.
- One of the pre-schools has been limited by lack of classroom space which prevents further expansion. The plan is to close it and move to a new location to continue to serve children from poor families.
- Our partner also engages in community outreach which includes a visitation program to respond to welfare needs such as child abuse, health and medical, advocacy and advice. Financial assistance is also provided for emergency food, medical and other needs. In addition, community education and awareness raising events are run with a focus on parenting, child-development, health and wellbeing and women's empowerment sessions are offered in education and training, micro finance and small business, for example teaching the skill of liquid detergent-making.



Our partner reports: *“One family of twins under 3 years old was so poor they could not afford to buy milk and they were considering giving their children away. We heard of their plight and, at their request, accepted the twins into our pre-school. These children are making wonderful progress physically, mentally and socially. Both parents have been working and the family's financial position is improving.”*



Our partners are trusted as a source of advice and help in the community – they are much more than just a pre-school. Entrust's Jenny Cramer visited in November. She said, *“As the presence and reputation of the preschools has increased, they have also become hubs for additional community programs funded by others. It is encouraging to see how indirect benefits ripple out into the wider community. Children and families are well supported.”*

Through your support the community can see a different future. Children are kept in a safe, caring environment and provided with a way into the formal education system, potentially ending the cycle of poverty.

A good start is invaluable. Thank you for making this possible.