



Final Report for

Classroom of Hope

Project concerned

Saung Ton Post Primary School

We supported the local community of Saung Ton Village in Shan State, Myanmar by constructing one new school building with five fully-furnished classrooms and a teachers' room.

Implemented by

Child's Dream Myanmar Association
No. 35/C, Room (2C5)
Second Floor Yankin Center
Saya San Road & Sat Hmu (1) Road
Yankin Township
Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: + 95 (0)940 477 7133

www.childsdream.org | info@childsdream.org

Executive Summary

Saung Ton Post Primary School, located in Saung Ton Village of Myanmar, consisted of three school buildings. One of the buildings, built in 2006, was in good condition while the other two smaller buildings which were built as temporary classrooms were no longer structurally sound. The current school building capacities could not support the growing student population nor did they foster a motivating learning environment.

To address this situation, we constructed one fully-furnished school building with five classrooms and a teachers' room for the students and community of Saung Ton Village. Construction of Saung Ton Post Primary School began on 4 March 2021 and was fully completed 4 October 2021.

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1. Overview

Many decades of discrimination, inequality, and political as well as social conflicts in Myanmar has resulted in poor infrastructure (e.g. roads, water and sanitation facilities, schools, and medical facilities) as well as inadequate provision of fundamental services, particularly access to quality education within remote and indigenous areas.

The recent military coup in Myanmar put an abrupt stop to daily lives and the development of the country and it's very difficult to predict how this will end. This is a very tragic and constantly unfolding story as history is currently being re-written. We truly hope that Myanmar finds its way back to its democratic system in the not too far future.

Saung Ton Village is located in Pin Laung Township, Shan State, Myanmar, which is southeast of Mandalay. Shan state is largely rural with the closest airport a two-hour drive from the village of Saung Ton to the city of Taunggyi. The village is over 100 years old and its name is inspired by the mountains surrounding the region. It has a population of 680 residents from 173 households which are mainly dependent on plantation work along with masonry and carpentry as their livelihoods. Economically, the village does comparably well due to the different work opportunities present. Very few residents have to migrate for work. The road is in good condition and the village, therefore, easily accessible. Foreigners are allowed to visit the village which is not a given as some conflict-ridden areas in Myanmar are officially closed to tourism and visitors from outside because they are considered too dangerous. The village has

electricity, mobile phone coverage but lacks a health care centre. In case of illness, the villagers have to go to the Pin Laung Hospital.

Saung Ton Post Primary School was established in 1986 as a primary school and developed into a post primary school in 2016. The current student population is 175 (84 boys and 91 girls) ages five to thirteen with 11 employed teachers (2 men and 9 women, some part time). A majority of the students come from the two neighbouring villages of Saung Ton and Pyin Lu and either walk or ride bicycles to school. The school grounds contained three buildings; one built with bricks, a permanent structure of six classrooms and in good condition. The two other buildings were temporary structures and over time degraded to a point of needing to be replaced. The structures also lacked a motivating learning environment being dark with dirt floors. Due to these subpar conditions, many students from the village were being sent to other regions of Myanmar to study through a monastic education programme. The school is also in the process of expanding to Middle School level classes and desperately in need of additional classroom space.

In order to provide the best possible solution for these growing urgencies, we constructed one new school building with five fully-furnished classrooms and a teachers' room. The construction of the new building emphasises the importance of education to the whole community and provides an incentive for the children to complete their primary and post primary education. The local community has a high willingness to support the project and to help the students succeed in their education and future.

2. Operational Implementation

It is our belief that establishing a close partnership with community leaders and the school management team leads to a more successful outcome. As with all of our projects, we encouraged the village to actively contribute to the construction process to instil a strong sense of pride and ownership in the project. The community was extremely active, supportive and excited to contribute by transporting construction materials to the site, backfilling the building foundation, providing gravel and water for the construction as well as manual labour.

A local contractor was chosen to manage labour and transportation of materials, oversee construction, and procure the required furniture. The contractor was paid in instalments after the completion of each step of the building process, according to a written agreement. Five percent of the labour cost is held back for twelve months as a guarantee for the quality of the work.

Construction began in March 2021. Our team monitored the progress of the construction to ensure our high quality standards were met. Due to the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our team was not always able to visit the site, rather stayed in regular contact with community leaders and the foreman to ensure a smooth construction process throughout. Only after the military coup, when our staff were based all over the country for security reasons, were we able to access the school again to perform the usual quality control. There were long delays during the entire construction process due to heavy rain, COVID-19 as well as the military coup. In spite of the delays, the construction process went well and we are satisfied with the result. Construction was completed at the beginning of October 2021.

Due to the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar and the military coup, the school opening ceremony has yet to take place, but we will keep you updated as soon as travel restrictions are lifted. We will then arrange for you to visit the new school and participate in the celebrations. This will earliest be possible in 2022.

3. Project Performance

Effectiveness/Output: The following initial objectives were achieved:

- One new school building was constructed equipped with five fully-furnished classrooms and a teachers' room. A new, quality learning environment for the students will incentivise them to fully participate in their education.
- With a new primary school building, parents from Saung Ton and Pyin Lu village will find relief knowing there is now an additional, safe and motivating place to support their child's education.

- We expect the community to benefit tremendously from the new school building. Students will be more engaged, literacy rates will increase, school attendance will rise, and school dropout rates will decrease. We further expect that more students will continue to secondary school.

Efficiency: Due to our strong partnership with the community and collaboration with our construction team, we are happy to report that the project was completed with a total construction cost fully in line with the proposed budget of USD 44,312. Please note that 5% on the labor cost will be kept back for one year as a guarantee for the quality of the construction. For more detailed information, please refer to the attached financial reports on page 6 and 7. Due to the military coup, we were not able to disburse all funds via our Myanmar legal entity, hence you will find two reconciliations attached, the second one from our Swiss legal entity. Total spending so far (without guarantee payment) results in USD 40,396.

Sustainability: Sustainability of the school is guaranteed through close cooperation and collaboration with the government. Saung Ton Post Primary School is a registered government school; the government will provide teacher salaries, staff training, and school materials. The community will ensure that the school is properly maintained. We will carry out regular follow-up visits for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

4. Project Chronology

The following link provides more information and photos about the various phases of construction:

Due to the recent political turmoil in Myanmar, we are 'hiding' all our Myanmar projects and programmes for the time being. This will be restored as soon as the political situation improves.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your support. Together, we were once again able to make a significant and sustainable impact on many children's lives.

It would be great to be able to embark on a similar project again together in the near future.

Chiang Mai, 17th October 2021

Child's Dream Association



Marc T. Jenni
Founder & Managing Director Operations



Daniel M. Siegfried
Founder & Managing Director Programmes

5. Photographs



The temporary buildings were built with good intentions but became unsafe over time while lacking a secure and motivating environment for both students and teachers



The dark classrooms with dirt floors inhibited students' full potential

The project contract was signed with school members, community leaders and Child's Dream



Construction began on 4 March 2021 with steady progress made over the course of the project timeline



The new school with five fully-furnished classrooms and teachers' room is now ready for students!

The construction was fully completed the first week of October, 2021. Thank you very much for your great support!





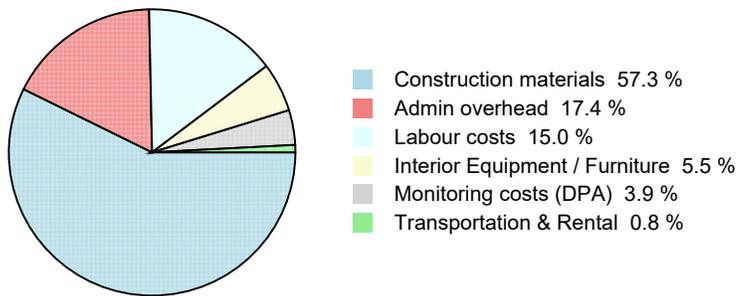
Financial Report

Saung Ton Post Primary School Building - Construction of 1 school building with 6 classrooms (Pre-Coup)

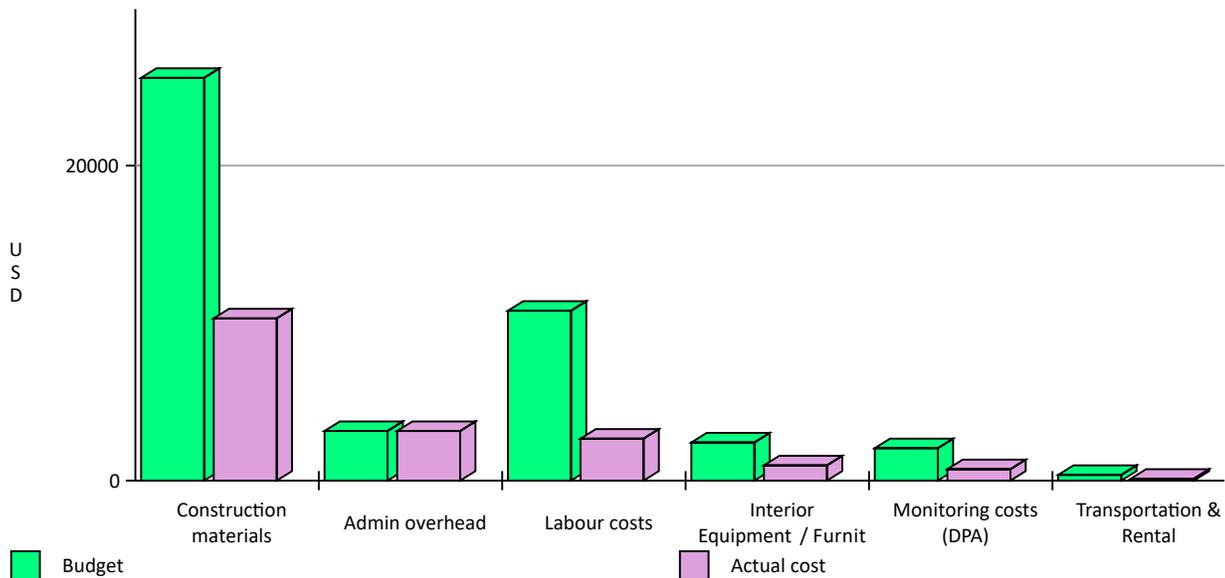
Budget Fx 1,341.00 Expenses Fx 1,341.00

Financial overview		In budget currency (MMK)			In reporting currency (USD)		
Account item	Account sub-item	Budget	Actual cost	Deviation	Budget	Actual cost	Deviation
Infrastructure	Construction materials	34,290,000.00	13,716,000.00	20,574,000.00	25,570.47	10,228.19	15,342.28
Infrastructure	Interior Equipment / Furniture	3,310,000.00	1,324,000.00	1,986,000.00	2,468.31	987.32	1,480.98
Infrastructure	Labour costs	14,400,000.00	3,600,000.00	10,800,000.00	10,738.26	2,684.56	8,053.69
Infrastructure	Transportation & Rental	500,000.00	200,000.00	300,000.00	372.86	149.14	223.71
	Project subtotal	52,500,000.00	18,840,000.00	33,660,000.00	39,149.89	14,049.22	25,100.67
	Monitoring costs (DPA)	2,763,157.89	942,000.00	1,821,157.89	2,060.52	702.46	1,358.06
	Admin overhead	4,159,592.53	4,159,592.53	0.00	3,101.86	3,101.86	0.00
	TOTAL	59,422,750.42	23,941,592.53	35,481,157.89	44,312.27	17,853.54	26,458.73

Actual Cost Breakdown



Budget vs Actual Cost





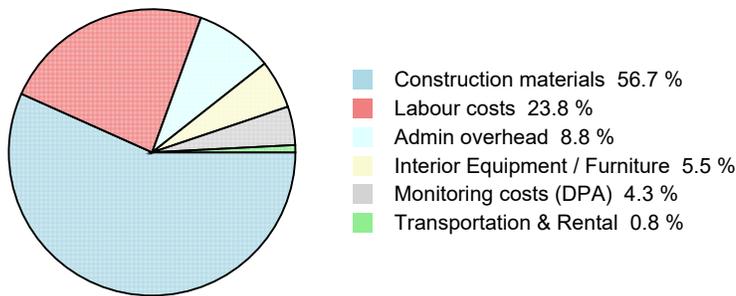
Financial Report

Saung Ton Post Primary School Building - Construction of 1 school building with 6 classrooms (Post-Coup)

Budget Fx 1,650.00 Expenses Fx 1,341.00

Financial overview		In budget currency (MMK)			In reporting currency (USD)		
Account item	Account sub-item	Budget	Actual cost	Deviation	Budget	Actual cost	Deviation
Infrastructure	Construction materials	20,574,000.00	17,145,000.00	3,429,000.00	15,342.28	12,785.23	2,557.05
Infrastructure	Interior Equipment / Furniture	1,986,000.00	1,655,000.00	331,000.00	1,480.98	1,234.15	246.83
Infrastructure	Labour costs	10,800,000.00	7,200,000.00	3,600,000.00	8,053.69	5,369.13	2,684.56
Infrastructure	Transportation & Rental	300,000.00	250,000.00	50,000.00	223.71	186.43	37.29
	Project subtotal	33,660,000.00	26,250,000.00	7,410,000.00	25,100.67	19,574.94	5,525.73
	Monitoring costs (DPA)	1,771,578.95	1,312,500.00	459,078.95	1,321.09	978.75	342.34
	Admin overhead	2,666,893.04	2,666,893.04	0.00	1,988.73	1,988.73	0.00
	TOTAL	38,098,471.99	30,229,393.04	7,869,078.95	28,410.49	22,542.43	5,868.07

Actual Cost Breakdown



Budget vs Actual Cost

