



2020

A

Whole

New World



**SUSTAIN PROJECTS
MYANMAR**

Annual Supporter Magazine

Same old, same old, totally new

Taking a view from space this wonderful green, blue and white globe of ours probably looks pretty much like it did last year, last century and possibly even last millennium. Less forest, smaller glaciers more smoke for sure, but generally pretty much the same as usual. However that's not the lived reality of its inhabitants on the ground. We've had a revolution in life that's been more disruptive and more economically impacting than 2 world wars and the great depression. We really do live in a different world from what we anticipated in 2019 with international travel decimated, borders closed, massive unemployment and a genuine fear of interpersonal contact. The wish "may you live in interesting times" is well and truly on us.

However in this brave new world that is clearly going to take some time to get used to and may well have altered our patterns of behaviour for the foreseeable future, some things remain the same. The cycle of birth, life, death continues with our families and communities around us - but under very different circumstances. In this new world of 'stranger danger' everyone outside our bubble is a stranger and presents some element of risk. Its reflecting on that fact which has made me consider the people like Mon Parker as even more heroic than I pictured them before. In this rather more dangerous world, Mon has opted to remain in Myanmar with her husband and their two wonderful infant boys and provide desperately needed help and support for women facing childbirth in a country where maternal mortality statistics make Covid19 mortality rates seem low risk.

In this 'interesting' new world in which we find ourselves, lets not forget those who daily risk themselves for the sake of others and for those who are yet to make entrance to this new world order. These are indeed the unsung heroes of the age. People like Mon are deserving of every thought and prayer (and dollar for their work) we can offer.

Rob Kilpatrick
SPM Board Chair

WHO WE ARE

We are a community motivated and guided by the power of God's love in Jesus to see children, families and communities enjoying the benefits of sustainable development.

OUR MISSION

To encourage community wholeness, well-being and transformation through sustainable development projects.

OUR VISION

Transformed and empowered communities enjoying the results of their work in dignity and peace.



A new building

Our partner Community Care Myanmar (CCM), who implement the early childhood education project in a Yangon slum, have built a new classroom facility. This will allow for more children to be enrolled in the program and receive preschool and basic education classes as well as access to a healthy lunch every day. School was to resume in May, but due to COVID-19 the children have not yet commenced the new academic year. The children and staff are all eagerly awaiting being able to learn in a more spacious, permanent and stimulating building.

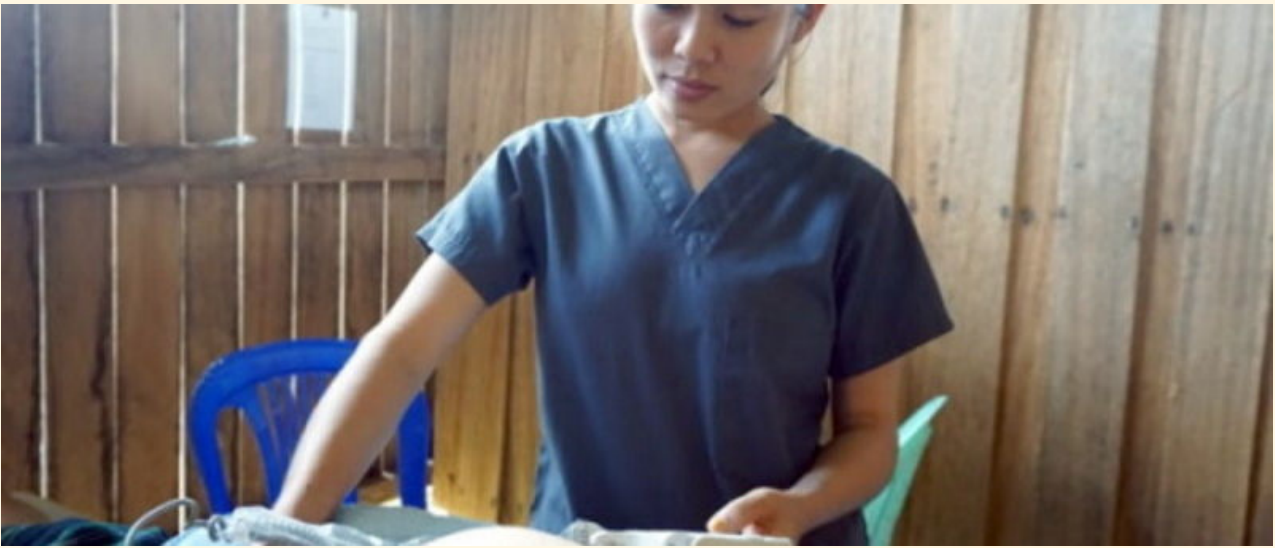


A whole lot of hope



This lady and her child were just one of the 1,050 households who received emergency food rations during CCM's distribution to vulnerable families living in the Yangon slum. Most of the people living here rely on day-labouring or market stalls for their meager income so have been severely impacted by the lock-down restrictions. CCM staff and volunteers worked with community leaders to make sure that widows, the elderly, disabled and pregnant were given priority.

New beginnings



Naw Thit Paw is in charge of a new initiative that we have started this year at the Rain Tree Clinic.

Hepatitis B is a big problem for people in low resource areas as it is possible to pass the infection from mother to baby at birth and the risk of transmission for babies exposed at birth without vaccination is considered to be around 90%. About 40% of these babies will go on to develop chronic liver disease and 25% will die prematurely of liver cancers.

The global standard is to screen the mother during pregnancy, and if she tests positive, then a Hepatitis B vaccine series is started from birth, along with a special immunoglobulin. This significantly reduces the transmission rate of hepatitis B from mother to baby and not only provides improved health for the baby, but it also lowers the long-term burden on the health system. This kind of program has not been possible for the rural communities in the past, so we find it an exciting initiative to be a part of. Early on, the plan was to simply vaccinate the baby with the special regime of vaccines. Then it seemed that there were a number of husbands who were testing negative despite their wives' infection. So, we added the fathers to the equation. Then, a happy miscommunication saw the siblings in the first family who were testing negative to be given the vaccine also. It is now a trend we are continuing to vaccinate the whole family. So far, we have 6 families who have completed the series of vaccines.

Naw Thit Paw organises the testing of the women, the subsequent testing of the husband and children, and then she places the order. Despite requesting the women to deliver at the clinic as the vaccines need to be started in the first 12 hours of life – all women have delivered in the village and called for our team to assist. Naw Thit Paw packs up the vaccines and sends them with the team who respond. Each time the vaccines have been implemented within 4 hours of birth. This is quite the logistical accomplishment. Naw Thit Paw then tracks on when each subsequent dose is due and ensures that the families receive the message to return for the next dose. The ordering process is sometimes haphazard as often women come for their pregnancy check in the final moments of pregnancy, so it can be a scramble to get these in time, and sometimes it requires one of our Physician Assistant heroes to make a rather muddy motorcycle journey to pick up the vaccines from another facility and carry to our RTC clinic..

This new and exciting initiative is going to have a huge impact on the health and well-being of new born babies and their families.

Mon Parker

SPM Midwife and Co-ordinator of the Maternal Health Project



Photos in this article courtesy of Earth Mission Asia

THE IMPACT OF THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2020

T-RAD & MIDWIFE PROJECT



353
ULTRASOUNDS

12
PREGNANT WOMEN
REFERRED FOR HIGHER
LEVEL CARE

6
FAMILIES RECEIVED
TREATMENT AND VACCINE
FOR HEPATITIS B



29
STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN THE PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT PROGRAM

3,667
LAB TESTS PERFORMED



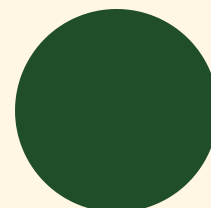
COMMUNITY CARE MYANMAR PROJECT



93
CHILDREN RECEIVING EARLY
EDUCATION

25
CHILDREN RECEIVING
SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL
SCHOOLS

1,050
HOUSEHOLDS IN YANGON SLUM
PROVIDED WITH RICE, OIL,
VEGES, TINNED FISH, SOAP AND
FACEMASKS



Partner with us.

BECOME ...

A TRANSFORMER

It begins with a \$30 monthly commitment to support our work regularly. Or you can give a one-off donation. It's easy just visit our website:

www.sustainmyanmar.org/donate or fill in, cut out, and send us your details using the form provided.

A TRANSFORMER BUSINESS PARTNER

Sponsorship of \$5000 will get your business name and logo promoted on our website and other promotional materials. Contact info@sustainmyanmar.org for more details.

A VOLUNTEER

Whether it's helping out with administration, fundraising events, sharing our message on social media here in Australia, or using your skills in one of our Myanmar projects, we'd love you to become part of the team. Contact Joy at info@sustainmyanmar.org.

A BEQUEATHER

A bequest to SUSTAIN Projects Myanmar is a gift to enable us to encourage community wholeness, well-being and transformation through sustainable development projects. Contact Joy at info@sustainmyanmar.org

I want to be a Transformer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I would like to give a one-off tax deductible donation of \$_____

I am able to give a monthly tax deductible donation to of \$_____

Name on Bankcard _____

Bankcard Number _____

Exp Date _____ Signature: _____



I'd like to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter

Tear out and send to PO BOX 102 Woy Woy NSW 2256
or scan and email to info@sustainmyanmar.org



Photo by Kerri Setch

SUSTAIN Projects Myanmar Inc
(formerly Partners Releif & Development Australia Inc)

ABN:47380045086

PO Box 102 Woy Woy NSW 2256 AUSTRALIA

Ph: 0423721153

info@sustainmyanmar.org www.sustainmyanmar.org

www.facebook.com/sustainprojectsmyanmar

Instagram: [sustain_projects_myanmar](https://www.instagram.com/sustain_projects_myanmar)



ACFID
MEMBER

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. SUSTAIN Projects Myanmar Inc is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. To lodge a complaint against our organisation, please email info@sustainmyanmar.org. Our complaints handling policy can be found on our website. If you are not satisfied with the response and believe our organisation has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you can lodge a complaint with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au

Credits: The painting of the child on the cover is by Maung Maung Tin. Used with permission from the artist: " My grandchild who is two days old, is being greeted by the sound of gunfire from a civil war that started before I was born."

