

Education Can't Wait!

Educating Myanmar's conflict-affected children

Despite the universally acknowledged value of education, a staggering 224 million children between the ages of 8 and 18 worldwide remain out of school. Nelson Mandela's words continue to resonate: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

In Myanmar, children from indigenous communities' grapple with unprecedented obstacles to quality education. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered widespread school closures, and the February 2021 military coup escalated armed conflict, particularly in the ethnic states, displacing nearly one million people. Consequently, the percentage of children in education witnessed a substantial 12% decline from 2017 to 2023, reaching a worrisome 57%. This stark statistic translates to an estimated 8 million children currently lacking access to education.

The severity of this crisis prompted the UN Child Rights Committee to issue a grave warning, emphasizing that *"time is running out to save Myanmar's stricken generation."* Urgently, the committee called upon the international community to take swift action in protecting the country's children.

Despite these challenges, the prevailing sentiment from children, parents, and indigenous education providers in conflict-affected parts of Myanmar is an unwavering desire to continue their education. A local indigenous education provider passionately stated, *"These are our people, these are our children. Despite the personal risks we take to provide education and keep our schools operational, we must do it for their future. If we don't, who will? Even if we have to teach them in trenches to hide from airstrikes or in the forest, we must continue; they are the present, they are the future."*



School children in a classroom at a school operated by indigenous education providers in South East Myanmar.

In response to this, for the last five years, ADRA and a network of indigenous education providers, with the support of the European Union and your donations, have been implementing the CASE2Learn project. This initiative builds on ADRA's 35 years of experience working with local indigenous education providers in Myanmar. Through your support to ADRA-UK, this project has enhanced access to indigenous education services for over 330,000

children, improved teaching quality standards, supported effective school leadership, and equipped indigenous teachers with teaching competencies.

Lway, 22 years old, explained how she overcame her lack of confidence and inability to explain definitions to the children through vocational training conducted by the Case2Learn project. It is heart-warming to see young and inexperienced teachers rise to the challenge, standing confidently in front of a class, equipped with appropriate techniques to explain new concepts to the children in their mother tongue and expand their horizons. This dedication, amidst the armed conflict raging all around, is mirrored by parents and the communities at large, who actively engage in school-based activities.

When Production Booms

Dairy development in Zambia

From producing 6 litres of milk per day to producing 18 litres per day Mrs. Hamalila Mweemba Shindaile supports using right feeding materials for livestock.

"I learnt the hydroponic method where you can plant fodder and it is ready to feed the cows within 7 days of germination. Before adding hydroponic fodder as a supplement, I used to milk 6 litres from all three animals but now I milk 18 litres three (3) times more than what my family and I produced. I am happy with the results. I want to continue using these methods to ensure my animals are healthy and more productive meaning more income."

Through ADRA Zambia's dairy farming and hydroponic feed production training, Mrs. Shindaile, a farmer from Choma District, learned how to improve dairy operations by adopting best dairy farm practices and said she noticed that in a short space of time that the animals appeared healthier.

Mrs. Shindaile, who has been rearing cattle most of her life, said, *"As a family we have been following traditional farming methods for generations, we were never exposed to modern dairy farm methods and technology, such as hydroponic feed production. So, this technology has changed my life*

significantly, because it has contributed to the expansion of my business as I have even constructed a milking parlor on the farm."

Mrs. Shindaile is grateful to the Jersey Breeding Focus Dairy Development Zambia (JBFDDZ) project for helping her contribute to her family's income through the knowledge she gained from the training.

"I was so motivated that I thought it would be better to quit my full-time job and focus on the dairy business. The dairy project encouraged me to adopt hydroponic feed production which made me completely interested in raising and feeding my livestock, especially dairy cows, and calves."



Mrs. Hamalila Mweemba Shindaile, inspecting the growth of the hydroponic fodder grown at her farm in Choma District.

We can't do it without you!

Your support makes our work possible - *Thank You*



£10

Helps... to provide hygiene kits for families

£20

Helps... to give disadvantaged children access to education

£50

Helps... us to respond to disasters immediately

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Direct Debit



Even better, to help us plan ahead, why not complete a Direct Debit form online here: <https://is.gd/Rhwx7M> or scan this QR code:

By post

Write a cheque (made payable to ADRA-UK) and send it to us at ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

By phone

Make a payment by debit or credit card by calling **030 30 40 10 17** (Mon-Thu 10:00-16:00)

By bank transfer

Call us on **030 30 40 10 17** (Mon-Thu 10:00-16:00) to request our bank details for a BACS transfer

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The Adventist Development and Relief Agency – UK has been working to end extreme poverty in some of the poorest areas of our world, since 1999. Here in the UK, we are empowering local churches to help those in need. To achieve these goals, we collaborate with governments, ADRA network offices, local churches and other organisations. Together, we are working to lift people out of poverty, establish hope, empower communities, and provide positive change. Your financial support is critical!

Making it all count...

Our Purpose

To serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

Our Motto

Justice. Compassion. Love

What we do

We are the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—part of the 20-million strong Adventist community, with hundreds of thousands of churches globally and the world's largest integrated healthcare and education network. We deliver relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 118 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, gender, or religious association. By partnering with local communities, organisations, and governments, we can deliver culturally relevant programmes and build local capability for sustainable change.



Read more about us here: adra.org.uk/about/

Your gift will go to people that are in dire need of aid right now! The majority are children and women. ADRA-UK's mission is to work with those most in need – whether they are suffering through poverty or have been affected by a disaster – the 2024 ADRA Appeal fund enables ADRA to reach out right away and make a positive change.

Funds Raised in 2024 will support us to:

- Respond to international disasters
- Support dairy farmers in Nepal, Zambia and India
- Improve livelihoods and shelter for Mauritanian lepers
- Improve nutrition in Tea Estate workers and rural communities in Sri Lanka
- Support post COVID-19 education in Ghana
- Improve women's health and immunisation in Nepal
- Strengthen migrant rights protection in Thailand
- Advocate for women's rights both in the developing countries and the UK

ADRA-UK 2023 Highlights

- Worked across **14** countries in 2023
- **561,770** people reached. Approx 351,713 (62%) of who were women and girls
- **6** Development projects: **330,574** (193,415 women and girls)
- **8** Humanitarian projects: **231,000** (158,298 women and girls)



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