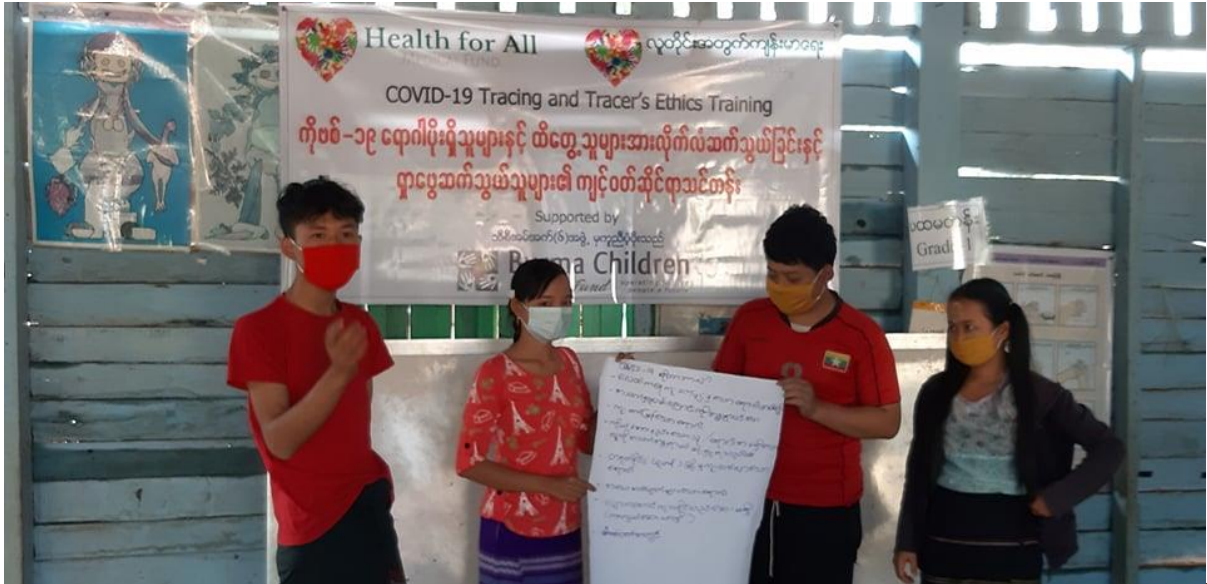




**Health for All**  
MEDICAL FUND



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# HEALTH FOR ALL

Activity Report January-March 2021

No. 621/4(10), Corner of Thukhamein Street and Khayay Street, Number (4) Ward,  
Zee Taw Quarter, Hpa-An, Karen State

### **HFA – BCMF’s Sister Organisation in Burma**

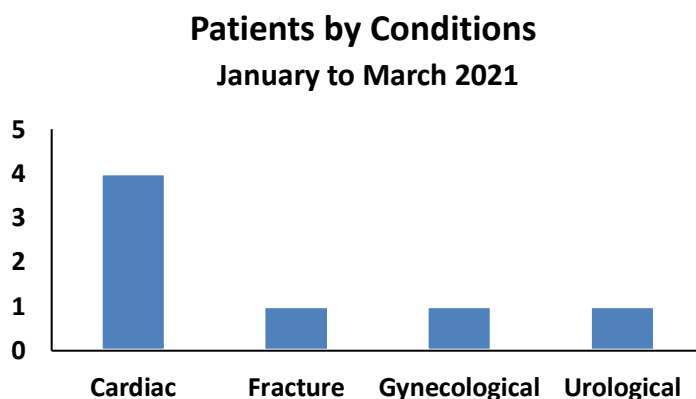
Over the past seven years, Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) has increasingly expanded outreach services in Burma while reaching more patients in need. To provide more effective services while working with local partners, in 2016 BCMF registered as a non-profit organisation in Burma under the name of Health for All (HFA). Initially operating under a temporary license, HFA completed the registration process in August 2020. HFA now operates as a sister organisation of BCMF in Burma and is expected to grow in the coming years.

With the outbreak of covid-19 last year in Burma, HFA faced many challenges in expanding outreach services and reaching patients in need. With the end of covid-19 not abating, these challenges continued in 2021. Exacerbating an already difficult situation, the coup d’état carried out by the Burmese military on 1 February 2021 created disruptions to daily life and brought about strong resistance from civilians and ethnic arms groups. Due to the coup d’état, many leaders were changed at the community and township levels, which created difficulties as HFA had already established relationships with previous leaders in some areas. To work around these challenges, while continuing to provide services to disadvantaged beneficiaries in Burma, HFA worked with community organisations as well as BCMF, targeting rural areas not directly affected by the conflict.

### **Networking and promoting HFA’s registered status in Burma**

From January to March 2021, HFA held **5** meetings, **1** with the department of social welfare and **4** with nongovernmental organisations, to share and promote HFA’s registered status in Burma. During the meetings, HFA Program Manager Saw Aung Than Wai also presented HFA’s services and projects, with the aim of building collaboration with said organisations and entities, while also establishing HFA’s presence in Burma.

### **Expanding HFA’s patient referral services**

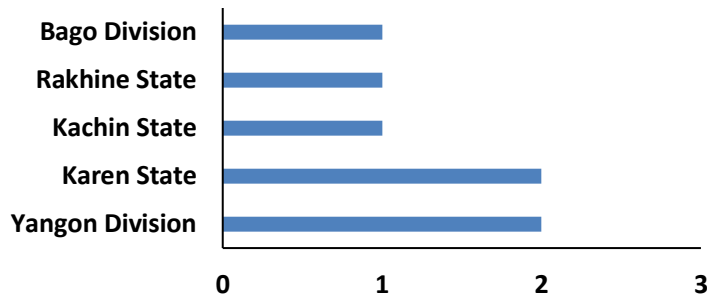


Under HFA’s patient referral services program, patients are referred to partner care centres in Burma, with HFA supporting the cost of treatment and diagnostic tests, in addition to providing other social support services. For patients that require complex treatment not available in Burma, HFA refers them to their sister organisation Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF)

for assistance accessing treatment in Thailand. Additionally, HFA refers patients to BCMF, whose treatment in Burma are high cost.

Since Thailand closed their border with Burma in April 2020, after the outbreak of covid-19 in Thailand, patients supported by HFA and BCMF have been unable to access treatment at partner care centres in Thailand. Furthermore, with many doctors and health care workers participating in the civil disobedience movement, public hospitals have more or less stopped

### Patients by Location January to March 2021



operating, in addition to some private hospitals. With both of HFA's partner hospitals in Burma not operating at full capacity, HFA has accelerated on expanding its partner care centre network in country. In March 2021, HFA identified 1 private hospital in Hpa-An for a future partnership supporting patients residing in Burma. From January-March 2021, HFA also enrolled 7

new patients in Burma, supporting their surgeries with the help of BCMF. 2 patients received treatment in Hpa-An, Karen State, 4 in Yangon and 1 in Bhamo, Kachin State. All of these patients have since received surgery.

### Eye screening outreach project



*HFA Proaram Manaer screenina a monk's eyes in Kawkareik Township. Karen State.*

staff from BCMF, conducts eye examinations to identify villagers with common eye conditions and diseases. Individuals who require eyeglasses are provided with a free pair, while patients requiring surgical treatment are connected with local hospitals.

With most ophthalmological clinics located in urban areas, eye clinics remain inaccessible for a large proportion of the population in Burma. When they do live close to eye clinics, the high cost of seeking treatment keeps individuals away. During eye screening missions, a trained team from HFA, supported by

During the first three months of 2021, HFA held 2 eye screening missions in Kawkareik Township, Karen State, and 1 in Myawaddy Township, Karen State. The first eye screening was held between 21 to 23 January in Kyun Kalay Quarter of Kyondoe town, Kawkareik Township. A total of 380 people were screened by 1 HFA staff and 2 former Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) interns, who are now trained nurse's aide in Burma. During the mission, 411 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed, and 2 patients were identified who will be

referred for eye surgery. HFA also distributed **24** reusable facemasks and **29** bottles of massage oil.



*HFA staff and a volunteer from Mae Tao Clinic screen student and villagers' eyes in Myawaddy Township, Karen State.*

In the middle of February 2021, HFA held a five-day eye screening mission in Myawaddy Township, Karen State. The eye screening mission was held from February 15 to 20, and each day the eye screening was held in a different village. In total, 5 HFA staff screened **379** villagers, distributed **258** eyeglasses and identified **9** patients who will require eye surgery.

### **Daw Bo's story**

Daw Bo is a 50-year-old farmer who lives close to the border of Thailand in Myawaddy Township, Karen State. For a long time, she has experienced blurred vision when trying to see something up close. She cannot remember when, but one day, her cousin gave her a pair of glasses that her cousin could not see well in. Over time, the temples broke off, but she could not afford to buy a new pair of glasses. After that, she tied a piece of rope to the bridge, and would



*Daw Bo's old pair of eyeglasses.*



*Daw Bo holding up her new and her old eyeglasses.*

tie the eyeglasses to her head with the rope whenever she wanted to use her eyeglasses. One day, her cousin told her about an organisation [HFA] that would hold an eye screening mission in their village. Daw Bo was excited to receive new eyeglasses that were the proper prescription for her eyes. She will use her new eyeglasses to read and sew.



*Former BCMF staff, now trained as a nurse's aid, screens a villager's eye, while another former BCMF intern, also a nurse's aid looks on.*

From 29 to 30 March 2021, HFA held another eye screening mission in Malar Gon Village in Kawkareik Township. **1** HFA staff with the help of **2** former BCMF interns screened **305** villagers and distributed **294** eyeglasses with **100** disposal face masks and **2** bottles of hand gel. **1** patient was identified who will be referred for eye surgery.

### Reproductive health and rights



*RHR workshop participants practice inserting the layer into the shield after they received a reusable sanitary pad kit.*

The reproductive health and rights (RHR) outreach project aims to promote male and female reproductive rights among vulnerable communities in Burma. Workshops are held in two sections – one for female participants and the other for male participants. During the workshop participants learn about puberty, pregnancy, anatomy of the reproductive organs and sexually transmitted diseases. Additionally, female participants learn about menstrual hygiene, and young female

participants receive reusable sanitary pad kits made by Days for Girls Australia. On 8 February 2021, HFA held an RHR workshop in Kyun Kalay Quarter, Kyondoe Town, Kawkareik Township. **16** young female participants attended the workshop and they each received reusable sanitary pad kits after the workshop.



*HFA Programs Manager demonstrates how to insert a liner into the shield and clip it to the underwear.*

### Child protection and child rights



*HFA Program Manager running a workshop on child protection and child rights in Kawkareik Township, Karen State.*

HFA works with partners in Thailand and Burma to promote child protection and child rights, helping to create a safe environment for children. During the workshop, participants are provided with information on human rights protection, assault prevention and prevalent child

rights violations. While child participants are led to understand their rights and to feel empowered to safely raise their voices about decisions and issues affecting them, adult participants are led to understand and uphold children’s rights. On 5 March 2021, HFA held a child protection and child rights workshop in Kyun Kalay Quarter of Kyondoe Town, Kawkareik Township. **27** female and **3** male participants attended the training, and each participant received a facemask before the workshop.

### **Covid-19 contact tracing**



*HFA Program Manager leading the workshop on covid-19 contact tracing in Kawkareik Township, Karen State.*

With the outbreak of covid-19 in Burma last year, HFA worked with partner organisations to provide health education on prevention and on tracing active cases. This year, HFA held a covid-19 tracing workshop in Kyun Kalay Quarter of Kyondoe Town in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The workshop took place from 28 to 29 January and was attended by **13** male and **26** female participants. During the workshop, HFA also distributed **39** reusable facemasks and **10** 3D printed face shields donated by BCMF.

### **Emergency response to current situation in Burma**

After the coup d’état on 1 February 2021, the civil disobedience movement started in a bid to oust the military regime. Since then, the military regime has crackdown on protesters and the movement’s supporters, using random detention, torture, and murder to subdue opposition in most cities and towns in Burma. Once ethnic arms groups offered protection to protesters from the Burmese army, the military regime retaliated by attacking villagers in ethnic areas. Internally displaced peoples (IDP) camps have now formed in various regions of the country in mostly areas controlled by ethnic arms groups. IDP camps now host not only villagers displaced by the fighting between the Burmese military and local ethnic arms groups, but also the civil disobedience movement’s supporters, activities and leaders who have been targeted by the regime.



*Food and medical supplies delivered to IDP camps in south-west Bago Division.*



*Medical supplies delivered to IDP camps in south-west Bago Division.*

Although there are multiple international non-governmental (NGO) organisations, civil societies, and groups ready to provide assistance to IDP camp residents. However, there are few NGO and community-based organisations that are able to reach IDP camps that are not on the Thai-Burma border. To fill this gap, HFA coordinates and collaborates with international donors and local organisations to support IDP camps in south-west Bago Division and northern Mon State.