



Burma Children
Medical Fund
Health for All



Annual Report 2023

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

BCMF	Burma Children Medical Fund
CBO	Community based organisation
CSO	Civil society organisation
EHO	Ethnic health organisation
HFA	Health For All
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ICU	Intensive care unit
IDP	Internally displaced person
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
MSH	Mae Sot Hospital
MTC	Mae Tao Clinic
PDF	People's Defense Force
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

Burma Children Medical Fund

is a non-profit organisation that facilitates access to surgical care for children and adults residing in Burma and Thailand. Established in 2006, BCMF supports medical costs of treatment, necessary diagnostic tests, and other social support services. BCMF also builds the capacity and improves access to medical care in vulnerable communities through several health-related outreach projects.

Mission

Improve lives of vulnerable communities in Burma and Thailand by facilitating access to healthcare and human rights.

Vision

For all people to have access to quality healthcare regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, political or religious affiliation.

Letter from the Founder & Director

2023 has been another successful year for our mission in supporting vulnerable communities in Burma and Thailand, as the medical state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic slowly phased out at the beginning of the year. This also meant that the need for emergency medical supplies was declining, as the pandemic situation slowly wore off. However, we still ran 33 emergency support missions, with a total of over 70,000 beneficiaries.

Since February 2021, 19 townships had already been placed under martial law until the beginning of 2023. In February 2023, 40 more townships came under martial law, bringing the total up to 59 townships. This further accelerated the flow of refugees coming across the border. Additionally, 1.1 million people had been displaced internally in 2023, with 660,000 being displaced after the conflict escalated at the end of October 2023.

With the Thai-Burma border reopening in January

2023 and COVID-19 travel restrictions within Thailand lifted, our referral services program was able to reach pre-pandemic levels with 366 patients being enrolled. A further 110 previously enrolled patients were finally able to receive treatment. Due to a long waiting list to receiving heart surgery at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, BCMF partnered with the Save Blue Heart Foundation and Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital to organise 3 free echocardiogram screenings at Mae Sot Hospital. Most patients requiring heart surgery are referred to Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital in Bangkok. This allowed us to take on more heart surgery cases and provide 83 patients with timely treatment in Bangkok. With this big step, we also started a regular patient van transfer to Bangkok and established the BCMF Bangkok Patient House in March 2023, so that our patients are cared for on every step of the way.

We also formed new valuable partnerships with several EHOs to be able to reach more people inside Burma affected by the civil war. This was especially important due to the military targeting

healthcare facilities and workers and the escalation of armed conflict near the border of Thailand, as we were able to reach more internally displaced persons. Additionally, we were able to continue some of our outreach projects in Burma, distributing wheelchairs to partners in Shan, Karenni and Karen states, holding 1 eye screening mission in Karen State, and 3 reproductive health and rights workshops in Karen State and Yangon Division.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the resilience and commitment of our partners who have persisted in delivering healthcare under dangerous conditions, as well as our staff, interns, donors, and friends who have steadfastly supported BCMF. Your unwavering support over the past year has allowed us to sustain our efforts, reaching even more individuals in need.

Kanchana Thornton



Healthcare in Burma

In 2023 Burma continued to suffer from the consequences of civil war that began after the 2021 military coup d'état. For the general public, this meant that whenever ethnic armed groups or PDFs captured an important location, the military responded with vicious attacks against civilians, to force the ethnic armed groups or PDFs to retreat. Thus, hospitals and clinics were bombed and attacked, with the number of airstrikes doubling from previous years. In 2023, 161 health facilities were damaged, with 37 health workers killed, kidnapped or injured.

In 2023 the number of incidents involving explosive remnants of war and landmines have reached the highest level since 2015, with 2023 being the first year where casualties due to landmines occurred in every region and state of Burma except Nay Pyi Taw, which lead to a rising number in weapon wounded civilians. Although these patients receive emergency care in Burma, many are referred to neighbouring countries for long-term

treatment or to international and local charities for prosthetics. Unable to afford travel and treatment expenses, these individuals then rely on non-governmental organisations to access care.

Furthermore, as of December 2023, 2.6 million people have been displaced within Burma, which is a year-on-year increase of 1.1 million people. Only between October and December 2023, when the conflict escalated, 660,000 people in Burma were displaced. For 40 % of these IDPs and 34 % of IDP returnees access to healthcare is impeded according to IOM. The same applies to 25 % of other crisis affected people especially in Karen and Karenni states, as well as 70 % of non-displaced stateless households. Additionally, UNDP reports that rapid inflation has led to the highest poverty level in 15 years causing food insecurity for 25 % of the population, leading to climbing malnutrition.

Although public hospitals continue to operate with limited capacity, distrust in the military government, security

concerns and a lack of personnel create barriers to accessible healthcare. While private hospitals continue to operate in Yangon and Burma, rising costs of surgeries due to inflation and the ongoing depreciation of the Burmese kyat, has prevented more patients from receiving treatment. EHOs and NGOs are trying to support affected people by delivering much needed support, but cannot by far meet the needs of the general population.

Even with the help of other CSOs, CBOs, and INGOs, large portions of the population in Burma are underserved and lack affordable or any form of access to healthcare. With the recent escalation towards the end of the year forcing more people to flee across the border, BCMF expects to see a further increase in undocumented refugee patients. With the continuing rise in treatment costs in Burma, BCMF also expects to surpass past patient enrolment numbers in the future, remaining steadfast in its mission of providing access to healthcare for everyone.

2.6 Million

IDPs by 25
December 2023

.....
1/2
Population living in
poverty with less than
0.72 USD per day

.....
418
Incidents of violence
or obstruction of
healthcare in 2023

Sources:

- Humanitarian programme cycle 2024 [2023], Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
- M-Fund [2024] <https://www.m-fund.online/post/bbc-burmese>
- ILO [2024], Skilled to care, forced to work?
- IOM [2024] Myanmar Crisis Response Plan 2024
- OCHA [2024], Myanmar 2023 report
- Safeguarding Health in Conflict [2024] interactive map: <https://mapaction-maps.herokuapp.com/health>
- UNDP [2024], Poverty and the Household Economy of Myanmar: a Disappearing Middle Class

Healthcare for Migrants in Thailand



Burmese migrants in Thailand face significant healthcare challenges, including physical conditions like chronic illnesses, paired with mental health issues such as depression and PTSD. These issues are worsened by inadequate healthcare access and limited resources. Many also face discrimination when they try to access healthcare. Even when their employer is required to provide social security, they often do not register them for it, which has led to only 62 % of migrants reporting enrolment in the scheme.



Undocumented migrants usually encounter additional barriers, including restricted access to public services and high costs for private and public care. Fear of arrest or deportation often deters them from seeking help. Some NGOs, community groups and social enterprises offer support, like the Migrant Fund, which provides a low cost health insurance for migrants who are either undocumented or cannot access healthcare due to discrimination. However, even these are unaffordable for some and do not cover all healthcare related costs.

Referral Services Program

Under BCMF's referral services program, underserved patients are referred to partner hospitals in Thailand and Burma. BCMF supports the cost of treatment and major diagnostic tests, in addition to providing other social support services.

Since its establishment in 2006, BCMF has supported the cost of 4,074 patients' advanced medical care. Patients requiring complex treatment are referred to Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital in Thailand, and these patients are housed at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House in Chiang Mai. To support more cardiac patients and because of a long waiting list at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital in 2023, BCMF partnered with Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital and Save Blue Heart Foundation. In 2023 BCMF facilitated 3 free echocardiogram screenings at the Mae Sot Hospital held by cardiologist from the Save Blue Heart Foundation. During the screening, a total of 250 Thai and Burmese patients were screened and 160 were identified as needing surgery.

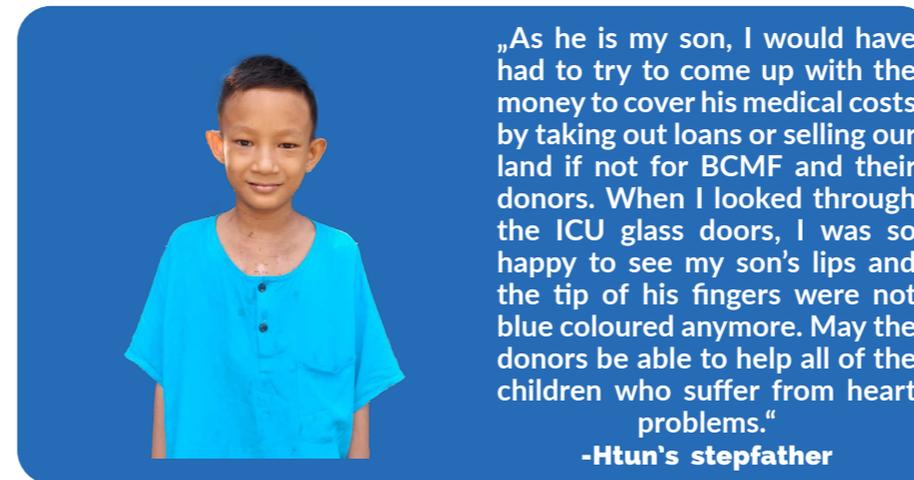
Although some patients were referred to Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai, most of the patients requiring surgery were referred to Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital in Bangkok. Before and after undergoing treatment, patients were housed at the newly opened BCMF Bangkok Patient House, where they

were looked after by a BCMF staff.

In 2023, 366 patients were enrolled into the program, which is a return to pre-COVID-19 levels. Additionally, 110 patients enrolled before 2023 could finally receive or continue their treatment in 2023. A total of 452 patients received treatment with the help of BCMF. Even though most of these cases were treated in Thailand, 43 patients received treatment in Burma.

As the civil war further unfolded in Burma and the number of displaced people continued to increase, more patients residing in the country faced financial and security obstacles accessing treatment in Burma and later Thailand. BCMF also saw 44 refugees from Thai refugee camps enrolled into the program and 39 newly displaced patients, with some of the latter requiring complex treatment due to being weapon wounded.

In the coming year, BCMF expects to see a continuous rise in weapon wounded patients and patients displaced by the conflict in Burma. Additionally, BCMF will continue to facilitate free echocardiogram screenings at Mae Sot Hospital, expecting to support more cardiac patients.



„As he is my son, I would have had to try to come up with the money to cover his medical costs by taking out loans or selling our land if not for BCMF and their donors. When I looked through the ICU glass doors, I was so happy to see my son's lips and the tip of his fingers were not blue coloured anymore. May the donors be able to help all of the children who suffer from heart problems.“

-Htun's stepfather

Htun is a 9-year-old student from Burma. He and his mother mostly live off of the support they get from his uncle, who relocated to the United States of America. He also takes care of Htun's healthcare related expenses occasionally. As Htun had been diagnosed with several congenital heart conditions including ventricular septal defect and severe pulmonary

stenosis, his mother spent all their money on his healthcare.

Because of his condition, Htun barely played outside and frequently missed classes at school before his treatment. After a surgery in Yangon in 2019 with BCMF's support, the doctor told them Htun would require another heart surgery in the future for which

Meet our beneficiaries

they should go to Chiang Mai. Due to the Thai-Burma border closure from March 2020 until January 2023, they could not go there. Although they were told to visit the children's hospital in Yangon if his condition worsened, when they went in 2021 after Htun developed a cough, they were told by the hospital that it was closed for cardiac cases. Afterwards, Htun's symptoms were treated with medication from a local clinic.

In January 2023 the border finally reopened and BCMF organised for Htun to receive a free echocardiogram by cardiologists from the Save Blue Heart Foundation at Mae Sot Hospital, Thailand. Afterwards, he was referred to Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital to receive his life-changing heart surgery in May 2023. Since his second surgery, he no longer feels exhausted or fatigued and his heartbeat does not race like before. He is really excited to finally go back to school.

„Because I have regained a healthy life, I am now able to help my family with household chores and participate in community work at my church in the village. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organisation [BCMF] for the support of my treatment, and I am thankful to God for His love and blessing.”

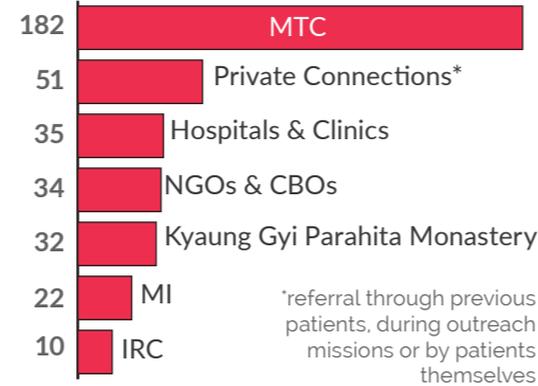
- **Kaw Say (Mass at right vas deferens)**



“I appreciate your kind assistance [BCMF and donors]. Prior to the surgery, having a baby seemed impossible, but now my husband and I are actively planning for a family, through adoption as so many kids lost their parents. Thank you for your invaluable support.”

- **Ni Win (endometrioma of right ovary)**

Patients referred by partner organisations



9,000 USD

Average cost of heart surgery in Burma

55%

Patients' monthly household income was not enough for their daily needs

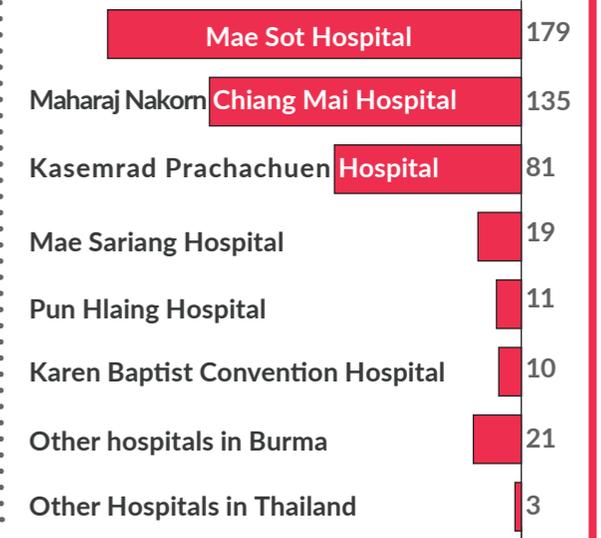
115 USD

Average monthly household income of all our patients

1,400 USD

Average patient treatment cost

Number of patients treated by treatment center



366

Patients enrolled

1124

Hospital appointments financed

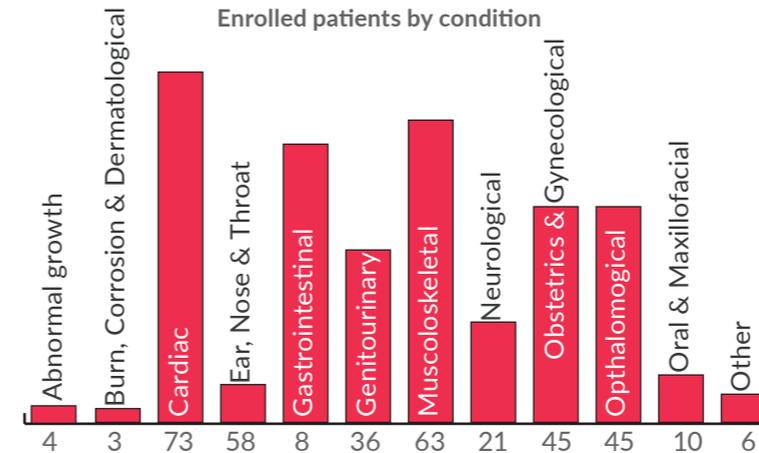
15

Patients enrolled waiting for treatment

110

Patients enrolled before 2023 treated

Enrolled patients by condition



43% of enrolled patients reside in Thailand

1,893 impacted by patient's treatment

BCMF - B.K. Kee Patient House

Patients who require treatment for complex medical conditions that cannot be performed at other partner hospitals in Thailand and Burma, are referred to Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. These patients and their caregivers are normally transferred to Chiang Mai on the BCMF patient van. Transferred patients whose surgery are supported by our partner Child's Dream Foundation (CDF) are housed at CDF's safe house, while BCMF patients stay at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House.

Established in 2013, the patient house is run by staff who live on site and offer support to patients, accompanying them to their appointments at the hospital. Everyone is encouraged to cook, eat, and clean together, alongside the staff and interns. Gardening, and helping with other projects, such as sewing and caring for the chicken coop, allows patients to give back while enjoying communal activities and light exercise.

In 2023, a total of 127 patients and 70 caregivers, were hosted at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House. Of these, the treatment of 95

patients were directly funded by BCMF, while BCMF provided accommodation and logistical support to 27 IDPs, refugees and weapon wounded patients, whose treatment was supported by partner organisations. A further 19 patients and 8 caregivers were housed at the patient house, whose surgery was funded privately or by partner organisations. Some of the patients and their caregivers stayed at the patient house for over a year while they completed their treatment, while most patients stayed anywhere from a few days to three months at a time.

While patients reside at the patient house, BCMF strives to ensure educational activities are available during their stay. In 2023, several workshops on various health education topics were organised by 2 nursing students from Chiang Mai University interning with BCMF, including activities for menstrual hygiene day. As part of the Giving Back Program, patients and staff also sewed 102 blankets and 35 towels that were donated to IDPs, refugees and dormitory students.

Patients and caregivers resided at the patient house



Patient vans to Chiang Mai



Patient vans to Bangkok



"I was at the patient house for just a month, but we were like a family, and we were all friends. Everyone was always helping each other."

- Mya Aye



"Living one year at the patient house has been a learning experience because I got to attend several workshops related to health and learn how to sew. I even learned Karen from listening to other patients' stories. With all the knowledge and skills that I have learned while at the patient house, I believe I can give back to my family or community when I go back home."

- Julia

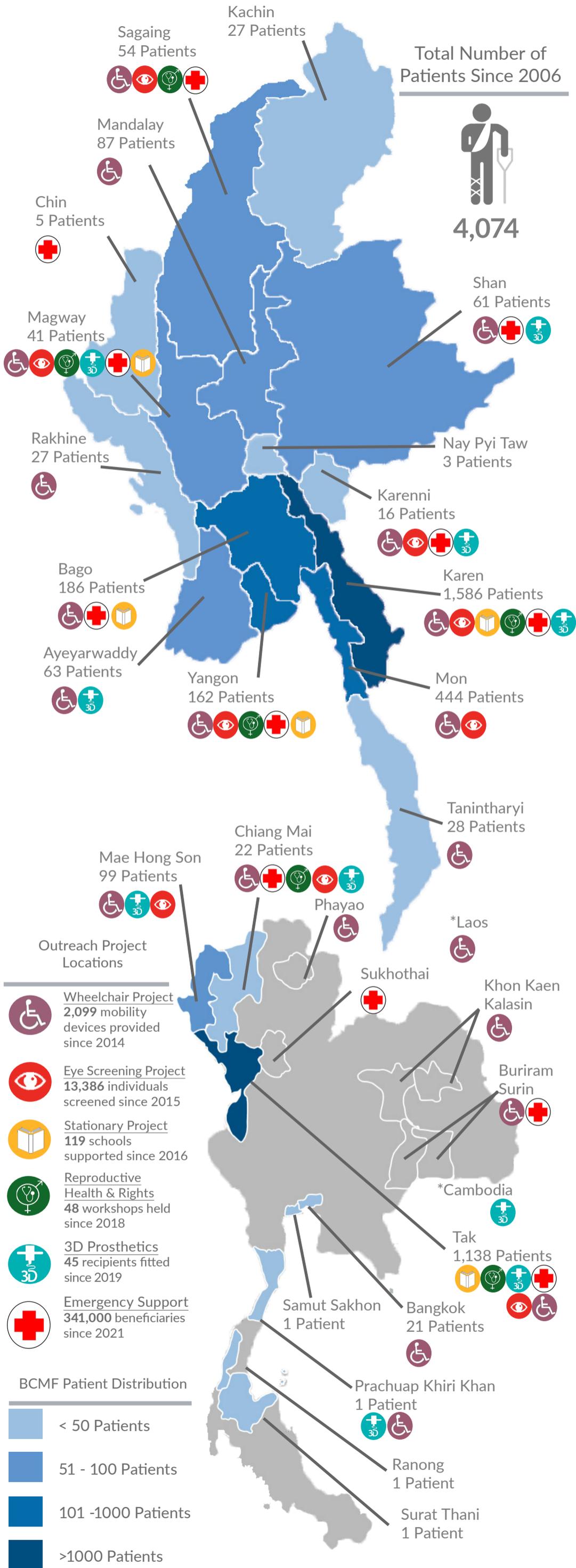
Patient House Voices



Referral Services Patients & Outreach Programs Locations Since 2006

Total Number of Patients Since 2006


4,074



Outreach Project Locations

-  **Wheelchair Project**
2,099 mobility devices provided since 2014
-  **Eye Screening Project**
13,386 individuals screened since 2015
-  **Stationary Project**
119 schools supported since 2016
-  **Reproductive Health & Rights**
48 workshops held since 2018
-  **3D Prosthetics**
45 recipients fitted since 2019
-  **Emergency Support**
341,000 beneficiaries since 2021

BCMF Patient Distribution

-  < 50 Patients
-  51 - 100 Patients
-  101 -1000 Patients
-  >1000 Patients

Wheelchair

Since 2014, BCMF has worked to provide access to mobility aids for children and adults with a mobility impairment in Burma and Thailand. Wheelchairs are donated by Wheelchair for Kids in Australia, Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development in Thailand, and Mobility Worldwide as well as Free Wheelchair Mission in the United States of America.

As Covid-19 regulations phased out in Thailand, BCMF was able to receive a much needed supply of

wheelchairs from Wheelchair for Kids through Burma. Thanks to this, BCMF was able to supply a total of 218 wheelchairs and 24 mobility aids to people in need. BCMF staff also held 22 distributions, including 5 distribution and training missions, at both Thai and migrant villages, schools and community centers, refugee camps, as well as a school in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand for those who could not come to BCMF's office in Mae Sot because of a lack of transport options, funding or documentation.



I can now go to school with my new wheelchair and my mother doesn't need to carry me all the time. I like to sit in the wheelchair and study or eat at the table. I also like the toy [that I received with the wheelchair]. Thank you so much to all of the donors who donated the new wheelchair to me." - **Kyi Kyi**

5
trainings

22
distributions

16
community
members
trained

242
mobility
devices
distributed

8
trained partner
organisations distributed
wheelchairs

mobility devices fitted by
trained partners **98**



BCMF staff and intern assembling and fitting wheelchairs



"I always had to stay at home and my family did not have the time to take me outside. I had to ask my friends to come and visit my house because I could not go to them.

Now, with this wheelchair I will be able to visit to them and to go to bathroom without help. This wheelchair will make it easier for me to get around whatever I want to go. Thank you so much for making my life better."

- **Naing Ma**

3D Prosthetics



Launched in June 2019, the 3D Prosthetics Project was established in response to a need for accessible upper limb prosthetics in Thailand and Burma. With most affordable prosthetics, when available, made for lower limbs or non-functional, BCMF strives to fill this gap by providing free custom fitted 3D printed functional upper limb prosthetics and assistive devices. In 2023, BCMF expanded the project to print and provide custom fitted orthosis, fitting 65 recipients with a lower limb orthosis.



In 2023, BCMF was able to serve more recipients

5 recipients fitted with lower limb orthotics

17 recipients fitted with upper limb prosthetics

9 recipients fitted with assistive devices

through newly designed prosthetics, orthoses and assistive devices. These take time to finalise and to create a usable prototype. Additionally, prototypes of our 3D printed prosthetics were also distributed to partners so that they may show potential recipients referred by them what they could receive. All in all, the 3D team printed **80** prosthetics, **106** assistive devices, and **29** orthoses in 2023. In the coming year, **4** recipients are still waiting to receive an upper-limb prosthetic and **1** of them is also waiting for an assistive device in the coming year. Another **2** patients will receive a lower limb orthosis next year.

In 2023 BCMF also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Queen's University in Kingston, Canada to host students as 3D interns. This partnership will expand the skills of the 3D team and assist them in creating and fitting better prosthetics, orthotics and assistive devices. In exchange, students will gain practical experience while being immersed in a different culture.

To support recipients fitted with 3D printed prosthetics and wheelchairs, as well as patients who would benefit from physiotherapy, BCMF started to provide rehabilitation services by a rehabilitation clinician in January 2023.

Recipients and patients are taught individual exercises to complete at home and 3D prosthetic recipients also receive a poster demonstrating different exercises taught to them, to help them complete the exercises at home.



“I was called a shorty arm before receiving my prosthetic arm. I was accused of not doing as much work as before and I felt guilty and depressed that I could not earn more money. Since receiving my prosthetic arm, I can go to the market alone by bicycle and I



am also able to dig using a shovel. I feel relieved and thankful as I can finally find some work again and help with chores at home with this prosthesis.” - Soe

Eye Screening

Since 2015, BCMF has provided disadvantaged communities in Burma and Thailand with access to free vision tests. During each eye screening mission, BCMF's trained staff complete vision tests and check for common eye conditions such as cataract and pterygium. A free pair of eyeglasses is provided when needed and patients who need surgical treatment or high-powered eyeglasses are referred to nearby eye clinics and hospitals with the support of BCMF.



In 2023, BCMF held eye screenings and trainings in 4 different refugee camps in 2 provinces in Thailand. Towards the end of the year, BCMF also trained medical staff who work in 2 of these refugee camps to hold regular vision screenings in the camps. This will enable timely screening for refugees requiring eye surgery, and constant access to eyeglasses and vision tests.

Additionally, BCMF held 10 eye screening missions in villages and schools in Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces in Thailand. In these areas, BCMF assisted not only migrants and newly arrived refugees from Burma, but Thai citizens, both young and old, who have difficulty accessing vision screening and eyeglasses otherwise. Many of the individuals screened have difficulty accessing eye care due to financial difficulties, no caregivers if they are elderly or have poor vision, and no ophthalmologist located outside of major cities.

2023

14 missions

10
medical staff trained



4,555
people screened

3,493
eyeglasses provided



19 patients received
surgery



Wa is a 54-year-old man, who lives in the Umpiem Refugee Camp. He has had blurry vision and difficulty seeing far since 2011. When his co-worker told him about the eye screening in the refugee camp, he was excited and came to get his eyes checked. He received a free pair of eyeglasses for myopia. "I appreciate you [BCMF] for helping our underprivileged community. I, along with many others, feel ecstatic that you [BCMF] travelled great distances to offer us clear vision. As I watch people waiting in line, I can tell they are in dire need of eyeglasses and want to have their eyes checked."



Ju Ju is a 12-year-old student. Three years ago, her vision became blurry. She had to sit in the first row of her class to clearly see the whiteboard, but she still had difficulty reading what the teacher wrote. After receiving her free eyeglasses for myopia during a BCMF eye screening mission at her school, she said, "I have to study at another school next year and I was concerned that if I didn't get to sit in the front row, I wouldn't see the whiteboard well. Now that I have eyeglasses, I am no longer worried about my studies next year at a new school. In whichever row I will sit in the classroom, I believe I will be able to see clearly now with these new eyeglasses."



Emergency Support

In 2023, BCMF merged the Medical Support Project under the Emergency Support Project to simplify coordination. The projects within this program kept their focus on delivering medicine and medical supplies for hospitals, clinics and villages, as well as emergency food and shelter support. As the need for Covid support subsided, other supplies, such as ultrasounds, dopplers and stretchers took their place. Besides the medical supplies, clothing, food and mosquito nets were delivered as well.

Furthermore, multiple toilets in houses of people with disabilities and 1 special education center in Surin and Buriram provinces of Thailand were modified to become accessible. Some projects included schools and kitchens being built and repaired after damage due to natural disasters.

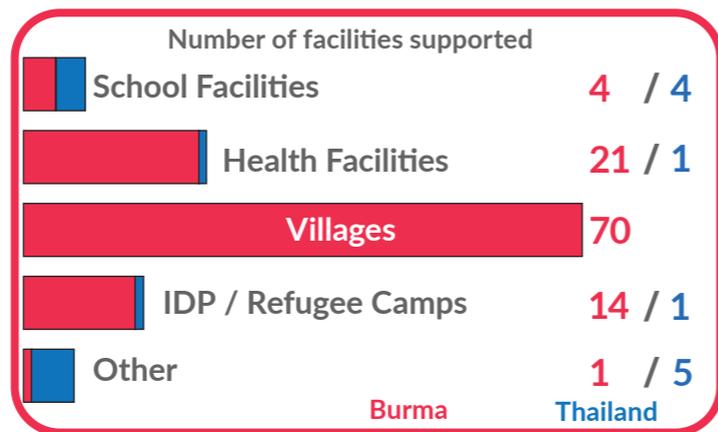
A total of 110 Emergency Support projects took place in Karen, Karenni and Mon states, as well as Sagain, Yangon and Magway divisions in Burma. A further 11 projects were held in Tak, Chiang Mai, Buriram and Surin provinces in Thailand. In total over 73,000 people benefitted from these projects.



School children in Thailand filling their water cups after BCMF funded a water filtration system at their school



Teddy bears and snacks donated by BCMF being handed out to students and villagers



“Every time a student with muscular weakness uses the squatting toilet or takes a shower, a teacher must lift them up. This can lead teachers to suffer from back strain, muscle injuries, and chronic pain due to constant lifting.

Since installing a sitting toilet, my students’ lives have changed. They shower and use the toilet independently without experiencing pain and using the toilet is safe because there is a bar to hold on to.

This boost in confidence can translate into better engagement and participation in other areas of their education.” - **Mr. Chaowalit Surattimonkol, headmaster of Special Education Center in Buriram Province, Thailand.**



In August 2023 BCMF delivered 4 transcutaneous jaundice detectors to different clinics in Karen State and Tak. One of those, was a clinic in an **IDP Camp in Karen State, whose doctor, Dr. Daniel** said, “The clinic has childbirth services, assisting around ten babies a month. Before the device arrived, it was difficult to detect neonates with jaundice, and we had to rely on visual inspection, which is inaccurate and uncertain for treatment. Since the device has arrived, it’s more convenient for us to manage such cases more confidently. A million thanks to DAK and BCMF for supporting the device because it really helps us a lot. It makes our management’s decisions smooth and plays an important role in the neonatal health sector.”

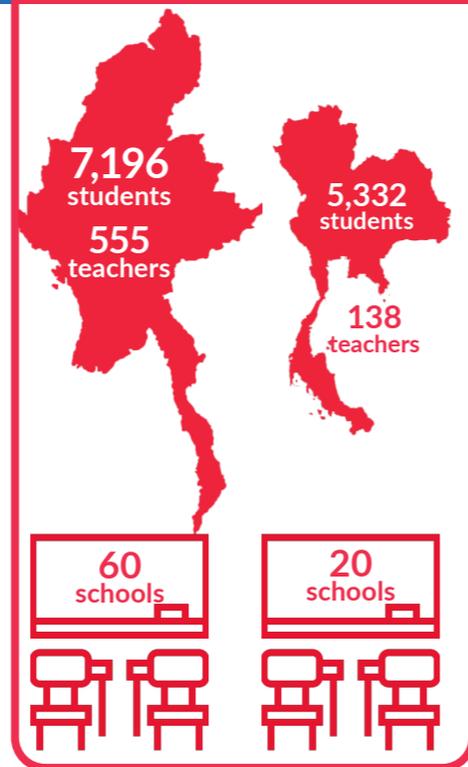
Stationery

Since 2016, BCMF has regularly received requests for stationery supplies, teaching aid, and materials, from remote schools in Karen State, Burma, and from migrant learning centres on the Thai-Burma border. These schools in Burma receive minimal support from their local government and face difficulty receiving support from students' parents who are either subsistence farmers or low-income earners. Meanwhile in Thailand, most migrant workers struggle to cover all school related expenses for their children.

In 2023, BCMF received requests to provide stationery support

in Yangon, Bago and Magway divisions, in addition to Karen State, Burma and Tak Province, Thailand. However, many schools in Bago and Magway Division as well as Karen State, Burma, faced difficulties remaining open due to an increase in armed conflict in their area.

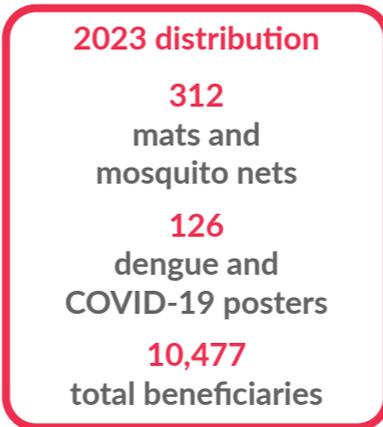
The migrant learning centres in Tak Province, Thailand, were faced with an influx of students as an increasing number of students and refugees, from Burma sought to continue their education in Thailand, in a safe and stable environment.



“The effects of the coup make BCMF’s support especially important. The increase in student numbers has overcome the available teaching materials. With BCMF’s stationery, teachers are able to make better lessons. For students, the materials allow them to enjoy studying without having to worry about [finding money to purchase] stationery.” - **Saw Pleh Htoo, Hpa-An KECD District Education Officer**



Students posing with their stationary materials and COVID-19 and dengue awareness posters



Dengue Prevention & Health Literacy

Every year since 2014, BCMF distributes mosquito nets and dengue prevention posters to migrant schools along the Thai-Burma border, as well as to schools in remote areas of Karen State, Burma. These are usually distributed at the same time as stationery supplies to schools and coincide with the rainy season, when each year sees a significant increase in mosquito-borne illnesses. Due to the ongoing pandemic in 2023, COVID-19 awareness posters were handed out with the dengue prevention posters.



Students hanging up their Dengue prevention posters

Reproductive Health and Rights

In most of Burma and within migrant communities in Thailand, talking about the reproductive system is still considered largely taboo. Although this topic is covered partially in some school curriculums, information provided is vague and lacking. In response to this, BCMF launched the Reproductive Health and Rights (RHR) Project in 2018.

Workshops are held in disadvantaged communities in Burma and Thailand, both with male and female participants. Workshops for female participants include the topic of menstrual hygiene as well as the use and maintenance of reusable and disposable sanitary pad kits.

After the workshop, female participants received menstrual hygiene kits that include 2 pairs of underwear, soap and detergent as well as either reusable pads or 2 packs of disposable sanitary pads, while male hygiene kits include a towel and soap.



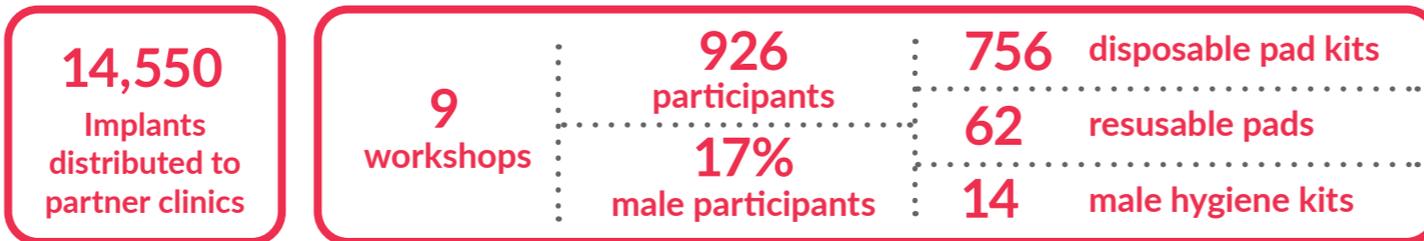
Boys and girls working in teams at a workshop



Menstrual Hygiene Day workshop participants with their hygiene kits



“I’ve had yeast infections for several years now. I was embarrassed to discuss it with my family and get help. I had no idea how it happened to me or how to treat it at home. I appreciate your team for the information shared since it has given me knowledge on how to treat my condition and where to seek treatment. I will definitely share this knowledge with my friends who also have the same condition as me,” - **Kmwee**



Internship Training Program

In 2016, BCMF established the internship training program, which aims to provide staff of partner organisations with experience and allow them to develop their skills in the health sector. Additionally, the program provides them with information on the provision of health services and referral pathways in Burma and Thailand. Since 2018, BCMF also accepts applicants from migrant schools who are planning to work in healthcare organisations or further their studies in a health-related degree.

During their internship, BCMF provides training in administration, computer literacy, human resources and BCMF operations, primarily patient referrals. Interns in Thailand also gain hands-on experience at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House and within Thai hospitals, in addition to participating in outreach projects. In 2023, BCMF hosted 1 intern under the Internship Training Program.



Health For All Update

In 2023, HFA supported 36 patients' treatment in Burma. As many surgeons fled or went into hiding following the coup, HFA developed partnerships with new hospitals which allowed patients to continue to access surgery and treatment.



Menstrual Hygiene Day workshop participants with their hygiene kits

Although many outreach projects were postponed, HFA was able to distribute 22 wheelchairs in 2023. HFA was also able to hold a total of 3 reproductive health and rights workshops for Menstrual Hygiene Day in Karen State and Yangon Division. A total of 255 females and 105 males participated in the workshops and 305 disposable sanitary pad kits were given to female participants.

In 2023, HFA was able to hold 1 eye screening mission in Karen State. 120 villagers were screened, and everyone received a much needed free pair of eyeglasses. Additionally, 3 patients were identified as requiring eye surgery, whose treatment was facilitated by BCMF.

In the coming year HFA will aim to expand its services, as the continuations of the civil war has resulted in many more requiring support.



Eyescreeing by HFA held in Karen State, Burma

In Memoriam



Daw Lae Lae Win



Than Myat Kay Thi Aung

In a year full of success stories, we still have to recognise that even with treatment a full recovery is not guaranteed. We pay respect to the strong souls who gave their all but did not make it.

Funding Partners

BCMF is fortunate to have a significant donor base to support our work. Without their support, helping our beneficiaries would not be possible. We would like to thank every individual and organisation that helped us make a difference in the lives of our beneficiaries, families, and communities.

Aussi Fun-d-Raisers, Australia	China California Heart Watch, United States of America	Friendship nr 4 Lodge, Luxembourg	Rotary Australia World Community Service
B.K Kee Foundation, United States of America	DAK, Australia	Mobility Worldwide, United States of America	Suwannimit Foundation, Thailand
BNHA, Thailand	Days for Girls Australia	More Than Hope Foundation, United States of America	Tel-Dan, Thailand
Brodbeck Philanthropy Foundation, Switzerland	Free Bird Cafe, Thailand	Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development, Thailand	Watsi, United States of America
Chiang Mai International Rotary Club, Thailand	Free Wheelchair Mission, United States of America	Red Rocketship, Australia	Wheelchair for Kids, Australia

In order to expand our reach and make sure we are connected to those in need, we partner with health centres, community organisations and non-profits in both Thailand and Burma.

Program Partners

Baan Dek Foundation, Thailand	International Rescue Committee, Thailand	Kyaung Gyi Parahita Monastery, Burma	Shan Health Department, Burma
Backpack Healthworker Team, Thailand	Karenaid, United Kingdom	Mae Sot Hospital, Thailand	Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand
Border Health Development Foundation, Thailand	Karen Department of Health and Welfare, Burma	Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand	Suwannimit Foundation, Thailand
Child's Dream Foundation, Thailand	Karenni Mobile Health Committee, Burma	Malteser International, Thailand	Teacher Focus, Thailand
Free Burma Rangers, Burma	Kasemrad Prachachuen, Thailand	Myanmar Pioneer Mission, Burma	Thai Reach, Thailand
Health For All, Burma	Kler Mu Clinic, Burma	Partners Relief and Development, United States of America	Tha Song Yang Hospital, Thailand
Humanity and Inclusion, Burma	Korea-Mae Sot Cooperation Center, Republic of Korea	Phop Phra Hospital, Thailand	The Migrant Fund, Thailand
International Committee of the Red Cross, Thailand		Save Blue Heart Foundation, Thailand	U Mi Hta Clinic, Burma
			Umphang Hospital, Thailand

Volunteers & Interns

BCMF wants to thank all of our volunteers and interns who have dedicated their time and skills to help BCMF flourish. During their time with BCMF, they enrich patient interviews, staff knowledge, project execution and much more. Their enthusiasm and diverse backgrounds are an asset, supporting BCMF staff.

Anais Litvine (France)

Nyein Chan Aung (Burma)

Min Thet Khine (Burma)

Olivia Radcliffe (Canada)

Sally Deitchman (USA/UK)

Samantha Zarchi (Thailand)

Sawitri Kiadtikhunkhaehon (Thailand)

Saw Lay Lay Wah (Burma / Internship Training Program)

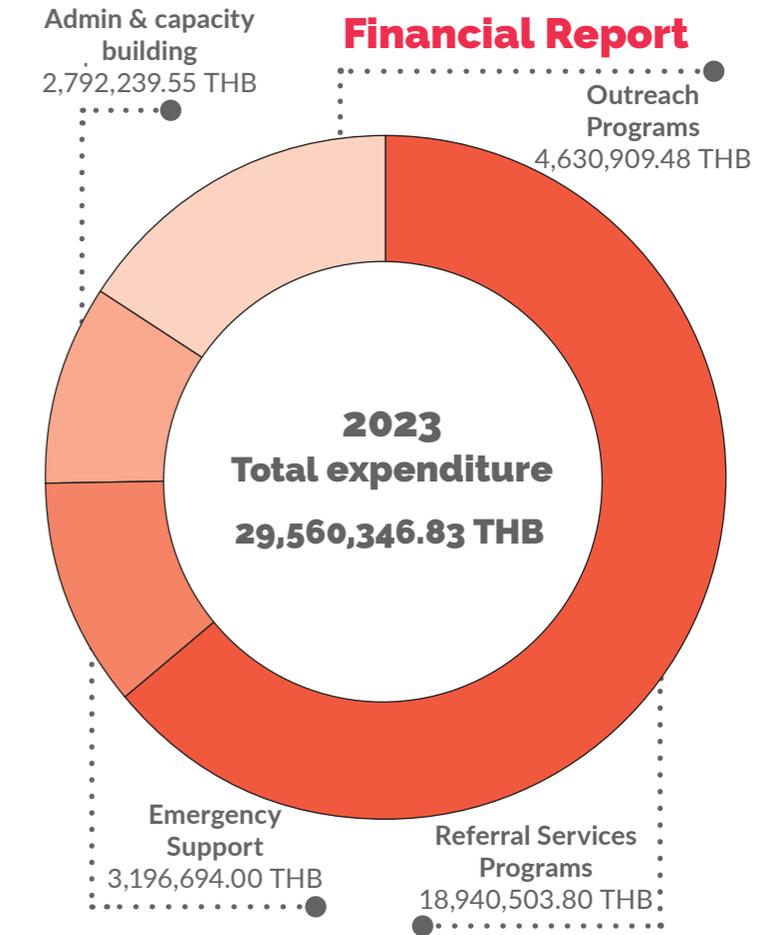
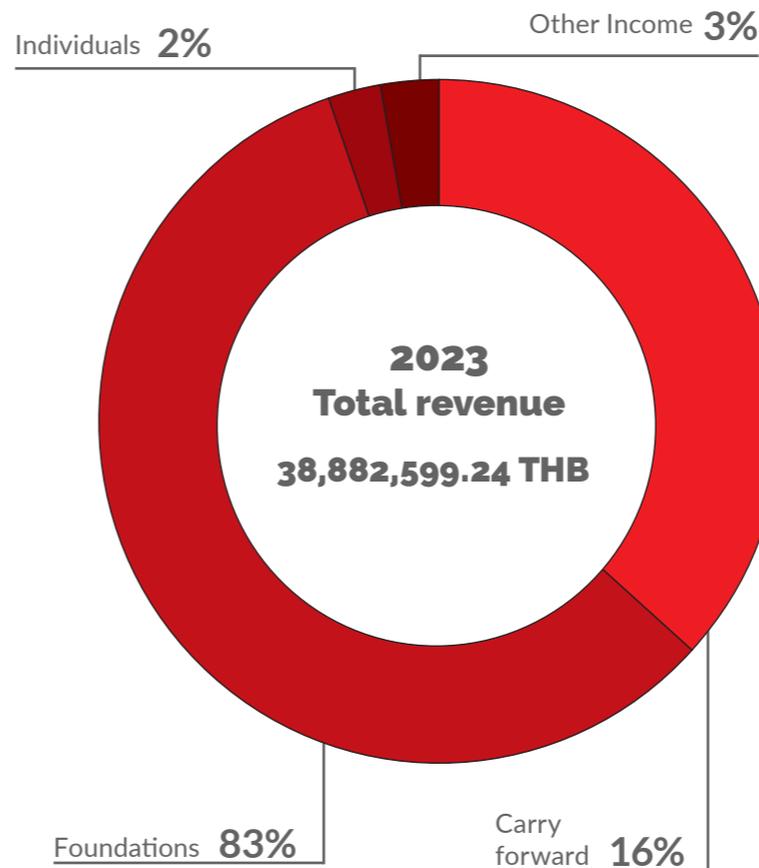
Sheri De Koven (Canada)

Tanita Saharatanapan (Thailand)

Zaw Zaw Aung (Canada)



Financial Report



Going into 2024, we will continue to provide access to
healthcare for those in need

