



มูลนิธิเพื่อสุขภาพ:ชุมชน
Health for All
Foundation



Burma Children
Medical Fund
Health for All

EYE SCREENING

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



HEALTH FOR ALL
BURMA CHILDREN MEDICAL FUND

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INTRO

HFA-BCMF began its eye screening project in 2015 and has since provided free eye screening services to marginalised communities in Burma and Thailand. The team travels to remote and underserved areas in both countries, offering services to individuals who may be living with undiagnosed vision issues or are unable to access specialised eye care. These efforts support migrant, refugee, internally displaced person (IDP), and vulnerable communities in Burma and Thailand, where access to vision care is faced with several barriers, including socioeconomic status, lack of caregivers, lack of legal documentation to travel, and the absence of ophthalmologists outside of major cities.

At eye screening events, the HFA-BCMF team provides complete vision tests and screens for common conditions such as cataracts and pterygium. HFA-BCMF distributes free standard pairs of eyeglasses to all individuals who need them, and refers those who need specialised eyeglasses to nearby optometrists, with HFA-BCMF covering the cost of the eyeglasses. The team also refers individuals who have eye conditions to free eye surgery missions, or nearby clinics and hospitals for further treatment, with HFA-BCMF covering the cost of treatment.





Additionally, the team also distributes sunglasses to slow further progression of minor to moderate pterygium in individuals who work in the sun, and blue light lenses for students and teachers who experience symptoms of eye strain while using electronics. Since 2025, the team started to conduct glaucoma screenings for all individuals over the age of 40 after a series of trainings.

Between 2015-2025, HFA-BCMF provided complete eye screenings to 21,282 individuals, distributed 15,304 pairs of eyeglasses, identified 1,965 patients in need of eye surgeries, and supported 268 individuals in successfully receiving surgeries.

Between 2015-2025

21,282 SCREENED

15,304 EYEGLASSES

268 RECEIVED SURGERY

2025 PROJECT OVERVIEW

This year, the team conducted 15 total missions to areas with low-income, migrant, IDP, and refugee populations, including migrant schools and training centres, remote villages, IDP camps, and refugee camps. There were 12 missions in Thailand and 3 missions in Burma.

The team also donated 134 eyeglasses to Malteser International (MI) Thailand, a nonprofit organisation that provides basic health care services in Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Laung refugee camps in Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand.

A total of 3,797 individuals received complete eye screenings, and 1,492 individuals underwent additional glaucoma testing. HFA-BCMF distributed 2,406 pairs of free standard eyeglasses, 332 pairs of sunglasses and 29 blue light glasses. 12 individuals received special cylindrical eyeglasses from optometrists, paid for by HFA-BCMF. Finally, the team identified 232 patients who needed eye surgery. In total, 82 individuals received eye surgery with HFA-BCMF's support, 38 at MTC and 44 during the free eye surgery mission at Mae La Oon Refugee Camp.





2025 OBJECTIVES

EXPAND THE REACH

In response to increasing requests from IDP camps and remote, underserved communities, a primary objective for the HFA-BCMF team in 2025 was to expand the eye screening project in Burma. To achieve this, the team travelled to two IDP camps in Karen State, Burma for the first time, as well a remote village in Karen State, on the Thai-Burma border. These three missions marked an expansion of the programme's reach compared to 2024. In total, 1,062 individuals were screened, increased by 50%. 927 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed, up from 690. Additionally, 214 supplementary glaucoma screenings were conducted.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Another key objective in 2025 was to strengthen HFA-BCMF's capacity to deliver high-quality eye care by providing training and refresher workshops for staff and interns involved in eye screening missions. HFA-BCMF conducted a series of comprehensive training workshops to enhance the capacity of its eye screening team. The curriculum covered essential diagnostic skills, including identifying common eye conditions, conducting accurate vision and glaucoma screenings, and determining appropriate eyeglass prescriptions. Additionally, select BCMF staff completed a Training of Trainers (TOT) module for eye care and common eye diseases, cataract surgery and post-operative care, as well as surgical instruments and assisting techniques for some HFA- BCMF staff to better support visiting ophthalmologists during free surgical missions HFA-BCMF supports. These trainings equipped the team to deliver accurate diagnoses, provide expert guidance, and ensure high-quality care for patients in vulnerable communities.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION OF GLAUCOMA SCREENING

In 2025, HFA-BCMF introduced glaucoma screenings targeting individuals over the age of 40 into our field missions for the first time. Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible blindness in underserved regions, but also preventative by routine care once detected at the early stage. To prepare, we conducted specialized training sessions, including cataract detection and intraocular pressure measurement. These trainings equipped our team with the skills needed to provide accurate on-the-spot diagnoses. As a result, 1,492 people received glaucoma screenings across Thailand and Burma throughout the year.

SURGICAL MISSIONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

In October 2025, the HFA-BCMF team collaborated with Malteser International Thailand to host two screening events at Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang refugee camps, screening 380 individuals and distributing 367 pairs of eyeglasses. The two screening events were in preparation for another event in December at Mae La Oon Refugee Camp. During that event, an additional 135 individuals were screened, and 53 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed. Furthermore, a surgical team from Fiona's Eye Fund conducted eye surgery on 44 individuals identified over all three screening missions, with some members of the HFA-BCMF team assisting the ophthalmologists in the operations.

3,797



SCREENED

1,485



GLAUCOMA
TESTING

2,406



EYEGASSES



2025 CHALLENGES

This year, the team continued to face challenges accessing villages and hosting screenings inside Burma. Safety risks, transportation logistics, intermittent phone and internet, and airstrikes reception created substantial barriers to field operations across Burma. Despite these ongoing obstacles, the team adapted to complete three critical missions, delivering community screenings and maintaining essential access to remote villages

Looking forward, HFA-BCMF will continue to coordinate with partners inside Burma and monitor the situation on the ground to ensure that it can conduct effective eye screening missions while prioritising the safety of its team and beneficiaries.

2026 GOALS

REFUGEE CAMPS

In 2026, HFA-BCMF aims to focus its efforts inside Thailand, specifically looking to expand eye screenings in the refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. In 2026, the team plans to continue its ongoing partnerships at Nupo and Umphiem Mai refugee camps, while hosting new screenings at Tham Hin, Ban Don Yang, and Ban Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin refugee camps. At Tham Hin and Ban Don Yang refugee camps, HFA-BCMF plans to screen over 1,000 individuals over a 6-day mission and strengthen connections with the camp authorities there.

PARTNERSHIP

In 2026, HFA-BCMF will continue its valued partnership with Fiona's Eye Fund, Malteser International Thailand, and Mae Tao Clinic while ensuring patients requiring further treatment receive free eye surgery. By combining the HFA-BCMF's community outreach network with the clinical expertise of its partners, the programme continued to extend high-quality eye care to some of the most isolated and underserved communities along the Thailand-Burma border.



RECIPIENTS' SUCCESS STORIES

Daw, 53-year-old, lives in a town in southeast Burma. She had to stop working as a noodle vendor in 2022 when her vision became blurry. Her family has been struggling to cover her medical bills for heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension with a small income and was left with a debt of 7,000 THB.

After eye drops failed to help, Daw attended an HFA-BCMF eye screening in an IDP camp in Burma in January 2025. The team found severe cataract in her right eyes that require surgery. In July 2025, she received free cataract surgery at MTC. "Thank you for this free treatment! I couldn't sleep when I got the surgery date because I was so excited," she shared.



Amorn, a retired Thai civil servant, lives alone in a village near the Thai-Burma border in Thailand. For fifteen years, he struggled severely with close-up vision, which completely prevented him from reading his favorite books. To cope, he frequently bought cheap, over-the-counter reading glasses, but they broke easily and the constant replacement costs placed a heavy financial strain on his limited budget.

The village head informed Amorn about a free eye screening mission hosted by HFA-BCMF at the local government office, where he received a pair of durable, good-quality reading glasses. "I am incredibly glad to receive these new glasses," Amorn expressed. "I am truly looking forward to returning to my favorite activity of reading books. Thank you to the donors and the staff for their valuable time and support."



Htun is a 50-year-old deliveryman in a border city in Thailand. In 2024, his left eye became blurry. Eyeglasses did not improve his sight. Riding his bicycle became dangerous, so he had to ask others to guide him when he went outside. He also found it difficult to read at the mosque.

In September 2025, HFA-BCMF eye screening team found a cataract in his eye. One month later, he received free surgery at Mae Tao Clinic during an eye surgery mission. Now completing his 40-day recovery and wearing protective sunglasses, his sight is fully restored. "I did not expect it to be so quick," he said. "Now I can see clearly. Thank you to the donors. If I had to pay for it, it would be impossible to afford."



Ten-year-old Nilar lives with her family of eight in an IDP camp in Karen State, Burma, displaced by conflict since 2021. Two years ago, her vision blurred. She could not see the blackboard and had to ask her friends what the teacher was writing. After telling her mother, Nilar was told a pair of eyeglasses would be too expensive to afford for the family.

During an HFA-BCMF screening, the team discovered Nilar needed specialized cylinder lenses and referred her to an optical shop to receive custom prescription eyeglasses. Today, Nilar wears them constantly, taking them off only to sleep. "My eyeglasses are my life. If I take them off, I cannot see anything," Nilar said. In the future, she hopes to become an eye doctor to help people like her.

Pyone is a 47-year-old teacher at a migrant learning center in Thailand. For several years, her vision had been steadily deteriorating, making it difficult to read and correct her students' homework. Due to the high cost of eye examinations, she was unable to afford new glasses and often felt unsafe while driving.

Thanks to the HFA-BCMF eye screening mission at her school, Pyone received a pair of prescription eyeglasses. "Most migrant teachers and students do not have enough money or time [or are undocumented] to get their eyes checked. Before this, my blurry vision was causing me social problems because I couldn't communicate clearly. Now, I can read and see people perfectly. I hope the team can return annually to help us."



11-year-old Soe is a Burmese student born and raised in a refugee camp in Thailand. He enjoys playing football and marbles with his friends, and dreams of one day becoming a pharmacist. Recently, however, Soe began struggling to see the blackboard at school and started suffering from frequent headaches.

When his mother learned about the joint HFA-BCMF eye screening mission, she took him to get his vision checked. After receiving his very first pair of eyeglasses, Soe's world came back into focus. He is overjoyed to be able to read easily once more. His mother said, "I am happy to see that my son's vision is clear after getting eyeglasses. I would like to say thank you very much for the eye screening mission. This program is essential for people who need eye care in the camp."

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