



burma children medical fund

BCMF | Operating to give Burma's kids a future

January-March 2012 Three Month Summary



Program Manager: Kanchana Thornton

Phone: +66 898 988 694

Email: kanchana@burmachildren.com

Website: www.burmachildren.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burmachildren

Twitter: www.twitter.com/burmachildren

Overview

The first quarter of 2012 has been a busy one for BCMF. We have seen a total of 60 new patients, averaging 20 a month. These patients include referrals to all four of our programs: the Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF), the Burma Adult Medical Fund (BAMF), the Burma Women Medical Fund (BWMF). The conditions our new cases present with varied greatly and included cardiac disease, meningoceles, hydrocephalus, colostomies, and uterine myomas.

One of the major developments has been the overwhelming success of the Burma Women Medical Fund (BWMF). Thanks to a fundraising effort by an Australian supporter, we have been able to send women with reproductive health issues to the local hospital. As you can see in the table, these women comprised the largest portion of our new patient caseload. While not life-threatening, conditions like ovarian cysts and uterine prolapse can severely impact a woman's quality of life, preventing her from working or even sitting comfortably.

Also in the first quarter, BCMF facilitated thirteen van trips from the Mae Tao Clinic (in Mae Sot) to Chiang Mai (360km). Some patients on these vans were going to Chiang Mai for initial investigations, while others were scheduled for surgery or follow-up appointments.

January-March 2012: Summary of New Cases

***patient with multiple medical conditions cross-registered with two programs**

Total number of new cases across the program	60
- Children – Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF)	9
- Children (under 12) funded by donor in Chiang Mai	14
- Special Adult Cases – Burma Adult Medical Fund (BAMF)	12
- Gynecological Surgery – Burma Women Medical Fund (BWMF)	26



JANUARY PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: SAN SAN MAR

San San Mar is a 26-year-old woman from Myawaddy. Three years ago she started experiencing symptoms related to cardiac disease including palpitations, tiredness and poor appetite. Her condition put a great strain on the family. Her parents worried that something would happen to her while they were out working. She was also unable to help support the family, having given up her job at a factory. The family was also burdened by the costs of her medication. San San Mar's condition also put her life at risk when Myawaddy was mortar attacked in November 2010. Her family needed to run to a monastery for sanctuary but San San Mar was unable to run. Instead, she had to walk slowly and, fortunately, made it without injury.

San San Mar went to Chiang Mai two times, once for investigation and once for an operation. The doctors there told her that her symptoms were caused by a narrow valve in her heart. To fix this, she had a balloon insertion procedure. Shortly after her surgery, she reported feeling much better. She is now able to return to work, sewing clothes at home.

FEBRUARY PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: NAM ZIN NWE WIN

Nam Zin Nwe Win is a 1-year-old girl suffering from retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer. While it is unusual for BCMF to accept a patient with cancer, we determined that her condition was caught early enough that prospects for successful treatment were good.

Her parents' first child, when Nam Zin Nwe Win was born they noticed her right eye had different colors in it. Last year, a doctor at a hospital in Pa'an, Karen State told her mother that she had cancer and recommended going to Rangoon for an operation. Lacking the necessary funds, the family returned home.

Nam Zin Nwe Win is currently in Chiang Mai. She has had her eye removed and is undergoing a course of chemotherapy. BCMF is very pleased with her progress and is happy that early detection and intervention has saved her life.



MARCH PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: WIN WIN AYE

Win Win Aye is an 8-year-old girl suffering from cardiac disease. She has experienced symptoms from the disease since she was a baby. Her mother recalls that she used to be very cyanotic (blue) especially in the face and lips. At 10 months old, she was admitted to Umphang Hospital in Thailand, where the doctor explained her condition. However, Win Win Aye was unable to go back to the hospital for follow-up. Last year her mother heard about the Mae Tao Clinic and came here for eye treatment. She found out that she could bring her daughter here for her heart condition and resolved to bring her in 2012.

The periodic eye clinics held at Mae Tao Clinic are wildly popular and draw large crowds. People come from all over Burma, sometimes several people from the same family or village. During the eye clinics, BCMF sees an influx in patients who often have multiple conditions or who have traveled with others seeking eye care. Win Win Aye is an example of this.

Despite her condition, Win Win Aye is a cheerful and playful little girl. While she has not yet been to Chiang Mai for treatment BCMF hopes to send her soon. Her mother simply wants her daughter to be healthy and developing normally.

URGENT HELP NEEDED!



MA SAM SAN WIN

Ma Sam San Win is a 37-year-old woman suffering from cardiac disease. She first noticed her condition three years ago when she began experiencing a variety of symptoms, including palpitations and dizziness. Her condition forced her to stop working. Ma Sam San Win is married and lives with her husband and parents in a small town in Mon State. Her father, who is still relatively young, and her husband work to support the family. Ma Sam San Win and her husband have no children but hope to someday.

When she first became ill, Ma Sam San Win went to a doctor who told her she had cardiac disease and required an operation. However, lacking the necessary funds to pay for it, she had to take medicine instead. This medication has also put a financial strain on the family. She decided to seek help here after her father's friend told them about his child's successful cardiac treatment through BCMF. BCMF estimates that her cardiac surgery will cost 200,000 THB (AU \$6,666). Please consider helping us save Ma Sam San Win's life.

AUNG SOE MOE

Aung Soe Moe is a 17-year-old boy who suffered a terrible accident at work. While working the night shift at a fish canning factory, he fell into a vat of boiling water. While climbing out of the vat, he subsequently ended up in another vat of boiling water before a fellow worker finally pulled him out. He suffered severe burns to his legs and lower torso. The burns eventually caused extensive scarring and immobility, especially in his feet.

BCMF took on his case and sent him to McKean Hospital in Chiang Mai for surgery and rehabilitation. He had four operations to excise (cut) the scars and release his extended toes, allowing him to regain some mobility. He also had some skin grafts.

Aung Soe Moe is very happy with the treatment he received and even says he might try to play football. However, his treatment was quite expensive, costing an estimated 60,000 THB (AU \$2,000). Please consider helping us defray the costs of his treatment so that we can continue to help more patients like him.



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