



Burma Children

Medical Fund operating to give
people a future



2017 Annual Report



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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APHEDA	Union Aid Abroad - Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad
AMC	Ananda Myitta Clinic
ARC	American Refugee Committee
BAMF	Burma Adult Medical Fund
BCMF	Burma Children Medical Fund
BWMF	Burma Women Medical Fund
CDF	Child's Dream Foundation
CMIRC	Chiang Mai International Rotary Club
EHO	Ethnic Health Organisation
EPHS	Basic Essential Package of Health Services
HORC	Hpa-An Orthopedic Rehabilitation Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Nongovernmental Organisation
IRC	Internal Rescue Committee
MTC	Mae Tao Clinic
MCLH	Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital
NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
OPP	Out-Of-Pocket Expenditure
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
UN	United Nations
WFK	Wheelchairs for Kids



Dear Friends,

When a child or adult requires medical assistance or aid, it is not only they who must face the struggle of finding accessible care, but their loved ones as well.

2017 proved to be a year full of new opportunities and projects, a time to learn and grow. Reflected in the **47%** increase of patients enrolled in our referral services program, BCMF registered **507** new patients into our program and **356** patients completed their treatment in 2017.

The large increase in patients is partially the result of our expanding outreach projects in Burma and along the Thai-Burma border, while forging new partnerships and receiving new support. Our new partnership with Kyaung Kyi Parahita Youth Development Center allowed us to connect with more patients requiring eye screenings, wheelchairs or referrals into our surgical referral program. The One award and project, that I was graciously nominated for by the CMIRC, helped us support 4 local clinics and a school in Karen State, Burma. Local patients and students will have access to clean drinking water, medics will have solar electricity to help patients at night and students will have solar electricity to study and feel safer at night. These new partnerships and project demonstrate to us just how far Burma still needs to go to create access to basic health care for many communities, especially in remote areas.

In the coming year, I look forward to BCMF's continuing work to provide access to healthcare for the people of Burma. With your continuous support and BCMF team's persistent hard-work, BCMF can continue to grow and support our partners.

Sincerely,

Kanchana Thornton - Director



Dear BCMF Supporters,

BCMF fills a vital and unique role in the continuum of healthcare on the Thai-Burma border, facilitating access to high level treatment that others cannot provide. In 2017 alone, Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) referred **328** people to BCMF. Through BCMF's services, these individuals received complex and life-altering treatments.

Since BCMF's inception, BCMF and MTC have worked hand-in-hand to provide crucial medical care to those who would otherwise face numerous barriers to healthcare. Our relationship has evolved yet has always been one of strong collaboration and a shared vision to improve the health of individuals and communities living both along the border and within Burma.

The political landscape in Burma has faced rapid change in recent years. Along with these changes, there has been a long-needed push to build health sector capacity. However, the healthcare system still does not meet the needs of the population, particularly in rural and ethnically-populated areas. Meanwhile, significant funding from major international donors, which previously supported health services along border areas, has shifted to the interior of the country. Demand for cross-border care remains high which means creative collaboration among non-governmental actors in the healthcare sector is more vital now than ever.

BCMF's commitment to growing its diverse network of partners in the region while continuing to fill gaps in the healthcare system is key to sustained delivery of care to those most vulnerable and in need. MTC is dedicated to fostering our relationship with BCMF for both the individuals directly served, and for the greater community within our mandate.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Cynthia Maung - Director, Mae Tao Clinic





507 patients enrolled



235 wheelchairs delivered



782 eye screenings performed

BCMF's Director was the runner-up for The One Award





Burma Children Medical Fund facilitates access to tertiary medical care for migrants, refugees and individuals from Burma and Thailand, through provision of medical costs of treatment and other social support services. BCMF also builds capacity and improves access to medical care in the communities in which we work through an increasing number of health related outreach projects.

Our Vision

For all individuals to have access to quality health care.

Our Mission

Improve lives by facilitating access to health care and human rights for displaced, vulnerable and remote communities in Burma and on the Thai-Burma border.



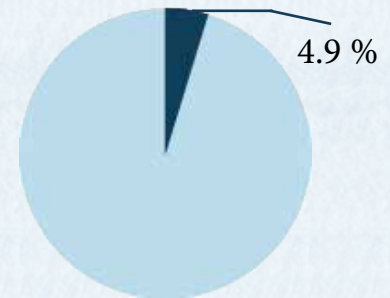


After years of neglect by the previously military-led government, recent steps have been taken to improve the public healthcare system in Burma. The current civilian government has emphasized health care as a defining issue for their party, setting a goal of achieving universal health care by 2030¹. To achieve this, they have put in place the Myanmar National Health Plan 2017-2021, with the goal of providing access to a Basic Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) to the entire population by 2020¹. However, Burma's total expenditure on health care continues to be one of the lowest in the world². Although funds allocated have increased slightly since 2011, in 2015 Burma spent a bare 4.9% of their total budget on health care³. Although official numbers have yet to be released, the percentage of funds allocated to health care is thought to have increased slightly to 5.22% of the government's fiscal year for 2017-2018⁴. This is low in comparison to Burma's neighbour Thailand, which allocated 16.6% of the government's total budget towards health care in 2015⁵.

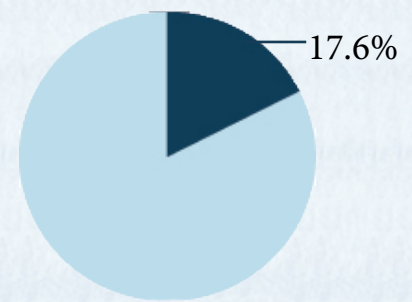
With low government expenditure on health care, lack of health insurance and other cost-sharing policies⁶, people are forced to pay large sums out-of-pocket for health services. In 2015, 74% of Burma's total health expenditure came from out-of-pocket payments, in stark contrast to Thailand's 12%³. Consequently, people from Burma have one of the highest expenses related to OPP⁷, with a national average of 15% of households incurring catastrophic health expenditures⁶. These households spend 40% or more of their income⁶ on health care expenses, leading many families into debt and poverty.

Another barrier to access is the centralisation of health services in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. With around 70% of Burma's population residing in rural areas⁸, access to health services remains a struggle for many. Although there are some health care facilities in rural areas, they are confronted with many challenges, including lack of instructors, essential medicines, medical equipment and insufficient funding⁶. In ethnic regions, health care systems face the distinctive challenge of creating adequate access to health care services. With most ethnic regions tackling the complexities of prolonged armed conflicts and a lack of

Total Health Expenditure as
% of General Government
Expenditure¹⁰ (2015)



Total Military Expenditure
as % of General Government
Expenditure¹¹ (2015)



Incidence of Catastrophic
Health Expenditure⁶ (2010)

1. **Chin State** 24.5%
2. **Karen State** 20.6%
3. **Tanintharyi Division** 20.4%

Number of Health Workers
(per 10,000 population)¹²



15 (2016)





economic development, health care services in these regions have weakened, collapsed or have been forced to rely on external aid⁹.

One of the challenges that the current government faces in achieving their goal of universal health care is working with ethnic health organisations [EHO], that continue to provide much needed health services in ethnic minority, conflict and post-conflict areas. Incorporating existing EHOs, as well as NGOs that support them, would ensure trust in a national health system while providing the maximum amount of care for patients. Without meaningful inclusion of existing services within the government's health care system, minority ethnic groups will remain distrustful, perceiving this as a possible attempt to assert control and undermine their autonomy.

As Burma still has a long way to go before it can achieve its goal of providing universal health care coverage its population, NGOs and INGOs continue to fill this much-needed gap. Like many other organisations, Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) will continue to help fill this gap by providing patients access to health care services unavailable and/or unaffordable locally.

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At BCMF, we pride ourselves on our wonderful team dynamic—working together, supporting and helping each other. As is often said, laughter is the best medicine and laughter is often heard coming from the BCMF office! As one BCMF staff member said, “working with BCMF is like working with a large extended family,” which is what makes how we do our work so special.

BCMF’s programs and projects are growing at an exponential rate, and along with that comes a bigger and more diverse staff. Meet the new members of the BCMF team recruited in 2017:



*Main Office, Mae Sot and
Burma Office, Hpa-An*

“I am very happy working with BCMF because BCMF gives a lot of hope to people and their lives in the future.”

Fun fact! “I enjoy playing badminton and spending time with my family. I have three little daughters.” - Aung Tin Tun



Main Office, Mae Sot

“I planned to volunteer for half a year but I have now been here for almost a year. BCMF fills an important gap by providing life altering healthcare for those in need.”

Fun fact! “I enjoy going for Burmese breakfast and playing badminton.” - Bridgitte



*BCMF-B.K.Kee Patient
House, Chiang Mai*

Klao is passionate about his work and is committed to making the patient house even better for BCMF’s patients. “I plan on organising games and other fun activities. I want the patient house to be a more pleasant and enjoyable place for everyone who stays here, despite their sickness and stress.” - Klao



Main Office, Mae Sot

“I believe everyone is entitled to quality healthcare, regardless of who they are or what they believe in. BCMF is unique in its focus on the present. We are trying to give people what they are entitled to, now.”

Fun fact! “I worked in the IT industry in Australia before I realised I had something better to do.” - Sermkiat



Main Office, Mae Sot

“BCMF has such a great and flexible team. Working here gives me new opportunities to learn and help others learn.”

Fun fact! “Cooking and decorating are my favourite things to do.” - Than Than Oo

Each year BCMF hosts volunteers from around the world who bring valuable experience and skills to the organisation. Although they come and go, they are considered an integral part of the BCMF team and family. Thank you for your time and involvement!

Volunteers

Phoebe (USA)
Sheri (Canada)
Anna (Australia)
Isabella (Spain)
Miranda (Sweden)
Catharine (Ireland)
Xiu Lim Ping (Singapor)
Allard (Netherlands)

Ondrej (Czech Republic)

Raylinne (USA)

Eva (Slovenia)

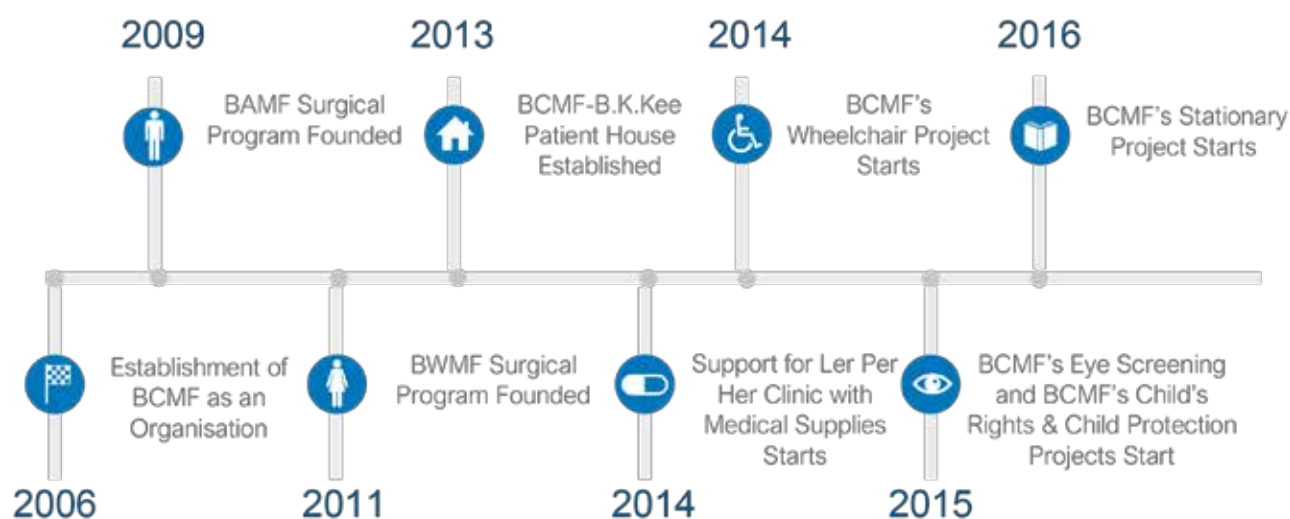
Interns

Kayla (Queens University, Canada)

Celia (Colombia University, USA)

Veronika (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)





The core of BCMF's operations is the patient services programs. Through these programs, BCMF facilitates access to tertiary healthcare—primarily surgical and advanced diagnostic testing—for individuals ranging from newborns to the elderly.

BCMF covers the medical costs of treatment, transportation and other support services to our clients while they are receiving medical care at a number of partner hospitals in both Burma and Thailand.

Individuals who are supported by BCMF have conditions which fall under a wide range of specialties, including:

- Abnormal growth
- Cardiovascular
- Epithelial
- Gastrointestinal
- Gynaecological
- Haematological
- Neurological
- Ophthalmological
- Orofacial
- Orthopaedic
- Tropical diseases
- Urological

BCMF:

The original, and still largest, referral services program is BCMF's namesake, Burma Children Medical Fund. BCMF treats children 18 and under, many of whom have congenital conditions. In 2017, the BCMF program treated **242** children.

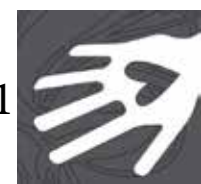
Child's Dream Foundation (CDF), a foundation based in Chiang Mai, partners with BCMF to support children 12 years and younger who have been living with congenital cardiac conditions, congenital anorectal malformation or simple spina bifida. In 2017, CDF supported **86** children out of the **242** children to receive treatment while BCMF supported their logistics as well as some medical tests and dental cares at Mae Sot Hospital.

BAMF:

Burma Adult Medical Fund, the second referral services program, expanded BCMF's services to include adults. Individuals receiving support under BAMF suffer a wide variety of health conditions, from emergency orthopaedic to congenital cardiac. Without receiving the treatment under BAMF, many would live lives impaired by their condition. Not only would they suffer, their families and communities would too. In 2017, BAMF helped **202** individuals access treatment.

BWMF:

Burma Women Medical Fund is a program which supports treatment for women with gynaecological conditions. Most BWMF patients are referred from Mae Tao Clinic's (MTC) Reproductive Health Department and receive treatment at Mae Sot Hospital (MSH). The proximity of both MTC and MSH enables women under BWMF to receive quality treatment in a timely manner. In 2017, **63** women received treatment under BWMF.





Before

It has been more than 13 years since Htet was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease. His parents wanted to seek treatment for him, but

were told it can only be done overseas and that the treatment could cost up to ten million kyat (approx. 10,000 USD). Although the doctor prescribed Htet monthly oral medication, his father could not afford it after a few months. Eventually, they stopped seeing the doctor altogether. Fortunately, in 2017 Htet's father was introduced to Khine Medical Room, a charity clinic, which then referred him to BCMF.

With the help of BCMF, Htet went to Chiang Mai where he underwent medical investigation before receiving surgery. Recovering from the surgery proved to be another challenge due to post-surgical complications; his heart beat was irregular and he eventually required a pacemaker.

Htet was very excited and happy after he received his pacemaker. He said, "I am no longer blue coloured and I no longer have my old symptoms! Now, I have become a normal person again. I will return home and will continue to study. I want to go to university."



After

40-year-old Mu is from Hpapun Township in Karen State, Burma. After Mu had her first child at home when she was 22 years old, she felt as if something inside her



Before

lower abdomen was not right. Seeking help from the traditional birth attendant (TBA) who assisted her during birth, the TBA pushed her uterus upwards which made her feel better afterwards. Following this, after each time Mu gave birth, the TBA pushed her uterus back into place. However, 11 years ago when Mu gave birth to her youngest child, the TBA was not able to push her uterus back into place properly which left her with an uncomfortable sensation in her lower abdomen. Since then, Mu felt as if her uterus was falling out when she worked or carried heavy items.

With the help of a cousin, Mu went to Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) in August 2017 and was directly referred to BCMF for assistance in accessing treatment. Under the care of BCMF, Mu underwent surgery at Mae Sot Hospital in late September. "I



After

have escaped from the prolapsed uterus and I can walk comfortably now. I don't know how to express it but I feel like I look very different than before," said Mu.

"As the mother, I am really grateful for what my baby received. I am very grateful to the donor that my daughter has had the opportunity to get treatment. We would never be able to seek treatment for her by ourselves. I will never forget their help. Her father and her two sisters are also very grateful and happy for her. As parents, we couldn't help our daughter in any way. But the life of my baby was saved by the donor who gave her a chance [to be well]." – Mya Nan's mother





“I see that my daughter is now more active and happier than before and that makes me feel very happy. I will send her to school to learn. I am not worried about her future now. I would also like to thank the donors for helping my daughter receive free surgery and for helping her receive early treatment.” – Kyi’s mother

“I would like to say a big thank you to the donors and BCMF for making my treatment a reality. Without help from donors and BCMF, I would have been unable to live. My children would have become orphans and they would have lost all hope to complete their studies. They all put their hope in me and they depend on me whenever they need help. Now, I am healthy again and this treatment brings hope to my children. I would never have been able to have this treatment without the help from donors.” – Baw

“The treatment is very helpful to me because before I had surgery, my two legs were not the same length. My left leg was longer than the right one. Now that both my legs have become the same length I can walk better.” – Nan Ei

“When I was at home and in pain, my mother would sit by my bed and cry. She wouldn’t sleep or eat properly. However, now my mother is very happy to hear that I have had successful surgery.” – Mu

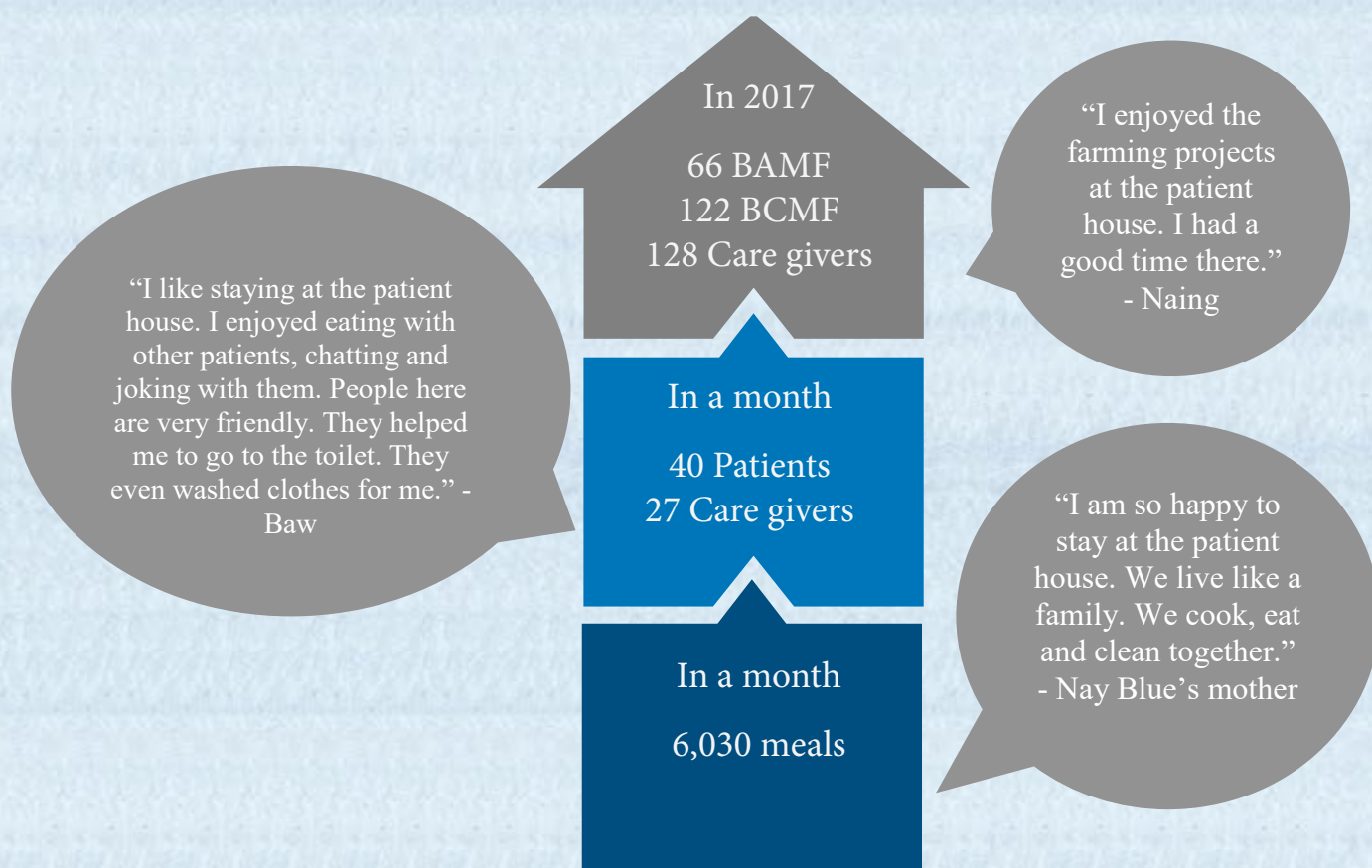
“This surgery has brought my family back to life. This surgery is very valuable to me. I rely on my wife for everything and I could not live without her. Because we didn’t have any money or friends to help us, if we wouldn’t have received assistance from BCMF she would have lost her life. I don’t want to let her work anymore. I just want her to stay healthy and look after our son.” – Yu’s husband

“Before hearing about BCMF, we gave up hope and were full of sadness because we couldn’t afford the treatment and were empty handed. I cried for him every day of his condition. If he had a headache, he tried to release it by hitting his head with something. Seeing this situation made me so sad and worried. Now, it looks like he got a new chance at life. We will return to Pantanaw. We want to focus on church activities while serving our community.” – Sa Moe’s wife





The BCMF-B.K.Kee Patient House is a vital part of BCMF's operation. It provides a safe and comfortable environment for the patients and their caregivers, while they seek treatment in Chiang Mai and Lampang. Two full-time staff members tend to the patients' needs. They also provide emotional support to the patients and caregivers during difficult phases of the patient's treatment. We are thankful to all the organisations who support our patient house, including our key donor the B.K.Kee Foundation. This year, BCMF was also able to organise various activities at the patient house with help from our local partners and volunteers including Chiang Mai International Rotary Club (CMIRC), Project WIN and the British Women's Group of Bangkok.



Enjoying fresh vegetables from the garden



Meeting between the Patient House Coordinators, the patients and their caregivers



Patients excited to return home
from Chiang Mai



BCMF - B.K. Kee Patient House



Weekly activities sponsored by volunteers
from CMIRC



Patients and their caregivers
enjoying a meal at the patient house



Patients and their caregivers with
volunteers from Project WIN

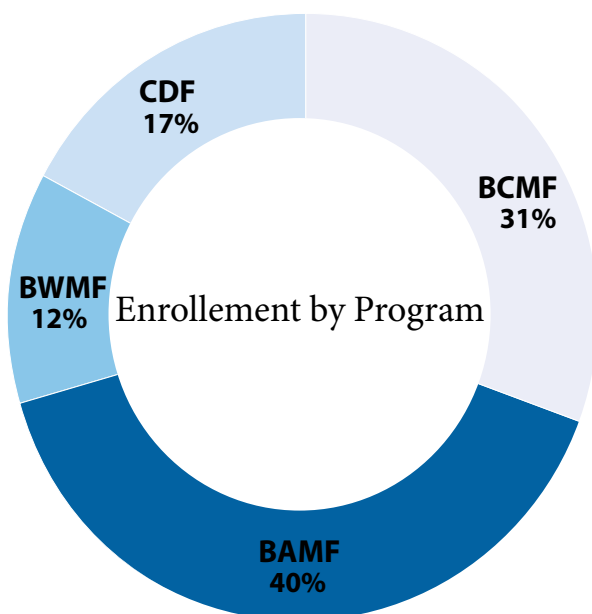


Volunteers helped make the raised
beds for the vegetable garden



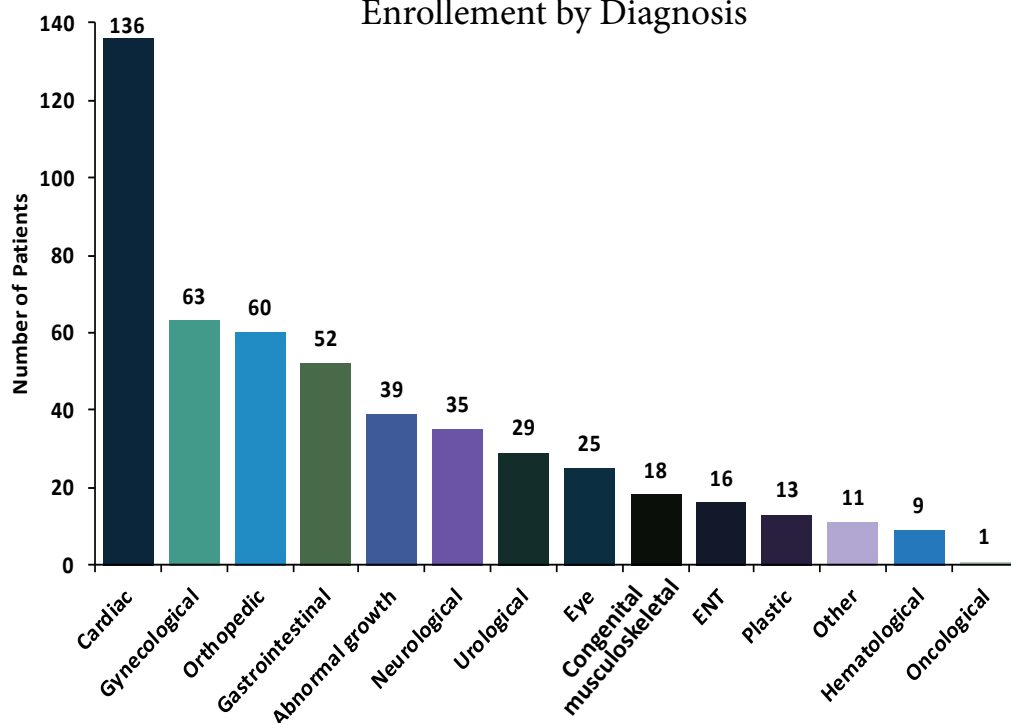
Patients and their caregivers
relaxing at the new *sala* donated by
CMIRC





- In 2017, BCMF saw a 47% increase in the number of new patients enrolled, largely due to an increase inw outreach projects in Burma.
- BCMF also saw an increase in the number of patients arriving from Burma for treatment. This was due to an increase of referrals from partner organizations in Burma, as well as an increase in outreach projects within Burma.
- 136 patients were enrolled for treatment relating to a cardiac condition, a 40% increase from 2016 due to new partners and outreach projects.
- Orthopedic cases nearly doubled in 2017 due to guaranteed funds by a donor.
- Patients enrolled for gastrointestinal related treatment increased by 79% while urological cases increased by 93%.

Enrollement by Diagnosis



Enrollement by Country



78% from Thailand



22% from Burma

Enrollement by Place of Residence



21% urban areas



79% rural areas





One Patient's Journey to Receive Healthcare

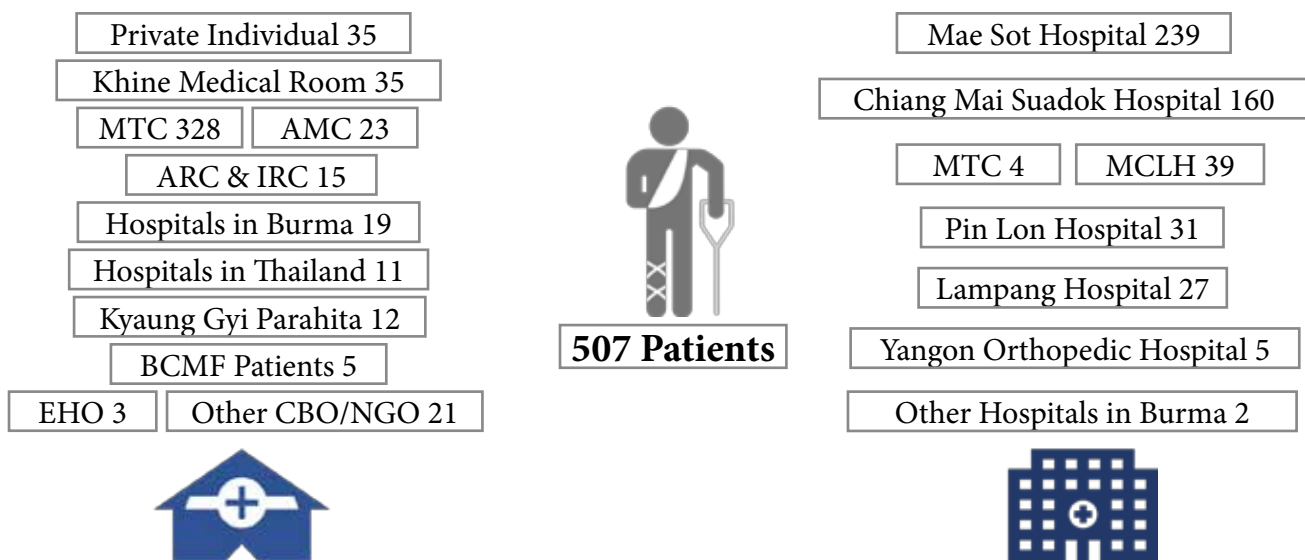


U Kyi is a 35-year-old Karen man who lives with his mother in Hpapun Township, Karen State, Burma. Their village is located in a mountainous region and is only accessible by foot, with the nearest road located a day and a half away by foot. U Kyi works as a subsistence farmer, growing rice and vegetables on a terraced field of land as well as beside his house. When he is not in the fields farming, U Kyi can be found in the surrounding forest. Volunteering as a forest ranger, he helps take care of the wildlife in the protected forest, assisting the village head in recording the wildlife's population while also keeping an eye out for poachers.

In December 2015, U Kyi's left ankle started to hurt everytime he walked. He also felt a burning sensation in his ankle at night and he felt tired whenever the pain increased. At first U Kyi sought treatment from his local free clinic, a day's walk from his village, where he received medication to manage the pain. He returned three to four times but stopped going back when his ankle continued to hurt. In August 2016, his brother-in-law suggested he seek help at Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) in Thailand. Although he wanted to set off right away, U Kyi had to wait for the rainy season to end due to poor road conditions. U Kyi also wanted to travel with his friend who lives in Mae Sot and knows where the clinic is located. After his friend arrived at his village in April 2017, they set out on foot for MTC along with a few other villagers who also wanted to come to the clinic for treatment. Sleeping at friends' and acquaintances' houses along the way, it took them two days and two nights just to reach the Thai-Burma border. After crossing the border, U Kyi's friend rented an old car and drove him to the clinic. Once at MTC he was seen by BCMF's director, who referred him to Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital (MCLH) in Burma, for treatment.

On May 3, U Kyi went to MCLH and received an X-ray, blood work and urine test. The X-ray showed that he had an Achilles tendon rupture. He then underwent surgery to repair the tendon the following day and remained in recovery for one month. Since his surgery, U Kyi's ankle no longer troubles him, and he can walk without pain. He is very happy to return to his home and hopes that he will become the leader of his village one day.

Surgical Referrals in 2017



Referring Organisations

Patient Intake

Treatment Centers





Outreach Projects





Access to services and mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, is difficult in Burma, with government-affiliated health groups and health-based NGOs providing minimal services in this area. BCMF works closely with local health-based organisations by providing wheelchairs that BCMF receives from Wheelchair For Kids (WFK) and other donors.

To ensure sustainability and build capacity for our partners in Thailand and Burma, BCMF organised several training sessions in assembling and fitting patients with wheelchairs in 2017. The training sessions include both theoretical and practical components with trainees receiving training in patient assessment, assembly, fitting and distribution.

Wheelchair For Kids Statistics 2017

Locations

Mon State
Karenni State
Karen State
Shan State
Rakhine State
Ayeyarwaddy Division
Yangon Division
Thailand

Clinics

Ker Gaw Clinic
Htee Hu Thaw Clinic
Ananda Myitta Clinic
Kyang Gyi Parahita Clinic

Trainings

5 training sessions
48 people trained

Amount

328 WFK received
235 WFK given out
to partners





Apart from facilitating tertiary care through our referral services, BCMF also delivers primary care services through our outreach projects. Since 2015, BCMF has undertaken eye screening projects with the objective of providing eye examinations and free eyeglasses to remote communities in need. The project also identifies patients with common eye conditions and diseases that may require surgical treatment, as well as facilitates their treatment through our referral services program.

2 missions
782 people screened
547 received eye glasses
117 referred for eye surgery

In 2017, BCMF carried out two eye screening projects: one at Htee Hu Thaw Village in Karen State, and the other in Htantabin Township in Yangon Division. BCMF is unique in its ability to facilitate tertiary care for those who need further treatment, by accepting patients through our referral services program and connecting them with treatment at appropriate hospitals. Moreover, BCMF is able to provide free eyeglasses to communities with manageable costs, with the support of our partners from Australia – namely DAK Foundation and Rotary Club of Wanneroo.



BCMF works closely with an ophthalmic nurse and a trained health worker who have considerable experience conducting eye screenings and training local healthcare workers. Due to the large number of patients seen during eye screening projects, the ophthalmic nurse ran an eye screening training session for all the BCMF staff in late 2017. With these new skills, BCMF staff are now able to screen patients' eyes and provide proper eye glasses when needed. In 2018, BCMF will hold eye screening projects that the trained staff will conduct together with the ophthalmic nurse and trained health worker.





Recognising that many factors influence individuals' health, BCMF works closely with local communities in Burma and along the Thai-Burma border to implement various projects and activities that are relevant to the communities' wellbeing. BCMF works hand in hand with local health workers, village leaders and villagers in order to identify their medical needs. Last year, a request was made by several schools in remote areas of Karen State for school supplies. As education and health are closely linked, BCMF's stationery project was initiated. This year, BCMF received requests from the original schools supported last year, in addition to new schools, for stationery supplies. In 2017, BCMF provided stationery and other school supplies to **10** schools located

in Karen State, Burma.

A Student from Paw Tha May School said, "We are really happy that we received the school supplies from BCMF. If we have to buy school items ourselves, our families would have to sell their chickens and pigs to obtain the money for it. Also, it takes us 30 minutes by car or a two-hour walk to get to the stores. However, we will do it because school is very important to us. If we don't finish school, we cannot find a good job, and then we have to work really hard on the farm. Our parents had to drop out of school early due to the oppression of the Burmese army. Now, we can continue [to go to] school, and hopefully become doctors and teachers [one day]."





Since 2014, BCMF has been helping the Ler Per Her Clinic (LPH) with medical supplies as the supplies they receive from other donors only lasts for six months. Therefore, six months' worth of supplies are donated to LPH every year which are then distributed amongst **29** other villages supported by LPH. These used to be kept in a bamboo building or a bamboo hut. But when some of the supplies were ruined due to humidity, the head medic of LPH raised this issue with BCMF in mid-2016. BCMF responded by funding the construction of a new medical storage room for the clinic.

The building was completed in May 2017. The head medic of LPH said, "This room will primarily be used for storing medication. We receive medicine from both BCMF and other health-based organisations. With this [new room], we will no longer need to worry about the medication becoming ruined. Aside from using it as a storage for medication, we will also use it as a meeting room for the medics and other health workers from neighbouring clinics. We are also thinking about utilising this building as a central clinic." Both the healthcare workers and the villagers are very happy about this additional space.

Both the healthcare workers and the villagers are very happy about this additional space.



The BCMF internship program provides opportunities for the staff from our partner organisations, from both Burma and Thailand, to develop their professional skills through formal and hands-on training. The aim of the internship program is to support the capacity development of local healthcare providers and communities through the strengthening of BCMF's referral services network. The program also accepts applicants from migrant schools who are planning to work in healthcare organisations in their local communities.

During the internship program, the participants attend English language lessons, receive training in basic computer skills and office productivity software, in addition to taking part in various types of workshops. This year, the interns also underwent a primary eye care and refraction training. Subsequently, they participated in the eye screening projects, providing them with the opportunity of applying their knowledge in a hand-on setting.

The internship program also provides the participants with firsthand experience in how the patient referral system and the healthcare system work in Thailand and Burma. By interviewing patients, accompanying them to hospitals and staying at the patient house in Chiang Mai, the interns learn how the healthcare system works on the ground and gain a deeper understanding of patients' experiences while seeking treatment. This gives them confidence to navigate these complicated healthcare systems while inspiring them to act with understanding towards patients.

Working alongside local staff and international volunteers, the interns are given an opportunity to work in a multicultural and diverse environment. They also have ample opportunities to practice their English with native speakers. Many of the interns who have completed the internship program started with basic or an intermediate knowledge of English. Upon completion of the program, they could speak English more fluently and with more confidence, equipped with enough knowledge to continue studying on their own.



“I have learned a lot about computers during my time at BCMF. My English has improved a lot too, and I have also learned some Thai. Now, I can even write a patient story on my own and know how to send information to BCMF through Viber [a messenger application] or e-mail. Now, I also know how to assemble both children and adult wheelchairs, and fit patients to the wheelchairs. These are the skills I may never learn anywhere else.”

– Nyein Chan



After she was nominated by Chiang Mai International Rotary Club (CMIRC) for The One International Humanitarian Award 2017, BCMF's Director, Kanchana Thornton, was awarded one of the two runner-up prizes on May 16th. The money received as part of the award was then used to implement a project in Karen State, Burma. The project will provide an existing clinic with a new maternal and child health unit, the installation of solar panel systems at 4 clinics and 1 school, and water filtration systems in 11 villages, 1 clinic and 1 school. This project will increase the capacity of the clinics and the school, while creating sustainability through the

training of community members in installing and maintaining the solar panel systems and the water filtration systems. The project was also conceived through direct dialogue with all communities involved and implemented with the direct participation of community members impacted by the project.

The project started in October 2017 after the wet season, with the construction of a well at Ker Gaw Clinic. Following the completion of the well, construction of the new maternal and child health unit at that clinic began. At the end of November, BCMF engaged the Committee of Internally Displaced Karen People to hold a three-day workshop on installing and maintaining water filtration systems. A total of 13 community members and 1 BCMF staff went through the training. Following this, 4 villages had water filtration systems installed by December. Furthermore, BCMF also engaged the Border Green Energy Team to hold a three-day workshop on installing and maintaining solar panel systems in December. 9 community health workers and villagers, as well as 2 BCMF staff members, participated in the workshop. The three-day session culminated in the installation of a solar panel system at Ler Per Her Clinic.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of April 2018.



The new Maternal and Child Unit at Ker Gaw Clinic under construction



Water filtration system training and installation in Karen State



Solar panel system installation and maintenance training in Karen State





Ka Ter Paw



Ta May Paw



Daw Aung Nu May



Daw Wai Thein



Daw Yi Yi Swe



Kyaw Phyto



Ma Aye Than



Mu Nut



Baby Than Than Yee



Yin Yin Hla





Funding Partners

BCMF is fortunate to have a large number of donors, providing both monetary and in-kind donations and grants. It is thanks to these donors that BCMF has been able to continue to expand its operations to reach more individuals and grow its projects each year. The following are BCMF's primary donors, but BCMF would like to extend a big thank you to all of its benefactors—each one makes a difference in someone's life.

Union Aid Abroad
APHEDA, Australia

B. K. Kee Foundation,
United States of America

Child's Dream
Foundation, Thailand

Wheelchairs for Kids,
Australia

Brodbeck Philanthropy
Foundation, Switzerland

Allied Pickfords,
Thailand

Rotary Club of
Wanneroo, Australia

Burma Border Projects,
United States of America

Project WIN,
Thailand

Chiang Mai
International Rotary
Club, Thailand

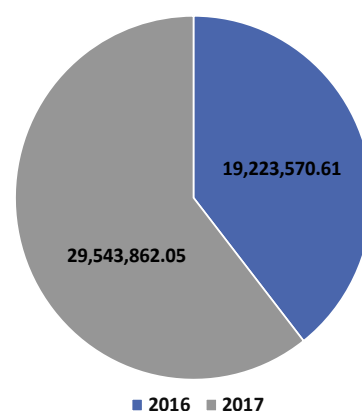
BNHA, Thailand

Watsi, United States of
America

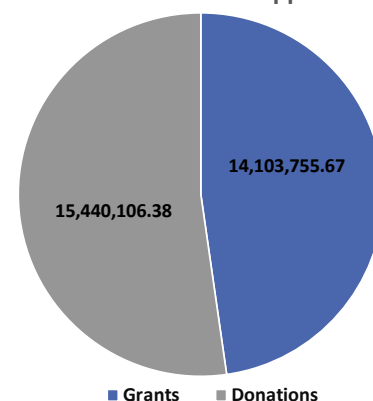
Financial Report

Revenues	2017 (Baht)	2017 (US. Dollars)
Surplus from previous year	8,595,012.17	260,454.91
AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) & APHEDA (Jul-Dec 2017)	860,276.00	26,068.97
BNHA	4,000,000.00	121,212.12
B.K. Kee Foundation for 2018 financial year	973,242.50	29,492.20
Brodbeck Philanthropy Foundation	682,880.00	20,693.33
Kim White	380,000.00	11,515.15
Krio Hirundo	623,809.68	18,903.32
International Humanitary Award The One	822,650.30	24,928.80
Watsi/BBP	11,855,727.46	359,264.47
Donation from Individuals and Organisations	695,505.79	21,075.93
Donation from Patients	21,710.00	657.88
Bank Interest	33,048.15	1,001.46
Total Revenues	29,543,862.05	895,268.55

Revenues in 2016 and 2017



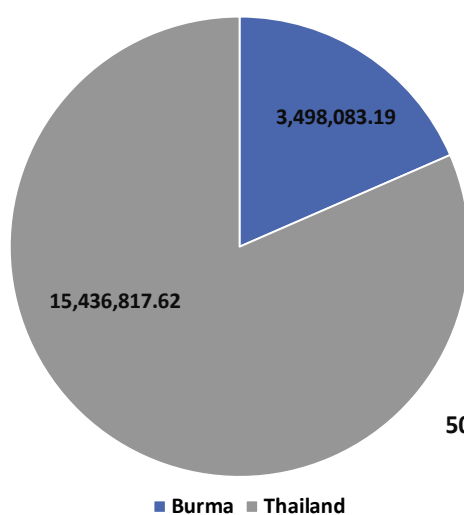
Revenue and Support



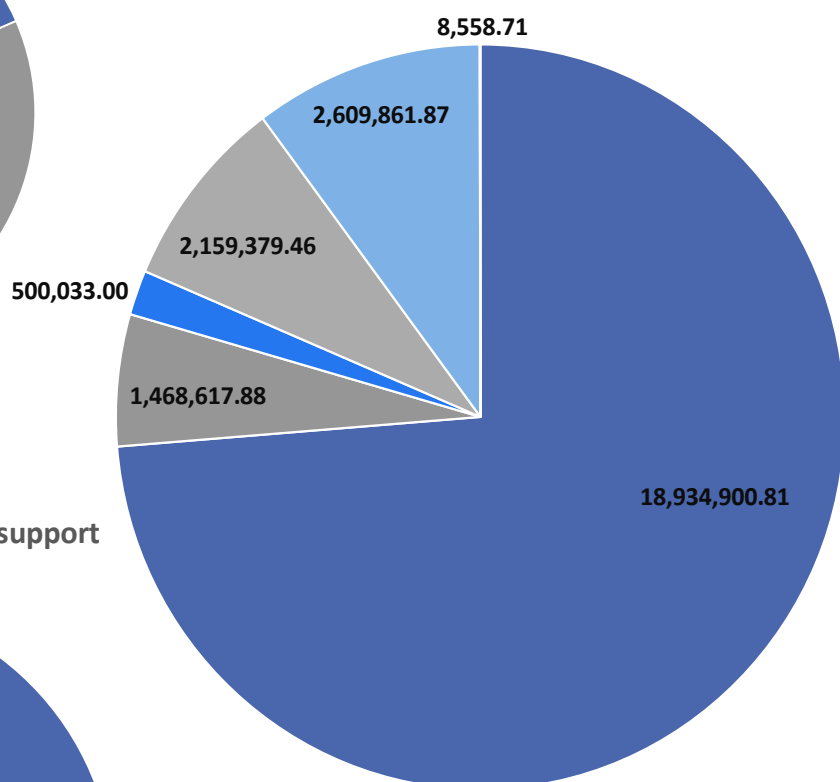


Expenditures	2017 (Baht)	2017 (US.Dollars)
Medical Costs in Thailand and Burma	18,934,900.81	573,784.87
Logistics/Patient Support	1,468,617.88	44,503.57
Donation to support partners' projects in Thailand and Burma	500,033.00	15,152.52
Directed expenditures for project in Burma	2,159,379.46	65,435.74
Administration	2,609,861.87	79,086.72
Bank fees and tax	9,947.71	301.45
Total Expenditures	25,682,740.73	778,264.87

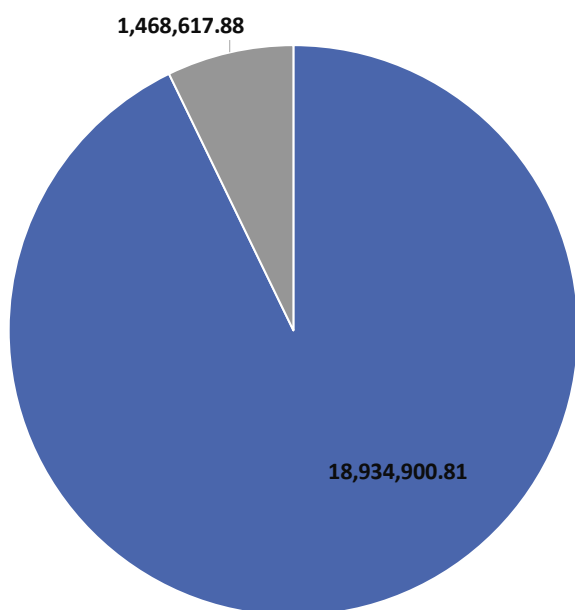
Medical expenditures by country



Expenditures for 2017



Surgical project-Direct patient support



- Medical Costs in Thailand and Burma
- Logistics/Patient Support
- Donation to support partners' projects in Thailand and Burma
- Directed expenditures for project in Burma
- Administration
- Bank fees and tax

■ Medical Costs in Thailand and Burma ■ Logistics/Patient Support





The past year has been filled with many new projects, as the organisation continues to grow. Looking ahead, 2018 is projected to be very much the same, with new and expanding partnerships, projects and much needed patient services. We are looking forward to 4 or 5 eye screenings, wheelchair missions and continuing partnerships with hospitals in Burma for our referral program.

In the coming year, BCMF will continue to forge new partnerships in Magway and Mandalay Divisions in Burma and Mae Hong Son in Thailand, as well as Laos. Building ties with active organisations in locations BCMF works helps BCMF create long-lasting accessibility to healthcare for patients. New projects will also launch in the coming year, including a reusable sanitary pads project and sewing project. Combining workshops on reproductive health while providing reusable pads will equip girls and women with menstrual hygiene and protection. Sewing workshops at our BCMF-B.K.Kee Patient House in Chiang Mai will teach patients and caregivers a new marketable skill.

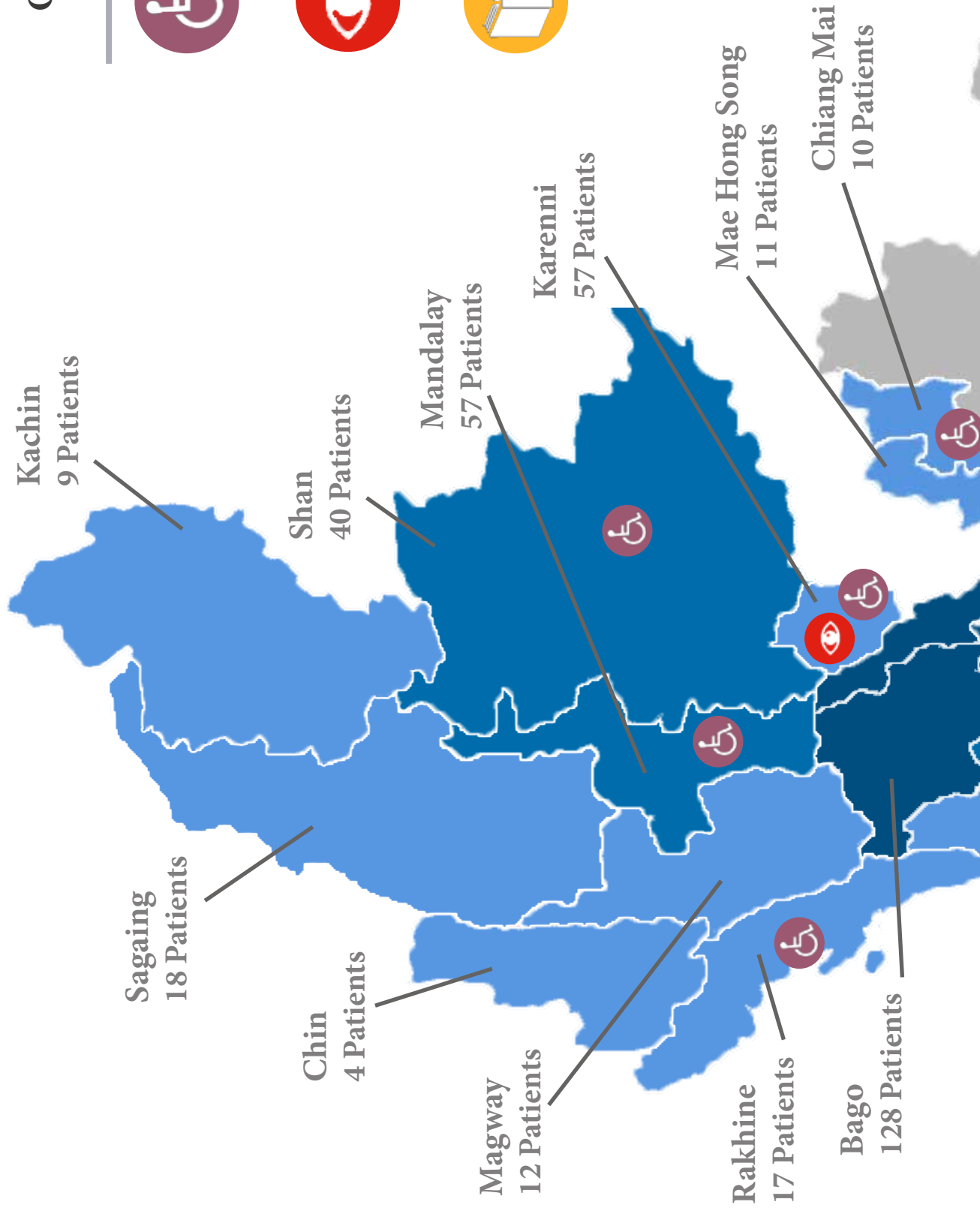
BCMF's wheelchair project will also continue with the help of our generous supporters who are fundraising on our behalf, including Kim White and Krio Hirundo Onlus, in addition to the coming donation of mobility carts from Mobility Worldwide. With new wheelchair projects planned in Thailand, Burma and even Laos, BCMF will continue to provide adults and children living with disabilities access to mobility.

As the organisation's work and opportunities grows, BCMF will continue to work closely with local communities to provide access to much needed tertiary health services.





Referral Services Patients & Outreach Projects Locations Since 2006



Outreach Project Locations



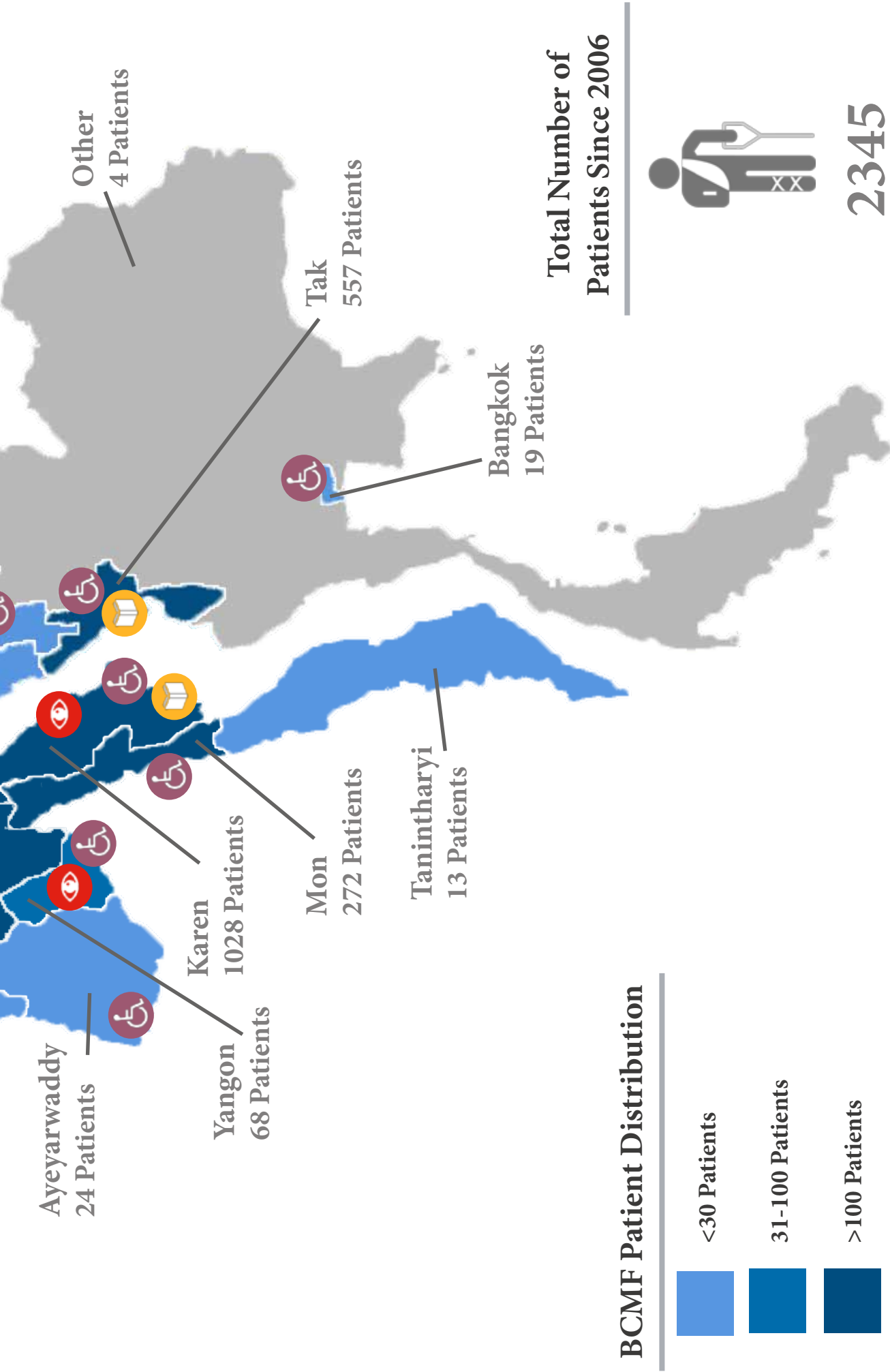
Wheelchair Project
702 wheelchairs
provided since 2014



Eye Screening Project
1006 patients screened
since 2015



Stationary Project
23 schools supported
since 2016



* The address of 48 patients from Burma are not recorded



Email: administrator@burmachildren.com

Website: www.burmachildren.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burmachildren

Twitter: [@BurmaChildren](https://twitter.com/BurmaChildren)

