



Health for All

2021
2022

Biennial
Report



Table Of Contents

Acronyms & Abbreviations	3
Letter from the Director	3
About Us	5
Health Care in Burma	6
Referral Services Program	9
BCMF - B.K. Kee Patient House	15
Giving Back Program	18
Patients & Outreach Services by Location	20
Outreach Service Program	22
Emergency Support	23
3D Printing	26

Eye Screening	28
Reproductive Health & Rights	30
Wheelchair	32
Stationery	34
Child Protection & Rights	36
Health Literacy	37
Medical Supplies Delivery	38
Internship Program	39
Health For All Update	40
BCMF Fighters	42
Funding Partners	43
Referral Partners	44
Volunteers & Interns	45
Financial Report	46

Acronyms & Abbreviations

BAMF	Burma Adult Medical Fund
BCMF	Burma Children Medical Fund
BWMF	Burma Women Medical Fund
CBO	Community-based organisation
CDF	Child's Dream Foundation
CDM	Civil Disobedience Movement
CMH	Chiang Mai Hospital
EHO	Ethnic health organisation
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IRC	Internal Rescue Committee
MI	Malteser International Thailand
MSH	Mae Sot Hospital
MTC	Mae Tao Clinic
MCLH	Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital
NLD	National League for Democracy
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation

Dear friends and partners,

Letter from the Director

Thank you for your continued support through these difficult and challenging times. 2021 was hard for us all. Not only did the people of Burma have to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, but in the midst of this most challenging time the newly elected government was overturned by a military coup and its leaders jailed. In response, millions of citizens, nationwide, took to the streets to protest the military coup – doctors, nurses, workers, students, artists, writers, musicians, and journalists. Despite a massive Covid wave in July 2021, health workers were targeted by the military for their stance - they were arrested for giving free medical care, soldiers occupied hospitals and ambulances, and COVID-19 treatment supplies were seized by the military regime.

By September 2021, the country was in the grip of a nationwide civil war. With over 1.5 million displaced internally, and an estimated 70,000 having fled to neighbouring countries since the coup, we launched the Emergency Support Project in 2021, to provide medical supplies and equipment, medications, and emergency food support amongst other things. When severe and persistent rains caused flooding in Thailand, the project was expanded to provide emergency food support to those affected in Tak and Sukhothai

Province.

As a result of the continued Thai-Burma border closure and the military regime targeting health workers, a shortage of doctors was felt throughout Burma, with many hospitals working at half capacity. To ensure continued access to health care for our patients, we forged new relationships and partnered with 2 new hospitals in Burma towards the end of 2021. By the end of 2022, we were able to treat more patients within Burma, who in the past would have had to wait and receive treatment in Thailand.

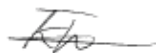
Running an outreach services program in Burma brought its own challenges since the coup due to security issues. Despite this, we were able to continue running our program through our sister organisation Health For All and our team in Yangon. Meanwhile, in Thailand, despite facing COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, we were able to expand our services to the local migrant, Thai and refugee communities. Once restrictions eased in 2022, we were able to reach more disadvantaged communities, serving a total of **294,465** direct beneficiaries between 2021 and 2022.

Looking back at the past two years, we have overcome hard and challenging times filled with obstacles, only to come out stronger and more knowledgeable. In the coming year, we will continue

to run our services in Burma and Thailand, while providing emergency support to people displaced by the civil war in Burma.

I would like to pay tribute to the resilience and dedication of our partners still delivering health care in the most dangerous of situations, to our staff, and to our donors and friends who have stood by BCMF these past two years enabling us to continue our work. With your support, we are able to continue reaching more people in need.

Sincerely,



Kanchana Thornton



Burma Children Medical Fund is Vision

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.

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

Mission

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



Health Care in Burma

On 1 February 2021, following the NLD federal election win, Burma's military launched a coup d'état and began to dismantle the country's parliamentary system. In response, millions of citizens across the country took to the streets to protest, many united under the banner of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). The military coup leaders responded to the protests with extreme force, using snipers to kill, and sending armed soldiers and police into residential areas to arrest defiant civilians, workers, students, teachers, doctors, and nurses. Burma is now in the midst of a nationwide civil war, as the military regime uses aerial strikes and on-the-ground artillery bombardments to target civilian areas, while civilians have either joined ethnic armed groups or formed their own defence forces to defend against military attacks.

Just before the military coup, in January 2021, Burma was one of the first southeast Asian countries to start vaccinating its population against COVID-19. Steps were taken to plan the vaccination of health care workers and front-line workers amongst others in February 2021, with 1.5 million vaccines received from India. However, following the coup, the military took all the vaccines and restricted its access to military forces and supporters. The third wave of

COVID-19 in July 2021 was then used as a weapon by the military regime. The military banned the sale of oxygen refills to people unless they had written approval from regional military authorities. CBOs delivering COVID-19 treatment had their premises raided, doctors were arrested, and medications and personal protective equipment seized. There were also instances of the military opening fire on civilians waiting in long queues to refill their oxygen canisters. Although official statistics on the death toll were largely accused of being underreported, funeral homes and crematoriums were overwhelmed.

A combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, the coup, and the ensuing civil war has resulted in a weakened, if not nearly collapsed, already fragile health care system. Following protests against the coup, the military targeted health structures and staff, for their involvement in the CDM and for treating CDM supporters. Many medical personnel were forced to go into hiding or flee to neighbouring countries, significantly impacting access to health care. Although EHOs and the private sector tried to fill this gap, EHOs cannot meet the demand. Meanwhile, the private sector has become increasingly unaffordable for a population facing inflation, rapid depreciation of the Burmese kyat, and increasing out-of-pocket health-care expenses that were already one of the highest in 2019 in southeast Asia. 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 health care.

By the end of December 2022, access to any form of health care was entirely dependent on charities, EHOs and local NGOs for 1.5 million people who have been internally displaced due to conflict (OCHA, 2022). Getting aid – shelter, medicine, clothing, food – to the displaced is difficult, and the military regime has severely restricted passage for humanitarian relief workers. While delivery networks setup by CBOs have been able to operate in certain places, access remains severely constrained outside of Burma's border areas.

In light of escalating consumer prices and the civil war, BCMF is preparing for a surge in demand for emergency support in the coming year. Furthermore, BCMF anticipates a continuous rise in the cost of medical-related expenses for patients receiving

treatment at partner hospitals in Burma. The economic strain, combined with the ongoing civil war, is likely to worsen an already challenging situation for the people of Burma. As the civil war continues to displace more people and exacerbate shortages in various supports, BCMF remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding its assistance to those in need. Recognising the crucial importance of BCMF's services in such trying times, BCMF remains dedicated to its mission of improving lives of vulnerable communities by facilitating access to health care and human rights.

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54 Million
Total
Population

1.5 Million
IDPs by 30
Decemeber
2022

745
Incidents of violence
or obstruction
of heaalth care
between 2021-2022

1/2
Population living in
poverty due to the
political situation
and its effects

Meet Saw Wah!

He is a 14-year-old boy who lives with his parents and five siblings in Karen State, Burma. His parents are subsistence farmers while he attends school. His siblings have stopped going to school - "They do not want to attend school because fighting happens very often in this area. We have to run and hide in the jungle where we study [until we can go back] and they do not like to study in the jungle," he said.

Around 2018 or 2019, Saw Wah developed a runny nose with yellowish nasal discharge. At first, he thought that it would go away on its own but towards the end of April 2022, his nose became blocked. He could no longer breathe through his nose and lost his sense of smell. After his father brought him to the free clinic in Ei Tu Hta Internally Displaced People Camp, the medic referred him to Mae Sariang Hospital in Thailand, with the help of KDHW.

When Saw Wah was brought to Mae Sariang Hospital in May 2022, he was diagnosed with bilateral nasal polyps and was referred to CMH for

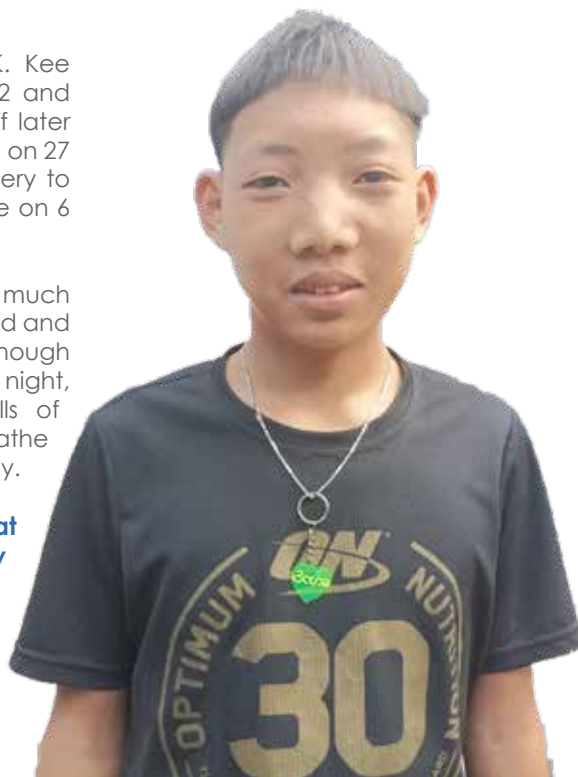
further treatment. Knowing that Saw Wah could not afford to pay for his treatment, KDHW staff referred him to Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) for assistance accessing further treatment.

Saw Wah arrived at BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House on 17 June 2022 and went to CMH with a BCMF staff later that day. He received a CT scan on 27 June 2022 and underwent surgery to remove the polyps from his nose on 6 September 2022.

Since his surgery Saw Wah feels much better. His appetite has increased and his sense of smell has returned, though not fully. He no longer snores at night, nor does he experience spells of dizziness. He is now able to breathe through his nose and feels happy.

"My family and I are happy that I received free surgery. My family cannot afford to pay for my treatment, so we are very grateful to BCMF and all the donors who have provided me with food, treatment costs, and everything else that I needed during my time

away from my parents. Thank you all so much. I will return home and help my parents harvest our rice and next year, I will resume my studies," he said.



Referral Services Program



Entrance to the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House

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 **3,686** patients' advanced medical care. Patients requiring complex treatment are referred to Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital in Thailand, and these patients, as well as those receiving treatment at Lampang Hospital, are housed at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House in Chiang Mai. Patients receiving treatment at other partner hospitals in Thailand and Burma, are helped to navigate the hospital's health care system by partner organisations.

In 2021, **148** patients were enrolled into the program, an increase from **120** patients in 2020. This was largely due to a rise in the number of nonurgent surgeries performed in Thailand. Working closely with partners, **103** refugees and migrants from the total patients enrolled, were treated. In previous years, patients with cardiac conditions were the most common assisted by BCMF but in 2021 and 2022, BCMF enrolled more patients with musculoskeletal, ophthalmological, and gastrointestinal conditions. This was largely due to hospitals in Burma facing limitations in the number

of new complex patients they could treat while also running COVID-19 wards. The ongoing suspension of patient van transfers to Chiang Mai due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, where BCMF's cardiac patients in Thailand receive treatment, also contributed to this shift in patient demographic.

In addition to this, only **45** patients enrolled resided in Burma. Facing security issues, financial constraints and travel restrictions brought on by the coup and COVID-19, with most hospitals operating at half-capacity following the coup and the third COVID-19 wave between June-August 2021, less patients in Burma sought treatment unless absolutely necessary. However, **86%** of patients enrolled in 2021 completed their treatment, while the treatment of **5** patients is still ongoing.

In 2021 and 2022, the Thai-Burma border remained closed, continuing to bar patients requiring treatment in Thailand that was unavailable in Burma. Adding to this, BCMF's partner in Yangon, Pinlon Hospital, which was treating cardiac patients, closed their cardiac unit by mid-2021 due to COVID-19 and the 1 February 2021 coup. Fortunately, in the beginning of 2022, BCMF was able to secure partnerships with Pun Hlaing Hospital and Karen Baptist Convention (KBC) Hospital, and the cardiac unit from Pinlon Hospital moved to Pun Hlaing Hospital. Thanks to these new partnerships, **15** cardiac patients received surgery

at Pun Hlaing Hospital, while **18** patients with simple gynaecological, musculoskeletal, ophthalmological, gastrointestinal or burn, corrosion and skin conditions were treated at KBC Hospital.

In 2022, BCMF saw a **69%** increase in patient enrolment, with **250** patients enrolled. This was primarily due to hospitals continuing to increase non-emergency surgeries in addition to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing more patients to seek treatment. A total of **206** patients enrolled in 2022 completed their treatment, while **24** patients' treatment is still ongoing.

Most of the patients enrolled presented with ophthalmological and gynaecological conditions. The near pre-COVID number of ophthalmology patients were driven by BCMF's eye screening project, with **7** patients enrolled during an eye screening mission, as well as the resumption of more non-emergency surgeries. In similar fashion, there was a **94%** increase in gynaecological patient enrolment between 2021 and 2022.

As the civil war unfolded in Burma and the number of displaced people continued to increase, more patients 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 wounded by weapons during military offensives.

Although BCMF was unable to resume patient van transfers to Chiang Mai in 2022, 54 patients and 26 caregivers were able to access urgent care in Chiang Mai and Mae Sariang through partner organizations. When Covid-19 travel restrictions are lifted in the coming year, BCMF will resume patient van transfers.

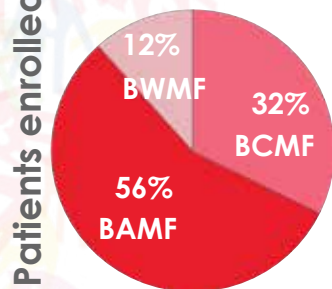
In 2023, BCMF expects to see an increase in patient enrolment as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease and COVID-19 vaccines become more readily available to non-Thai citizens. BCMF also expects to see the situation in Burma worsen, which will lead to an increase of displaced people requiring help accessing treatment.

To help more cardiac patients access treatment in the coming year, BCMF will partner with Kasemrad Prachachuen Hospital and Save Blue Heart Foundation. As our partner hospital in Chiang Mai faces an increase in patients amidst a shortage of staff, more BCMF heart patients waiting since 2020 to receive treatment will be able to do so in the coming year. On 29 January 2023, a free echo screening will be held at MSH by cardiologist from Save Blue Heart Foundation.

2021

148
Patients
enrolled

by program



70%
reside in
Thailand

86%

Patients live in
rural areas

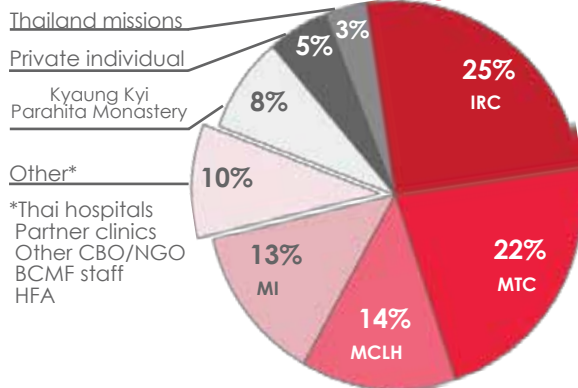
Indirect **625**
beneficiaries
63%

5,700 USD
Average cost of heart
surgery in Burma

81.53 USD
Average monthly
household income of all
our patients

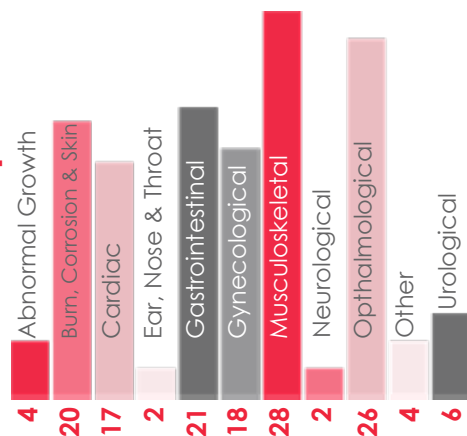
Patients' monthly
household income
was not enough for
their daily needs

Patients referred by partner organisations

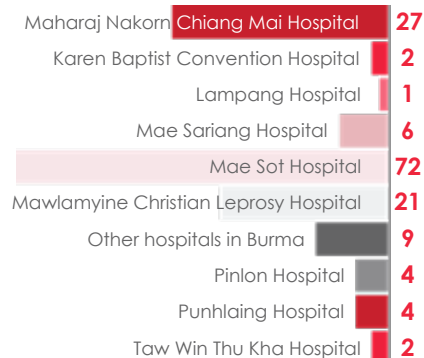


*Thai hospitals
Partner clinics
Other CBO/NGO
BCMF staff
HFA

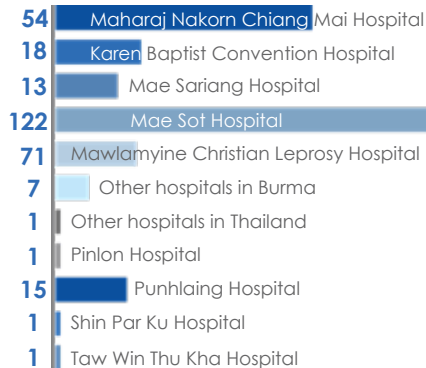
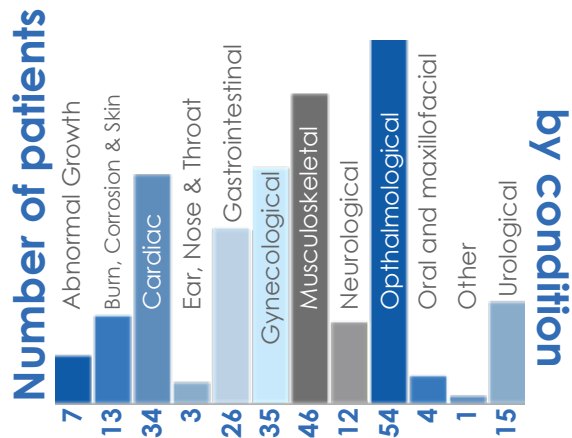
Number of patients



by condition



Number of patients by
treatment center



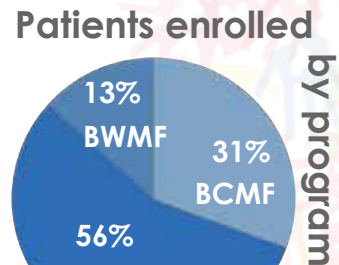
9,000 USD
Average cost of heart surgery in Burma

96.77 USD
Average monthly household income of all our patients

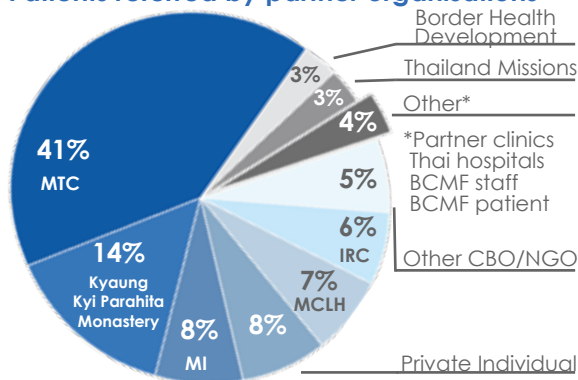
Patients' monthly household income was not enough for their daily needs

964 Indirect beneficiaries
60%

2022
250 Patients enrolled

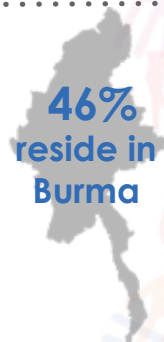


Patients referred by partner organisations



Patients live in rural areas

80%





Ya Min is a seven-month-old girl who lives with her parents, two brothers and a sister on the Thai-Burma border. Her siblings are all students, her father is a day labourer, and her mother is a homemaker.

When Ya Min was born at Mae Tao Clinic at the beginning of December 2021, she did not cry, and her skin was blue-tinted. After she was given oxygen, she was brought straight to MSH. The doctor referred her to CMH for

heart surgery that would cost over 100,000 baht (approx. 3,333 USD).

After BCMF agreed to support Ya Min's treatment along with Child's Dream Foundation, Ya Min was brought to CMH in an ambulance. She was diagnosed with patent ductus arteriosus and atrial septal defect. On 22 December 2021, she underwent successful heart surgery.

"Her skin is no longer blue, and she can now breathe well," said her mother. **"I am very happy and thankful to all the donors and the organisation [BCMF] for saving my daughter's life. When my daughter grows up, I will send her to a Thai school. I want her to become an educated person."**

U Chit is a 42-year-old man who lives with his wife, son, and parents-in-law in Bago Division, Burma. He used to work as a day labourer and motorcycle taxi driver but stopped when his health deteriorated.

In January 2021, U Chit started to experience dizziness, fatigue, tightness in his chest, and difficulty breathing during physical activity. Initially diagnosed with high blood pressure, he continued to experience symptoms although he took antihypertensive medications.

Eventually, U Chit received an echocardiogram and was diagnosed with aortic valve regurgitation, needing heart valve replacement surgery costing 4 million kyat (approx. 4,000 USD). However, as his condition worsened within a few months, he required urgent surgery, which was only available at a private

hospital for 15 million kyat (approx. 15,000 USD).

Luckily, U Chit was referred to BCMF and underwent surgery at Pun Hlaing Hospital in Yangon on 8 April 2022. Since his surgery, U Chit feels a lot better. He no longer has shortness of breath, fatigue, or a rapid heartbeat. **"I can now help with household chores such as cooking and sweeping. I am very happy that you supported my surgery's cost,"** he said.





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

Established in 2013, the patient house is run by staff who live on site and offer support



A patient house staff training Baan Dek Foundation staff to fit children for wheelchairs

to patients, accompanying them to their appointments at the hospital. Since the middle of 2021, interning nursing students from Chiang Mai University assist the staff with running the patient house and organising activities. 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.

In 2021, due to the continued COVID-19 travel restrictions in Thailand and the frequent postponement of elective surgeries at Thai hospitals, BCMF was unable to resume van trips of patients to Chiang Mai. Despite this, **12** patients and **9** caregivers were hosted at the patient house. A further **22** patients that were directly referred to hospitals in Chiang Mai for treatment were managed by the patient house staff. Some of the patients and their caregivers stayed at the patient house for over a year while they completed their treatment. While normally patients

BCMF - B.K. Kee Patient House

"I have learned how to read and write in Karen and Thai. I can now understand some Thai when I go to the hospital for my appointments. I also learned how to sew facemasks and fit wheelchairs [for recipients]. Thank you to everyone who organised different activities and learning opportunities for all of us here [at the patient house]."

- Nyi (20 years old)



"We have good food, and we get to eat three big meals in a day. Of course, we miss our home, but the patient house is just like our second home as we have been here for one year. We live with the other patients and caregivers like a big family. We eat, cook, and clean the house together. We also enjoy planting vegetables and harvesting it from the garden in the patient house."

- 17-year-old Saroh's mother

"I did not have to worry about accommodation or food, and my daughter received good care. Also, the environment inside the patient house was good because all the patients came here for the same purpose, to be cured of their illness. The [patient house] staff were very supportive and played an important role in my daughter receiving quality care."

- one-year-old Naw Thay's father





would travel back home in between appointments, remaining at the patient house until completing their treatment was necessary for many patients at this time, as transportation was very difficult to organise, especially for patients from Burma.

In 2022, BCMF was unable to operate patient van trips to Chiang Mai due to COVID-19 restrictions. Despite this, **35** patients and **19** caregivers who are receiving treatment with the support of BCMF, were brought to Chiang Mai through the help of private individuals and partner organizations. A total of **73** patients and **45** caregivers were housed at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House in 2022. Of these, the treatment of **50** patients were directly funded by BCMF, while BCMF provided accommodation and logistical support

to **23** internally displaced people, refugees and weapon wounded patients, whose treatment was supported by partner organisations. Additionally, the patient house manager, Klao Wongsingsak, assisted **9** patients that were directly referred to hospitals in Chiang Mai for treatment.

While patients reside at the patient house, BCMF strives to ensure educational activities are available during their stay. In 2021, Klao continued to teach **3** patients and **1** caregiver how to read and write in Burmese and Karen, while they waited to



complete their long-term treatment and return home. Later on, **2** nursing student interns assisted Klao with holding lessons. They also organised several workshops on various health education topics, basic computer classes, English and Thai classes, reproductive health and rights workshops, and held activities for menstrual hygiene day.

Giving Back Program

Since 2018, male and female patients and caregivers can learn how to sew

or build on their existing skills during their stay at the patient house. Items sewn by patients and their caregivers are then donated to BCMF beneficiaries through BCMF's outreach program.

Fabric is donated by Tel-Dan and the upcycled second-hand clothing is donated by Free Bird Cafe. In 2021, a month-long sewing workshop was organised by The BEAM Education Foundation and Chiang Mai International Rotary Club (CMIRC), with twice weekly workshops run by Michelle MacLellan. In 2022, a seamstress from BEAM Education Foundation ran a sewing workshop for patients and caregivers.



A patient and caregiver tracing a pattern



Students wearing their new uniforms sewn by patients and caregivers

In 2021 and 2022, patients and caregivers sewed a variety of clothing items and necessities such as blankets and bags from donated fabrics and upcycled donated second-hand clothing. Most of these items were distributed to students during BCMF's stationery

project and to IDPs on the Thai-Burma border. Additionally, some of the items were given to dormitory students from Mae La Refugee Camp, and dormitory students in migrant schools in Mae Sot.



A caregiver sewing at the patient house

2021-2022 items sewn

2,680 Facemasks

1,343 School bags

1,000 Hygiene kit bags

400 School uniforms

327 Blankets

308 Towels

210 Pillows

40 Mats

9 Curtains



Tin is a 38-year-old woman who lives with her husband in Tak Province, Thailand. They are agricultural day labourers, and they live in a hut on their employer's land for free.

In October 2020, Tin was diagnosed with a myoma, after she experienced symptoms for over a year. She underwent a total abdominal hysterectomy on 23 March 2021 with the help of BCMF at MSH.

"I feel like I have been freed from the pain that I had suffered from in my lower abdomen," she said. **"I feel very lucky that I was able to receive surgery with the help of donors. My husband used a lot of our money to pay for my medications [since I felt unwell]. Because of this, he could not save any money for my surgery. So, I want to say thank you to all the donors."**

Naw Eh Mui is a 32-year-old woman who lives with her parents, husband, son and three daughters in a Thai refugee camp.

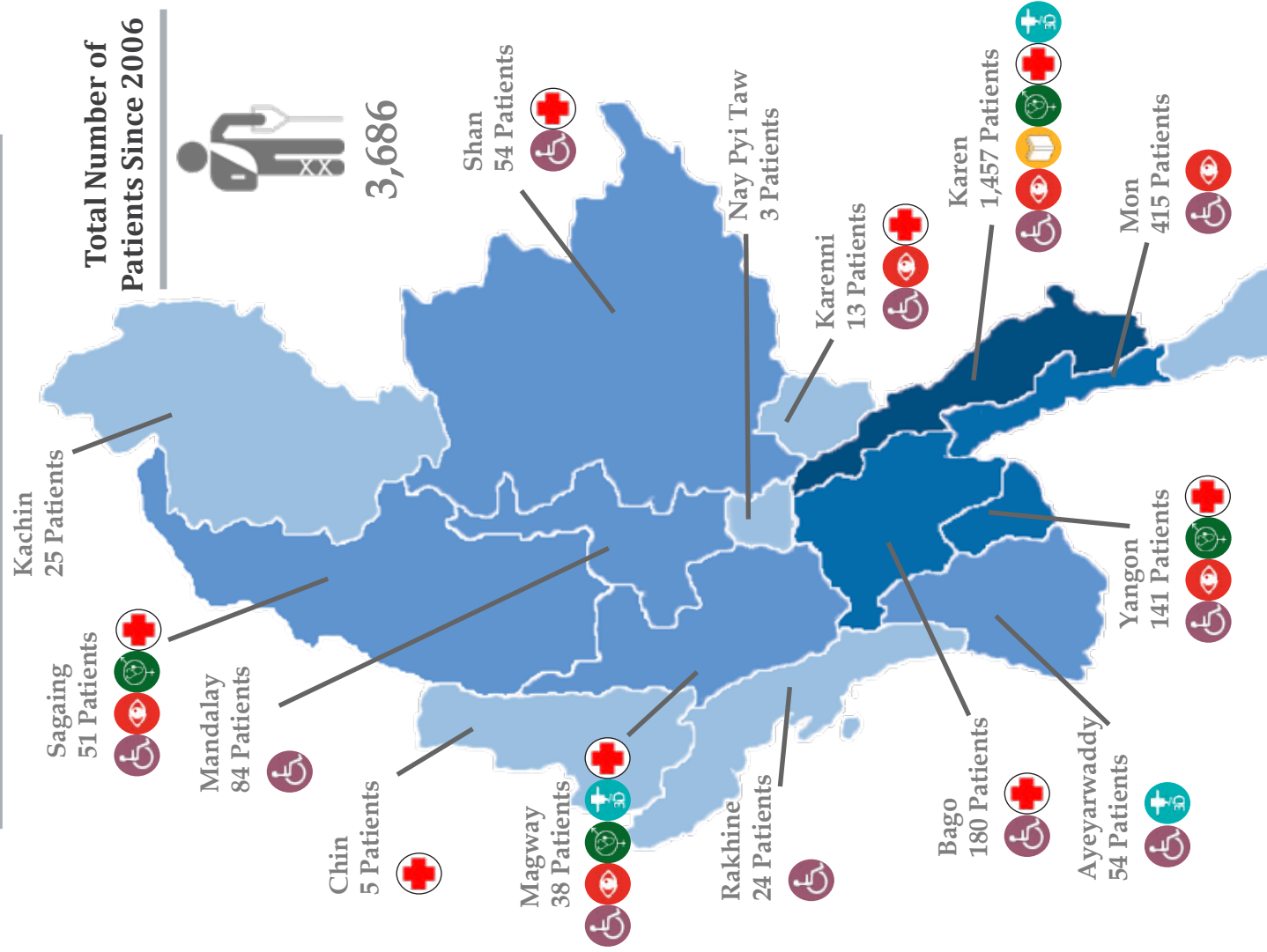
In August 2021, Naw Eh learned that she was pregnant again. When she was around 40 weeks pregnant at the beginning of July 2022, she went to her antenatal appointment and learned that her baby was lying sideways instead of head-down. The medic referred her to Mae Sariang Hospital where she was admitted straight away and scheduled to undergo a caesarean section the following day.

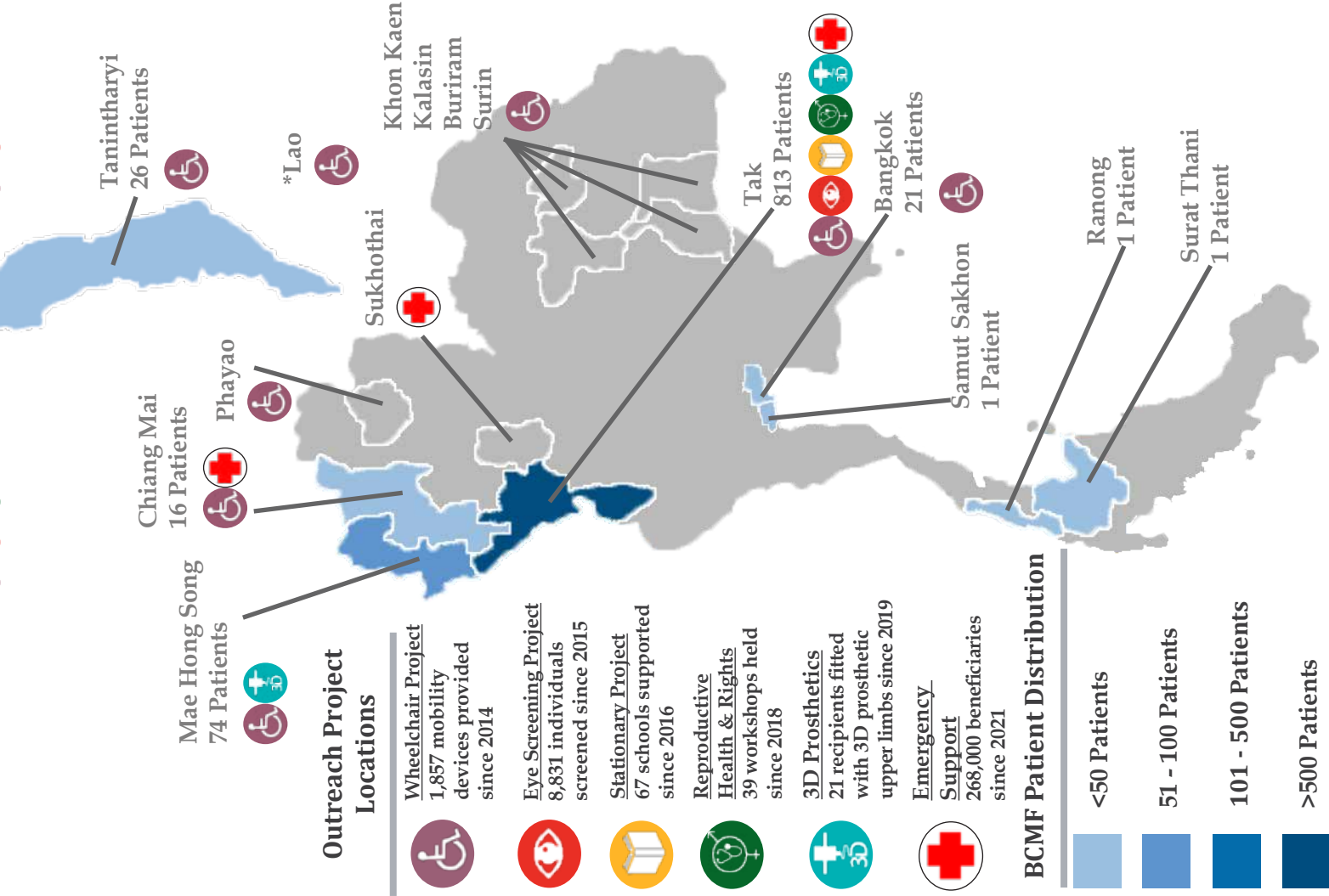
After Malteser International staff referred her to BCMF,

she gave birth to a healthy baby boy through a caesarean section on 7 July 2022. **"Thank you very much to the donors who helped me with the operation cost that I could not afford. When my baby [son] is old enough to go to school, I will try to find work as a teacher,"** she said.



Referral Services Patients & Outreach Programs Locations Since 2006







Outreach Services Program

Emergency supplies for displaced people in Burma



Food support ready for distribution to people affected by flooding and COVID-19 quarantines

In 2021, BCMF launched its newest project, Emergency Support, following requests for support in Thailand and Burma after a severe wave of COVID-19 in Burma as well as landslides and flooding in Tak Province, Thailand. Since then, BCMF has expanded the project to include support to internally displaced persons and communities affected directly by the 1 February 2021 coup in Burma.

In 2021, BCMF distributed medical supplies such as oxygen tanks, oxygen concentrators, oximeters and face shields, to **4** clinics, **1** hospital and **2** covid centres in Karen State, **2** clinics in Magway

Division, and **1** covid centre and **1** school in Yangon Division.

BCMF also provided emergency food supplies and the transportation cost of delivering them to **30** clinics, **13** schools, and **4** covid centres in Karen State, Magway Division, and Yangon Division. Lastly, BCMF supported the construction of a clinic in Magway Division.

In Burma, BCMF also supported **4** IDP camps in Karen State, **1** in Bago Division, and **1** in Magway Division with mosquito nets, food, medications, materials for building shelters, and solar electrical system amongst other things. Additionally, BCMF supported **4,396** beneficiaries in Bago Division and Karen State with food support due to hardships faced by COVID-19 restrictions and the military coup.

In Thailand, BCMF distributed emergency food support to **250** families affected by flooding and strict COVID-19 quarantine, as well as to dormitory students at **3** schools in Tak Province who were unable to

Emergency Support



Delivering a doppler and a laptop to a clinic

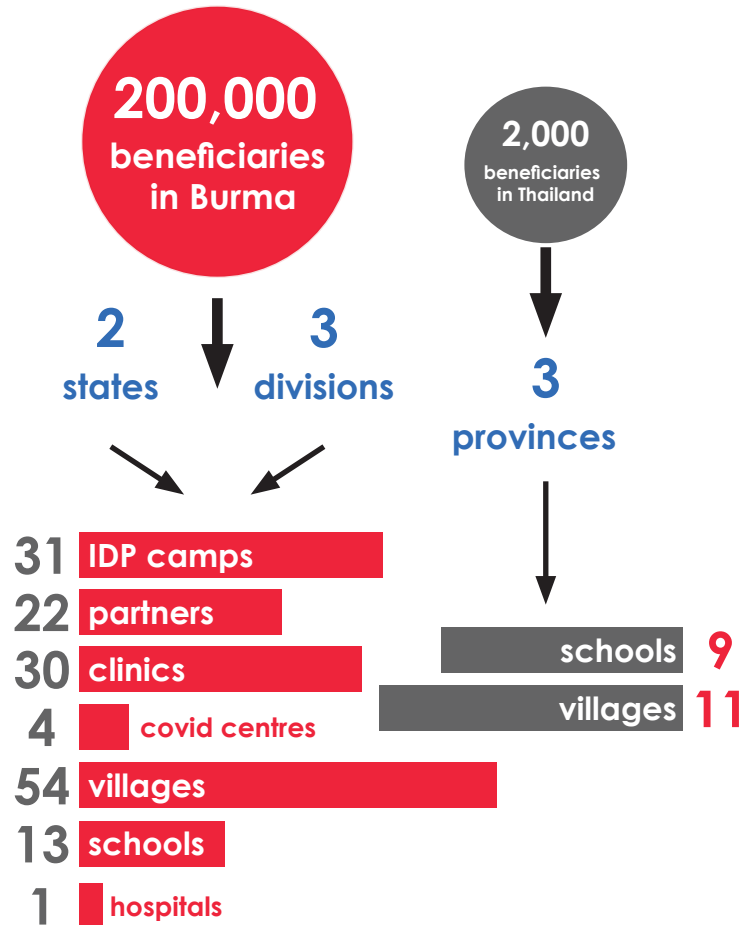
leave during the strict COVID-19 lockdown.

In 2022, BCMF delivered medication, medical equipment, and medical supplies to **20** clinics and

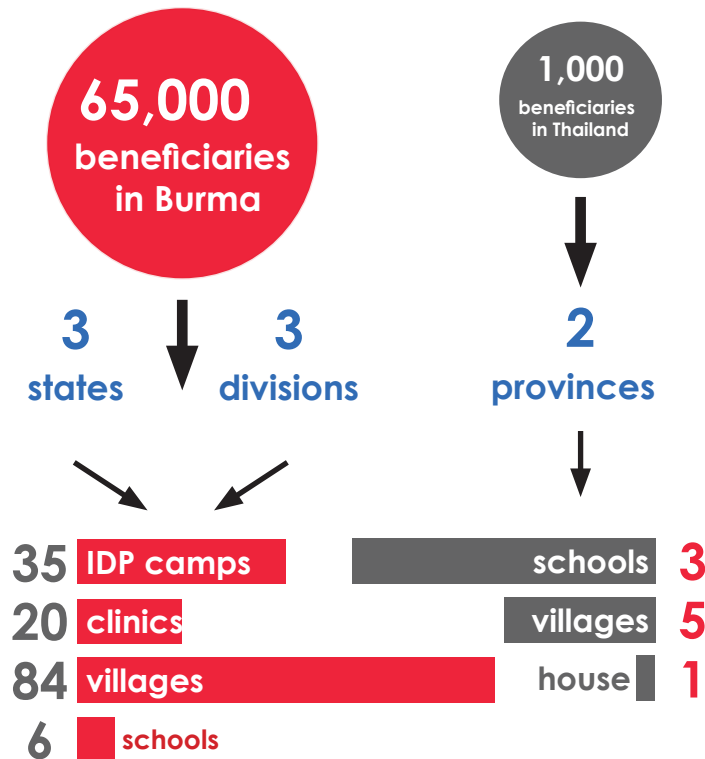
35 IDP Camps in Karen State, Magway Division, Chin State, Karenni State, Yangon Division and Sagaing Division. BCMF also provided emergency food support to over **1,000** families in Magway Division and Karen State, whose villages the military had burned down. BCMF funded the construction of toilets at **1** school in Magway Division, and a water filtration system at **1** school in Karen State. BCMF delivered food support to **1** school in Karen State and **84** villages in Magway Division and Karen State.

In Thailand, BCMF provided food support to dormitory students at **3** schools twice and **5** villages in Tak and Sukhothai provinces. BCMF funded a water well at **1** school and supported the cost of new windows and doors for **1** house that was damaged by fire in Tak Province.

2021



2022



Daw Tin is a 57-year-old farmer who lives with her husband, son and two daughters in a village in Karen State, Burma. On 4 September 2021, she came down with a fever and felt very weak. Three days later, she went to the nearby clinic, where she was told that she has COVID-19. Measuring her oxygen saturation, the doctor told her that her oxygen levels were low and that she should find and keep an oxygen cylinder on standby at her home in case she developed breathing problems.

Although her village has 2 oxygen cylinders available for rent, they were already lent out, and there was a shortage of oxygen tanks in the hospitals. She had no choice but to quarantine at home and hope she did not develop breathing problems. Worried about her, Daw Tin's daughter got in touch with BCMF staff and asked if they could help. BCMF then arranged for an oxygen concentrator to be lent to Daw Tin on 15 September 2021. After receiving oxygen for two days, Daw Tin felt better. **"If I had not received the oxygen concentrator, I think I would have died,"** she said. **"It is not easy to find oxygen in my village. Thank you so much to BCMF for saving my life!"**

3D Prosthetics

for accessible upper limb prosthetics in Thailand and Burma. With most affordable prosthetics, when available, made for lower limbs or are non-functional upper limb prosthetics, BCMF strives to fill this gap by providing free custom fitted 3D printed upper limb prosthetics and assistive devices.



BCMF staff during a refresher training with Thai Reach

Launched in June 2019, the 3D Prosthetics project was established in response to a need

Since its establishment, the project has grown from two 3D printers in Thailand to six, to keep up with demand. The 3D printing office in Burma was moved from Mawlamyine to Yangon at the end of 2021. Facing problems with electricity and space in Yangon, BCMF funded the construction of a 3D

lab and the installation of a solar system in 2022. Currently, one staff and one intern are working on printing quality prosthetic arms for **2** recipients.

In 2021, staff continued to work hard, providing functional prosthetic upper limbs and assistive devices. Although COVID-19 travel restrictions continued to impact BCMF's ability to fit recipients with 3D printed prosthetics, BCMF still managed to fit **3** recipients with 3D upper limb prosthetics and printed **4** upper limb 3D prosthetics. A further **67** face shields were printed and distributed to **2** schools, **1** clinic and **1** student organisation.

In 2022, BCMF saw an increasing number of weapon-wounded in need of upper limb prosthetics, due to the worsening conflict in Burma. BCMF fitted **9** recipients with 3D upper limb prosthetics and **2** recipients with assistive devices. **20** upper limb 3D prosthetics were printed, as well as **12** assistive devices. Currently, **3** recipients are waiting to be fitted with an upper limb prosthetic in 2023.

In the coming year, BCMF is planning to add a rehabilitation component to the project, to help recipients adjust to their new prosthetics and increase their quality of life.



BCMF staff fitting a recipient with his new prosthetic arm

“I felt embarrassed to return to school after my arm was amputated. My friends would make fun of me and call me one-armed boy. I felt less confident, especially when I went out. After I received my 3D [prosthetic] arm, I feel more confident and less embarrassed. It’s not a real arm but it looks like one when I wear long sleeves. My friends now feel more comfortable to be around me because I now have two arms.”

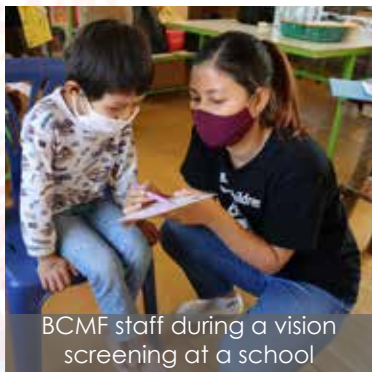
- 17-year-old Bo



Bo wearing his new 3D prosthetic arm and collecting vegetables

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 and interns complete vision tests and check for common eye conditions such as cataract and pterygium. A free pair of eyeglasses are provided when needed and patients who need surgical treatment are referred to nearby free eye clinics and hospitals.



BCMF staff during a vision screening at a school

Since 2015, BCMF

Despite the 1 February 2021 coup in Burma, BCMF was able to hold 5 eye screening missions in

Burma in partnership with HFA. However, 3 missions had to be postponed indefinitely due to security reasons.

Meanwhile in Thailand, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, BCMF focused on providing vision screening for local migrant and refugee communities. Between 2021 and 2022, BCMF held 10 missions in migrant communities around Tak Province, screening 1,699 people. Many of the individuals screened have difficulty accessing eye care due to a lack of legal documentation, financial difficulties, no caregivers if they are elderly, and no ophthalmologist located outside of cities.

In 2022, BCMF worked with MI in Mae Hong Son Province, and IRC in Tak Province, to organise eye screening missions in 3 refugee camps. A total of 1,724 individuals were screened in all three camps. Due to the deteriorating situation in Burma, only 1 eye screening mission was held in Burma in 2022, in partnership with HFA.

In the coming year, BCMF plans to hold annual eye screening missions in the 2 refugee camps in Mae Hong Son Province, as well as in 2 refugee camps in Tak Province.

2021

11 missions



2,624 people screened

2,189



eyeglasses provided

19

referred for eye surgery

8


patients received surgery

2022 missions 7

3,131
people
screened



2,448
eyeglasses
provided



20
patients
referred for eye surgery
received surgery



Ma Yee is a 55-year-old Burmese woman who lives with her family in a Thai refugee camp. Around 2018, she developed blurred vision and could only see objects near her. Although, she had her vision screened and received eyeglasses from an organisation that came to her camp, a few years later she needed stronger eyeglasses. When she heard that BCMF would be holding vision screenings in her refugee camp, she signed up immediately. "I don't know where to go to get my vision tested as vision screening is unavailable in the camp. If I want to test my vision outside of the camp, it is very expensive so I cannot afford to do so. Thank you very much for helping us in the camp. I am not the only one [who needs eyeglasses] as I know many people are happy like me to be able to see again with their [new] eyeglasses," she said.



Sam is a 58-year-old Thai man who lives by himself in a village in Tak Province, Thailand. Around June 2017, he developed near-sightedness in both of his eyes and had difficulty driving his motorbike. "I never went to have my eyes checked at clinic or a hospital because they are far from my home," he said. One day, his neighbour told him that BCMF will be holding a free eye screening mission in their village. After BCMF staff completed a vision test, Samon was diagnosed with hyperopia and received eyeglasses with +1.00 strength. "Now that I have received eyeglasses, I can see objects more clearly, like when I go out to buy something for myself. The eyeglasses also help me see better when I read or use my phone to make calls. Thank you for coming here, testing our vision and for giving us eyeglasses," he said.

Reproductive Health & 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 helpful information. 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 sanitary pad kits. At the end of the workshop, each female participant who has not yet entered

menopause receives one of these kits or disposable sanitary pad packages with 2 pairs of underwear.

In 2022, BCMF distributed emergency hygiene kits to **248** internally displaced persons on the Thai-Burma border. Each emergency hygiene kit contained 2 pairs of underwear, 2 packs of disposable sanitary pads, soap, and detergent.



"I have never learned about the reproductive system. Today I learned the difference between the male and female reproductive system and their functions. I also learned why women have periods and how to manage [personal hygiene] during your period." - Mee, 13-year-old student

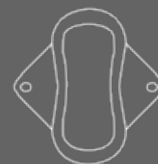
2021

7
workshops

25
male
participants

131
female
participants

112



reusable sanitary pad
kits distributed

implants distributed
1,800
by partner clinics



2022

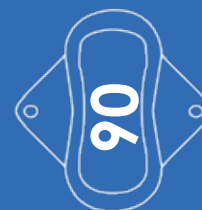
12
workshops

287

male
participants

597

female
participants



reusable
sanitary
pad kits
distributed

disposable
sanitary
pad packs
distributed



implants distributed
6,750
by partner clinics

Two BCMF staff during an RHR
workshop in a migrant community

Wheelchair

Since 2014, BCMF has worked to provide access to mobility aids for children and adults in Burma and Thailand with a mobility impairment. 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.

From COVID-19 restrictions to difficulties with importing wheelchairs, a closed Thai-

Burma border and security issues following the coup in Burma, BCMF faced many challenges in organising and distributing wheelchair missions between 2021 and 2022. A total of **4** missions had to be postponed. Despite these difficulties, BCMF worked hard with trained partner organisations to continue to reach as many recipients as possible.

In 2023, BCMF is planning to conduct more outreach projects once a shipment of **340** wheelchairs from Wheelchair for Kids arrives in Burma.



“My old wheelchair is broken and five years old. Now that I have this new wheelchair, I feel very happy. Thank you so much for my new wheelchair.”

- 21-year-old Chit

2021

1 **5**
training **distributions**

3 **36**
community **mobility**
members **devices**
trained **provided**

5 **trained partner**
organisations
distributed
wheelchairs

mobility devices **77**
fitted by trained
partners

2022

2

11

trainings distributions

8

community
members
trained

125

mobility
devices
provided

11

trained partner
organisations
distributed
wheelchairs

mobility devices
fitted by trained
partners

182



“Before she received this wheelchair, I had to carry her everywhere. This was very tiring because she is getting heavy. But now that she received this wheelchair, I will be able to push her in it easily. Thank you for giving my daughter a wheelchair.”

- mother of 5-year-old Dah

“I never had a wheelchair before. Before I received this wheelchair, I had to pull myself everyone, which caused a lot of pain in my arms. Now I can get around by myself. Thank you.”

- 27-year-old Kyat



Stationery

Since
2016,
BCM F

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



Students from a remote primary school in Karen State

struggle to cover all school related expenses for their children.

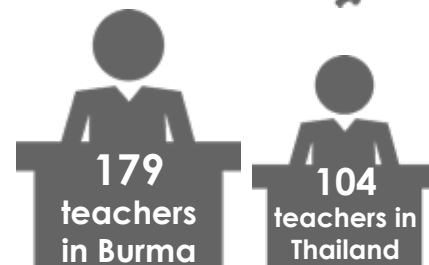
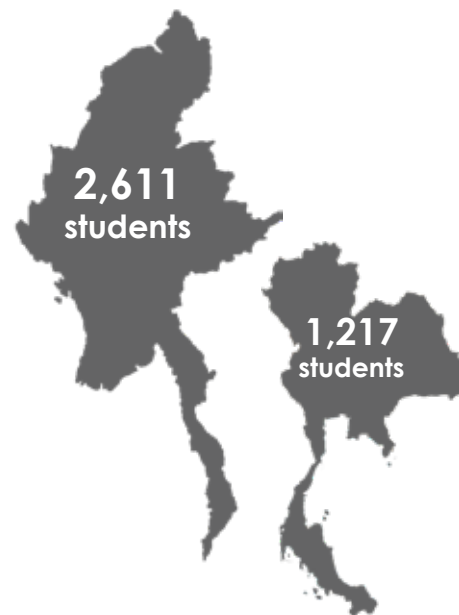
Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, many schools temporarily closed in Thailand and Burma. In 2021, most migrant learning centres were only able to teach dormitory students, as they did not receive permission to reopen due to another wave of COVID-19. They also faced funding difficulties as donor contributions diminished since 2020.

In remote areas of Karen State, Burma, schools reopened but faced difficulties remaining open



Students from a migrant school in Tak Province

2021



2022

4,215
students

1,336
students

299

teachers
in Burma

92

teachers in
Thailand

due to an increase in armed conflict after the 1 February 2021 coup. Additionally, these schools saw an influx of students as many parents decided against sending their children to military government-run schools after the military forced schools to reopen in June 2021.

In 2022, migrant learning centres in Tak Province, Thailand, were allowed to reopen but faced an influx of students as an increasing number of students and refugees, from Burma sought to continue their education in Thailand. Most schools also



Students from a migrant high school

faced funding difficulties, as external support continued to decline since COVID-19. Following requests, BCMF provided emergency food support to dormitory students in a Thai government school and funded the construction of **2** toilets for dormitory students.



Students from a remote middle school in Karen State

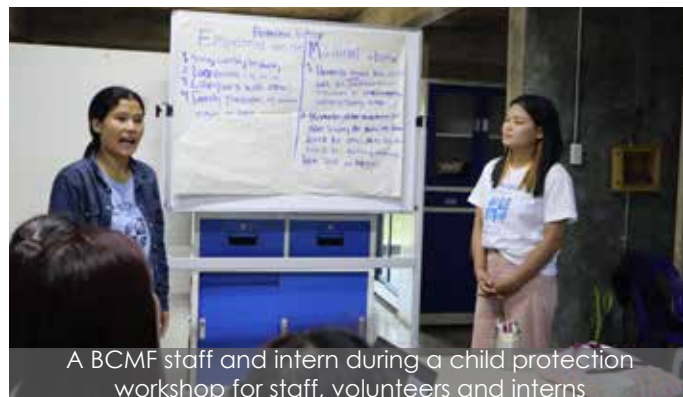
In the coming year, BCMF expects to receive an increasing number of requests for support as more students enroll and teachers join non-military government-run schools in Burma and migrant learning centers in Thailand.

Child Protection & Child Rights

BCMF is committed to upholding children's rights as defined by the United Nations. This includes upholding and running workshops on children's right to protection, education, health care, shelter, and good nutrition. Workshops are held for partner organisations, school children in Burma and patients at the BCMF-B.K. Kee Patient House in Chiang Mai. In addition to this, every year staff members, interns and volunteers participate in a refresher workshop to ensure that child rights are upheld, and to provide up to date information on BCMF's child protection policy and reporting



A HFA staff during a child protection workshop in a village in Karen State



A BCMF staff and intern during a child protection workshop for staff, volunteers and interns

procedure.

Between 2021 and 2022, BCMF faced many challenges in running workshops due to COVID-19 restrictions and post-coup conflict in Burma. Despite this, BCMF was able to facilitate 2 workshops in 2021 - 1 in partnership with BCMF's sister organisation, HFA in Karen State, Burma, and the other for BCMF staff, volunteers and interns in office. In 2022, BCMF only ran 1 workshop for BCMF staff as due to post-coup conflict, BCMF could not travel to workshop sites across the border in Burma. In Thailand, other NGOs hold child protection workshops in BCMF's target areas.

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 are given to schools and coincide with the rainy season, when each year sees a significant increase in mosquito-born illnesses.

Since 2021, BCMF has also distributed COVID-19 prevention posters to schools, villages, and partner clinics. That same year, BCMF also distributed COVID-19 prevention leaflets.



Villagers reading a COVID-19 awareness poster

2021 - 2022 distribution

823
mosquito
nets

793
mats

637
dengue
posters

325
COVID-19
posters

500
COVID-19
leaflets

10,477
total beneficiaries



Dormitory students in a refugee camp with their new mosquito nets and mats

Medical Supplies Delivery

Since 2012, BCMF has made a yearly delivery of medical supplies to partner clinics in Karen State, Burma. BCMF works closely with local partners in Burma to not only support clinics through capacity building but to reach more patients in need. As these clinics are located in remote areas of Karen State and outside of government administrated areas, they do not receive any government funding and must rely on outside support.

In 2021 and 2022, BCMF was able to arrange the delivery of medical supplies to **8** partner clinics in Karen State, Burma.





“Growing up in a rural community located outside of the city, I witnessed firsthand the struggles that many of my neighbours faced when seeking medical treatment. I’m incredibly grateful for your support in funding my nurse’s aide training, which has allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse.”

- Soe Latt (nurse aid)

In 2016, BCMF established the internship program to provide staff of partner organisations with experience and allow them to develop their skills in the health sector. In addition, 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 health care 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 during outreach projects.

In 2021, BCMF hosted **4** interns under the internship program. In 2022, BCMF hosted **2** interns and supported the nurse's aide training of **4** young adults from a partner organisation in Yangon. The training ran from October 2022 to December 2022, and will allow the trainees to find employment in a medical clinic.



“As a nurse, I am delighted that I can make a difference in my community by helping those in need. Whenever I hear the words “thank you” from my patients, I feel a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond words. Without your help, I am uncertain where I would be today. Thank you again for believing in me and investing in my future.”

- Thazin (nurse's aide)

Internship Program

Health For All Update

Over the years, BCMF has increasingly expanded outreach services in Burma, reaching more patients in need. To provide more effective services while working with local partners, BCMF registered as a non-profit organisation in Burma in 2016 under the name of Health For All (HFA). HFA now operates as a sister organisation of BCMF.

In 2021 and 2022, HFA faced several challenges in running its programs due to severe waves of COVID-19 and security concerns following the 1 February 2021 coup. A number of outreach projects were postponed,



A HFA staff during an eye screening mission in Karen State

and HFA had to work closely with partner organisations to continue providing access to health care for patients.

In 2021, HFA supported **32** patients' treatment in Burma, while in 2022, **40** patients were supported. As many surgeons fled or went into hiding following the coup, HFA developed partnerships with new hospitals which allowed patients to continue accessing surgery and treatment.

Although many outreach projects were postponed, HFA was able to distribute **20** wheelchairs in 2021, and trained partners provided **72** recipients with mobility devices. In 2022, HFA was able to hold **2** wheelchair fitting trainings, providing **62** mobility devices to recipients. In addition to this, HFA worked with BCMF to distribute **41** mobility devices to recipients in Burma. A further **31** wheelchairs were distributed by trained partners.

HFA was also able to hold **3** reproductive health and rights





HFA staff demonstrate how to use a reusable sanitary pad during a reproductive health and rights workshop

workshops in 2021 in Karen State. A total of **46** females and **6** males participated in the workshops and **47** reusable sanitary pad kits were given to female participants. In 2022, **1** two-day workshop was held in Karen State, with **49** female and **51** male participants. A total of **50** reusable sanitary pad kits were distributed to female participants. In addition to this, HFA worked with BCMF to organisation activities for Menstrual Hygiene Day in Yangon in both 2021 and 2022.

During the first half of 2021, HFA organised **5** eye screening missions in Karen State in partnership with BCMF. However, in 2022, HFA was only able to hold **1** eye screening mission due to security concerns. During both years, a total of **2,332** villagers were screened, **1,579** eyeglasses were distributed, and **17** patients required eye surgery, facilitated by BCMF.

In 2021, HFA also ran a COVID-19 contact tracing workshop with **39** villagers, and in 2022, worked with



HFA staff running a COVID-19 tracing and tracer's ethics training

BCMF to support **29** schools in Karen State, and **3** schools in Magway Division.

Since the 1 February 2021 coup, HFA has received several requests for emergency support from IDPs. Although there are multiple NGOs, and other charities ready to provide assistance, few are able to reach IDPs that are not on the border of Burma. To fill this gap, HFA works with international donors and BCMF to reach those most in need.

In 2023, HFA will continue to run its programs and support disadvantaged communities, despite ongoing challenges brought on by the military coup.

BCMF Fighters



Saw Moo Khu



San K' Lay



U Chit
Shine Aung



Tha Dah Thaw



Chan Chan
Linn



Hla Hla
Htun Baby



Htoo Ler
Moo

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 patients, families, and communities.

Funding Partners

Aussi Fun-D-Raisers, Australia	Chiang Mai International Rotary Club, Thailand	Free Wheelchair Mission, United States of America	Red Rocketship, Australia
Bazar International de Luxembourg	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	Glocal Action, Taiwan	Suwannimit Foundation, Thailand
BNHA, Thailand	Days for Girls Australia	Mobility Worldwide, United States of America	Tel-Dan, Thailand
Brodbeck Philanthropy Foundation, Switzerland	Fah Lanna Spa, Thailand	Project Win, Thailand	Watsi, United States of America
Burma Border Projects, United States of America	Free Bird Cafe, Thailand	Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development Thailand	Wheelchair for Kids, Australia

Referral Partners

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.

Ananda Myitta Clinic, Burma	International Committee of the Red Cross, Thailand	Ker Gaw Clinic, Burma	Myanmar Pioneer Mission, Burma
Border Health Development, Thailand	International Rescue Committee, Thailand	Kler Mu Clinic, Burma	Operation Smile Thailand
Burma Medical Association, Burma	Kachin Women's Organisation, Thailand	Kyaung Gyi Parahita Monastery, Burma	Pan Rak Foundation, Thailand
Child's Dream Foundation, Thailand	Karen Department of Health and Welfare, Burma	Mae Sot Hospital, Thailand	Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand
Civilian Health Development Network, Burma	Karen Thai Group, Thailand	Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand	Suwannimit Foundation, Thailand
Earth Mission Asia, Thailand	Karenni Mobile Health Committee, Burma	Malteser International, Thailand	Partners Relief and Development, Thailand
Free Burma Rangers, Burma	Karenni State Consultative Council, Burma	Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital, Burma	Teacher Focus, Thailand
Health For All, Burma		Mani Mani Clinic, Burma	
Humanity and Inclusion, Burma		Médecins Sans Frontières, Thailand	Tha Song Yang Hospital, Thailand

BCMF wants to thank all of 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.

Volunteers & Interns

Nyein Chan Aung (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

Phaibun Chiraphatthakun (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

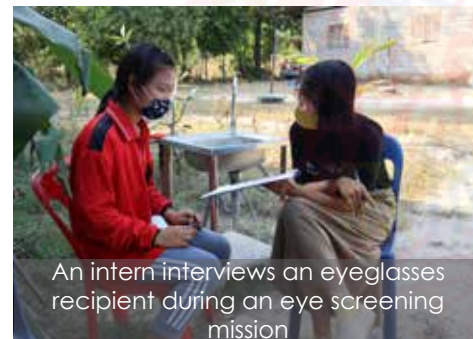
Priscilla Tun (United Kingdom)

Sawitri Kiadtikhunkhachon (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

Sheri DeKoven (Canada)

Saw Myint Tun Kyi (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

Wai Hnin The (Chiang Mai University, Thailand)



An intern interviews an eyeglasses recipient during an eye screening mission



Intern holding computer classes with patients at the patient house



Two interns holding a health education workshop at the patient house



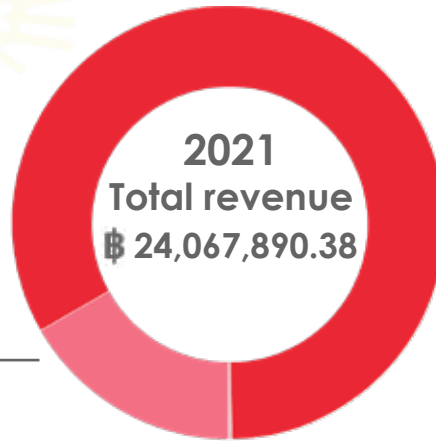
An intern holds a Burmese language class at the patient house

Financial Report

Income **83%**

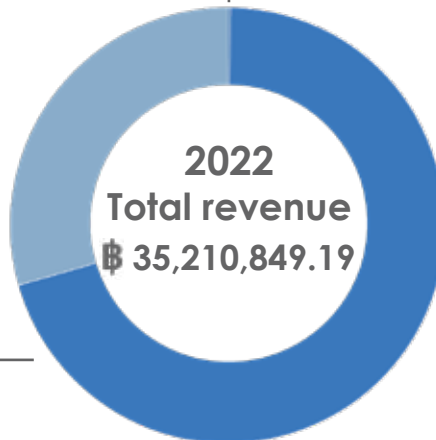
Carry forward **16%**

Interest accrued **1%**

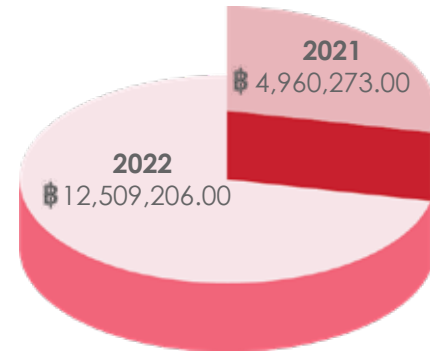


Carry forward **32%**

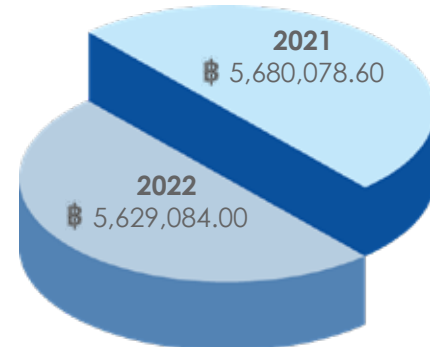
Income **67%**

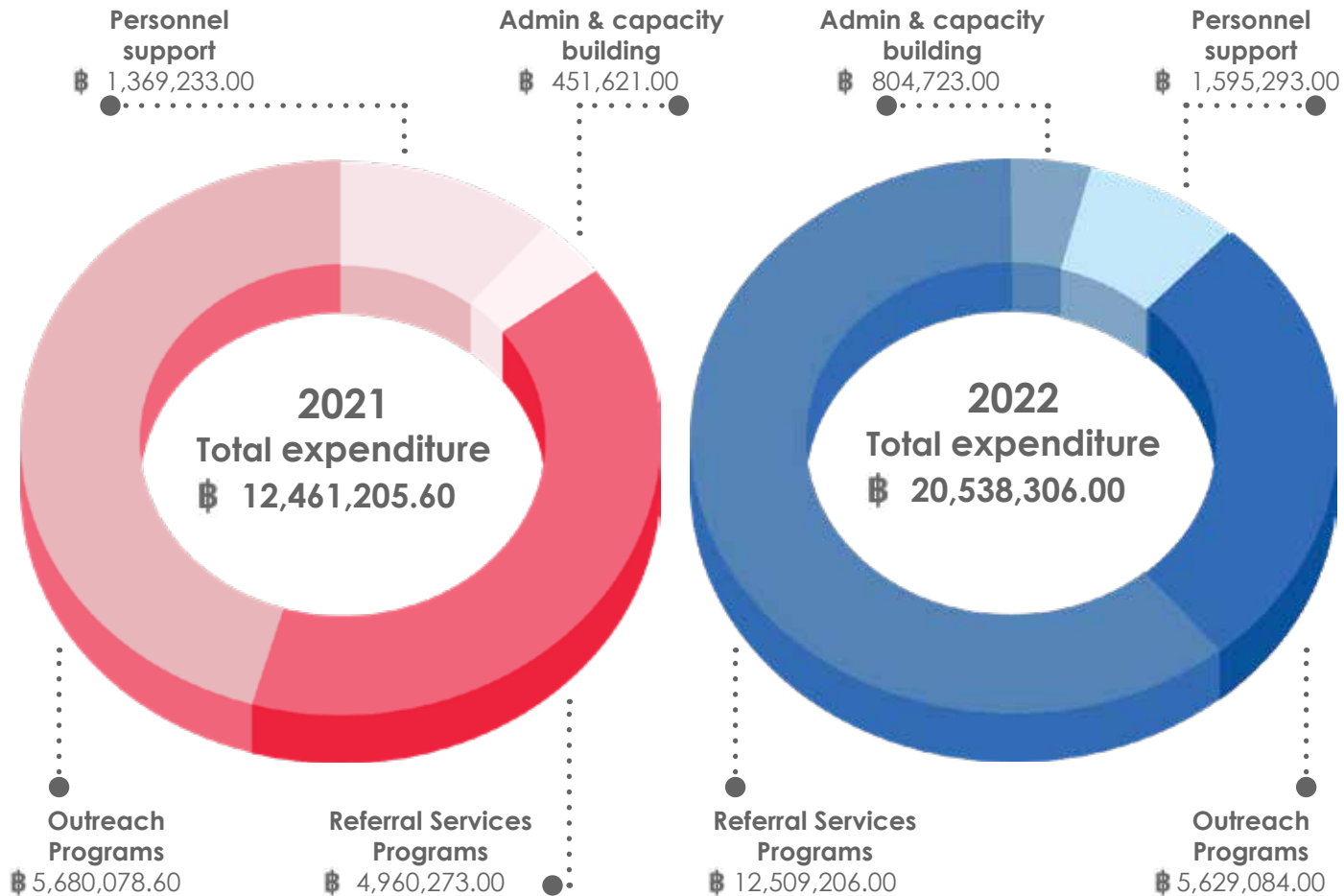


Referral Services Program



Outreach Services Program







administrator@burmachildren.com
www.burmachildren.com
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Delivering emergency food supplies to
families affected by flooding and COVID-19
quarantines