



Impact Report 2021-22

Supporting young people's energy and ideas to create a better future

Despite armed conflict, political violence and COVID-19, Prospect Burma is supporting more young people in Myanmar than ever. Basic services such as education have collapsed, leaving them isolated and powerless. We listen to young people's ideas and plans. We support their educational journeys to gain desperately needed skills to create a peaceful, alternative future.

Financial Year
2021-22
headline
figure:

*More than £600,000
raised and used to
support young people.
Thank you so much!*

Number
of young
people
supported:

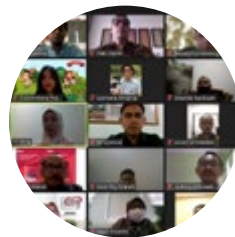
*More than 200
individuals supported
directly; and hundreds
more supported online.*

Our flagship programmes fund scholarships and courses. In 2021-22, we also provided:



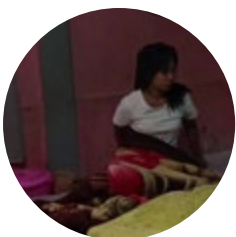
12,720

Meals for post-high school students (not including many thousands more for university students)



1,932

Prospective students attended 23 scholarship information sessions presented by our staff



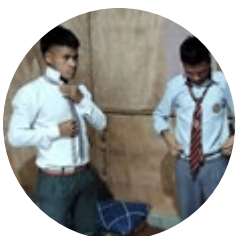
4,240

Nights' accommodation at hostels provided by trusted partners near schools in safe locations



122

Items of IT equipment provided to students in need, including laptops, batteries and data.



40

School uniforms and shoes so that students from Chin State can attend schools in India



31

Pastoral engagements by staff in India and Thailand to monitor students' health and wellbeing



4

Community Based Organisations funded to provide learning in their communities

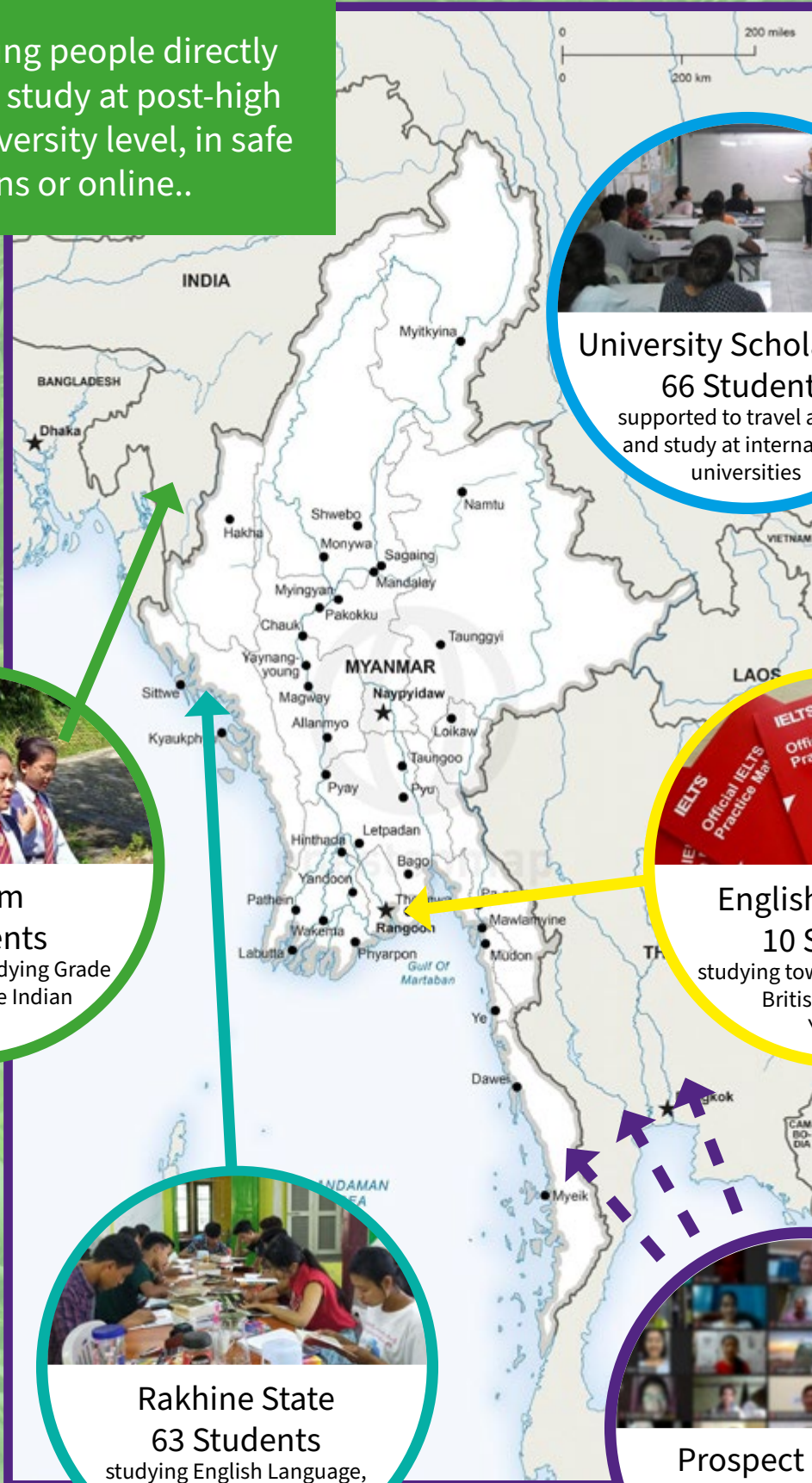


19

Visas secured for young people needing assistance to secure visas to study abroad

Prospect Burma 2021-22

Over 200 young people directly supported to study at post-high school, or university level, in safe locations or online..



University Scholarships
66 Students
supported to travel abroad and study at international universities



Mizoram
20 Students
from Chin State studying Grade 11-12 across the Indian border



English Language
10 Students
studying towards exams at the British Council in Yangon



Rakhine State
63 Students
studying English Language, critical thinking and digital skills



Prospect Connect
43 Online Students
English Language taught remotely across 14 provinces

The dire situation in Myanmar

Myanmar is suffering one of the worst humanitarian crises on the planet, and it is getting worse. The ongoing nature of the disaster means the horrific human cost rarely makes Western news headlines.

14 million people are in immediate need of humanitarian aid. The country's infrastructure has been wilfully stunted by decades of military dictatorship in order to keep the people powerless. It has scant capacity to cope with manmade and natural disasters, let alone thrive.

The situation has reached new depths after the military deposed democratically elected leaders in 2021 and brutally quashed national protests. Human rights atrocities are widespread including the arbitrary rape, torture and killing of civilians by security forces. Entire villages are being burned, or hit by airstrikes. The country is now plunged into civil war.

Around two million people have had to leave their homes, with over half now sheltering in camps across national borders. The remaining population faces the terror of not knowing who will be attacked next. Basic public services have fallen apart, with people losing access to healthcare, employment, power and even food and water.



Thantlang, Chin State: The military bombed then burned the township including its high school.

Nearby schools are closed in order to house the displaced population.



The impact on education

Education is a key focus in the conflict. The military has long used low quality education as a means to subjugate the population. Since the 2021 coup, the military and the people are fighting to control education as a tool of influence and government.

More than 500 schools have been destroyed. Many more have been repurposed for military or armed opposition forces' operations. Students are boycotting state schools which are reportedly more than half empty. More than 100,000 teachers have been on strike, suspended, arrested or on the run.

The combined result is that young people are missing out on opportunities to learn skills that will help their communities cope with the country's downward spiral. As well as war, Myanmar's people are often victims of tropical cyclones, floods, disease and economic failure.

The country lacks a wide range of knowledge and skills to bolster its disaster resilience. It needs social and physical infrastructure, public services and a sustainable economy to fund them. Its people have energy and ambition: they need to be upskilled through education so they can build the country they aspire to.

Photos (clockwise from top): A high school destroyed by arson in Dawai; a flash protest calling for school boycotts; a mostly empty school in Yangon; soldiers promoting the military in a classroom.



How Prospect Burma is responding

Since 1989, Prospect Burma has helped individuals to study quality higher education abroad, which is sub-standard or not available in Myanmar. Over this time, we have developed trusted relationships with individuals and organisations supporting education in hard-hit and hard-to-reach areas.

The current collapse of high school education risks an entire generation of young people missing out on the possibility of accessing any form of education, leaving them with little option for any job beyond unskilled labour. Many young people are instead choosing to join armed resistance groups, or falling victim to human trafficking.

In response, we have expanded our programmes to provide a post-high school 'bridge' for young people to lift themselves out of their situation. Our approach is 'ground-upwards'. Our partners help us to identify the obstacles young people are facing. In turn, we help our partners develop the information, tools, structures and funding they need to help young people overcome those obstacles.

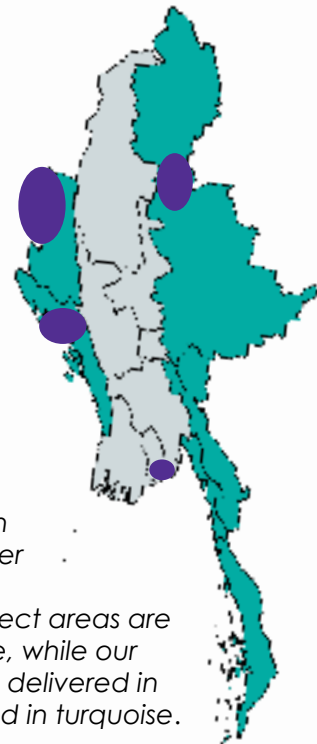
This is dangerous work. Our beneficiaries are at risk of attack; some have had to flee air strikes and others have been subject to human rights abuses. But a combination of their determination, and widespread access to smartphones, has seen them embrace Prospect Burma's online learning programmes amidst the violence and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our geographical spread is now changing. Thousands of young people are displaced and unable to study or work, with many reaching border areas. Through creating online learning, we have widened our programmes across more states and regions, and we have commenced face-to-face provision in the relative safety of cross-border settings.

Our educational focus is also changing. We are steering young people towards an education which will help them make a positive impact in vital issues facing Myanmar, for example building resilience to disease, natural disasters and persecution of ethnic groups.



Above: A Chin youth studying across the Indian border in Mizoram



Right: Our post-high school projects focus on ethnic and border areas. Specific geographic project areas are marked in purple, while our online learning is delivered in the states marked in turquoise.



A Prospect Burma sponsored project in Kachin State. We are working to give young displaced people direction, so that they do not lose their future because they don't know where to turn.

Prospect Burma's Higher Education Programmes

While humanitarian assistance is urgently needed to help people survive, a longer view is also needed now in order to break the destructive cycle ahead.

Prospect Burma empowers young people affected by conflict, disasters and poverty to find ways to help turn their communities' situations around.

We help them to understand the choices they can make, even where they appear trapped in awful situations through no fault of their own.

These young people have tremendous energy, ideas and a strong desire to create positive change.

Working with local partner organisations, we provide information, guidance, support and access to post-high school and higher education which would otherwise be unobtainable for young people.

Our funding pays for equipment, tuition fees, student living and transport costs, partner capacity building and much more.



Post-high school

We support young people in under-served communities to develop confidence, problem solving skills and mutual respect. This is often very new to students used to an education system which only teaches them to memorise approved texts, rather than to question or create.

We offer career and course guidance. We provide formal education in English Language, and digital and critical thinking skills which give them a bridge to options in the workplace or higher education which would otherwise be closed.



University level

We enable young people from under-served backgrounds to attend universities abroad, to gain quality higher education which is not available inside Myanmar. They learn professional skills and knowledge. They also gain the experience of other cultures and ways to create solutions which they can apply back at home. Studying abroad can be daunting for a young person from an isolated community. We provide holistic support including mentoring and pastoral care to ensure students not just survive, but thrive in their studies and surroundings.



Post-university

We support our graduates to pool their newfound skills and knowledge to maximise the difference they can make.

Some return to Myanmar immediately, others work for organisations supporting their communities from across national borders.

We support all of them to connect as they tackle key issues affecting Myanmar.

Our impact - Prospect Burma alumni in action

Since the 1990s, we have supported more than 1,400 people from Myanmar to become nurses, teachers, civil engineers, scientists, IT developers, civil society leaders, peace negotiators – and the variety of other professionals needed to create positive change across key fields.

We have numerous examples of the impact our alumni have made - including those featured below. They demonstrate change permeating across communities and wider society. One individual can influence and affect thousands more, if they have the skills and knowledge to do so.

Just as importantly, we have helped thousands of young people at post-high school level to develop critical thinking skills and the confidence to apply their knowledge. They have an understanding of ethnicity, religion and sexuality issues which they would not otherwise have gained from parents or government teachers. Their influence on those around them is helping to drive social awareness and social change.



Health: Dr Win Han Oo graduated in 2020. He now leads a team which aims to eradicate malaria in Myanmar by 2030 through action at community level.



Technology: Pwint Htun graduated in 1997. She has been a key figure in Myanmar's smartphone revolution, including setting up systems for rural women to access e-financial services.



Environment: Kyaw Myo Lwin graduated in 2020. He is now a leading figure in mangrove restoration - vital to Myanmar to protect drinking water from coastal saltwater flooding.



Human Rights: Cheery Zahau graduated in 2014. She is now the UN-HRC representative of Persons in Concern in Myanmar; she is also a well-known campaign for rural women's rights.



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