Thank you!

This impact report is for our fantastic friends and supporters.

At the very start of this report, we want to give a huge thank you to the generous institutions, charitable trusts, foundations and individual donors without whom the work described in these pages would not be possible.

We know COVID-19 is making life difficult for everyone, just at a time when beneficiaries of charities such as Prospect Burma need your help the most. More than ever, you are making a difference, where and when it matters. Thank you so, so much for your ongoing kindness.

...and a warm welcome to new friends

Here is what we do, and why it matters.

Myanmar is lacking the skilled, educated workforce it needs to repair the country’s damaged infrastructure, and support the peaceful rebuilding of civil society.

Prospect Burma believes that the best way to create positive and lasting change in the country is through investing in education.

We reach out to remote regions, including those affected by conflict, to help individuals determine the path for their future.

We support educational pathways, from improving access to post-high school learning, awarding scholarships to allow promising students to continue their studies overseas, and supporting alumni once they return to Myanmar.

We promote priority subjects such as IT, the environment, engineering, education and more. Our work has positive and lasting impact.

We are experts – we have a deep understanding of Myanmar and its people. We deliver our programmes with integrity and accountability. We support students regardless of ethnicity, gender or religion.

Our vision is to see Myanmar made new through the expertise of its people. After reading this report, we hope this is a vision you will share.
This was a challenging year for Prospect Burma. Continued international concern over human rights in Myanmar, the beginnings of the COVID pandemic and uncertainty in the UK all made for a difficult fundraising landscape. However it was a challenge that the charity met, due to our supporters’ unerring trust in Prospect Burma's role to help people of all ethnicities and religions in Myanmar.

Our trustees approved a new and clear strategic plan. We are delivering this plan through three complementary programmes, which together form a coherent roadmap to grow the impact we make.

We’ve travelled further across Myanmar than ever - to cities up to 1,500km apart - to spread equitable opportunities to different ethnicities, states and regions. We opened an education centre in Rakhine State, a part of the country which has been especially badly affected by conflict.

We have introduced structures that help our graduates returning from abroad to connect, collaborate and contribute to the societies around them – to be the change-makers we know they can be. During the COVID-19 pandemic, alumni have come together, taken their own initiative, and delivered vital health information, food and medical supplies to vulnerable communities.

Ultimately, this is Prospect Burma’s objective, our duty and our opportunity. We are the enablers. The young people of Myanmar gain the skills they need, and then determine for themselves how to deliver those skills for the benefit of their communities.

Myanmar needs its young people more than ever. There will be no widespread COVID-19 vaccine in the country for many months. Civil conflicts, refugee crises, economic hardship and now the impact of the pandemic will remain grave challenges. But if enough young people can build their personal capacity to face these challenges, this will build the resilience of this country and its people. They are the hope of the future, and we will continue to make those hopes real.

Best wishes, Hannah and Michael
Prospect Burma delivers three programmes which consecutively provide a bridge for under-served people from Myanmar to access higher education, study abroad, and then return home to make a positive difference in their community.

1. Access to Learning (post-high school) - helps people from Myanmar gain vital foundation skills they need to access higher education or gain employment.

2. Learning to Leadership (higher education) - supports students to access tertiary education abroad, including our flagship international scholarship programme which has supported more than 1,400 scholars over 25 years.

3. Change in the Community (post-graduation) - supports graduates returning home to share resources, knowledge and networks to maximise the positive difference they can make to their communities.

Where a young person works their way through all three programmes, their journey can overcome every barrier of ethnicity, gender, geography, money or lack of foundation education, in order to realise their potential.

The programmes also work independently. Many students participate in part of the journey, using the education support they gain to feed back into their communities.

Find out more about our programmes on the following page, and the various projects and workstreams we undertake within each programme. Together, they provide a coherent and well worked-through plan. We are very proud to see our alumni achieve so much to help their communities.
Creating a Multiplier Effect

As more young people in Myanmar gain skills and knowledge, so does the country’s capacity to tackle the issues it faces. Challenges can be identified, solutions proposed and work managed. Networks are built, knowledge shared and learning passed on. This ‘multiplier effect’ means that, while Prospect Burma facilitates change, it is the people of Myanmar themselves who continue to grow and set their own direction.
1. Access to Learning

Access to Learning provides people living in under-served areas of Myanmar with the opportunity to gain vital foundation skills, from which our students can either understand how to apply for university, or gain skills and qualifications that will help them in the workplace.

For young people from these areas, the idea of studying abroad seems like an impossibility. Working with regional partners, Access to Learning provides key skills including critical thinking, cultural exchange, and internationally recognised English language qualifications, vital for international study.

With religious and ethnic tensions causing ongoing conflict throughout the country for many years, exposure to new ideas, religions and ethnicities is a core component of Access to Learning. Over the last year we have expanded our reach, deliberately targeting conflict-affected and remote areas of the country.

In Rakhine State, we launched a new learning facility called the Sittwe Education Resource Centre (SERC). Due to COVID-19 social distancing, its services moved online and were viewed by more than 20,000 Facebook local users. 35 students were selected to take its first Basic English language course.

Our residential Bridging Programme, now in its second year, was attened by students from under-served and remote areas in five states. As well as English, critical thinking and digital skills, they learned to live, cook and study with people from cultural backgrounds they had never previously encountered. The final week of learning was delivered remotely as COVID-19 restrictions came into force.
Delivered by partner organisation Sky Age, this programme focuses on post-high school education, primarily Computer and English Language skills. It places a key emphasis on students using their education to make a positive difference to their community.

**Number of students:** 44  
**Course cost per student:** £460

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SERC is designed to help young people develop community cohesion, cultural awareness and skills in English Language, digital literacy and critical thinking. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, its first year has focused on successfully delivering a Basic English Language course online.

**Number of online students:** 35  
**Course cost per student:** £640

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We funded 17 students to undertake intermediate and advanced English Language courses at the British Council in Yangon. Seven of these students undertook their International English Language Testing System exam, a vital pre-requisite for many international universities.

**Number of students:** 17  
**Course cost per student:** £860

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Alongside IELTS preparatory courses, students undertook workshops to develop critical thinking skills and cultural awareness. They also visited different religious sites in Yangon. The programme aims to open a door to higher education that otherwise remains closed.

**Number of students:** 20  
**Course cost per student:** £1,240
2. Learning to Leadership

Learning to Leadership supports people from Myanmar who have a realistic ambition for making a difference in their country.

We reach out to remote and conflict-affected regions and help prospective students select the right course for their future. We support them in their education abroad to gain much-needed skills and qualifications which they simply cannot get at home.

Many of the people we support have experienced huge hardship in their lives, from civil war and devastating natural disasters to childhood poverty. As a result, they have a deep and passionate desire to change their country for the better.

Studying abroad is an incredibly daunting prospect for many people who may not have left their villages before, let alone boarded a plane to a distant country. Prospect Burma provides practical and emotional support to ensure they survive and thrive in their studies, both academically and personally.

Our scholarships help cover the cost of university fees, living expenses, educational resources and transport. Each new scholarship application is considered by the Scholarships Committee and graded on several criteria, including interest in subjects assessed to be valuable to Myanmar’s development.

Eligibility criteria:

- be originally from Myanmar; priority will be given to students who are currently resident in and applying from Myanmar
- in the process of enrolling or have acceptance for a Bachelor’s/Master’s degree or Ph.D at an accredited college or university, especially those in South East Asia and Hong Kong.

Selection criteria:

- have good English skills
- come from under-served backgrounds and/or can demonstrate financial need
- have a vision to contribute to Myanmar’s democratic development and are committed to returning to Myanmar after graduation

Priority subjects:

Ecology, Environmental, Water & Sustainability studies; Maritime conservation; Public Administration, Policy & Governance; Engineering & Infrastructure; Law; Finance, Accounting & Compliance; Education for disabled people; Mental Health & Psychology; History & Cultural studies; Conflict/Peace studies; Public Health; Urban Planning & Architecture

We also consider:

Education; Communications/Journalism; HR Management/Organisational Development; Nursing; Pharmacy; Medical Technology/Medical Imaging/Radiology; Microbiology & Diagnostics; MBBS; Responsible Tourism

Staff pastoral visit to scholars at Rangsit University, Thailand
**Preparedness**

We provide orientation sessions from our office in Yangon. We help students travelling abroad for the first time to negotiate practicalities like visas, travel, accommodation and banking. Additionally, we partnered with several universities to offer partial or full fee waivers.

- **Number of students attending orientation:** 20
- **Number of university partnerships:** 6

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**Pastoral care**

We set up a ‘buddy’ system to enable existing scholars to support newly arriving scholars at their place of study. We facilitated online groups for scholars to share experiences and manage homesickness. Our staff conducted face-to-face welfare visits wherever possible, and phone/online contact elsewhere.

- **Students offered 1:1 support:** 76

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**Outreach Information Sessions**

Our information sessions aim to overcome barriers to higher education all across Myanmar. We delivered sessions to under-served communities in Yangon and Ayeyarwady in the centre of Myanmar, and Kachin and Tanintharyi, 1,500km apart in the north and south.

- **Number of Outreach information sessions:** 17
- **People engaged with face-to-face:** 1,450

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**International Scholarships**

Our flagship scholarship programme enables people from Myanmar to receive quality higher education in neighbouring countries and beyond. Using robust criteria, we provide financial support towards covering individuals' tuition fees and costs of travel and subsistence.

- **Number of students supported:** 76
- **Average cost per student:** £6,767
3. Change in the Community

An extremely high percentage of our graduates return to Myanmar after their graduation; over 75% of our 2019 graduates returned to Myanmar within a year of completing their studies. Upon their return, we introduce graduates to our network of change makers, helping them form vital contacts and find career opportunities.

Those who do not return often contribute to their country in other ways, and can be found working at International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs) or influencing international policy.

In a country so lacking in skilled and educated people, our graduates go on to become leaders in their communities. The growing cohort of Prospect Burma alumni has had a profound effect around the country in the last three decades.

90% of alumni surveyed at 3 and 5 years after graduation say they consider their role contributes to the development of Myanmar. More than 4 in 5 of those surveyed are in employment and living across 8 states and regions, with many also undertaking voluntary work.

Over the last year, we have prioritised the expansion of Change in the Community, offering more opportunities for alumni to meet and network, and to make a lasting impact on their communities.
We survey alumni at three and five years after graduation, at a minimum, to ensure our aim to aid Myanmar’s development is being achieved. The most common job role attained is project manager, often for INGOs or civic society organisations, some of which are self-founded.

**Students graduating: 18**  
**Returned to Myanmar: 14**

Our annual conference in Yangon in late 2019 saw alumni working together to share ideas, contacts and plans to benefit their communities. The keynote speech was given by the Union Minister of Education. Due to COVID-19, we are exploring online conferences for the near future.

**Alumni attending: 65 (plus 11 guests)**  
**Alumni coming from outside Yangon: 31**

### Alumni Reginal Cluster Hubs (ARCHs)

This new initiative aims to support graduating alumni at the next stage of their journey, to give back to their communities.

ARCHs will help to unify groups of alumni in diverse geographic locations around the country through facilitating discussions, networking and community activities.

The first ARCH was launched at the beginning of this year in Yangon. ARCH members met to discuss their hopes and ideas, but in the following weeks their plans were overtaken by the spread of COVID-19.

Myanmar is particularly at risk. It has a poorly resourced and exclusionary health system, and it may take several days to reach a hospital from a rural area on bad roads. Social distancing is difficult for many due to living in cramped conditions, or the impossibility of taking time off from low-paid work.

The ARCH members responded to the crisis, mobilising vital food provision to some of the most under-resourced areas of Yangon, and medical equipment and protective clothing to local quarantine centres.

The ARCH members also distributed information on COVID-19, including the incubation period, symptoms to look out for and advice on how to keep households safe and seek treatment if necessary.

The Chair of Yangon ARCH Executive Committee is Hlaing Wai Wai Phyo, who Prospect Burma supported to undertake a Master’s degree in Public Health. She said: “The quarantine centres accommodate nearly 1,000 people. The equipment was much appreciated because those items were listed for urgent need”.


Meet the fantastic students supported by Prospect Burma

Every student we select has a compelling story. Each is determined to make a positive difference to Myanmar’s future. Say hello to a student from each of our programmes.

Aung Naing Lin

Aung Naing Lin is an Arakan from Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State. His farming family rely on one small paddy field for income. He says: “Civil wars cause instability in the state. I set up my mind to study social science abroad. But to study abroad, I needed to improve my English skills first.”

He was selected to take part in the second year of Prospect Burma’s Bridging Programme. The course provides English Language tuition; it also brings students together from different ethnicities around Myanmar to learn together, both academically and culturally.

Aung Naing Lin achieved excellent results, and Prospect Burma is now supporting his Social Science degree studies at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Rakhine State has been heavily hit by conflict and COVID-19. So he has had to take his first semester studying online from home, on a mobile phone then a laptop, and with frequent power outages.

But Aung Naing Lin’s determination is resolute. He says: “I want to contribute back to marginalized people to sustain their society. I want to accomplish free social awareness training covering gender, politics, social exchange, environment, social justice, civic education, and vocational training to reduce poverty. People are facing these social issues, it hinders growth of the nation.”

Su Hunny Kyaw

Su Hunny Kyaw is from Shan State. In her early life she had to deal with a severe illness, and the death of her father. Her mother supported her secondary education, and Prospect Burma is helping support her Civil Engineering studies at Rangsit University, Thailand. She is one of only two female students on the course among 40 students. She says:

“I chose engineering, thinking that I can bring changes in my nation. Even though I may not make a huge difference, I will help my best from my side like using proper materials to build roads, bridges and houses.”

Between her studies, Su Hunny Kyaw teaches English at an orphanage where she has helped children deal with the stigma of family instability.

Su Hunny Kyaw’s passion is to help marginalised people. She says: “I have a plan to help society by focusing more in rural areas, and to help those who need it most. Roads in Myanmar, especially Chin State, are difficult for transportation. Towns are undeveloped and facilities are not good in condition. I will try to eliminate these crises by building roads with high quality materials, without corruption. If I can, I want to help homeless people by building homes for them.”
Some of Prospect Burma’s alumni work together as change makers in the community, through networking opportunities such as our Alumni Regional Cluster Hubs (ARCHs).

But many of them return to their home states or regions and use their own individual initiatives to make a positive difference. This reflects Prospect Burma’s central ethos, that it is up to the people of Myanmar to determine their own future using the skills they’ve gained.

Among them is Ja Seng Pan. Her village in Kachin State had been impoverished by civil war, causing great hardship for her family. She had to spend some of her childhood in an orphanage, just to stay alive.

Alongside her education, Ja Seng Pan volunteered as a teacher and medical assistant, often helping victims of conflict or Cyclone Nargis to learn English, or looking after their cuts and bruises. She says: “Quality education is essential in fostering the development of a country. The education system is one of the most important sectors that must be reformed to help Myanmar people improve their living standard.”

Prospect Burma supported Ja Seng Pan to study a Masters course in Educational Administration at Assumption University, Thailand, from which she graduated in 2019. Within a year of returning to Kachin State, she has already built and founded a new English Language Centre.

Ja Seng Pan says: “After I graduated from abroad, I am more confident in my work field. I’ve established my own English Language Centre in Myitkyina, Kachin State. I offer English courses for all ages. I also help teachers develop effective approaches, techniques and appropriate activities for teaching skills. If I would not have studied abroad, I would not have confidence to provide the training.”
Our Programmes - a year in numbers

**Access to Learning**
- 81 students supported
- 35 students studied online
- 1,450 people attended outreach sessions

**Learning to Leadership**
- 256 applications representing all 14 states and regions
- 28 new scholars supported
- 48 continuing scholars supported
- 51:49% ratio female to male students

**Change in the Community**
- 11 states and regions represented in the scholarships awarded
- 18 scholars graduated
- 9 alumni stepped up to become first ARCH Exec Committee
- 65 alumni attended our annual conference
- 90% of alumni contributing to Myanmar's development
Our Accounts 2019-20

### Income

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### Expenditure

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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

93p of every £1 is spent on our programmes to help people in Myanmar. The remaining 7p is spent on earning the next £1.

We are grateful for every contribution, large or small, from generous individuals to organisations, and charitable trusts and foundations including:

- The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
- Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Trust for Health and Education
- Edulji Dinshaw Charitable Foundation
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- GC Gibson Trust
- Henry Hoare Charitable Trust
- Irrawaddy Policy Exchange
- Jack Ringer Family Foundation
- The James Green Centre
- Love is Kindness
- MJ Samuel Charitable Trust
- OVSH Trust
- The Prince of Wales Charitable Trust
- Puma Foundation
- Suu Foundation

**Our trustees, volunteers and staff**

**Staff and volunteers**

- 8 volunteers, donating 1,273 hours of their time
- 3 part-time staff and 1 full-time in London
- 3 full-time staff in Yangon

**Trustees**

- Chair: Dr Michael Maret-Crosby
- Vice Chair: Lindy Ambrose
- Board: Richard Atterbury, Caroline Courtauld MBE, Mathea Falco, Joshua Htet, Daw Kyi Kyi May, Stephanie O’Connell, Martin Smith, Guy Slater

From all of us, thank you for being part of our work, and thank you for reading our impact report.
Prospect Burma
Registered CIO number 1167686
We are moving offices in early 2021. Please refer to our website for up-to-date address information.

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