



**MEDACROSS**

FREE CARE AND COACHING

Myanmar Mission

Turin - Kawthaung

Where a hand is needed,  
we give our heart.





## Who we are

We are **doctors** and **professionals**.

We are a group of people who want **to advocate** the **right to free medical care** of everyone, starting with **children**.

We are a **team** that relies exclusively on **donations** from **volunteers** and **supporters**.

We are **men** and **women** who **believe in peace**.

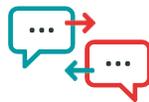


# What we do

MedAcross is a **non-profit association**, an **Italian project** created for the purpose of:



**providing free medical care** to people in developing countries, with a particular focus on **little children** and **teenagers**



**training medical** and **paramedical** staff on site in order to create **independent health** facilities and **generate jobs** for the local population



**supporting humanitarian interventions**, also by cooperating with **local associations** already at work and similar to ours



“ If a human being is suffering because he is ill, I feel it is my duty to help him. It’s something that comes natural. I am a doctor, I know how and so I do. ”

GABRIELLA BUONO - MedAcross Doctor



# Our History

This is a story of **friendship**.

We are a **group from Turin** (Italy). One night we gathered around a table for dinner to discuss about a serious emergency in **Somalia** and decided to become involved and go there.

In 2012, in collaboration with other volunteers, we started the project for the construction of a **hospital in Hargeisa** (Somaliland) and within three years, we were able to treat **over 50 thousand children** for free. In 2015, the facility was handed over to **local authorities** and it continues to provide assistance to locals to this day.

Our next project in **Myanmar** is the consequence of another great friendship, the one between **Turin** and **Burma**, now Myanmar. A friendship that has deep roots that date back to the 1800s and that has become stronger in recent years thanks to the commitment of Italian **MP Piero Fassino**, who was appointed **EU Special Envoy for Myanmar** from 2007 to 2011.

It is precisely thanks to the fruitful relationship between **Turin and Yangon** that in 2013, the city of Turin grants honorary citizenship to Nobel Prize winner **Aung San Suu Kyi** and notary **Andrea Ganelli** is appointed Honorary Consul General of the Union of Myanmar, with headquarters in Turin.

This is followed by the establishment of prestigious partnerships that once again strengthen the historic, cultural and economic ties between the two countries and sealed by the decision of Yangon and Turin to become sister cities, the only city in Europe to enjoy this **special bond**.



“ The principle is very simple: to devote part of your time and skills to help people who were less fortunate in life than you were ”

DANIELE REGGE - MedAcross Doctor



# Myanmar mission

## Introduction

MedAcross is currently involved in a **medical and humanitarian** project in Myanmar (former Burma).

In this region, **health problems** are particularly severe because of the strong presence of **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)** living in precarious conditions.

A rather poor area plagued by **sexual exploitation** of boys and girls who are brought to the lands of the border with Thailand with the promise of finding work and instead often have to face a nightmare.

The MedAcross association came to know of this serious emergency thanks to reports from **Oblate Thomas Haake**, who has spent a lifetime **working on humanitarian missions** around the world and almost **20 years in Myanmar**.



# Myanmar mission

## Step I - Medical-humanitarian assistance

To date, MedAcross has been operating in Myanmar in **support of the humanitarian and healthcare project** developed by the **Sisters of our Lady of the Missions** in the town of Kawthaung and in the surrounding rural areas that focuses specifically on providing:

- **assistance to kids** and teenagers who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation by **giving them jobs** in a textile factory in order to increase their chances of finding work and **being independent**
- **basic health services** for IDPs and needy people, for whom the most common diseases are HIV, tuberculosis and malaria
- **educational services** for street children in the city
- **mobile clinics set-up** in rural villages that bring **free medical care** to over 300 people who have no access to any form of healthcare service

In **Kawthaung**, with the important support of **Fondazione Specchio dei Tempi**, MedAcross is financing the construction of a **Basic Health Clinic with an HIV Center** to provide free **health care** and **professional training** to local medical staff.

MedAcross will also purchase a **vehicle** that will allow to significantly increase the number of villages currently reached through the mobile clinic program, so that **more than 1,000 people** can be visited monthly by our medical staff.



# Myanmar mission

## Step II – Hospital

MedAcross is also involved in the **design of a hospital** that will be built in 2017/2018 probably around the port area of Kawthaung, far from the city center and the nearest hospital, where there is a huge slum populated by destitute people and IDPs who daily cross the border and enter into Thailand as day laborers.

The **new clinic** will offer outpatient visits and will include **brief observation wards** and **day hospitals**, a **lab for analysis**, a **diagnostic unit** and an **internal pharmacy** for patients to pick-up prescribed medication.

The clinic will also offer **free medical care** and **assistance** to people who have no access to healthcare services because of the relatively high costs that they would face to obtain healthcare, purchase medication and for transportation to reach the only hospital in the city.

# Myanmar mission

## Hospital Planimetry





Hospital rendering

“ To architect for me is living. To architect for others is living twice ”  
GIORGIO ROSENTAL - MedAcross Architect



# Italy-Myanmar

## 300 years of friendship

Relations between Italy and Myanmar have **solid roots** that are embedded in the **country's history**. From the religious Barnabites who in the 18th century had worked in Myanmar, to those of the **Congregation of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary** who left at the beginning of the 19th century from Piedmont (Italy).

Among the Italians who served in the country we ought to mention **Father Paolo Matteo Abbona**, who the Burmese scholar Vivian Ba called "**the greatest and most Burmanised of the Oblates of Turin**".

As a missionary, Father Abbona built **schools, hospitals** and **churches**. He also played an important role in delicate diplomatic missions (he spoke seven languages) between the British and the Burmese Court. Appointed in 1856 as Plenipotentiary of the King of Sardinia, he earned the esteem of the British Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, and the collaboration of Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour. As an economist, he drafted the Treaty of Commerce and Friendship between the Kingdom of Italy and the Burmese Empire.

These stories show that the bond between Italy and Myanmar dates very far back, and in more recent times, there have been many **opportunities for collaboration** and **exchange** between the two countries.

In 2006, a **Conference** was organized in Turin to commemorate the adventure of **Father Abbona** in the Burmese land, to celebrate the bicentenary of his birth.

From 2007 to 2011, MP **Piero Fassino** served as the European Union's Special Envoy for Myanmar.

In 2013, Nobel prize winner **Aung San Suu Kyi** was granted honorary citizenship in the city of Turin and notary **Andrea Ganelli** was appointed Consul General of the Union of Myanmar, headquartered in Turin. Followed by the visit of Thein Sein, President of Myanmar Union in 2014 and the appointment of Pier Giorgio Aliberti, born in Cuneo, as Italian Ambassador in Yangon

The recent establishment of the **Italy-Myanmar Business Council** and the **Italy-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce** strengthen the **cultural and economic ties** between the two countries.



“ My personal bond with Burma comes from far: the adventure of Father Paolo Abbona was ever present during my childhood, much like a fairy tale. Today I want to re-experience the enthusiasm of that great man from Piedmont who so dearly loved the people of Burma,”

ANNA MARIA ABBONA COVERLIZZA - MedAcross Head of Communication

# About us

## The MedAcross team



### **Daniele Regge**

MedAcross President

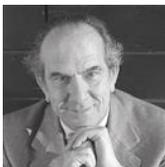
A radiologist, he works at the Fondazione del Piemonte for Oncology and is Professor of Radiology at the University of Turin.



### **Gabriella Buono**

MedAcross Vice President and Head of Clinical Activity

Intensive care unit head physician and mother of three, she has a long history working on medical projects in developing countries.



### **Giorgio Rosental**

Architect and PR for Relations with Italian Institutions and Associations

An architect from Turin, in 2012 his firm worked on the design and construction of the MAS Children Teaching Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland.



### **Ettore Rossi**

MedAcross Member of the Scientific Technical Committee

Pediatrician and neonatologist, he is a lecturer at universities throughout Italy and also works on MedAcross projects.



**Luca Saporiti**

MedAcross PR for relations with Foreign Institutions and Associations

A graduate in economics, he is Secretary General of the Italy-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and was Deputy Commissioner for Myanmar at the Milan Triennale.



**Anna Maria Abbona Coverlizza**

MedAcross Communications Coordinator

Publicist and expert on the subject of tourist economic Sociology, University of Turin, who has published essays on culture and tourism and also written about Burma's history of the 19th century



**Riccardo Borgnino**

MedAcross Secretary

An accountant from Turin specialized in the preparation of financial statements for foundations and non-profit associations.



**MEDACROSS**

FREE CARE AND COACHING

Thanks to all the people who have supported us  
in the past and will continue to support us in the future.

Our heartfelt thank you.

[www.medacross.org](http://www.medacross.org)

