



Primary school children in Chin State



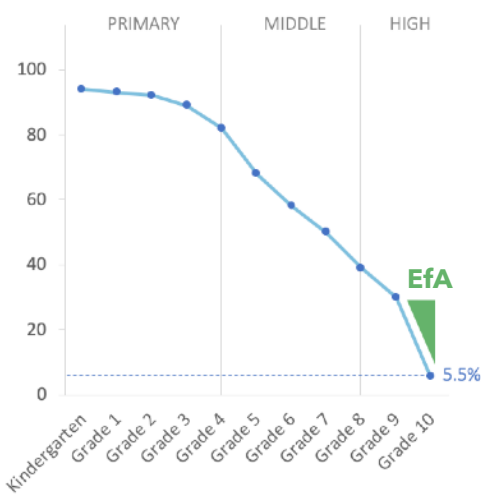
Education for All project



Graduates returning to serve their communities

Education for All

% OF CHIN YOUTH THAT COMPLETE EACH GRADE (2017)



Less than 5.5% of youth pass their Grade 10 exams in Chin State. Health & Hope's Education for All (EFA) project provides a targeted year of education, aiming to significantly improve the Grade 10 matriculation rate and future life opportunities for up to 100 students from 30 remote villages.

Problem Summary

Children in Chin State live in a neglected and impoverished region of Myanmar and face a myriad of challenges in their attempts to seek a basic education. The area is remote, the landscape rugged and the population scattered. A chronic lack of investment and recurrent natural disasters have led to the highest rate of household poverty in Myanmar (58% living on less than \$1 / day, 2017 src: UNDP / World Bank), poor infrastructure, food insecurity and poorly functioning health and education systems.

The education system currently excludes rural, poor, ethnic minority children due to language barriers, location, poverty, and curriculum content. Pre-school coverage in Chin State is severely limited and the levels of supervision and quality of teaching vary widely. Children often receive no teaching in their ethnic language. These problems continue into primary school and beyond, which, combined with high levels of household poverty, contribute to high drop out rates.



Esther is 18 years old, and one of six children from a small village in Chin State. For the early part of her education, she studied in her village with classes taught in the local Mara language. However, from Year 8 she had to move away from her family to attend High School, where all her lessons were conducted in Burmese. *"I couldn't understand anything. I spent the whole time learning the language rather than the subjects. I could not pass my Grade 10 exams, I lacked the basic education from before."*

In 2018, Esther found out that she had failed her exams a second time and her father told her she needed to stop her studies and work on the farm. At that time, wonderfully, one of Esther's cousins came to visit, and said that he would sponsor her to continue her studies through the **Education for All** project.

*"I am so happy. Coming to **Education for All** is a great privilege for me. I am so thankful to God and Health & Hope for providing me with this great opportunity - it's a life changing programme. In the future, I want to be a nurse like some of the students that returned from Health & Hope's scholarship programme. In my village there are no nurses to look after people and I have seen many people suffering from illness. There are a few Traditional Birth Attendants but they cannot help patients with serious illness, and many patients die from common diseases. **If I can pass my Grade 10, I would have a chance to study as a nurse, and I will work for my people as much as I can.**"*

Project Summary

Education for All (EFA) is a long sought-after education initiative which aims to tackle the dismal Year 10 pass rate amongst 'repeater students' like Esther, those who have attempted to take the Grade 10 exam at High School and failed. Without support, these students have no further opportunities to study and are unable to find employment.

EFA tutors are students from the local villages who have graduated from Health & Hope's scholarship programme with university degrees from India, China and the Philippines. Coming from the local community they are able to inspire the younger students, providing full-time education for up to 100 youth from 30 remote villages.

Launched in June 2019, the first year of the project provided:

- Nine months of full-time schooling in nine subject areas for students from low income families, including provision of key educational resources, trained tutors, and a safe place to study
- Supplementary food to undernourished students
- An accessible library of educational materials and extra-curricular activities



Janette Creber from the UK is a retired Head Teacher. She provided two months of face-to-face staff training for the team:

"On top of having to learn Burmese, the students are forced to take five exams in English. Imagine taking five GCSEs in your third or fourth language having been taught by a teacher who doesn't even speak the language fluently! Well that's what it's like for Grade 10 students in Chin State. Rather than being surprised at how few students pass these all-important Grade 10 exams, I was amazed that any had passed them at all. And yet some of the 2% who did pass a few years ago, went on to complete degrees and have since returned as doctors, nurses and teachers to support and transform their community.

Education is valued and prized in Chin State, so much so, that even five years after failing to pass their Grade 10 exams, some students chose to 'return to school' this year and attend the project. The team's relentless hard work, patience and willingness is sure to reap rewards... Suppose a far greater percentage pass this year, go on to complete tertiary education and then return to the region - think of the further transformation that will take place... Wow!"

Budget

Description	Cost	%
Activities: Curriculum development, study guides, accommodation, meals, teacher training	£ 38,235	56%
Capital Costs: Educational resources & student equipment	£ 4,235	6%
Operational Costs: Classroom maintenance, communication & utilities	£ 4,706	7%
Staffing: Teaching staff, ancillary & support staff	£ 19,840	29%
Operational Support: Monitoring, finance training, reporting	£ 1,765	3%
Project Total	£ 68,781	100%
Funding already secured	£ 17,200	25%
Local income: Contribution from parents	£ 19,300	28%
Funds required	£ 32,281	47%