



Annual Report 2022

Introduction

Have you ever felt: "I just want to go home....", I have and I always could go home....but...the women of Myanmar can't just go home. So many women have fled and are living now in exile.

For these women, We women is still there to support them when they are in need of some support. A partial scholarship, Inner leadership coaching, trauma support, CDM support and with English classes. We keep on supporting the small needs and will do whatever we can with the small capacity that we have.

I heard a heartbreaking plea the other day of Thiri and I want to share it with you:
"Amidst the turmoil and conflict in Myanmar, the media often portrays the country as a place of constant suffering and despair. However, in reality, the daily lives of its citizens are much more nuanced. Though the situation is dire and the military is ever-present, with guns pointed at citizens and constant surveillance, people still find ways to live their lives and find joy amidst the chaos. The military sees everyone as a potential enemy, and even those who are not involved in politics are targeted and subjected to harassment, arrest, and even torture. The use of technology is also heavily restricted, and even having a mobile phone or posting something on social media can result in arrest."

Thiri describes that she was forced to use different phones every few days and how she was unable to sleep due to the constant fear of arrest and torture. While the media may highlight the conflict in Myanmar for a brief period, the suffering of its citizens continues long after the spotlight has moved on. This is what is seen around the world, the spotlight has moved on, but the people of Myanmar still want to go home and everyone inside the country still wants to live in peace again.

Please keep on supporting our cause, as it is of tremendous value that you keep being part of our team, to let all the women of Myanmar know that we still think about them and that we care.

Warm regards,
Ursula and the We women team

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Organization

We women has shifted her work again more towards longer term impact activities, the military takeover is still intact, but women want to start working again on improving their English skills, their professional skills and to start studying in university. So that is what we are supporting at the moment. As We women is still only running on a voluntary basis, we keep our activities very close to what we can do with our available resources and with the time investment of our volunteers. We are so happy that there are always volunteers actively joining and assisting the women who want to make the changes from within. Our board members keep on standing strong as well: Maartje Meens, who does the finances and always assists with writing the annual reports. Ursula Cats, who oversees the projects and runs the projects from the Netherlands and board members Hayley Rose and Caroline Seagle. Arjan Toorman checks the finances and the financial report at the end of the year.

We are also proud to announce that we have found a donor to sponsor one of our amazing women into university, Bee is her name, and she is studying Biomedical Science at Rangsit University in Bangkok. We are so happy that one of our strong women has achieved acceptance into this university program and is now studying hard to make her future dreams come true: assisting people who are in need of healthcare.

Thanks so much to all of you who have been supporting us these past months, we keep on standing strong, to set up and continue long term impact activities and keep them running with our We women team!

Activities in The Netherlands

Fundraising

We held two campaigns this year:

1. Online Campaign Women for Freedom
2. Online Campaign Scholarship for Lin Kham

Inner Leadership Coaching

Two women from Myanmar received inner leadership coaching on a bi-weekly or monthly basis.

The aims of the Inner Leadership Coaching

Transforming trauma into power

Leadership skill development

Knowing their personal stories, getting insight into traumatic events and becoming aware of their role as women makes it possible to strengthen transformation processes, assisting the women into becoming self-confident emerging leaders.

The end results of the inner leadership coaching

The women have gained self-confidence and can work from their strengths;

The women have created a realistic future plan and can actively take part in society;

The women are role models in their communities;

The women contribute towards social change in their communities.

Online meditations

Many meditations have been focused on self compassion and letting go of old thought patterns that are not needed anymore. Supporting the women in their daily life stress, releasing tensions. It is a support that can be given from afar and is still received with love from the women in our network. We are sending them through a “safe” app, so that the women can access it directly when they want.

An example of one of the weekly meditations:

“Be kind to yourself, give yourself a break from all the voices in your head that "you could have done better, that you should do more or that it was just not good enough!"

Wake up in self love and self compassion, you are exactly where you need to be on your path in life and if you want to make changes, seek the silence within and listen to the voice within.

Therefore this week a meditation full of self love and self compassion.”

Activities in Myanmar

Women leadership Network: Emergency Funding

We women has not been able to keep our Leadership Network meetings going, but changed their funding into emergency funds for the women from our network meetings.

After the coup, a Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) emerged. Civil servants and other working class individuals refused to continue working for the illegitimate military government or companies belonging to their cronies. Many of them joined the street protests or continued working in the informal sector. After the regime started a very violent and deadly crackdown, the protests have dwindled down and people who joined the CDM are being actively hunted down. Long lists of people that are wanted for arrest are made public and many have gone into hiding. In a country with a huge number of spies, hiding is not easy. Activists are forced to move on a regular basis. Obviously, due to the state of the Myanmar economy and Covid-19 measures, securing a stable income is impossible. We women strives to help as much as we can as a small grassroots organization.

We have built up a network over the years that we can now rely on to ensure that what is needed goes to the right places. The number of beneficiaries changes constantly, because people get arrested, are forced to relocate for safety reasons or just disappear for no apparent reason.

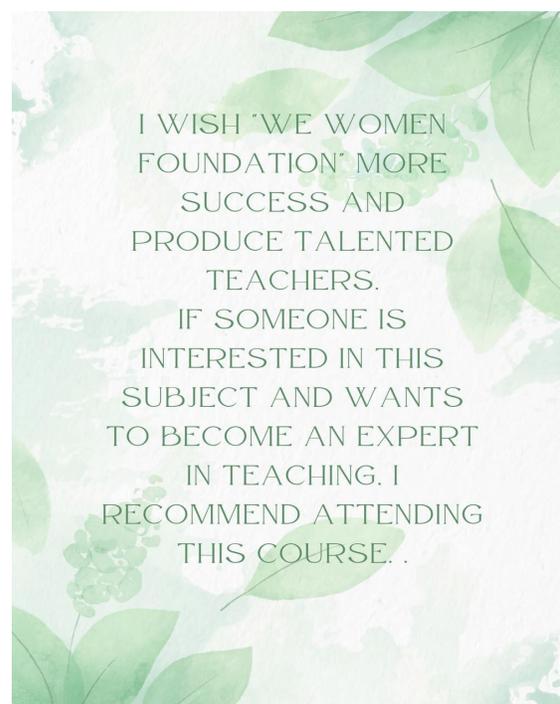
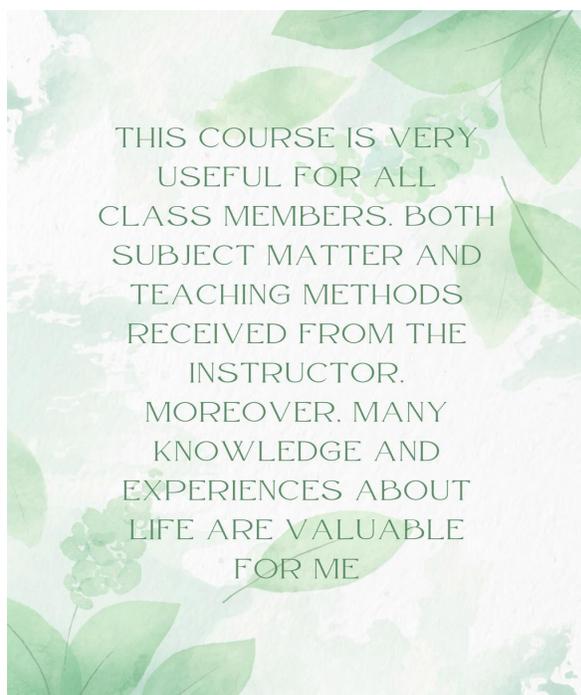
The women that we support throughout this revolution are suffering enormous amounts of stress. Both people in-country and from abroad are in regular contact with a number of women to offer emotional and psychological support.

English and Math Classes and Trainings

- A Math teacher training course took place in March and April with twenty women participating in the training.
- One IELTS preparatory exam class took place with twenty participants.
- One GED preparatory exam class took place with ten participants.
- Furthermore, two basic and two intermediate English classes took place with an average of 15 women per class.

We started these classes since the demand was very high. Many former students and women from our network were asking for these training sessions. Luckily we could find volunteers all over the world to give the online classes and training. Our volunteers are based in India, the USA, Thailand, the Netherlands and Myanmar.

Math training quotes from Trainees



Meet IELTS volunteer teacher: Aroonima Mukherjee. She is a 29-year-old ESL teacher living in Kolkata, India. She is a budding educator who also can conceptualize authentic, out-of-the-box teaching and learning projects and Ideas. She was born and brought up in Calcutta (Now Kolkata), her schooling and her Bachelor's Degree are from Kolkata then she moved to Tokyo to pursue her Master's degree in International Language Education: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (ILE:TESOL). She has taught our IELTS preparatory exam class.

Scholarships

Two scholarships were given to promising women:

Bee, who started her undergraduate course in Biomedical Science at Rangsit University in Thailand and Lin Kham, who had already started her Master's Degree in Social Science at Chiang Mai University and who receives a partial scholarship.

A quote from Bee

“My first year in university: In this semester I took the following classes: Anatomy, Physics, Math, and some general subjects. I faced many challenges. First of all, I did great in the Anatomy exam. I got 44 out of 50 for the midterms exam. For physics, I found many difficulties in this subject, at least I passed. Going back to my favorite course, Anatomy, the more I study the more it interests me. Especially in the lab class, I had to deal with the dead body every week, I lost sense of smell and my appetite as well, and yet I still enjoyed observing the body. Anatomy is very important for my future career. If I am going to be a doctor, I do need a solid background in it. After all, Thank you dear donor. Thanks for making my dream possible, Thanks for sharing your kindness to me. I deeply appreciate it.”

A quote from Lin Kham

“I'd want to express my gratitude to you for contributing to my educational journey. Without the support of my friends, my coworkers, and you, I never would have been able to envision getting to this point in my life. A loud cheer up from everyone around me keeps telling me that I can't give up to improve myself to create more positive changes for my brothers and sisters who are still on their journey and hoping for a better future in which they will be able to get an education.”

Awareness Raising

Through social media, our volunteers in Myanmar, Thailand and the Netherlands post three Facebook and Twitter posts a week. The posts raise awareness among Myanmar and international audiences.

Financial overview

All amounts are in Euro.

Revenue & expenditure

	2022	2021
Revenu		
Donations monthly private donors	3.825	5.800
Donations fundraising campaigns & events	4.361	6.148
Donations foundations	0	0
Donations scholarships	6.000	0
Total	14.186	11.948
Expenditure		
Program costs	2.925	10.200
Outsourced fundraising	219	162
Telephone & website hosting	364	276
Banking charges	333	473
Scholarships	3.250	0
Other	0	195
Total	7.091	11.306
Result	7.095	642

Balance sheet

Assets	31-12-2022	31-12-2021	31-12-2020
bank balance	7.997	1.044	410
paypal balance	142	0	109
Total assets	8.139	1.044	519
Liabilities	31-12-2022	31-12-2021	31-12-2020
Allocated reserves	5.500	0	0
Continuity reserves	2.639	1.044	519
Total liabilities	8.139	1.044	519

Explanatory notes

In the R&E sheet, we have introduced specifically the donations and expenditures regarding scholarships. We have received a donation to be able to contribute to two scholarships. Part of the expenditure has taken place in 2022 and funds have been allocated for continuation of the scholarships in 2023.

The program costs concern mainly a continuation of emergency assistance MMR.

The continuity reserve has increased by almost 1.500 euro and in this way enabling the development of new projects.

Thank You

Joanne for donating a full scholarship for Bee, we can't be grateful enough for such a generous donation!

Strong women inside Myanmar, who keep on fighting, who keep standing strong, who keep on believing in a better future. You keep on being a tremendous inspiration for us all. Through all the hardship that you are facing, you keep standing strong and we can't tell you enough how brave you are.

Volunteers around the world, inside Myanmar, without you all, we can't keep up the work we are providing. A special thanks to the teachers who taught all our online and onsite classes this year. Num Aye who always keeps on supporting our work and Htet Htet, who is a steady volunteer for many years now.

Our supporters whom we can count on every year: Janice, Stef, Maartje, Maaïke, Karina, Christel, Hanneke, Marianne, Phyu, Jan, Marisa.

Donors, specifically our faithful donors who have been with us from the very beginning, what would be do without you, you keep the steady flow of our work rolling and that is why we keep on going forward, even if we are working all on voluntary basis, we can move on because we have a strong foundation!

Thank you all whom I have not named, but are always working with us and assisting us when we need you!

Warm regards, Ursula and the We women team