

2013/2014



“Future for the children of the world” our charitable foundation has taken up a new challenge. Since February 2013 we finance a second home for children of the St. Francis Xavier Convent. The home St. Mary is situated in the Ayeyarwady-Delta (formerly Irrawadydelta), in which Zyclon Nargis has severly destroyed huge areas. Luckily the home in Kalaw has been meanwhile renovated and improved. Now we can fully attend to our new task: the reconstruction of the St. Mary Home. Nevertheless the financial support to keep those two homes running has to be guaranteed.

That is a big task. To finance these projects is only possible with your donations.

But according to my experience of the last 12 years many projects could be realised even if it did not at first seem possible. That's why I am confident that it will work.

**We thank all our donors  
from the bottom of our hearts!**

Dießen (Germany), in November 2013



Monika Proksch  
Chairwomen

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## Help

Yes – you can believe your eyes. In this brochure we have put the call for support on the first page. To let you know how important your donations are just read the quotation of sister Winnie's email: *“Dear Monica, thank you very much for your love and kindness for the people in Myanmar. If you and your society were not helping the children, they could not study this year and their education would cease.”*

64 children and teenagers in the Ayeyarwady-Delta, 50 from the villages on the Shan Plateau in the vicinity of Kalaw need your support. All of them are eager to go to school and many of them would like to study when they have finished school education. But their parents are too poor to be able to pay for books, pens, school uniform and fees. In addition schoolchildren have not enough time to take up work and contribute to the family income. All the children in the homes come from really poor families, some are even orphans or half orphans. Most of the parents got a low school education or are illiterate and try to earn their living as farmers or workers. Their income is too low to feed the family sufficiently. A good school education is not possible for all children in a family. In countries like Myanmar children are the pension for old age. So, they need more than one or two children. In reality however, not all the children reach maturity.

To make sure that all the children who have been taken up in the homes described in this brochure can go to school we need a regular income which we can rely on. This would help us to make plans for the future.

How can you contribute? You can take over a sponsorship for a child. It would cost you 25 Euro or 30 USD a month. That covers the expense for education including decent nutrition which is also very important.

In Kalaw we have renovated the sanitation tract and built a play ground. The main building has been renovated thoroughly and the children have comfortable beds. Now it is the home in the Delta our main task at the moment. There was not much left after the cyclon Nargis in 2008, which we could start with. In April 2013 sister Winnie started with the construction of the house for the children. Due to the rainy season they had to interrupt this, but in November 2013 they could take up the work again. Also in November they began to install decent sanitation as well as the construction of the kitchen and dining room. The dining room will also be used for studying and social activities.

You can help – please – so that as many children as possible can go to school next academic year which starts in June 2014 and can be cared for with healthy food.

**Also small amounts are warmly welcome.**

The costs:

**The children's house: about 20,000 Euro**

**Kitchen and dining room: about 10,000 Euro**

**Sanitation: about 3,000 Euro**

Plus money for furniture and equipment for the children's house and the kitchen building. We would like to plan a reliable water supply system, but the costs have to be calculated first. The buildings have priority at the moment.

## **The home St. Mary of the St. Francis Xavier Convent in the Village Mwe Hawk in the Ayeyarwady-Delta**

Sister Winnie, who was in charge of the children's home in Kalaw for 9 years is now managing a home in the Ayeyarwady-Delta. That is why I went to this area. I was really shaken by the poverty of the people I saw there.

### **The Ayeyarwady-Delta**

is situated west of Yangon. Formerly it was the main area for the production of rice in Myanmar. About 60 % of the rice grown in the whole country could be harvested in the Delta. In May 2008 cyclon Nargis damaged the Delta area severely. 150,000 to 200,000 people died immediately in the storm and floods or shortly after from hunger and disease. The paddy fields were destroyed. Before Nargis the farmers could harvest rice twice a year. But the flood, up to 4 metres high, which was following the cyclone covered about 4,32 acres of the paddy fields with salty water. Rice plants can tolerate salt up to a certain amount, but high concentration seriously influences the production. The most affected parts must be reconstructed which needs a high financial and technical effort. That's why not much has been done and most of the paddy fields still contain too much salt in the ground – even after five rainy seasons since Nargis.

I travelled many hours through the Delta area. There was still no village with decent houses, I only saw poor huts. Also cattle were seldom in the fields. Freshwater shortage is a big problem for people and animals.

The village Mwe Hawk is fortunately situated on a little hill. That's why it was not affected by the floods. But the storm destroyed most of the houses of the village. Even the roofs of the church and the house of the sisters were blown off. The house for the children had already been in a poor condition before the cyclone and there was not much left in the wake of it.



Since that time the girls live in a shabby hut made of bamboo and the boys found shelter in the priest's wooden hut. Both forms of accommodation are a problem especially during the rainy season. A Kitchen and dining room are also erected in a shabby hut, not to mention toilet and bathroom. The sisters' accommodation needs, like all buildings on the compound, renovation and reconstruction urgently. There is a constant danger of mould, which is bad for their health.



On the compound there is a kindergarden for the village-children and a little concrete house meant for a health station for the village. But there is no medical equipment at all and no staff. The village cannot afford the wage for a nurse. If people need medical help they must go by bus to the next town. Our society has decided to reconstruct the children's home in the Delta with a proper and hygienic sanitation building and a decent house for the kitchen and a dining room. The dining room will also be used for studying and social activities.



In April 2013 Sister Winnie began with the building for the children. Because of the rainy season the work on the building site had to be interrupted at the beginning of May. In November they were able to start with the buildings for the kitchen and sanitation.

Now it is very busy on the compound of the church. But everybody including the village people is happy and looking forward to the new buildings.



Maybe a sponsor can be found one day who is going to finance a nurse. In that case the health station could take up its work.

In Myanmar the academic year starts in June and finishes at the end of February All the pupils from grade 1 to 10 must take part in a kind of final exam at the end of each academic year. Grade 11 will have their final exam in March. English is taught from the first year. The problem is however, teachers are not well trained in languages and cannot communicate in English properly. Another reason for that is that they have no opportunity to practise. There will be a change with the growing business of tourism. But the Delta is not attractive for tourists at all and there is no infrastructure, too.

For me it's also difficult as I don't speak Burmese. But the parish priest speaks English and sister Winnie tries hard. And we know very well how to communicate non verbally. When I'm there we always take advantage of each other: she improving her English, but I will be not successful in learning Burmese. This language is too difficult.

I really must praise sister Winnie. She has a big heart and is a great organiser. In 2013 she has taken up 64 children and teenagers – far too many for the funds available. But we will

manages it. I really don't know how, but we managed it in the past. So I'm not afraid for the future. Luckily we have some savings for the new buildings. 22 of the 64 children attend high school. As there is no high school in the village Mwe Hauk they have to be put up in other homes or even families. The financing is organist by sister Winnie.

**Some impressions of the children's home and its inhabitants in the Delta**



## The children's home in Kalaw – Shan State

accommodates 50 happy children, 3 sisters of St. Francis Xavier convent and 5 members of staff. The sisters and their staff care for the children lovingly. Unfortunately there is often a changeover of the sisters. The children have to do some housework, like it is the habit in a family as well. But there is enough time for them to play games. The food is delicious and



plenty enough to fill hungry stomachs. The sisters are always open to suggestions to improve the situation. The bookkeeping is strictly monitored .

No Euro/Kyat has been spent wastefully. They even spent less money than we thought they would need. In 2012 the old toilets were thoroughly renovated and a bathroom was built. 4 toilets had to be added to the 4 existing ones because 4 were not enough for all the children. They were finished in December 2012. In January 2013 a real highlight was constructed: an open air play ground. The slides, seesaws, swings and the climbing frame are always occupied in the children's free time. To be able to erect all the pieces of equipment on the sloping ground it was necessary to build an even concrete platform. So the playground can also be used in the rainy season. There is no danger that it will sink and disappear in the mud .



The walls in the building needed redecoration because they had been painted with a paint of bad quality. The staff reacted quickly, scraped off the old colour and repainted the wooden walls with a pleasant light blue.

The co-operation with the sisters is really good and they included me at once in the big family of the home. The children get three meals a day and they were obviously happy. I contacted a farmer who delivers milk twice a week and baker Le Le Wah delivers bread also twice a week. Milk and bread for breakfast is one of their favourites. Good food and warm beds – it can be quite cold in the dry season in Kalaw – have a positive effect on the capacity to learn. The sisters keep showing me proudly the many awards from the schools.



A friend of mine is a dentist and travels to Myanmar almost every year. He supplies children in homes and schools with toothbrushes and teaches them how to care for their teeth. I had invited him to Kalaw and there he gave a teeth-cleaning lesson. Everybody enjoyed it a lot.



As a reward for learning so quickly they were given a toothbrush and paste. The sisters got a bag with spare brushes and paste, which should last for a while.

Some other visitors from Germany came and all of them appreciated the work which is being done there. At this point I must mention my Burmese friend Ruby. She was the one who took me to this home because the sisters needed support to do their work properly. Ruby always helps with organising everything needed. She also is the book keeper and translates whenever it is necessary. She doesn't take any money for her work. Her reward is obviously seeing that she can help to create a small paradise for the children which is the basis for a promising future. Ruby – we thank you so much! **Photo of Ruby and the baker Le Le Wah**



## Little Me Ma

Two years ago we were able to help a big family of the Palaung tribe in the mountains near Kalaw, whose house had burnt down. After the fire, they moved to the village Da Pin Gone and we were able to help them with money for a small plot of land and an bamboo house. The baby however had been born with an awful palate cut.

The German foundation “Interplast” comes to Myanmar every year in order to operate hare-lips and hare-palates. On January 27, 2013, I received an e-mail which said that the baby could be operated in Yangon, General Hospital. I immediately looked for a reliable and suitable person to accompany mother and child. This was necessary because the family doesn’t speak Burmese and none of the family had ever been to Yangon. Two days later I had found somebody and we met the father of the child. He was absolutely happy that his daughter had been offered the chance to be operated.



**February 2011**



**January 2013**

On February 20th she arrived in Yangon and on the 21st she was operated without any complications. She had to spend a few days in the hospital and on February 27th I was able to see her again. I met a pretty little girl in the caring arms of her happy father. For after-care she had to go the long way to Yangon twice. But now everything is alright.



**February 27, 2013**



**March 25 2013 shortly before  
the second after-care**



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