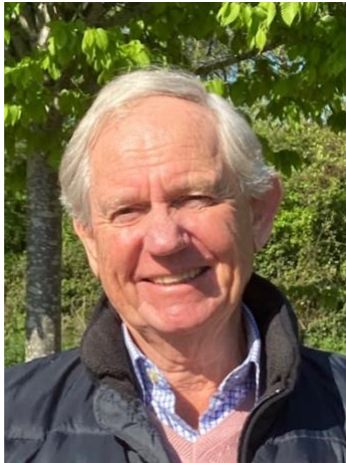




STUDER TRUST
Respect the Spirit of Helping

2023 Annual Report





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

A Happy New Year to you all!

The Studer Trust meets its administrative costs through a funding arrangement set up by our Founder Peter Gautschi before he died. Every year the Margaretha Studer Grants Commission meets to approve our application for funds. At the end of the Grants Commission Meeting in March the Chairman emphasised that this would be a critical year for the Studer Trust. Given the situation in Myanmar, the fact that we had not had an Executive Director in place for most of the year and that we had been compelled to have a much reduced programme since the Coup in Myanmar in 2021 - this was if anything understating the case.

Eleven months later, while the political situation in Myanmar regrettably looks much the same, but we have a new and impressive Executive Director - whose report you will read below. We have delivered an enhanced programme with two teacher training courses and four school construction projects successfully completed. We held our Board Meeting in Mandalay in November. This was a timely opportunity to discuss the challenges facing the Studer Trust and how we can best deal with these in the months and years ahead. But perhaps just as important, it was also an opportunity for Trustees and the implementation team to meet face to face, to demonstrate the Board's support and reaffirm these strong and vital links. The Board also visited two schools under construction and observed practical teacher Training sessions at our TTC - encouraging evidence of the quality of our work on the ground!

In summary we have weathered the critical year fairly well, and I pay tribute to our staff who have persevered despite significant adversity. We seek to build on this success in 2024 by reinstating a full programme of three training courses at the Teacher Training Centre and double the number of school buildings to be constructed in 2024. To all our supporters – thank you for having faith in us – we will continue to deliver!

With my best wishes

Christopher Lavender



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

'Fostering Hope to Action'

As the newly appointed Executive Director, I am delighted to extend warm Happy New Year wishes to every one of you from Studer Trust Myanmar.



At Studer Trust, it is such an honour and privilege to be working with a small, but mighty team. Each team member's passion, competence and commitment moved the mountain of obstacles during 2023. With my knowledge, skills and previous experience, I hope to enhance our team's effort to make a bigger impact and realize Peter Gautschi's dream.

Implementing projects in Myanmar is fraught with confronting challenges, but it also has its share of faith-restoring, heart-warming moments as well. Due to political, economic and safety reasons, many organizations have left, a few stayed, and only a handful have continued with their support. Even then you can still feel hope and progress, and we should look at Myanmar not for what it has become but for what it can be.

On behalf of the Studer Trust, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our donors and partners for your continuing support. Your trust, generosity and partnership are the driving force behind our commitment to excellence in Myanmar. Your contribution is 'Fostering Hope to Action' for children in Myanmar.

With my best wishes

Kyaw Soe



Map of Myanmar with States and Regions

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



New School Buildings

4



Major School Renovations

6



Playgrounds

2



Drinking Water Systems

5



Teacher Training Courses

2



Teachers – **1,000**

Children – **29,000**

Myanmar's story mirrors both challenge and achievement. In several areas of the country amid political conflicts and economic hardships, children persevere, hungering for knowledge and progress. Many children migrated from conflict zones and enrolled in schools, where safety was more substantial. Safe and durable infrastructure becomes more essential.

The 2023 yearly construction plan was successfully carried out. The team managed to reach out to communities across the country and discussed applications for school construction, follow-up visits and support. By using different communication channels, the construction team was able to implement the following projects located in six regions and states:

1. Construction of four school buildings
2. Major renovations of two schools, after Cyclone Mocha
3. Major maintenance work on six further school buildings (walls, ceilings, roofs, floors, doors and windows)
4. Minor maintenance on two school buildings (painting, etc)
5. School playground improvements at two schools
6. Drinking water improvements at five schools
7. Conducting three Summer School Programmes with TTC team
8. Sanitation improvements at one school
9. Equipping four school computer centres
10. Teacher salary support at six schools
11. Student field trip support for two school
12. Construction one outdoor bench

Our Construction Team



Tai Lynn



Le Le Thein



Kathar Naing Min Oo

These infrastructure activities had an impact on 650 teachers and 21,000 students.

Our Teacher Training Centre Team



Hnin Hnin Htwe



Phyu Phyu Lwin



Zin Mar Aung



Zin Maw Aye

Leo



In 2023, the Teacher Training Centre (TTC) was actively engaged in conducting in-person training sessions, responding to the challenges posed by the aftermath of COVID and the ongoing political changes in Myanmar. The primary aim was to enhance education through a range of projects and activities.

Throughout the year, the TTC successfully organized two cohort trainings, four summer workshops, a model school programme, online webinars and school visits to 10 schools. These initiatives had a collective impact on approximately 400 teachers and over 8,000 students, contributing to the ongoing efforts to strengthen the educational landscape in Myanmar.



WHAT WE DID!

Four New School Buildings

The need for school infrastructure is increasing as more children enroll in school after Covid and the ongoing changes to political stability. This is especially true, when children from the conflict zones migrated to safer areas and school enrollment in safer areas skyrocketed. Schools are overcrowded and children do not have proper classrooms for effective learning.

With the support from our donors, we were able to construct four new schools (two in Shan state and two in the Mandalay region) which benefitted four communities and over 900 students.

(1) Ho Namp Government Primary School

Ho Namp Government Primary School is located in Ho Namp village, Kyaukme township, in the western part of Shan State. Ho Namp village has 100 households with a population of 500 people. The community's main sources of income are crop farming, such as rice and corn. The school provides education for more than 50 students and more students are enrolling for upcoming academic year.

The school was founded in 2009 by the community in order to provide local children with access to basic education. When the school first started there were no proper school buildings, only a temporary bamboo building. In 2019 the school received approval from the Ministry of Education to begin offering instruction for primary school students from Kindergarten (5+) to Grade 4 (9+).



New Ho Namp School Building

(2) Gabini Middle School

Gabani Middle School is located in Gabani village, Ywa Ngaen township, in a mountainous region of Shan state with poor roads. The school is 25km (a 2-hr drive) to the nearest town of Wandwin. The village has 90 households and a population of 350 people. The community's main sources of income are growing a variety of beans and pulses, as well as breeding cows.

The school was founded in 2002 by the community in order to provide local children with access to basic education. When the school first started, it only offered primary education from Kindergarten (5+) to Grade 4 (9+). In 2015, the Education Department officially recognized the school as a Primary school and by 2022, the school received approval from the Ministry of Education to begin offering instruction for Grade 7 (12+) students. The school now has 100 students.



The new Gabani School building and toilet block

(3) Sin Ywa Taw Monastic School

Sin Ywa Taw Monastic Middle School is located in Sin Ywa Taw village, Patheingyi township, 5km (a 15-min drive) to the nearest town of Patheingyi and 15km from Mandalay (a 30-min drive). The school serves six villages (the farthest village is up to 2km away) with a total population of 15,675.

The community's main sources of income are daily workers such as carpenters, masons, green grocers and farmers who grow rice, varieties of beans and other vegetables.

The school was founded in 2006 by the village Abbot and provided primary level education from Kindergarten (5+) to Grade 4 (9+) in wood and bamboo buildings. In 2013, the school received approval from the Ministry of Education to begin offering instruction for Grade 8 (13+) students. The school provides education for 506 students, and employs 13 teachers who are led by Abbot U Yarzeinda, the Principal.



Sin YwaTaw Monastic School

(4) Win Chan Monastic School

Win Chan Monastic Middle School is located in Patheingyi township, 10km (a 45-min drive) to the nearest town of Mandalay. The community's main sources of income are crop farming, such as varieties of beans and vegetables as well as masons and carpenters. The school serves two villages with a total population of 2,500.

The school was founded in 1993 by the village Abbot and provided primary level education from Kindergarten (5+) to Grade 4 (9+), with classes held in various religious buildings. In 2015, the school received approval from the Ministry of Education to begin offering instruction for Grade 8 (13+) education. The school now provides education for 142 students.



Old versus New – Win Chan Monastic School

Other Projects



Renovated building at Aung Kabar School, Mandalay



Ga Yan School playground, Ayeyarwady region



Renovated Kin Village School before and after the cyclone

- 12 used desktops for four schools
- Sanitation improvements for one school
- Summer programmes for three schools
- Teacher salary supports for six monastic schools
- Re-painting for two school buildings
- Construction of playgrounds for two schools
- Six school buildings were upgraded
- Two school renovation after the cyclone Mocha
- Drinking water improvements for five schools
- Field Trip support for two schools
- Follow-up visits to 45 schools



Teacher Training Centre



Cohort Training

The Studer Trust Teacher Training Centre (TTC) has successfully conducted two cohort training sessions (Cohort-14 and Cohort-15) with 25 teachers participating in each session. The core objective of these programmes was to elevate the quality of education for children by developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, methods and status of teachers from Studer Trust affiliated schools and other monastic schools.

The curriculum covered various topics, including computer sessions, self-awareness training, reading, writing for critical thinking and Living Values Education. Each participant had the opportunity to engage in three teaching practices creating a practical, hands-on experience. As a result of the training, teachers gained proficiency in creating a variety of projects tailored to meet the specific needs of their students.

Successes

- Teachers excelled in showcasing their ability to employ strategies for learning development, lesson preparation and student engagement
- All teachers demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of teaching modules through successful performance.
- Participants reported improvements in learning how to teach, self-reflection, social and communication skills, and effective teamwork
- Participants expressed satisfaction with the inclusive and discrimination-free training environment

“The TTC training programme has given me confidence not only to teach, but also to communicate well with others.”

A Female Teacher



“I didn’t know what I didn’t know until I attended the Studer Trust’s TTC. I realized that education and teaching is a lifelong learning process. What we learned will make a difference in children learning at school.”

A Monk Teacher

Naturing Growth in Model Schools

In 2022, the TTC launched the Model School project which aimed to enhance an all-inclusive learning environment that included student attendance, lesson planning, English language and improving teaching quality.



We selected Shwe Myo Gyi Gine Htauk (Tak Kone) and Shwe Kyar Pyo Kin (Nay Pyi Taw) as pilot schools.

Dedication to improved attendance emerged as a triumph, motivated by the introduction of incentives for regular attendance by the Abbot of Shwe Myo Monastic School. This initiative cultivated an active and vibrant school community.



Structured lesson planning also played a crucial role in the success story. Teachers crafted lesson plans, guided by dedicated head teachers and monks. The involvement of the head monks in providing feedback ensured a collective commitment to effective teaching strategies.

In response, at a three-day training session in September at Shwe Myo Monastic School, 30 participants identified teaching needs and aligned topics. The training covered a range of subjects, from reviewing previous lessons to specific challenges like Grade 9 grammar, classroom language and conflict resolution.

In conclusion, this success story highlights collaborative efforts between the TTC and the model schools, aiming to foster a nurturing and enriching educational environment. As the journey continues, a commitment to continuous improvement and responsive training ensures a brighter future for both educators and students alike.

Summer Workshops

In April 2023, the TTC conducted Summer Workshops online and in person to enhance the skills and knowledge of teachers.

Despite facing poor internet connections and adverse weather, the unwavering commitment of both trainers and participants prevailed, leading to a successful and enriching experience. Topics included: Navigating Challenges, Art and Crafts, Jolly Phonics, Sex Education and English Intensive Training.



FINANCIAL PULSE

(in USD 1,000)

Donations and Investments

Year	Donations	Investments
2005	259	258
2006	104	106
2007	297	143
2008	317	285
2009	402	368
2010	153	230
2011	347	203
2012	351	372
2013	361	215
2014	325	362
2015	279	226
2016	349	268
2017	355	394
2018	221	317
2019	436	288
2020	262	258
2021	255	217
2022	22	257
2023	292	298
Total	5,388	5,063

Investment by Country

Myanmar	3,838	76%
China	1,124	22%
Philippines	57	1%
Others	44	1%
Total	5,063	100%

Nature of Investments

Schools	2,764	55%
Education	1,052	21%
Maintenance	442	9%
Scholarships	229	5%
Water	193	4%
Rescue	143	3%
Medical	67	1%
Walkways	44	1%
Vocational	53	1%
Aged Homes	27	1%
Others	49	1%
Total	5,063	100%



ASPIRING TO

Tentative new School locations



Due to the situation in Myanmar, we acknowledge the challenges we may face as we plan for 2024 and beyond. Implementing projects will still be somewhat limited in some areas.

While we continue to strive to give access to education for the children, we also take into consideration the safety of our staff and the possibility of project completion.

For 2024 we have identified eight locations requiring new school classrooms. In some schools we will also be installing solar panels for energy, water supplies for toilets, playgrounds and a small library.

We will have a full programme of three teacher training courses at the Teacher Training Centre in Mandalay.

As we work with communities, our partners, teacher and the children, we recognize that the people of this country tenaciously hold Hope in their Hearts. They believe that one day the country will come back to a peaceful normal situation.

With our team, supportive Board and donors, together we can continue fostering hope for the children of Myanmar.

Examples of DONATION OPPORTUNITIES
(Indicative costs for some of our projects)



School Building – 100'x30' - USD 46,000



School Building – 80'x30' - USD 43,000



Playground - USD 3,500



Sanitation Improvement - USD 4,000



Drinking Water - USD 1,500

**Cost of Sponsoring
Education in Myanmar per person**

- **Middle school:** for 4 years USD 1,500
- **High school:** for 3 years USD 2,000
- **University:** for 2 years USD 2,500



HOW TO DONATE

DONATIONS IN HONG KONG

Beneficiary: Studer Trust

Local transfer:

Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Bank code: 004

US Dollar Account: 808-049431-274

HK Dollar Account: 808-049431-001

local Hong Kong FPS identifier for HKD amounts:

donations@studertrust.org

Overseas bank transfer:

Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

No.1 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

SWIFT Code: HSBCHKHKKH

US Dollar Account: 808-049431-274

HK Dollar Account: 808-049431-001

DONATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

Beneficiary: Studer Trust Switzerland

Local transfer:

Luzerner Kantonalbank AG

Pilatusstrasse 12

Postfach

CH-6002 Luzern

IBAN: CH08 0077 8210 5918 0200 1

BIC/ SWIFT Code: LUKBCH2260A

Currency: CHF – Swiss Francs

If you have any questions about our projects, please contact us at info@studertrust.org



Thank you for **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

