



World Vision Project Profile



Hpa-An Area Development Programme Myanmar

World Vision began work in Myanmar in 1997, along the Thailand border. The focus was on people with HIV/AIDS. Due to the mobile nature of the population who often crossed over the border in search of work, joint projects were conducted with World Vision Thailand. They focused on education and prevention and care strategies for HIV/AIDS related issues and the work eventually expanded to cover the entire border between the two countries. Out of this work came a realisation of the needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people that require different interventions. Hpa-An ADP started in 2002 to address these challenges.

Brief Information

Impact Area Population: 23,938 people

Programme Lifespan: 2002 to 2018

Children Available for Sponsorship

(as of Nov 2015): 589

Geographical Location

Hpa-An Township is the capital of Kayin State in the southeast of Myanmar, which is bordered by Thailand in the east and surrounded by Mon and Kayah states. The total area of the township is 2,903 sq km divided into nine wards and 477 villages. The 400,000 inhabitants in this township are made up of 50% Karen, 20% Mon, 20% Bamar and the rest are from other minority groups. Hpa-An ADP covers 19 villages and a population of 23,938.

Realities

Economic Poverty

About one in three people in Myanmar live below the poverty line. Though much of the land in Hpa-An ADP is fertile, agricultural productivity, the main economic activity of the area, remains poor due to a lack of proper resources. Poor access and transportation to markets also cause the value of fresh produce to drop. During the rainy season, travel is difficult as roads are muddy.

Healthcare Concerns

Health facilities lack basic equipment, supplies and qualified health staff. As a result, children and mothers in such areas have worse health and survival outcomes. The main causes of death in children under five are acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malaria. These are exacerbated by underlying malnutrition, which contributes to around 50% of these deaths. Among poor families, 30% of children under five are not well nourished. Parents also lack awareness of proper care for babies and feeding practices.

Educational Difficulties

Only 36% of children aged three to five years old currently attend early childhood education centres in Hpa-An. Traditionally, young children are brought up by their parents or relatives, who have little knowledge on how to effectively stimulate intellectual or emotional development in young children. Only about 50% of students complete primary school. The immediate factors that contribute to this are insufficient educational facilities and materials, a lack of quality teachers and large teacher-pupil ratios. Poor families struggle with the cost of education and many parents feel that work is a better option for their children. Children from non-Bamar ethnic groups also do not speak Burmese and face language difficulties in school.

Child Protection Issues

The highly mobile nature of the population in the Kayin state creates various social problems like family instability, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and children being orphaned as a result. The high level of civil strife and ethnic disputes in this border area are sources of insecurity for children. Furthermore, many become street children and are exploited in the sex industry or are forced into child labour because of poverty.





Programme Goal

Sustain the well-being of children in families and communities in Hpa-An township, to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable children.


Key Challenges and World Vision's Key Initiatives

Challenge: High unemployment due to lack of job opportunities in the township

 **Initiative: Equip households to provide well for their children**

Through training and providing basic inputs, World Vision helps to improve knowledge and skills of farmers in cultivation techniques, animal husbandry and home gardening. Animal banks are established to distribute pigs, chickens and goats. To further enhance households' capacities to increase income, access to business start-up knowledge and business advisory services are also provided. Savings groups and basic financial training are also given to increase village-level access to savings and credit services.

Challenge: Limited educational opportunities due to shortage of schools and teachers at village level

 **Initiative: Increase the number of children accessing and completing quality basic education**

World Vision creates a learning foundation through emphasising quality Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services. Awareness sessions on ECCD and parenting skills are conducted for parents, while training on management regulations and basic concepts are provided for ECCD management committees. Pre and primary schools are constructed or renovated and provided with furniture and supplies. Out-of-school children are given access to quality alternative education programmes by building the capacity of non-formal education facilitators.


Challenge: Existing health facilities are difficult to access due to inadequate transportation

 **Initiative: Improve health and nutrition status of mothers and kids and prevent common communicable diseases**

Health Committees are supported through health and nutrition interventions like improving the nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers, promoting proper feeding practices and implementing community-based growth monitoring. Rural health clinics are provided with essential supplies like medicine storage units and infrastructure like wells. Training is provided to improve community practices relating to malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Through these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children and families in Hpa-An, making a difference today as well as giving them hope for the future!

Challenge: Children are bullied and are vulnerable to degrading treatments

 **Initiative: Help children experience care and protection and empower them to be agents of change**

Children and youth groups are formed to include the most vulnerable boys and girls. Community-based responses to child rights violations are also supported such as assisting the Township Child Rights Committees to develop and implement child protection action plans and conduct regular follow up meetings. Training on parenting skills is also conducted for parents and caregivers in target communities. In addition, awareness raising tools on child rights and protection are also developed and disseminated.



Children learn through ECCD services.



Health officials conduct training to improve maternal healthcare.

How You Can Help

Sponsor a child in Hpa-An ADP or give towards a **Gift Catalogue** item, which benefits the community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Myanmar.