



Taikkyi Area Programme

World Vision has been involved in Taikkyi since 2017, starting with the assessment and design phase.

The most vulnerable groups in the community are identified to be poor families, orphans, street children and children with illnesses.

Brief Information

Impact Area Population: **30,000**

Number of Households: **6,000**

Children Available for Sponsorship:
850 (as of June 2018)

Geographical Location

Taikkyi is the northernmost township in the Yangon region. It is situated around 30 metres above sea level and almost half of the area is covered by green forest. It is near the sea and has a tropical monsoon climate. As such, flash floods and landslides are common.

Challenges

Vulnerability to Disaster

Each year, flash floods can occur, wiping out paddy fields and killing livestock, rendering families without food and a source of income. At least once a year, landslides happen. In 2015, approximately 1,000 households were affected by a river bank slide. Some children travel to school by boat each day and flood waters remain up to two months. On top of these, earthquakes also hit, destroying many buildings. The community sorely lacks disaster preparedness plans and skills on how to respond to such threats.

Healthcare Concerns

Myanmar has some of the worst health indicators in Asia, and suffers amongst the highest rates of malaria, tuberculosis and malnutrition in the world. In Taikkyi, 1 in 20 children are malnourished, which is a common underlying cause of wasting and stunting. Due to a lack of adequate health infrastructure in the community, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery and tuberculosis affect people in the community. Children are especially vulnerable to diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections. Water and sanitation systems are also sorely lacking.



Flash floods wipe out paddy fields and livestock, leaving farmers without food and income



Drinking water is high in arsenic in Nyaung Kone Village.

How you can help

Sponsor a child in Taikkyi ADP, which also benefits the community.

Because of World Vision's community-based approach, for every child you sponsor, 4 more benefit too! Thank you for your heart for the poor and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Myanmar.

Economic Poverty

Myanmar remains one of the poorest countries in Asia, with 25% of the population not having enough money to meet their basic food and living needs. 70% of farmers do not own their own land, and are without any regular source of income after working for others during the paddy harvest season. The main crops that can be grown are paddy, groundnuts, sesame, sunflowers, legumes, sugarcane and maize. Animals that can be raised include chickens, ducks, and pigs. Unfortunately, the price of agricultural products is controlled by brokers and middle men, so farmers cannot get good prices. The poor transportation system and lack of roads means that farmers have no alternative means of selling produce. While there are garment factories that can hire very young female workers from 18-20 years old, the older ladies find it hard to find work to make a living and provide basic essentials for their children.

Economic poverty in an area that is disaster-prone stretches families to breaking point as they don't have anything to fall back on when shocks occur, and children are unable to get the healthcare and education that they need. There is also an inequality in wages, with male labourers earning 57% more than females. For mothers, the key challenge is finding work so they can provide better for their children after the rice harvest season.

Educational Difficulties

Though the cost of education has reduced due to government policies, families in Taikkyi are still unable to afford books and uniforms, especially at higher levels of education. Parents also need their children to work instead to help earn money for the family. As a result, children in Taikkyi are being left behind when they drop out of school. 1 in 4 of them are not enrolled in middle and high school. This is also because there are no nearby middle and high schools, and transportation is expensive due to the poor transportation network. The regular floods also means that they need to travel two hours by boat to get to their school.

Some schools are in dire need of renovation as the buildings are too old. Often, the classrooms are dimly lit and without facilities. Because there are no separate classrooms for different ages, there is limited differentiated learning and the quality of teaching is poor. Children also do not have a strong foundation for learning as early childhood education is not available at the village level. Parents are largely unaware of the importance of early childhood education, which hinders the future development of their children.

Child Protection Concerns

Child labour is one of the most prominent child protection problems in Myanmar. There are 1.2 million child workers in the country, and nearly half of them are engaged in a hazardous occupation. Due to a lack of child protection knowledge in Taikkyi, many children work in brick making, rice milling, farming and in garment factories. Many drop out of the school system after they complete primary school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.



Myo, 39, with her five children. Her husband, a fisherman in Yangon, earns S\$3 a day. Her eldest daughter (left) has dropped out of school and is waiting to come of age to work in a garment factory to support her mother and siblings.



Children brave the floods and get to school by boat.