

## U Yin Lay Kyaung Monastic School Sagaing, Myanmar



<b>Grant Category:</b>	Education
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Child's Dream Foundation
<b>Project Status:</b>	Ongoing
<b>Start Date:</b>	August 2013
<b>Completion Date:</b>	April 2014

### Project Description

The project will construct a new school building with four new fully equipped to accommodate 73 girls and 117 boys aged 6-12 years, including a number of novice monks (currently 35). Hygienic sanitary facilities and a clean drinking water system will also be constructed.

### Objective

Replacement of the current ineffective school, which consists of open spaces with only a roof. The school's 2 toilets are in very poor condition placing the students at a significant health risk. An additional issue faced by the students is a lack of access to clean drinking water.

### Impact

The new safe, secure, well-equipped school has boosted both educational performance and attendance at school.

### Background

Recent research undertaken by the UNDP indicates that whilst inroads have been made in overcoming poverty in Myanmar, 25% of the population continues to live below the poverty line with rural poverty higher at 30%. These statistics are confirmed by a 2012 Myanmar Government survey indicating that more than one-quarter of the population live in "dire poverty".

The Central Dry Zone where the U Yin Lay Kyaung Monastic School is located accounts for up to 15% of total poverty in Myanmar, ranking it second only to the Ayeyarwady region according to the UNDP research. Poverty levels in the region are above the national average at 27% according to the survey.

A local Monastery founded the School in 1993 with 30 students to provide free education, as there was no school in the village and government schools in the region were too expensive for poor local families. The Director who is the original school founder oversees the school. A very active School Committee manages the School Fund, from donations and payments by the local community for use of their fixed-line phone. The local community also supports the school through donations including stationery and other educational tools.

The students come from the local village, which is home to about 50 households (approximately 300 people), and also from some surrounding villages. The villagers are predominantly farmers with an average income of US\$400 per family. The region can be very hot and dry forcing many farmers to work as day labourers for minimal income.