



graceworks
MYANMAR

2021/2022 Annual Report



Contents

The impacts of the coup and COVID-19 on the people of Myanmar continued to challenge basic survival through to the fabric of social life. Some of those effects are generational in their reach. The international community must continue to Stand With Myanmar to see sustainable justice prevail.

Cover images (l-r): GWM arts-based peacebuilding; GWM sport for development; Saw Wunna on Unsplash; GWM emergency village care pack distribution



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Our purpose

Co-creating opportunities by building capacity and partnering for long-term value to empower community-based development

Our vision

Communities reclaiming better quality of life by 2025

Our values



Social justice

People have inherent value and capacity. We work alongside people in Myanmar to support them in gaining the freedoms they need to achieve the quality of life they desire. Integrity is at the heart of everything we do as we seek to address injustices with positive, long-term development that contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Empowerment

People don't live in sectors. Only NGOs do. That's why we approach everything from a holistic perspective. We aim for sustainable outcomes that empower people through processes and results. We are more interested in enabling the good ideas of local people than simply delivering our own.

Equity

We emphasise respect and inclusivity for all, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, age or background, and seek to address marginalisation and exclusion based on these factors. We are driven by compassion and cultural sensitivity. We invest in building understanding and challenging our own thinking so that we are part of long-term change rather than band-aid solutions.

Partnership

Genuine two-way partnerships that emphasise self-sustainability are central to our contribution in Myanmar. We focus on grassroots partners and projects founded in mutual accountability and transparency.

Capacity building

We work to increase the capacity of our partners, rather than creating dependency on us. Success in the long-term will mean we've done ourselves out of a job. Participatory processes give us the opportunity for mutual learning. They make the journey as important as the destination so that we contribute to home-grown development capacity.

CEO and Chair report



The past year has been unprecedented as the fallout from the pandemic and military coup sweeps through the villages and townships where we work. Ongoing support remains crucial for the survival of communities as soaring food prices, loss of income and a failing economy drive a critical food shortage.

Against such extraordinary challenges, with amazement and pleasure, we report that our in-country team has increased GWM's support within local communities and families who desperately struggle to meet the simple needs of food, water and a safe place to live. GWM introduced a care pack program this year to provide families with immediate short-term supplies, providing relief against high levels of anxiety, fear and confusion.

The unflinching passion and commitment of our local teams in maintaining and increasing local community influence has been an inspirational result of GWM's community development (CD) program. Its key focus is to provide village leaders and families with foundational keys to build community resilience to survive the shocks of poverty, the pandemic, the coup and natural disasters, with resources to lead and bring about that change.

Our Board has acknowledged the crucial importance of the good stewardship of funds and has invested time and resources in developing a revised strategic plan relevant to the changing political and economic setting, post the military coup.

In safeguarding the significant work of our staff and team members, our Board continues to provide governance in reviewing, developing and implementing revised policies on child protection, risk mitigation and financial management based on tighter requirements from Australian regulators. The framework for governance is incorporated in ACFID's Code of Conduct, providing a professional platform of accountability and responsible reporting to which GWM complies.

There is no doubt we face significant business and operational challenges caused by multiple events and economic shocks. The overwhelming enthusiasm of our people to overcome those challenges is the reason for our optimism. We see a future that is incredibly bleak on one hand, but with incredible opportunity to influence change on multiple fronts on the other.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to our dedicated supporters who have increased their commitment. You have helped the communities where we work to survive these perilous times. We continue our work because of your efforts. To our board members, you have devoted hours of unselfish dedication to oversee enormous challenges to bring about change. And to our Country Director and his team, your commitment, passion and unwavering determination to face seemingly impossible challenges have inspired us to see a future full of hope and not give up.

PSimmons

RFaggotter

Peter Simmons
Founder and CEO

Veronica (Ronnie) Faggotter
Chairperson

Board of Directors



Ronnie Faggotter – Chairperson

Experienced in small business ownership, and public housing for more than 20 years; Director of the South Australian Government’s State Recovery Office from 2005 to 2019; Fund Administrator for the South Australian State Emergency Relief Fund to April 2022.



Des Collinson – Treasurer

A founding partner of a chartered accountancy practice in Adelaide; an accounting practitioner for more than 40 years; a director of Australia Medic Alert Foundation; a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand.



Elizabeth Graetz

A business and marketing strategy consultant with 19 years’ experience; part of GWM’s first CDE training team (2012/2013); graduate of a Master of ICD, Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Creative Industries; a Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute and Certified Practising Marketer.



Zoe Solomon

A skilled evaluator, project manager, community worker, and governance, risk and compliance professional; experienced in executive administration and project roles in not-for-profit organisations; graduate of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) and Master of ICD.



Peter Simmons – Founder and CEO

Founder of GWM; a recognised expert in community development in Myanmar; experienced in business and community leadership roles for more than 35 years; a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders; graduate of Deakin’s Master of International and Community Development (ICD).



Dr Rob Cunningham

Experienced in trauma-based work in child protection, youth mental health and international disasters for more than 20 years; experienced in Australian Government responses to emergency and disaster settings nationally and internationally; holds a PhD focused on the long-term impact of sport-for-development programs on young people in post-conflict settings.



Clay O’Brien

A leader in access to finance and economic development including microfinance across several countries; a sought-after advisor to development agencies, respected across the global microfinance network; former Managing Director of AYANI Inclusive Financial Sector Consultants; former Managing Director of an investment bank with a career start as a lawyer.

Corporate governance



Board of Directors

During the year, the Board comprised seven members: Ronnie Faggotter (Chairperson), Peter Simmons (Founder and CEO), Des Collinson (Treasurer), Rob Cunningham, Elizabeth Graetz, Clay O'Brien and Zoe Solomon.

Audit

The Treasurer ensures an external financial audit is undertaken of each financial year's records. The audit report and accounts are forwarded to the Chairperson and board members.

Annual General Meeting

The end of the financial year for GWM is 30 June. The Board may determine the date, time and place of the GWM Annual General Meeting (AGM). The notice convening the AGM specifies the meeting is an annual general meeting. The ordinary business of the AGM is to:

- Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM and any general meeting held since that meeting
- Receive board reports on the activities and status of GWM
- Review the transactions of GWM during the previous financial year.

In the event of a board member position becoming vacant, a vote will be taken during the AGM to appoint a replacement board member, as nominated by current board and GWM members prior to the AGM. A two-thirds majority of the quorum present is required.

Organisational structure

Head office – Legal entity – GraceWorks Myanmar Inc

Responsible for setting the purpose, roles, structure, values, vision and mission of GWM; defining long, mid and short-term strategies; defining and managing governance including policies and delegations of authority; managing the brand; owning intellectual property; attracting funding; providing strategic functional and operational support; executing strategy; providing operational support and guidance.

Myanmar country office – Legal entity – GWM Company Limited

Responsible for following, implementing and/or aligning with all frameworks set by head office; developing in-country processes as required; managing in-country human resources and assets including allocated funding; managing and implementing in-country functions and all operations including sector portfolios, programs and projects; informing and implementing strategy; adding proactive value.

GWM implementing body – Legal entity – various

Responsible for upholding all relevant policies and corporate practices, including values, as a delegated entity of GWM; implementing programs and projects within their defined parameters; providing timely information and feedback to the country and/or head office to support GWM in protecting all stakeholders and fulfilling all commitments. A GWM implementing body will typically be established to meet regional/local authority requirements or otherwise provide a notable implementation advantage as a distinct entity

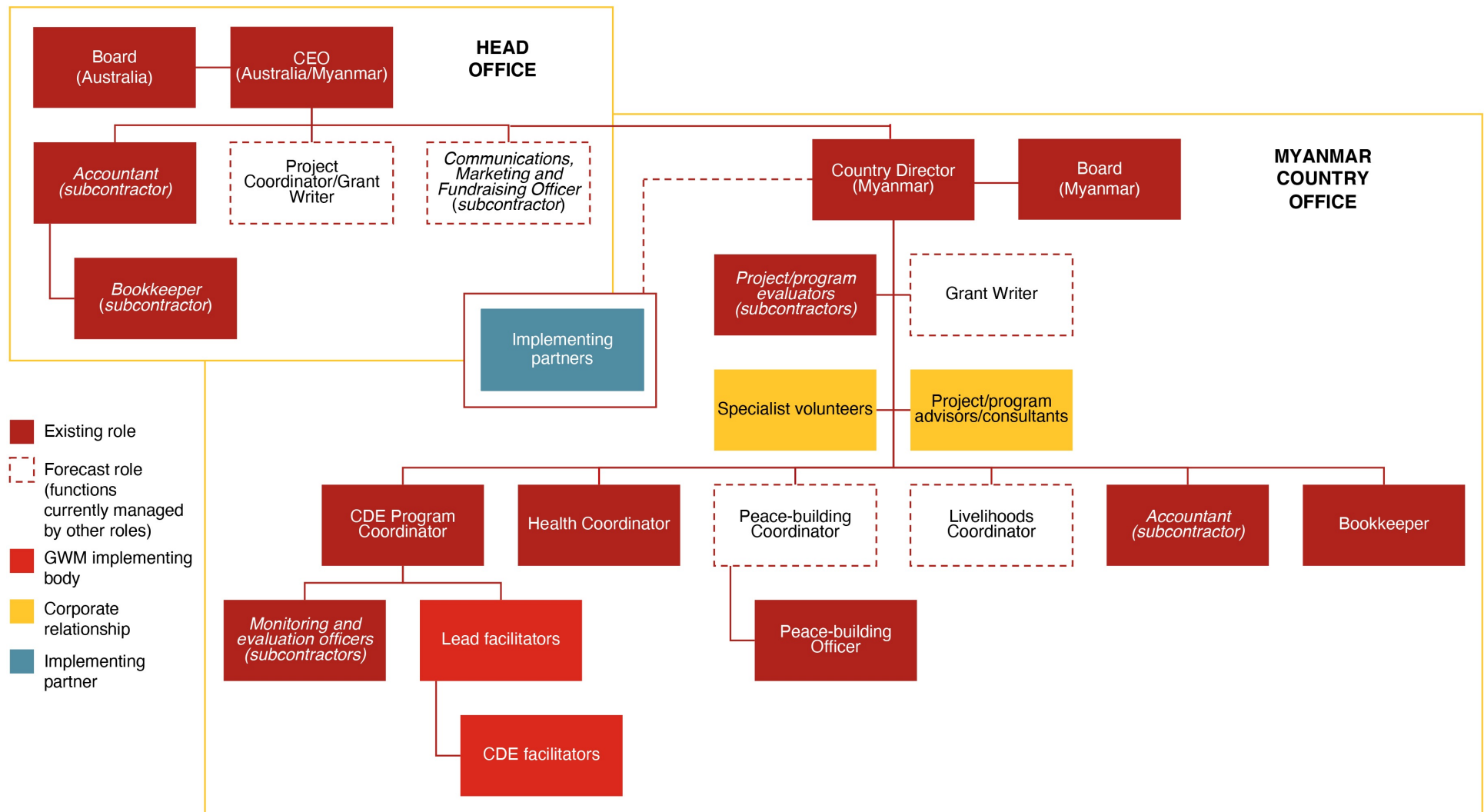
Corporate relationship

Responsible for upholding all relevant policies and corporate practices, including values, while acting on behalf of GWM; supporting GWM activities within the agreed bounds of the relationship; protecting and enhancing intellectual property as relevant.

Implementing partner – Legal entity – various

As an independent organisation, identified by GWM's head office and managed by GWM's country office, implementing partners are responsible for upholding ethical values and supporting a transparent, sharing relationship with GWM; upholding agreed policy and behavioural standards; delivering agreed activities in line with agreed goals; providing timely information and feedback for mutual benefit.

Organisational chart





INSIGHT

Humanitarian need skyrockets by 14 times its pre-coup levels

A recent United Nations (UN) report estimated that more than 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, are experiencing humanitarian need in Myanmar, up from 3 million people in July 2021, and 1 million people pre-coup.

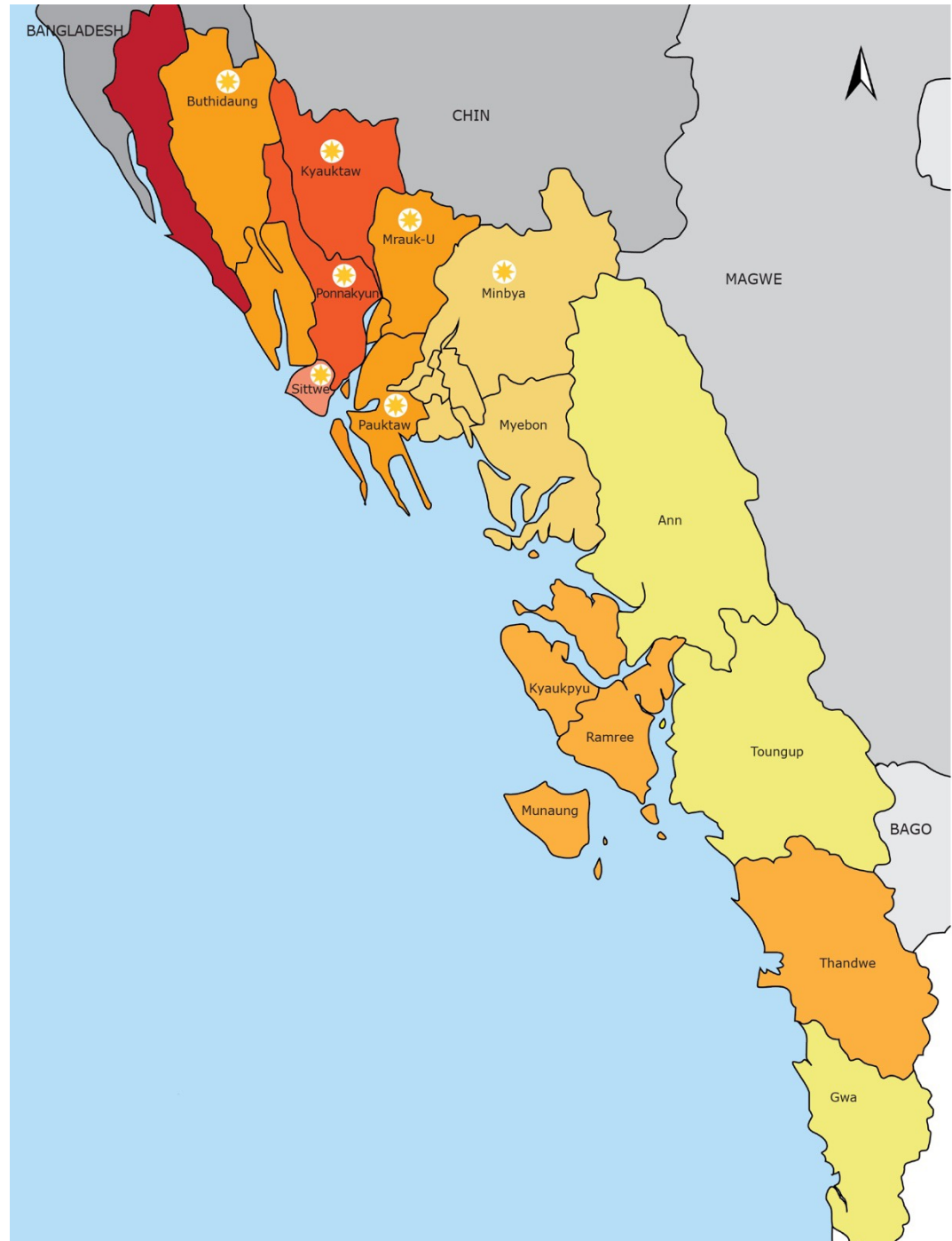
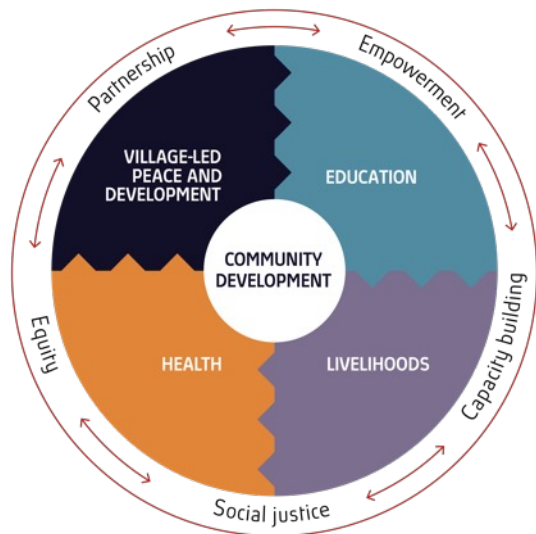
The GWM team has been fortunate to continue distributing emergency village care packs through our community development education (CDE) alumni in areas such as Rakhine State, Shan State and Yangon Division since October 2021.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, and the dedication and resilience of our team in Myanmar, they have helped around 1,700 people since the initiative started through to June 2022. The care packs provide basic emergency supplies for families and, for some, have been a lifeline.

GWM is committed to continuing our advocacy for the people of Myanmar – for action and for practical support.

Impact – scope

GWM is a community development organisation. We partner with local organisations and individuals who are working in communities, helping them achieve improvement and sustainability in their quality of life, while building their capacity. We closed the year refining our sectors as: village-led peace and development, education, health (including WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene) and livelihoods. We added education due to the significant need resulting from the coup. However, our report that follows does not include education. We primarily exist to serve people in Myanmar who experience poverty, vulnerability and marginalisation, with a heavy focus on community-level work, supporting them in gaining the freedoms and capacity to achieve the life they desire. GWM currently has programs or projects in Rakhine State (primary) and Shan State and Yangon Division. The map highlights the current locations where we have CDE facilitators in Rakhine State.



Impact – projects

GWM’s program/project activity has been substantially reduced due to the impacts of the military coup. The table below details our activities from July 2021 to June 2022.

Program/project	Focus
Building Peace and Capacity through CDE, Rakhine State (continued from previous year; July 2021 to March 2022/completion)	24 villages in 12 village pairs; Muslim and Buddhist communities reporting social harmony and working together in WASH, everyday peacebuilding and sport activities
Life Saving Water, Rakhine State (continued from previous year; July 2021 to June 2022; ongoing)	WASH program with 6 villages on Manaung Island and 6 villages in central/northern Rakhine State
Training program with Finish International Development Association (FIDA) (October 2021 to June 2022; ongoing)	Provision of local training in everyday peacebuilding and CDE
Emergency village care packs	Refer to page 17
General humanitarian aid	Support given to some of our CDE program alumni facilitators in Shan State, Yangon Division and Rakhine State

Due to the military coup, it has been difficult to safely gain detailed data from our CDE facilitators. Some communities have reduced activities and others have gone into hiding for security reasons. We continue to operate by working closely with local groups but on a limited scale, acknowledging that communication and limited travel within our areas of activity are closely monitored.

Photo by Alexander Schimmeck on Unsplash



Village-led development



GWM continually faces socio-economic and political crises. However, we were able to continue implementing our CDE program with village pairs in Rakhine State. This included facilitator training, community awareness seminars with communities and community-led projects such as bridge building, road making and road repairs.

In response to the urgent needs experienced by people throughout the country, GWM worked with donors and partners to reallocate some of the community-led project and training budgets to humanitarian aid, with the approval of our supporting donors.

GWM also partnered with FIDA and conducted seminars with young people in relation to conflict transformation.

*Community-led development
supporting a road repair project*



Peacebuilding

GWM's work in peacebuilding between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims progressed at a humble scale despite challenges – and with a great impact.

During the first half of the year, the characteristics of the coup, and the inequities exacerbated by the pandemic, underscored the vital need for peacebuilding at a community level. During the second half of the year, the escalation of fighting between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw (military) further challenged peacebuilding efforts. To support harmonious living between the Rohingya and Rakhine communities, GWM and our implementing body in Rakhine State, Community Education Empowerment (CEE), hosted a fellowship dinner and football tournament, alongside awareness seminars with young people from both communities, led by GWM's Country Director and Project Manager based in Rakhine State.

CASE STUDY

GWM via CEE started to witness transformational change. In June 2022, our Country Director, Project Manager and CDE facilitators enabled the coming together of 15 young Rohingya Muslims and 16 Rakhine Buddhists – connected as paired villages through our CDE work – at a Buddhist monastery for a three-day awareness seminar. This was supported by a football tournament between them. Rivalry and chronic conflict have been transformed. These young people are now experiencing harmonious living, goodwill and friendship regardless of religion and ethnicity.



(top) Our team encouraging peacebuilding skills; (base) football tournament

Health



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a similarly devastating impact in Myanmar as it has in many countries around the world.

In Rakhine State, where GWM has focused most of its recent work, there has been huge damage. In response to the pandemic impacts and tension between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw, we supplemented our community development work with humanitarian aid. Our emergency village care pack initiative enabled us to distribute practical support to those identified as most in need in our project areas (refer to p17 for more information).

Distribution of emergency village care packs



Livelihoods

In the midst of the challenges presented by the coup and COVID-19, GWM's work via our implementing body in Rakhine, CEE, enabled continued support of livelihoods in the form of bio-sand filter manufacturing, via well-trained people, and distribution to Muslim and Buddhist communities.

Those communities contributed to some of the costs, which in turn enabled further bio-sand filter production. WASH program village visits effectively combined village-led development with health and livelihoods work to further support the sustainability of gains made at the community level.



*(top) Supporting clean water supplies via bio-sand filter production;
(base) linking livelihoods with village-led development*



[Read more](#)

INSIGHT

Arts-based peacebuilding delivers landmark significance

A world-first arts-based peacebuilding initiative has formed part of GWM's CDE program since 2016. It has supported significant strides toward long-term peace as the arts create unique spaces for people to explore ideas central to peace (eg identity, perspective and culture) outside everyday life. The initiative has been led by Dr Vicki-Ann Ware (Deakin University) with design input from Joanne Lauterjung, A/Prof Anthony Ware and Shannon McSolvin, and strengthened through co-design with participants. It has involved twice-yearly arts-based peacebuilding workshops over three years per CDE village cohort, supporting more than 40 villages to date in Rakhine State. Through collage, song-writing, poetry, storytelling, comic strips and more, the team created safe places and shared experiences to help 'unfreeze' fixed views and open new ones. Research released in 2021 confirmed the majority of participants showed a growing belief that peace was possible in Rakhine State – a major outcome considering the entrenched beliefs. The work is challenging assumptions that peace is not possible in communities that have known decades of conflict.



[Read more](#)

INSIGHT

Reflection research shines light on decolonising evaluation

A unique reflective practice project offers new insights into decolonising development evaluation, based on a three-year evaluation of GWM's CDE and peacebuilding program in Rakhine State, engaging with 24 villages. Initially led by Dr Leanne Kelly, a respected evaluation specialist, she began collaborating part-way through with an emerging evaluator from Myanmar, Ms Phyo Pyae Thida (Sophia) Htwe. Their work recognises that evaluation has typically remained a foreign-led and highly colonising exercise. They are challenging 'good' evaluation between local priorities and donor/NGO perspectives. Their final reports include interviews with in-country NGO staff and village facilitators, and focus groups with dozens of village residents, valuing local voices. Key findings from an interim evaluation report were also turned into a visual poster in Burmese for the CDE villages. Decolonising evaluation improves accountability, meaningfulness and usefulness to all stakeholders by providing more accurate and insightful local analysis of the value and effectiveness of an NGO's approach. For GWM, we see this as a powerful step toward holistic local ownership of community development.

GWM's emergency village care packs



In October 2021, GWM launched a life-saving humanitarian initiative to provide basic emergency supplies to families in need in Myanmar via emergency village care packs. With food prices in the country having risen dramatically during the coup, the care pack initiative responded to desperate needs.

Care packs were designed by GWM's in-country team to support basic nutrition and health needs. A typical pack would include rice, cooking oil, potatoes, onion, garlic, chickpea, instant noodles, mackerel, face masks and hand sanitiser, and potentially items such as sugar, vitamins and fish paste. Care packs were ultimately sized to suit recipient families, on average providing emergency support for approximately 5 to 10 people.

The care pack initiative provided vital tangible help, while also offering a humanitarian solution that would best keep the GWM team in Myanmar safe. Distribution focused on families in villages that have the greatest needs in key areas such as Rakhine State – also prioritising areas where our team could safely distribute packs.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, and the dedication and resilience of our team in Myanmar, care packs helped around 1,700 people from October 2021 to June 2022.

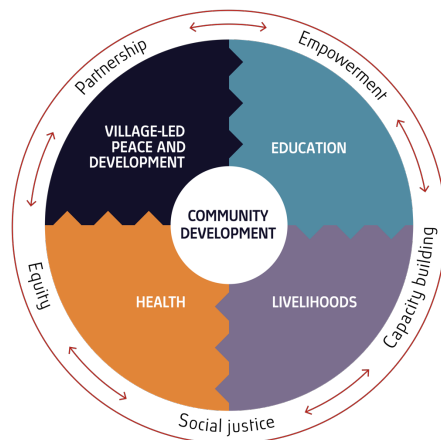
 [Read more](#)



GWM's 2022 strategic plan update



GWM's Board reset our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan in mid 2022 in response to the significant impacts the coup and COVID-19 on program/project delivery feasibility and development funding. The process confirmed that GWM adds value to those we serve, and avoids duplication with other NGOs, through our points of differentiation. We are: **committed long-term, community-first, and a collaborator.**



Sectors

- ◆ Maintain our focus on our existing sectors, with varied emphasis and prioritisation, and greater responsiveness to need
- ◆ Increase our livelihoods projects as a major priority
- ◆ Carefully re-engage with education projects
- ◆ Build our health projects including food security

Geographies

- ◆ Work alongside the most disadvantaged, least reached villages
- ◆ Leverage our work and track record in Rakhine

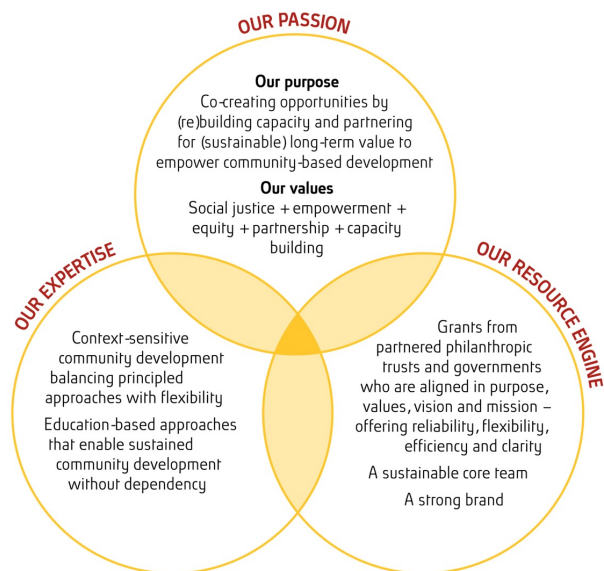
Services

- ◆ Continue and increase humanitarian aid efforts
- ◆ Maintain an enabling role where possible
- ◆ Rethink how we can use training to achieve greater impact
- ◆ Explore avenues to connect with our 70+ CDE alumni facilitators

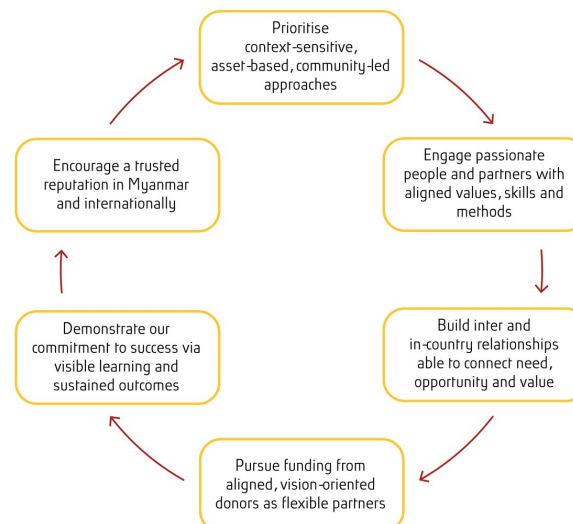
Stakeholders

- ◆ Maintain our emphasis on community ownership
- ◆ Increase our focus on youth leaders and diversity including disability inclusion and gender equity

Long-term sustaining principles



Long-term sustaining momentum



2030 vision

200 villages empowered by 2030

2025 vision

Communities reclaiming better quality of life by 2025

2025 goals



Beneficiaries – maximise support and evidence of improvements



Funding – attract more funding/other income aligned to donor priorities

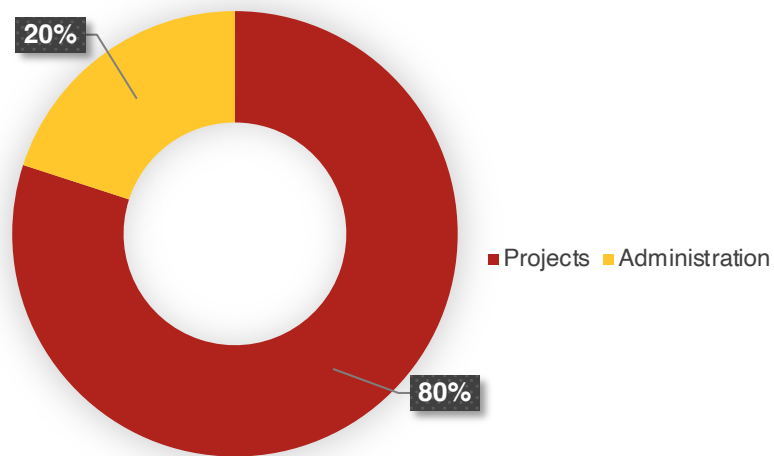


Team – enable sustainable, paid key roles

Financial report



2021/2022 expenditure allocated



Board declaration

The Board of GraceWorks Myanmar Inc states that the accompanying concise financial report is presented fairly in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and is consistent with the Association's 30 June 2022 financial report. In the 30 June 2022 financial report, the Board declares that the financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirement of the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets. The financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2022 and performance of the association for the year then ended. In the Board's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that GraceWorks Myanmar Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable. This statement has been made in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Ronnie Faggotter, Chairperson

Peter Simmons, CEO

Des Collinson, Treasurer

Income statement and statement of financial position



INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022			STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022		
	2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)		2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)
REVENUE			CURRENT ASSETS		
Donations and gifts	16,132	26,801	Cash and cash equivalents	168,193	26,658
Members fees	975	975	Trade and other receivables	-	-
Grants	266,115	-	Other	-	-
Other income	-	-	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	168,193	26,658
TOTAL REVENUE	283,222	27,776			
EXPENSES			NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Program expense			Property, plant and equipment	7,500	4,000
Funds to international programs	81,461	106,421	TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	7,500	4,000
Program to support costs	-	-	TOTAL ASSETS	175,693	30,658
Community education expense	80	-			
Fundraising expense	222	177	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accountability and administration expense	44,647	55,973	Trade and other payables	10,239	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	126,410	162,571	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,239	-
			TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,239	-
Excess/(Shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	156,812	(134,795)	NET ASSETS	165,454	30,658
			EQUITY		
			Retained surpluses/(deficits)	165,454	30,658
			TOTAL EQUITY	165,454	30,658

GWM manages accounts on a cash basis. An excess or shortfall in revenue over expenditure relates to the timing of grant income received versus transfer of allocations made to Myanmar.



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