



graceworks
MYANMAR

2020/2021 Annual Report



Contents

The people of Myanmar lived through two of the greatest modern challenges in the same year – a nation-wide military coup and the ongoing effects of COVID-19. Our conviction was captured in our news headline on 23 June 2021 – ‘community resilience provides a powerful force against total uncertainty’.

Cover images (l-r): GWM WASH; GWM peacebuilding; GWM community development education (CDE); Gayatri Malhotra on Unsplash; Saw Wunna on Unsplash; Zinko Hein on Unsplash



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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

**200 villages
empowered
by 2030**

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



Myanmar's history has been besieged by military dictatorships – often brutal and always with devastating social, economic and political consequences. Events on 1 February 2020, are arguably the most significant in the country's history, when the military overthrew the democratically elected government and imprisoned its leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The military coup, coupled with the rampant spread of COVID-19, has produced new challenges. These have created uncertainty and instability across every sector, destroying much of the progress and many of the advances of the last five years during which the nation was charting a course toward a free and democratic society. Due to the devastating effects of the military coup, international aid agencies have dramatically curtailed their operations or have left the country. Increased need and decreased resources are compounded by internet blackouts and subsequent communication limitations for NGOs.

GraceWorks Myanmar (GWM) will remain in the country, having survived under previous military/political roadblocks. We are redirecting much of our focus to the immediate call for emergency humanitarian aid. However, we are also continuing our projects, albeit some in a reduced capacity. Our community development education (CDE), including WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) and arts-based peacebuilding training offer examples of outstanding success stories. This includes the

PSimmons

Peter Simmons
Founder and CEO

significant milestone of Muslim and Buddhist communities joining together for Christmas gatherings – a catalyst for joint community development projects and sporting events. The stories of impact in this report are examples of why we keep pushing forward despite challenges. Each person whose life is changed for the better, every family with enough food, every community with sustainable livelihood incomes, and every child protected and educated, all make the fight worthwhile.

The effects of the coup and COVID-19 will dominate our work for the foreseeable future. The road ahead will not be easy, as the setback to Myanmar's future is alarmingly stark. A generation of young people face an uncertain future, many who will not receive a formal education. A business sector has been in tumultuous upheaval, resulting in many international corporations leaving the country. A financial sector has been decimated. These are some of the compelling reasons why our work should continue. Myanmar's hard-working, enterprising, tireless, peace-loving people, desperate to emerge out of poverty and oppression, deserve no less.

For our team and wider network of colleagues and friends in Myanmar, we remain concerned about their wellbeing and applaud their amazing work. To our dedicated board, donors and supporters, we thank you for your ongoing support.

RFaggotter

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; currently the Fund Administrator for the South Australian State Emergency Relief Fund.



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).



Des Collinson – Treasurer

A founding partner of a chartered accountancy business 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.



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; completing a PhD in sport-for-development.



Elizabeth Graetz

A business and marketing strategy consultant with 18 years' experience across diverse sectors; part of GWM's first CDE training team in 2012 and 2013; graduate of a Master of ICD, Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Creative Industries; a Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute.



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.

Corporate governance



Board of Directors

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

Audit

The Treasurer ensures an external financial audit is undertaken once every 12 months and 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

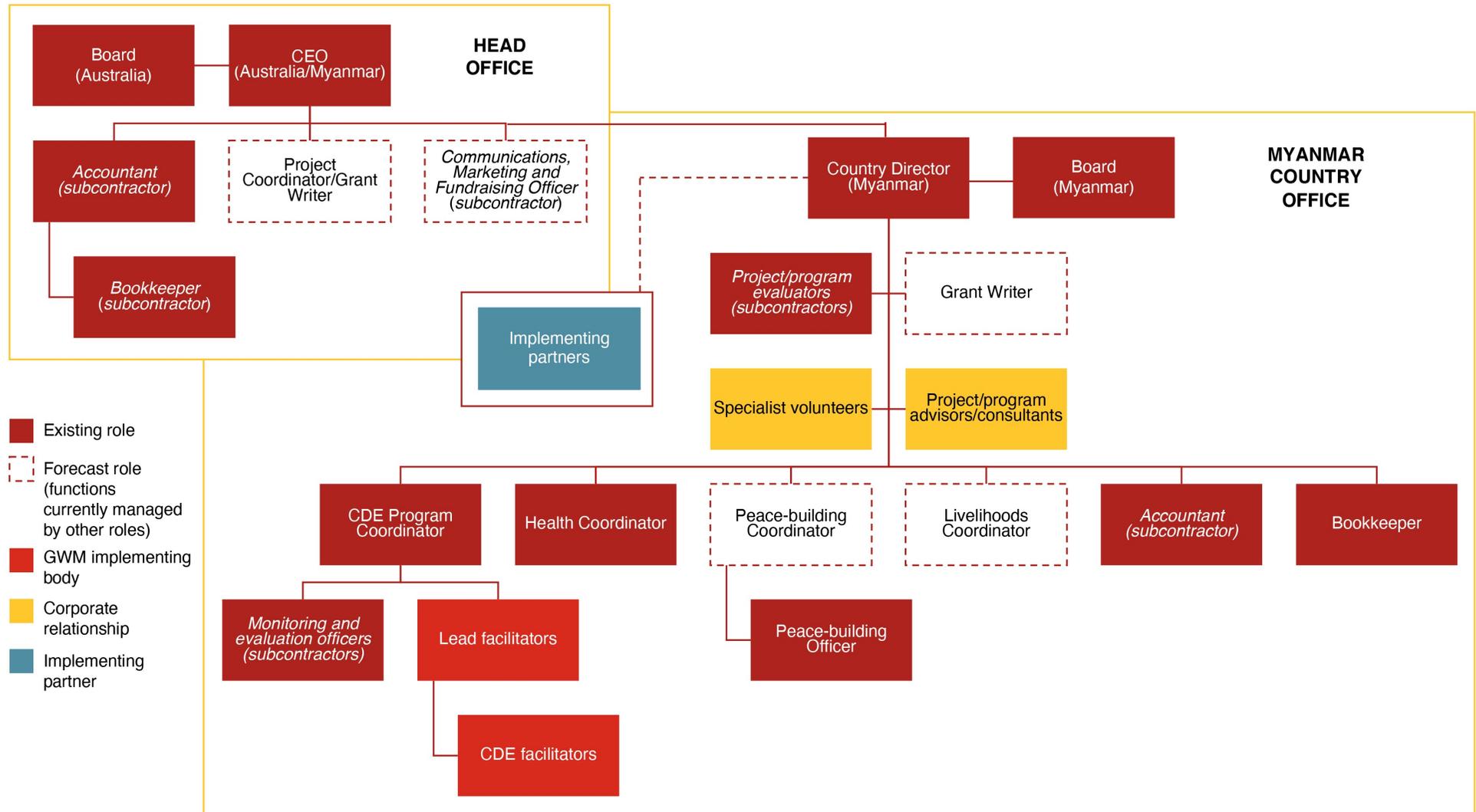
Corporate relationship

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

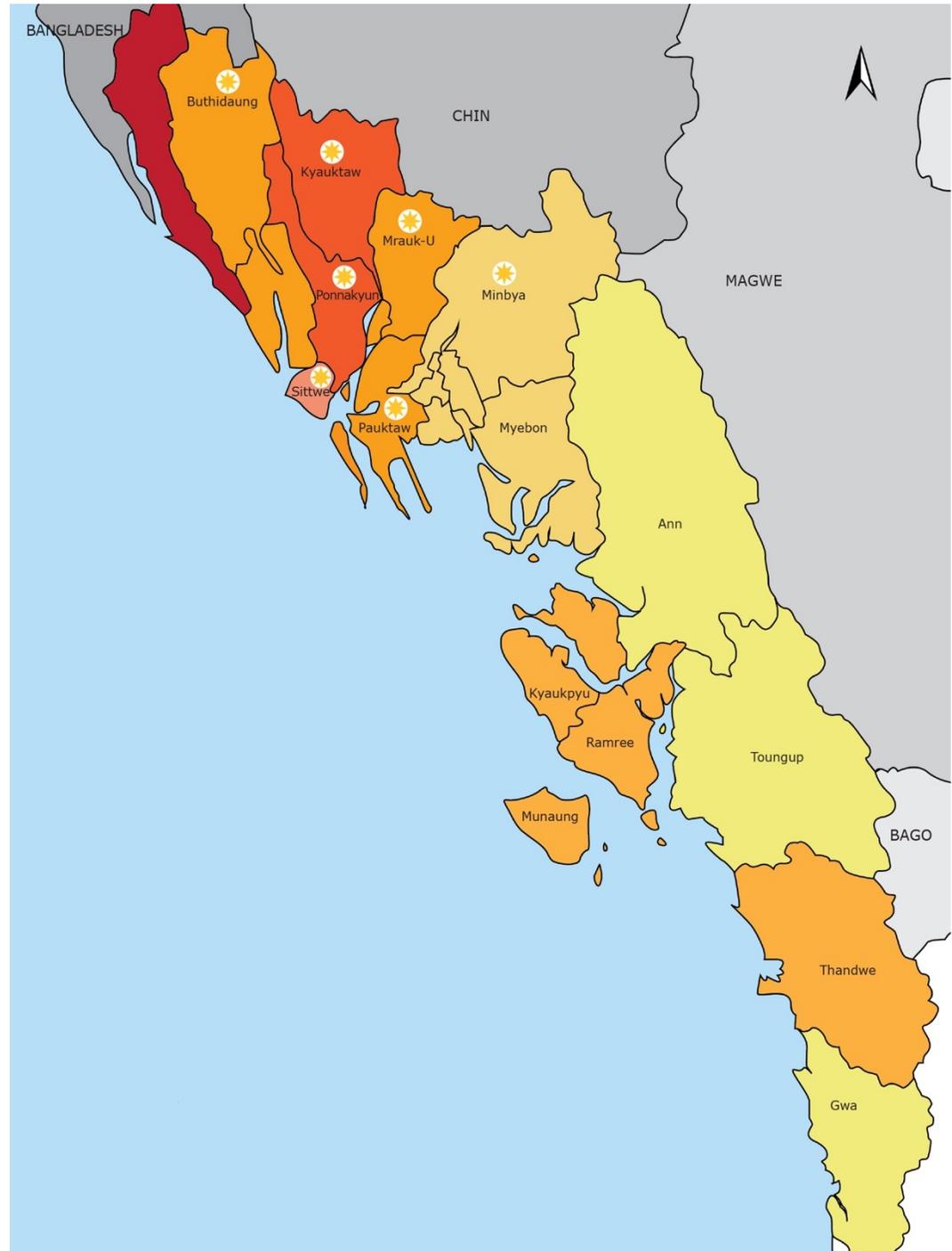
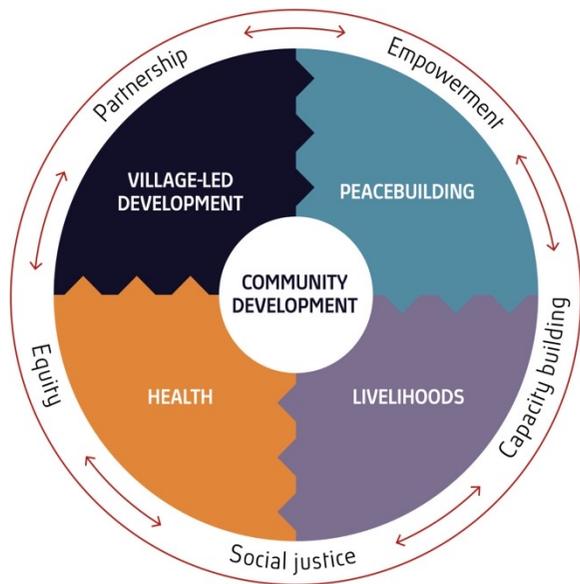
Community resilience provides a powerful force against total uncertainty

Myanmar's road to political and social transformation faced an abrupt and shocking halt with the February 2021 military coup. The effects have been disastrous, with deadly violence and intimidation. While marginalised people have heightened emergency needs, stress has been felt across all demographics. Basic needs are under pressure, with many people struggling for food.

GWM has witnessed the potent force of community resilience. Community ties are providing the fabric needed to keep people alive – direct bonds between neighbours and bridging ties into nearby communities. Many communities are also innately using asset-based principles to survive, with our team hearing of family-to-family and village-to-village sharing as a practical way to overcome gaps in basic supplies, and to give and receive economic and social support. The country needs a path to peace...and our continued advocacy.

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. During the year, we consolidated our sectors as: village-led development, peacebuilding, health (including WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene) and livelihoods initiatives. 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 Yangon Division. The map highlights the current locations where we have CDE facilitators in Rakhine State.



Impact – projects

GWM continued to deliver major, multi-year projects/programs in Rakhine State in addition to our health work in Yangon. The coup slowed the pace of our work, but did not halt our in-progress programs and projects in Rakhine. Work in Yangon shifted to a humanitarian focus.

Program/project	Focus	Impact
Building Peace and Capacity through CDE, Rakhine State (since Mar 2020)	CDE training including arts-based peacebuilding for new CDE villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 11 facilitators including including peace specialist ✓ 24 villages (12 village pairs) ✓ 59,890 people directly benefitted ✓ 69,475 people indirectly benefitted
Building Cultural Bridges, Rakhine State – ActionAid-led consortium (closed due to coup)	Training in arts and peacebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 facilitators ✓ One two-week ToT training session completed
Life Saving Water, Rakhine State (since Mar 2018)	WASH training for villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 11 people trained ✓ 17,784 people directly benefitted



Top: community members holding a peace discussion. Base: community education awareness seminar and peace discussion with young people

Village-led development



The year was marked by major challenges including COVID-19 impacts and country-wide turmoil from the coup and curfews, and the resulting strikes. GWM had to slow the pace of our work. However, despite these socio-economic and political hurdles standing in the way of progress, we were able to continue implementing our CDE program with our village pairs in Rakhine State. This included facilitator training, community awareness seminars and community-led projects (eg bridge building, road making and repair etc). This work integrated everyday peacebuilding and arts-based methods (refer to page 13).

In response to 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.

GWM continues to partner with Deakin University academics A/Prof Anthony Ware and Dr Vicki-Ann Ware in the design and implementation of the village-led development, peacebuilding and arts-based elements of our work. This includes Anthony and Vicki's work in leading the design of GWM's CDE program in Rakhine State, including the latest iteration that focuses on strengthening everyday peace formation between Rohingya and Rakhine communities (refer to page 13). They have written a training manual, which is now published and available for other agencies to use. This partnership also includes a significant academic research component, designed around GWM's CDE program in Rakhine State. The results of this research feed directly into further improvement to GWM's work. Research is also impacting communities beyond Myanmar, with some being used elsewhere by other agencies, such as in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Community development road making project in progress



GWM is proud to be contributing to the ongoing reflection, improvement and promotion of community development best practice.

Research



A Ware, VA Ware, & L Kelly (2022), 'Everyday Peace as a Community Development Approach', in J Eversley, S Gormally and A Kilmurray, Peacebuilding, Conflict and Community Development, Policy Press, UK.

VA Ware, A Ware, & L Kelly (2022), 'Everyday Peace: After Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar's Rohingya Conflict', in J Eversley, S Gormally and A Kilmurray, Peacebuilding, Conflict and Community Development, Policy Press, UK.

A Ware, C Laoutides, & M Book (2021), Myanmar: Post-coup scenarios and implications for humanitarian actors, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership.

A Ware, VA Ware, & L Kelly (2021), 'Strengthening Everyday Peace Formation After Ethnic Cleansing: Operationalisation of the Framework Using a Conscientisation Approach in Myanmar's Rohingya Conflict', Third World Quarterly.

A Ware, & C Loutides (2021), 'Whose Analysis? Trial of a new participatory conflict analysis for Do No Harm/conflict-sensitive development planning', Conflict, Security and Development.

VA Ware, J Lauterjung, & S Harmer McSolvin S (2021), Arts-based adult learning in peacebuilding: A potentially significant emerging area for development practitioners? European Journal of Development Research.

C Roy, A Ware, & C Laoutides (2021), 'The political economy of Norwegian peacemaking in Myanmar's peace process', Third World Quarterly.

VA Ware, & A Ware (2020), 'Strengthening Everyday Peace Formation via Community Development in Myanmar's Rohingya-Rakhine conflict', in B Crisp and A Taket (ed), Sustaining Social Inclusion, London: Routledge, pp.247-261.

Peacebuilding

GWM's world-leading work in peacebuilding progressed at a humble scale, amid extreme conditions. The characteristics of the coup and the inequities exacerbated by the pandemic underscored the vital need for peacebuilding at a community level.

Across the year, arts-based peacebuilding activities included poetry writing, songwriting and singing, and speaking. Competitions were held, led by a specialist peace facilitator, to further share perspectives on peace.

To support harmonious living between Rohingya and Rakhine communities (Muslim and Buddhist villagers), with a focus on young people, GWM also hosted a fellowship dinner and chinlon/football tournament, alongside awareness seminars in new communities, led by the project manager based in Rakhine State.

During the year, the first of three planned two-week ToT training sessions were also started (in late-January 2021) as part of an EU-funded program with ActionAid Myanmar and a consortium of five NGOs (GWM, ActionAid Myanmar, Goethe Institut, Paung Daw Oo school, Kachin Baptist Convention) and a local Burmese university – the 'Cultural Bridges' program. GWM's primary contribution was to provide arts-based peacebuilding training to the consortium, using the CDE training manual. Our team completed the first of the two-week training rounds online, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Tragically, the coup started during that time, halting all training. The project was closed due to the withdrawing of funding.

Our team conducting peacebuilding training in Rakhine State, led by one of our local team members





CASE STUDY

World-leading everyday peacebuilding shines in crisis

After years of our village-level CDE, and more recent work in everyday peacebuilding, which often uses the arts and sports for unifying experiences, GWM started to witness transformational change. Over the 2020/2021 Christmas/New Year period, our CDE facilitators enabled the coming together of Rohingya Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists – connected as paired villages through our CDE work – over a series of fellowship dinners, sporting events and generous donations of food and resources from both groups. Historical rivalry was exchanged for experiences of harmony, goodwill and friendship. These groups are now trading, sharing resources, and working on joint projects such as road building and well digging, alongside many other community activities based on participatory development. Everyday peacebuilding is laying a foundation for sustainable, locally driven change. GWM is particularly proud that gains were made despite only remote training and coaching of our Myanmar-based facilitators by our Australian community development experts.



Top l: Muslim and Buddhist teams playing football. Top r: the opening ceremony of a match. Mid l: a Buddhist monk watching a match together with Muslim leaders. Mid r: an awareness seminar with young people, focused on peacebuilding. Base: an everyday peace talk with Muslim women

Health

The global 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 work in the last year, the damage is significant.

In August 2020, reports of COVID-19 spreading fast across the whole state, including Manaung Island, meant that travel in the region became very difficult. However, the primary concern was the lack of medical infrastructure to conduct testing and provide appropriate care for those with COVID-19.

During October 2020, in response to COVID-19 impacts and the Tatmadaw burning two Rakhine villages, GWM supplemented our community development work with humanitarian aid. This was distributed to those identified as most in need in our project areas.

Due to the February 2021 coup, GWM's other health work was paused indefinitely. Minor health-related aid has been delivered since, after FY2020/2021.



Distributing humanitarian aid

Livelihoods



GWM had to delay an intended expansion of our livelihoods work due to the uncertainty and safety risks created by the coup and spread of COVID-19. However, there is a livelihoods component to our CDE work. As such, during this year, livelihoods work continued 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 (otherwise funded by a grant), which enabled further bio-sand filter production.

WASH program village visits, combining village-led development with health and livelihood work



GWM brand



Strengthening our brand's visual presence

A strong brand is a valuable asset in any context. The GWM brand represents our DNA and helps build enduring relationships, encourage support, grow our reputation and attract like-minded people.

In late 2020, we simplified and modernised our visual style to improve the clarity, consistency and quality of how our brand is represented. The logo refresh deliberately retained the three key elements of the original icon's symbolism:

- **Star** – representing the hope for Myanmar's people that is further encouraged and enabled when those from other countries and cultures join with them to help them make a difference in their lives
- **Sunrise** – representing the dawn of a new day, new beginning and new, brighter future
- **Heart** – representing compassion and freedom.

This work prompted the creation of a suite of new templates, improving the professionalism of our work and increased our efficiency. It also resulted in public-facing improvements such as a new website and new public donation page, linked to secure and well-respected platforms, Raisely and Stripe.

Old logo



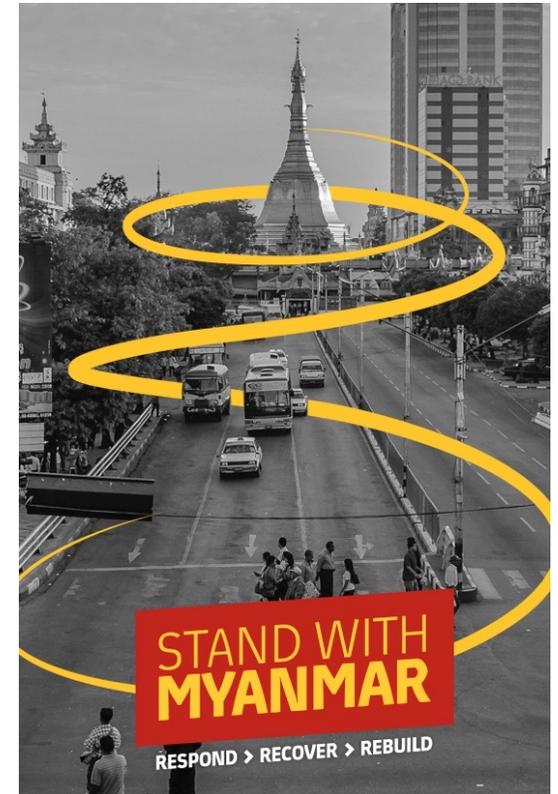
New logo



Coup and COVID-19



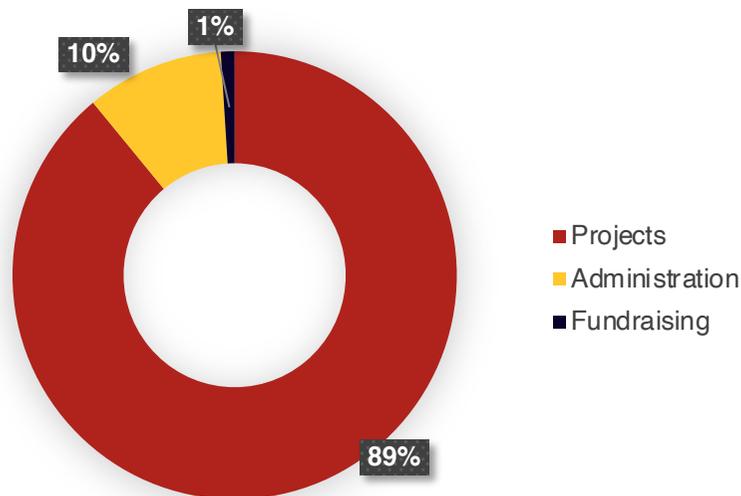
- The coup and COVID-19 have created havoc in Myanmar at every level. Many international NGOs have either left or gone into 'hibernation'. GWM was founded by an Australian and has an Australian support base, but our work is largely delivered by our Myanmar-based team. Amid the impacts, there are several features of our approach through this challenging season.
 - We prioritise the safety of our people and maintain regular contact where possible. All decisions are informed and, where possible led, by on-the-ground experiences and insights.
- Where our work can safely continue – enabled by our focus on local CDE facilitators – it is doing so and with success.
- We continually match field insight to potential humanitarian support ideas. We have adapted as needed, while aiming to stay true to our areas of expertise. Our main humanitarian initiative was developed and launched after FY2020/2021.
- Our CEO is part of an ACFID working group that shares reports, views and experiences, including scope for advocacy.
- Our board and team follow research and news from major development agencies, such as the United Nations.



Financial report



2020/2021 expenditure on revenue



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 2021 financial report. In the 30 June 2021 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 2021 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 2021		
	2021 (\$)	2020
REVENUE		
Donations and gifts	16,132	6,984
Members fees	975	925
Grants	266,115	346,138
Other income	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	283,222	354,047
EXPENSES		
Program expense		
Funds to international programs	81,461	218,459
Program to support costs	-	63,235
Community education expense	80	-
Fundraising expense	222	-
Accountability and administration expense	44,647	140,206
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	126,410	421,900
Excess/(Shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	156,812	(67,853)

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.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021		
	2021 (\$)	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	168,193	16,782
Trade and other receivables	-	6,826
Other	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	168,193	23,608
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	7,500	7,500
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	7,500	7,500
TOTAL ASSETS	175,693	31,108
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	10,239	22,465
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,239	22,465
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,239	22,465
NET ASSETS	165,454	8,643
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses/(deficits)	165,454	8,643
TOTAL EQUITY	165,454	8,643



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