



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STREET KIDS

Report and Appeal - 2018



**Working to provide educational opportunities
for very poor children in Myanmar**

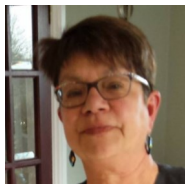
**S4SK is a registered charity in the UK, No: 1131559
www.s4sk.org.uk, e-mail: info.s4sk@gmail.com**

Who we are: in UK, we are Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK)

S4SK, 72 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, BD22 8AH, United Kingdom

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We are very sorry to lose one of our founding trustees, Margaret Hirst, who passed away on 17th June 2018. Margaret was deeply compassionate and caring, and supported our work with much love and energy. She took an active interest in the progress of the children we help, and also in the welfare of staff in Myanmar. She was a good friend to us all and we feel her loss.

In Myanmar, we are Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS)

H4SS, Room 045, 5th Floor, Bayint Naung Tower (1A),

Bayint Naung Rd., Yangon, Myanmar

E-mail: h4ss.s4sk@gmail.com



Senior staff at the H4SS office and some of our teachers at a training course

Our history: S4SK is a UK charity based around Keighley Quaker Meeting in West Yorkshire, and working in Myanmar to provide non-formal education (NFE) for severely disadvantaged children. **Our first class of 3 street children was set up in 2007** and S4SK was registered as a UK charity in 2009. In 2013 S4SK-Myanmar (S4SK-M) became an independent local NGO. In 2016, in line with Burmese culture which emphasises aspirations rather than problems, S4SK-M was renamed **Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS)**. **In 2018-9, we expect that H4SS will, in its non-formal education (NFE) and scholarship programmes, touch the lives of around 650 children.**

Together, S4SK and H4SS work to bring real change to the lives of severely deprived children.

The children we help: The children who join our classes are from families so poor that the children have to work. As breadwinners, they cannot afford the time to go to school, but work in tedious occupations, often in unsafe conditions.

To find out more about the situation of our children and their families, please view our videos by typing **'Hope for Shining Stars H4SS-S4SK Vimeo'** into your browser.



Carrying wood, brick-making, carrying clay, fishing for crabs and bean-peeling

A complex problem: Many families have been illiterate for generations. Unable to access education their children are destined to become unskilled workers in insecure jobs like their parents. They are trapped in poverty. We know that provision of education alone is not enough: to enable the children to attend class we need to help solve the problems faced by their families at the same time.

Bringing real change to children's lives: H4SS has a combined strategy which provides education to the children in a sustained way while doing whatever it takes to address the needs of their families.

1. Non-formal education: H4SS has an active-learning approach to non-formal education (NFE) which requires no previous schooling. Classes are active and fun, with project activities, games and quizzes. In addition we offer handi-crafts and income-generating activities to develop skills which will give the children confidence to take up vocational training when they are older.

Each class is overseen by a local NFE Committee (NFE) which surveys the need in the area, identifies local people to be trained as teachers, arranges classrooms, aids communication between parents and the H4SS office, raises funds locally, and ensures that the community is kept involved in the running of the class.

Last year, H4SS provided NFE to 417 children, of which 273 were funded by S4SK and 144 by the International Labour Organisation. The 19 S4SK-funded classes were overseen by 16 NFEs with a total of 144 NFE members. Income-generating (IG) projects last year included manufacture and sale of liquid soap, ice-lollies, snacks, hand-crafted items using recycled plastic, and running a launderette service.



NFE classes with active learning through games, quizzes and projects

2. Family Support (FS): The income of our families typically is between £1.12 and £3.26 per day, including their children's earnings. In recognition of this, we make a small, means-tested, Family Support payment to compensate for lost earnings while children are in class. This is paid monthly, and the occasion used to discuss issues affecting child development with parents.

Last year, S4SK funded provision of FS payments to 164 households to keep 214 children in class, and to 28 children from poor families in state schools, of whom 3 had previously transferred from our NFE classes.

3. Social Work: Our children's families face many problems—debt, ill-health, insecurity of accommodation, addiction, etc.—and because of their own lack of education, parents tend to withdraw children from class to help. Our teachers undertake social work to help resolve domestic problems before this happens.

Last year, in the S4SK-funded classes, our teachers helped 101 families with household emergencies, medical costs, hospital treatment, repair of flood-damaged homes, resettlement, arranging child care, and more. Altogether 331 home visits were made. Of the 65 students whose families began to withdraw them, 41 (63%) could be persuaded to stay in class and continue their education.

4. Scholarships: We award scholarships to young people whose education is stranded because of poverty. Most are alumni of our NFE classes. After they complete the curriculum, we look for ways to further their learning through scholarships for study at other educational, or vocational training institutions.

S4SK-funded scholarships last year included: 10 students attending formal school, 28 alumni of NFE classes who transferred to formal education, 2 students in construction skills, 1 studying IT, 2 higher education grants in computer science and dentistry, and 3 apprenticeships in hairdressing. In addition, S4SK funded provision of sewing and tailoring training to 23 students, accommodated 22 students at the Learning Centre of whom 16 were studying at institutions in Rangoon, and arranged study guide classes for 22 children sitting for school exams, all of whom passed.

The Learning Centre, funded by S4SK, acts as a bridge between NFE and educational institutions. Activities include:

- a **school bus** to bring students to and from school safely;
- **NFE classes** at different levels, **preparation** for entrance exams of other institutions;
- **sewing and tailoring** courses;
- **income generation** activities (soap-making, ice-packets, handicrafts etc.);
- **accommodation** (in 3 separate buildings) for up to 30 young people studying at the Learning Centre or at educational institutions in Rangoon;
- **homework classes** each evening;
- **counselling** to help students adjust and make the best of their study.



Students with bags they made in the sewing class, and the school bus



5. Community Learning Circles (CLC): The intention behind our CLCs is to raise awareness about education, family planning, child rights and child protection among poor communities. The fortnightly discussions are coordinated by H4SS and draw on local resource people and NGOs.

Last year, H4SS ran Community Learning Circles in Pakkoku, Pyay-Sinmyizwe & Bago.

6. Specialist teacher training: Our teachers are mostly young people with education but no previous teaching experience. We train them in active learning teaching techniques, organize monthly meetings to share problems and plan lessons, and mentor them regularly in their classrooms. We place much emphasis on supporting our teachers and there is a strong team-spirit among them. They support each other, and teach our children with kindness and skill.

Last year H4SS trained 21 teachers, while mentors made 126 visits to classes and arranged 9 meetings for lesson planning.



Aye Aye Myint, and Wa Wa Thwin (Mentors) and Thein Naing (Consultant)

7. Advocacy: We currently advocate for: 1. Provision of social support for families of working children to allow them to access education; 2. Better partnership mechanisms between the Ministry of Education and NGO providers; 3. Revision of the law relating to child rights to protect children from being made to work.

Last year H4SS advocated strongly on these issues to the Department of Alternative Education through the relevant consultative committees.

8. Integrated Curriculum Working children have hard lives, with little time to play, or learn about society around them. We have them in class for just three hours each day, less than half the length of a normal school day. To broaden their education we are developing an integrated curriculum, which teaches educational competencies while engaging with themes linked with the life-experience of our students, and the broader world.

Last year, H4SS ran 3 workshops for Advisory Board members, staff and teachers, and began work on a teaching manual attuned to our children.

9. Poverty Alleviation Debt is one of the major factors which traps families in poverty and makes them reliant on the earnings of their children. At interest rates of 15-20% per month, a sum of say \$50 borrowed to cover medical treatment for example can escalate to \$100 in just 5 months. Since the interest has to be paid in full before the sum borrowed is reduced, it can take years for a poor family to pay off even relatively minor debts. This year, (2018-9) in cooperation with a local women's organization, 'Women for the World', we have started a poverty

alleviation project where H4SS will take over the debt of selected families who show they can budget and save, and who commit to: a. keeping their children in class; b. joining a savings group; c. undertaking vocational training; and d. joining in income-generating activities. **The idea is that they will repay their original debt at a reasonable rate and gain experience of new skills and the motivation to stay out of debt in the process.**

10. Successive educational opportunities: We provide a succession of opportunities to help our children progress. All three of these young people dropped out of school through family poverty, and worked for some time before joining one of our NFE classes.



Htun Lin Naing in his NFE class



During his apprenticeship



In front of his own salon with H4SS Programme Director, brother, mother and sister

Htun Lin Naing worked first as a bean peeler, then in an engineering workshop, and was out of school for three years before joining our NFE class in 2014. His reading and writing skills were very poor so he was placed in Level 1, where he progressed well.

Towards the end of Year 2, one of the class teachers, Ye Yint Kyaw (who is a professional hairdresser) offered hairdressing as one of the class's income-generating activities. Htun Lin found he enjoyed it. In Year 3, the focus was to read and write sufficiently well to be able to handle the demands of life and work. There were classes in business skills too. Htun Lin continued with hairdressing, learning popular styles, and earning respect from other children who would often come to him to for haircuts.

In May 2017, upon completing the NFE curriculum, Htun Lin became an apprentice in his teacher's hairdressing salon. Just a year later, in May 2018, he opened his own business.

H4SS supported him with professional equipment which was presented at ceremony to mark the beginning of the school year of his former NFE class, and before a friendly audience that included several local officials.

His mother said:

Some years ago, I had a big crisis in my family life. I could not care for my children and was in despair. However, after the parent education classes, I realized that I should support my children to study. Therefore, I tried to keep them coming to the NFE class as much as I could. I am very happy to see my son could work with such a good career.

Htun Lin Naing said,

There is much to learn about hairdressing, both knowledge and skills. I will learn more by reading the books in my spare time.

We wish Htun Lin the very best in his career.

Thazin dropped out of school aged 10 to care for younger siblings while her mother worked, joining an NFE classes in 2014. She studied well for three years, then was accepted by Education for Youth (E4Y), a Swiss-funded pre-vocational college) in 2017. Now she lives at the Learning Centre and is in her second year at E4Y.

During the holidays, Thazin had to work as a bricklayer for 5,000/- Kyat (£2.60) per day, to increase in the family income. However, she was unhappy doing this job and worried that she might have to work full-time and not be allowed to return to school. Her favorite activities in class are Burmese, writing essays and reading poems.

When I returned to the NFE class, I felt lucky and hopeful again, and thought I would be able to become what I want to be. My ambition is to work in hotels as an accountant. I will keep trying till I reach my goal.

Her mother attended Parent Education sessions and Thazin has noticed that Mum has started trying to save each week, and has become more supportive of Thazin's study.

Step by step, we will try to support Thazin till she is established in a good career.



Thazin in her NFE class



At the Learning Centre

Zaw Myo Oo is from a rural area and his parents are daily farm labourers. After dropping out of school aged 9, he worked on a farm. Later, his mother enrolled him in an orphanage school (teaching primary grades) nearby. When the time came to move to middle school, Zaw Myo felt out of place:

I was shy to attend formal school because I was older and taller than others. So, I attended the H4SS NFE class. Each day, after the morning class, I worked on a farm. During long holidays, I worked at bricklaying. At the beginning, I was sort of happy but got bored later. I worried that, without education, I would have to do this all my life.

Now, Zaw Myo lives at the Learning Centre and is in his fourth year at E4Y:

I am interested in social studies and science. I like practical sessions where we have to search for the knowledge through reading books. My ambition is to become a chief chef at a hotel.

Once he completed the course at E4Y, Zaw Myo will be eligible to apply for a professional hotel and gastronomy course at the Centre for Vocational Training in Rangoon. Hopefully, we will be able to support Zaw Myo until he achieves his goal.



Zaw Myo in a workshop at E4Y and a class project



**Your support can help change more young lives!
For relatively modest sums, the life-changing effects of
a donation to S4SK can be enormous.**

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Our children have a long way to catch up. We believe in providing sustained education, and with your support, year on year, we really are bringing significant change to the lives of those children we have the privilege to help.

We are a small charity. Apart from the costs of our appeal, all admin costs at S4SK, including travel, are covered by donation from the trustees, so you can be sure that nearly everything (roughly 98%) of your donation will go to the work you see here. Please help us if you can.

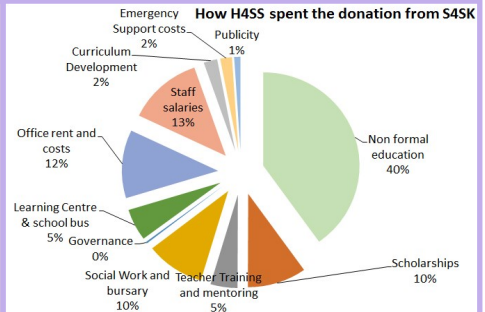
In friendship,



John McConnell (Managing Trustee, S4SK)

In the 2017-8 financial year, S4SK raised £68,890, of which £43,754 was spent on the work you see here, and £925 on appeal and banking charges, leaving £24,211 in reserve for 2018-9.

To guarantee **continuity of classes throughout the year** we retain 10 months operating costs in reserve. Designated expenditure for 2018-9 is currently £56,000. Full accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website.



Please support our work:

- 1. By cheque or charity voucher** to the treasurer at the address below, and made payable to Scholarships for Street Kids;
- 2. By electronic transfer** to Scholarships for Street Kids Lloyds Bank plc, Branch: Hustler-gate, Bradford, A/C No: 00376613, Sort Code: 30-91-12. Or use the IBAN code: GB68LOYD30911200376613. Please email the treasurer at: s4skfinance@gmail.com when you make a donation;
- 3. By regular donation (Standing Order)** please email the treasurer to receive a donation form at: s4skfinance@gmail.com.

Gift Aid: If you are a taxpayer, you can also boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

- ☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to: Scholarships for Street Kids. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
- ☐ I am happy to receive further information relating to the work of S4SK
- ☐ I am happy to receive information sent to my email address:.....

S4SK is a UK registered charity, No: 1131559. We will process your personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Our Privacy Policy is available from the Treasurer.

Name:

Address:

.....Postcode:.....

**Please return to: Erica Cadbury, Treasurer, Scholarships for Street Kids,
72 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, BD22 8AH**