



# Rural Development Society Suisse

## Soutien aux enfants du Myanmar

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### Here is our March 2023 newsletter

Dear donor,

We had the pleasure of staying in Myanmar from January 14 to February 11, 2023.

From Yangon to Shan State and then to Mandalay, we met most of our friends and the communities that benefit from our support. We have experienced the hardships and sufferings that the population endures.

With great caution and discretion, we have expanded our micro-credit program in favor of peasant families, we have maintained our emergency food aid and we have started the construction of two school buildings.



*North of Kalaw*

### **SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION**

Htwe Htwe is a longtime friend. living in a poor district of Yangon. For the past few years, she has been distributing basic food to dozens of underprivileged households near her home thanks to RDS Switzerland. She suggests that we accompany her to a monastery south of Yangon, about an hour and a half away. She explains: "Here, the families are poor. The children do not go to school. During the day, they collect, sort and sell waste to support their families. The monks of the monastery are the only ones to educate these children". As the building



*Layout of the future “classroom”»*

became too cramped, it had to be enlarged. RDS Switzerland has financed part of the work so that these young people benefit from a correct framework to follow their courses.

### **MICROCREDIT AND EMERGENCY AID SOUTH OF KALAW**

Shwe Oo is one of our main collaborators in Myanmar and a long-time friend. Married, mother of two boys, she lives in a small village an hour's drive from Kalaw.

For several years, Shwe Oo has been running a microcredit program with our financial support. In a few surrounding villages, dozens of families receive a loan corresponding as a general rule to two months of their salary, ie around MMK 200,000 (CHF 100.-). Farmers buy seeds, fertilizers, tools... Thanks to our support, they no longer need to borrow money at particularly abusive rates. So far, the vast majority of borrowers have repaid on time. Shwe Oo reinvests these amounts to help families in different villages. RDS Switzerland entrusted him with CHF 500.- for 5 additional loans. She also helps various families in the region from time to time: food, medicine, others!



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*Shwe Oo village*



## **EXPANSION OF A SCHOOL AND MICROCREDIT NORTH OF INLE LAKE**

Sar Bwa, the young woman who was in Switzerland with us last summer, welcomed us to her family for a few days. His village has more than 1,500 inhabitants, mostly members of the PaO ethnic group and farmers. Sar Bwa's family mainly cultivates mango trees.

A school welcomes the 210 children of the village. It is of good quality but it lacks a crèche and a classroom for teenagers. One evening, we take part in a school committee meeting to study the estimate for the teen room, ask questions, request additional information and finalize the project. RDS Switzerland provides the necessary CHF 3,800. The new room will be ready for the next school year in June 2023.

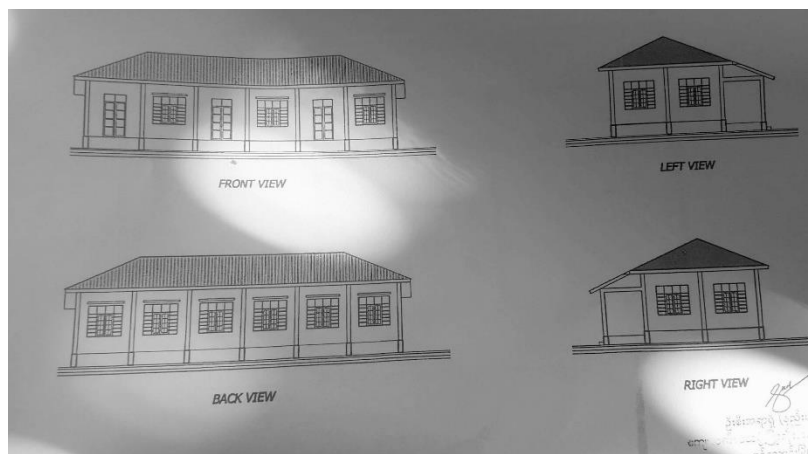


*The school today with the additional room to be built*

Sar Bwa and his mother run a microcredit program. A priori, the twenty beneficiary families should repay the sums lent at the end of the monsoon and the harvest, in October. Due to ever-increasing demand, RDS Switzerland entrusts Sar Bwa with the amount necessary to assist 20 additional households.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL AT HTI THA PYAY**

Nan Bae is one of our oldest acquaintances in Myanmar. We met her in 2008 at the children's home in Kalaw. Now married, mother of a two-year-old boy, she works as a teacher in the village of TTP. A few years ago, she informed us of the very poor condition of the school building and asked for our help. RDS Switzerland had accepted his request and an initial amount of CHF 10,000.- had been set aside for this purpose. But the Covid 19 and the military coup had frozen our project. Now we are satisfied. This money was given to Nan Bae. Construction will begin as soon as RDS Switzerland has sent it the second installment of this aid, a similar amount.



### **FOOD AID AND MICROCREDIT IN THE SAGAING REGION**

At the end of our stay, back in Yangon, we entrusted CHF 500.- to Su. For many months, she has been supporting villagers in the Sagaing region. Due to the refusal by its inhabitants of the military coup of February 1, 2021, the army bombed and destroyed dozens of villages there, forcing the population to flee. Money from RDS Switzerland provides emergency aid to these internal refugees.

Thanks to her contacts in Naga Land, in the northwest of Myanmar, Su also offers food aid to several needy families.



*Food aid in the Sagaing region*

### **CRAFTS AND LOCAL PRODUCTS OF MYANMAR**

We bring you from Myanmar Shan mountain green tea (50 gr., CHF 9.-), dried chilli flakes (20 gr., CHF 3.60), turmeric powder (10 gr., CHF 5.-) , peanuts (grilled or roasted) from Kailash (100 gr., CHF 2.-).

We have enriched our range of crafts with new necklaces and bracelets in jade, pearls as well as other jewelry, fabric bags, hats...

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information or to place your order.



### **SALE OF VALAIS WINES AND FRUIT JUICES, HOMEMADE JAMS**

#### ➤ **Valais wines, "The Fifth Season", Martigny**

##### **A "Spring Conviviality" wine box:**

Petite Arvine AOC, Johannisberg de Chamoson AOC, Gamay de Martigny rosé AOC, Diolinoir AOC, « 5ème saison » Assemblage rouge AOC, Pinot noir de Chamoson : **CHF 110.-**.

Or according to **personalized wish**:

Petite Arvine AOC CHF 22.-, Johannisberg de Chamoson AOC CHF 19.-, Gamay de Martigny rosé AOC CHF 17.-, Diolinoir AOC CHF 22.-, « 5ème saison » Assemblage rouge AOC CHF 19.-, Pinot noir de Chamoson CHF 19.-, Humagne rouge AOC CHF 22.-, Gamay de Martigny AOC CHF 17.-, Gamaret AOC CHF 22.-, Galotta AOC CHF 22.-.

Payment in cash or with Twint on delivery. Delivery Goods to be collected by prior arrangement or at Mont-sur-Lausanne, 1st delivery Tuesday March 28, 2023. Other deliveries will take place on the following Tuesdays.

#### ➤ **Fruit juice from Valais, Saxon**

We offer organic fruit juices from Valais. This action allows you to buy a quality product labeled by Mr. Michel Colomb and support our activities in Myanmar.

Apricot juice & Pear juice: box of 6 bottles of pure juice at CHF 30.-.

Apple juice: cubitainer of 5 liters of pure juice at CHF 18.-.



## ➤ **Jellies & Jams**

Made at our house in Bassins with organic fruit from our garden. Jar of 200 g. CHF 5.-

**Jellies:** grapes - currants - apples - raspberries - raspberries - blackcurrants - currants - quinces

**Jams:** apricots with almonds - apricots - apples with rum - pears with lemon - Mirabelle plums - plums with citrus fruits - figs - figs with ginger

**Send your order by email specifying the number of boxes of each desired product to:**

RDS Suisse [info@rdssuisse.com](mailto:info@rdssuisse.com)

Michelet Christian [christian.michelet@hotmail.com](mailto:christian.michelet@hotmail.com)

Jacquério Joseph [jjacquerioz@infomaniak.ch](mailto:jjacquerioz@infomaniak.ch)

**Payment in cash or with Twint on delivery. Delivery : Goods to be collected by prior arrangement or at Mont-sur-Lausanne on Tuesday 28 MARCH 2023.**

## **All of the profits from these sales fund our activities in Myanmar.**

As a reminder, in 2022, thanks to your donations, Rural Development Society Switzerland has allocated CHF 9,300.- to food aid, CHF 300.- to the creation of a business, CHF 1,427.- to medical care. , CHF 1,265.- for emergency aid, CHF 500.- for housing assistance and CHF 2,100.- for vocational training, i.e. a total of CHF 15,700.-.



We have already registered for the Marché des 5 Continents in Martigny on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 June, at the Fête des Couleurs in Aigle on Friday 30 June and Saturday 1 July and at the Paléo Festival in Nyon from Tuesday 18 to Sunday. July 23, 2023. We of course hope that our applications will be accepted and that we will be able to meet this summer. We will of course keep you informed!

**Kyei zū tin pa tei, Thank you very much for your loyal support and for your generosity.**

Crettaz Stéphane  
Président

Grognuz Crettaz Danièle  
Secrétaire