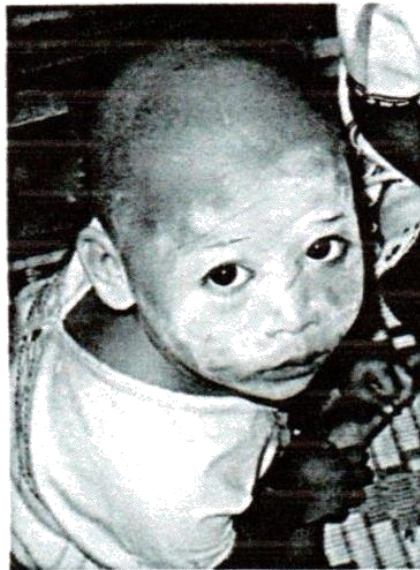




(SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION AND WELFARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN LIVING IN CAMPS FOR  
DISPLACED PEOPLE ALONG THE THAI/BURMESE BORDERS)

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023



INTRODUCING FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2022

## **FERGY'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY**

Fergy's has been running for 13 years now and is well established, one hundred and thirty children aged between two and four attend the nursery daily.

Prime objectives here, are to provide very small children a place to play; serving as respite from the harsh conditions in camp. Learning through play is key to the curriculum, along with basic Health and Hygiene instruction and the provision of nutritious food. The children learn from a variety of activities i.e story- time with books and puppets, basic Burmese, English and native Karen is taught by singing and rote exercises. Bricks, Lego and other shape finding activities assist hand eye coordination and manual dexterity. Social integration and team building, along with developing respect for each other is paramount and learned through team dependent games.

The atmosphere in the nursery is highly charged but controlled. Discipline is fair and non-physical. The thirteen teachers employed at this project (selected from our Boarding Houses if possible), are young, energetic and well-motivated, It is obvious that the children are eager to learn and enjoy attending; they eat well, play hard and look well nourished. On arrival at the nurseries, the children are provided with fruit on three days and biscuits on the other two.

Four years ago, we added a small separate building to house play equipment i.e. a slide, roundabout and several bikes. This building proved too small to accommodate increased intake. The land adjacent is very uneven making it unsafe for the children to take the equipment outside. The year before last, the playroom was extended. A further two individual rooms were constructed within the financial year for small group play. We have used one of these rooms to create a small library. The atmosphere in the new library is wonderful. The children can choose a book themselves and relax here whilst looking at new picture books.

The library is a great success and well – used despite this the books are still in good condition.

We purchased more culturally appropriate books plus a fan to keep the library cool.

### **SANDRA'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY**

This project began at the same time as Fergy's, and accommodates 100 children aged between two and four. Both projects follow the same curriculum.

Beneath the building, a small play area houses play equipment similar to Fergy's. Similar problems have arisen in the building i.e. the play area is too small for the numbers attend the project. Previously the building was extended to accommodate a larger play area. Both nursery schools are impressive, and make a valuable contribution to the health and welfare of the children participating. After leaving the nurseries, there are limited places available at the Baptist Nursery School in camp. However, the children from our pre-school nurseries are given precedence. I am informed from teaching staff at the Nursery that children who have previously attended our pre-school nurseries, settle down quickly, are well behaved and focused. This is an unforeseen additional bonus.

In addition, the current block teaching methods has been modified in order to manage a higher intake of children. The rotational teaching method, introduced previously appears to be working well. This teaching method is providing variety and stimulation for both pupil and Teacher whilst utilising the available teaching space more efficiently.

Both of our pre-school nurseries are now full to capacity.

The land surrounding both building needs further development in order to grow more produce. The vision is: that the children take an active part in the preparation, maintenance of the growing process to include the care of two pigs and a fishpond; providing much needed protein foods for their own consumption.

The budget supports the provision of clothing twice a year at both sites, and the distribution of warmer clothes as the winter closes in. Stocks of new or clean clothes are available when needed.

The building this year is in a poor state of repair-the main supporting stanchions' have been weakened by termites and are in desperate need of replacing. The repairs will be completed before the Monsoon season this year.



### **THE GIRLS BOARDING HOUSE**

The objective of the Boarding House is to provide a safe living space for young people living in camp who are without parents.

Thirty girls live in safety at the Boarding House whilst training to become teachers, or Community leaders. Our concern is that these girls, who are without parents may be subjected to sexual exploitation; this protected environment addresses this problem. We provide candles, sanitary protection, soap, soap powder; educational requirements, clothes, plus school uniforms and nutritious food supplements. In addition, our resident Housemother distributes a small amount of pocket money to each student weekly.

The girls are always well presented and clean. Their command of English is impressive. Education at this level gives young people hope for the future and acts as an important distraction from the lack of stimulation and purpose that is dominant in camp. The Boarders are our main employment resource; currently we employ thirteen young people in our projects. After completion of the Course, few opportunities are open to these youngsters. However, training at least gives hope that potentially they might find purposeful employment with other N.G.O.'s in Nupo, or in one of the other seven camps in the border region.

### **THE BOYS BOARDING HOUSE**

This facility is managed along the same lines as the Girls Boarder, housing thirty boys who are currently without parental support.

The young people and our staff are clean and well nourished. The five projects initiated and supported by Kidz in Kampz are overall successful, although there is room for improvement. The main problems are lack of space. Both financial and land restrictions due to gross overcrowding are the base cause of this inadequacy.

#### **Staff meeting in Nupo**

Due to the rumours surrounding the possible return to Burma, I was informed that the Thai Commander has withdrawn permission for any new developments in camp.

I was also advised that due to these rumours there was a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty among the refugees. A meeting with our teachers highlighted their fear that they will be forced back to Burma without food, clean water or shelter. Food allocation has been reduced several times during the last year leading the refugees' to believe that they are being 'starved-out' of camp.

Consensus among N.G.O's (Non Governmental Organisations) working in South East Asia, is that this is unlikely to happen. In my opinion due to lack of facilities, and more important, the unmarked landmines littered across Karen State, it is totally unsafe for our children to return home at this time. This decision must remain with the Displaced People themselves.

In spare land adjacent to the boys boarding house have encouraged the students to grow their own food at this site. In order to increase productivity, we purchased a large water storage tank for use during the dry session.

## **'GROW TO EAT PROJECT'**

### **Initially financed by Hyde Park Methodist Church**

Lah Kin Moo has proved to be an ideal candidate for the role of Deputy Project Manager, with specific responsibility for developing the 'grow to eat' project. Despite the current drought, plants were still flourishing.

#### **The vision behind this is:**

The 'grow to eat' project should harness support from all our students and staff to encourage full involvement in producing enough vegetable products to feed all our dependents. The main problem here is the labour intensive watering methods. Last year we installed a sprinkler system for use during the dry season. This has increased the yield; we produce enough vegetables for three projects. We have two pigs at this site and further two at Fergys. I have initiated a chicken run at this site. When this projects is underway, we will have access to both chicken and eggs to add to the children diet.

#### **We are meeting our targets**

It is clear that both our mission statement and our aims and objectives are being reached. We are making a big difference to people's lives in Nupo Camp. However, we should not overlook the fact that there is absolute poverty, food insecurity and abysmal living conditions for thousands of others living in Nupo Camp. Without any doubt, our help will be needed here for the foreseeable future.

# Financial Report 2022

Bank Balance	31/12/2021	A/C 1	£ 58,998.57
Bank Balance	31/12/2021	A/C 2	£ 32,908.99
			<hr/>
			£ 91,907.56

## **Income:**

Shop / Online Takings	£45,421.42	
Beaumont's (rags)	£ 4,073.51	
Donations	£ 1,933.02	
Refund	£ 20.98	
Loan repayment	£ 750	
		£ 52,198.93

## **Expenditure:**

Camp Money	£ 44,625.50	
Expenses	£ 8,652.55	
Labour	£ 5,169.00	
Donation to Leeds Ukraine Community	£ 500.00	
Building works	£ 564.38	
		£ 59,511.43

## **Summary:**

Starting Balance	<hr/> £ 58,998.57
Income	£ 52,198.93
Expenditure	<hr/> £ 59,511.43
End balance	£ 51,686.07