



**PROJECT REQUEST**

**LONG-TERM FINANCING OF  
EDUCATION AND HEALTH  
FOR CHILDREN IN THE SLUM AREAS  
OF YANGON, MYANMAR**





## **Sponsorship and project management**

SANNI Foundation, Zürich, Schweiz / [www.sanni-foundation.ch](http://www.sanni-foundation.ch)

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### **Key Words**

Myanmar/Burma | fund for long-term support of several children in poverty | education | schooling | medical care | hygiene packages | cooperation with MAM

### **Project**

The SANNI Foundation supports as many children as possible over a longer period of time in the slum areas of Yangon by means of a fund to give them a positive future perspective. True to our motto "help for self-help" the children stay in their families of origin but are closely looked locally after by the SANNI Foundation. The long term goal is that the children get a solid education. However, as many families cannot afford this and children even must earn money to survive, the program aims to stabilise and improve the whole family situation. Therefore, the focus is not only on the financing of school utensils, but also on supplementary food supply, medical care and the distribution of clothing and hygiene packages for the respective children. The families are thus financially relieved. The children and their families are closely looked after on site. Currently, we support 350 children from our fund; but much more children need our support.

### **Board of Trustees**

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**Duration:** Optional: see Budget on Page 8

**Financial support:** Optional / CHF 360.00 per child per year

From CHF 9'000.00 (5 children / 5 years) – CHF 36'000.00 (10 children / 10 years) /

### **BANK Accounts: SANNI Foundation**

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## 1. Introduction SANNI Foundation

**The SANNI Foundation is a charitable foundation with a focus on Southern India and Myanmar, actively helping in the areas of education and medical care for children and women.**

The SANNI Foundation supports as many children in India and Myanmar as possible in the long term by means of a fund, in order to give them a better life and positive future prospects.

True to our motto "help for self-help", the children stay in their families of origin but are cared for by the SANNI Foundation. The aim is that the children get a good education, because a good education is the key to the way out of poverty. But on the one hand many families cannot afford the costs of the school. Furthermore, many children are forced to work to ensure the survival of the family. Often the children and their parents are also sick and need medical care. Therefore, our focus is not only on the financing of education, but also on supplementary food supply, medical care, distribution of clothing and hygiene packages and above all loving care and intensive welfare. Not only the children benefit from these activities, but the situation of the whole family is stabilized so that the children can attend school. This is essential so that the many impoverished and sick people can have a future perspective again.

Susanne Schroff was involved in her parents' foundation before founding the SANNI Foundation in Switzerland in 2010, where she has been living for many years. The Schroff Foundation, founded in 1989, supported a mobile diabetes ward of St. John Health Services in Trivandrum, India for 20 years. With the help of the head of St. John, a dedicated priest, the SANNI Foundation significantly expanded its activities in Trivandrum (including foundation of a clinic, Health care and education center for children and women etc.).

Since 2014, the SANNI Foundation has also been active in Myanmar and is committed to providing services to underprivileged people, especially women and children. Referring to the principle of implementing projects with local confidants, the SANNI Foundation supports a relief organization (MAM = Medical Action Myanmar). This organization operates a network of clinics and children's homes to freely treat patients from the baseline. The SANNI Foundation has built an orphanage with MAM in 2016, where today especially HIV+ children find a safe and loving home.

All administrative costs are borne by SchroffInvest. The entire foundation council and all ambassadors are active as volunteers. One hundred percent of the donations are used for the needy.

## 2. Activities in Myanmar

### 2.1 **Our local partner: Medical Action Myanmar (MAM)**

Since many years, SANNI Foundation works in close partnership with a medical aid organisation called Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) which has been founded by the Dutch doctor Dr. Frank Smithuis together with his Burmese wife, Dr. NiNi Tun in 2009 with the mission to improve access to quality health care for the poorest people in Myanmar. Dr. Frank Smithuis worked since 1988 in South East Asia first for Medecins sans Frontieres. MAM targets the most vulnerable populations in



very remote areas and in urban slums, where most people cannot access nor afford to pay for adequate health care services. MAM established a network of 10 clinics and several children's homes.

Together, we have two missions:

- To support children living in these slum areas by assuring education and
- To provide free health care services to some of the poorest communities in the country.

Both missions focus on Hlaingthayar township, an industrial slum zone in the north west of Yangon. With extremely poor living conditions, unstable employment and lack of development, the population living here suffer and urgently need support. The jointly established Lotus Clinic provides free health care to this population with a strict non-discriminatory policy to treat anyone with medical services such as HIV and tuberculosis treatment, family planning, malnutrition care and blindness prevention.



### 2.2 What SANNI Foundation has achieved so far in Myanmar

- Over 350 children living in one of the biggest slums in the country are sponsored to receive food, health, education and household support and are part of the SANNI's Child Sponsorship program
- By financing the construction and operation of an orphanage in Yangon ("Motherhouse"), destitute orphans are given a peaceful and safe home. The children are provided with medical care, food and clothing. Dedicated teachers teach the children English. Currently we have 10 children in our home
- Over 50 families were given solar panels, bringing electricity to their homes for the first time
- Many families have had their houses repaired in preparation for rainy and hot seasons
- Vocational training, academic tuition and business support investment are also available
- Annually, more than 64,000 consultations are conducted at the Lotus Clinic in the poorest slum of Yangon. There are also over 500 patients receiving HIV treatment, over 8,000 children are treated against malnutrition; over 4,5700 family planning consultations for empowerment of women. In 2019, 10 HIV+ mothers were treated for their infection and all gave birth to HIV- negative babies.



Medical consultation at Lotus Clinic



### 3. Proposed activities

#### 3.1 Situation in Myanmar

Myanmar still belongs to the group of the 35 poorest countries in the world. Especially the youngest of the youngest children are strongly affected by this situation: 5% of all born children do not reach the age of 5. The inhabitants in remote and rural areas are particularly poor, but also in the slum areas in Yangon.

There, many children are in great need, impoverished, malnourished, often HIV positive, sick and often without parents, left completely on their own. They arrive in our institutions completely neglected, suffering from their shocking fates and have an uncertain or hopeless future without an education.

#### 3.2 Objective: Education

In 2017, the United Nations released a study analysing the effects of education in developing countries from 1965 to 2010 and concluded that nearly 60 million people could escape poverty if they had just two more years of education.

Education in Myanmar (before Higher Education) is free, however all the equipment and resources needed are not provided. From schoolbooks and pens, to uniforms and transport fees – each family has to pay for this themselves but if they struggle to afford food each day, they certainly can't afford these extra items. This can often lead to children being forced to leave school to work for food instead. SANNI's methodology is to reduce this risk by providing all the items a child needs to go to school and remove the financial burden of education so the focus can be on learning and not merely surviving.

On top of this, very often the children (or even the parents) are too ill or undernourished to go to school. They need to be in a healthy and good nourished condition so that they can focus on their school education.



#### 3.3 Content of financing

Thanks to this fund the children receive the following monthly support:

- School utensils (e.g. pens, school bags, uniforms etc.)
- Vitamin-rich food
- Hygiene packages (e.g. detergents, soap, towels, toothbrush etc.)
- Items for the household (e.g. mosquito net, sleeping mats, clothing etc.)
- Assistance and advice for the whole family
- Protection and care



If required, we also provide medication and necessary medical therapy (e.g. HIV therapy)

The children and their families are selected by 3 employed social workers and then directly supervised. The distribution of the respective support takes place once a month in the Lotus Clinic.



Social worker Thura with sponsored child

Furthermore, we provide all the school equipment to give the child everything it needs to attend school and concentrate on its education. The social workers visit the families on site to make sure that the children really go to school and what the respective school achievements of the children are. If necessary, we also finance extra tuition (e.g. in English) so that the children actually pass their exams and have a school-leaving certificate. We are currently developing a new vocational training program to teach older teenagers' workable skills and improve their independence.

As mentioned above, we pay special attention to the living situation of children, especially orphans or children with single parents. SANNI's education program has proven effective so far; only 4.3% (excluding too sick children) of children enrolled on SANNI's Myanmar program dropout of school. This is extremely low for slum areas and children living in poverty.

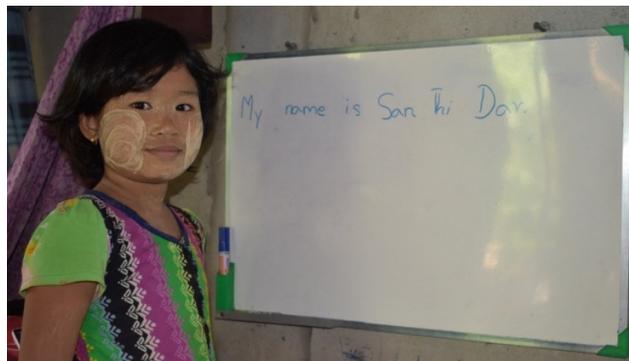
### 3.4 Reports of sponsored children

The children and their families are very closely looked after by the social workers. Therefore, the following is sent to the sponsors every year:

- - a short CV and pictures of the children
- - a report on the state of health of the children

### 3.5 Examples of sponsored children

**San Thi Dar's** father died when she was just 3 years old. Since then, she has struggled to survive with her mother and brother. They are all infected with HIV, the mother could not find work and



Sponsored Child San Thi Dar in a class room



sometimes could not afford food for the family. Regardless of the harsh circumstances, San Thi Dar remained positive by holding on to her dream of becoming a teacher.

A couple of months ago we were able to include them in our sponsorship program. Now San Thi Dar can manage her life with her family. She admires her teachers very much and wants to inspire other disadvantaged children to attend school. She loves to play teacher and is so enthusiastic about it that she has started to teach other children in her neighborhood! We will continue to support her in making her dreams come true.

The story of **Yan Lin Aung** is another positive example from the SANNI sponsorship program. Yan Lin Aung is 18 years old and has been supported by the SANNI Foundation since 2013. For more than 5 years now we have been watching him grow up and develop into the young man he is today.



Sponsored Child Yan Lin Aung  
with his grandmother

When we first met Yan Lin Aung, his father had just died. His mother's second marriage had broken up. His HIV disease interrupted his education, and he had to move to his grandmother's house, as things were getting too turbulent at his mother's. The grandmother had very little money and could not support him further, so the SANNI Foundation took care of him and provided him with food, medical care and education.

Now he has successfully finished school and started an apprenticeship as an electrician. We are proud of the young man; he will soon become independent and educated, healthy, able to go his own way.

#### 4. Budget and financing options

With a contribution of CHF 360 per child, we can support a child as described above for one year.

It is important to support the child for several years, as the education takes several years. There are the following possibilities for financial support:

<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Support</u>
Support for 5 children	5	CHF 9'000.00
Support for 5 children	10	CHF 18'000.00
Support for 10 children	5	CHF 18'000.00
Support for 10 children	10	CHF 36'000.00



The costs for the CHF 360 per child are used as following:

	Costs per child per year (in CHF)	Details
<b>Direct support (items given to the child)</b>	<b>323</b>	
Education	55	e.g. School uniform, school backpack, umbrella, lunch box, water bottle, exercise book, pencil, pencil bag, eraser, ball point pen, ruler, correction pen, pencil leads, color pencil, coloring book  Modus of distribution: every six months / yearly
Food	213	e.g. Fish can, soymilk, rice, cooking oil, bean, ovaltine  Modus of distribution: Monthly
Hygiene	21	e.g. soap, detergent cream, toothpaste, nail cutter  Modus of distribution: monthly
Household	35	e.g. towels, mosquito net, blanket, mat, clothing  Modus of distribution: every six months / yearly
<b>Support for local logistics</b>	<b>37</b>	e.g. salaries for 3 local child support workers (social workers), transportation costs
<b>Total costs per year</b>	<b>360</b>	

Only 7% of all costs is needed for the local support. All other administrative costs such as our project manager for SANNI Foundation based in Yangon are borne by SchroffInvest

**5. Control of implementation**

MAM will send detailed reports on the status of implementation to the SANNI Foundation twice a year. Some of the foundation board travels annually to the spots to monitor the implementation of the projects. Intensive discussions are held with the project managers while they are visited. By inspecting the books, it is checked whether our funds are used according to the purpose. MAM is audited by a local and an international audit firm, which guarantees careful bookkeeping. The last visit took place in November 2019.



Board of Trustees at Motherhouse (Nov. 2019)



## Annex

### **6.1. Objectives of the Foundation**

The purpose of the foundation is to promote the education of children and adolescents, to combat poverty and to promote health. The geographic focus is on developing and emerging economies because there, with modest means by European standards, the living conditions of many people can be improved.

### **6.2. Vision**

Based on personal commitment, SANNI Foundation gives hope for a better future to people in need.

### **6.3. Mission**

Integral projects are supported and accompanied in the long term, with respectful, direct and effective implementation being important. A local confidant, with an existing organization, implements the projects on site. The donations reach the needy one hundred percent. This is possible because the board members are working on an honorary basis and the administrative costs are taken over by SchroffInvest.

### **6.4. Principle**

Our actions are based on the following principles:  
Transparency, authenticity, effectiveness, efficiency

### **6.5. Values**

Our actions are characterized by the following values:  
Respect, joy, openness, honesty.

### **6.6. Administration Cost**

100% of all donations are in favour of the needy. The administration costs are financed by the SchroffInvest. All board members of the foundation are volunteers.