



Build a School in Burma helps bring education to poor children in underserved communities in the nation also known as Myanmar. We work with local partners and communities to build schools to educate these children and give them a chance for a better future.

Myanmar is the poorest country in Southeast Asia, ranking 148th out of 188 on the UN Human Development Index. A typical 25 year-old has only four years of formal schooling, the lowest in Asia.

Many villages and neighborhoods have no school, or only a very dilapidated one. Lacking access to education, they have scant prospects and are vulnerable to abuse and trafficking. Build a School in Burma seeks to improve their lives by increasing access to education.

Our model is simple. BSB works with community-based organizations in Burma to identify villages and neighborhoods in need of schools. With our local partners we seek well-organized communities willing to contribute to a new school for their children. BSB also seeks school projects with strong prospects for sustainability based on community, faith-based, and government support for ongoing school operation and improvement.

We invite you to read more about our schools at [www.buildaschoolinburma.org](http://www.buildaschoolinburma.org)



Students and teachers thanking BSB for their new school building.

## BSB 2018 Progress Report: 9 More Schools for 1,000 Students



BSB Country Director Naing Naing Lin participates in the "painting party" to finish Moo Do Village School

BSB completed nine new schools in 2017, for a total of 30 since we began. We continue to be inspired by these communities' desire for and commitment to better educational opportunities for their children. Despite poverty and the daily struggle for life's necessities, community members donate land, labor and materials to make each school possible.

Projects typically include sanitary toilets and a clean water source, but this year two schools got an additional amenity – solar powered electricity!

As a start-up nonprofit competing with other worthy organizations for donor dollars, we never dreamed of building nine schools in a single year. Two key factors made this achievement possible. In January 2017, BSB hired a country director, Naing Naing Lin (pronounced "nine nine lin"). Having a local person on ground to work with partners and contractors, manage budgets, oversee construction, and monitor the schools has been a real game changer.

The other factor is a trend in funding that we hadn't anticipated. Four 2017 schools were funded entirely by generous individual people and organizations. Two of these were individual donors; one was a California based technology company; one was funds raised by the Stanford School of Medicine to honor retiring Pediatric Department chair Dr. Hugh O'Brodovich.

With Naing Naing managing projects in-country and with entire schools funded by sponsoring donors, BSB volunteer staff have been freed up to pursue more projects and find additional partners. Bob Cornwell, Andrew Lederer and Dan Kipp all visited Myanmar this year to help monitor schools built in years past and help identify new school projects.

Eight more projects are underway in early 2018, and we hope to add two more before year end. All our accomplishments depend on the generosity of our donors, and the efforts of our volunteers, our wonderful partners and Naing Naing, our fantastic country director. Thank you, all!

## Story of One School and a Donor Pwe Nyet San and Boomerang



Boomerang, a bay area technology company, at its founding committed to donate to education efforts in Myanmar, when financially able to. Boomerang “seeks out partners with projects that have a direct and sustained impact on a community with a documented need.” In 2015 Boomerang donated to BSB to build a school.

Quoting Boomerang:

*“In December 2015 BSB found a village located six hours away from Yangon where Boomerang’s donation could build a school. Just months later, a brand new school was constructed, and it was open for classes by June. And while we were confident our donation would make a difference, its impact has already exceeded our expectations.*

*Before the school was built, BSB expected that 80 students would attend based on their discussions with the village. The school opened in June with a capacity of 100 students, but this has already been exceeded!*

*The school not only improves the education of villagers, it also makes them safer. Previously, students would walk to a neighboring village to attend school, but this was only possible for part of the year. Each monsoon season, the bridge that led to the nearby village got washed away, which made getting to school dangerous (a child died from floods just a few years ago) and often impossible for months at a time.*

*We’re thrilled to have found a partner like BSB that allows us to quickly and effectively improve the education and safety for the children. With the completion of the school, we were left with only one question: what’s next?”*

Boomerang continues to collaborate with BSB, and so far has donated for two more schools and helps in other ways. (above photo is the second school, Mahasala)

*Thank You, Boomerang Team!*

## How BSB Began

In January 2010 Bob Cornwell trekked though the lush hills of Shan State, Myanmar. He passed through many rural villages, stopping to chat with monks, villagers and children along the way. Each village was of a different ethnic group: Shan, Palaung, Danu, Pa-O. Something they all seemed to have in common: a lack of schools.

Bob encountered a local organization that had successfully helped one village build a school, with the active involvement of the community — including a donated site, donated labor, a strong desire for children’s education, and government promised support for teacher salaries.

Bob was impressed. He met with the leaders of that organization, and decided to help raise funds for a much-needed new school for a village he had visited, and he decided to partner with the organization to oversee construction and community involvement.

When Bob returned to San Francisco, he and his friend Andrew Lederer launched the project to “Build a School in Burma.” After successful fundraising, construction, and realization of that first school,



and with the participation of many others, they continued to expand and grow this vision - to help bring education to poor children in underserved communities in Burma.

## How You Can Help

BSB’s funding of school construction in Burma can only be done with the help of generous donors.

BSB volunteers pay all of their and the organization’s expenses, so that every donated dollar goes to Burma to build schools. All donations are through BSB’s fiscal sponsor, Partners Asia, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, making them tax deductible. Donations can be by check or online by credit card.

Our American partner is Partners Asia. Tax deductible contributions to Build a School in Burma can be made by sending a check to Partners Asia, and writing “Build a School in Burma” in the memo line.

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Oakland, CA 94612 USA

Donations can be made by credit card on the website:  
[www.buildaschoolinburma.org](http://www.buildaschoolinburma.org)