Adolescent girls striding forward in the face of Myanmar’s ups and downs

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
**Girl Determined helps girls to recognize their personal and group potential. In Myanmar, we are sparking a movement of girls who have the leadership skills to advocate for their own rights and a future that does not re-create the challenges and risks they now face.**

Girls struggle with restrictive gender roles, poverty, dangerous labor, violence and early marriage. Through our programming, adolescent girls gain critical skills and confidence to assert their needs and develop plans to improve their lives.

Working since 2010, Girl Determined has been the only organization in the country to work exclusively with adolescent girls, which we do through our foundational "Colorful Girls" program. Colorful Girls has reached over 7,000 girls ages 12 to 17 in rural and urban communities across the country. Our weekly Colorful Girls Circles follows a structured, activity-based curriculum spanning two consecutive years. Some of the topics the girls from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds tackle include learning communication skills with peers and adults; building knowledge of their bodies and reproductive health; learning about other religions and tolerance; identifying and helping change the real challenges in their lives; and planning their future and making decisions, all while strengthening friendships, and having some fun!

Girl Determined is a US-registered 501(c)3, based in Myanmar.
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I came from a Palaung village in northern Shan State. My parents have a lot of debt. I told them I wanted to become a nun to ease their burdens. At Peacebuilding Summer Camp, I forced myself to talk to the other girls who I didn’t know. They listened to me, and so did the Colorful Girls leaders.

Lwe El Paung Khin, 13
Buddhist nun from Sagaing

Here in the camp for the internally-displaced, the other girls and I have all faced shelling in our home villages. Coming together to play volleyball has been the best—it’s such a break from the suffering. We’re now such good friends.

Jo Seng Nan, 14
Kachin girl displaced by armed conflict

Where we live, everyone dotes on the boys. If they become Buddhist monks, their parents are so proud of them. Parents love boys better because they think boys can make more merit for them. In my Circle, I’ve seen other girls feel bad about this, too. We can talk about discrimination and think about how to change peoples’ mindsets.

Ma Yuwadi Zaw, 13
Urban girl from Mandalay

Our Pa’O traditions and language are important to us. In my Circle, Shwe Ohn [the facilitator] started us talking about interfaith tolerance. I realized that other people have their own religions and traditions, which must be important for them, too. Even though we’re different in some ways, as girls we can still encourage each other.

Nang Kham Cho, 15
Girl from farming area of Southern Shan State

In Colorful Girls I realized it’s not natural or right for boys and men to be violent towards me or my mother. My father sometimes threatens or beats us, especially when he’s been drinking. Now I see I don’t have to accept all of that.

Thwe Thwe Aye, 14
Girl living in industrial outskirts of Yangon

We don’t have much in my fishing village. For so many girls my age, our two choices are to go to work in Thailand, or just get married and start a family. In the session on Goals Setting, we drew bridges to our future. I see I don’t have to become one of those girls who gets left behind after their husbands goes off to Thailand.

A Mi Mi Paing, 16
Girl in hard-to-reach fishing village in Dawei

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But we girls don’t want to be treated differently. We can do the same things as boys. We should be paid the same money if we do the same job.

~Thinza Nwei Win from Yangon
At age twelve, Thinza Nwei Win joined Girl Determined’s foundational community program, Colorful Girls, in her village. She told us her story:

I never miss the weekly Colorful Girls Circles or Sports Sessions. Since I started Colorful Girls about a year and a half ago, I’ve learned so much. Now I can think about myself and see that I’ve changed in good ways. I’ve learned about violence, self-confidence, and communication.

During the Circle meetings, I like being able to talk about my feelings and experiences. It gives me the chance to share the happy and sad things in my life. We get to laugh at ourselves when we make mistakes. I can think more clearly about my daily goals and my bigger goals—now I think before I do something.

I feel happy playing volleyball. I learned to play the game after joining Colorful Girls. Before we play, we plan a strategy as a team. At the beginning, since we had never played any team sports, we would blame other members of our team for any losses or fumbles. But over time and with support from our coach, we’ve begun to understand real teamwork better. While we play, I try hard to encourage each team member, even if she isn’t good at all the parts of the game. I liked playing in our recent tournaments. I was able to meet the girls from other parts of the country.

Another thing I’ve learned about is how I talk. I used to say hurtful things. I didn’t realize that certain words can hurt other people’s feelings. At Colorful Girls I learned how to respect others and not hurt them. I’m trying, but it’s a hard habit to break. I’m also learning that to be a good leader, you have to have good habits and work hard. For instance, I don’t like it when people hit their children. My cousin sometimes hits her daughter. I’ve tried to explain to her why hitting is bad.

Over the years with Colorful Girls, I’ve also changed how I look at the differences between boys and girls. I used to think that men had “hpoun”, a special power or glory, and that women had to be careful not to harm a man’s hpoun. We’re meant to wash our clothes separately and never let a man’s head go below women’s clothing while they’re drying. In my Circle, our facilitator started a discussion about that and about discrimination.

Our facilitator doesn’t tell us what’s “right” or what’s “wrong.” We have to talk whatever we are discussing through, listen to each other carefully, and make our own decision. We have to think for ourselves. What I can see is that boys and girls are equal. One time, we thought about how our village would treat twin babies if one were a boy and one were a girl. It was easy for us to think of the types of gifts people would give the baby girl and what they would give the baby boy, and how they’d be different. Boys might get cars and balls, but girls would probably get a dress or shoes, and maybe a book. After we talked about it, I saw how early it all starts. But, we girls don’t want to be treated differently. We can do the same things as boys. We should be paid the same money if we do the same job. Even washing our clothes together isn’t harmful!
The past several years have seen a number of accomplishments that we, and more importantly, the adolescent girls of Myanmar, can take real pride in.
2017 BY THE NUMBERS

3,500 girls total in weekly Colorful Girls Programs

- 22 alumnae advance to project leadership
- 1,600 girls playing sports
- 60 communities
- 150 girls go to leadership camp
- 2,000 girls gather for Day of the Girl
- 249,000 hours of structured programs
During 2017, with at least 249,800 hours of direct, structured programs for adolescent girls, we laid the foundations for big change.

Girl Determined has seen a 30% increase in the number of girls enrolled in 2017 over 2016. That means that we now have nearly 3,500 girls in our weekly Colorful Girls Circles. Thanks to the outreach skills of our project staff, the help of our partners and supporters - and most of all, the girls from across Myanmar - this girl movement is making strides. Colorful Girls programs have now spread across 60 communities in 6 states and regions of Myanmar.

As part of our on-going expansion, 1,600 girls—fully a half of all Colorful Girls—enrolled in our Volleyball Circles. This represents a major achievement because in Myanmar, young women get so few opportunities, and are often discouraged from participating in sports, or being physically active.

Girls organized local events in 60 communities and towns for the UN-designated “International Day of the Girl,” building on the theme of “collective strength to overcome violence against girls.” Over 2,000 Colorful Girls came together, and at least as many of their siblings, parents, teachers and community leaders also joined in.

One hundred and fifty girls from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds all across the country got the rare chance to come together to get to know each other at one of our three summer camps: Peacebuilding Camp, Girls’ Public Leadership Camp, and Volleyball Leaders’ Camp.

Twenty-two young women who had first began Colorful Girls as girls of 12 or 13 are now leading young girls to be facilitators and coaches in Colorful Girls Circles and Sports sessions. As these young women take on leadership roles, they not only help to advance the prospect of young women and girls holding formal positions of leadership in other areas of their lives, but also demonstrate that the programs are growing deeper roots in the local community.
The above successes focused more on transforming girls and their lives individually. Some of our other successes in 2017 relate to girls collectively:

We created the “Girls Voices” documentary, a thirty minute video shot in various Colorful Girls communities throughout the country. Colorful Girls organized viewings in 45 communities, giving them the opportunity to see the lives and struggles of other girls their own age, from a diversity of backgrounds. The girls could clearly see for the first time that their experiences were not unique, and that so many others faced the same structural barriers, limitations imposed on them by society, and inequities.

We launched a girl-led process of content development and layout design for the second issue of Pollinator, Wut-hmoun in Burmese, our “by-girls and for-girls” Burmese-language magazine. We formed a girl-led media committee to create the content, lay it out and work with others girls to keep it fun, informative and relevant. Pollinator is the only publication of its kind in Myanmar and gives girls from various parts of the country and walks of life the chance to talk about their lives and discuss matters important to them. Imagine what a revelation reading the magazine can be for girls – they can see that their lives and experiences are shared with so many other girls across the country, something which they otherwise would not have easily known. And, they can write or draw and have the chance to spread their ideas widely.

We have grown our Girls’ Safety and Security Initiative so that each girl has at least two ways to report a crisis -- either through a trained peer or young woman responder, or through a regional phone line. Girls can discuss concerns or get help with difficult, sensitive, or dangerous situations, including violence and sexual assault. Since referral services are limited, we work with the girls to think through her options and provide her with whatever help we can. So far, we have fielded 300 calls, 4 of which were serious crises.

Finally, we can share some of the accolades our girls have received! Sports is an area where our girls have really shone this past year. Our local sports program coordinator went to the Beyond Sport Awards in New York City to accept an award on behalf of Girl Determined in honor of our Colorful Girls Volleyball Circles program in the category of “Sport for Equality.”

The Beyond Sport Awards program celebrates, supports, raises awareness, and provides funding for sports to make the Global Goals for Sustainable Development a reality.

I was so shocked when I heard the stories of those Kachin girls who had to run away from mortarfire in their villages. They have all the problems that we have in our village on top of all of that. I had no idea that the war and fighting were affecting teenage girls like us.

Kyu Than Aye, 14
Mandalay
Never lose sight of the girl: Keep her at the center.
Girls are firmly at the center of our programming, in the sense that we first foster change at the individual level. When their understanding of who they are as people and members of society comes more clearly into focus, they can start to come together as a group to identify the factors in their lives—whether in society, in their community, in their religions or families—which are holding them back, limiting them, or disempowering them. Or, as they say in Burmese, “making them feel small.” At this point, the girls can see the similarity in factors across themselves as a group and can decide and work together to take action against these factors not only for themselves here and now, but for future generations of girls.

Our philosophy is never lose sight of the girl: Keep her at the center. We do not address directly the outside factors. Let the girls work out for themselves how best to address those factors from their position with a set of skills and perceptions which they can use in any situation, and no one can take away from them.
MYANMAR 2017: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Dr. Mary Callahan
University of Washington
The challenges of ethnic and religious pluralism dominated Myanmar’s landscape in 2017, with the long-simmering discord in Rakhaing State escalating to large-scale violence and an unprecedented exodus of refugees, just as the government’s peace negotiations with ethnic armed groups ground to a standstill. Entering her third year in office, State Counsellor, National League for Democracy (NLD) leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has promised to rule “together with the people” for development, peace and reconciliation. There is growing concern that her government is not prioritizing poverty reduction, job creation or improvements in health and education.

Internationally, she faced widespread criticism for how she and the Defence Services managed the evolving Rakhaing State crisis, although domestic popular support grew around the Rohingya issue and regional allies — especially China — rallied behind her and the military. The feel-good narrative about Myanmar’s remarkable transition was replaced with denunciations by UN officials, including the UN Secretary General, and others of “ethnic cleansing” and “crimes against humanity,” reminiscent of the previous period of military rule from 1988-2011.

The origins to of this crisis date to October 9, 2016, when a group identifying itself as Harakah al-Yaqin or “The Faith Movement” launched synchronized attacks on three Border Guard Police garrisons in northern Rakhaing State. Renaming itself in English as the “Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)” in March 2017, these militants claimed to represent oppressed Rohingya. Sweeping Burmese army “clearance operations” – including the wholesale burning of Rohingya villages – led to the flight of some 70,000 mostly Rohingya refugees to Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh. A broader set of ARSA attacks on nearly 30 security posts on August 25, 2017, led to even more devastating clearance operations, with upwards of 670,000 Rohingyas fleeing to Bangladesh.

The crisis in Rakhaing State has deep roots, as the area has long been home to tensions between Buddhist and Muslim. These pressures have periodically erupted into deadly violence. The first set of grievances, Buddhist Rakhaings have long felt mistreated by Burman majority elites and state leaders. Aung San Suu Kyi decided to place her own NLD choice for Rakhaing State Chief minister, undermining the victory of Rakhaing ethnic parties’ victories in state elections and stoking a sense of discriminate.

A second line of tension lies between Buddhists and Muslims from Rakhaing State, especially those Muslims who identify as Rohingya. Before the 2017 crisis, Buddhists probably made up 60% of the 3.3 million population of Rakhaing State, with Muslims making up about 35%. Rohingyas have long been denied citizenship rights, and Rakhaing-Rohingya communal violence has scarred the communities of the three northwestern-most townships: Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Buthidaung. Finally, is the set of grievances between Buddhists from across the country in general and the Rohingya. For the vast majority of Burmese, there is no such thing as a “Rohingya,” whom they call “Bengali,” reflecting the widely-held belief they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh

The crisis in Rakhaing State has deep roots, as the area has long been home to tensions between Buddhist and Muslim. These pressures have periodically erupted into deadly violence.
violent displacement of Rohingya ever, but is also the fastest refugee exodus in modern history. The crisis has also radically re-shaped the demographics of Rakhaing State. More than 80% of the Rohingya have now fled to Bangladesh, and the exodus continues. Many of their villages were completely destroyed, and despite the conclusion of a Bangladesh–Myanmar memorandum of understanding for repatriation, prospects for the voluntary return of a close to 800,000 refugees appear extremely low. The Rohingyas in the refugee camps of Bangladesh have vowed not to return until a political decision is made to grant them a path to citizenship, while neither the Burmese government nor the military is prepared to do that.

Through 2017, there has been continued tension between the government and the military, on the one hand, and the media and civil society, on the other. Periodic protests have erupted against the continued use of the Telecommunications Law, Section 66(d), to prosecute individuals for criticizing the government and those in power on Facebook. According to Human Rights Watch, at least seventy-one people have been charged for online defamation.

The high-profile arrests of journalists have further raised concerns that the government is restricting, rather than expanding, the freedom of the press. On December 12, 2017, two Reuters journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, were arrested under the Official Secrets Act for possessing internal military documents related to the Rakhaing conflict. The arrests came out of a police sting operation connected with their reporting on a massacre in northern Rakhaing State, and prompted international condemnation, with the United States, the United Kingdom, European Parliament and the UN Secretary General demanding their release.

The economy has also proven to be an arena of dashed hopes. According to the World Bank, economic growth slowed to 5.9% from 7% the previous year, and is projected to continue to decline. Foreign direct investment and tourism, slated to be powerful engines of growth, have seen dramatic drops, in part in reaction to the crisis in Rakhaing State. Nevertheless, environmentally dubious Special Economic Zones and Chinese investments in infrastructure continue to move forward, likely to the economic benefit of well-connected elites.

For the average person, inflationary rates did abate, though still significant at 6.8%. Public and private investments in infrastructure such as power generation, telecommunications, and road building—not to mention the new bus system and new buses in Yangon—did begin to alleviate difficulties of daily life and market services for many, especially in urban areas.
Girl Determined will push for positive collaboration that ensures the best outcomes for adolescent girls.
As Mary Callahan’s analysis of the situation in the country reveals, the political and social landscape of Myanmar has been changing rapidly over the past several years. There have been many positive changes, especially in terms of politics and greater freedom of expression. At the same time, the speed of change has created some uncertainty and even confusion as, for example, the central government announced new laws or initiatives, but rollout is delayed or uneven.

As an organization operating in Myanmar, Girl Determined also faces these new challenges and opportunities. The increased openness of the country has led to more actors working with adolescent girls and more donors and potential partners who are interested in supporting such work. Our girls have directly benefitted from these new sources of generosity and we are on the lookout to create synergies with newcomers. It can be a challenge, however, dealing with the expectations and working styles of new actors who are less familiar with the country. As the only organization focused exclusively on adolescent girls in this country for over seven years, Girl Determined will push for positive collaboration that ensures the best outcomes for adolescent girls. To be sure, and despite the positive changes so far and increased support and interest, we are still in the early stages of building up a girls’ movement that supports individual opportunity and the improvement in the status of girls as a whole.

Focusing more immediately on our own programming, we are looking for ways to ensure that more girls can bridge into the second year of Colorful Girls Circle and Sports. New education laws and an increase in spending on education and school infrastructure, mean that girls have improving educational opportunities. Though official data is not yet in, we are finding that more girls are attending school and doing so to higher grade level completion. With this, there are two new factors at work: The 8th grade examinations mark the transition from middle school to high school and have become markedly more important than they used to be. Under these new circumstances, girls in some communities are being told not to be involved in extra-curricular activities, but instead to double down on examination preparation.
We are working on identifying these girls and finding ways, in consultation with them, to modify project activities to accommodate them. We are keen to not replicate the social, ethnic, and linguistic hierarchies of the wider society in our own programming.

Under these new circumstances, girls in some communities are being told not to be involved in extra-curricular activities, but instead to double down on examination preparation.

In some areas, girls have to move to another town or village to attend high school, which may be far away from their home villages and our project community. As these changes continue to unfold, we are looking for and trying out new modes to carry out the Colorful Girls program activities fully over the two-year cycle.

A second major concern is that the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach girls are out there in the communities where we work, and we are still working out how to get them involved. These include girls who may have never attended school, or have overwhelming household responsibilities, or girls with a disability, or girls who do not speak the local language.
Ensure that all the communities we work in are able to reach all of the girls in the Colorful Girls age range, and can carry out weekly project activities with a high level of consistency.
We are very cognizant of the difficult environment we are working in as well as specific challenges which some of the girls face. At the same time, we want to continue to improve our existing programs and support our girls and program staff more effectively.

One of our major undertakings looking forward over the next few years is to ensure that all the communities we work in are able to reach all of the girls in the Colorful Girls age range, and can carry out weekly project activities with a high level of consistency. This means ensuring on-going and consistent communication, or further tailoring of the programs to the meet specific conditions in a given community. For example, we want to make sure that girls have the chance to become leaders of Circles in their communities. In other situations, girls and facilitators would benefit from developing communication and negotiation skills, for example, with parents, to make sure that girls can come to the Circles every week.

To ensure full inclusion and weekly program consistency, in 2018 and 2019, there are three ways that we are going to move forward:

We will develop our in-house training team so that they can directly support unique needs of the project communities. For example, in some areas the local government leader may require that adolescent girls attend some type of ceremony or other event at the time of their regularly scheduled Colorful Girls activities. Our training team can support local girls and leaders to problem-solve on how to negotiate or deal with this requirement in such a way that weekly activities are not disturbed.

We will conduct a survey in a handful of project communities to identify the girls that are not, though in the right age group, attending Colorful Girls programs. Once we have actively found these girls, we will work closely with them to modify or re-shape the project activities in ways that better meet their needs and interests. Both the research and the discussion phases will be carried out by young women who have gone through the Colorful Girls programs.

In coming years we will also work to build peer-to-peer networks. We have observed that our girls are a great asset for each other and their communities. Whenever they have come together, they have been able to discuss and find solutions to common problems. For example, our girls have learned from each other to negotiate with local community leaders. We are looking into ways of creating more opportunities for girls to come together in reality or virtually to continue this process. We have also seen that girls can lead their own orientations to help the rest of their communities understand the Colorful Girls programming and program goals.

Now, in 2018, we will help girls organize “Girls’ Forums” in twelve “hub areas” built of between five to ten communities. On the day of the Girls’ Forum, girls from the communities will meet in the hub area and in group discussions, build consensus around the most important girl-related issues they face in their communities, and then select two representatives from each of the seventy communities. Those 140 girls will meet in a three-day, nation-wide Colorful Girls Conference, where will they will raise as a group the issues from the various communities and work together to create a common statement which can serve as a declaration, or can serve as a communication to start dialogue with policy makers.

Our final area of advancement in coming years, is to create a variety of ways for girls and young women to make contributions to their own interests as a group through a set of specialized programs. Within a context of an economic slowdown, receding hopes, and an emergent political crisis, there are nonetheless ways for girls to pursue their own group interests in meaningful ways which go beyond immediate economic interests. We will build some of these avenues in partnership with a variety of progressive organizations and companies. Through such non-traditional partnerships, we can offer girls a diversity of choices for building their individual futures while raising the status of girls and women overall.
In 2018, we are starting our “Girls’ Peer Research Unit,” comprised of girls who have completed our program and have an interest in developing data gathering and analysis skills. This year, they will gather Colorful Girls project data and data on girls in program communities who have yet to participate. The young women in this research unit first apply for a position, and then receive careful training in basic research methodology, quantitative surveys, research ethics, and organizing a research trip. Following the training, they interview girls in twenty program-related villages and towns to collect data. This program gives them abstract thinking skills and also the experience of actually practicing what they have learned, which is not normally part of the experience of “trainings” in Myanmar. This research unit not only provides better data collection for us as an organization, but also provides the girls with market-relevant skills and an organized unit with which to take advantage of them.
**BOARD AND DONORS**

Girl Determined benefits from the oversight of a Board of Directors with relevant technical and sector experience, and is further supported by a Myanmar-based advisory board in the development of Colorful Girls programs.

**Kirsten Gelsdorf**  
Practitioner and teacher in the field of Complex Humanitarian Emergencies; Professor of Practice of Public Policy and Director of Global Humanitarian Policy at University of Virginia Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

**Cristy West**  
Mixed media artist, philanthropist and founder of the Brimstone Award for Applied Storytelling at the National Storytelling Network.

**Andrea Menefee**  
Expert in Nutrition and Food Security in Myanmar and Southeast Asia, and currently nutrition advisor to the Global Health Department of Save the Children US.

**Andrea Woodhouse**  
World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist, with particular expertise in Myanmar and Fragile Political Environments and Countries in Transition.

**Dr. Mary Callahan**  
Associate Professor of International Studies at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington; political scientist with expertise in political reform and the military in Myanmar, and founding partner of Ava Advisory Group in Yangon.

**Brooke Zobrist**  
Executive Director of Girl Determined and long-term expert and consultant in women and girls’ rights, education, and civil society development in Myanmar and Southeast Asia.
Corporate, foundation, government and other institutional supporters

The Asia Foundation
Asian Sports Partnership of Australian Aid
Australian Embassy in Myanmar
Beyond Sport Foundation
Childfund Myanmar
Dining for Women
Foundation for a Just Society
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NoVo Foundation
The McKesson Foundation
Myanmar Investments
Open Society Foundation
Standard Chartered Bank
TODAY Ogilvy & Mather*
Women Win International

*I in-kind services

“I am really pleased to report that we are sending you a check for your excellent work in Myanmar. I have enjoyed the process of looking into your programs, and we are impressed with your history. Please know that we are very pleased to be able to come alongside you in this way.

Fritz Kling
President
DeBoer Foundation, Inc.

“I’m so happy to be on the Girl Determined team. Love your work, and expect there will be ways in which we can work together in the future!”

Marissa Wesely
CEO and Board Secretary
Win-Win Strategies

“I’ve got so much to learn from organizations and people like you. Well done on all your achievements.”

Alison Carter
Founder
Three Good Spoons Yangon
Individual and Family Partnerships

Loved the work that you are doing for girls that live in repressed circumstances, often with violence and who don’t realize that other options can exist for them... Thank you for your hard work, and providing a path for a better future for these girls. I visited in 2014 and was blown away by your impact! ...

At this time, I’ll remain a very interested and passionate donor.

Joan Rost
long-time friend and supporter

You are doing a wonderful job.... love you....mom

Brooke’s mom
Ways to continue to support:

Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to your ongoing support and encouragement. Your investments work to build strong, confident girls with character, that are working to change our world today and into the future.

Stay connected

Log onto our website at girldetermined.org to sign-up for our Girl Determined Newsletter, which brings analysis and stories from girls to you three times per year.

facebook.com/GirlDeterminedMM
twitter.com/GirlDetermined

Keep donating

Visit our website to make a contribution - either a one-time contribution or a recurring, monthly gift. This type of support is critical to advancing our mission of girls’ leadership. It allows us to be certain we can respond quickly and effectively to shifts in the context and unexpected opportunities.

Send us an email at info@girldetermined.org to find out how to send checks, wires or stocks.

Support a girl

Contact us with creative fundraising ideas

We have had incredible couples collect donations instead of wedding gifts, and determined girls in the US launch a bead bracelet campaign. If you are interested in helping to raise funds in your communities, please reach out with your ideas and we can work together.
In order to ensure girls’ safety the photos and stories in this report do not include the actual girls’ names or specific locations. This ensures anonymity to safeguard the girls with whom we work.

This annual report was produced by Girl Determined in 2018. All content, unless otherwise stated was written by Girl Determined. Design and layout were done by BRIDGE, a Yangon-based creative agency. Girl Determined has the explicit permission to use all photographic images included in the Annual report 2018. though, all credit goes to the photographers: Minzayar Oo (cover page, p.10, p.19, p.23 and p.28), Andrew Stanbridge (map portraits, p.5-8, p.13, p.15, p.18, p.20 and p.21), Today Ogilvy (p. 12), Aleta Phelps (p.23).