

# Medical Action Myanmar

As the Friends of Medical Action Myanmar, we thought you would be interested to hear of some developments in the charity.



MAM is now linked with the Mahidol Oxford Research Unit (MORU), based in Bangkok. MAM and MORU not only collaborate on research, but the new alliance gives MAM a firmer financial footing.

We currently have 7 clinics. 4 are in Yangon, in disadvantaged areas of the city, one is in Mon State and two way up in the north of Kachin State near Putao. We, the UK Friends of MAM, have been able to send \$11,000 to finance these two small clinics, which are amongst the only medical facilities in the whole state. Whilst general funding for research and HIV/Aids and Malaria is relatively well funded the money to fund small projects is hard to come by.

An enormous thank-you to everyone who gives us monthly donations and to those of you who came to our inaugural lecture in London (with the journalist and writer Barnaby Phillips) and to those going to the pop-up Burmese Suppers put on by the Rangoon Sisters. (<https://rangoonsisters.wordpress.com/about/>).



Your money is literally saving lives in Kachin State.

The Canadian Friends of MAM have bought 2 new ultrasound machines and the money to finish the rebuilding of Orchid Clinic.

All donations are very gratefully received - and necessary. If you like to make a donation, details of our bank accounts at the bottom of this email.

Below are a couple of paragraphs by Dr Joshua Cohen who has recently joined MAM with his wife Beth, they offer a brief insight into some of the work being undertaken:

*I am a junior doctor from the UK volunteering with research projects in Myanmar.*

*We have started a project looking at new ways to tackle antimicrobial resistance. The study is taking place in clinics throughout Thailand and Myanmar and involves introducing a blood test that can help doctors distinguish between bacterial and viral infections in patients presenting with fever.*

We are running the study in MAM clinics and I visit the clinics regularly and have got to recognise some of the long term patients.

To get to the clinic each morning the doctors, nurses and counsellors wake up early to take a staff ferry (bus) at 7am that crawls through Yangon traffic, crosses a bridge and enters Hlaingthayar township. Hlaingthayar is an impoverished suburb on the outskirts of Yangon and is home to a large migrant population, many of whom arrived in Yangon after cyclone Nargis (2008). MAM run two clinics in Hlaingthayar and offer free healthcare and medications at the point of need.

On my first day at the clinic I sat in, shadowing a local doctor during her consultations. We saw patients back to back throughout the morning, not breaking until all the patients had been seen. Some patients had simple complaints, others had complex chronic problems. One couple had travelled to the clinic worried about their 3 month old baby girl. She had not fed for the last few days and was suffering with profuse diarrhoea. She was swaddled in soiled blankets and when we examined her she was small and frail with dark sunken eyes, loose skin and muscle wasting around her legs. She weighed under 1.5kg, was severely malnourished and in need of urgent care. We referred her to the MAM malnutrition clinic at once, where she was enrolled in a long term feeding programme. I had not seen such an extreme case of malnutrition before and was relieved to see her get the life saving treatment she needed. Although my work over the last few months has been focused on starting the new clinical study, each time I visit the clinic I have seen this small child feed, grow and begin to smile and play



#### BANK DETAILS:

UK Friends of Medical Action Myanmar  
Lloyds Bank, High St, Andover  
Sort Code: 30-90-21  
Acc number: 42199160

#### Bank Info:

#### EURO Account:

Name: ABN AMRO  
Address: Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Account no.: 54.12.25.693  
IBAN: NL24ABNA0541225693  
BIC: ABNANL2A

#### USD Account:

Name: ABN AMRO  
Address: Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Account no.: 43.84.12.974  
IBAN: NL56ABNA0438412974  
BIC: ABNANL2A

