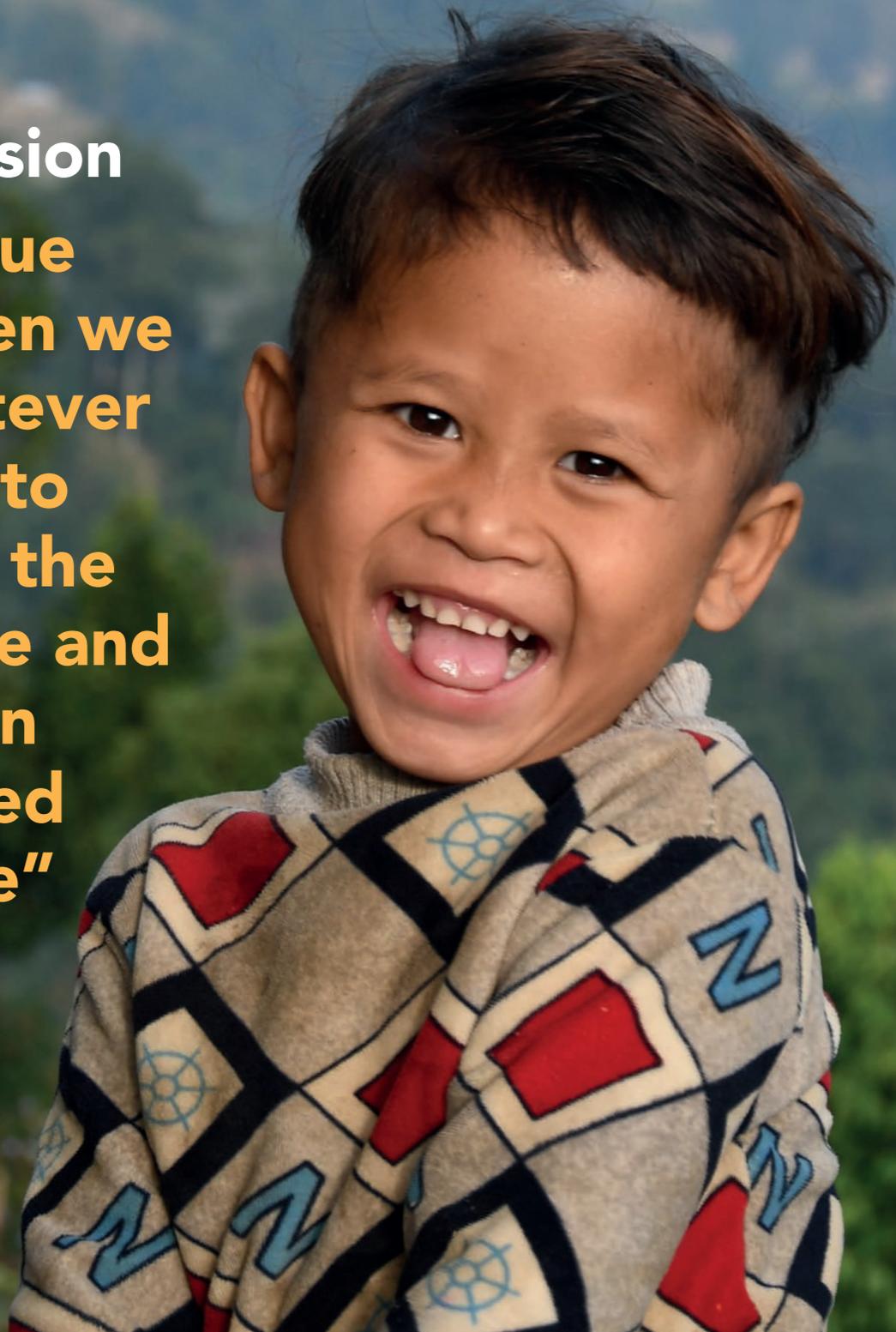




**STAND
BY me**
Impact
Report

Our mission

“We rescue kids, then we do whatever it takes to provide the care love and attention they need to thrive”



I am delighted to share with you our 2021 Impact Report, which highlights some of what we have achieved together in bringing love and care to over 4000 children around the world.

In 2021, we rescued even more children and as we learnt of their stories, we cried with them and then helped them realise that they are loved and belong.

Despite our kids’ difficult starts in life, they are amazing and are full of potential. Like all parents, we are proud of our kids and are thrilled to share with you some of their accomplishments. It’s their stories of hope that bring home the impact of our work and serve to motivate us as we continue our mission to rescue and help our kids become everything that God created them to be.

Our staff, through their dedication, expertise and sacrifice, continue to exemplify the highest standards of care to our children in some of the most challenging circumstances. Every staff member deserves praise, but none more so than our staff in Myanmar, who, despite danger to their personal safety, overcame the challenges of Covid and civil war whilst providing emergency food parcels to over 2000 families throughout the year.

As you read this report, I hope you will be encouraged, as without your generosity, the hard work of our staff and the faithfulness of God, the impact seen in this report would not have been possible.

Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director



Ahmad in Kenya.

Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated to follow Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.



Our child-centred care

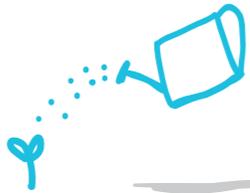
Loving care

We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Strong families

We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



Great education

Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



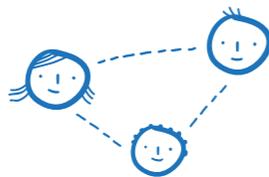
Access to healthcare

We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



A reason for hope

It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



Caring relationships

Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



24 Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



7 Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



6 Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.



Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.



Caring for over 4,000 kids worldwide

Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic

Educating children exposed to poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

Nepal

Providing a loving family environment to children excluded from society while bringing education to children isolated in the remote mountainous region and supporting their families.

Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.



Kenya

Our work around the world is expanding and as of January 2022 we now work in Kenya, adopting 250 children at the Open Arms project



Our impact

Rescuing children and meeting their individual needs

At *Stand by Me* our heart is to provide our kids with whatever they need including regular food, healthcare and a great education. For some children we need to go one step further and provide them with a place to call home.

We met Sintayehyu at the start of 2021 in Ethiopia, he was just four years old. Sintayehyu was found by the local authorities living in the grounds of a cemetery, surviving by begging for food. He was an only child who had been living with his mum, but his mum was suffering from serious health issues and had sadly passed away.

Knowing the risks he faced without a parent to care for him, Sintayehyu needed a family, a home, and a lot of love and care, and so we have welcomed him into the family at our Bethany Children's Village.

Sintayehyu now has a place to call home and is much healthier and happier thanks to daily meals, healthcare, and most importantly the love of a family at the children's village. And when Sintayehyu is old enough he will start at our school, where he will learn, grow and dream for the future.

Like Sintayehyu, we want to give all of our kids the childhood they deserve and the love and acceptance they need. In 2021, we rescued 149 children and welcomed them into our care. Where once they may have felt alone, today they know they have us standing by their side.



Sintayehyu.

Sintayehyu (middle) at the Children's Village.

Providing the opportunity of a quality education

Essential to seeing our kids' lives transformed is the provision of a quality education. Our schools and educational programmes are equipping our kids with the skills and knowledge needed for them to rise above their circumstances and do great things.

In Nepal, our children faced prolonged school closures due to Covid. With the help of our staff at our children's homes, our children continued to study hard, including Aanggalu.

When we first met Aanggalu, he was being cared for by his uncle who struggled to provide for his needs. We welcomed Aanggalu into our *Stand by Me* family at our children's home

in 2011 where he received the care he needed including a great education.

In 2021, Aanggalu took his SEE examinations which are the equivalent to GCSEs. He had worked hard and, despite the challenges of online learning, he achieved the top honour in his results. We are so proud of his hard work and dedication to his studies. He is now at college and would like to train as a chef for trekking expeditions in his home district.

Thanks to a life-changing education and their hard work, our kids are overcoming obstacles and looking forward to bright futures. Children like Aanggalu who once had no educational opportunities are today one step closer to achieving their dreams.

Responding with emergency aid

In February 2021, a military coup spiralled Myanmar into civil unrest, violence and insecurity. The combined impact of Covid and civil unrest, amid rising unemployment and food prices, forced millions of people into abject poverty.

We launched our Myanmar Appeal to respond to the needs of our children, their families and the communities around them. Despite the personal risks to our staff, and thanks to your support, we delivered food parcels to thousands of families facing starvation, some who have lost loved ones and other who have fled their homes to escape violence.

One of the families who received a food parcel was U Man's. He let us know how important this food parcel was for his family:

"This is the worst time in my life, to live with Covid and the military forces. My wife was seriously suffering from Covid and my daughter suffered from dengue fever. They recovered. We are struggling for life. We are short of money. We have no food. We are very glad to receive a food parcel from Stand by Me. It is wonderful to receive such a big present from the people whom I do not know."

U Man

U Man's story is just one of the thousands of stories from grateful families who now can survive another month. The love and generosity they have received has helped to lift them out of despair and given them hope for a better future.



Removing obstacles for our children

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn and so we do all we can to provide our kids with a quality education, particularly when circumstances are difficult.

In Myanmar, as unrest erupted throughout the country, it became unsafe for our children to attend school. To continue their education, we purchased tablets to allow them to have access to education despite the chaos around them. These tablets enabled our kids to access learning materials and engage with our staff.

Along with each tablet, we also provided internet access and headphones to enable our kids to participate in their online lessons. Our children engaged with their teachers, asking questions and receiving tutoring. These tablets are a lifeline for our children, one of whom is eight year old Mang:

"I am so thankful for my tablet and the online classes I attend. I can see my teachers and friends from Zoom and I communicate with my teachers and send my homework through email. I've learned how to use email and ask questions to my teachers. I am so blessed."

Mang

Ensuring our children can access a great education has never been more important. The provision of tablets, headphones, internet access and online classes run by our amazing teachers are helping our children learn and thrive.



12 Mang.



Standing by families

We are committed to responding to our children and their families' immediate needs. When emergencies arrive, we must act quickly in order to help them overcome challenges.

When a storm caused extensive flooding in the region where we work in Colombia, our care centre was flooded along with the homes of the children in our care, causing damage to their belongings and furniture. Some houses suffered more serious structural damage and were in desperate need of repair.

Thanks to donations to our Colombia Flood Appeal, we were able to provide repairs to homes and replace possessions destroyed by the flood as well as help repair our Emmanuel Care Centre.

Families were overjoyed as they received replacements for the belongings lost such as clothing, kitchen utensils, appliances and furniture. Joxelis' family was affected by the flood, her mum shared:

"Thanks to the Care Centre for being aware of the affected families, especially ours, I hope that God continues to multiply everything they do, we needed this help."

Joxelis' mum

The support provided by the Emmanuel Care Centre has not only provided our children with an education, food and medical care, it has also shown families that they have *Stand by Me's* lasting support and has restored hope.

By responding to urgent needs, we are able to show our children and their families that they are not alone and demonstrate God's love to the communities we work in.



Joxelis and her mum. 13

Lifting kids off the floor and into their first bed

We believe that every child deserves a good night's sleep and so each year we run February on the Floor to provide children in our care with a bed.

In 2021, an amazing 85 individuals, families, schools and youth groups gave up their bed for a week and raised sponsorship in order to help provide families with a bed to raise them off the floor and improve their circumstances. **Thanks to them and everyone who generously donated, we were able to provide a bed for 907 of our kids!**

This amazing total enabled us to reach our dream in Ethiopia, where the majority of our children were sleeping on the floor, ensuring that every child there now has a bed. One of the children who received a bed was Birtukan. Her mum shared with our staff how much a new bed meant to her family after so long sleeping on the floor:

"Today we are going to get the sleep we have always dreamed of. We used to sleep on the floor, but this has passed, now we own a nice bed with bed materials thanks to those who are the reason this happened."

Birtukan's mum

Birtukan is just one of 907 children who now know the comfort of a bed. The new beds will make an enormous difference to our children, helping restore their sleep, giving them the energy to pursue their dreams.



Birtukan and her mum.



FEBRUARY
on the
FLOOR

Helping children reach their potential

Our hope at *Stand by Me* is for our children to reach their full potential, stand on their own two feet and go on to use their skills, talents and unique personalities to change their life, their families lives and their communities.

Lidiya joined our Bethany School in Ethiopia when she was seven years old. With the opportunity of an education, the right care, the support of her sponsors and her dedication to learn, she graduated from university and is now working as an accountant for a charity.

"After I joined this school everything that was hard in my life became easier for me because all my basic needs were fulfilled through Stand by Me, including food, school uniform and exercise books. I continued my education with much hope, joy and with a bright future."

"After four years at university, I graduated with honours. I am currently working in an office run by a charity that helps children in need. I am very proud to work in this office because there is nothing more exciting than helping people. Finally, I would like to thank Stand by Me for loving me and teaching me. I am here today in this place because of the support and help I have received."

Lidiya

We couldn't be more proud of all our children who have overcome huge obstacles and are reaching their potential. We know that thanks to life-changing care, the many hundreds of children in our schools, homes and care centres can dream big and have a bright future too.



Lidiya.

A family across the world

Our amazing child sponsors are ensuring our children receive the best care possible and have the encouragement and love that every child needs to thrive through their regular financial support, letters and emails

We are grateful that a further 424 individuals have stood by a child in 2021 through our child sponsorship programme. These individuals along with all our sponsors are helping to meet our children's needs, providing for their food, clothes, medical care and education. But so much more than that, they are also helping our children feel loved, cared for and part of a family.

"I thank God and my sponsors who gave me two gifts; one of them for my birthday. I am very happy because my sponsors always remember me. My mum also thanks Stand by Me because we are blessed by the things that my sponsors give us."

Rosa, Colombia

Our kids love to receive letters, photos and small gifts from their sponsors. These things quickly become treasured possessions and let our children know that they are loved and cared for. As our children exchange communication with their sponsors, they build a personal relationship, know they have their lasting support and can fulfil their potential.



Rosa.

How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.



Shoe Appeal

Our Shoe Appeal raised a fantastic £43,875 to help us reach our goal of providing a new pair of shoes for every child in our care, protecting their feet from harm and restoring their confidence. Our kids were so excited to receive their brand new shoes at Christmas!

"I am so happy and thank the donors who have given us money for the new shoes."

Zemem



Shoe Appeal 2021

Protect our children, every step of the way

For many children all around the world, shoes are a luxury that their families are unable to provide for them. At Stand by Me, we want the 4000 children in our care to be able to run, jump and explore the world, protected by a pair of shoes.

A pair of shoes will enable our children to journey to school, secure in the knowledge that their feet are protected from cuts, infection and disease. The gift of brand-new shoes will also show every child in our care they are loved.

This Christmas, we're inviting you to help give the gift of shoes.

£10
= A pair of shoes

www.standbyme.org.uk

Before joining the Stand by Me family, Ngah only wore shoes during the rainy season. Now she can be safe and protected all year round.

"Thanks so much for my shoes. I'm very happy to have such a nice pair of shoes. I feel like Christmas is more meaningful because I get to have these nice Christmas gifts. I will try to be thankful!"

Ngah, Myanmar



Zemem.

Alternative Gift Catalogue

Our Gift Catalogue raised a fantastic £34,342 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Emergency Appeal

Emergency appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our Myanmar Appeal raised an incredible £244,011 helping us provide life-saving food parcels to families facing starvation. Our Colombia Flood Appeal raised £6,860 to help families recover from the floods, bringing hope to despair.

Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.

"This food parcel arrived at the moment when I needed it most. Thank you very much, God bless the lives of you and the sponsors. It has been a great blessing for me to have my son in this project"

Darwin's Mum

Darwin's family.



Fundraising

Amazing fundraisers take on ambitious challenges to raise money for our children around the world. Whether they are running, cycling, cutting their hair or shaving off their beard, their motivation to make a difference to our kids' lives is inspiring and raises essential funds to support our kids. This year our annual February on the Floor fundraising event raised £126,980 to provide beds for children who were sleeping on the floor.



Mike's cycle ride

Mike cycled all the way from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising a whopping £5,000 for our Bethany School in Ethiopia.

"Two years ago, I had the privilege of volunteering at the Bethany School in Ethiopia. Knowing that many of the children and families we met there will benefit from our ride, in such difficult times, is the best reward of all." Mike



Ethan's Stand by Me birthday

11 year old Ethan gave up his birthday presents to raise money for Stand by Me after learning about our work through school. He raised enough to provide over 1,100 school meals for our kids in Ethiopia.

"The stories my school told about the children made me want to help. I thought I didn't need presents but it was a good idea to ask my friends to give money so we could donate to Stand by Me instead." Ethan



Sarah's February on the Floor

Sarah, along with her children Thomas, Anna and Matthew, were some of the many people who took on February on the Floor in 2021, raising money to provide our Stand by Me kids with a bed.

"This was a challenging experience for us all- and that was only one week on a relatively comfortable floor! The children learned a valuable lesson, indeed one they will never forget, about the needs of other children around the world." Sarah



Saira's lockdown locks

When Saira turned 50, she reflected on what truly mattered. She decided to cut her long hair off and donate it to children who needed wigs. At the same time, she raised over £3000 to help Stand by Me families who needed food parcels.

"I am so overwhelmed by everyone's generosity! Together we have made a difference helping Stand by Me to provide vital food parcels to families who need them. God is great and I'm truly blessed!" Saira





Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to *Stand by Me* mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting improvements in children's lives.



Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year, often online or through video. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

Trusts

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.

We are incredibly grateful to the many generous individuals who have contributed financially to our work throughout the year, who, for privacy reasons, are not mentioned by name here.





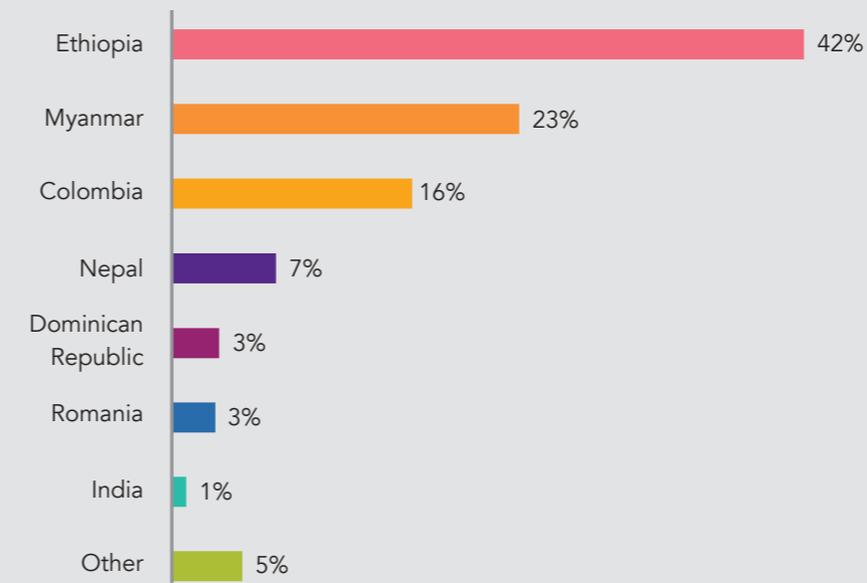
Bethany School, Nepal.

How we spent your money

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children, but we're not here just to run a charity. We're here to change the lives of the children in our care then to reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives.

This year we have spent £1,847,000 directly on our projects.

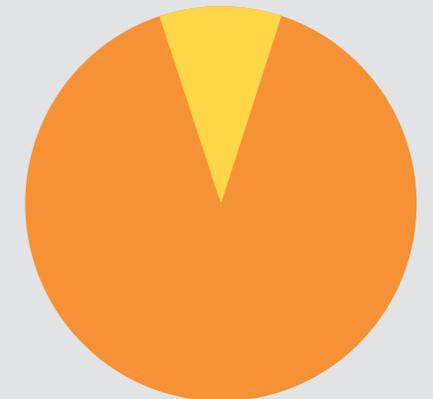
What we spent directly on our projects in 2021



Total: £1,847,000

What we spent on our children's care

Emergency support
£245,428
13%



Children's care
£1,601,604
87%

* Figures are from Stand by Me's pre-audited accounts 2021.



Looking forward

Around the world our children have grown healthier thanks to regular meals and medical care. They have learned new skills and many have progressed into the next stage of school, college or university. All of our children know they are loved, accepted and are part of a family that cares for them and this love is transforming their lives.

As we celebrate all this, we are also aware that our *Stand by Me* projects face tremendous challenges around the world due to civil war, political unrest and the increasing cost of living. But we continue to be committed to bringing life-changing care to our children and as a result we have bold plans to invest further in our projects. As we continue to deliver world-class child care, we hope to achieve three key aims in 2022:

- We continue to be a faith led organisation and are excited to be taking a step of faith by welcoming a further 250 children into our care at the Open Arms project in Kenya. It is always a privilege to grow our family and to have the opportunity to reach out into a new community. We will also rescue a further 100 children who need support from the surrounding community.
- Education is always at the forefront of Stand by Me's work and this year we will build on our 15 year foundation at our Bethany Project in Ethiopia by establishing a high school centre. This centre will enhance our children's lives further by providing a hub for high school students to come to for their food, healthcare and educational support.
- In Myanmar, sending funds continues to be a challenge due to the military regime. We are thankful to have found alternative funding routes, however; we are seeking ways to make our projects more sustainable through the purchase of rice fields. This will enable our children's homes to have food security that is not dependent on funding routes. In the face of extreme adversity, with God's help, we know that we can continue to rescue children and help them become all they were born to be.

As we look to the future we are confident that with your support, encouragement and prayers, and as we follow God's leading, we can impact many more children.





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BY me**

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