

Circuit International Incorporated

Statement of Service Performance

"What did we do?", When did we do it?"

For the year ended
31 March 2023

Description of the Entity's Outcomes

Through business and sustainable development, we seek to reduce extreme poverty within communities in north-eastern Myanmar. Our SEED BANK program are community based loans. We fund whole communities with a repayable loan at low interest which is repaid annually. This prevents debt slavery in underdeveloped areas. With our grainsaver program we buy grain at reasonable prices from farmers and then store until the price elevates. The profits from this are then used to extend and fund additional seedbank programs.

Description and Quantification (to the extent practicable) of the Entity's Outputs: Where Donations Went:	Actual	Actual
	This Year	Last Year
Field Programmes	88%	86%
Promotion & Fundraising	10%	11%
Administration	2%	3%

New Hope Seed Banks:

A community based, very low interest, seed bank for subsistence farmers, offering them protection from loan sharks. The whole community takes the loan together so if one falls all share in the fall. Unity is the ultimate aim of the programme - it is our definition of community development. Further, interest paid accrues so that, in time, the community can start to run their own seed bank. We have found during monitoring and evaluation that, in EVERY case, a sense of unity and community purpose has deepened through this programme. This has resulted in noticeable improvements to infrastructure, increased school attendance, improved health outcomes and better standard of living.. In the words of LCA Director, Sai Tun Sar - "Now they feel more unified and confident to solve their own problems and to stand on their own feet as a community". This has been our most successful programme to date and has become the backbone of Circuit's work in Myanmar.

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Seed Bank Programmes Statistics

Village Tracts	7	5
Acres planted	340	280
Number of individuals assisted to keep them from poverty and free of debt to loan sharks	1320	1140
Local volunteers, including the individual programme managers, who happily volunteer their time, especially at the busiest times of planting and harvesting. Some volunteers are also used during the Monitoring and Evaluation of each Seed Banks programme.	85	78

Grainsaver Bags:

This is a storage programme running in conjunction with the seed banks programme. It was an ambitious idea to introduce new technology into Myanmar to enable us to store grain to improve the lives of subsistence farmers. Our local entity, the Love Conquers All (LCA) Foundation buys grain direct from farmers, thereby giving them a guaranteed income and passing the risk to Circuit. Possible subsequent adverse conditions see farmers protected where others face the possibility of losing money. By protecting our store of grain in silo bags we will, when conditions improve, be able to sell at up to 150% of the buying price thus providing extra funding for our charitable work. This project has attracted the attention of business people. We are hoping that this will result in the sales of this grain storage system for which we currently hold the selling rights in Myanmar. This business is ultimately aimed at self-sustainment for LCA. At this point we have no reportable outcome statistics.

Coffee for Opium:

The current political situation in Myanmar has caused major disruption to the export of coffee and we cannot see that situation improving any time soon. Funds being held for its development will therefore be used to expand other programmes

Additional Output Measures:

Staff and volunteer involvement		
Executive Director and Field Programmes Leader -partially sponsored/supported by Kiwis so they don't need to take a full salary from the charity, and more funds can go to the field	1	2
Accountant - part-time volunteer	1	1
Media Consultant - works on contract	1	2
Fulltime staff in Myanmar - the LCA director and one assistant - paid a local wage by agreement, not a high salary like some other INGOs pay their staff, so that more funds can be used for the programmes.	2	2
Monitoring and evaluation volunteers	10	10

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The main learning we have taken from this & past years has been:

Firstly COVID and now the political situation in Myanmar has forced us to put more trust in the local leadership, since we have not been able to travel to Myanmar. Anecdotal and fiscally, it appears that this has resulted in a higher success rate in programmes, particularly our grainsaver programme. As a NZ based organisation, we have learned that our Myanmar based team is able to make decisions more agilely without our NZ board advising as closely as we have in previous years.

Additional Information:

For more information on the outcomes and outputs of our programmes go to:

<https://www.circuitinternational.org/seed-banks/>

<https://www.circuitinternational.org/grain-saver-bags/>