

## S4SKPAP

The Poverty Alleviation Rotating Loan Fund project, set up by the charity Scholarships for Street Kids, is based in Pakkoku, Myanmar and is supported by Keighley Quaker meeting.

The project is a development of the earlier work of Scholarships for Street Kids, which had received a QPSW Relief grant in 2013-2015. This project specifically targets the problem of children dropping out of education because of families getting into debt as a result of medical bills, or to purchase food when there is no employment, etc.

With interest rates of 25%-30% per month, debts to local money-lenders can mount rapidly if payments fall behind, and there is no way that a poor family can improve their situation even with the children working rather than in school.

To help the families get out of debt the project offers a combination of savings and conditional loans at affordable interest rates (2% per month) to buy the families' debt to money-lenders, provided that the young person attends full-time education for a specified number of years. The QPSW Relief grant is a one-off amount to provide funding to start the scheme. In the long term it is expected that local families' savings will cover the funds needed.

