

Oxygen Plant Kalay – FAQ

1. Why is the need for relief in Myanmar (Burma) so great?

Myanmar (Burma) is one of the most economically disadvantaged countries globally and has the longest-running civil war. Its military dictatorship has held firm control of the country from 1960-2010. From 2010-2021, the country's government had a nominal democracy, while the military retained most of the power and control behind the scenes. On February 1, 2021, the military initiated a coup fearing its power was waning. The coup was very unpopular and resulted in most government workers refusing to work under the military junta. Hospitals, schools, and most government agencies ceased operating. Many of those who refused to work for the military government have either been arrested or killed. The Myanmar (Burma) military and police responded with lethal violence to significant mass peaceful protests. In the past six months, the army killed over 1,000 civilians. The country is in shambles, and a full-out civil war looms on the horizon. Then in June 2021, the COVID-19 delta variant from India reached the country, and a third mass wave killed tens of thousands of people. This wave is still not waning. With most hospitals closed, it forced people to treat themselves at home. The need for oxygen has become dire. Without oxygen, many people are dying needlessly. While families and villages are sharing tanks to survive, the need to fill these tanks has been pressing. A saddening scene throughout the country is of long lines of people waiting all day to fill tanks for their friends and families who are dying at home.

2. Who will own, operate and maintain the equipment and distribute the oxygen produced? Will the product be sold?

Central Chin Pawlphi (CCP), a local relief group, has helped raise funds and is continually assessing and responding to the needs for the area. CCP will overall supervise the plant, with the plan for it to be self-sustaining. The plant will charge a nominal fee for the refill of tanks. Funds raised from the refills will be used to maintain and provide salaries to the workers managing the plant. When COVID-19 does subside in the country, this plant will continue to operate in providing hospitals and clinics with oxygen. Up until now, most medical oxygen was transported from Mandalay to Kalay which resulted in a twelve+ hour trip.

3. Where would the oxygen generator be physically situated?

The nearest plant of this size is currently in Mandalay (over 12 hours away from Kalay). With this plant's location in Kalay, it will also be helpful for northern Chin state and the entire northwest corridor of the country to have access.

At present, three locations are being considered in Kalay. The desire to have reliable electricity with a robust transformer and access to an electricity generator are the reasons for these locations. We believe the most likely site will be to locate the plant on Tahan Theological College [TTC] (which is owned by the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar). By locating the plant on the property of TTC. This site is seen as ideal as Wesley Hospital, a local Christian hospital across the street from TTC, will be able to have access and help with the plant's supervision.

4. Why is an oxygen generator recommended and not respirators?

Respirators need more professional medical supervision, and also most will need reliable electricity to operate. As electricity is unreliable in Myanmar and the people have some access to oxygen tanks throughout the region, this seems the best option. Also, due to the travel and sensitivity of respiratory equipment, moving tanks into remote parts of the country (often by motorcycle or hand carrying) is easier to do than by using respirators. Most people in Myanmar with Covid-19 are being treated and usually are dying in their homes.

5. What type and capacity of oxygen generator is needed?

CCP has already borrowed money and put a down payment of 50% towards the plant. It is a OY-250 Oxygen Generator Dew Point Monitoring Instrument. The total cost for this equipment is \$99,500 (a copy of this order and receipt can be provided upon request). The plant will produce medical grade oxygen for about 120 tanks with a capacity of 40 liters each in a 24-hour period.

6. How much would it cost to set up the oxygen generator?

Engineers and other industry advisors have provided the following estimates for setting up the plant.

DESCRIPTION	MYR KYAT	USD ESTIMATE
Oxygen Generator (Includes delivery to Kalay)	164,175,000	\$99,500
Step Up and Generator (Includes Installation)	30,000,000	\$18,181
Wiring for power from transformer (Includes Installation)	10,000,000	\$6,060
Building (TBD)	10,000,000	\$6,060

7. Fundraising Plan

CCP has developed a plan and has taken on responsibility for raising the needed funds. 50% of the funds are to be raised from within Myanmar (Burma) and 50% are to be raised from outside the country. *Farthest Corners is not responsible for raising the entire goal of 50% of outside funds requested for this project. We will be one of many (i.e. individuals, churches and NGO's), donating to this specific cause.*

Within Myanmar – Fundraising Goals

- a. Northwest Subcentre: 15% of the plant (30,000,000 MYR Kyat)
- b. Chin Pawlpi, Kalaymyo: 15% of the plant (30,000,000 MYR Kyat)
- c. Central Chin Pawlpi (Kalay Southern, Kabaw, Yangon, Mandalay): 20% of the plant (40,000,000 MYR Kyat)

8. With the situation in Myanmar (Burma), how can we trust the funds will arrive safely?

The House family has numerous trusted contacts throughout Myanmar (Burma) who have facilitated fund transfers during their almost 20 years of service in the region. Since they arrived in the USA, the House family has been able to send funds on their own to support family members in need.

They also were able to facilitate one church's substantial gift for relief as well as helping others to send support to those in need within Myanmar (Burma) [even when all banks were closed]. They are constantly monitoring the safest way to send funds and also seek out the best rates that they can find. Recently, Western Union has reopened at some banks in the country, and people (as of writing) can obtain funds through this secure way.

Through its many years of working in numerous disasters and fundraising efforts in Myanmar (Burma), Farthest Corners has never had any issue with these types of transfers. While no 100% guarantee can be made for the future, especially in a country like Myanmar (Burma), we feel confident that we make prudent decisions and have safeguards to ensure funds reach their designated location. Our history has shown this to be the case.

9. Will all of the funds raised be used for the oxygen production plant?

Farthest Corners anticipates most if not all of the funds raised will be used for this oxygen production plant. However, donations could be used for other relief endeavors if the CCP reaches the fundraising goal before the transfer is made or if other pressing issues come up (e.g. need for food relief, medicine, or other lifesaving causes). Simply, Myanmar (Burma) is facing great challenges and all donations made for this event will be explicitly used for relief in a country with desperate needs.

10. Other than funds, how else can we support?

As a faith-based organization, we believe in the need for God's wisdom and guidance in all that we do, so please continue to pray for our work. More importantly, please lift up those suffering in Myanmar (Burma) who are in harm's way. We may also praise God that though this crisis continues to grow, many in Myanmar (Burma) are encouraged as it has never been so united in a common cause before. We ask for God's peace and presence to bring hearts anew in Myanmar (Burma).