



**Peace
Corps**
MYANMAR



Building bridges of friendship
Between the people of
Myanmar
and the people of the
United States



About Peace Corps

In 1961 United States President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship. The Peace Corps is an independent, non-political, non-religious U.S. government agency that provides Volunteers from the United States to countries around the world that request them. More than fifty-nine years have passed since Peace Corps was established, but the mission and role of the Peace Corps have withstood the test of time and the three goals of the Peace Corps remain as important today as they were at its founding:

- Goal 1:** Help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Goal 2:** Help to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Goal 3:** Help to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

Peace Corps in Myanmar

We are honored to partner with the Ministry of Education to support educational reforms that help improve education and opportunity for all children in Myanmar. Since 2016, 78 Peace Corps Volunteers have worked side by side with Myanmar teachers of English to strengthen teacher capacity and provide student classroom instruction in English. They have exchanged skills with counterparts and community members, shared American culture, and learned about Myanmar culture, which they also share with family and friends in the United States.

Unfortunately, in March of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic caused the global evacuation of all Peace Corps Volunteers to the United States, so the Peace Corps program in Myanmar has been temporarily suspended. During this pause in activities, the Peace Corps has worked closely with our health and safety and security teams, as well as with our local partners, to ensure that all precautions are taken to keep community members, partners and Volunteers safe and healthy as they work together. In this new context, we are also working closely with our education and community partners to find creative solutions to maximize Volunteers' impact in promoting English language communication, while also helping to address the new and emerging challenges related to COVID-19. We are excited about this new phase of our program in Myanmar!

We are happy to share with you some of the successes we have had working together with our counterparts and other partners over the past year. We thank you for your support and we do hope you will proudly display and share this poster.



Peace,

Pamela Martin
Country Director

Volunteers Make a Difference. . .

'Sayar Cody shared his knowledge with great patience'

When I was in grade seven, a volunteer teacher, Cody, arrived at our school. He always encouraged us not to be shy or afraid to make a mistake. He taught us to expand our vocabulary and gain confidence in speaking through singing songs, dancing, drawing cartoons, playing games, and watching movies. . . He happily took part in the celebrations of Martyr's Day, Tazaung Daing, Ta Din Gyunt, school activities, and competitions. He wore the Myanmar longyi and shirt during his service. In his farewell speech, he said "it was hard for me to leave my family and friends to come to Myanmar, now it is hard for me to leave." We were lucky and I will never forget Sayar Cody, also known as Htet Aung Chit, who shared his knowledge with great patience. (From a story by Kyi Phyu Naing, student of Cody)



'Our Volunteer will be in our hearts forever'



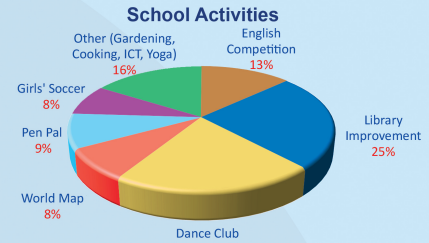
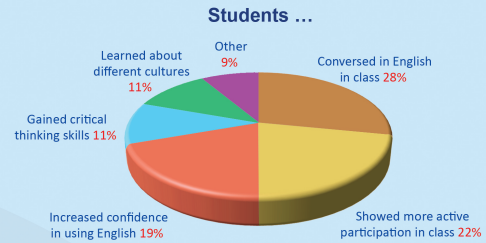
My name is Daw Hla Hla Myo and I am a high school teacher from Pyay. In 2018 April, our school warmly welcomed a warmhearted and hardworking Peace Corps Volunteer named Lydia. Despite the initial language barrier, Lydia helped me by speaking slowly and repeating phrases. Most of our co-teaching sessions went well because we took the time to prepare our lesson plans. . . Most significantly, students improved their critical thinking skills and became more confident to ask questions and participate in learning activities. Together we made a mural on the wall of our school. When they look at that mural, the students' eyes are filled with dreams and hopes to change the world positively. . . Our Volunteer will be in our hearts forever. (From a story by Daw Hla Hla Myo, counterpart of Lydia)

'May a hundred golden moons shine on more communities'

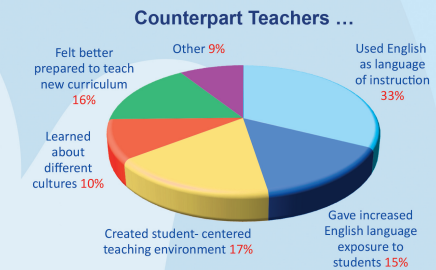
It was a remarkable day when Peace Corps Volunteer Karina came to live with us to work as an English teacher at BEHS Paungde. . . For two years, Karina never failed to amaze us. She showed up at the school daily, wearing her green and white Myanmar school teacher's uniform, her hair in a bun like a typical Myanmar teacher, with flowers given to her daily by students, enthusiastically teaching, interacting with her students, and participating in school events. . . One of the school's greatest achievements was when Karina's students became regional finalists in the English language competition and advanced to the national level. . . Peace Corps Volunteers are like golden moons, lighting the path of many. Karina was the one that shone in the sky over Paungde. . . May a hundred golden moons shine on more communities, lighting the paths of our brothers and sisters. (From a story by Daw Nang Than Than Aye, Karina's principal)



Success for Students



Success for Teachers



Volunteers in Myanmar from 2016 to 2020

78 Peace Corps Volunteers
lived and worked



in **40** townships

in **3** regions
and **1** state

*Map does not include an additional 33 trainees who were evacuated in March 2020 because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore were not able to serve their communities.