



Peace
Corps
MYANMAR



Building bridges of
friendship between
the people of

Myanmar and
the people of the
United States.

SG 201517



Annual Report 2019

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-seven years have passed since Peace Corps was established, but the mission and role of the Peace Corps has 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

Peace Corps Myanmar is the 141st Peace Corps country program in the world. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Peace Corps established a program in Myanmar in 2014. The first group of short-term Volunteers were welcomed to Myanmar in 2016 and the first group of two-year Volunteers in 2017.

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. Peace Corps Volunteers work side by side with Myanmar teachers of English to strengthen teacher capacity and provide student classroom instruction in English. They work in basic education middle and high schools in Yangon, Bago, and Magway Regions and in Mon State. Fifty-eight Volunteers serve the people of Myanmar in 2019, exchanging skills with counterparts and community members, sharing American culture, and learning about and sharing Myanmar with family and friends in the United States.

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

peace,

Pamela Martin
Country Director

English Education Project

Peace Corps partners with the Ministry of Education to address their expressed needs in the areas of English language teaching and learning. Peace Corps Volunteers work alongside Myanmar teachers of English to co-plan and co-facilitate English classroom lessons in basic education middle and high schools. Through this project, Volunteers help to build the capacity of teachers and increase the proficiency of students through a classroom environment that is student-centered and invites creativity and critical thinking skills. Volunteers also work with interested youth and adult community members to help them improve their English skills for greater personal and professional opportunities.

The project objectives include:

- Supporting teachers**
 - 1.1 Increase capacity of teachers to teach English more effectively
 - 1.2 Increase English proficiency of teachers
- Supporting students**
 - 2.1 Increase achievement of students in English
- Engaging communities**
 - 3.1 Increase community involvement in promotion and appreciation of English

Achievements in 2019

After working with a Peace Corps Volunteer for two years, counterparts and principals reported the following:

Teachers are better in teaching

- ❖ **100%** of teachers report their teaching ability is improved
- ❖ **97%** of relevant teachers report their work with Volunteer helped prepare them to teach new curriculum
 - ✓ 91% of teachers report improved skills to adapt learning materials for the classroom
 - ✓ 94% of teachers report having learned student-centered teaching techniques
 - ✓ 95% of teachers report the quality of their English classes has improved

Teachers are better in English

- ❖ **100%** of Teachers report their communicative English improved
 - ✓ 100% report speaking skills improved
 - ✓ 97% report listening skills improved
 - ✓ 72% report grammar skills improved
 - ✓ 97% report reading skills improved
 - ✓ 100% report general confidence improved

Students are better in English

- ❖ **100%** of teachers report that students made improvements in English
- ❖ **100%** of principals feel that Volunteers have a positive impact on student English language ability
 - ✓ 100% report student speaking skills improved
 - ✓ 100% report student listening skills improved
 - ✓ 100% report student reading skills improved
 - ✓ 71% report student grammar skills improve

Volunteers Make a Difference...

Hnin Nu Nwe and Rachel

Peace Corps counterpart Hnin Nu Nwe shared two years with Peace Corps Volunteer Rachel, inside and outside of the classroom. Hnin Nu Nwe saw her Students' language skills, especially listening and writing, advance after the first three months she and the Volunteer worked together. She says that as students learned to listen to a native language speaker and experienced new ways of teaching she and the Volunteer implemented in the classroom together, young students quickly showed improvements. And she has many good memories with the Volunteer outside of the classroom, spending social time together and traveling. Hnin Nu reflects that part of the Peace Corps mission is for Volunteers and counterparts to learn from each other and exchange skills and ideas. An unexpected outcome and a big highlight for her is that Rachel motivated her to learn how to swim when they were traveling together. Hnin Nu is now expecting a baby and Rachel has promised to come back to meet her child when the baby is born. Hnin Nu says she is thankful to the Ministry of Education and the Peace Corps for the opportunity to spend two years working with Rachel. For her and Rachel, this was not only a professional connection but also a personal and emotional one that was built here in Myanmar, a symbol of bridging the two countries.



Peace Corps Volunteer Kelly's English Classes for Adults

During her service, Kelly learned that interest levels in English are quite high among young adults, university students, and young teachers. During her second year of service, she started two courses; she teaches an English Teacher Writing Course and a Community Member Beginner English Course two Saturdays every month. The news about these classes quickly spread to her city's public Facebook discussion page and the first week she had over 50 Myanmar adult learners ready and eager to start. About 40 of her students are primary teachers who are commuting from smaller villages for her two hour course. Some are even making a 1.5 hour commute to attend! That shows how they really want to learn and Kelly is happy that she can teach them.



Daw Kay Thi and Rosemary

One evening in May, Volunteer Rosemary received excited texts from her counterpart teachers about the new Grade 6 training. One counterpart wrote, "The training is good because of your help. I learnt my methods from you last year. Thank you so much."

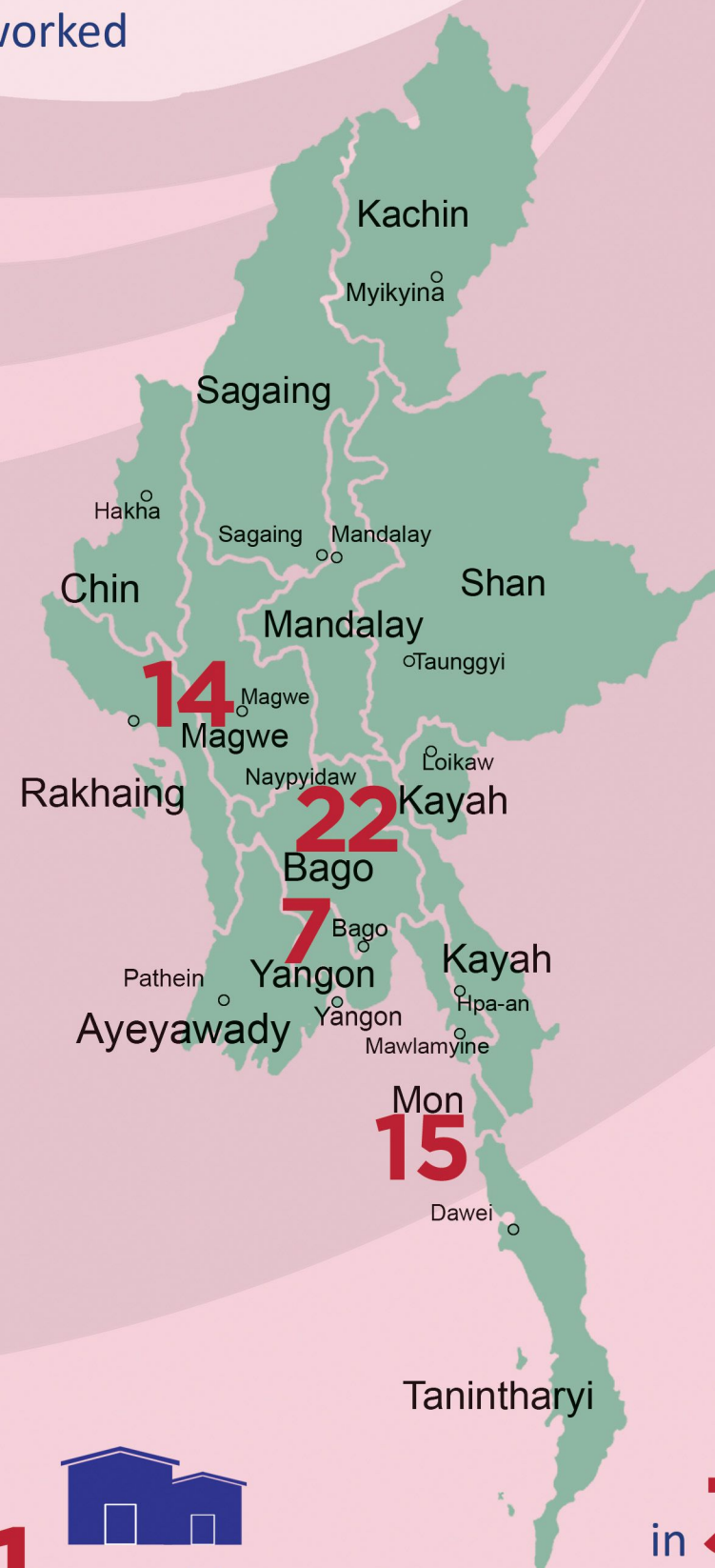
For a full year before the training, Rosemary and her counterparts worked together to plan lessons with four parts - Introduction, Teach, Practice and Review - in the same style as Myanmar's new curriculum. At first, the methods were unfamiliar, but with regular practice, the counterparts learned how to write lesson plans in English, speak more English in the classroom, and develop student-centered activities. The next summer at Grade 6 training, they felt confident to demonstrate lessons, assist other teachers, and offer ideas during the sessions.

Their excitement for new teaching methods didn't stop there. Today, Rosemary and her Grade 6 counterpart Daw Kay Thi manage the popular Facebook page "Myanmar Grade 6 English." On the page, they post lesson plans, teaching aids, and other resources to help Myanmar teachers use the new curriculum in their classroom. They hope that sharing ideas can support the success of teachers and students across Myanmar.



In 2019

58 Peace Corps Volunteers
lived and worked



in **31** townships

in **3** regions **1** state
in Myanmar.