



Peace  
Corps  
MYANMAR

Building bridges of  
friendship between  
the people of  
**Myanmar** and  
the people of the  
**United States.**





# Annual Report 2017

## About Peace Corps

In 1961 United States President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship by challenging Americans to live and work in developing countries. More than fifty-five 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 our 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 peoples on the part of Americans.

## Peace Corps in Myanmar

Peace Corps Myanmar is the 141<sup>st</sup> (and newest) Peace Corps country program! In 2013, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar invited Peace Corps to establish a program and, in 2014, they signed a bilateral agreement with the United States to establish a Peace Corps program. After building our partnership, we welcomed the first group of short-term Volunteers in 2016 and the first group of two-year Volunteers in 2017.

We are privileged to partner with the Ministry of Education to strengthen teacher capacity and provide student classroom instruction in English. Our Peace Corps Volunteers work side by side with Myanmar teachers of English in basic education middle and high schools in Yangon and Bago Regions. A total of 21 Volunteers served the people of Myanmar in 2017, exchanging skills with counterparts and community members, sharing American culture, and learning about and sharing Myanmar with family and friends in the United States. In 2018 we will double the number of incoming trainees and expand to Mon State.



Volunteers and staff are excited about the work we do and are happy to share with you our achievements in 2017. We thank our many partners for your support and we do hope you will proudly display and share this poster.

In peace and friendship,  
  
Maura J. Fulton  
Country Director

## Volunteers Make a Difference...

### ...Through Reading

Peace Corps Volunteer Ben's students love reenactments of classic books like Matilda and readings of beloved books like Fox in Socks. Ben and his Myanmar partners are increasing interest in reading amongst students at his school and are working to build up the school's library collection. Ben started by sharing his own books with the library and teaching students how to care for and organize books properly. Ben's school principal was inspired to bring in some of her second-hand English books and asked Ben and the students to sort and place the books in the library as well. Ben has gained support from the school and community to continue building the library collection and inspire more students to love reading.



### ...Through Conversation

Once a week, Peace Corps Volunteer Wren meets with a group of Myanmar university students for an hour and a half lesson. Wren focuses on the practical uses of English and encourages students to find their own voices in expressing their opinions. She uses debate techniques to help the students practice both prepared and improvised speeches, establish arguments, and share their knowledge. Wren's students have developed a more fluid speech pattern rather than depending solely on chunking and memorization techniques. By providing space to practice debate, Wren has also given her students the opportunity to gain confidence and comfort in communicating in English.



### ...Through Music and Dance

Coming from a theater background has given Peace Corps Volunteer Tracy an advantage when it comes to incorporating different art forms into her classroom English lessons. Tracy says that she and her counterpart "use any excuse to incorporate music and dance into our lessons, from giving a tutorial on rhythms and beats to taking the kids outside to dance as a form of exercise." Students enjoy the change of pace and express their excitement by engaging fully in the lesson. Her counterparts are inspired as well. At a school ceremony, Tracy and her counterparts performed an American dance along to the translation of the classic song "My Girl." Through music and dance, Tracy has created a channel through which her students, counterparts, and community feel more comfortable expressing themselves in English.



## 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 2017

### Supporting teachers

- 175 teachers participated in activities to increase their capacity in teaching English through co-planning and co-teaching, teacher training activities, and designing and adapting learning materials.
- 385 teachers participated in activities to increase their English proficiency through informal English learning and conversation practice.

### Supporting students

- 7,800 students participated in activities to increase their English language skills through formal classes, speaking classes, and extracurricular activities in English.
- Volunteers taught 95 classes in grades 5-10.

### Engaging communities

- 265 community members participated in school or community activities focused on student learning and/or English for professional development.



# In 2017

**21** Peace Corps Volunteers  
lived and worked



in **10** townships

in **2** regions  
in Myanmar.