



ADRA

# Mingalabga

## မင်္ဂလာဘွယ်

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## U Thang's Story

Agricultural Exposure Trip Benefits Chin-Based Coffee Farmer

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### COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo is of U Thang from PRICE project. Photo: © 2021 ADRA Myanmar | Kam Do Mung

## Editorial

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## FEATURED ARTICLE



### U Thang's Story: Agricultural Exposure Trip Benefits Chin-Based Coffee Farmer

45 year old coffee farmer U Thang is father to six living in a village with a population of 409 in Chin State.

Before farming coffee, U Thang cultivated Elephant Foot Yam. Though successful to some extent, U Thang felt it wise to invest in the cultivation of perennial crops. Coffee plantations can be harvested yearly once the fruit has reached maturity, but his initial knowledge was limited on how to breed coffee in the seedbeds which led to an unsuccessful yield.

U Thang accompanied an exposure trip to Pyin Oo Lwin pre-COVID that was facilitated by the project. This is where he had the privilege of raising his interests, concerns, and setbacks with well-experienced farmers getting answers to some of his big concerns.

Back home with renewed motivation and lessons learned, he began preparing the soil and started a nursery on his three-acre farm, where twelve thousand seedlings are now seen thriving. Applying what he learned, the undeniable result in his words were "the survival rate after the trip increased 85% from 31%."

U Thang is expecting to transplant at least 5,000 seedlings, if not 10,000 to secure sufficient farmland and sell to interested farmers for 500-750 MMKs each seed. U Thang also wants to see a fundamental change in the approach local people take towards agricultural farming and cultivation to penetrate markets.

Ideally with a farm of 10,000 coffee plants, U Thang is aiming to secure a foothold in penetrating the market with a quality he is completely responsible for and approves. To meet this end, he said he still needs continuing support from the project in terms of both value-adding and market linkage.

**"I have had failed attempts in the previous nursery. But, as I ask for answers to my problems from farmers and managers I had the privilege of meeting during the trip, I now can successfully do coffee breeding nursery on my own."**

DAVID CUNG LAN THANG | M&E Officer

## REFLECTIONS



## God Answers Prayers

Reflecting on my past life and where I am now, I firmly believe that prayer is powerful. I was working for a hospital a few years ago as a public relations associate. I liked writing stories and enjoyed meeting all sorts of employees, from the custodian to the CEO, but I was looking for something new.

During a break with my family, the conversation came to chatting about different professions and I shared how I felt about mine—I was looking for something more. My sister exclaimed, "Why not apply to ADRA? I can see you working there." I honestly doubted because I rarely saw openings in the communications field and didn't think I was qualified. "Try," she told me, "You never know what God has in store for you."

A week later, I heard a voice in my head telling me to visit ADRA's website. I did and looked on their career page. Lo and behold, I saw a job availability for a communications specialist. I could not believe it! ADRA rarely has openings in communications was my thought. I quickly scanned the description and told myself, I will apply. About a month went by and I got an email from ADRA's Human Resources requesting to schedule an interview. I was screaming with joy and in shock that I was invited for an interview. I composed myself remembering I had to write back. Four years later, working for ADRA has been amazing, and I can't thank God enough for getting me this job opportunity complete with growth and a sense of belonging. Believe me when I say, God listens to every request, whether spoken or silently whispered. All he requires is faith and works on our part.

**KIMI-ROUX JAMES** | Media Relations Manager, ADRA International

## IN THE MEDIA



[www.adramyanmar.org](http://www.adramyanmar.org)

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## MEET OUR STAFF



### PYAE PHYO LIN

Communications Assistant

**Q1 What Race/Country are you from?**  
Myanmar

**Q2 What is your favourite food/s to eat?**  
Coconut Noodles and Fried Chicken

**Q3 What is your favourite colour?**  
Blue Sky and Pink

**Q4 What do you like to do for fun?**  
Travelling and Planting Trees

**Q5 What Place/Country would you like to visit?**  
New Zealand (Mount Maunganui)

**Q6 In one word, what would define you?**  
Open-minded

**Q7 What year did you join ADRA?**  
September, 2019

**Q8 What do you love most about working in ADRA?**  
Because everyone at ADRA has a kind heart and helps each other. So, I enjoy working in ADRA.

# PROJECT UPDATES



## BRIGHT

The Global Affairs Canada and ADRA Canada funded BRIGHT project in partnership with KNWO and Women's LEAD, provided training this month to TEES.

The two days training to promote and be able to implement Gender Equality Concept and Environmental Knowledge for TEES teachers was conducted from June 8-9 in Mine Yaw, Lashio Township, Northern Shan State.

30 people including 12 males and 18 females from 17 target villages attended the training as well as 2 staff from the BRIGHT project including the Gender Officer and Education Officer to teach the gender and environmental concept.



## CASE2Learn

The European Union funded CASE2Learn project in partnership with RISE completed the following activities:

In Shan State, 15 TPC students started teaching in schools most in need. Teacher stipends were distributed to remaining teachers on 26 June for Year 2 of the project. Focal points (FPC), Mobile Teacher Trainers (MTTs) and SMAs discussed plans to travel to the field to meet with 74 communities to discuss schooling of children. MTTs and SMAs also visited 16 TEES schools for data monitoring.

SVT training was conducted since 1 June and the participants sent to TEES schools in July. 50 schools were planned to open in Year 3 of the project teaching subjects Myanmar, English, Maths, Ta'ang Language and General Studies.

In Chin State, FPC, MTTs and SMAs are arranging home based learning.



# PROJECT UPDATES



## AEON

The AEON 1% Club and ADRA Japan funded AEON5 project held SMC (School Management Committee) meetings in 5 target villages including Par Yar, Pa Yar Kone Kaw Ka Dar, Htee Ta Blu Hta, Kaw Hpar Doe and Mu War. The SMC meetings were held between 15-21 June 2021.

The AEON5 project also conducted school assessments in preparation for AEON6, the next phase of the project set to start in late 2021.



## SEAQE2

The Norad and ADRA Norway funded SEAQE2 project conducted a PTA Awareness meeting from 23-28 May with 661 participants from 7 ACS and 16 GoM schools to discuss positive parenting, positive discipline, and corporal punishment.

A closing ceremony was held for batch 1/2021 from the NFE program on 2 June with 27 graduates including 7 male and 20 female.

A NFE coordination meeting was held to discuss development of the program and curriculum.

Lastly, informal short course training is now being offered including Hair Dressing, Hair Cutting, Advance Sewing and Welding. Each course now accepts 10 students. Total training hours are 396 (200hrs theory/practical, 76hrs life skills, 120hrs internship). 42 students have enrolled from Kayin State.



## PROJECT UPDATES



## SURE

The MFAT and ADRA New Zealand funded SURE project distributed seeds for cultivating chili in Chin State to a female farmer. 600 seedlings were planted in October 2020 and transplanted on 20 January 2021.

At the beginning of the cultivation period under the guidance of the Agriculture Officer, weekly field visits were conducted by the Salt Assistant and Extension Workers. Advice was given in relation to Irrigation, weeding, pest control, supplementation, and preparation of natural remedies for use in the field.

Harvesting time began in April 2021 yielding 90 Viss. 1 Viss was sold for 2,500 kyats. Green chili is harvested and sold once a week.

The female farmer was happy that the chilli plantation is now successful, and she was able to generate income, as well as sharing it with her neighbors.

## VESI

The LIFT funded VESI project in partnership with AVSI and FRC opened the motorbike short course for batch 4 of the digital blended motorbike training on 1 June 2021 ending 15 July 2021, 10 weeks in total.

The training is 6 days per week held in Shan State including 6 weeks practical and 4 weeks internship. An agreement has been made with 12 motorbike workshops for students to complete their internships. Training charges cost 360,000 MMK per practitioner and per workshop for the practical program.

37 males from 6 villages enrolled in the course. Upon completion, trainees will have the skills and knowledge they need to repair and service motorbikes.

The project also provided COVID-19 protective items such as hand sanitizer, mask, soap and stationary and meal charges to students.



## PHOTO COMPETITION



## THIS MONTHS WINNING PHOTO

### PHOTOGRAPHER:

Saw Meshach  
Small Business & Life Skills Trainer  
SEAQE2

### ABOUT THE PHOTO:

Despite the situation, short course students from the Hairdressing course practice hairstyles during class in Kayin State.

### WILL YOU BE NEXT?

Want to see your photo in the next volume of 'Mingalaba'? Send in your photo with a brief description by **30 July 2021**.

The winning photo will not only be featured here, but also featured as the background image of the ADRA Myanmar web portal.

### PHOTO GUIDELINES

For your photo to be eligible to win, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Staff Member, Partner or Donor of ADRA Myanmar
- Taken a Photo of a Beneficiary, Staff and/or Activity in an ADRA Myanmar Project
- High-res (preferable at 300ppi: 2480 x 3508 pixels)
- Landscape or portrait accepted
- In focus and exposed correctly
- JPEG or RAW files accepted
- Unedited, original photo only
- Brief description of photo provided

## VACANCIES & TENDERS

\*Applications through our website are currently unavailable. Applications submitted through Facebook will not be accepted.

There are no vacancies or tenders currently available.

## CONTACT US

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