

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Partners Relief & Development USA





ABSOLUTELY *not* AFRAID

Oddny Gumaer

From time to time we meet people who make lasting impressions on us. We meet people who make us want to become better people. U Kyaw Hla Aung is such a person. I have met him several times and every time he is a well of optimism. His health is frail. His wife is not well. He has had to move from his home many times and is currently living in a refugee camp in his own country. He has been in prison for many years, for crimes not committed. He is not allowed to travel outside the restricted area he is living in now. Last time he was imprisoned was for starting schools in the camp where he is living. He started schools because there were none for the Rohingya children living in the camps.

“Food is important. Medicine is important. But nothing is more important than education,” he repeats every time I have met him. “Our people need education in order to understand what our

rights are, and in order to get freedom.” When talking about the importance of schools and education it is like everything else fades. This is where his true passion lies.

U Kyaw Hla Aung is a lawyer who knows the story of his people, the Rohingya, better than anyone I have met. He can give history lessons lasting for hours explaining the Rohingya existence in Myanmar in detail. His relatives helped build the land. Some of them were in the government. It is hard to reconcile that with the circumstances of the man I am talking to and his people who are walking relatively aimlessly around in their enclosed camps waiting for a future that may never begin.

Partners believed in U Kyaw Hla Aung’s vision so much we decided to support his education efforts a couple of years back. We funded the



schools he started because we too thought that it was the best thing we could do for the Rohingya. It was after that he was arrested and imprisoned the last time.

When we met him again after his release his enthusiasm for starting schools was, if possible, even greater. "I also want to teach older people to at least write their names," he explained. "They cannot sign their names in documents, and because of that they get taken advantage of." So now his schools will not only include children eager to learn, but illiterate adults as well. "We have an education committee of 18 people who all are leaders in our communities," he then explains.

I thought it was a good idea and felt excited about the schools. But what about his own security and health?

Was he not afraid? I asked him, and his reply was: "I am absolutely not afraid. Myanmar has a new government now, and I don't believe they will arrest me again." Then he smiled and kept talking about all his great plans.

Partners has long had a focus on education because we, like U Kyaw Hla Aung, believe education is the key to lasting freedom and democracy. We also believe that in the end, it's education that will bring free, full lives to children who are victims of conflict and oppression.

In this annual report you can read about some of the wonderful things Partners has done over the past year to ensure that freedom and fullness will belong to these children. Thank you for standing with us in our efforts. We hope you will continue to do so. The flame needs to keep burning.



10% OF THE SEED

$\frac{1}{2}$ *the water*

20%-100%*

INCREASE IN YIELD

*OR MORE!

System of Rice Intensification

Steve Gumaer

I asked him his name. “Lung Sai” (Uncle Sai) he said with a big grin. He had attended a Partners training seminar for the **System of Rice Intensification (SRI)** in Shan State, Myanmar. As he jumped around pointing and gesturing with a huge smile he said, “This year I’m harvesting 10 cups of rice per square meter and the rest of the valley got only 4.” His harvest more than doubled the first year he applied the SRI technique!

SRI is a methodology for increasing the productivity of irrigated rice by changing the management of plants, soil, water and nutrients. SRI originated in Madagascar in the 1980s and is based on the cropping principles of significantly reducing plant population,

improving soil conditions and irrigation methods for root and plant development, and improving plant establishment methods. The technique, which is being applied all over the world, has been adopted by Partners and leads to increased crop yields while also drastically reducing the amount of water and seed needed to produce a full harvest.

This means a father can provide for his family despite the challenges he faces and the poverty he endures. We are thankful for the excellent investment our team members Sombat and Noom made in this Shan community, and Uncle Sai is proof of the worth of this sustainable development strategy.

Over **95,000 people**, were helped through our **medical programs, clinics, and health trainings** in 2015.

This year we purchased **30 toilets** and **20 simple water filtration systems** to be installed and used in villages in **Karen State**.

In Rakhine/Arakan State, **44,096** people were helped in 2015 with:

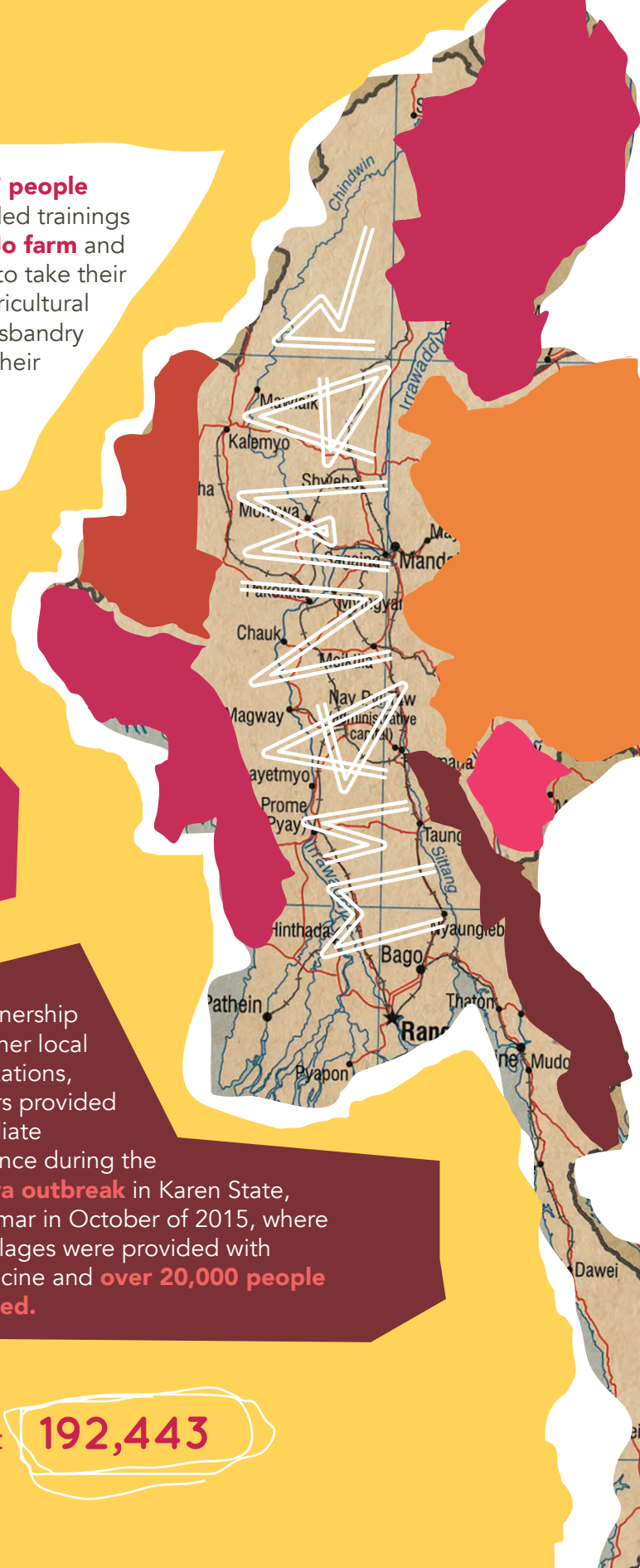
- 5,771** bags of rice (50kg per bag)
- 80** liters of cooking oil
- 5,263** kilos of foods & cooking spices
- 15** fishing nets
- 2,850** bamboo sticks for repairing homes
- 3,300** sections of leaves for roofing
- 152** tarps
- 15** water pumps
- 12** wells
- 36** toilets
- 280** seed packets
- 2** bags of fertilizer
- 980** notebooks.

218 Shan migrants were helped with English, Thai, computers, and personal development through our **SEED Migrant Care Center**.

187 people attended trainings at **Mae Jo farm** and were able to take their improved agricultural and animal husbandry skills back to their own farms.

In partnership with other local organizations, Partners provided immediate assistance during the **cholera outbreak** in Karen State, Myanmar in October of 2015, where 57 villages were provided with medicine and **over 20,000 people helped**.

Total number of people directly assisted: **192,443**



WHAT DEFINES US?

Motivated by our faith, we strive for sustainability in our projects. By working in partnership with local communities and organizations, we're helping secure a brighter future for children affected by conflict and oppression.



SUSTAINABLY FOCUSED

We're focused on solutions that move beyond immediate relief. We equip poor and displaced communities to provide for their own community needs, enabling them to flourish, even in a situation of conflict and oppression



COMMUNITY DRIVEN

We're driven by relationships. We appreciate the capabilities which are already held by communities. Through partnerships we draw people and their skills together to develop creative solutions to the unique problems they face.



FAITH INSPIRED

We're inspired by our faith to do more than just talk about God's love. We demonstrate it through practical response, caring for the whole person by working to improve their spiritual, physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

Our Projects

2015

War and oppression have devastating consequences on the freedom and well-being of innocent children caught in the crossfire. Today, one in every 113 people globally have been forcibly displaced by war, violence or persecution. Over half of those displaced are children. For them, basics like food, shelter, education, and healthcare are out of reach. But with the help of people like you, we're working to change that. For over 20 years we've been at work in communities touched by conflict to ensure

these children are protected and have all they need to reach their full potential.

From training medics to helping build schools, it's about sowing seeds for future generations. We join hands with locals to seek community-based solutions that strengthen families, meet their needs in times of acute crisis and create nurturing environments that allow children to reach their full potential.

We believe that no border or barrier should stop people from experiencing God's love. That's why we are where others say we cannot go. By working with vulnerable and difficult to reach communities, our desire is to bring practical solutions that build a future for children free from hardship and exploitation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

—meeting children's primary needs

Partners works to enable families to provide for themselves by initiating agricultural, animal husbandry and cottage industry projects for sustainable livelihood.

By helping communities and families help themselves, we invest in the basic daily needs of children affected by conflict and oppression.

Additionally, access to healthcare is a primary component of a child's future. We do this by training medics, equipping clinics, hospitals, and community healthcare programs. We work to provide the sort of healthcare and medical access that a child needs in order to live a healthy life.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

—preventing the trafficking of children

We endeavor to strengthen families and provide safe nurturing environments for children to grow, through school attendance and development of church and social institutions in order to reduce the number of children sold, kidnapped, or otherwise trafficked into prostitution and slavery each year.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

—care for children in crisis

We provide emergency and short-term provision of food, shelter materials, and basic survival necessities for children, their families, and communities during times of acute crisis. Emergency relief is essential when war or social breakdown occurs, leaving children vulnerable to suffering and exploitation.



OUR TEAM

In 2015 we had 25 short-term international volunteers



19 long-term international staff



21 national staff



We also want to give a special thank you to the hundreds of local volunteers and communities in Thailand and across Myanmar who help deliver our projects, many on a voluntary basis.



2015 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS:



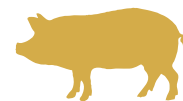
One Canadian supporter raised \$3,400 by donating their birthday.

#SaveTheRohingya

\$9,943 raised by Australians for the #SaveTheRohingya campaign.



Donations to programs up 57% in 2015 due to generous supporters in the USA.



38 pigs provided to displaced communities alongside training to build up food security.



Over \$32,000 raised on #GivingTuesday to fund health clinics in Karen State.



FINANCIALS*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	\$1,675,699
EXPENSES	
Program Support	\$1,345,440
Resource Development	\$178,963
Management / General	\$152,169
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,676,572
BALANCE OF FUNDS	-\$873

* Partners Relief & Development financial statements are reviewed and verified by external auditors on an annual basis. Partners Relief & Development is a registered charity in Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Australia and the United States. While the financial details represent income and expenditure for the United States, the accomplishments detailed in this report are the result of our combined efforts.



Breakdown of expenses:

- Program Support 80%
- Resource Development 11%
- Management / General 9%



FREE, FULL LIVES FOR
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY
CONFLICT & OPPRESSION



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