

2019 newsletter

MESSAGES 2019

- Last year, Lung, our contact in Myanmar, already mentioned a middle school in Shadau Village, Kachin, which wants to realize a high school building in its own village. Middle school children now must go to Myitkyina for further education and this is not possible for many of them. There has been a discussion about this in the village. Now there is the wish to have a school building near the existing middle school. The application approved by government in May 2019.
- Lung reports IDP children's need for education. She works with them part-time as a volunteer. They also need warm clothes and clothing for the rainy season. She has also mentioned a school for IDP children in the mountain region in Kachin. It is in need of support.
- In addition, there is a training course for Lung in accountancy / financial administration. She wants to follow this course.
We already funded successfully the level 2 study for her. A suitable workplace at the high school in question is impossible because it is a government school and teachers do all the work
With the help of H4M, Lung can continue studying course level 3 of via ICCS.
For a job in accordance with her studies, she must have at least level 3. So far she has achieved level 1 and 2.

SHADAU HIGH SCHOOL

The Ministry of Education stipulates, among other things, that a building must be available before starting a high school. Currently there is none.

Other conditions it sets:

- The presence of a computer with printer,
- a fence around against animals and cattle
- a water tower

The wishes

The wish is to build 2 classrooms for grade 9 and 2 classrooms for grade 10.

First cost estimate: 10,000,000 ks (approximately € 10,000)

The village itself takes over the realization of the school building because there is little active support to be expected from the government.

That means:

- The local Christian community will provide the school with furniture.
- The villagers pay for the fencing around the school to the best of their ability. In principle, 7,000 ks is asked per family, but not everyone can afford it.
- Local people will donate the required computer and printer and the water tower.

Our considerations

We discuss possibilities and make it clear that our first goal is to transfer knowledge and skills. Our second goal can then be to facilitate this.

A condition for us to consider matters is always on the basis of a well-developed plan with an organization on site that implements this.

In addition, our support must be sustainable.

Bottlenecks and possibilities

- A two-way form of cooperation is difficult to create. Starting an exchange in the cultural and educational field has its limitations due to distance, costs and difficult communication and prevailing culture.
- An option to get a picture of something culturally-homely, like food described in recipes is already confronted with the language problem and sending it via an internet connection.
- It would be nice to show and share something about the northern Myanmar culture (Kachin), in a positive way, via our website. Clothing, food, music, objects.
- Another option is to get visual material of daily life in the vicinity of the school. That gives a different picture compared to the messages via the media
- Lung is an excellent intermediary for communication in English.

Conclusion:

Our experience with previous projects shows that we must try to get a situation that creates the conditions for educational goals.

In this case it first will be the realization of the school building. We like to see willingness and action from two sides. Specifically: that the local community initiates and contributes to the realization of this.

This mutual willingness is present, as you can see at the help and donation of local people.

Therefore we decide to finance a part of the construction: cement and bricks for the foundation and the roofing sheets.

We are informed about the costs of this, which will be financed in two or three payments after checking results.



It is good to hear that the first term was enough to be able to purchase all three building materials mentioned above.

Start of construction

First, according to custom and religion, a prayer ceremony was held with the bishop and the pastor. Workers then set the dimensions of the ground plan and officially hit the first stake in presence of the head of the school committee.



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The foundation/ground plan already has been laid.

Now the search is for good quality wood for the walls.

A first search in the surrounding forests was not satisfactory. Now they searched again, have found the right quality. It can be cut over the coming months and processed it into building material. That lasts until February. Then the construction of the building continues.

Via Lung we will be informed about the proceedings and about further support options.