



Completion Report

MMR-HOP-TLO, Karen State, Myanmar

Reporting Period: January to September 2017

Equipping the next generation

Budget: \$6,000 – fully funded!

The principal of the primary school in the new building.

Update:

This project originally started out assisting in updating and expanding the local primary school in a new village in Myanmar near the Thai border. The village was established after decades of civil war and unrest and is growing as people are attracted to the village leader's direction and passion for developing the village into a great place to live.

The original primary school was located close to the river, at what is now the edge of a sprawling and growing village. It was decided to find some land in the centre of the village and create a new, larger primary school here, using the old school as expansion for the high school. It was felt that this would be the best use of resources, and would be better for the kindergarten and smaller students, who found it hard to walk the distance to and from school each day (up to 30 minutes each way). Learning from their past experiences, they have built in room for the school to take more students as the village continues to grow. The original primary school is still being used as the other school continues to be built as funds allow.



Project Manager Jenny Crameri visited the school a few weeks ago and was impressed by the quality of the building so far. "The foundations, walls and roof are in place and this has been in a large way thanks to the support of the local villagers", she said. "It's been a great community effort to get it to this point. The quality of the work is impressive."

The new school building is still a work in progress, with Entrust funds fully expended to help get the building to this point. The village leader has sought contributions from the village members themselves as well as other sources, making this a truly joint project.

The community-minded military chief of the area said, "The next stage is to complete the toilets, the ceiling and the dividing walls to make individual classrooms." This will be a real achievement for the local people who have suffered civil war for so long and still live with the consequences. It will provide a centre of learning in a building that is structurally solid.



Thank you for assisting the school to get to this point. The end is in sight for this project. In addition to a permanent school environment, it will provide greater access to education for internally displaced children and will provide hope to the villagers that their children will receive a quality education.

The new partly-constructed school. The area remains unstable and clings to a tenuous cease-fire agreement.