

# Creative Writing and Language Project

## Overview

“Students leaving remote regional Monastic Primary Schools with little or no Burmese or English even though it is a requirement for all lessons at Myanmar Education Department High Schools to be taught in Burmese or English to gain graduation”

This project is to be run in remote regional Monastic Schools in Myanmar. These schools generally do not have qualified teachers but rely upon graduates from local high schools to fill the role as teacher. Teaching is generally by rote learning with little or no creative, independent learning. Schools are under resourced without reading books for students or libraries. Lessons at primary school are taught in local ethnic language but when students move to middle schools that are run by the Myanmar Education Department they are taught in Burmese and English.

Through community consultation the problem statement that was redefined to:

“Students need to improve literacy skills in Burmese and English while retaining their Ethnic Language because when they graduate to Myanmar Education Department Schools classes are taught in Burmese and English. However, the community does not want to lose their First Language.”

## The Project

Saffron Aid will be introducing the concept of Creative Writing to Monastic Schools and their students in 2019 starting in the Tanintharyi Region of Myanmar. The project will be replicated in other Regions and States yearly and as funds become available.

The process will see stories written by students selected to be turned into Picture Books illustrated by local artists and translated from their ethnic language to Burmese and English.

Books will be printed in Myanmar and distributed to schools within the relevant ethnic language region as sets of readers for the students.

In 2019 we aim to print and distribute 20 story books at a rate of 500 copies of each book to 20 schools in Boxed Reader sets of 25 copies of each story. Australian schools will receive 2 copies of each story.

Children from both countries whose stories have been selected for publication will be given a copy of their book.

Saffron Aid is also looking at schools in Australia to participate in this project by having their students write stories that can be illustrated by older students within the school. These stories will be translated into Burmese as well as several ethnic languages and will be printed in Myanmar and distributed to Myanmar schools to help improve language skills in all three languages. Participating Australian Schools will be sent copies of both the Australian and Myanmar versions of the stories in book form.

#### Participation

Saffron Aid invites Australian Schools interested in participating in this project to express their interest by contacting Richard McMillan of Saffron Aid on 0411 703 044 or by email, [richard@saffronaid.com](mailto:richard@saffronaid.com). Ideally this project would start in 2019 and annually thereafter as this will allow new stories to be published and made available to Myanmar schools each year.

#### Project Cost

Saffron Aid will be searching for funding for the publication, distribution and the implementation of the project in Myanmar. In 2019 the cost to implement the project to the participating remote schools in Myanmar which includes teaching the concept of Creative Writing to 20 schools with a student population of approximately 2400 students works out to be US\$4.67 per printed book with 600 copies of each story printed (total of 12000 in all).

For more information regarding this project please feel free to contact Richard McMillan of Saffron Aid on 0411 703 044 or [richard@saffronaid.com](mailto:richard@saffronaid.com)