



Magic Bus Myanmar Newsletter Q1-2019

At a glance

Registered children
1,280

Girls
653

Boys
627

Fulltime staff
10

Management team
4

Youth Mentors
6

Volunteers¹
25

Townships
2

Communities²
8

Monasteries³
3



Kicking off 2019 with a day of fun

Magic Bus held Games & Fun Day, our annual sports tournament, on 6 January 2019. The event brought together beneficiaries from across our partner communities and schools to celebrate the work of the programme over the past year, foster friendships and develop a sense of collaboration.

Over 1,100 participants enjoyed a morning of activities, with parents and teachers cheering on teams of children. Media, government offices and corporate sponsors were also in attendance.

Footage of the event was aired on local news channel MRTV-4, with highlights including scenes of the children enjoying the games and an interview with our staff. We were also delighted to welcome professional football player Kyaw Zin Htet as one of our many guests on the day!

We are happy to report that the event was held well within budget, with no accidents or injuries. We are grateful to all of those involved in supporting the event, including Dulwich College Yangon staff and first aid/security personnel.

1.Community Coordinators; 2.Villages; 3.Schools

Games & Fun Day photos



1. A participant from a monastic school competes in the relay race 2. Children demonstrate teamwork in the balloon race 3. Holding the team flag high in the relay 4. Parents cheer on the children 5. The Magic Bus team 6. Dulwich College Yangon headmaster Mr Daryl Orchard addresses the group; Dulwich staff also supported refereeing and photography on the day 7. Children with professional football player Kyaw Zin Htet (centre)



2



4



5

Event partners/sponsors:
Dulwich International Schools Foundation,
100 Plus, Feel Delight, Sampar Oo, Red Cross



7

School mapping exercise

As part of our strategy for expansion in 2019/2020, Magic Bus is currently in the process of engaging government schools. This reflects a shift in our approach as our main beneficiaries to date have been monastic schools and village communities.

In January, we carried out demonstration sessions at 3 government schools in Thanlyin, as well as a school mapping exercise to collect data from 9 government schools in Hlaing Thar Yar. Our team introduced the Magic Bus programme to students and teaching staff who generally expressed a keen interest to participate. Magic Bus will work with townships offices, community leaders and parents as we plan the rollout of the programme in these new settings.



The Magic Bus team meets teachers in Hlaing Thar Yar township

Summer programme

Myanmar schools close in March, so each year we use this holiday period to conduct our summer programme. This year's programme focuses on football, with weekly training sessions held in March for girls and boys to practice dribbling, passing and attack and defence. Training will be followed by football matches in April, where teams will compete for prizes. The aim is to keep children active and involved during the holidays, whilst also improving teamwork and communication.

We will be continuing the programme in May with dancing and art classes which will foster creativity and provide an opportunity for participants to learn new skills.

1. Practicing dribbling skills 2. Jumping high during the warmup drills 3. Stretching during the cool down session 4. Ensuring that girls participate in football training is a critical factor for success



1



2



3



4

Stories from the field

The village leader at Htan Pin Seit 7 in Thanlyin township has always been heavily involved in community service, and we have been fortunate to have him as a passionate supporter of Magic Bus. When we informed him of our plans for summer football training, he led efforts to construct a new playground in the community. We are very excited to have a location to conduct activities with the children!

One of our 13-year old beneficiaries from Kyike Inn Village has developed significantly through the weekly Magic Bus sessions, demonstrating improvement in all of the core life skills that we teach including communication and teamwork. In particular, she has internalised the core life skill of 'learning to learn', taking the initiative to try new activities such as sewing and knitting during the school holidays, and making a commitment to participate in our summer football training in March. We are always thrilled to see such progress among children enrolled in the programme.

English classes at Dulwich College Yangon

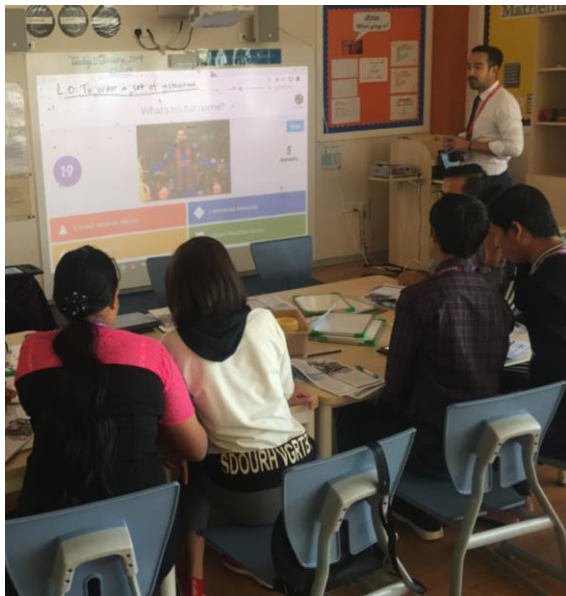
Members of our team visit the Dulwich College Yangon Star City campus on a weekly basis to attend English classes delivered by volunteer teachers.

Participants use textbooks and other materials to practice reading, writing and speaking. Some of the advanced level students have even tried their hand at poetry!

We are grateful to Dulwich College Yangon for providing the classroom space, and in particular the teachers for volunteering their time each week.



1



2

Dulwich College parent volunteer

We are very fortunate to receive the support of Ms Lam Cing, who has been working with our team to translate curriculum materials from English to Myanmar.

Lam is originally from Tonzang in northern Chin State and has a Diploma in Civil Engineering. After studying and working in Australia for a decade, she moved to Yangon 4 years ago with her husband and 2 children, initially working at a non-profit organisation. She now lives in Star City with her family, assisting various organisations with translation work.

'It's great that Magic Bus is providing these educational materials for Myanmar people,' she says. The team would like to thank Lam for her valuable contribution!

1. Youth Mentors and Community Coordinators engage in group work with Mr Matthew Grace

2. Participants play a game in English with Mr Erik Wong

The Magic Bus drivers

Meet the people who make it happen

Phyo Aung
Youth Mentor



Phyo Aung is one of the longest serving members of the Magic Bus Myanmar team, having joined as a Youth Mentor over 2 years ago. A Thanlyin native, he enjoys playing football and chinlone (cane ball) in his spare time and is known for his outgoing and energetic personality.

Why did you decide to join Magic Bus?

I've always enjoyed working with children. I previously volunteered with World Vision, supporting children and mothers in areas such as nutrition. When I heard about the vacancy at Magic Bus, I immediately knew that I wanted to apply.

How has the organisation changed since you joined?

When I joined Magic Bus, there were 5 employees in total, working with just 30 children. We have grown a lot since then. I've definitely changed as well — I've gained an understanding of the programme and curriculum, and developed the confidence to interact with different stakeholders, from village leaders to young children.

How do you approach your work?

I think you need to have a positive outlook in order to work effectively with children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In the future, I would like to become a Training & Monitoring Officer, since I think it's important to assess progress and see the results of your efforts.

Upcoming events

Summer programme

April - May 2019

Continuation of summer programme focusing on football, dancing and art

Magic Bus staff training

May/June 2019 (TBC)

One-week training course for Myanmar staff led by Magic Bus India team

About us

Magic Bus is an international NGO working towards a world in which children break out of the cycle of poverty, leading fulfilling lives and contributing positively to their communities. By using a Childhood to Livelihood approach and delivering programmes based on an activity-based curriculum, Magic Bus aims to ensure that children complete secondary education and are equipped with the life skills and knowledge they need to eventually transition to employment.

Magic Bus has been active in Myanmar since 2017 and has successfully expanded across Thanlyin and Hlaing Thar Yar townships in Yangon. Youth Mentors conduct 45 weekly sessions targeted at 11 to 14-year olds, providing a range of activities to develop children's communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Contact us to learn more.

Website: <http://www.magicbus.org/>

Telephone: + 95 9445970393 **Email:** patricia@magicbusindia.org

Address: 13/B Htan Pin Kone Lane 1, Thanlyin Township, Yangon