

## An interview with

### Lakoi Kai Ra

#### A teacher at Tsanlum Mother Tongue School, Myitkyina.



Kai Ra is a volunteer teacher in a tiny school in Northern Myanmar. Her school is not supported by the Government and the children mostly live in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps. Kai Ra joined the MEP Cambridge Plus course in 2019.

*“My name is Kai Ra. My clan name is Kareng. I live with my family in Myitkyina. I have got five sisters and one brother. I am a Grade 5 teacher. I work at Tsanlum School. At school I teach two subjects; these are English and Topic. Topic is in Jingpaw language, so that is easy for me. English is difficult because I’m not good enough in English and I want to speak fluently in English. That is why I joined this course.”*

Tsanlum school is funded by the local church and community. Kai Ra attended a short course for teachers run by the Kachin Baptist Church, but otherwise has had no formal training as a teacher.

*“I love attending this course because I learn a lot from this course such as teaching method, active learning style and grammar usages, etc. Now I am more confident than before, because I can teach grammatically and correct pronunciation. When I*

*use activity from this course, my students were very active. So, I think this course is very helpful for me.”*

Because Kai Ra comes from Kachin, none of her schooling or qualifications are recognised by the Burmese Government. This limits her life chances significantly and makes it almost impossible for her to look for work outside of Kachin. The Cambridge English Certificate she received from MEP was her first internationally recognised academic qualification.

*“Learning other languages are very difficult for me. However, I am trying my best. I have to know English well, because I am teaching to our future leaders. Teaching is a very serious job. Only if I am perfect, I can give full to my students. So, I keep learning English. English is very useful language. If you are expert in English, you no need to worry for your life also.”*



Celebrating on exam day

This is Tsanlum school and Kai Ra’s classroom

