

ACTION ON HIV

AIDS Awareness in Myanmar

Working to combat the AIDS epidemic in the Dioceses of Mandalay, Hpa-an and Myitkyina

In their own words

'The AIDS epidemic is one of the most serious issues that we need to tackle, hand in hand within communities, regardless of people's religious, social or political differences.'

The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar



Myanmar factfile

Population: 48.8 million (UN, 2007)
Languages: Burmese, indigenous
Religion: Buddhist 89%, Christian 4%, Muslim 4%, animist 1%, other 2%
Export: Natural gas, wood products, pulses, beans, fish, rice, clothing, jade and gems
Life expectancy: 59 years (men), 65 years (women) (UN)

USPG in Myanmar

USPG has been working in partnership with the Church in Myanmar since 1853. In 2009, USPG allocated £82,000 to support the work of the church in areas of greatest need



About this Project...

▶ **Target: £4,010 / €4,610** | Project 488

According to UNAIDS, around 242,000 people in Myanmar (also known as Burma) are living with HIV, but only around 12,000 of these people are benefiting from life-prolonging anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs – some from the government's HIV treatment programme, most from non-governmental organisations. As well as claiming lives, AIDS is devastating families and communities by taking away loved ones and income-earners. This complicates efforts to fight poverty and promote development. There is a clear need for education to

prevent the spread of infection in this area, which is why the Dioceses of Mandalay, Hpa-an and Myitkyina have set up an AIDS awareness programme. Among those being targeted are drug users. Injecting drugs is common, but the virus is not yet widespread among users, so a simple awareness-raising message that highlights potential dangers could have a significant impact. These dioceses are also working in busy centres of commerce where it is known that HIV positive people are entering the country on business.

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Your donations will help us to cover the full costs of the Project, including a direct grant to the partner church and the cost of monitoring the Project and sharing regular news. Any money received over the Project target will be allocated to where the need is greatest.