



# Magic Bus Myanmar Newsletter Q1-2018

## At a glance

Registered children  
880

Girls  
447

Boys  
433

Team (staff/volunteers)  
39

Full-time employees  
4

Youth mentors  
4

Community coordinators  
31

Townships  
2

Communities (villages)  
9

Monasteries (schools)  
3



## Breaking the cycle of poverty

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 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 2016 and has successfully expanded across Thanlyin and Hlaing Thar Yar townships in Yangon. Youth mentors conduct over 30 weekly sessions targeted at 11 to 13-year olds, providing a range of activities to develop children's communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

# Celebrating Magic Bus Myanmar with a day of fun

Magic Bus Myanmar held its first annual Games & Fun Day in January with over 850 participants, including children, parents, teachers and community leaders. The event, supported by Dulwich International Schools Foundation and Star City, provided an opportunity for participants to enjoy a range of activities and celebrate the work of Magic Bus over the past year.



*I was very impressed by how the Magic Bus team organised such a successful event with so many participants attending on the day. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves.*

— Daryl Orchard, Headmaster  
Dulwich College Yangon



Event partners and supporters

Dulwich International Schools Foundation:  
Programme partner

Star City: Venue

YKKO: Food

Milo: Drinks

Myanmar Red Cross Society: Medical care



## Magic Bus parent meetings

The fourth series of quarterly parent meetings were held in eight communities between 23 February and 4 March. During the meetings, staff explained the Magic Bus vision, mission, objectives and activities to parents and community leaders. Participants then jointly discussed children's performance, needs, and future development. The team was happy to see a high level of support for the programme among parents.



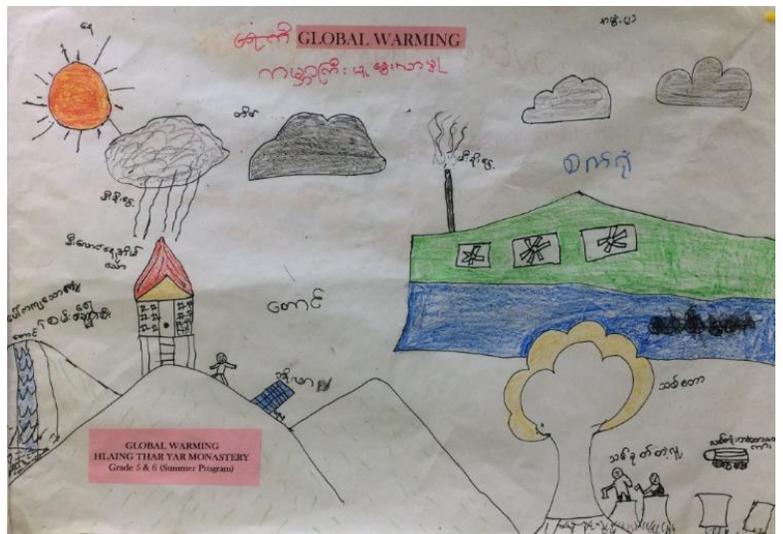
*My daughter has had some health issues, but since joining Magic Bus she seems more energetic. She is always excited to join the weekly sessions.*

— Parent



## Summer programme at Hlaing Thar Yar Monastery

A one-month programme from 7 March to 5 April was organised by Magic Bus for children from economically disadvantaged families attending Hlaing Thar Yar Monastery. Activities focused on teamwork and included football and traditional Myanmar games, as well as group poster making to highlight global issues.



## Stories from the field



Parents at Htan Pin Seik village noticed their children's enthusiasm for Magic Bus soon after they began attending the weekly sessions. 'Our children are always eager to tell us about the activities,' one of them commented at a recent parent meeting. 'We've seen them teach the activities to their friends [who are not enrolled in the programme], and they will play the games even when the Magic Bus youth mentors are not around.'

Magic Bus staff noticed that a 13-year boy who had been regularly participating in the weekly Sunday sessions at Myo Haung West Quarter was no longer attending. The community coordinator discovered that the boy was now working at the nearby factory on weekends to support his family. The team conducted a home visit and encouraged the boy to return to the programme, even if he could not always make it on time. Although occasionally arriving late, the boy began joining the sessions again. Staff members are optimistic that he will continue to attend, as he frequently expresses how much he looks forward to the activities.



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## Home visits

If a child misses two to three Magic Bus sessions consecutively, the relevant youth mentor and community coordinator will conduct a home visit to determine the reason for the absence. Staff speak to the entire household to encourage the child to return to the programme as soon as possible.

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# Internal training and professional development

## Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) 2018 Social Impact Forum

Magic Bus representatives attended a one-day forum on 27 February to discuss issues related to impact investment, philanthropy and social enterprises in Myanmar. Over 150 participants from a diverse range of sectors participated in the event.

## Weekly training at Dulwich College Yangon, Start City Campus

Each week, around 15 Magic Bus youth mentors and community coordinators attend English and computer classes at Start City. Training is conducted by Dulwich College teachers who volunteer their time to support the cause.

## Magic Bus drivers

Meet the people who make it happen

*Why did you decide to join Magic Bus?*

I previously worked in the private sector but knew that I wanted to do something different for other people. Although it now takes me over two hours each way to get to work, I am motivated everyday by the fact that I am supporting children and their communities.

*What do you enjoy the most about your job?*

The main focus of my role is finance management and administration, but I also like to participate in community-based activities and love working with children.

*What has been your most memorable experience so far?*

Games & Fun Day was quite an emotional event for me, seeing all of the children's smiles and feeling so excited and happy about what we achieved.

**Soe Moe**

Finance & Administration Officer



## Upcoming events

### Football training sessions

6 March – 27 May

Basic football training in 9 villages and 2 monastic schools to foster teamwork

### Mother's Day events

12 May – 16 May

Celebration of mothers with children and parents across communities

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