



Photo by Margy Dudley | margydudleyphotos.com

2019 IMPACT REPORT

WWW.SHANTAFUNDATION.ORG



SHANTA

FOUNDATION

Shanta envisions a world where people work together to ensure all communities are healthy and safe, and individuals are free to flourish. We partner with underserved rural villages in Myanmar to develop healthy communities.

Hello Shanta community!

My name is Wade Griffith, and I am the new Executive Director of Shanta Foundation. While these are strange times to begin my tenure, I am thrilled about the future of our work together. The COVID-19 experience has only increased my faith in the Shanta model. We are one of the few international nonprofits that do holistic village development intending to develop local capacity to the point that villages do not need outside assistance. Given how COVID-19 has obstructed travel and in-person collaboration, this reaffirms the value of fostering independence and self-reliance among our village partners.

With the coaching of Mike Karpfen, Laurie Meininger (who has graciously agreed to stay on the Board), Anna Pool, and our world-class staff, I have been learning a lot about the "Shanta Way" of doing sustainable, community-led development work.

Above all, I have been learning about the heart of our donors. YOU! Challenging times come and go, but Shanta supporters are uniquely loyal. In my meetings with donors, I ask about this, and invariably you tell me, "Wade, it's the model." You are committed to eliminating poverty rather than putting a band-aid on it.

Thank you for your commitment to a compassionate and rational approach to eliminating poverty. Together, we can do it! One village. One family. One person at a time.

Best,
Wade Griffith
Executive Director



2019 Highlights

WATER

With assistance from the Village Aid Project, we completed four water projects bringing clean water to 1210 additional families. Anecdotally, there is a decrease in water-borne illnesses and improved overall health among children in all of the villages where Shanta has invested in clean water.

LIVELIHOOD

24 village-managed community loan funds distributed 883 loans, generating \$18,500 in interest to support village development projects. 228 villagers in 16 villages participated in our pig farm program. Their average profit was \$225 which added a combined \$51,000 of income across our partner villages.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

234 Village Development Team members volunteered over 40,000 hours to organize and coordinate village projects. The teams conducted a new annual review and self-assessment followed by focus groups and village-wide meetings with action plans for improvement.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

We built two new preschools, added a kindergarten classroom in one village, constructed a new middle school, and built teacher housing in four communities – impacting 682 students and 24 teachers! Our 40 boarding school students are doing very well; five of the top students are "our" students.

HEALTH

Over 300 women participated in monthly health education discussion groups; topics included reproductive health, newborn care, immunizations, and preventing child malnutrition. We provided subsidized contraception to 204 women.

FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

We launched the **Founder's Legacy Society Endowment Fund in 2019** as a way for you to leave a lasting legacy. In complete alignment with Shanta's sustainability goals, this endowment fund honors Mike and Tricia Karpfen's commitment to sustainable community-led development and will ensure Shanta's financial future.

Please feel free to reach out to Amy@shantafoundation.org if you want more information on how you can join the Legacy Society.

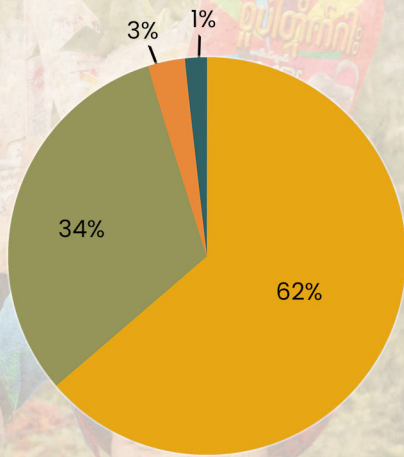
Shanta Guiding Principles

- Community-Led Development
- Partnership
- Inclusion
- Equity & Equality
- Transparency
- Sustainability

Special COVID-19 Update

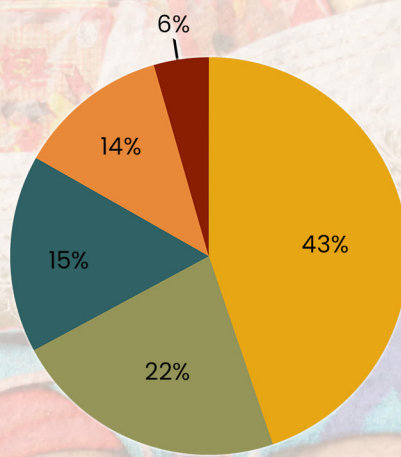
We have been working diligently to address the needs of our villages facing this devastating global pandemic. Our health programs are the only health resources available in these villages because the government focuses its efforts on larger population centers, such as Yangon. We have pivoted our health programs to provide public health messaging, set-up handwashing stations with supplies, assist with village-wide sanitation efforts, and support school health programs to permit children to return safely to school.

As of August 1, there are no known cases in our partner villages, but the economic impact is deeply felt. We are working with communities to help prevent food insecurity and ensure families' income hindered by changes in local markets and crop yield.



**PROGRAM INVESTORS:
WHERE DOES THE MONEY
COME FROM?**

- Individual Donations
- Grants
- Special Events
- Other



**PROGRAM INVESTMENTS:
WHERE DOES THE MONEY
GO?**

- Education
- Livelihood/Income Generation
- Leadership Development
- Infrastructure [roads, bridges, water]
- Women's Empowerment & Health

2019 Statistics

8,491 villagers
22 villages
3 regions

204%
Average Growth in
Community Loan
Funds Held and
Managed by
Villages

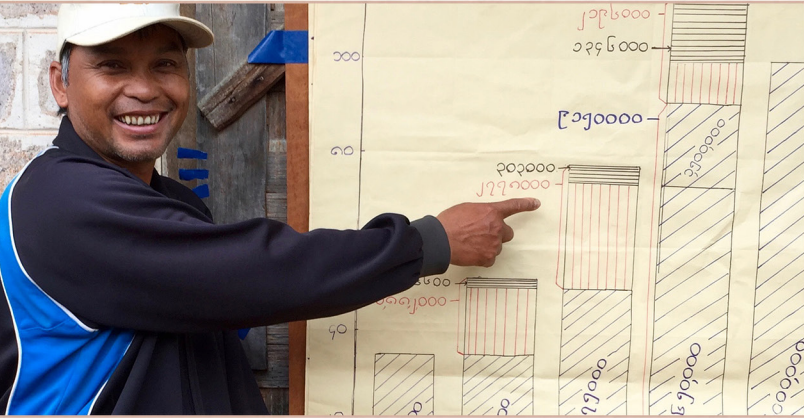
99,064
Coffee Seedlings
and Plants Under
Cultivation by 77
Farmers

77%
Increase in Crop
Yield for Peanut and
Rice Farmers Using
Organic Fertilizer
and Regenerative
Agriculture Practices
Introduced In 2019

83%
Of Eligible Children
are Now Regularly
Attending
Pre-School

Poverty is living on
less \$1.15 per day
per adult, according
to the Government
of Myanmar and
UNDP. 75% of the
households in our
villages are in or
near that level of
poverty

Partnering on the path out of poverty



GRADUATING WITH CONFIDENCE

A cornerstone of Shanta's sustainable investment in a community is the establishment of the community loan fund. Our loan fund model has proven to be a powerful tool for economic stimulation and breaking the poverty cycle among the poorest of the poor. Managed by an elected committee that has been trained by our staff, the loan fund provides loans, often for small business startup, and the interest is recapitalized into the fund to create a growing pool of capital that can support future loans or infrastructure projects. **By the end of our six-year partnership, a village typically has a fund of up to \$10,000 to continue to provide small loans and support their future community development projects and maintenance.**

The village of Naung Boat graduated from our partnership program in 2019 with a community development fund of more than \$10,000, which they started with seed money of \$1,500 in 2014.

"Because of partnership with Shanta, villagers are more united and working together because we see our common goals coming to life. Neighbors are now confident enough to start their businesses. Change in attitude of villagers is very significant. It is a very good sign for the villages' future!" proudly said U Maw Lo, a Village Development Team member, during the graduation ceremony.



91% of school age children are reading books from Shanta-built libraries in their communities

LEVERAGING LEARNING INTO SUCCESS



Partnering with subsistence farming villages over the past 13 years, Shanta has sought to develop income generation projects based on the experiences and interests of our villagers.

In 2019, we launched an agroecological farming techniques project with landless villagers who banded together to make and sell organic fertilizers and pest control products to local farmers. These farmers then used the products on their new crops – chiles – which

have a higher market price than the peanuts or potatoes they'd grown for years.

As a result of our promotion of soil testing and crop rotation, crop yields increased substantially. Shanta gained the attention of Swiss Aid and was awarded a three-year grant to participate in their Building Resilient Livelihood in Southern Shan State (BRILSS) program.

Our newest program participant, Hla Than, is excited for the opportunity to increase her income by learning new and better farming practices. Hla Than, a mother of three, is currently subsistence farming and barely making ends meet. Over the next two and a half years, she will attend training sessions to broaden her knowledge about agroecology and healthy nutrition. She'll also be part of a women's farmer group that will provide support, training, and self-confidence. The women's farmer group will also help her gain access to markets for selling her crops and increasing her family's income while modeling responsible farming techniques for her village and the farmers in the surrounding area.



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