

Moe Ma Ma Aye Malaria Volunteer

Moe Ma Ma Aye is a malaria volunteer (MV) in Daj phan kon village in Kawlin township in the Sagaing region, north west Myanmar. She was motivated to become a malaria volunteer to help those in her community, the majority of whom have little education and insufficient health knowledge. Moe Ma Ma Aye provides care to children under five years living in her village as well as three other nearby villages, and can support caregivers with the right information and assessments to help save lives of children under five suffering from malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea or malnutrition.

With training and supervision delivered through the Comic Relief funded Integrated Community Case Management project, Moe Ma Ma Aye has learnt a range of skills, from undertaking clinical assessments to receiving feedback from her supervisor. She can now accurately assess the danger signs for malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia, and explain these to caregivers in an accessible way. She's also gained confidence in using tools to assess malnutrition, including scales to weigh an infant and measuring the mid-upper arm circumference. Moe Ma Ma Aye now feels equipped to recognise when a child is in urgent need of a health facility and can ensure timely referral to a hospital.

Soon after she joined the Malaria Consortium project, Moe Ma Ma Aye was able to apply the skills she had learnt and referred two under-five cases to hospital. The first case was a three month old infant with a high fever and experiencing seizures. She rapidly assessed the danger signs and referred the child immediately, which saved the infant's life. The second case was a six month old baby with diarrhoea and a common cold. After a course of oral rehydration salts, she referred the child to a rural health centre, but there was no relief. She took the decision to refer the child to the hospital and with the right medical attention, the child recovered.

Fortunately, no malaria cases have been identified in these villages for five years. By staying active in this community and working on other common childhood diseases, Moe Ma Ma Aye can continue to support malaria surveillance and has the skills to inform caregivers and test, treat and refer cases if the disease reappears within the community.