

Skills development training leads to big dreams and aspirations for an internal migrant



Ko Wunna Tun repairing motorbike engine at his workshop in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region. © IOM 2020

Ko Wunna Tun, a 28-years-old internal migrant from Yaykhar Village, Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, completed one of the skill development trainings organized by IOM Twe Let project partner CSO, Social Care Volunteer Group (SCVG). Ko Wunna did not do as good as he had hoped in his matriculation exam,¹ and looking for career opportunities, he started working as a household electrician during the years of 2018 and 2019. Highly motivated, Ko Wunna travelled from his village to Meikhtila town every day. “Even though I felt tired, I could earn a worthy salary.”

However, although he gain a decent wage for individual jobs, the overall monthly salary amount that he could earn became low as the COVID situation meant employment became scarce and he could only work two or three times in a month.

In August 2020, Ko Wunna heard from a village administrator, that migrants and their family members could apply for skills development trainings organized by SCVG and IOM. “I was interested in it [the training] and I applied.” It is at this time that Ko Wunna first gained motorbike repair skills.

Ko Wunna explained that the training has been useful and that he enjoys sharing his skills and knowledge to other young people from his village and nearby areas.

“After completing the motorbike repair course, I’ve been able to establish and run my own shop and conduct trainings for others at my village. The training is useful in everyday life and met all my expectations. I used to have no skills and knowledge of motorbike repair before, but now I have mastered motorbike repair.”

Like others, the events since 1 February 2021, including uncertain security, have been challenging for Ko Wunna Tun. “It has affected my career. The insecurity and lack of travel has affected my income.” Though things are difficult, he remains hopeful and mentioned he wants to expand the business, sell motorcycle spare parts, and migrate in the future to expand his skills and achieve all his goals. “The training and post-training support I received has been very helpful. I would like to see other migrants be provided with opportunities.”

¹ The Matriculation Exam, or University Entrance Examination, is an academic examination administered to 10th grade students across Myanmar seeking university admission.