



# Myanmar Programme

KAICIID's Programme in Myanmar and its supported platform the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI) focus on the development of dialogue activities as part of local peace advocacy efforts, in order to revive the spirit of tolerance in the country.

## The Challenge

In 2010, Myanmar started a remarkable political transition that paved the way for the elections of 2015, which were largely won by the National League for Democracy (NLD). Four years later, the transition process is facing several challenges. After decades of struggle, further efforts are needed to strengthen the social fabric of the nation and revive the spirit of tolerance in the country.

Nationalist hate speech often triggers discrimination and open violence against religious minorities, notably Muslims and Christians. In Rakhine State, located in the western part of the country, the ethno-religious conflict involving the Buddhist majority and the Muslim minority community has escalated since 2012 resulting in human rights violations and population displacement.

With new elections set to take place in 2020, authorities face a significant challenge in calibrating political and security responses. There is also an urgent need to invest more in the prevention of hate speech and of intercommunity tensions.



# Our Impact

- 1 » Supporting and strengthening an inclusive and sustainable national interfaith dialogue platform: The Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI).
- 2 » Training religious and community leaders on interreligious dialogue, with a focus on using social media.
- 3 » Supporting local peacebuilding initiatives through a small grants scheme, awareness raising campaigns and interfaith forums.
- 4 » Initiating pilot activities through local partners in areas affected by the conflict, including in Rakhine State.



## Milestones

- Established a new network for peace and interreligious dialogue in Myanmar (PMI) in 2016, which has become one of the largest and most inclusive interreligious networks in the country, organizing high-impact activities.
- Officially opened an interreligious dialogue training centre, led by the PMI, which is the first of its kind in Myanmar. The training centre provides skills in religious literacy, countering hate speech and preventing conflict through social media.



- Trained over 900 religious leaders and civil society activists on promoting peace and interfaith harmony in Myanmar, through the PMI network and a pool of "Peace Educators".
- Developed and published an Interfaith Study Guide on Peace and Dialogue, which is used by the PMI's Peace Educators in Myanmar.
- Launched four large scale PMI-led interfaith dialogue events in Myanmar.