The Border Consortium (TBC) regrets to announce the tragic passing our friend and colleague, Saw Rocky Sein Dwe. While Rocky had underlying illness, he had been suffering from fever and a shortness of breathe for less than a week. He succumbed at home in Insein after being unable to secure a Covid-19 test and access to medical treatment from public and private hospitals.

Saw Rocky's parents instilled the virtues of education from a young age which paved the way for a Bachelor of Arts with Honours from Yangon University and later a Master of Arts in English Language Teaching from Assumption University in Bangkok. Rocky's colleagues and students from his time as a tutor in the English Department at Yangon University during the 1990s remained important networks throughout his life.

While the Karen Baptist community was a foundation for Rocky's beliefs, his engagement with the Student Christian Movement during University days broadened his faith and strengthened his commitment to social justice. This was reflected by his second career which spanned over 20 years in numerous not-for-profit organisations. The technical focus of his employment ranged from micro-finance to HIV/AIDS to active citizenship, but inevitably his core competencies in project management, report writing and capacity building came to the fore.

Saw Rocky joined TBC in 2014 as our Myanmar Programme Manager to support the recovery of conflict-affected communities in south eastern Myanmar. His principled approach, integrity, humility and trustworthiness not only made him a valuable leader amongst TBC staff but have also endeared him to a broad range of stakeholders. Rocky was well respected amongst donors and government authorities while his social skills and honesty also appealed to civil society partners and internally displaced persons.

Saw Rocky is survived by his wife and two sons, who he loved dearly and always missed while on field missions. It was a privilege for all of us to work and become friends with him. We will miss you, Thara Rocky, but we know that your spirit lives on.