

## CHIN/BURMESE

### **Values, Beliefs and Life Ways:**

- Male dominant
- Handshake is more common than hugging
- May bow to show respect
- Bend when walking in front of elders/crowd
- Respect for elders
- Religion is central to all things
- Honor and respect for families
- Child play is very hands on
- Males may put arm on each other
- Interaction is usually fun/joking
- Eye contact not usual
- When invited to lunch/dinner guests/elders eat first and may be served by host (If dinner is out, host will offer to pay/will not let you pay)
- In a group meeting will stand when speaking (will also stand when shaking hands)
- Time is loose at events/meetings but more rigid for appointments
- Household chores and caretaking by female including childcare
- Males are responsible for supporting the family by providing food, living expenses
- Males are the decision-maker (financial or other family issues)
- Respect/fear for government (school, police, etc.)
- Not extreme (religion, culture, etc.)
- Privacy is not an issue with health issues (openly shared so they can support each other)
- Family issues are taken to the church/pastor or close community before the police

### **Communication Tips:**

- Using pointer finger to gesture to come is very rude
- Explicitly invite to volunteer
- Like to be approached first – do not easily initiate conversation
- Home visit accept offered food
- Invite feedback or fears about school (Let them know their thoughts are valued)
- Offer to shake hands
- Ask “How are you?”
- Phone conversation or face-to-face when discussing school
- If you want families to ask questions invite someone they know well that is connected to school to come with them (parent liaison or tutor/translator)
- Personal space viewed as being closer than Anglo-Americans view it
- Greet elders first
- Expect less eye contact
- Do not stare or maintain eye contact
- Be respectful and ask questions to understand

***Cultural norms are the standards we live by. They are the shared expectations and rules that guide behavior of people within social groups. These are generalizations and not meant to define individuals because they belong to a particular group.***