



THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION

Annual Report 2012

LWF Myanmar Program

Uphold The Rights Of The Poor
And Oppressed

Our Values

We respect dignity and justice,

We value inclusion and participation,

We value accountability and transparency.

We value compassion and commitment

Lutheran World Federation Accountability And Accreditation



World Service is a signatory to the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Government Organizations in Disaster Relief.

Department for World Service(DWS)'s humanitarian response follows the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform.

DWS is a member of Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and has achieved certification against the 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management.

The DWS Accountability Framework ensures transparency in program administration, governance and implementation.

Annual Report 2012 in stories

CONTENTS

Our Vision, Mission and Goal	4
Foreword by Regional Representative	5
Our Approach	6
History	7
Donors and Supporters	8
Myanmar Program	9
Our Program	11
Learning About Children's Rights	12
Finding Strength in Numbers : Empowering Women in Sar Oo Chaung Village	14
Baby Brings Blessings	16
Women Can Lead Just as Well as Men	18
Skill for the Next Generation: Empowering Village Youths	21
Building Bridges, Literally	23
Financial Report 2012	26





Our Vision

People of Myanmar living in a just society, in peace and dignity, united in diversity, and empowered to achieve their universal rights to meet basic needs and quality of life.

Our Mission

Inspired by God's love for humanity, the LWF Myanmar program responds to and challenges the causes and consequences of human suffering and poverty by facilitating the empowerment of people to achieve their rights.

Our Goal

To contribute to the alleviation of poverty in Myanmar through rights based empowerment for sustainable development.

Foreward



2012 was an interesting year for Myanmar in general and the LWF Myanmar-Country Program as well.

We have witnessed opportunities for new beginnings as they have unfolded within the long embedded and complicated political, economic and cultural contexts that have long defined Myanmar.

With the democratic elections, freeing of political prisoners, cease fire agreements and establishment of new banking, finance and business laws, there is a cautious optimism that systematic and irreversible democratic reforms are indeed on the way. However, the ongoing tensions, violence and strife in some parts of the country and the lingering mistrust and suspicion between ethnic groups and government stakeholders illustrate the need for vigilance and persistence to turn the proclaimed peace and reconciliation in to sustainable unifying action on the ground for the lives of the majority. It is within this interesting and challenging context of 2012, that LWF Myanmar evaluated its work and formulated a Strategic Plan for 2013-2018.

I am proud that the participatory external evaluation endorsed our rights based empowerment approach to sustainable livelihoods through an integrated development framework.

We are happy with the close and collaborative partnership with our host ministry the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who actively participated in our evaluation team and advised us in our strategic planning exercises.

With the accompaniment and financial support of our LWF Related Agencies (Church of Sweden, Dan Church Aid, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Finn Church AID, LWF German National Committee – HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss) we were able continue our Integrated Rural Development and Child and Youth Development Projects in the Myanmar delta region, while simultaneously preparing for a program expansion to Chin and Kayin States. Our Quarterly and Annual Monitoring reports provide detailed analysis and outcomes of our work.

This Annual Report explores and expands on the above accomplishments from a more human impact perspective. It does this through representative human interest stories from our development partner communities and partner households. We hope that by reading them you will better understand and relate to the rights based empowerment process that your partnership with us has contributed to the people of Myanmar.

Sincerely,

David Mueller
Country Representative
Myanmar, 2012

A close-up photograph of a man wearing a traditional wide-brimmed straw hat. He is smiling warmly at the camera while holding a bunch of ripe, golden-brown rice stalks in his hands. The background is a soft-focus green field, suggesting a rural agricultural setting.

Our Approach

We focus on a rights based empowerment process.

We raise levels of accountability in the development process by identifying the rights of those in the community and those who have an obligation or duty to respect, protect and fulfill those rights.

We draw out and build people's capacity and confidence, both as individuals and members of families, groups and communities, to achieve results for themselves.

We strengthen our linkages with government entities and work to ensure that interventions are integrated while remaining firmly people centered through their participation and ownership of the empowerment facilitation process.

We aspire to comprehensive development that encompasses the broad agenda of well-being and life with dignity.

History

The LWF is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 145 member churches in 79 countries all over the world. The LWF has more than 60 years of relief, rehabilitation, refugee work and sustainable development experience from a Rights Based perspective. The LWF has organized the Department of World Service (DWS) as a relief and development arm of the LWF. It serves all people irrespective of ethnicity, gender, religion, race or political conviction.

Network and Alliance Building

LWF is a founding member of the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance, one of the world's largest networks of churches and church-related humanitarian relief and development organizations. LWF is also a member of SPHERE, Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), and Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe (APRODEV), Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC). As a member based federation, the LWF Myanmar also has close connections and support from the LWF Related Agencies and the network of South and South East Asian Country Programs AZEECON (Asia Zone Emergency And Environment Cooperation Network). In particular the experience of LWF in Cambodia which helped resettle refugees and internally displaced people after the Khmer Rouge, Nepal experience of refugee camp management, will assist the LWF Myanmar Program in its mandate for similar services in Myanmar.





Donors and Supporters

Lutheran World Federation depends on the support of following donors to fund our projects in Myanmar.

1. Church of Sweden
2. Dan Church Aid
3. Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)
4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5. Finn Church AID
6. LWF German National Committee – HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss)

Thank you for supporting us and your generous contributions.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND
Deutsches Nationalkomitee

Church of Sweden 

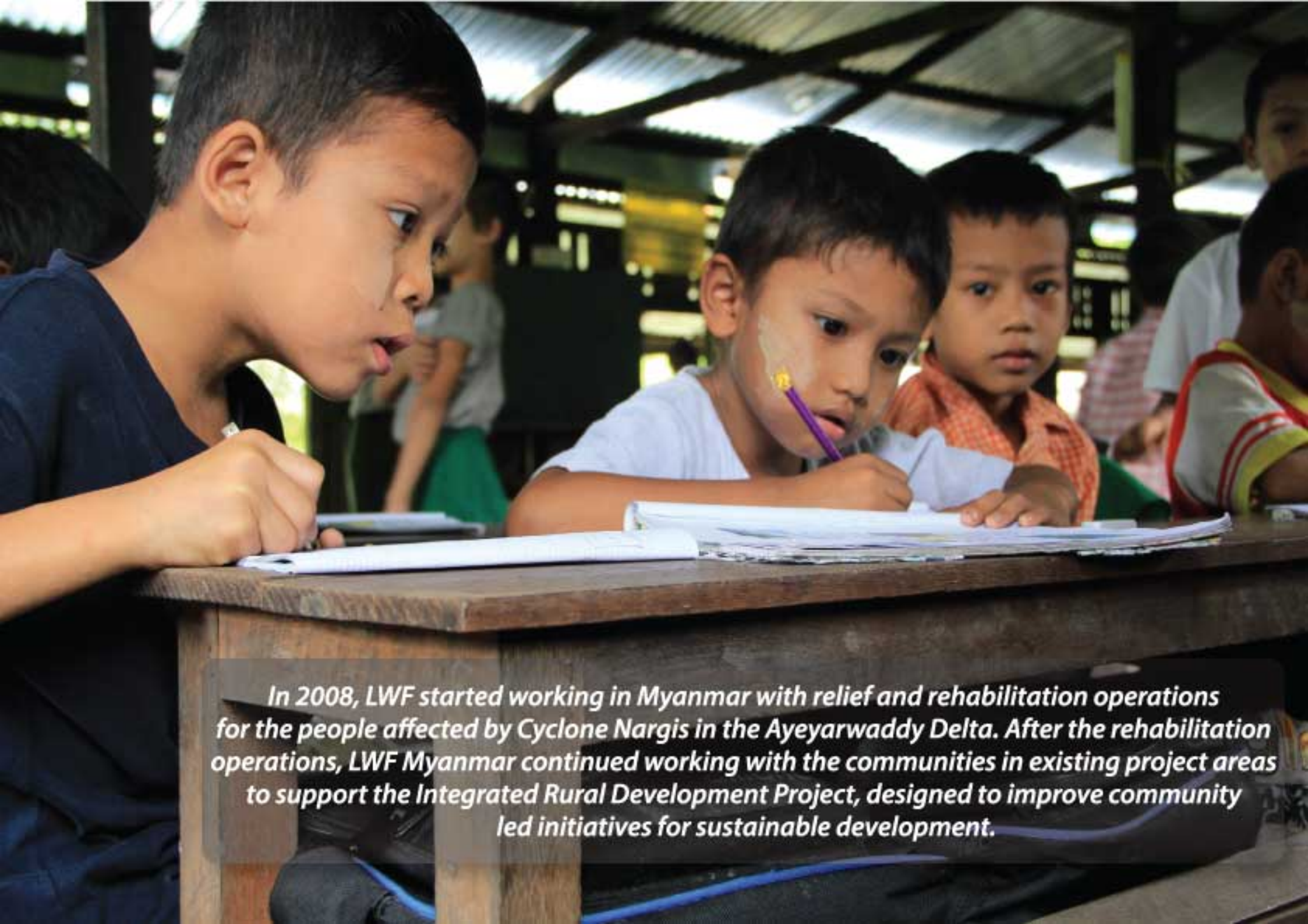




Myanmar Program

LWF Myanmar has been implementing community based sustainable development projects in 51 villages in Pyar pon, Twantay, Dedaye and Bogalay in Ayeyarwaddy Delta.

In 2013, LWF Myanmar is planning to continue its geographic area focus in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta with a consolidated engagement while expanding into new townships/villages, possibly in Kayin State, Chin State, Rakhine State and Magwe Region.



In 2008, LWF started working in Myanmar with relief and rehabilitation operations for the people affected by Cyclone Nargis in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta. After the rehabilitation operations, LWF Myanmar continued working with the communities in existing project areas to support the Integrated Rural Development Project, designed to improve community led initiatives for sustainable development.

OUR PROGRAM

Drawing on a firm commitment to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed, we work together with local and international partners to alleviate suffering, combat injustice and poverty, and lay the foundation for life with dignity for all. We focus on people in poverty whose voices are ignored. We commit to an empowering, rights-based and integrated approach that enables communities to find their own solutions to the problems they are facing, and informs all involved of their rights and responsibilities. It also strives to link different focuses such as emergency intervention, disaster preparedness, reconstruction and development. Currently, we are focusing to work on the following sectors.

Emergency Response: LWF Myanmar responds to disaster affected communities with emergency assistance. We use participatory processes to address the basic needs of vulnerable communities and provide practical support. We also help affected people rebuild their livelihoods.

Livelihood and Food Security: LWF Myanmar assists communities to learn new skills and advocate for improved social and economic services and livelihoods. LWF Myanmar's project improves the capacity and competence of local people in the area of livelihood leading to sustainable development. We facilitate the integration of rural development through a right-based empowerment approach. We organize interest groups and support them with technical assistance. In the country, LWF Myanmar is part of the Food Security Working Group which provides community members with technical assistances to improve their livelihoods and food security.

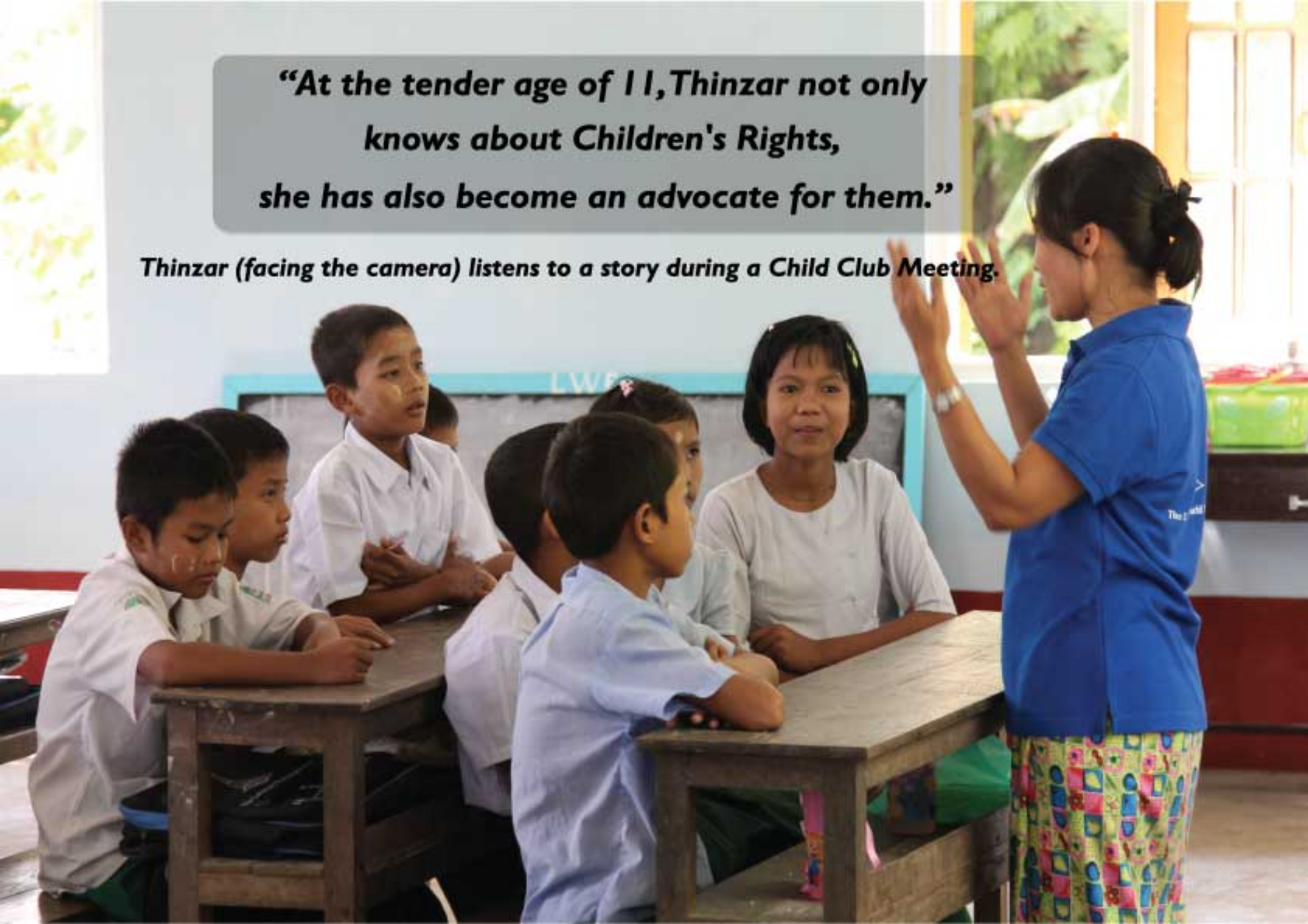
Water Sanitation and Hygiene: Access to clean water is a right. LWF Myanmar helps communities build and maintain clean, safe water systems and educate people about good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of illness.

Disaster Risk Reduction: LWF Myanmar facilitates communities to organize their own disaster risk reduction management initiatives through trained teams, awareness-raising, and prevention and mitigation interventions. The program facilitates community access to potable water and helps to rebuild schools. It also assists with the construction of bridges, multi-purpose halls that can serve as evacuation centers, and other community infrastructure.

Human Rights: LWF Myanmar believes that the sustainability of our intervention lies in the acceptance of the government line departments and the communities to own the intervention. LWF ensures that all members of a community are aware of their rights and responsibilities. Our approach is to strengthen the bottom up demand side of Human Rights. We support village identified projects as strategic entry points for rights based empowerment processes. We also work with like-minded organizations through national level networks to advocate for pro-poor and rights based policy change.

“At the tender age of 11, Thinzar not only knows about Children's Rights, she has also become an advocate for them.”

Thinzar (facing the camera) listens to a story during a Child Club Meeting.



Child's Play: Learning About Children's Rights

Thinzar Naing (11) knows her rights. She has just stepped out of her monthly Child Club meeting where she and 40 other elementary children have discussed Children's Rights with the help of their club leader. Thinzar can recite all five of her rights: Right to Play; Right to Education; Right to Rest; Right to Protection and Right to Health Care. Moreover, she can give examples of what each of the rights mean in practice, and how they relate to her own life. She also knows that Children's Rights will only apply to her until she turns 18. Asked what happens when she is no longer protected by Children's Rights, she hesitates but then replies: "Older people have rights, too".

The Child Club in Kan Su (East) village of Bogalay township in Ayeyarwady Region has 30 households and about 45 children. Thinzar says that like most of the other club members, she tries to make it to the club meeting every month.

The Child Club meetings are fun – they are led by LWF's Community Facilitator, Myo Myat Phone and during a 45-minute-session the children get to play, draw and discuss stories that are read to them. In between, the club leader help the children learn about important things like health, hygiene and Children's Rights.

According to Thinzar, everybody but "perhaps five children" from the village attends the club. The club is free of charge and everyone, including children from the poorest and most marginalized families has the opportunity to participate in the club. If the children start participating in village activities at a young age, they are likely to continue participating in community affairs and become active members of their community later in life. Already, the Child Club members help out around the village doing little chores that they themselves have chosen, like cleaning the water pond and foot paths, says Thinzar with pride.

Outside of school Thinzar loves to dance, especially traditional Burmese dances. However, when she grows up Thinzar wants to become a school principal. Although she knows that she can do anything that boys do – for example, become an engineer – her mind is set on becoming a school principal. As a principal, Thinzar would make sure that all the children in her village attend school. If some children don't come to school, she would take it upon herself to "Go and visit the children's parents and persuade them to send their children to school." At the tender age of 11, Thinzar not only knows about Children's Rights, she has also become an advocate for them.



“Before, we thought that our place was at home as housewives. That meant we were tied to our homes and we did not have opportunities to engage with other women.”



Finding Strength in Numbers: Empowering Women in Sar Oo Chaung Village

In February 2012, women in Sar Oo Chaung Village of Dedaye Township in Ayeyarwady Region formed a Women's Group. They had heard about Women's Groups in other villages and had come to admire them. The final push came from a Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Community Facilitator who explained to the women that by creating a group-managed saving and credit scheme, a Group Fund, the women would be able to save money faster and that after a while they could take turns taking small loans in order to start small businesses. The Women's Group then set some ground rules: All the members needed to make a commitment to pay 2000ks (USD 2.35) a month into the Group Fund.

The system proved a success and the fund now has 793,670ks (USD 934), part of which the women plan to contribute towards building a new meeting hall in Sar Oo Chaung village in 2013. By now everybody in the group has taken a small loan between 30,000ks – 50,000ks (USD 35-59). The loans are usually given for six months and group members use them to start small businesses ranging from selling firewood, to raising pigs and chickens as well as opening snack stalls. Having access to small loans with a 3% monthly interest rate has made a big difference for these women. Before, their only means to get loans were through private moneylenders who charge a 20% monthly interest rate – and an extra 10% per month if the borrower is not able to pay the agreed monthly installment.

However, there is more to the Women's Group than raising capital for micro-loans. "The biggest change has happened inside the women", states a group member Mrs. Kyuu Kyuu Win. Group leader Mrs. Wah Wah (41) agrees and says, "Before, we thought that our place was at home as housewives. That meant we were tied to our homes and we did not have opportunities to engage with other women." A turning point came earlier this year, Mrs. Wah Wah continues, when the LWF organized a gender training workshop for both men and women in Sar Oo Chaung village. After the training, the women in the village realized that they could be much more than just housewives. Mrs. Wah Wah says, "Now we are more confident and we know that women can be the heads of their households."

The Women's Group has also prepared a mission statement. It says that together the women will: 1) protect other women from gender-based violence 2) continue to empower women in their village, and 3) provide women with means to earn a reliable monthly income and find financial security. When asked about domestic violence, the women say that although none of their group's members suffer from it, there are women in their village who do. Mrs. Wah Wah then continues, "Before, as individuals, we were afraid and could not do anything to help the victims. Now we can band together and go talk to the husband and convince him to stop. United we can do things we did not think possible before."



"Women's Group Leader Mrs. Wah Wah says women in her village have become more confident and are willing to speak their minds."

The Group Fund is improving the economic lives of Sar Oo Chaung Village's Women's Group members. But more importantly the Women's Group, with LWF's support, is transforming the village by empowering women to become decision-makers and to determine their own – and their children's – futures. "Before, we used to have a marginalized role in the village but now we know that we have the right to speak up, the right to decide how the family finances are spent, and to convince our husbands that it is important for our girls stay in school as long as possible."

Mrs. Wah Wah exclaims with conviction.



“I would not dare to hope that my daughter would become a doctor but perhaps she could become a school teacher.”

Baby Brings Blessings

Ms. Thwe Thwe Aye has been working as the Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Community Facilitator in Aye Su village of Bogalay township in Ayeyarwady Region since 2009. Part of Ms. Thwe Thwe's job is to visit homes of pregnant women in her area. That's how she first met Mrs. Zar Zar Linn (20) and her husband Mr. Min Aung (28). At the time the couple had been married for two years and were expecting their first baby.

Although the young couple smiled widely with a healthy baby on their lap and gestured animatedly as they spoke, life has not been easy for them. Neither one of them has family relatives in the village who might be a source of help. They do not own a home or land, nor have skills useful for generating income throughout the year. Before the baby was born Mrs. Zar Zar and Mr. Min Aung worked as daily wage laborers and could hardly meet their monthly expenses. Then Mrs. Zar Zar got pregnant and as the months passed she became too weak to work.

When Ms. Thwe Thwe first met Mrs. Zar Zar she noticed that the mother-to-be was sick and malnourished. As her pregnancy proceeded Mrs. Zar Zar grew weaker and by the end of her pregnancy she was no longer able to leave her home, let alone work. Mrs. Zar Zar is lucky her neighboring village has a government-run health clinic manned by an auxiliary midwife. Once she found out she was pregnant she visited the clinic, and the auxiliary midwife encouraged her to come for monthly prenatal check-ups to make sure she and the baby were both doing okay.

The LWF also organized a training workshop for pregnant women in the village and provided the government clinic with Maternity Kits consisting of useful items that the pregnant women could take home with them including a blanket, mosquito nets for mother and the baby, diapers, talcum powder and baby soap. The rest of the kit comprised medical items needed for women to give birth safely at the government clinic where materials are often scarce or too expensive for the poorer women to afford. Also, the women were given a monthly quota of multivitamins and to encourage them to attend their monthly prenatal check-ups, the women were given the following month's quota only if they came to the clinic for their check-up.

Getting pregnant may have been a blessing in disguise for Mrs. Zar Zar and Mr. Min Aung. Otherwise, the LWF Community Facilitator would probably not have a chance to reach out to this poor, vulnerable and marginalized family. Before Ms. Thwe Thwe started visiting them the couple were not involved in any village activities because as wage laborers they did not have the time or energy. Now Mrs. Zar Zar is a member of the village's Youth Group and, once her baby is a little older, she plans to take part in snack making training and start a little stall selling snacks. Her husband also plans to join the Youth Group and he is especially keen on getting vocational training in veterinary care. He has always liked working with animals, and has in the past taken care of pigs and chickens.

The conversation turns back to the month-and-a-half-old baby girl who looks healthy and content lying on some bedding on the floor. Both of the parents only have an elementary school education. The father, Mr. Min Aung says, "I would not dare to hope that my daughter would become a doctor but perhaps she could become a school teacher." The Community Facilitator Ms. Thwe Thwe jumps into the conversation to say, "If you continue to work hard and keep her at school, anything is possible." She says this with such infectious conviction that it makes both of the parents smile hopefully.



"LWF Community Facilitator Ms. Thwe Thwe Aye visits homes of pregnant women in Aye Su village."



“Before, I used to be afraid of speaking in front of people, but now I know I shouldn’t be afraid to speak up.” Ma Khin, the account for three different interest groups in her village.

Women Can Lead Just as Well as Men

In 2009 the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) started supporting development efforts in Shwe Hlay Chaung of Twantay township, in Yangon Region. Back then the 65-household village with a population of 420 did not have any organized committees or interest groups. Now, three years later the village has five community-based groups: Village Development Committee (VDC); Youth Group; Women's Group and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Group. This year alone, the LWF has also organized close to a dozen training workshops in the village.

The interest groups and the training workshops organized by the LWF have nurtured a collective spirit in the village, says Ms. Khine (32) who is currently the accountant for the Village Development Committee, Youth Group and Women's Group. She says she has noticed the impact of groups and training sessions: more women and young people now find ways to participate in and influence village development efforts. Before the various groups were formed it was difficult to get villagers interested in community affairs, let alone have them allocate time or money for the betterment of the village, Ms. Khine recalls. Her own involvement in different groups has brought her added confidence. "Before, I used to be afraid of speaking in front of people, but now I know I shouldn't be afraid to speak up. I can get involved in village life and do everything that men do." She continues, "Now I know that women can lead just as well as men do."

Ms. Khine means what she says. In 2009, her village badly needed a proper foot path to connect one end of the village to the other and to replace muddy path which caused problems especially during the rainy season.

The muddy path was dangerously slippery and challenging for school children who tried to get to school without getting their schools uniforms dirty. Then a LWF Community Facilitator came to visit the village and explained to the VDC that the LWF would provide 80% of the cost of laying a new concrete foot path if the village community would raise the remaining 20%. To Ms. Khine's frustration, although the VDC members agreed that the village badly needed a new foot path, they were hesitant to get involved in mobilizing the villagers to raise the required 20%.

Ms. Khine, who was the accountant for the VDC and later also became the accountant for the Foot Path Building Committee, took it upon herself to convince the VDC to mobilize the community. Her efforts paid off. Rather than contributing just the required 20%, the villagers with the help of a few Yangon-based businessmen, raised 128,3950ks (USD 1,507.86) enough to cover almost half of the total project cost. The LWF provided the remaining half, 133,0000ks (USD 1,561.94).

The first half of the 3,000 ft-long concrete path was completed in 2009, and the second half in May 2011. The villagers are very pleased with the outcome. The foot path now allows them easy access to a neighboring village that has a clinic and a high school. Before the foot path was built, the other village was only accessible by boat and it took twice as long to get there. The new path is safe to use year-round and the villagers can also ride bicycles and motorbikes on it.

***“One day I want to be a VDC leader.”
Ms Khine’s dream!***

As for future projects, Ms. Khine explains that it is up to the villagers to decide what their village needs the most. Although the VDC leader will ultimately decide which one of the suggested improvements will take priority, the process is transparent and fair, says Ms. Khine with conviction. All decisions are made in public meetings attended by all the villagers. The VDC leader takes time to listen to everyone’s input before making his decision. Currently, the villagers are building a new bridge after making decision based on this process, explains Ms. Khine.

Despite the positive developments in her village, Ms. Khine feels that there is still a lot to be done. The next village-led project is likely to be the construction of a meeting hall in 2013. In addition, Ms. Khine has a pet project idea of her own. She would like to get electricity to her village, an idea she got from reading a newspaper article about solar energy. “Perhaps next year through the Youth Group I can attend a vocational training course relating to the usage of solar energy”, she says with hope in her voice. It is clear that Ms. Khine cares about her village and that she is willing to work hard to improve it. She is also no longer scared of speaking out. “One day I want to be a VDC leader.” she says in a way that leaves the listener with no choice but to believe that it will happen.



Ms. Khine standing on the new 3,000-ft long concrete foot path that runs through her village.



“Mr. Min Ko Ko is proud of his newly learned engine repair skills. With his newly acquired skills Mr. Min Ko Ko is eager to help fellow villagers save both time and money when they encounter engine problems.”

Skills for the Next Generation: Empowering Village Youths

Sar Oh Ghaung village of Dedaye township in Ayeyarwady Region has had a Youth Group since 2009. Back then the Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Community Facilitator brought some youths together and explained the benefits of forming a Youth Group. Now, the club comprises 20 members: 12 men and 8 women. The members have two distinct goals: they want to play a part in village development planning and to gain access to vocational training courses held in nearby cities with the help of training stipends offered by the LWF.

The Youth Group is doing well on both fronts. The formation of the group has given the youth a new kind of independence and an opportunity to choose how they want to help their community. And help they do: they keep the village's drinking water tank clean and clean the village's foot paths. The group members like to be able to choose their own chores. "Before we had our group, we had to do what the village leader told us to do," says Mr. Min Ko Ko, a group member. The group has also learned that as long as they stay united they will have a voice in the Village Development Committee meetings, and they can advocate improvements that are important to them – right now a village library and better infrastructure are high on their agenda.

Being part of the Youth Group also allows members to make longer term income generation and career plans. For example, the LWF offers of a yearly stipend program to all the Youth Groups in its project area. The steps are simple: first, the Youth Group comes together and decides on what kind of vocational training would best benefit them and their village. This year the Youth Group decided on four priorities Small Engine Repair, Sewing, Beautician training and Computer skills. They then sent their training proposal to the LWF, which in turn chose one girl and one boy from each of the Youth Groups in 50 project villages it works in Ayeyarwady Region.

After the selection of trainees, the LWF provides each with a stipend valued at about 30,000ks (USD 35) to cover the expenses of a one to three month training course in a nearby town.

This year Mr. Min Ko Ko was selected for Small Engine Repair course, a vocational training course that taught him how to fix the small diesel engines used in motorboats and in rice cultivation equipment. In a village that can only be accessed by boat, knowing how to repair a motorboat engine is a valuable skill. With his newly acquired skills Mr. Min Ko Ko is eager to help fellow villagers save both time and money when they encounter engine problems. Before, boat owners had to send a broken boat engine to a nearby town to be fixed. The same went for rice farmers when they had problems with their harvesting equipment. Especially during the harvesting season the farmers are spared a great deal of trouble if Mr. Min Ko Ko can repair their equipment right on the spot. In return the farmers pay him once they have sold their harvest.

Mr. Min Ko Ko says he does not make a lot of money right now, but he hopes that his newly learned skills will allow him to support a family in the future. Right now he gives the money he earns to his parents. Mr. Min Ko Ko thinks he was selected for the training course because he has shown interest in engine repair in the past, and because he is always willing to help other villagers. He also hopes to continue his studies and take a 3-year course in Heavy Machinery Engineering at a private college sometime in the future.

Youth Group activities are having a lasting impact on the village. The youth are now more integrated into village development planning and have the means to bring their voice to the decision making process. The vocational skills are transferred back to the village because the Youth Group members are committed to sharing their newly learned skills with each other. These skills will remain in the village long after the LWF program ends and contribute to improving villagers' incomes and overall welfare.



“Learning new farming techniques and technical construction skills to build things, like the new meeting hall and the bridge, are the most valuable. Money is necessary but skills and knowledge will stay in the village after the LWF leaves.” Member of the Bridge Building Committee.

Building Bridges, Literally

"I could have never even dreamed of a bridge like this!" exclaims Mr. Soe Myint (59) the Leader of Kaun Su (West)'s Bridge Building Committee, while standing on a brand-new concrete bridge spanning over a small river. Completion of the bridge was not a small feat for his village. For more than ten years the villagers in Kaun Su (West) village of Bogalay township in Ayeyarwady Region had been talking about needing a proper bridge. The bridge is a lifeline between the two villages on either side of the river, allowing school children from the neighboring village to cross over and attend elementary school in Kaun Su (West).

The villagers are not exaggerating about their need for the new bridge. Before there was one, the children going to school used to have to wade across the water with their school uniforms tightly packed in plastic bags to make sure they stayed clean and presentable, recalled Mr. Soe Myint. Then the villagers felled a tree trunk across the river so that people could use it to cross over the water, but that too was still dangerous for the school children. In 2009 the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) supported the village to construct a wooden bridge as a part of Cyclone Nargis rehabilitation program. However, the wooden bridge only lasted one monsoon season before it got rickety and unsafe. The villagers decided unanimously at a village development meeting that a new, lasting and safe bridge needed to be built. The Village Development Committee (VDC) wrote a Micro Project Proposal (MPP) to the LWF proposing to build a new bridge.

The LWF agreed to the proposal. The LWF committed to providing 80% of the total cost of 3,109,079ks (USD 3650) if the community raised the remaining 20%. The VDC presented a progressive payment scheme to raise the required money. The amount each of the households was required to contribute was based on their wealth ranking status. If a family could not afford to contribute the assigned amount, they could pay by providing labor for the project.

A Bridge Building Committee was formed with a committee leader, procurer, logistician, supervisor and two treasurers: one assigned to look after the safety box and another assigned to be the key holder.

Once the Bridge Building Committee was organized it set out to buy the needed building materials. For each component, the committee members requested price quotes from at least three stores. But in reality they visited several more shops to make sure they got the best value for their money, Mr. Soe Myint laughs as he recalls what they went through.

Once a suitable seller was found, the procurer needed to get money from the two treasurers. The process of withdrawing money for the purchase was strictly followed. All three- the safety box holder, the key holder and the procurer - came together and signed for the amount drawn from the box.

After the construction materials were bought it was up to the logistician to keep track of the materials and know how much of each material they had in the village at any given time. And to see that everything was going as planned; the supervisor oversaw the entire process, from procurement to logistics and the day-to-day construction of the bridge.

When asked whether the Bridge Building Committee found the system to be overly complicated they were quick to disagree. Together they explained that having distinct job descriptions made it easier for everybody to know what they were responsible for, and that the bridge construction process had proceeded smoothly without any conflict or controversy. In fact, after finishing the bridge, the villagers have already built a new meeting hall using the same procedure. And the VDC now has plans to build another bridge on the other side of the village in 2013.



Mr. Soe Myint (2nd from right) has just finished explaining how the new bridge was built.

"The Leader of Bridge Building Committee, Mr. Soe Myint says he is very thankful to the LWF for helping his village to get organized. The village now has five active groups: Youth; Livelihood; Farmers'; VDC and Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) group. His village has received training workshops in number of different areas such as Bookkeeping, Disaster Risk Management, Health and Hygiene, Farmer field School, Animal Husbandry, Traditional Medicine, and Food Making. When asked which of the LWF's activities have been most valuable, Mr. Soe Myint replies without hesitating: "Learning new farming techniques and technical construction skills to build things, like the new meeting hall and the bridge, are the most valuable. Money is necessary but skills and knowledge will stay in the village after the LWF leaves."

Financial Report 2012

Integrated Rural Development Project Myanmar

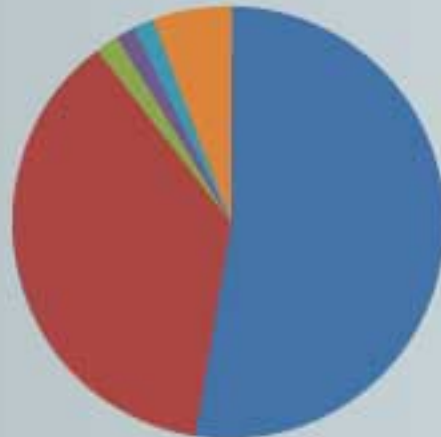
Income by Donors (EURO)

● Church of Sweden	600,754	52.9 %
● Dan Church Aid	67,756	6.0 %
● Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)	158,871	14.0 %
● ELCA	102,647	9.0 %
● Fin Church Aid	136,000	12.0 %
● GNC-HA-Deutscher Hauptausschuss	50,000	4.4 %
● Others Donors	19,510	1.7 %

Income by Donors



Income by Projects



Income by Projects (EURO)

● Integrated Rural Development	595,546	52.4 %
● Child and Youth Development Programme	424,607	37.4 %
● FCA Staff Development Project	20,000	1.8 %
● ELCA - Communication Project	15,518	1.4 %
● FCA Evaluation	16,000	1.4 %
● Others Donors	19,510	1.7 %



Copyright©2012

Published by Lutheran World Federation in Myanmar

Design & Layout: Wyne Sandy Myint

Design Assistant: Khant Ko Hein

**Production Coordination: Wyne Sandy Myint,
Communications Officer,
LWF Myanmar**

Printed by : Ace Dragon Media & Printing Co.,Ltd

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

© LWIN MG MG

© WYNE SANDY MYINT

ALL RIGHT RESERVED BY LWF MYANMAR

LWF Myanmar
No.44, Pyay Road, Bishops Home, Dagon
Township, Yangon.
Tel: (+95) 949322357
Website : www.lwfmyanmar.org



THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION

a member of **act**alliance