

Student kits' distribution to the poor and most vulnerable students

Student kits were distributed to poor and vulnerable students from 12 formal schools in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk U and Ann Townships in 2015. The selected primary students are from 3 formal schools, Sin Ku Lan, Ah Myint Kyun and Par Da Late in Sittwe; 3 formal schools, Ngwe Twin Dvae, Nga Wa Sway and Maw Htoke Gyi Villages in Pauktaw; 3 formal schools Aung Daet, Chaung Thit and Ban Du La in Mrauk U; and 3 formal schools, Sa Khan Maw, Gay Laung and BEHS (1) in Ann Townships.

A total of 1,637 (803 girls) students received student kits. Each student kit includes 9 items agreed in UNICEF led Education in Emergencies (EiE) Sector, which includes exercise books (12), ruler (1), pencil (12), pencil box (1), erasers (6), umbrella (1), bag (1), sharpener (1) and rubber slipper (1) are distributed to selected students.



A student receiving a set of student kit at BEMS No 6, Sin Ku Lan Ward, Sittwe Township (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

Based on the need of students' assessment taken by LWF in August 2014, children do not have enough exercise books and necessary stationeries for going to school. The assessment showed that 25% of the students in primary schools are in need of school stationeries. The poor and vulnerable students were selected in coordination with Head Teacher, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Management



Students from BEHS 6, Par Da Late, Sittwe Township seen with school bags, stationeries and umbrella provided by LWF (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

Committee (SMC), and home room teacher of each class, based on the economic status of the student family.

“There are some students who wouldn't like to go to school especially when the pages of the books are finished to write and not able to buy more exercise books. If students receive adequate exercise books to use in the class, they come to school regularly.” Soe Soe Win, Grade – 5 Teacher, Basic Education Middle School-BEMS (Branch), Nga Wa Sway Village, Pauktaw Township, said.

“I used to come to the school with a plastic bag and put my stationeries in that bag. I used a bamboo stick as a ruler. I had only one pencil. I did not have a sharpener and erasers. I used a small eraser which is on the top of the pencil. Now I have many pencils, erasers and exercise books and I put all my things in this LWF school bag.” San San Nwae, 9 year old Grade 4 student, BEMS (Branch), Ngwe Dwin Dvae Village, Pauktaw Township, said happily.

Beside the formal school students, LWF distributed student kits for 3,711 (1,990 girls) IDP students from 15 Temporary Learning Spaces in Ohn Taw Gyi South and North Camps, Sittwe Township in August 2015.

Students become more willing to come to school after receiving the sports gears

Sports items were distributed to students in 3 formal schools in Ann Township on Rakhine State Day, 15 December 2015. The schools are BEMS in Sa Khan Maw Village, BEMS in Gay Laung Village, Basic Education High School (BEHS) No. 1 in Ann Township. It is intended to make the students involve in extra-curricular activities playing sports and make them happy in the school. The sports items are football, volleyball, badminton, jumping rope, rubber ring. LWF has the plan to distribute sports items for students from 9 schools in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Mrauk U in early 2016. "The students become more willing to come to school and they come and play football and badminton on weekends. Now, we have some sports items, but it is not enough for the students. As LWF distributed sports items, many students can play sports at the same time. U Win Naing, the Head Teacher of BEMS, Sa Khan Maw Village, Ann Township said.



Students playing volleyball at BEHS 1 in Ann Town using LWF supported sports gears (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

"I play football everyday but I have never played badminton before. That's why I don't know how to play badminton. I believe I will know how to play by practice in my free time. I would like to play basketball too" said Tun Zaw Aung, Grade-8 student studying in BEMS-7, Sa Khan Maw village, Ann Township.



Tun Zaw Aung, in a black shirt, Grade -8 student at the playground of BEMS Sa Khan Maw School, Ann Township (Photo : LWF Myanmar)

LWF is going to support sport items for the remaining 9 formal schools in Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe in the 2016 - 2017 academic year.

Global Hand Washing Day Celebration

On 15 October 2015, LWF and school authorities celebrated Global Hand Washing Day in 12 formal schools in four Townships. students, teachers, PTA members, SMC members and LWF staffs participated in the event. All primary students (6,162 students including 3,075 girls) from 12 formal schools also participated in the event.



A teacher demonstrates how to wash hands and students wash their hands at BEHS Aung Daet School, Mrauk U Township (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

A bar of soap is distributed to each student during the celebration. It is intended to make students aware of the importance of hand washing and washing their hands regularly.

Head Teacher, Chairpersons of PTA and SMC, LWF Staff spoke about how diseases can be transmitted through dirty hands. LWF staff explained the steps to wash hands properly and demonstrated the hand washing method. Following the instructions, all students attending the celebration practiced washing their hands.

“This is my first time to know that 15 October is the Global Hand Washing Day and people are celebrating this event globally. It is very important to celebrate the event and it makes me and my students aware of the hand washing knowledge and practice. It really raises the hand washing awareness among students, parents and teachers” said U Aung Than Nyunt, Head Teacher of Basic Education Primary School (BEPS) Ban Du La School, Mrauk U Township.

“I wash my hands everyday but I don't know how to wash properly like my teacher instructed. Now I know it and I will practice it” Soe Soe Htay, a Grade-4 student from BEHS Aung Daet School in Mrauk U Town said.

With the support of the European Union, LWF will continue celebrating Global Hand Washing Day in 2016 and 2017.

Project Half Year Review Workshop

The Project Half Year Review workshop was conducted on 23 October, 2015 to review progresses from January to June 2015 and plan activities for the second half of 2015. Education Officer (EO) from the State Education Department (SED), the LWF program and support team members attended the workshop.

U Kyaw Naing, Education Officer from State Education Department, delivered the opening speech. LWF Project Coordinator presented the EU program

overview and LWF finance team reviewed the budget and presented financial guidelines and requirements for the EU funded project. Each program unit discussed and presented the progresses, deviation and challenges faced in the first half of 2015 and planned activities for the second half of 2015.



Education Officer from State Education Department delivers an opening speech at Project Half Year Review Workshop in LWF Sittwe Office, Rakhine State (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

Throughout the project period (2015-2017), project half year review workshop will be conducted every 6 months of each year.

Community-led construction and renovation

To improve the physical conditions of schools, classrooms and latrines, LWF starts implementing the construction and renovation of school and latrines in the project areas. A total of 12 school buildings with latrines started construction/renovation in the second half of 2015.

In discussion with SED, it is found that most of the schools in the State have made requests to the SED improve physical facilities of school, either for the renovation or construction of new buildings. The deteriorated physical conditions of schools because of extreme weather and lack of adequate school spaces were evidence and main reasons that LWF intervened to renovate/construct schools in the State.





BEMS in Sa Khan Maw Village, Ann Township under reconstruction (Photo: LWF Myanmar)

In order to maintain the quality of the school building and latrines and to increase the community participation, LWF empowered and mobilized the community to lead and supervise the construction in spite of hiring the construction company. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed with LWF and Chairperson of the respective SMC. Similarly, PTA, Head Teacher and community in general supported the renovation/construction. In the process, LWF transferred cash to the school bank account jointly opened by SMC Chairperson and School Head Teacher in four different installments.

The process is led by SMC and PTA by forming Procurement, Labor Mobilization and Quality Control Sub-Committees with the technical supports of LWF.

Cyclone Komen/Floods Impacts to Education Establishments

According to the Rakhine State Government, 16 people died, 96,165 people were displaced, 125,151 houses were destroyed and 217,246 acres of land and 475 schools were damaged by the Cyclone Komen/floods during July-August 2015 in the State. In June 2015, Ann Township was flooded and a school boy of BEHS No. 1 of Ann Town died on the way from school to home who was trying to cross the flash flood in a stream.

Since then, LWF has been involved in the flood response in coordination with the government and UN/INGOs in the state. According to SED during the cyclone/floods, a total of **78** schools were totally destroyed, about **400** schools which will require renovation in the state. Between **70,000-80,000** children faced difficulties in accessing education due to the disaster and over **200,000** children lost stationeries. The SED also reiterated the need to construct **61** new TLSs and provide learning materials urgently to ensure access to education for the children.

In consultation with SED and UNICEF led EiE Sector, as an early response, LWF supported relief materials such as food, NFIs and education kits to the floods affected people of 17 villages in five (Ponnakyun, Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Minbya, and Ann) Townships.

LWF distributed 46,000 student exercise books with UN Convention of the Rights of the Children messages for 9,200 students of 32 formal schools in five Townships of the State.

LWF has also renovated 15 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and 10 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) damaged by Cyclone Komen in 2015 in EU project areas. Flood affected 15 formal schools and 33 TLSs were also renovated by LWF-UNICEF collaboration in Sittwe and Mrauk U Townships in 2015. Similarly, under the support of ACT Alliance, LWF is also building 20 TLSs with latrines in 20 formal schools damaged by Cyclone Komen/Floods in Ponnakyun and Mrauk U Townships.

In 2016, LWF plans to renovate/construct six formal schools damaged by cyclone/floods from the support of EU and four formal schools from the support of Diaconia ECCB in flood hard hit areas. Those schools will also receive teaching and learning kits during 2016-17 academic session from the projects. The schools will also be supported by WASH facilities (latrines and drinking water facilities).

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