

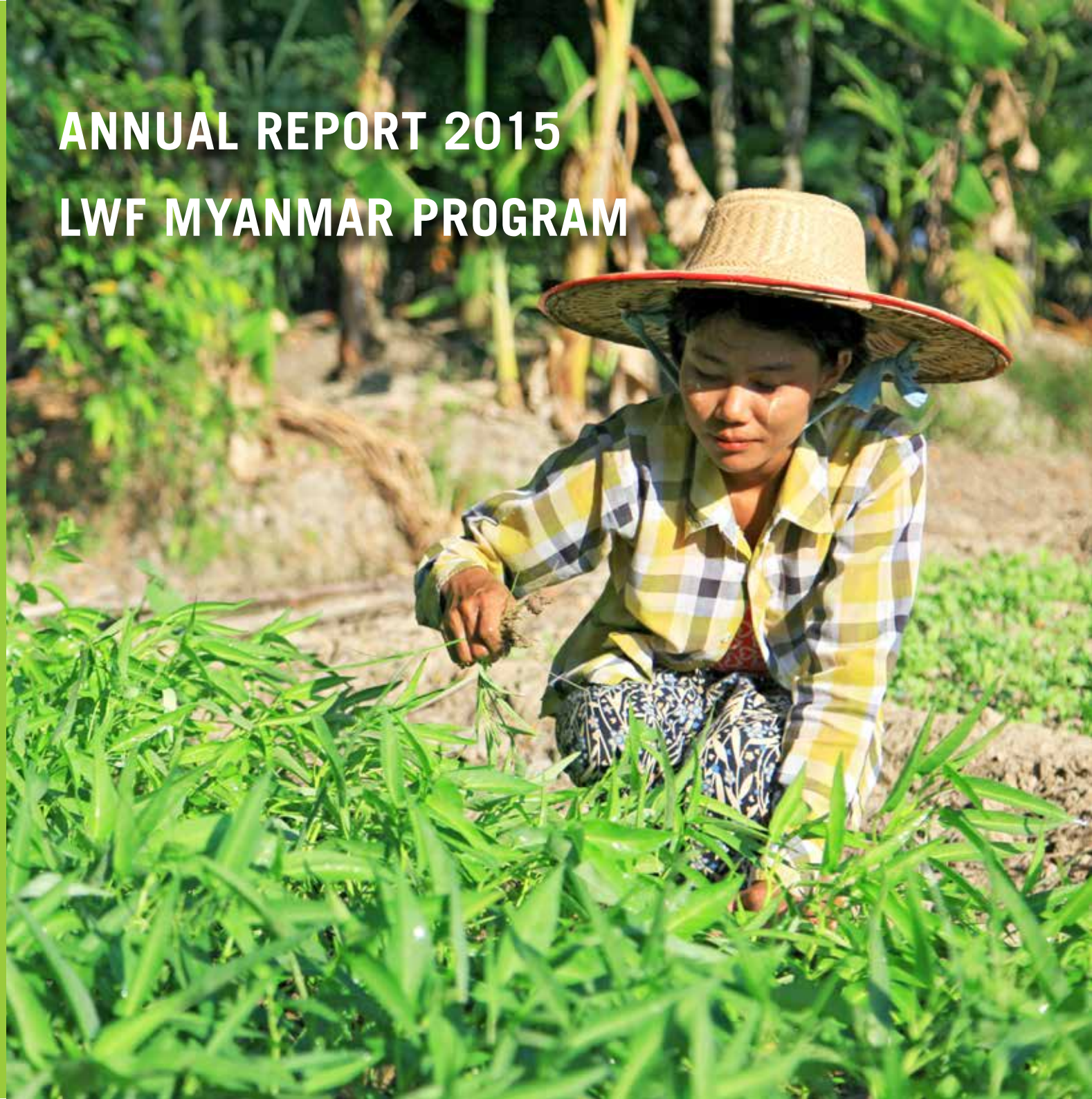


THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION
actalliance

**UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF
THE POOR AND OPPRESSED**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

LWF MYANMAR PROGRAM



TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE



LWF Myanmar Annual Report 2015

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CONTENTS

Foreword	2
About Department for World Service	3
About LWF Myanmar	4
Our Approach	5
Financial Statement 2015	7
LWF Myanmar at a Glance	8
Our Work	9
I. Promoting human rights through constructive engagement	10
Advancing human rights through the Universal Periodic Review process	10
II. Promoting sustainable development	12
Enhancing access to clean and safe water	13
Promoting healthy practices in communities	14
Improving livelihood opportunities through collaboration with government departments	15
Establishment of Rice Banks for Improved Food Security in Chin State	16
Strengthening women's groups for equitable development	17
Improving access to education	18
Reducing disaster risk	18
III. Responding to basic needs and enabling recovery in emergency situations	19
Providing immediate relief to flood-affected communities across 5 States and Regions	20
Helping to rebuild lives in flood-affected areas	21
Relinking villages in flood-affected areas	22
Rebuilding livelihoods in conflict-affected communities in Rakhine State	22
Enhancing access to education in Rakhine State	23
Challenges in our working environment	24

FOREWORD



I am pleased to share with you LWF Myanmar's Annual Report for 2015. This report documents our progress over the past year. It brings to life our 6-year Country Strategy, launched in 2013 and its operational plans for 2013-2015 through stories. It highlights the outcomes of our activities and shows how we have created a positive impact on the lives of the people we work with, in particular, those whose have been marginalized in society.

The facilitation of people centered, community based, integrated, rights based empowerment forms the foundation of our work. Thus the accomplishments of 2015 are mainly due to the person-to-person development style of LWF. We work with all levels of stakeholders – both duty bearers and rights holders. We also work closely with our donor partners to which we owe a great deal of gratitude. Without their generous support we would not have the resources or technical support that enables our work (a comprehensive list of all our donor partners is found later in the report). Capitalizing on our mutuality and partnership, we have together seen evidence of change in the four key areas of our strategic objectives: 1) Community Empowerment,

2) Sustainable Livelihoods, 3) Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management, and 4) Organizational Development.

Through the LWF Myanmar Program, 152 Villages representing a population of 128,903 are being empowered. Community-Based Organizations like Village Development Committees and IDP Camp Management Committees have started to lead the development processes on their own - through participatory planning, implementation and monitoring. Empowered women and youth have increased access to services and control over households, groups and VDC decision-making processes.

The number of Partner households, improving their livelihoods through both agriculture and non-agriculture activities, including vocational training, have increased to 937. Households have benefited from group-managed savings and credit schemes. Access to quality education is increasing. Access to potable water, and sanitation/hygiene practices have improved in partner villages. Basic infrastructure needs of the villagers have been both built and strengthened.

After months of negotiation, in July 2015, LWF successfully signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Nay Pyi Taw to confirm our three-year partnership with Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department (PBANRD) of the Ministry of Border Affairs, in Kayin State.

LWF Myanmar Country Strategy (CS) Mid-Term & Right Based Empowerment Project End Peer Review was carried out between 23 April and 15 May 2015. LWF Myanmar is thankful to the peer review team members from LWF Country and Associate Programs of Nepal, Cambodia and Bangladesh for their valuable evaluation. DCA took part in the same process as a representative on behalf of funding partners. The recommendations from the peer review were instrumental in guiding the development of the program's way forward in its 2016-2018 operations plans.

As an active member of the ACT Alliance, LWF Myanmar proudly served as Convener of the ACT Myanmar Forum in 2015. LWF further took the lead among the ACT Forum Myanmar members to collectively respond to the torrential rains associated with Cyclone Komen that caused severe and widespread floods and landslides across twelve of the fourteen states and regions in Myanmar in July and August 2015. The resulting ACT Alliance Appeal MMR

151 provided emergency aid and early recovery support to affected communities in the Delta, Bago and Sagaing Regions and Chin and Rakhine States. We were also active in working with the ACT Myanmar Forum in designing a joint project in Kayin State, which we hope to launch in 2016.

LWF also locally led and contributed to the ACT Alliance statement in its global climate change campaign in November. Our staff and other ACT partners signed the petition to urge world leaders to bring climate justice to all.

The humanitarian and development needs in Myanmar are tremendous and we have worked hard in 2015 to increase our income to help meet the needs. Our projected income for 2015 was 2.8 million Euro. Our total audited income for 2015 was 4.4 million Euro, which represents a 57% increase.

In 2014, we had a staff comprised of 119 national staff, and 8 expatriates. In 2015, that number grew to 144 national staff (male- 69, female-75) and 9 expatriates (male-7, female-2).

The Lutheran World Federation in its work on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has used participatory approaches that seek to link human rights actors to duty bearers, in other words linking communities with policy makers so that the voices of remote communities are heard, even at the international level. LWF has embarked on a process to facilitate dialogue on human rights that looks at barriers and seeks solutions in a collaborative effort among different government and non-governmental stakeholder groups, including women, men, youth and local government.

We look forward to linking up with any likeminded individuals, institutions, organizations and government departments in order to work together towards the improvement of access to economic, social and cultural rights in Myanmar.

Together we can do more to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed!

David H. Mueller
Regional Representative
LWF/DWS South East Asia

ABOUT DEPARTMENT FOR WORLD SERVICE



The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Lutheran churches, with 145 member churches in 98 countries. It was founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, after the end of the Second World War. LWF set up its Department of World Service as its relief and development arm to serve all people irrespective of ethnicity, gender, religion, race or political conviction.

The Department for World Service is committed to working in an open and responsible way that builds the trust and respect of all

stakeholders. The Department for World Service's Accountability Framework ensures transparency in program administration, governance and implementation. The Department for World Service is a signatory of the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and Non Government Organizations in Disaster Relief. The Department for World Service's humanitarian response follows the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Partnership Program.

The Lutheran World Federation is one

of the founding members of ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance, which brings together over 130 churches and church-related organizations working in development, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy. The alliance provides the ecumenical movement with structures to mobilize rapidly in response to disasters – and to improve collaboration on development and advocacy issues. LWF is often a leading ACT member on the ground in emergency and humanitarian response, and helps provide leadership through the ACT governance.

ABOUT LWF MYANMAR

LWF began working in Myanmar in 2008 as part of an ACT Appeal to respond to the devastation of Cyclone Nargis, which claimed tens of thousands of lives in the country's Ayeyarwady Delta Region. Following the initial response, a one-year LIFT-funded food security project was implemented in 18 Villages of Bogalay Township, which ended in February 2011. LWF Myanmar is currently implementing humanitarian and development programs in 152 villages in the Ayeyarwady Delta Region and in Chin, Kayin and Rakhine States and 11 IDP camps in Rakhine State. Interventions in Rakhine State are focused on both IDPs and host communities.

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 achieve quality of life.

Our Mission

The LWF Myanmar program responds to and challenges the causes and consequences of human suffering and poverty by facilitating people's empowerment to achieve their rights.

Our Strategic Objectives

1. **Community Empowerment:** To strengthen local leadership and improve governance for equitable and sustainable development
2. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** To empower communities to obtain improved and sustainable socio-economic livelihoods
3. **Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management:** To enable communities to manage and mitigate disaster risks, and prepare for and respond effectively to disasters and emergencies
4. **Organizational Development:** To strengthen LWF Myanmar to be effective, efficient and relevant to the context

Our Overall Goal

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

Our Core Values

1. Dignity and Justice
2. Inclusion and Participation
3. Accountability and Transparency
4. Compassion and Commitment
5. Respect for diversity



OUR APPROACH



A Partner Household member feeding the pigs in Shane village, Mindat Township, Chin State.



Mr. Eric John Celiz, Regional Finance Manager of LWF and U Htwe Hla, Director General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Dept. signing MoU.



Assessment in Shwe Hlay Chaung village, Twantay Township after Cyclone Komen hit.

LWF Myanmar commits to a collaborative, empowering, rights-based and integrated approach that better ensures that everyone understands and is able to access their rights; and perform their duties and fulfil their responsibilities; and that enables us to work with both duty bearers and rights-holders to collectively design solutions to problems.

Productive collaboration with a range of stakeholders is essential to meeting our goals and objectives and achieving sustainable outcomes.

LWF Myanmar was Convener of the ACT Myanmar Forum in 2015. LWF Myanmar is also a member of the Asia Zone Emergency

and Environment Cooperation Network (AZEECON) of the 3 LWF Country Programs and 4 Associate Programs in South and South East Asia. This is a learning and sharing network for field practitioners that engages in exchange and exposure visits and customized trainings for field practitioners.

LWF Myanmar is also an active member of many national and local coordination networks and working groups relating to humanitarian, development and advocacy work including the INGO Forum; Swiss NGO Forum; Humanitarian Country Team; Food Security Working Group; Education in Emergencies Subsector Working Group; Protection Working Group; Child

Protection in Emergencies; National Child Rights Working Group; Gender Equality Network; Shelter, NFI, WASH, Health and CCM Clusters; Land Core Group; Humanitarian Advocacy and Communication Group; Accountability Learning Working Group; South East Working Group; and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group.

Outside of these working groups, LWF Myanmar collaborates directly with other non-governmental stakeholders including the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; Myanmar Insurance Enterprise; Myanmar National Human Rights Commission; Myanmar Red Cross Society; and Camp Management Committees.

LWF Myanmar also collaborates and coordinates with various government departments and ministries in Myanmar, mainly at State/Regional and Township level. These include the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Border Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Home Affairs- Police Department, Fire Services Department and General Administration Department; Ministry of Transport- Department of Meteorology and Hydrology; Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry- Forest Department.

Empowerment is an inclusive and participatory process that draws out and builds people's knowledge, capacity, skills and confidence to achieve sustainable results for themselves. Rights-based empowerment means building up awareness on all levels and providing necessary support to both the rights holders and the various duty bearers, to respect, protect and fulfil fundamental rights defined by the country's constitution, laws, policies, and international conventions and other human rights instruments that are ratified by the government.

LWF Myanmar believes that each individual is endowed with inherent capacities that often require stimulus to emerge. LWF Myanmar tries to emphasize to individuals, CBOs and groups, the importance of access to and control over resources through village level community managed structures, including access to services and resources from the relevant government line departments at township and village levels. At the same time, LWF Myanmar is committed to the concept of strengthening the capacity of duty bearers, including the government. Acknowledging the limited capacity to deliver services, LWF Myanmar collaborates with a range of government line departments to strengthen service delivery. Resource sharing in the form of using the technical expertise of the government line departments is promoted.

An integrated approach entails holistic

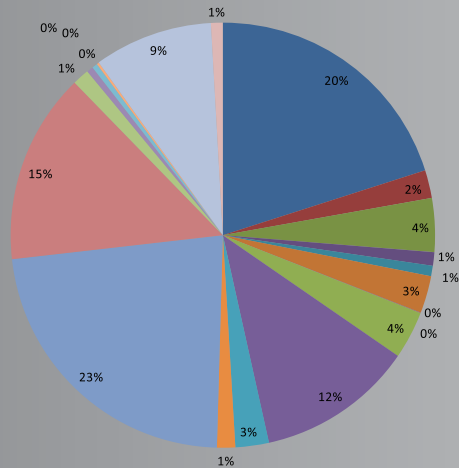


The drawing competition for “ The Elimination of Violence Against Women Day ” in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State

programming that deals with all facets of people's lives, addressing the rights and needs of individuals, groups and communities. Just as the rights-based empowerment approach aspires to fulfil rights, the integrated approach aspires to comprehensive development and encompasses the same broad agenda of well-being and life with dignity. Consideration is given to the ways in which various components inter-link with, or affect other components, situations and the environment.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015

MATRIX OF INCOME BY PROJECT

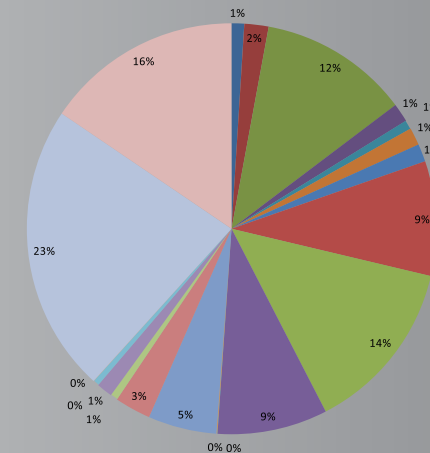


Myanmar Rights Based Empowerment Project	878,202	20.08%
ACT Appeal MMR151 - Myanmar Flood Response	92,655	2.12%
ELCA: Establishing Food Resilient Communities Project	178,676	4.08%
ELCA: Diaconal Project Support w/Churches	44,738	1.02%
BftW: Qualification of Programs and Strengthening of Partner	34,835	0.80%
FCA/EU: Children of Peace Initiative	124,116	2.84%
FCA: Children of Peace Staff Costs	699	0.02%
FCA Costs in Myanmar for Metta Project	1,213	0.03%
UNHCR: Rakhine IDP Support Project - USD	158,731	3.63%
UNHCR: Rakhine IDP Support Project - MMK	520,789	11.90%
FCA: Project for Improving Women's Livelihood	111,266	2.54%
Diakonia ECCB: Assistance to IDPs in Rakhine State	61,177	1.40%
UNICEF: Quality Basic Education and Non Formal Education (NFE)	995,001	22.74%
EU: Education Assistance to Children in Rakhine State	635,136	14.52%
UPR Myanmar - Achieving Impact	55,620	1.27%
Country Stragegy Mid-Term Peer Review	21,267	0.49%
ALWS: AZEECON Disability Training	18,151	0.41%
BftW: Rakhine Rights Based Empowerment Project	8,046	0.18%
DKH/AA: IDPs, host and neighbouring communities in Rakhine	395,192	9.03%
Myanmar Flood Relief	39,093	0.89%
TOTAL INCOME	4,374,603	100.00%

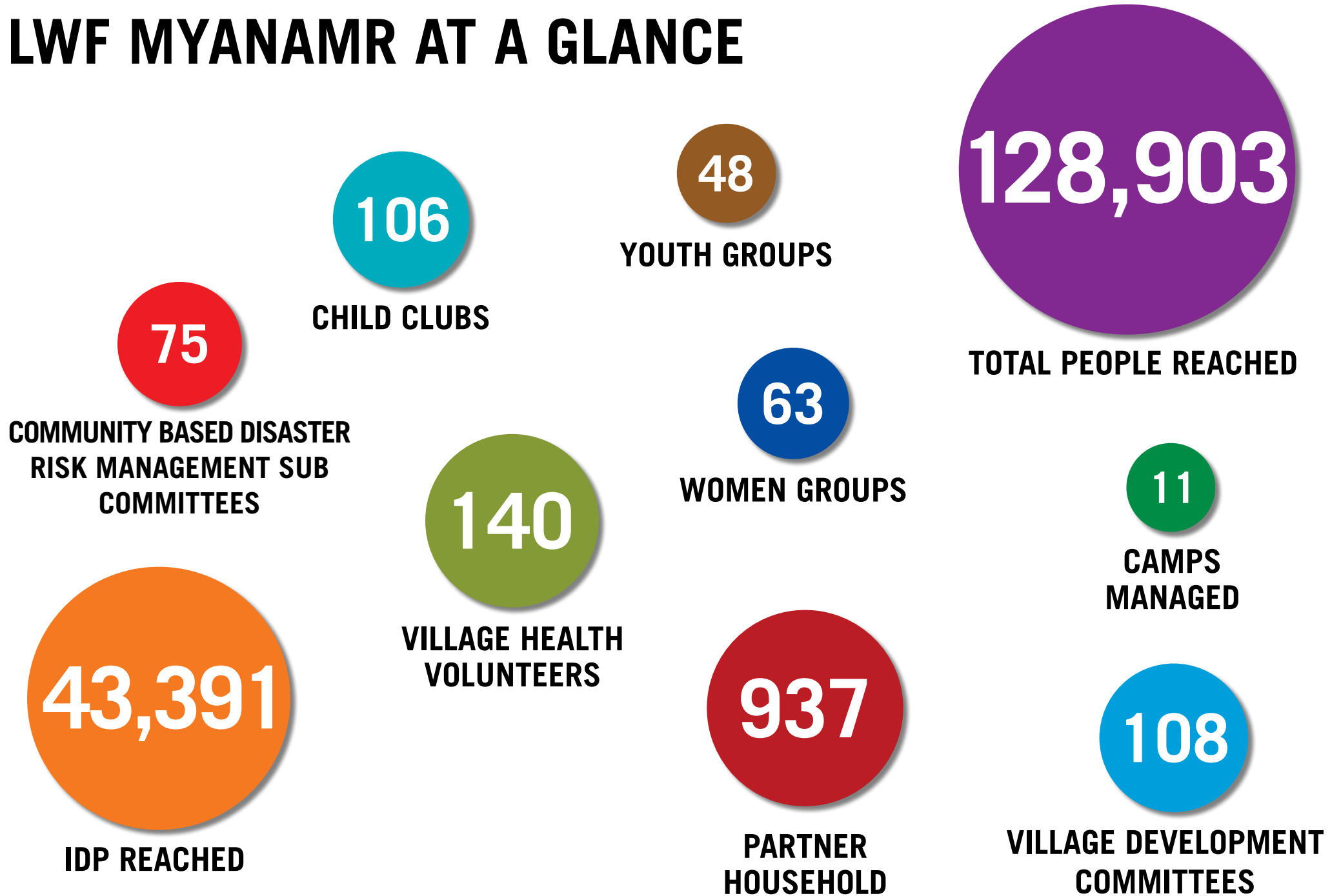
Australian Lutheran World Service	43,678	1.00%
Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service	83,393	1.91%
Church of Sweden	517,331	11.83%
Church of Sweden/SIDA	63,697	1.46%
Community Contribution	31,449	0.72%
Dan Church Aid	60,257	1.38%
Diakonia ECCB - Center of Relief and Development	61,177	1.40%
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	395,192	9.03%
European Commission - ECHO	600,025	13.72%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	380,285	8.69%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria	(1,269)	-0.03%
Exchange Gains	2,233	0.05%
Finn Church Aid	236,748	5.41%
Finn Church Aid/ECHO	124,116	2.84%
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission	25,248	0.58%
German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation	55,000	1.26%
Hong Kong Christian Council	20,552	0.47%
LWF Staff/International Staff & Other donors	968	0.02%
United Nations Children's Fund	995,001	22.74%
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	679,522	15.53%

TOTAL ALL PROJECTS 4,374,603 100.00%

MATRIX OF INCOME BY DONORS



LWF MYANAMR AT A GLANCE



OUR WORK



Our work may be split into three broad categories:

- I. Promoting human rights through constructive engagement
- II. Promoting sustainable development
- III. Responding to basic needs and enabling recovery in emergency situations

I. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Through training and awareness raising initiatives, LWF Myanmar assists in ensuring all duty-bearers and community members understand their rights; the rights of others; the value of their own and others' participation and collaboration in decision-making and other processes that affect them; national and international laws and mechanisms that are designed to protect rights; and roles and responsibilities for upholding them. Only with this understanding will rights be respected and

upheld.

We support communities to conduct participatory and inclusive assessments and analyses of their needs and to formulate plans for improvements. We utilize the outputs of these assessments and analyses of communities as strategic entry points for constructive engagement on the local, national and global levels towards improved access to rights; and to assist and encourage the communities to advocate for improved social and economic

services. In our project areas, we collaborate with various government departments to strengthen service delivery; and facilitate the closing of the gaps between the duty-bearers and rights-holders.

Additionally, we provide platforms for dialogue between government and non-governmental stakeholders, on the local, national and global levels; and to identify productive ways of working together towards realising the rights of all.



UPR Workshop: Towards influencing the adoption of pending recommendations in Yangon on 26 Jan 2016.

Advancing human rights through the Universal Periodic Review process

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process, which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is based on equal treatment for all countries and involves the political peer pressure of other states rather than the international institutional pressure of the UN. As such, it has gained credibility as one of the more effective mechanisms. The Myanmar government stated:

“Myanmar firmly believes that the Universal Periodic Review- UPR process is the most dependable and uncontroversial monitoring mechanismsto address and rectify human rights situations in all countries on an equal footing”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, 12 August 2015

LWF has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, giving them access to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly. This, combined with working directly and in a targeted way with communities, the government, partner agencies and other key stakeholders in country to address human rights issues and advocate for positive change in Myanmar allows us to achieve local to global impact.

Leveraging this unique position, LWF Myanmar's engagement with the UPR process began in October 2014.

Between October 2014 and March 2015, a total of 303 people (134 male, 169 female) were consulted on five human rights issues, relating to Right to Land; Right to Water; Right to Birth Registration; Right to Nationality; and Rights of Women. These consultations were made through a series of consultation workshops, focus group discussions and individual meetings in 7 villages in Ayeyarwady Delta; 4 villages in Kayin State; 12 villages in Chin State; Sittwe, Rakhine State; and Yangon. Those consulted included women, men, youth groups, local government officials, LWF Myanmar staff, ACT Alliance partners and representatives from Gender Equality Network (GEN) and Land Core Group (LCG).

A 5-page LWF UPR report, which was the outcome of an analysis of primary data collected in these consultations, further supported by an analysis of existing research and documentation on the context of Myanmar and the human rights situation in the country was submitted by LWF Myanmar to the United Nations on 23 March 2015, along with a more detailed report.

LWF Myanmar conducted a presentation workshop on 3 November 2015, in Yangon to present these reports.



VDC members in Chin participate in the UPR consultations workshop at LWF Mindat Office.

The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Myanmar was held at the 9th meeting on 6 November 2015 and 98 States participated. The delegation

of Myanmar was headed by the Attorney General of the Union, **Dr Tun Shin**. At its 14th meeting held on 10 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Myanmar. The Myanmar government accepted 124 recommendations; 88 are pending a decision by March 2016; and 69 did not enjoy the support of the government. The accepted recommendations demonstrate considerable commitment of the government to address a number of important human rights issues in Myanmar.

LWF Myanmar conducted a follow-up seminar on 15 December 2015, also in Yangon to introduce the outcomes report of the Universal Periodic Review and provide a platform for a preliminary discussion on next steps for joint collaboration. The seminar was attended by 21 participants, which included representation from the Embassies of Australia and Switzerland; the European Union; Department of Social Welfare; INGOs and National NGOs.

LWF Myanmar will continue its engagement with the UPR process, starting with a workshop in January 2016 to decide steps in influencing the adoption of the pending recommendations ahead of the next hearing of the Human Rights Council on 17 March 2016 and how we can support the implementation of the agreed recommendations moving forward.

II. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We help strengthen existing community groups and committees, which include village development committees; youth groups; sub-committees for disaster risk management; and women's groups. Where community structures are not already in place, we support the formation of dedicated groups, such as task forces and committees that can work together towards common goals and objectives and with clear and agreed roles and responsibilities in relation to sustainable development; including measures to reduce disaster risk and what to do in an emergency situation.

We provide support to communities to learn and apply new skills that not only assist them to become active participants in decision-making and other process in the community but

also help improve their livelihood opportunities.

We also assist communities to build and maintain clean and safe water systems, while educating them about good hygiene practices and other ways to reduce health risks.

We assist communities in identifying other infrastructure needs; and in some cases provide support to the construction and/or retrofitting of schools, bridges, jetties and multi-purpose centres or halls that can serve as evacuation centres in an emergency.

We also assist communities in setting up small-scale loans and savings schemes and support various initiatives to enhance access to health and education.

We have found that certain potentially vulnerable households, individuals or groups

often need special encouragement to participate in rights based and sustainable development planning, advocacy, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. Such households are termed as 'Partner Households'. They are identified through a participatory process of 'well-being ranking'. In general not more than 10% of the households are selected. By providing encouragement, awareness, capacity building, planning tools and some strategic assets, the Partner Households (and other identified vulnerable individuals or groups such as children, youth, women and persons with disabilities) will become informed, organized and empowered to actively engage in their community affairs.

Enhancing access to clean and safe water



U Shwi Har, VDC's treasurer standing next to the new water supply system at Shane village, Mindat Township, Chin State.

LWF Myanmar supports the construction of water supply systems and other measures to enhance access to clean and safe water both in the Delta and in Chin State.

In 2015, LWF Myanmar supported a pond fencing initiative in Bogalay for drinking water. In Chin State, LWF Myanmar also supported the

construction of two water supply systems in Mindat Township and two in Matupi Township. A total of 632 people (312 female; 320 male) benefited from these systems.

LWF Myanmar provided over 3 million Kyat (approximately USD 3,000) to the Village Development Committee (VDC) to construct a

new water supply system in Shane Village in Chin State, a remote village of 85 people.

Community members contributed labour costs to the construction of water tanks and the installation of water pipes. The new water supply system includes a water filter tank (2ftx2.5ft) and a water storage tank (4ftx4ft) for 8 households living in the higher area of the village; and a receptive water tank (5ftx3ft), a water filter tank (3ftx3ft) and a water storage tank (7ftx7ft) for the remaining 7 households living in the lower area. Three lines of 1inch PVC pipes are connected to the water storage tanks to distribute clean water to all 15 households.

U Shwi Har, 50, is the treasurer of the Village Development Committee (VDC) and his wife, **Daw Lain War**, 42, is treasurer for a women's group in the village. He explained that "previously, rubbish, toads and worms were present in the water as it comes directly from the streams. Both adults and children used to suffer from diarrhoea from drinking unclean water. We now know there is a difference between cleanliness and dust. Now there is no need to boil the water and I feel more confident to drink it."

Promoting healthy practices in communities



Ma Wai Nwe Lwin giving health awareness session to a small women group at her home in Shwe Taung Su village, Pyapon Township.

LWF Myanmar supports a range of initiatives designed to improve health and healthy practices in communities.

In 2015, LWF Myanmar provided 120 Partner Households with hygiene kits in 22 villages in Mindat Township and 3 villages in Matupi Townships in Chin State. Moreover, LWF Myanmar supported the construction of household latrines in 4 villages in Mindat and 9 villages in Matupi Township, which benefitted 370 households.

LWF Myanmar also supports Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) and staff from the Department of Health in Rural Health Centres.

To improve coordination, LWF Myanmar facilitated 8 workshops in 2015 in 4 townships in the Delta that were designed to bring government staff, the community members and volunteers together.

LWF Myanmar also conducts 5-day Primary Health Care training for Village Health Volunteers in Twantay, Pyapon and Bogalay Townships in the

Delta; and in Mindat and Matupi Townships in Chin State. A total of 160 volunteers (104 females; 56 males) benefited from this training in 2015. Additionally, LWF Myanmar provides pamphlets and supports awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS; reproductive health; and primary health care. More than 1,200 people attended these sessions in 2015.

Ma Wai Nwe Lwin is 27 years old and lives with her parents in Shwe Taung Su Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyarwady Region. She is Grade 9 educated. She became a Village Health Volunteer in 2012 and attends refresher trainings each year, supported by LWF Myanmar.

She explained the benefits of the support received from LWF Myanmar, “Through attending training supported by LWF Myanmar, I received knowledge on infectious diseases and how to prevent infections. The main training subjects are pregnancy care, dengue fever and reproductive health which are all useful for villagers. Each year, they revise the training curriculum but topics are the same. I really enjoy attending the VHV training series. Previously I had no idea about the prevention and caution of these diseases. Since I am not a doctor, I can only educate others. I talk about health whenever I have a chance particularly in meetings. I visit Partner Households (PHs) together with LWF staff very often to give them health awareness. As time has passed by, villagers now come and ask me about health especially Partner Household members. The most common diseases in the village are dengue, diarrhoea, and tuberculosis. Compared to 2012, villagers’ interest in health has increased significantly. They mostly ask me how to prevent dengue and about reproductive health. Now they have knowledge about dengue, they take their children to the nearest clinic as soon as they notice the symptoms. I also feel that I help my family too. They don not have to worry so much because of me.”

Improving livelihood opportunities through collaboration with government departments

LWF Myanmar works closely with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments at Township level in the Delta and Chin State; with the Schools for Home Science of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Chin State; and with the Department of Social Welfare in the Delta.

The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with LWF Myanmar conducts good agriculture practice and home gardening training in the Delta; and conducts training on elephant foot yam cultivation in Chin state. 171 people (103 females; 68 males) benefitted from these trainings in 2015.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, in collaboration with LWF Myanmar conducts training on livestock breeding and animal health care in both the Delta and Chin State. 182 people (122 females; 60 males) benefitted from these trainings in 2015. A further 63 Partner Households have been supported to raise pigs, chickens and goats in 14 villages in Mindat Township.

The Schools for Home Science, in collaboration with LWF Myanmar conducts basic sewing and tailoring training. A total of 39 young females benefitted from this training in 2015.

The Department of Social Welfare conducted fried snack making and clothes making training for 64 women's group members in the Delta.

These trainings are intended not only to demonstrate techniques but also help build better relationships between villagers and government line departments.

45 - year - old **U Kyaw Min Thant** has been working as a Township Officer in the Department of Agriculture in Mindat Township in Chin State since March 2014. He said of

the training: "I am fond of the rights-based empowerment approach of LWF Myanmar. Because of the agricultural support from LWF Myanmar, farmers become independent and become self - reliant. Apart from the trainings and

awareness sessions, distribution of seeds can help community members start up. Chin State has a difficult transportation system, which means high consumer prices. Therefore, home gardening can save kitchen expenses and it will help families to get external income at some point. The Agriculture Department will continue keeping a good relationship with LWF Myanmar in the future. We would like to conduct upland rice row method training and upland rice experiment plot training for farmers."



U Kyaw Min Thant, Township Officer, Township Agriculture Department, Mindat Township, Chin State.

Establishment of Rice Banks for Improved Food Security in Chin State

The main source of livelihood in Mindat Township in Chin State is shifting cultivation. Community members are frequently faced with food shortage problems as crops are destroyed because of irregular climate patterns.

To improve food security, particularly in the months between June and August in Mindat Township, Chin State, LWF Myanmar supported the establishment of rice banks in 10 villages in 2015. With the help of LWF Myanmar, Village Development Committees and villagers set up rules and regulations for the management of these rice banks.

Htone King Village is situated in Wummathu Village Tract in Mindat Township, Chin State. The total population is 96 (50 females and 46 males) and the village has 18 households.

U Se Maung Phay who lives in Htone King Village is 35 years old. He is living together with his mother, wife and 4 children. He is the breadwinner of the family and gets income, like many, by shifting cultivation. He actively engages with LWF Myanmar to work for the development of his own village. He is Secretary of the Rice Bank and also the Chairperson of the Village Development Committee (VDC).

Discussion began in February 2015, between **Tam Khui Shing**, Community Empowerment Facilitator (CEF) of LWF Myanmar and communities from Htone King Village about establishing a rice bank. Two months later, a rice bank committee was formed with 5 members (1 female; 4 males). For the initial investment, each household contributed 42kg of millet so

which is enough to buy 40 rice sacks and the community contributed a further 10. On 23 May 2015, rice bank committee members, together with villagers drafted the rules and regulations of the rice bank committee in a mass meeting. Then, the committee began giving rice loans to its members at an interest rate of 3%. The payment term is one year.



Rice bank committee members taking rice loans happily in the rice barn at Htone King village, Mindat Township, Chin State.

U Se Maung Phay explained the changes in the agricultural habits of villagers, “Before establishing the rice bank, villagers were mainly focused on shifting cultivation. After forming the rice bank, they can spare more time for farming elephant foot yam and turmeric. Besides, we do not need to borrow rice from other villages and feel embarrassed. We can take rice loans within the village regardless of the season.”

the committee received a total of 749kg. U Se Maung Phay said, “We had absolute unity from villagers as we started with a local product”

In May 2015, LWF contributed USD 231,

In order to sustain the rice bank, members will sell all 749kg of millet in 2016 to swap for rice sacks. Moreover, members plan to donate one rice sack for elders and family members to help with funeral costs in the village from 2016 onwards.

Strengthening women's groups for equitable development

LWF Myanmar supports over 70 women groups across all project areas. The support provided includes training on book-keeping; leadership and group management training; business skills training; and awareness sessions on CEDAW and women's rights and CRC and child rights in addition to training on farming techniques, livestock breeding and vocational training.

The women groups are also supported to

set up loans and saving schemes to support the set up of their own businesses; and provide for themselves and their families.

Daw Om Shen is 27 years old and secretary of one women group in Chin State that has 18 members. She explained that members' financial problems are solved because of the saving and loan scheme. "We do not have to worry about money anymore since we do not need to borrow money from external lenders



Daw Law Young saving money in a saving box during the meeting in Im Hmum village, Mindat Township, Chin State.

that charge high interest rates. Each member can borrow 3 times her share amount. The interest rate is only 3% and we can repay after 4 months. These regulations are really useful and beneficial for us."

Daw Law Young, another member shared her hopes for the group with enthusiasm. "Our group is becoming stronger. We dare to talk and discuss in front of people with confidence. There is less absence in group meetings. I believe that members will be much more united and will participate in village development."



Women group members discussing saving and loan scheme in Im Hmum village, Mindat Township, Chin State.

Improving access to education



Students attending the school using the student kits in Im Hmum village, Mindat Township, Chin State.

LWF Myanmar supports a range of initiatives designed to improve access to education.

In consultation with the Department of Education in Chin State, LWF Myanmar supported the construction of 2 new school buildings in Mindat Township and 2 new buildings in Matupi Township in 2015. Additionally, 25 sets of furniture were provided in Matupi Township.

LWF Myanmar also conducted training on the roles of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)

and child rights for a total of 292 people (98 females; 194 males) in Mindat Township. LWF Myanmar also distributed school kits to 2,737 students in 54 schools in Mindat and Matupi Townships.

In the Delta, LWF Myanmar, in consultation with the Department of Education, repaired the ceiling of 1 primary school in Dedaye; and fixed the fence of another school in Bogalay. Additionally, 11 young females received pre-school teacher training.

Reducing disaster risk

Communities are supported by LWF Myanmar to reduce and manage risk from the plethora of natural hazards they are exposed to.

In 2015, LWF Myanmar supported 275 Partner Households in Chin State; and 514 Partner Households in the Delta to prepare household preparedness plans and provided each household with approximately USD10 to implement the plan. LWF Myanmar assisted the Village Development Committees and CBDRM sub-committees prepare disaster preparedness plans for 50 villages in the Delta. LWF Myanmar provided each of the 50 villages with approximately USD100 to

implement the plans.

LWF Myanmar also conducted training on climate change and natural resource management for 76 members (11 females; 65 males) of community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) sub-committees from Mindat and Matupi Townships. LWF Myanmar also supported the CBDRM sub-committees to do a plastic management campaign; and facilitated linkages between the CBDRM and the Forest Department for tree planting in 4 townships in the Delta.



U Aye Hlaing informing early warning messages to reduce disaster risk in Hta Ni Pat village, Dedaye Township.

III. RESPONDING TO BASIC NEEDS AND ENABLING RECOVERY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In the event of a disaster, whether it is man-made or caused by a natural hazard, LWF Myanmar engages in emergency response and recovery.

LWF Myanmar conducts inclusive

and participatory needs assessments with the affected communities. Our support to the communities is based on this assessment and initial relief items vary from situation to situation. In addition to relief items, LWF

Myanmar provides practical support that enables affected populations to recover their livelihoods; and get affected children back in school as soon as possible.

Providing immediate relief to flood-affected communities across 5 States and Regions

On 30 July 2015, Cyclone Komen made landfall in Bangladesh, affecting Myanmar. The cyclone brought about gale-force winds in addition to the monsoon rains, which resulted in unexpected flash floods and triggered deadly landslides across 12 of the 14 States and Regions of the country. According to OCHA, over 1.6 million people were temporarily displaced; 550,000 children were affected; 4,100 schools were damaged, with 608 destroyed; 468,000 houses were damaged, with 21,000 completely destroyed; and 840,000 acres of farmland was destroyed.

This was the worst natural disaster to have hit the country since Cyclone Nargis in 2008. LWF Myanmar responded to the floods in 5 States and Regions.

As part of the ACT Appeal, LWF Myanmar repaired the houses of 54 households in Ann Township; and provided non-food item kits to 97 households in Ponnakyun Township in Rakhine State. Additionally, LWF Myanmar provided food items for 24 households; and drinking water to 2,600 students in Twantay in the Delta.

LWF Myanmar also provided 35 IDP students with student kits in Kyauktaw; 463 households in Mrauk U with blankets; and 9,200 students with exercise books in 32 government

and IDP community schools and 2,029 households with food packages containing rice, pulses, oil and salt to in Ponnakyun, Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Minbya and Ann Townships in Rakhine State. In Chin State, a further 123 households were reached with food items in 13 villages in Mindat Township.

Additionally, in collaboration with UNHCR, LWF Myanmar repaired the houses of 508 households in Kyauktaw Township and provided 322 persons with disabilities with blankets, bed sheets, mattresses, solar lamps and other items in Sittwe and Pauktaw IDP camps. On behalf of the World Food Programme (WFP), LWF Myanmar reached 1,577 households (total 7,885 people) with food packages containing rice, pulses, oil and salt in 11 villages in Kyauktaw, Mrauk U and Minbya Townships in Rakhine State.

With assistance from Diaconia ECCB, LWF Myanmar distributed blankets to 197 persons with disabilities in Sittwe IDP camps; and core non-food item kits to 1,175 households in Pauktaw IDP camps in Rakhine State.

Thanks to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Myanmar (ELCM), Lutheran Church of Myanmar (LCM) and Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC), food reached 350 households in Shwedaung

Township in Bago Region; 501 households in 6 villages in Kalaymyo and Kanan Townships in Sagaing; and 389 households in 11 villages in Paletwa Township in Chin State respectively. Six roads were also repaired in 5 villages in Matupi Township in Chin State by the Mara Evangelical Church (MEC), benefitting 7,110 community members who utilize the roads.



Women carrying CRC exercise books in Row Ma Ni village, Mrauk U Township, Rakhine State.

Helping to rebuild lives in flood-affected areas



U Kyaw Thein proudly stands with his family outside their home in Bauk Ywar village, Mrauk-U Township, Rakhine State.

U Kyaw Thein is a 61-year-old subsistence farmer in Bauk Ywar village, Mrauk-U Township, Rakhine State. The floods in 2015 badly damaged his home, as well as his livelihood that he had spent years building up.

When the water was already chest-deep, he tried to pull his cows to safety. “I was very

tired from pulling them; I thought I would drown as well. I was very afraid. I was not able to save them”.

As the water kept rising to the second floor of his house, U Kyaw tied bamboo poles together to make a makeshift raft. Together with his wife and three youngest children, they floated

to a nearby monastery, where they survived on food donations for the next five days.

Returning home, the full extent of the damage became visible. “Seven acres of my farmland was destroyed,” U Kyaw Thein said. “The water also ruined 50 bags of our paddy seeds. We had them in store for the next planting season. The water also carried away most of my farming tools, so I thought, what can I do now? I can’t harvest. I also lost 12 of my chickens”.

The water also damaged the family’s latrine and one of his daughters lost all her schoolbooks and supplies. “Everything was damaged by the water, my school was closed for two weeks”, she said.

“I was so worried,” U Kyaw recalls. “After the flood we returned to our house. We could not eat. We could not sleep. How would we survive? My family wanted to leave this village and move far away – somewhere the flood would not reach us if it happened again”.

Support from LWF Myanmar, however, gave him the hope and courage to start again in their old village. He received rice, cooking oil, salt, pulses, drinking water for 15 days; and blankets and other essential non-food items.

Relinking villages in flood-affected areas

In 2015, LWF assisted Mara Evengelical Church (MEC) to build a 150 feet long and 4 feet wide motorbike bridge over river Hoha that connects Lailenpi and Pasai villages in Matupi Township in Chin State, which was completed on 3 June.

Without this bridge, it takes almost three days to go between the two villages. With this bridge the trip is one day, making a huge difference to the people who live in these villages and opened up new market opportunities for Pasai village. Furthermore, government health workers from Lailenpi village started visiting regularly and the bridge was a source of peace in mind to children attending school in Lailenpi. **Ma Ngelithet**, a nine standard student says, “I am the first girl student who came alone from Pasai to Lailenpi within one day in the month of June.”

Unfortunately, Cyclone Komen and subsequent flooding damaged the bridge. MEC approached LWF for renovation support. LWF agreed and the bridge is now usable again.

Rebuilding livelihoods in conflict-affected communities in Rakhine State



U A Phyu Maung is ready to fish in Ba Won Chaung Wa Su camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

LWF started implementing livelihoods activities in Rakhine State in partnership with Federal Foreign Office (AA) and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), Germany in May 2015. The aim of the project that will run until April 2016 is to promote living conditions and build relationships between the IDPs, and host and nearby communities in Rakhine State. Over 24,000 people from 11 camps and nearby villages in Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships are expected to benefit from the project.

As part of the project, LWF Myanmar constructed and repaired shelters, toilets, road, pathways, foot bridges, culverts, school building,

Pauktaw general hospital waiting room and fenced water ponds. LWF Myanmar also supported 240 HHs for home gardening; 49 families received fishing nets; 20 HHs received fishing boats; and 45 women received tailoring/dress making training.

U A Phyu Maung is a 47-year-old fisherman who lives in Ba Wan Chaung Wa Su camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State. He has a wife and 8 children and relies on fishing for his livelihood.

“I used to own a fishing boat but it was destroyed during the conflict in 2012. I didn’t have a boat for about 3 years. During that time, I sold vegetables in the Pauktaw market. The profit was not stable,” he explained.

“I had my own fishing net but I had to borrow or rent a boat from others. After LWF Myanmar provided me with a fishing boat, all the profit is now mine as I do not need to rent one anymore.”

He shared his future goal. “I would like to expand my fishing business. If I earn enough money, I will buy one more boat. Then I will sell fish in Sittwe Town. Three out of my eight children are attending school in Pauktaw. Because of fishing, I can support my children’s education much more effectively.”

Enhancing access to education in Rakhine State

In collaboration with Rakhine State Education Department, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Myanmar, is implementing education activities in Government schools and IDP camps. The European Union (EU) is funding the project and Church of Sweden is the co-funder. The three year (2015-2017) project has renovated 12 Government schools, 3 each in Ann, Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships, to contribute to improved quality education of 6,162 students (49.9% girls). The activities also include training for 261 (81.6% female) teachers and 343 (39.4% female) PTA members.

In addition to the education activities in the 12 Government schools, in the IDP camps 6,408 (48% girl) children 3-17 years are benefitting from Child Friendly Space (CFS), Temporary Learning Space (TLS) and Non-Formal Education (NFE) including life skills training. Under this funding at present, 130 IDP paid Volunteers are teaching in 10 CFSs, 15 TLSs, and 20 NFEs.

Another important aspect to the education work of LWF in Rakhine is UNICEF. Through UNICEF support LWF has reached 13,221 (41.8% girl) children 6-17 years inside and outside the IDP camps through 42 TLSs

(including 9 Government schools in the IDP area) and 18 NFE centers. 192 IDP teachers do the teaching. 15 Government schools were also renovated.

U Yar Zar Mi Yar is a Camp Management Committee (CMC) leader in NgetChaung 1 camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State. He has six adult children and three grandchildren.

“We have over 200 children who are under 5 years old in the camp,” he said.

“Every day, children were having minor accidents while playing because there was no specific place for them to play around,” he said.

“Child-friendly spaces are a good thing for parents and children in the camp. Children are very happy. Even though my children are all grown up, I can send my three grandchildren to these spaces. They do not have to play outside anymore. They can go and play with the toys. It is good for their safety and security,” he added.



Constructing Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Nget Chaung 1 camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

Challenges in our working environment

Although LWF Myanmar manages to reach a large number of Myanmar people, we do face some challenges in our working environment. These include:

- Poor internet and telecommunication services, which hinders information sharing between Yangon and field offices.
- Limited capacity and resources of government departments, which can pose challenges to collaboration.
- Some areas are difficult to access due to poor roads, which can cause higher transportation costs.
- Some areas require non-Myanmar nationals to have travel authorization or other special permission, which can take time to obtain.
- Some project areas are non-government controlled, requiring liaison with ethnic minority armed groups to obtain approval for project implementation.
- High staff turnover rate, which can affect project performance.
- Landmines in Kayin State, which limits mobility in the region and poses a risk to all staff and communities.

- Language barriers in Muslim IDP camps.
- Urban migration.
- IDPs are not officially registered yet making it difficult to obtain and maintain proper records.
- Restrictions on movement for Muslim IDPs, resulting in difficulties in accessing proper shelter, livelihood opportunities, health and education, and ultimately aid dependency.

Monitoring trip of LWF staff to Ro village, Mindat Township from Pyone village after cyclone Komen affected in Chin State.



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A girl carrying a vessel for collecting water walks past a village in Rakhine State.

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