

Endline Survey Report

For the **Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People Project**
July 2020



Compiled by










covenant consult



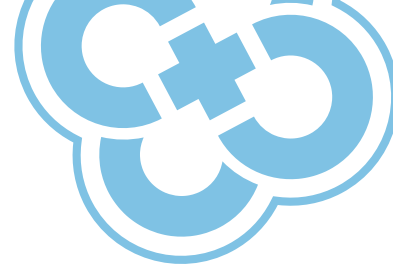
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List of Abbreviations



CBO	Community Based Organization	MPSI	Myanmar Peace Support Initiative
CC	Covenant Consult	MSC	Most Significant Change Stories
CFC	Community Forestry Certificate	MTR	Midterm Review
CVTC	Community Vocational Training Centre	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ELDP	Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (project)	OECD DAC	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	SRG	Self-Reliance Group
FMO	Fund Management Office	TKPSI	Tanintharyi Karen Peace Support Initiative
FUG	Forest User Group	ToC	Theory of Change
GoUM	Government of the Union of Myanmar	ToR	Terms of Reference
HHs	Households	ToT	Training of Trainers
IDP	Internally Displaced People	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
KDN	Karen Development Network	USD	United States Dollar (1\$ = 1.400 MMK)
KNU	Karen National Union	VDC	Village Development Committee
LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Trust	VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation for Accountability and Learning		
MMK	Myanmar Kyat; 1,400 MMK is approximately 1 USD		

Funded by



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Executive Summary

The Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP) project had been funded by Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT). Under LIFT's Uplands Programme, the project focused on three key areas: (1) building skills through vocational training, (2) enabling IDP villages to find secured access to natural resources and (3) enhancing community-based organizations by social protection. The project was implemented in 33 villages with Internally-Displaced-People (IDP) of three townships in the Tanintharyi Region. The duration of the three-year project has been from 4 July 2016 until 30 June 2019. In order to sustain the LIFT-funded vocational training institution, the project received a one-year cost extension lasting until June 2020. Hence, a smooth phasing out of the VSLA group support, including the technical support that was provided to all established saving groups, could be anticipated and prepared respectively.

The build-up and facilitation of the Community Vocational Training Center (CVTC) in Thayetchaung Township turned out to be the core activity of the project. There were six vocational training courses offered in total. The content and nature of the courses strongly correlated with the training needs of young people from the region while 516 training participants, mostly youths were trained within the life cycle of the project. The respective cycle of each ten-week training module included technical training, life skills and the knowledge transfer of essential know-how on small-scale entrepreneurship. The implementation and realization of suggested sustainability measures will determine whether CVTC is going to be able to maintain and further manifest its current significance for the region.

Well-functioning community structures (VDCs, CBOs, Committees) are essential sustainability components. In this context, the ELDP project significantly fostered and strengthened community development, primarily through training and supplies. The establishment of 21 functioning Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) considerably contributed to the empowerment of women and livelihood security. In regard to future saving cycles, women are encouraged and motivated to sustain existing village saving groups beyond the project life cycle.

The following key findings of this Endline survey have been captured from 344 HHs (HHs) of 15 project villages (three townships in Tanintharyi Region). With an average number of six persons,¹ the size of one household is relatively high. It should be noted that 62% of the Endline survey respondents were female.

KEY FINDINGS ACCORDING TO DEFINED PROJECT OUTCOMES

IDPs increase their income through new job opportunities and self-employment in small-scale entrepreneurship

- › The Endline data identifies less than 50% of all HHs as low-income HHs (with an income of no more than 150.000 MMK per month) and about the same figure (50%) as middle- and high-income HHs (with an income of over 250.000 MMK per month). The data from the Baseline Survey revealed that 66% of HHs were counted as low-income HHs while 34% of the HHs were identified in the middle- and high-income category. It can be concluded that the percentage of poor HHs decreased by 16% while the percentage of middle income and higher income HHs increased by 16%.
- › With a total of eight completed training batches, the ELDP CVTC project site was able to accommodate and train 615 vocational training participants in total (F-53%; M-47%). The comprehensive 10-week technical training modules included the components of life skills and small-scale entrepreneurship training and were complemented by the provision of small grants to those determined to launch a small business (F-113; M-83).

¹ Mean = 6.06 (sum of values divided by total number of cases)
Median = 6 (Middle attribute in the ranked distribution of observed attribute)



- › 72% of participants in Vocational Training at the CVTC were able to identify training-related activities and - jobs and/or business activities.
 - › The percentage of HHs that took out a credit for purchasing food and paying bills for health services decreased by 5%. At the same time, the percentage of HHs which invested in business activities/land purchase doubled. In addition, the percentage of HHs that took out new loans to pay back previous loans decreased by 60 percent.
 - › Food security in the ELDP target area increased by 53%. In addition, the lean season of three to six months declined to less than three months toward the end of the project.
 - › 75% of all respondents agree that Vocational Training supported HHs to improve in livelihood security and the level of income.
- IDP households obtain safe access to land- and tenure rights and are able to utilize and manage local natural resources (community forests)**
- › The ELDP project supported farmers to obtain KNU land use certificates for over three thousand acre of agriculture land. In contrast to 2017, when only 27% of all target HHs indicated to obtain 'official' (formally recognized) land use certificates, 28% - 55% of all HHs in 2020 mentioned to hold official land use certificates, issued exclusively by the KNU.
 - › Within the timeframe of the ELDP project life cycle, the size of owned, mostly purchased, farmland, increased by 16%.
 - › During the project cycle, the percentage of functioning community forest user groups increased from 41% (Baseline) to now 84%.

- › Food security in the ELDP target area increased by 53 %. In addition, toward the end of the project, a decline of the lean season of three to six months to less than three months could be observed.
- › The percentage of HHs that took out a credit for purchasing food and paying bills for health services decreased by 5 %. At the same time, the percentage of HHs which invested in business activities/land purchase doubled. In addition, the percentage of HHs that took out new loans to pay back previous loans decreased by 60 percent.
- › 70% of villagers still hold the opinion that land grabbing is an ongoing issue in their community. Those who have not yet received officially recognized land titles continue to be concerned about land- and livelihood security.
- › Food security in the ELDP target area increased by 53 %. In addition, the lean season of three to six months declined to less than three months toward the end of the project.
- › The percentage of HHs that took out a credit for purchasing food and paying bills for health services decreased by 5 %. At the same time, the percentage of HHs which invested in business activities/land purchase doubled. In addition, the percentage of HHs that took out new loans to pay back previous loans decreased by 60 percent.
- › The successful VSLA model has contributed to food- and livelihood security in villages. Therefore, 86% of existing VSLA groups are planning to continue with saving cycles. In total, 96 % of VSLA members rank the VSLA model as beneficial.

Fostered resilience of IDP communities by establishing and strengthening village committees, microfinance and link-ages between villages and public services

- › The Endline data reveals that about 96% of community HHs consider community organizations as beneficial and that about 90% of all HHs confirmed an improved structure and functionality of community organizations within the project's life cycle.
- › The CVTC became a NSSA skill testing center outpost for three of the vocational training courses (Carpentry, Masonry, Mechanic). Technical trainers are certified and trainees receive a NSSA-recognized certificate.
- › With a total of eight completed training batches, the ELDP-CVTC project site was able to accommodate and train 615 vocational training participants (F-53%, M-47%) at the CVTC. The comprehensive 10-week technical training modules included the components of life skills and small-scale entrepreneurship training and were complemented by the provision of small grants to those who were determined to launch a small business (F-113; M-83).
- › 79% of VDCs gained greater levels of confidence and felt empowered through their training and the project's support. They are able to better articulate the villagers' needs to the KNU and the GoUM authorities.
- › 75% of all respondents agree that Vocational Training supported HHs to improve in livelihood security and the level of income.

BASELINE – END LINE COMPARISON

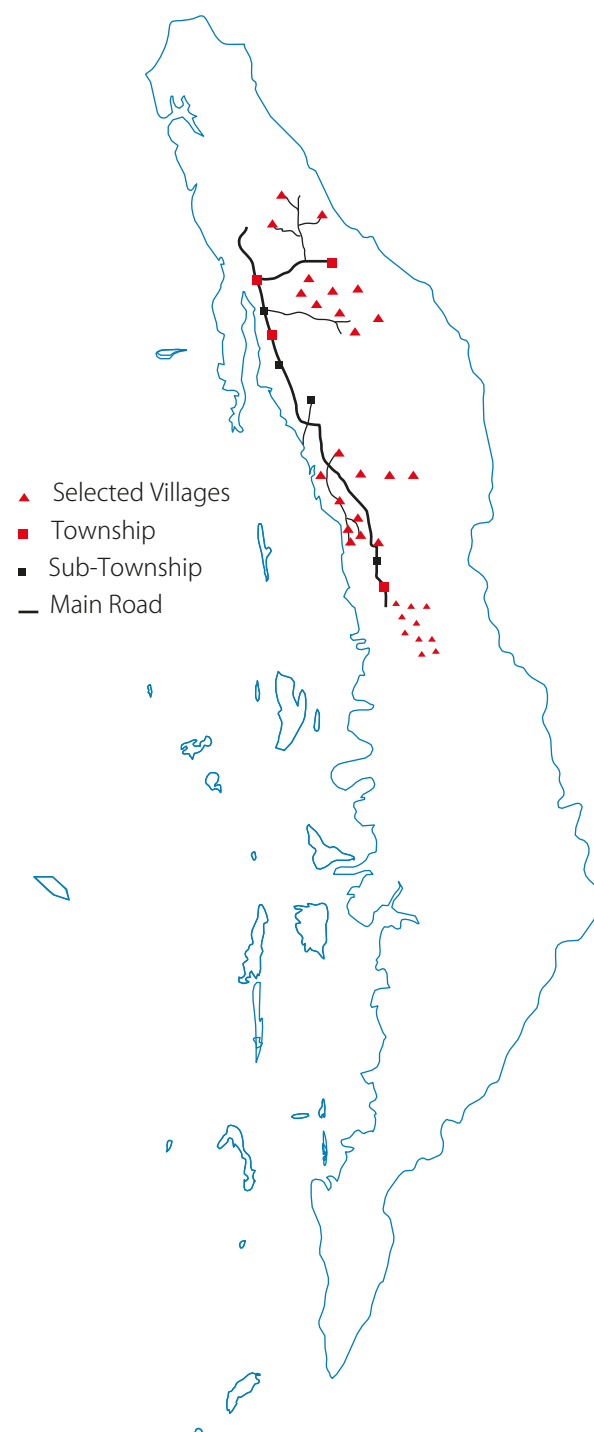
Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	End Line
HLO: CVTC is sustainable	Examples provide solid evidence to proof that VTC are functionally and structurally sustainable (evidence includes case studies that demonstrate that the progress toward sustainability has been achieved)	Any type of training received: 89%: No 10%: Yes 1%: Don't know	Six relevant VT courses. Solid management structure. Board of directors in place. Strong community support.
HLO: IDP- initiated small-scale entrepreneurship is successful	# of IDPs (sex-disaggregated) who successfully completed vocational training; who successfully established small-scale business projects		Female training graduates with successful entrepreneurship: 113 Male training graduates with successful entrepreneurship: 83
	# of successful small-scale businesses by IDPs		64 entrepreneurship stories
HLO: IDPs gained higher employment opportunities	# and % of successful IDP-VT graduates who became beneficiaries of “decent work” opportunities		Graduates: 615 people Percentage of graduates actively utilizing skills = 72%
HLO: Land-use and CF certificates are achieved	# of Community Forrest (CF) certificates	62%: Yes 28%: No 9%: Don't know. CF Registration 3% Government 64% Indigenous 15% KNU 18% Don't know	11 Community Forest Areas registered GoUM 2 KNU 9 4665 acres in total 4,249 acres are KNU certified 417 acres are GoUM certified
	% and # of IDPs (sex-disaggregated) who received land-use certificates (from both, KNU and government authorities)	Land titles received: Yes: 27% No: 73%	Total 299 farmers (F-89, M-210) (KNU only)
	# of acres under land-use certificates		3,033 acres (KNU)
HLO: The level of government, township authority and NSAs are well informed about local development issues	% and # of IDPs reported that the quality of public service given by service providers has improved	Public Services 6%: Excellent 80%: Good 12%: Fair 1%: Not good 1%: No comment	94% of people believe that public services have improved during the last 2 years.
	# and types of stakeholders informed by local development plans		8 types of stakeholders: GAD, FD, Land Record Department, City Development Department, Information and Communication Department, Education Department, DSW, DRD Stakeholder # in total: 287
HLO: Improved livelihood- and food security of people involved	% and # of IDPs (sex- disaggregated data) who are able to find access to rice in lean seasons with low cost	Access to foods: 37%: Yes, 63%: No	Increase of access to rice in lean season by 53%
	# of vulnerable HHs' (IDPs) with access to loans with low interest rates in times of need	Food shortage 3-6 months Interest rate per month 6%: 5-10% 40%: 3-5% 32%: 1-3% 21%: None	Food shortage > 3 months
	Evidence-proved examples demonstrate improvements in the livelihood status among IDPs		14 MSC Stories (partly included in Annex)

Introduction

Armed conflicts between the Myanmar Army and ethnic armed groups (EAG) continue to have profound consequences for the overall wellbeing of local populations in the South-east of Myanmar. In response to the LIFT call for proposals in 2015, the ELDP consortium proposed the project in order to respond to the needs of IDP HHs in three townships in the Tanintharyi Region. The ELDP project has been awarded to KDN as the lead agency, together with TKPSI and Covenant Consult Co. Ltd. as consortium members to undergo and support the implementation. The project was implemented between July 2016 and June 2020, with a total budget of 2,237,414 USD. The Midterm Review (MTR) underlined the value of a one-year cost extension which was finally granted by the LIFT fund board. The one-year cost-extension period was designed to further stabilize and consolidate the project results, with a particular emphasis on the vocational training institution that was established by the project.

The project implementation management was under the supervision of the consortium team, based at the TKPSI office in Dawei. The project's overall oversight was under the authority of KDN and the technical support had been provided by Covenant Consult Co. Ltd. The ELDP project covered an area of 33 villages in three townships throughout the Tanintharyi Region. The target population of the project were Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who experienced displacement during the armed conflict between the Myanmar military forces (Tatmadaw) and the Karen National Union (KNU).

33 Villages of ELDP (Tanintharyi)



The purpose of the project was built on three pillars:

- A. To increase livelihood opportunities through the establishment of a vocational training center
- B. To support natural resource management, community forest registration and safe access to land
- C. To increase the resilience of HHs through raising awareness and by fostering and strengthening community structures, establishing micro-finance and by creating linkages between HHs and public services.

IDP communities in the target area of the Tanintharyi Region encounter a wide range of challenges and difficulties. Long-standing conflicts resulted in up-rootedness of people and the destruction of their livelihoods and traditional social security systems. In this context, the project identified the following three outcomes in order to address relevant needs of IDP communities in sustainable manners.

The project's three expected outcomes are:

- 1. IDPs increase their income through new job opportunities and self-employment by the means of small-scale entrepreneurship (small business)
- 2. IDP HHs obtain safe access to land- and tenure rights and are able to utilize and manage local natural resources (community forests)
- 3. The resilience of IDP communities improves by setting up support mechanisms for village development committees, microfinance and linkages between IDP HHs and public services

The ELDP project aimed to target and address the needs of vulnerable rural people with displacement experiences. These rural, mostly Karen communities faced a range of challeng-

es which resulted in significant livelihood insecurities while they tried to recover from the impact of armed conflict and displacement on their lives. The project targeted a catchment population of approximately 15,365 people of approximately 2,600 HHs in 33 villages throughout three townships. The project emphasized the close involvement of and dialogue between village communities, village-based organizations and local authorities of both, the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM), and the Karen National Union (KNU), as it deemed appropriate in the area.

The ELDP-MTR of 2018 revealed the positive contribution of the vocational training program to training participants' technical skill-building and increased life skills and knowledge in small business enterprise through training. When the MTR was conducted in July 2018, the newly established training institution was well on track and provided vocational training in six distinct learning disciplines to mostly young people in the age of 15 up to 35 years. The vocational training program also included young people who dropped out of formal schooling. The results of the MTR also revealed the need for setting up institutionalizing measures for the Community Vocational Training Center (CVTC). Therefore, it had been suggested to consider a one-year cost-extension of the project.



End Line Survey Methodology

The methodology for this Endline survey was a mixed methodology which combined quantitative with qualitative data collection processes. According to appropriate guidelines for conducting an Endline survey, the Baseline questionnaire served as a model for designing the Endline questionnaire respectively. The Endline research analysis phase accurately compared Baseline data with data captured through the Endline survey in order to ensure reliability and validity of assumptions made in terms of project outputs and outcomes. For data collection processing, Covenant used the KOBO Toolbox provided on tablets to be distributed among the enumerator team members. One field-testing session had been conducted in order to familiarize all enumerators with the questions and to ensure that the survey questions were clearly understood by villagers.

In order to conduct the research according to decision guidelines of KDN and LIFT program teams and base research findings on a statistically valid sample size of villages and HHs, the project team and enumerators collected data from 15 target villages. The calculation process to determine the actual sample size utilized in this Endline survey (number of HHs interviewed) was laid out in the TOR and is based on **344 HHs** from 15 villages. By taking the total number of 3,285 HHs of 33 villages into account, the actual sample size is considered as a statistically valid sample that ensures a confidence level of 95%.

Before the respective questionnaires were reviewed and finalized, the field data collection team was trained and the KOBO toolbox system was tested at the village level. Following steps shaped the data collection process:

Training of data enumerators	10-13 February 2020
KOBO field testing	14 February 2020
Review of survey tool	17 February 2020
Data gathering period	18– 28 February 2020

Before conducting interviews in the field, the enumerator teams received workshop-based pre-exposure to doing field research. This pre-exposure training included reflections on the importance of creating friendly atmospheres and to build rapport with research respondents during household visits. During the field research phase, the enumerators had the opportunity for debriefing and reflecting on day events at the end of each working day in the villages and to share experiences with the coordinator.

Further details about sample size calculations are described in the TOR for this Endline survey. The structure of the Endline report is designed in line with the Baseline survey report. Despite some changes in the project measurement plan, key aspects remained unchanged and have guided the design of the ELDP project Endline survey. The final version of the Endline survey questionnaire had been reviewed and approved by LIFT.

End Line Survey Findings

FINDINGS ON GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Gender Roles

The findings are based on data captured from 344 HH interviews in target villages as well as on data collected through the project monitoring system. The MEAL project staff closely collaborated with field staff in order to regularly collect quantitative as well as complementary qualitative data on project achievements. Qualitative data consisted of case studies and stories in terms of most significant change (MSC) to be reported on.

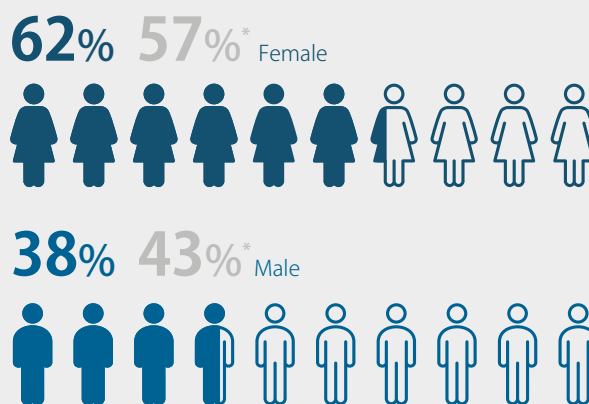
In total, the majority of the 344 HH interview respondents were women (62%). **However, most female interview participants (94%) did not consider themselves** as 'head of the household' but attributed eligibility for household leadership to their husbands. In contrast, **91% of the male respondents considered themselves as the head of the household.** However, it should be noted that primary informants for this End-line survey were women.

In line with this finding, it should be noted that out of 69% (roughly 2/3) of all female research respondents, 45% mentioned not having any leading role in the village. However, one small group of women (17%) do have public roles in committees, VSLA public roles including. Without taking women's public roles in VSLAs in consideration, only 14% of women function in roles of VDCs and water-and school committees.

With such rather low female leadership percentages in mind, the ELDP project actively supported the larger involvement of women by strengthening their leadership in management roles of VDCs and other key committees in village communities. The overall list of responsibilities is illustrated in the following chart.

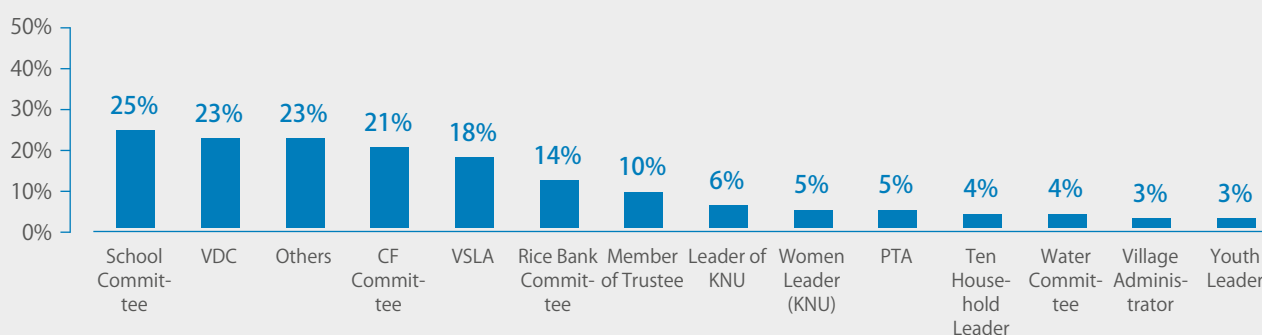
The number of household members, including children, directly influences aspects of food security, work distribution and workforce for farm activities. The average size of HHs was found with 6 HH members (Median=6, Mean=6.06).

RESPONDENTS SEX



*Baseline 2017

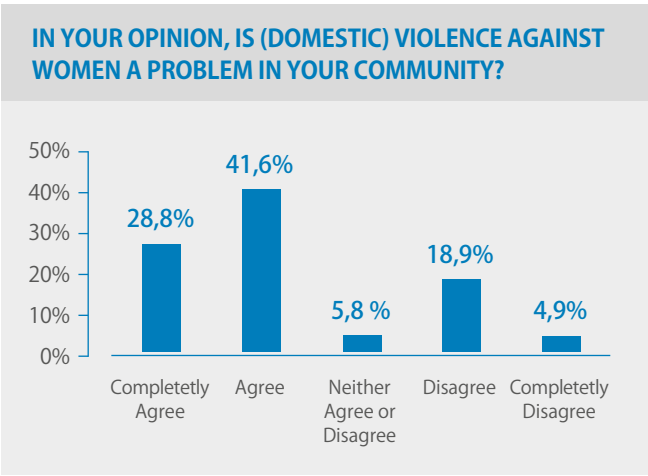
WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Within the project area of 33 villages across three townships in the Tanintharyi Region, five ethnic groups are part of the total number of beneficiaries. The majority group, however, are Karen people (Sgaw/Pwo) who make 94% of the project target HHs. A minor group of 6% is comprised of ethnic Burmese and ethnic Mon, including people from other ethnic regions of the country (i.e. Rakhine). Due to the fact that religion and spiritual orientation plays a significant role in people’s lives in Myanmar, the beneficiaries can be clustered into two groups: Christians (67% Protestants and 7% Catholics) and Buddhists (33%). These figures do not differ from the Baseline data. None of the HH respondents indicated being Muslim or Animist.

Domestic Violence

Development prospects and perspectives essentially depend on to what extent domestic violence is prevalent. Household members who experienced domestic violence are per se more vulnerable than those who haven’t. Today, even villagers from rural communities realize that domestic violence is a strong barrier for people’s overall development prospects. The Endline survey of the ELDP project also included a small assessment on community members’ perception of the existence of domestic violence in their communities. Almost 70% admitted that violence against women is real. The assessment’s overwhelming high percentage confirms that violence against women is a real problem in the communities.



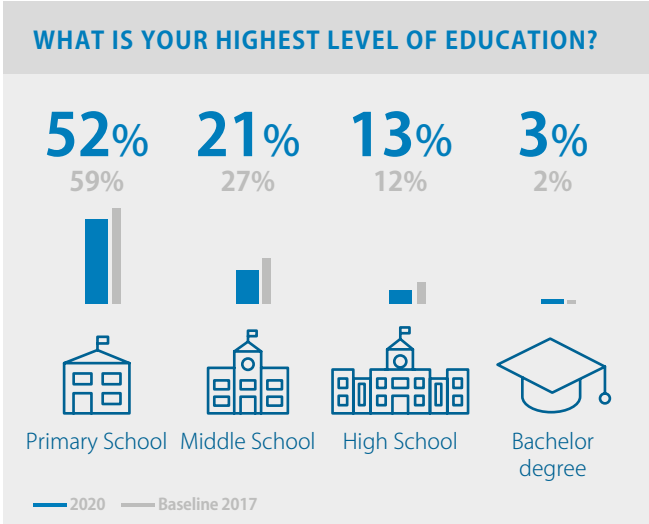
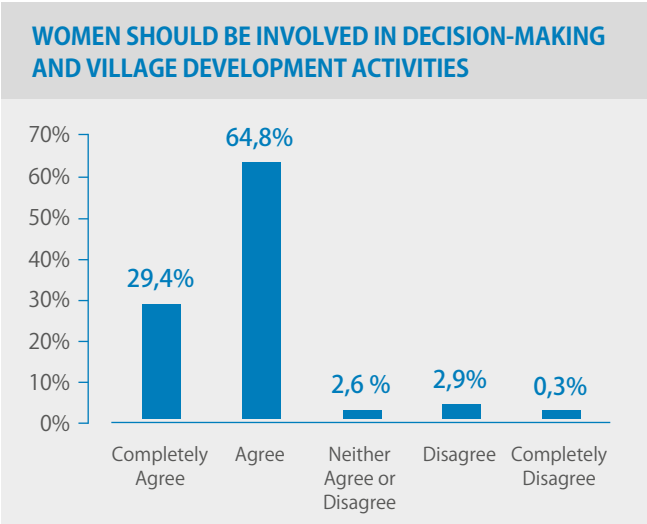
Interestingly, these opinions were not gender specific but were shared by both, men and women. In conclusion, it can be said that the Endline survey revealed that 72% of female and 68% of male respondents consider domestic violence as a serious problem in the communities.

HHs were also asked about persons with disabilities in their HHs. About 12% of all household respondents indicated that there are one or more of their household members with special needs or in need of caretaking. These people can be either persons with disabilities or elderly persons who require special care. It should be noted that the term ‘elderly’ is often used interchangeably with the term ‘disability’ in communities of Myanmar.

The equal involvement of men and women in decision-making processes is crucial. There is an increasing understanding about the value of a higher involvement of women in community leadership, decision-making and involvement in other public roles. However, in order to visibly perceive higher levels of women’s participation in leadership, it would require a fair distribution of domestic work and HH responsibilities between men and women. The Endline survey reflects the opinion of **94% of women and men** respondents who believe that women should be more involved in community development activities and decision-making processes. Such views are not primarily associated to the ‘output’ of project activities but to secondary dynamics of social change at large.

Level of Education in Respondents

Most of the respondents were married people (89%). The percentage remainder includes widowed or single people and single parents from all age groups. The level of education among the household respondents is represented by six levels of educational paths. The majority of people was able to complete Primary Education (52%), followed by a group who were able to complete Middle School (21%) and 13% of High School graduates. Unfortunately, 8% indicated not being able to complete any school education at all. Other education paths, such as Higher Education or Monastic education were also taken by some of the respondents. The data



on education can of course only be seen as a long-term development process and has thus not been influenced by the ELDP project. Therefore, Baseline education data and Endline survey data reflect similar findings, without indicating any significant changes.

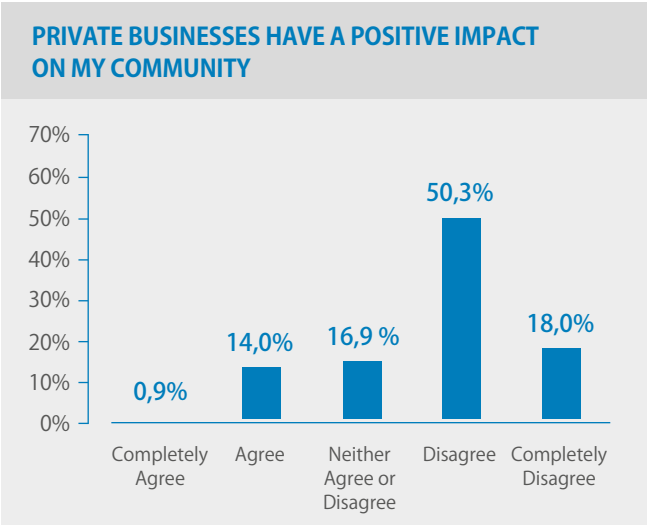
Respondents’ perceptions of the Impact NGOs and Private Businesses have on Community Development

Development progress is largely associated with the impact of the work of INGOs and their CSO partners. In the perspective of over **91%** of the Endline survey respondents, critical situations in communities have significantly improved in recent years. In the **Baseline** survey, respondents (74%) perceived NGOs and CSOs to be responsible for positive change of critical situation in communities. Change for the good is largely attributed to the work of INGOs and CSOs.

In addition to the humanitarian work of INGOs and CSOs, the activities of private businesses in target areas have a significant impact on local communities. However, private business activities are non-humanitarian but profit- oriented in nature. The chart reflects peoples’ perceptions and experiences with businesses that reached the target communities. Local or national power holders are all too often involved in large agro-businesses (Palm Oil plantation, etc.). Some tar-

get communities for instance are affected by land grabbing. The Endline survey found that **70%** of villagers perceive land grabbing as an issue in their community and as a significant threat to their livelihood security.

In regard to the target communities’ views about the positive impact of private business, the Baseline data results are quite similar to the Endline survey results. The Baseline data shows that about 76% of respondents disagreed with the statement that larger private business would have a positive impact on the community, compared to 68% of respondents in the Endline survey. More positive views of the potential positive impact of private businesses on communities may result from an increasing number of business-trained vocational training graduates who launched small businesses in their communities. Additionally, the successful operations of VSLA groups may also contribute to improved views of private businesses. Villagers seem to have developed a greater capacity in discriminating and distinguishing between different types of businesses and their varying potential for rather positive or negative impact on the community.



INCOME SITUATION OF IDP COMMUNITIES

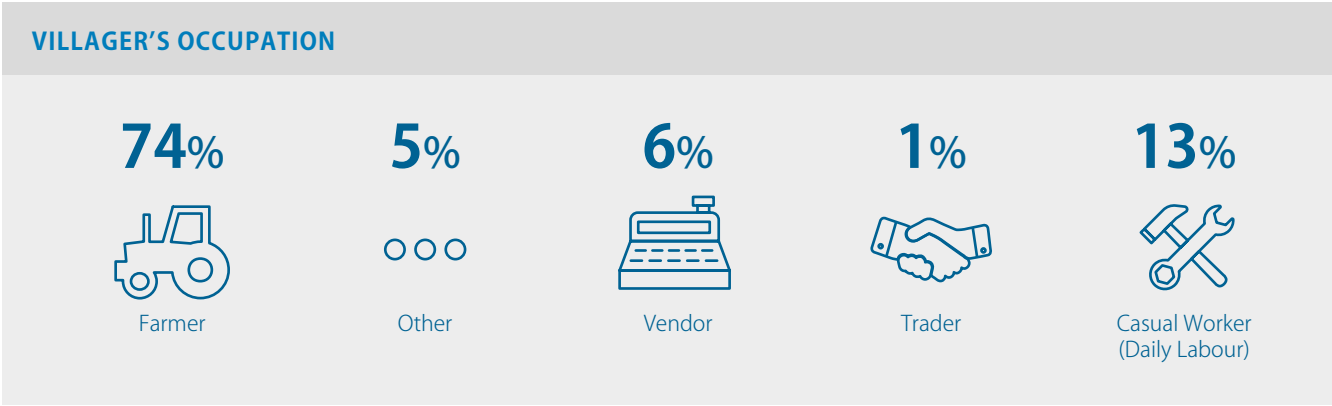
Within the project life cycle of four years, the project was able to contribute to improved income situations among IDP communities. Varying types of occupation are closely linked to income prospects of the HHs in the project area. Most families (74%) are engaged in farming activities, which includes betel nut cultivation, commonly called “orchards”. Other groups in the village are casual workers (day laborers) and people who are engaged in private trade businesses (7%). Most economic activities require to be a holder of a national identity card (ID card). People who have an ID card are much

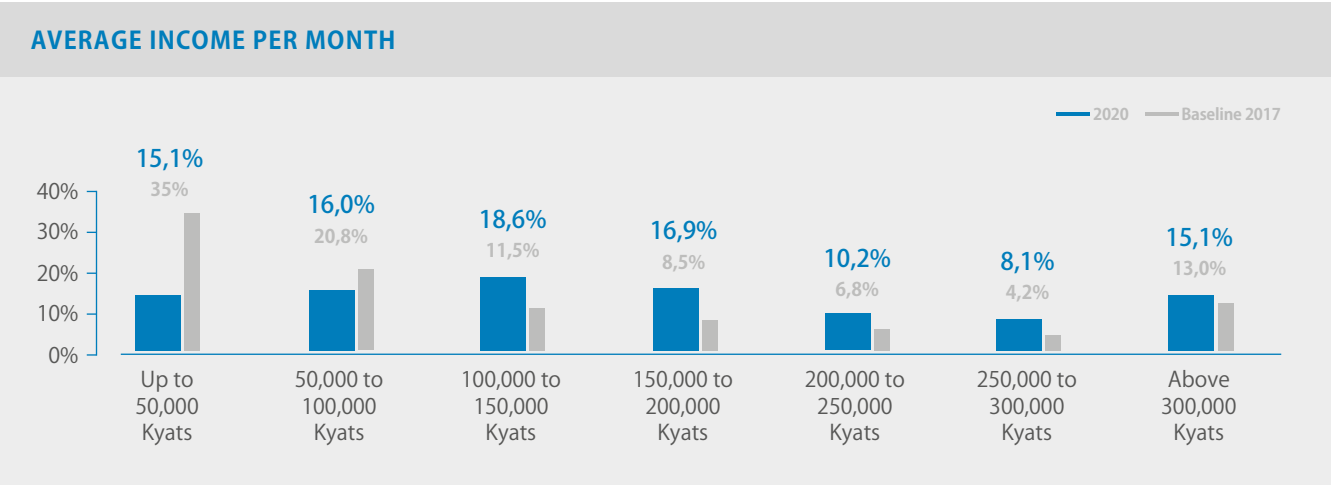
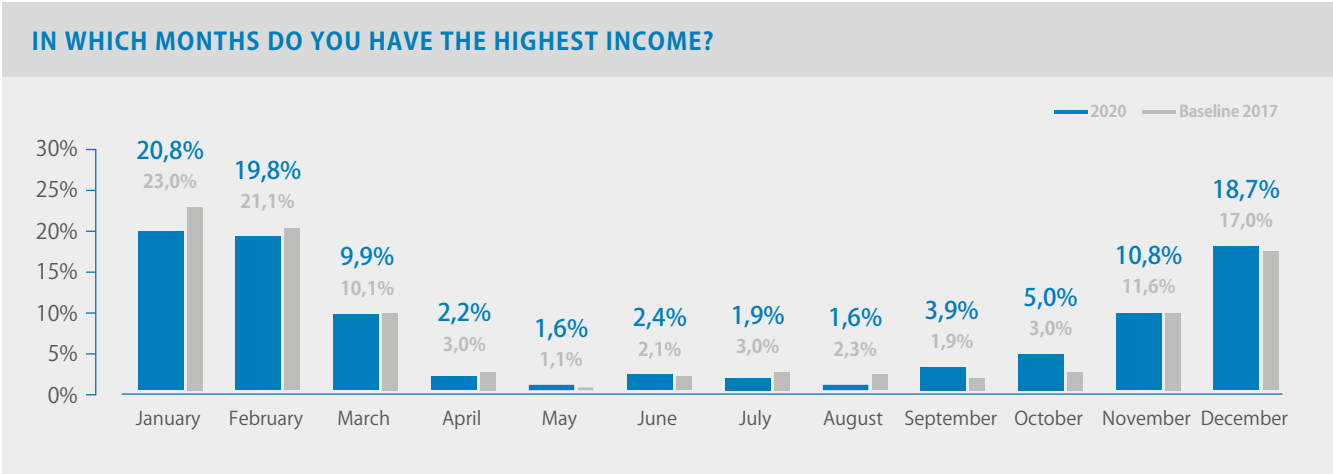
better positioned to pursue a business than those who do not hold a national ID card. Within the project area, 95% of HH respondents hold Myanmar national ID cards.

Vocational training has led people into jobs and business activities. 69% of employed (including self-employment) graduates from a vocational training course mentioned that wages or income was fair and within the expected range. However, 22% of respondents fall into the “unsure/don’t know” category and only 9% declared that their wage or income was unfair and not in line with their prior expectations.

In addition, 69 % of the respondents articulated that finding a job in Myanmar became easier over the past two years and job prospects improved. Current economic developments are by many associated with a hopeful outlook. Therefore, to participate in vocational skill-building became more attractive than just a few years ago. However, for a smaller group of respondents (14%), finding a job has not become easier but remains difficult. The study does not give more data about the underlying reasons for difficulties in obtaining waged jobs.

Income prospects vary within the calendar year. High income months are November to February. Survey respondents indicated that they are able to earn 70% of the annual income during these four months. Low income months are from April to August. Since the conduction of the baseline survey, this

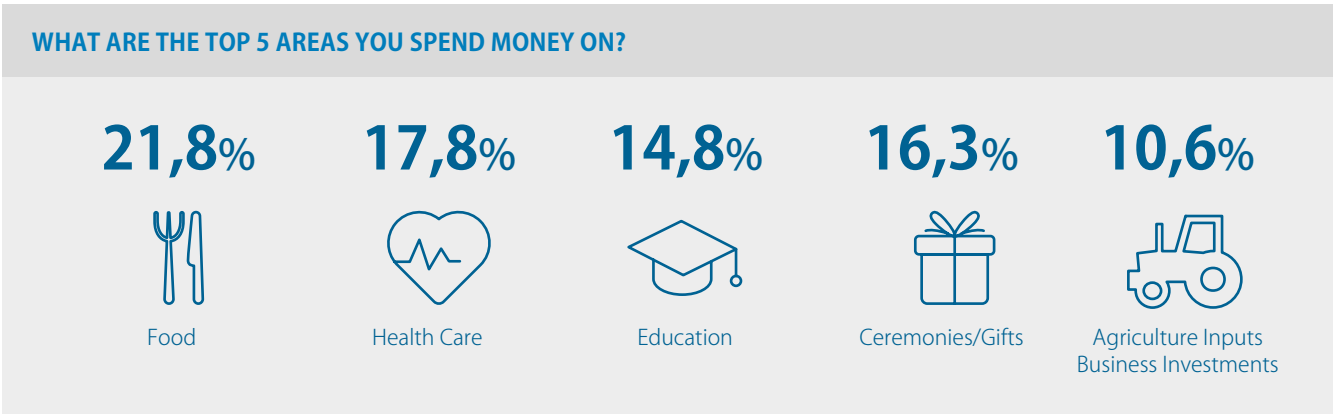




seasonal pattern of income has only slightly changed. The data indicates that the lean season became shorter but further research would be needed to clearly verify this initial information.

Data on the income reflects cash flows or cash-equivalents received from any kind of work or services by HH members. The majority of people receive their income from the primary sector (see above, 74% are engaged in farm work activities). The average HH income per month indicates the wealth distribution among community members. The income categories identified in the Endline are in line with the Baseline survey. The Endline data identifies less than 50% of all HHHs as low-in-





come HHs (not more than 150.000 MMK per month). About 35% of the HHs are middle-income HHs while only 15% are able to generate income over 300,000 MMK per month. The data from the Baseline survey shows that 66% of all HHs were counted to the low-income group. Since the ELDP project was launched, the number of low-income HHs has decreased by about 16%. The remaining HHs are to the middle and high-income category.

The importance of remittances for rural HHs is high. Financial support from external family members who migrated elsewhere plays an important role for securing livelihoods. The However, the Baseline data indicates that only 12 % of HHs in target villages received remittances, in comparison to 20% of HHs in the Endline survey. Nevertheless, 80% of all HHs still do not receive any remittances to secure family income. Among the HHs who receive remittances, only 10% receive more than 60.000 MMK per month.

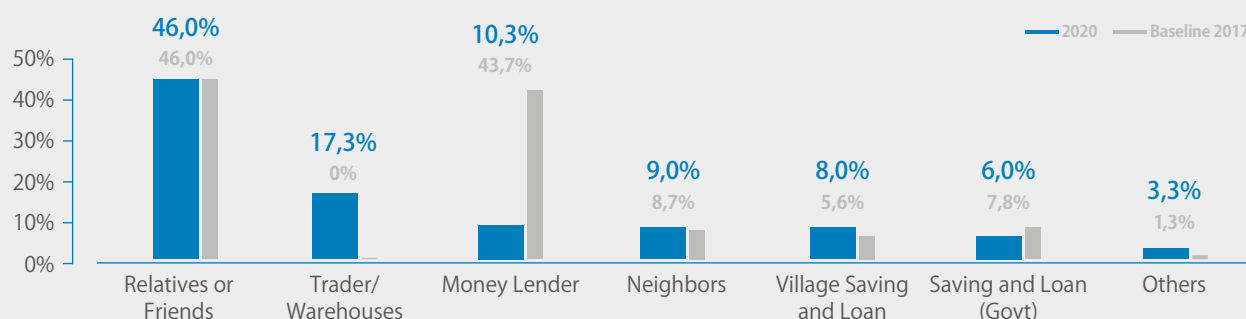
The category ‘food items’ finds highest priority in household expenditure. Interestingly, with almost 18%, health care is the second largest category of expenditure, followed by spending on religious gifts and education. Spending on agriculture inputs or business investments ranks the lowest among the first five priorities. These are remarkable findings. It should be noted that for many, religious activities/ceremonies and gifts seem to be of higher importance than investments into agriculture seeds or new business activities.

Also, spending on consumer goods is almost twice as high than expenditures on agriculture and business activities. There is more research needed to better understand the underlying root causes and dynamics involved in people’s priorities for spending.

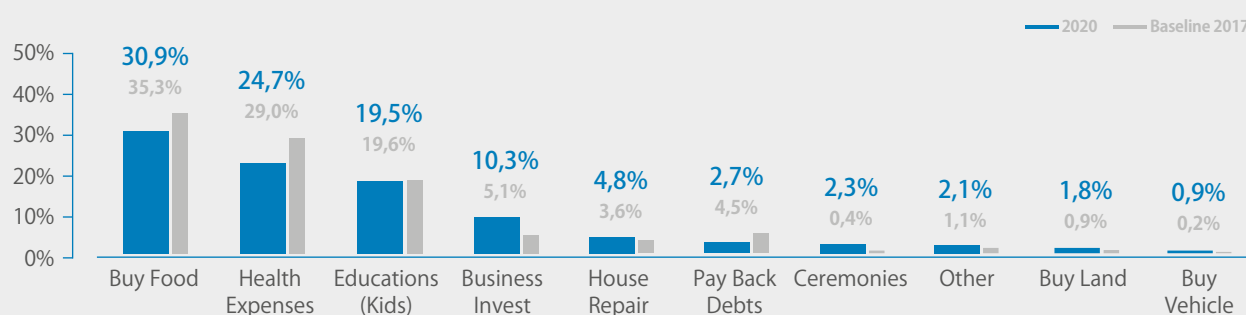
Investments into agriculture or production activities are inevitable for many rural households. If, for instance, privately owned capital is not sufficiently available, access to loans is important. It has already become tradition and common practice that money-lenders appear in the function of ‘enablers’ for poor HHs to bridge immediate cash needs. In this context, micro-finance systems such as the VSLA model are important for increasing and diversifying people’s opportunities to access small loans with reasonable interest rates.

Within the last three years, 63% of HHs had to pay back a loan. Those HHs who needed to lend money went first and foremost to their relatives and friends. Meanwhile, 8% of people indicated to receive a loan through a VSLA group, which is an increase of 3 percent. It needs to be understood that only members of a VSLA group are able to receive a loan. The Endline survey indicates that nearly 15% of the HHs are members of a VSLA group. The project was able to set up 21 VSLAs in 17 villages. In this context, the VSLA model was a very successful ELDP project activity, which is also communicated in some of the ‘Most Significant Change’ (MSC) stories. Many HHs, however, still rely on money lenders who provide cash credits in times of need.

FROM WHOM DID YOU GET THE LOAN?



REASONS FOR TAKING A LOAN



Indicated reasons for taking out a loan were quite diverse, similar to the **Baseline** survey data. It is an interesting observation that the percentage of HHs who took out a credit for buying food and paying health bills decreased by 5% while, at the same time, the percentage of HHs taking out credits for business investments doubled. It should also be noted that the number of HHs that took out loans for paying back other loans decreased by 60 percent. These data indicate that the intensive work with communities through various activities, including the VSLA model, payed off, so that people invest more in production lines. This is an encouraging development and serves as a sustainability indicator, so that 86% of VSLA groups are committed to continue with the

saving model. 96% of VSLA members rank the model as beneficial.

Vulnerable HHs are often confronted with the urgent need for taking a loan which is simply linked to basic economic survival. However, the pattern of taking a loan from particular sources has changed over the course of the project. Once a HH is in need for cash credit, asking relatives and friends is most common and increased by 15 percent. Asking traders and warehouses for cash credit decreased by 28%. The encouraging finding of the Endline data is that the importance of borrowing money from money lenders decreased from 39% (Baseline) to just ten percent.

FOOD SECURITY

The reasons for a household’s food shortages can be manifold. During the ELDP project cycle, food security in the target area increased by 53 percent. It also should be noted that the lean season of three to six months declined to less than three months towards the end of the project. Times of food insecurity are still relevant and real for most HHs in the project area. Despite significant improvements, food scarcity still threatens a number of HHs while borrowing money to bridge food scarcity is still a common practice. The means to find more convenient solutions and get rice from the rice bank basically increased from 0 to 11 % (Baseline).

The size of farmland is a key aspect when analyzing food security among rural communities. About 92% of villagers mentioned to be the ‘owner’ of the land they use. De facto, only 55% have ‘official’ land titles (see section Land Security). The situation has significantly improved since the **Baseline** data was gathered.

Overall, however, only 25% of villagers’ land is utilized for rice paddy and only 3% for vegetable garden areas. During the four years of project implementation, the rice paddy fields and vegetable garden areas slightly increased from 19%

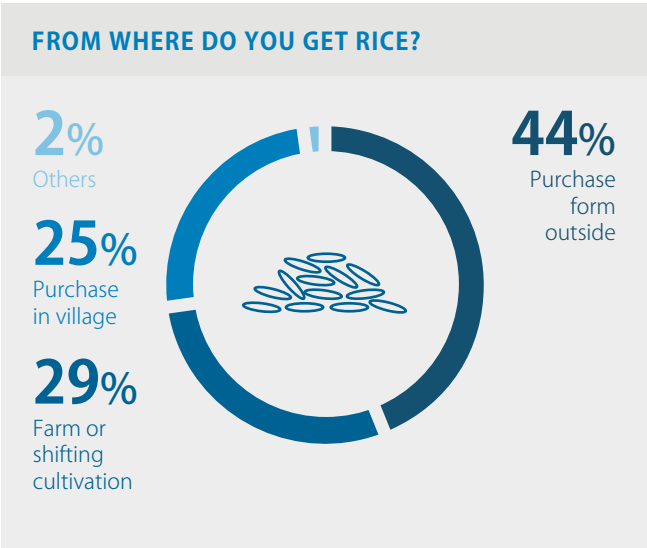


(Baseline) to now 28%. However, such data needs to be treated with caution due to the fact that the term ‘garden’ and ‘orchard’ is often used interchangeably.

The ELDP project was able to support the establishment of 14 rice banks in IDP communities. The project encouraged villagers to form rice bank committees, with now 738 members in total. These rice banks were designed to store rice from the communities’ own production and to be consumed during lean seasons. Most respondents in the Endline survey (97%) indicated that the rice banks are beneficial to the community and helped mitigate rice shortages during the lean season. Within the project life cycle, the number of months of lesser rice availability (rice shortage) for IDP HHs has decreased to less than three months within one-year time. At the time of the Baseline, IDP HHs indicated that the rice shortage lasts 4-6 months.

Villagers also indicated that their rice consumption per person increases when rice is more available and that the consumption decreases during lean seasons. The strategy to “stretch” available rice sources is quite common and one of the very first coping mechanisms when consumer rice gets short.

The establishment of rice banks in 14 villages increases the availability of rice from within the village from 1.9 % (Baseline)



to 25 % at the end of the ELDP project. The majority of responding HHs in the Endline survey (89%) are convinced that the project helped villagers to better deal with food insecurity, land issues, and vocational skill building. Thus, they are able to envision a more positive future than before. The current average size² of farmland per household is over 11 acres. However, the size of land four years ago³ within the same communities was only 9.86 acres, which is an increase of 16%.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The ELDP project was launched with the vision to significantly improve the income situation for those who participate in vocational training. By the end of the project, this goal has been achieved. The majority of CVTC vocational training graduates (72%) was able to obtain a job somewhere.

The vocational training program of the CVTC was able to accommodate and train 516 (F-53%) trainees within the project

² Mean = 11.47 (sum of values divided by total number of cases)
³ Baseline Data – ELDP Project



life cycle. Until spring 2020, the program conducted and completed eight batches of vocational trainees. Meanwhile, the center is planning to continue with conducting trainings as long as possible, even beyond the project life cycle. From the very launch of the project, trainees were trained in six different course disciplines. During the last project year, attempts were made to upgrade the training courses to a higher skill level (NSSA skill level 1).

Qualitative data gathered through case studies and Most Significant Change (MSC) stories provide valuable insights into people’s lives, before and after people’s participation in vocational training. Regarding potential new migration opportunities, only a group of 11% created the link between acquired vocational skills and migration considerations. This means that most respondents expressed the desire to stay in their home areas and to utilize their vocational skills as much as possible. The idea among young people of acquiring vocational skills and then migrate to an urban area does exist, but it is not a common pattern.

The majority of Endline survey respondents (75%) agreed that skill building through vocational training supported the HHs in scaling up livelihood security and levels/opportunities for

generating income. Such evaluation provides profound evidence for the relevance of the vocational training program, an educational program that adequately meets the needs of skill development in many young people throughout the project implementation area.

The CVTC is on its way to become an institution on its own. KDN will continue in the function of a trail blazer towards full registration of the institution and will proceed in this endeavor even after closure of the project. The established board of directors, including some influential representatives of the region, are able to set sufficient managerial and financial sustainability measures in place. These stand in accordance to suggestions for the project’s exit strategy and the CVTC sustainability framework. By the implementation of a certain number of activities, the training center can be managed and financially secured. Overall, however, it should be emphasized that all stakeholders who are involved in the development of the CVTC are much aware of the fact that financial sustainability can only be achieved by additional funding, provided either by the private sector or the support of NGOs. Based on current realities, the following action steps were conceptualized and suggested to KDN since mid 2019: (1) Develop strategic partnerships with other NGOs that operate in the region (i.e. WWF); (2) Establish a highway product shop for selling products of the

center; (3) Pursue the CVTC registration process; (4) Upgrade the vocational training course program; (5) Create access to markets for sewing and weaving products and consider brand development; (6) Continue the collaboration with NSSA and work towards the certification of training courses.

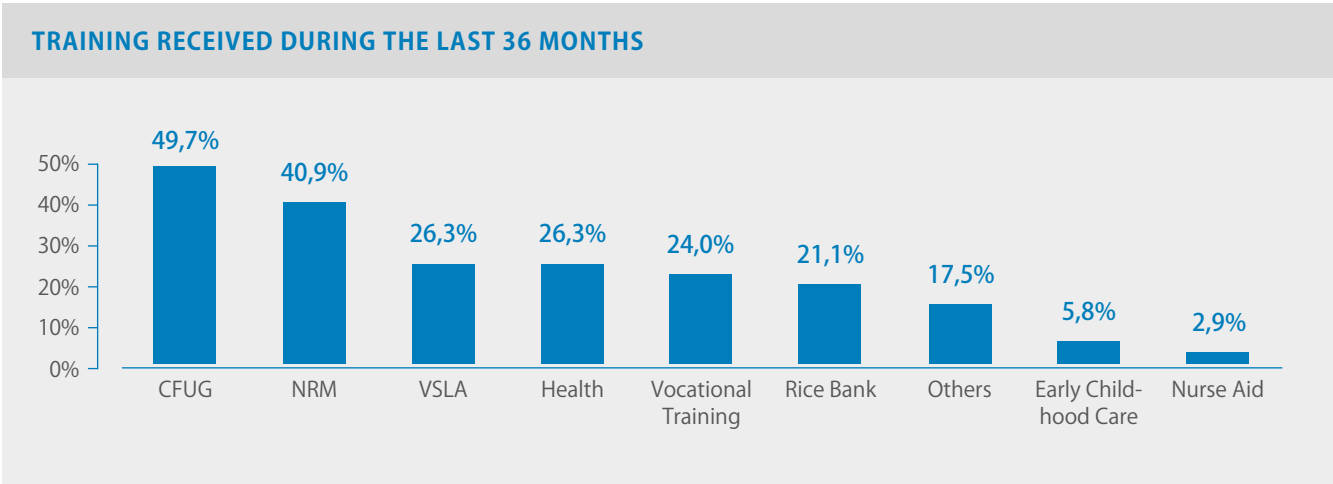
The current situation and prospects of the CVTC at the end of the project cycle remain unforeseeable. The registration process was initiated but it remains unclear whether real progress could be achieved. It is suggested that KDN pursues the outlined steps of the sustainability framework and seeks advice and collaboration as needed.

As indicated earlier, the establishment of the vocational training program was a key module of the project. In total, 516 training participants participated in one or more of the six technical training courses. Additionally, training participants received life skill training and entrepreneurship training to be well equipped for both pathways, either for employment or for launching an own small enterprise, based on a project-provided grant.

In total, 12% of the Endline survey respondents indicated to have one family member who participated in vocational training at some point during the last 3 years. The most popular courses mentioned are sewing, mechanics and motorcycle repair, traditional weaving and cooking & baking. Detailed and consolidated data are provided in the project’s MEAL plan. 73% of the respondents confirmed increased job opportunities following the completion of a vocational training course at the CVTC.

The Endline survey data reveals that almost half of the 344 household respondents indicated that a family member participated in any kind of training that was offered by the project or another entity (NGO), including KNU and GoUM. However, most training units (75%) included training on community forest management, NRM, VSLA, Rice Banks management, and the six technical vocational training areas offered at the CVTC. The project’s community facilitators also provided tailored awareness training courses on land rights.



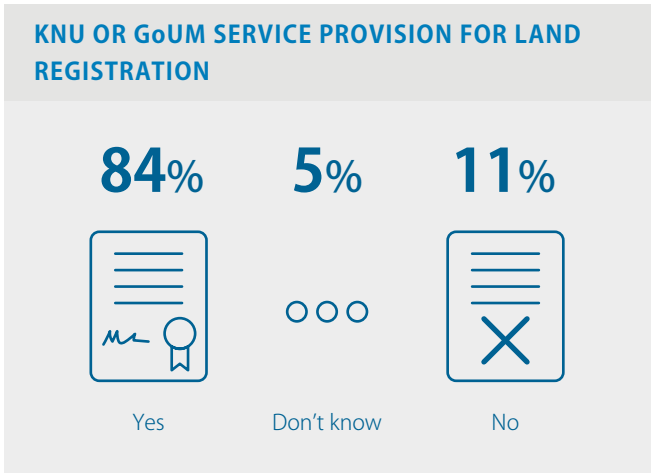


NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rural communities’ existence depends on natural resources which they are able to utilize and manage. Throughout the recent decade, the sustainable usage of natural resources in rural areas became more and more challenged by increasing forest and wildlife protection measures. At the same time, the bi-lateral regional ceasefire agreements from 2012 paved the way for private business sector investments to seek their opportunities in the region. Backed up by government authorities, land-demanding businesses aimed to occupy land that was used by rural communities (IDP villages) under their traditional land use practices. Such challenging activities included larger agro-projects, palm oil plantations, mining activities and infrastructure activities for building hydro-power plants. The planned hydro-power plant project that would affect dozens of IDP villages in the area is currently put on hold because of community resistance and public awareness. Despite the advocacy work of some civil society groups, land speculation increased. At the same time, the binding power of ancestral land management practices is continuously eroding and has not been incorporated in the Government land policy. In this context, the ELDP project advocated and supported IDP communities to undergo the necessary registration process. By the end of the project, eleven community forest areas were registered in total (over 4,660 acres). Of these eleven community

forest areas, only three village CFs were recognized through the GoUM process while nine certificates were obtained under the KNU forest department framework.

The ELDP project was able to accompany and support 33 communities in times of change. The opening of the country and the ceasefire agreement not only opened up new opportunities for villagers but also created new risks for rural communities. In this context, well-functioning community structures are essential to safeguard village communities and to protect community assets (forests and farmland) as well



as good values and customs. In this context, the communication and reliable information provision by local authorities is of great importance. About 88% of the HHHs feel well informed by the KNU or the GoUM, depending on which party is in control of the area. Most challenges occur in mixed controlled areas because authoritative levels are often not clearly allocated.

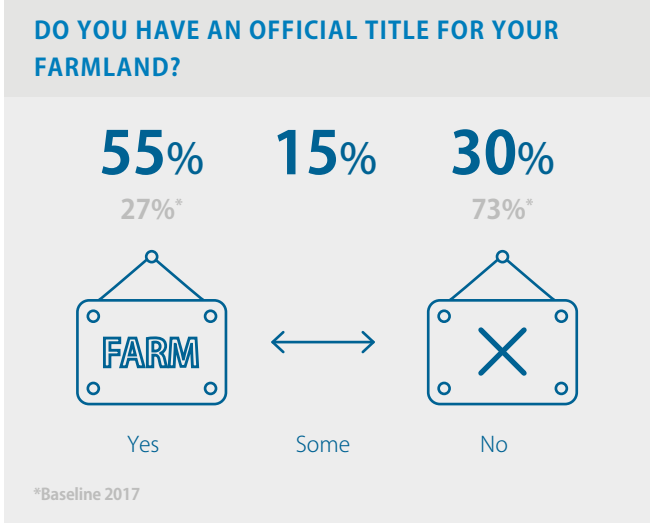
To explain in further detail, it has been found that 84% of the respondents indicated that the authorities in their respective area (either KNU or GoUM) offer services to register land or community forests. Experiences show that the support provided by the KNU forest department is more practical in nature by providing clear guidance while the GoUM maintains a bureaucratic system that is difficult to understand for villagers.

LAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES

Land security is one key issue on the way of addressing poverty issues. The ELDP project undertook great efforts to support and to increase land security for IDP communities and farmers. Within the ELDP project life cycle, villagers received land-use certificates for over 3.000 acres of farmland.

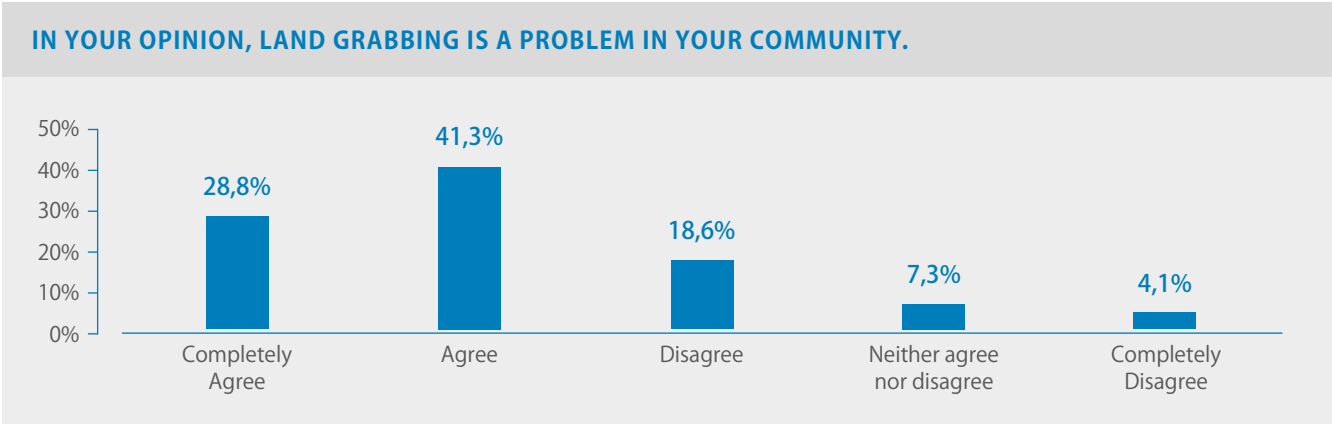
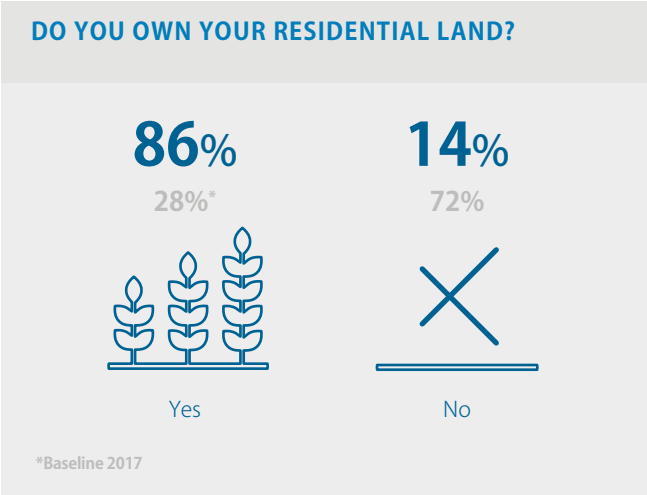
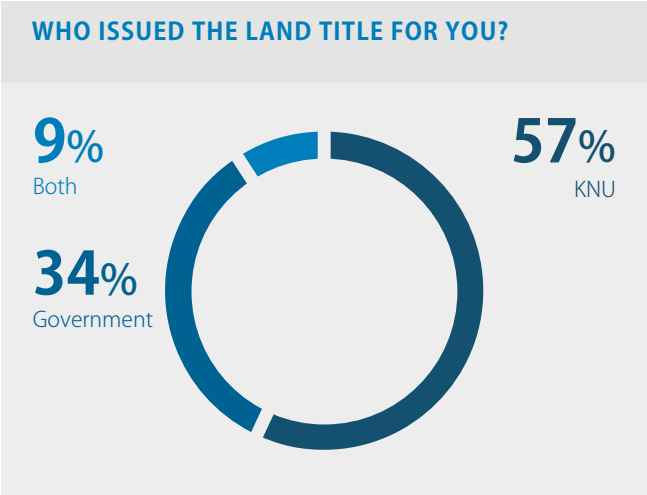
The project worked with local authorities of both, the GoUM and EAOs, in order to advocate for proper land registration. However, in mixed controlled areas, villagers mostly opted for undergoing the dual registration path. The two land - and community forest registration paths, as offered by the GoUM and the KNU, can be perceived as competitive pathways. The fact that the government runs a centralized governance system disables regional government structures to deal with community forest applications in a timely manner. This has caused significant delays (**as of June 2020**) for three community forest applications which have been escalated by the regional government office to the central government level.

A number of the IDP villages exist already for over a decade in their present location. Especially due to the political deadlock



of the peace process, the notion that armed conflict could reemerge and that IDPs are chased away from the area still exists. But against all odds, IDPs have started to ‘settle’ and to build permanent housing. Most HHHs (82%) live at the same location for already over 15 years. Only 3% of community member HHHs are living at the same location for less than 6 years. This consequently led to the fact that 92% of HHHs own agricultural land. It deems necessary to mention that the understanding of ‘owning’ land includes the ancestral customary system of ‘inheriting’ and ‘owning’ land.⁴ In this context, the Endline survey found that only 55% of HHHs have government- or KNU issued land titles. In contrast, 45% of the HHHs have not registered their land under the GoUM or KNU system. However, when Baseline data is compared with Endline data it must be noted that the number of IDP HHHs with official land titles has more than doubled. However, respondents (11%) mentioned their serious concerns about potential conflict over land issues, which is a steady threat that exists between private businesses and the communities.

⁴ GRET (2018), Land Tenure and Livelihoods Security in Karen Villages under Dual-Administration, Dawei, Thayetchaung and Palaw Townships, Tanintharyi Region, LIFT funded Study.

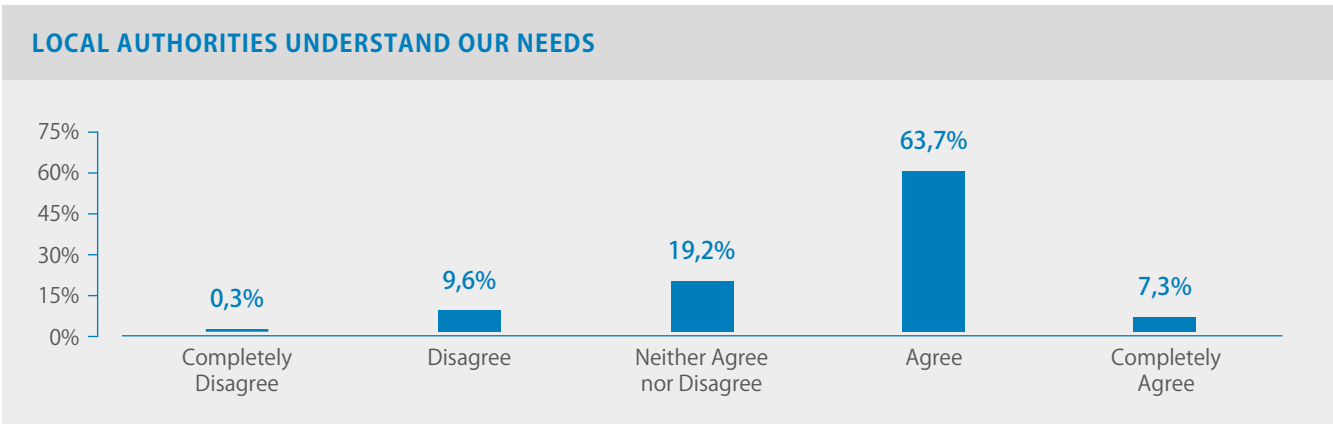
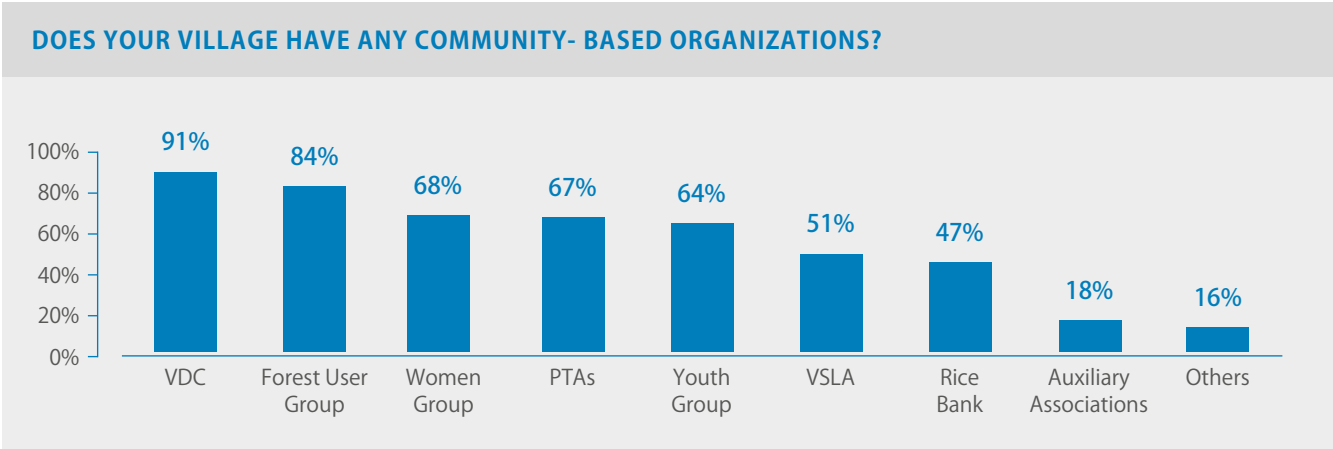


As explained in the section ‘NRM,’ the ELDP project was able to support 11 villages which is 1/3 of the project’s IDP target villages to become successful in registering their land and community forests under ‘legal’ frameworks, the GoUM and KNU. The KNU forest department made significant progress in registering land while in primarily government-controlled areas, the GoUM process of registering CF and land remains very slow. In total, over 3.000 acres were registered through one of the systems. More recently, IDP villagers have successfully registered their land without the project’s support.

Housing and residential land is another important aspect that influences income prospects. In total, 86% of participating

HHs indicated that they own the land of their HH residence. A percentage of 76% mentioned that their residence is owned by family members. Among those who own the land on which their house is built, only 78% of them obtained an official land title. The residential land titles were mostly obtained through KNU (70%) and the GoUM (30%).

Land security for those who do not have official land titles, neither for their residential nor their farmland, face the risk of being jeopardized through land grabbing by powerful people or entities. The ELDP project worked with communities and informed IDP villagers about their rights but also supported ways to undergo land registration processes. Towards



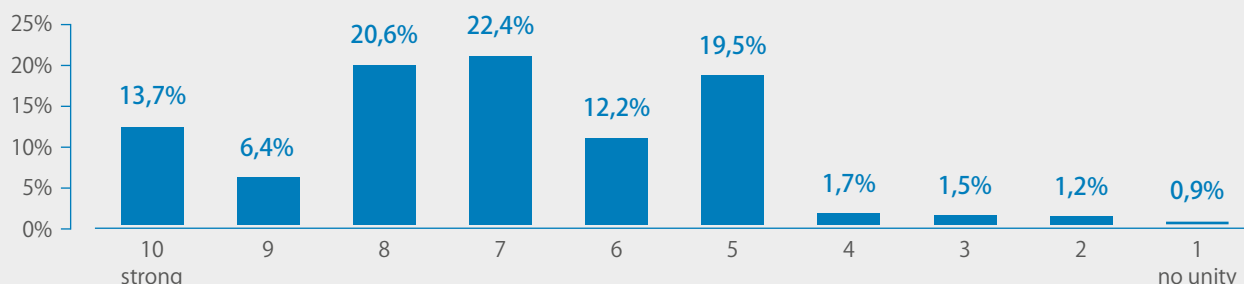
the end of the project, about 70% of IDP HHHs in the project target area are still convinced that land grabbing is an issue in their community. Those who do not own official land titles are afraid to lose their land, despite communal and ancestral traditions of customary ownership in place. In this context, LIFT commissioned GRET in 2018 to design and conduct a land tenure and livelihoods study in the three townships of the Tanintharyi Region to better understand the current situation and adequately include the facts in program design.⁵

⁵ GRET (2018), Land Tenure and Livelihoods Security in Karen Villages under Dual-Administration, Dawei, Thayetchaung and Palaw Townships, Tanintharyi Region, LIFT funded Study.

Community Organization

Community-based organizations are essential for a functioning community structure. Voluntary work is the heart of community organizations and sustains the system of decision-making and community ownership. Most villages are built on the basic structure of a Village Development Committee (VDC), which is the body that communicates within the community as well as outside of the community. Other committees and organizations have all a specific purpose (i.e. Water User group, PTA, Youth group, etc.) and collaborate with the next higher authority, mostly the VDC. About 52% of all survey participating HHHs indicated to be part of one village committee or group.

PERCEIVED COMMUNITY UNITY



The ELDP project supported a number of community-based organizations through capacity building, materials and managerial support as needed, such as VDC, 11 FUG, 21 VSLAs in 17 IDP villages and 14 Rice Bank committees. The ELDP project placed community facilitators to work with each IDP target village committee and village-level authority to realize the implementation of activities. The Endline data survey revealed that 79% of VDCs gained greater confidence and felt empowered to better articulate villagers' needs to KNU and GoUM authorities. About 60% of responding HHs participated in training units provided for VDCs.

The ELDP project was able to support the establishment and to enhance the function of community-based structures. The percentage of functioning community forest user groups increased during the project life cycle from 41% to now 84%. Hence, the Endline data reveals that about 96% of community HHs perceive the community organizations as beneficial and about 90% of the respondents are of the opinion that the structure and functionality of community organizations has increased.

The ELDP project also provided information on community forests for relevant communities, with the prospect of undergoing the process of community forest registration. In total, 82% of community members are convinced that this information was beneficial. Training on NRM was provided by the

KNU-Forest department, the GoUM or CSOs to almost all village communities (83%) with relevant forest areas.

Generally, local communities express their interest in maintaining close communication between local authorities and the village VDCs. During the past 12 months, 71% of all IDP village HHs were informed when the KNU or the GoUM visited their community. Within the given project timeframe, 91% of the community members agreed that local authorities have also improved in the delivery of social services as a result of community requests. In the perspective of 93% of the respondents, the provision of health, education and infrastructure services delivered by the KNU and the GoUM structures have improved during the past 12 months.

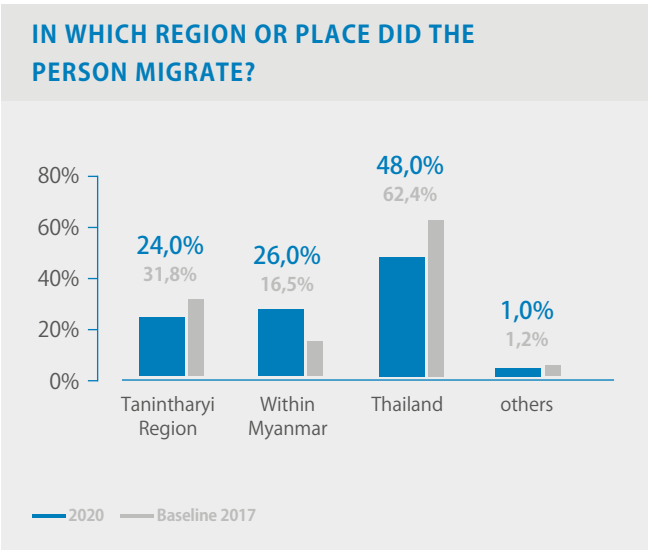
However, for 37% remote IDP village HHs, accessibility of health care services remains a challenge. The absence of sufficient transportation remains for most IDP HHs a major issue. Only the motorcycle or in some cases a car are the main transportation means to the clinic, followed by walking and riding a boat. Despite remoteness, 87% of all IDP villagers responded that they have received information (health messages) about preventive health care and sanitation. The major channels for disseminating information are organized information sessions and village meetings. With expanding electricity supply and internet coverage, TV and social media platforms are becoming increasingly important. For about

18% of respondents, TV, radio and social media is also a significant means to receive health messages. It can be noted that villagers, as soon as mobile network coverage is ensured, start educating themselves through Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms. Future projects will need to take this phenomenon of self-education via social media into account.

Community unity is a very significant aspect that determines whether or not community social support networks function, especially in remote areas. However, closer proximity to urban areas often causes a higher level of individualism. The workforce in villages developed an orientation towards jobs outside of the village. When work places outside the village are utilized, villagers visit their village only in the evening or during weekends. More research would be necessary to analyze social dynamics in this context of changing environments. Among the survey sample villages, most villagers perceive community unity as strong (see chart).

MIGRATION

In comparison with the Baseline data, migration has slightly increased by 2%. The Endline survey discovered that migration



for work and seeking jobs in urban areas within Myanmar is the major driving force. However, the majority of respondents (74%) did not see the need or opportunity to migrate for work. Although the reasons for migration vary, most people (58%) migrated for reasons of work while 38% were migrating for education purposes, either formal or non-formal education. Thailand (with 48%) was the most attractive destination for migrant workers. However, opinions about the benefit of migration can be divided into two groups: about 55% of respondents believe that migration has a positive impact on the community while the second group is with 45% either unsure or disagrees, which means that they do not believe in a positive impact of migration on the community. In this context, only 10% of household members consider migration for their near future. Economic prospects within Myanmar will continue to lower the interest of people to migrate either to Thailand or Singapore. People have also realized that unskilled labor bears little chances to experience migration in positive terms.

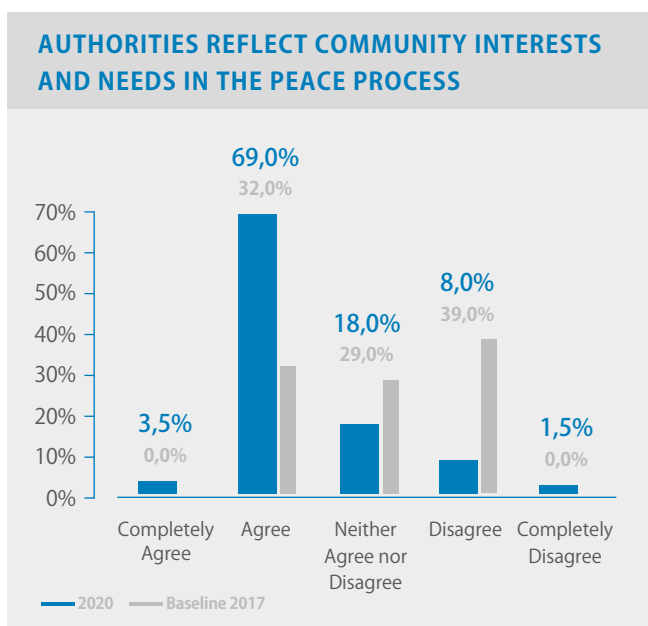
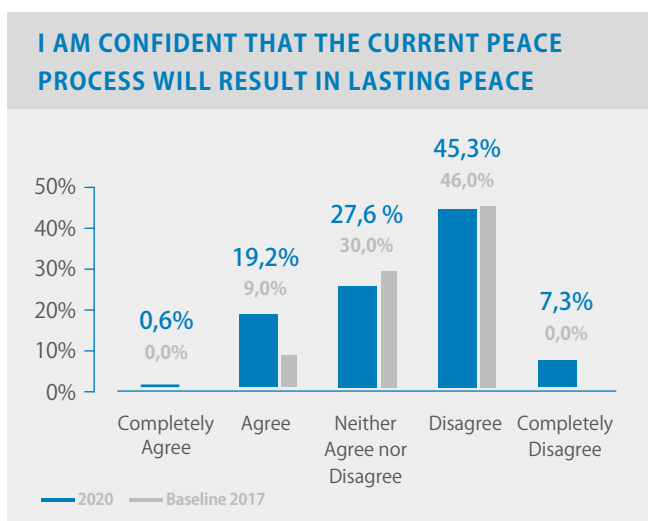
Migration of a household member beyond the home region or to a foreign country was only feasible for 26% of responding IDP HHs. To further one's education is for some people still an attractive motivation for migration. The Thailand-Myanmar border refugee camps have been for decades a destination for young people from the border area. Especially for those who did not see any other ways and chances to reach their educational goals, except by their migration to Thailand.

The majority of people in migration do not have a clear idea or concept of what kind of work they may be able to occupy in Thailand or other industrial places. The majority of IDPs who are on the lookout for jobs fall into the category of unskilled labor, except those who acquired sound technical- and life skills. However, another fraction of respondents (42%) who considered migration for work communicated a relatively clear understanding of the industry they wish to work in. The main sectors mentioned are construction work, fishery, hotel business, and factory work. Other sectors such as agriculture and domestic work were also mentioned.

PEACE AND CONFLICT SITUATION

Representation of Community Interests

There is little disagreement over the notion that the current peace process in Myanmar appears more fragile than three years ago. Extended scholarly writings and the analysis of ethnic human rights groups and development actors reflect on current difficulties and continue to monitor the situation.



One research project carried out by Covenant Consult analyzed the effectiveness of the interim arrangements.⁶

IDP communities and HHs from target villages have their own views about the peace process. The Endline survey found that almost 20% of HH respondents from 15 IDP villages are confident (agree/completely agree) that the current peace process will result in lasting peace. Further, 28% remain unsure while the largest group of 52% believe that the current peace process will not result in lasting peace. In contrast, the Baseline survey found that 46% of IDP HHs believe that the peace process will not result in lasting peace. The group of people who doubt that the peace process will result in lasting peace has obviously increased by 6% since 2017.

The Endline survey also assessed to which degree IDP communities perceive their needs and interests reflected in the peace process. Both the government and the KNU provide public services in the target region, including education services, small - scale infrastructure constructions, issuing of land titles, natural resource management training, food assistance, and processing of applications for the National Identification Cards by the GoUM. The Endline survey data shows that over 72% of respondents felt that authorities reflect their needs and interests in the peace process. However, the Baseline data indicated that only 32% of respondents were convinced that the peace process stakeholders (GoUM, KNU) take community interests into account. In the time between the Baseline and Endline evaluation, there happened a significant increase in the percentage of communities' level of satisfaction. This improvement is influenced by current experiences communities made who underwent the Community Forest (CF) application process. As well, community feedback shows that during recent years the GoUM shows an improved level of interests in community affairs. It is the KNU department,

⁶ Covenant Consult Co. Ltd. (2018), Between Ceasefires and Federalism: Exploring Interim Arrangements in the Myanmar Peace Process, Project team: Ashley South, Tim Schroeder, Kim Jolliffe, Susanne Kempe, et.al., Funded by Joint Peace Fund, Myanmar.

however, that demonstrates genuine interest in community needs by bringing the concerns of local communities (mainly land issues) to the negotiation table. As mentioned earlier, the community forest applications and land registration applications were mostly handled by the KNU. This level of response to community needs is well received and fosters trust relationships between the EAO and IDP communities.

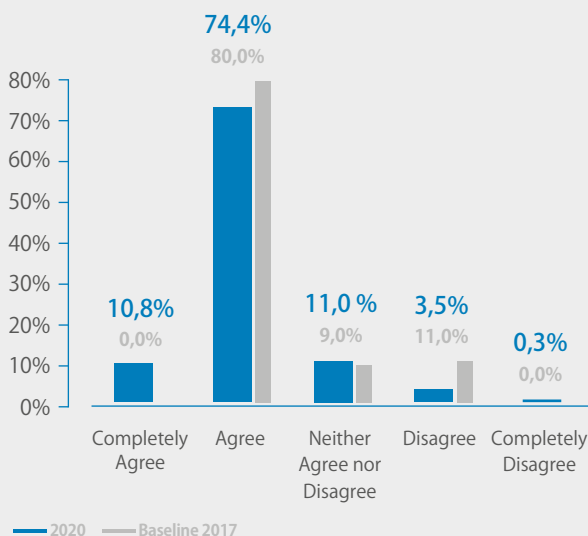
The Relationship between Local Authorities in Tanintharyi Region

The relationships between the local authorities (KNU and GoUM) greatly matter for local communities because more positive relations determine the overall development progress. It repeatedly occurred, however, that the GoUM set travel restrictions into KNU-controlled areas which hinders international development actors to monitor project activities in IDP villages. Restrictions for aid workers upon the intention to enter certain areas for conducting proper community- and need assessments do still exist today.

It can be noted that the central-level relationship between the KNU and the GoUM are characterized by a very different quality than the local level represents. In the opinion of local community members, relationships between the KNU and the GoUM at the local level (Tanintharyi Region) significantly improved over the course of the past three years. Informal meetings between KNU staff and Government officials take place occasionally and contribute to improve working relationships as well as identifying pragmatic solutions over community issues where both engagements is needed.

At this point it needs to be noted that Endline survey respondents' perceptions of potential improvements of the relationship between KNU and GoUM departments are exclusively bound to the Tanintharyi Region where the Government and the KNU maintain a level of dialogue and conversations over land issues and other challenges IDP communities encounter. The Endline survey results reveal that almost 85% of HH respondents are convinced that the relationships between the GoUM and the KNU significantly improved over the last 12 months. Since the conduct of the Baseline survey, 5% more

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KNU HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS



people are convinced that the relationship is more positive now. The five percent improvement however, is a current situational spotlight and basically too small to draw further conclusions for an overall improvement. Regular evaluations and deeper analysis would be needed to identify evidence and concrete actions at both sides.

Community-level Relationships

Community conflicts are important indicators for existing and sometimes significant barriers that hinder development progress. The ELDP project strengthened the inclusive collaboration of community groups and operated on a conflict sensitivity mode. As already indicated earlier, conflict drivers are often outside forces that impose certain activities onto community territory. In this context, most Endline survey respondents (about 81%) mentioned that they are currently not aware of any **internal** conflict upheaval in their respective communities. It was reported that issues happen in the communities but perceived as minor and interpersonal conflicts that can be resolved by the support of local mediators.





Summary and Conclusion

The implementation of the ELDP project was launched during times of major socio-political changes in the Southeast of Myanmar and was conducted and completed from July 2016 to June 2020. And since the KNU was one of the ceasefire agreement signatory (NCA) entities, local communities lived in hopeful anticipation of more peaceful times, which also became the driving force among development actors. The ELDP project was developed in the context of anticipating more sustainable development and thus addressed pressing development needs of IDP communities in three key areas: i) to increase income opportunities through skill building; ii) to support safe access to land and NRM; and iii) to strengthen community organizations and linkages to public services. Over the course of four years, the ELDP project was implemented in 33 villages of three townships of the Tanintharyi Region and was able to deliver outstanding results in the project areas.

To describe project achievements in more detail, it can be stated that over 600 women and men were supported in acquiring valuable livelihood skills through the establishment of the CVTC with six relevant VT courses at its disposal. During the Endline survey, about 72% of former trainees reported that they are able to actively utilize their newly acquired skills. Each of the technical training courses at the CVTC had been enhanced by life skills training and small business training. However, the participation in the business training module

had only been optional and was only meant for those who considered to launch an own small business enterprise. In order to enable training graduates to establish small scale businesses, 147 trainees successfully applied for a business starter grant and were able to launch their own business activity in their community. The life skills training supported trainees to increase their capacity in building successful customer relations, to foster their capacity in mastering adversity and to enhance self-management as an important component of successful entrepreneurship and job finding. The project consortium was also able to establish a collaboration with the NSSA. Through the means of this collaboration, the CVTC became a skill-testing center for the whole region.

This Endline survey also identified an increased level of food security in the project target communities. The given time of rice shortages during the lean season decreased from 3-6 months (Baseline) to less than three months per year. In this context it needs to be stated that the project was able to establish rice banks in 14 villages. In addition, 299 farmers received support in obtaining KNU land-use certificates, applicable for over 3,000 acres. Additionally, the project worked with 11 communities to establish community forests of over 4,600 acres, registered under the KNU and the GoUM regulations. Communities are now more empowered to continue to self-advocating for their interests at the KNU- and/or GoUM authority levels.





Community organizations were also either established or strengthened. The Endline survey revealed that by the end of the project, all target communities had functioning VDC mechanisms in place and were better able to deal with community challenges and to advocate for their interests. The project also established 21 VSLA groups in 17 communities through which community members have been enabled to invest in small local businesses toward livelihood security. The support of village-based local economy through VSLA groups, the enhanced livelihood skills, increased land security and improved community organization contributed to the fact that villagers took significantly less high-interest rate loans from traders, warehouse owners (by 28%) or money lenders (by 39%).

The Endline survey identifies several sustainability indicators that were initiated through the project interventions. First, the establishment of the CVTC is reaching far beyond the project duration and the likelihood that the VT center will expand its importance as a regional training center is very promising. The development of a sustainability framework for the CVTC gives concrete suggestions on how the center can be managed after the ELDP project funding has ceased; suggestions on how new partnerships can be established are

included too. The decision-making organizations (KDN, TKPSI) are equipped to make necessary decisions that will sustain the relevance of the CVTC.

Second, strengthened community structures are capacitated to pursue advocacy work at local authority levels and on their own behalf. Such development of capacity will support communities to set legally-binding measures for safeguarding against any potential attempts of land-grabbing or the construction of mega-projects (dams, mining, mono-culture plantations) that would significantly impact the livelihood of villagers. In this context, the project was able to capacitate community institutions over the course of four years, to empower them to undergo land- and community forest application processes and to prepare more applications. The positive results of the VSLA model is motivated saving groups to continue saving cycles after the project has been completed.

And third, the presently more positive political environment at the local/community and regional level as it has been perceived by local people from the project target villages serves as a strong enabling and motivating factor for maintaining people's self-advocacy towards achieving their own interests. A partnership between local communities and local NGOs in the Tanintharyi Region such as TKPSI can help to sustain positive changes at the community level. Ideal chances and right conditions for TKPSI to meaningfully contribute to the sustainability and further development of the CVTC have been identified, to further establish CVTC as a regional and ethnic vocational training center that offers relevant and innovative training modules that meet the needs of IDP communities of the region and beyond. Reaching and maintaining sustainability of the CVTC is of key importance because the center was designed to offer a flexible training program that will benefit IDPs in unique and flexible ways. In this context, the training center also complements the development goals of local authorities. In summary and conclusion, it can be said that the Endline survey results indicated local communities' hopeful outlook to the continuation of the CVTC, in order to contribute to skill building, local empowerment (women groups, youth groups, local institutions) and livelihood security.

ANNEX 1: CASE STUDIES

Name:	Naw Dee Wah
Village, Location:	Duu Yin Pin Saung Village, Palaw Township area
VT course:	Weaving Course

Changes after finishing CVTC training

Naw Dee Wah is 21 years old and lives in Palaw Township, Tanintharyi Region. When she was young, her mother passed away. Because she could not rely on her father, Naw Dee Wah and her siblings were separated. Saw Hae Ka Lay and his family adopted her and treated her like his own daughter. Naw Dee Wah finished primary school and used to help the family in the garden. She did household chores but had no regular income. It was not easy for her to find a paid job, so she had no regular income.

Naw Dee Wah applied for a weaving course at the vocational training center when the Village Development Committee (VDC) recruited students from their village. Naw Dee Wah is very interested in weaving and tried her best during the CVTC training. After Naw Dee Wah graduated from the CVTC and finished with her business training, she was able to start her own weaving business with the weaving material provided by the career center. There were a few problems that she had to face at the beginning, but now her business is performing well. Today, her average income is about 35,000 Kyats per month, and she has earned approximately 280,000 Kyats since she started her own business. She is now able to support her family and to pay for medical treatments.



Name:	Nan Ei Ei Phyo
Village, Location:	Yae Shan Village, Pulaw Pyar Village Group, Pulaw Townships
VT course:	Sewing Course

Changes after finishing CVTC training

Nan Ei Ei Phyo is 22 years old and lives in Palaw Township, Tanintharyi Region. She lives with her family of eight in Ye Shan village. She is the eldest of the five siblings. Nan Ei Ei Phyo helped with household chores before attending the training. She is a second-year student at Myeik University. It was not easy to find a good job back then, so she had no regular income. She went through the VDC trainees recruiting process and she decided to apply for the sewing course. Na Ei Ei Phyo tried her best during the training period because she was very interested in sewing.



At the end of the training, Nan Ei Ei Phyo did not receive any initial business set up grants. However, her sewing business started with the old machine she got from her parents. At the beginning, there were a few challenges, as for example the rather poor quality of her first business products and the lack of a special sewing machine. Then her parents bought for her a flower darning/embroidery machine; to make the sewing business run smoother. Now, Nan Ei Ei Phyo shares her special sewing machine with her cousin Nan Mi Mi Oo who received support by the project. Nan Ei Ei Phyo's average income is 35,000 Kyats per month. So far, she generated 280,000 Kyats in total. With this income, Nan Ei Ei Phyo is able to support her family's living, her sister's education, and to pay her hospital bills. Nan Ei Ei Phyo feels more confident with her excellent vocational skills and her ability to earn money regularly. All this will have a positive impact on her family and her community.



Name:	Naw Ka Nyaw Say
Village, Location:	Yae Shan Village, Pulaw Township
VT course:	Weaving Course

Changes after finishing CVTC training

Naw Ka Nyaw Say is 23 years old and she lives in Palaw Township, Tanintharyi Region. As the third child of five siblings, she lives with her family. Her father Saw Ah Pay used to work in the family's orchard. Not long ago, her father passed away. This was after she attended her CVTC training. Before, she only helped her family with household chores and had no regular income. She completed tenth grade but had no other jobs since it was not easy to find a job with a regular income. When VDC students were recruited in the village, she applied for the weaving course. Due to her own interest in weaving, she tried her best at the CVTC training. After the training, Naw Ka Nyaw Say started her own business with the support from the project. There were a few complications in the beginning, due to the poor quality of her first business products. But now her business is operating smoothly. The average income is around 32,000 Kyats per month and she had made up to 240,000 Kyats in total. Naw Ka Nyaw Say can support her family's living and health through her order-based income. Naw Ka Nyaw Say's family started to invest some of their income from trading of betel nuts. They also harvested eggplants with a low pay. Naw Ka Nyaw Say's mother was ill, but she was able to provide medicine for her. Now, Naw Ka Nyaw feels that she can apply her vocational skills confidently and she believes that her profits will have a positive impact on her family and the village.



Name:	Naw Nay Hla
Village, Location:	Nyein Chan Village of Ait Ait Village Tract
VT course:	VSLA Participant/Member

Most Significant Change (MSC)

Naw Nay Hla is 42 years old. She lives in Nyein Chan Village of the Ait Ait Village Tract, which is located near Myeik-Dawei Highway in Tha Yet Chuang Township. In 1997/8, the villagers were displaced by the civil war. Until today, the Nyein Chan villagers depend on day-to-day work to make their living. Some villagers own small gardens or orchards. Naw Nay Hla was also one of the displaced people by armed conflicts and now she is a resident of Nyein Chan Village. Life was hard in the days before the ceasefire agreement. Her husband is a gardener who worked hard for the family's living. Naw Nay Hla's family had faced many difficulties during the village relocation. They had to make a living by working on a rubber plantation near their village. High-interest loans provided by unauthorized money lenders were available near the village. At the beginning of the project, Nyein Chan villagers were unwilling to establish a Village Saving and Loan model due to cultural assumptions about it. However, some women who were interested in village savings and loans wanted to apply for a Village Saving and Loan model in their area, so they got together and formed a group. Naw Nay Hla also joined the group, as a leader. From her group, she borrowed money and opened a grocery store and started to sell seasonal crops. Now she can borrow money with a low-interest rate. She also made a significant contribution to the family's living by providing cloths and shelter. Meanwhile, Naw Nay Hla runs her own convenience store very well. She plans to continue to participate in the Village Saving and Loan Association in the future and to further extend her shop.



Name:	Naw Nay Hla
Village, Location:	Byu Village, Ka Nyin Chaung village tract, Tha Yet Chaung Township.
VT course:	VSLA Participant/Member

Most Significant Change (MSC)

Byu Village is a village under Ka Nyin Chaung village tract, in Tha Yet Chaung Township. Villagers are mainly involved in gardening, animal breeding, small-scale farming, fishing (privately owned) and growing of seasonal fruits and vegetables. In 1993, they were relocated three times during the armed conflicts. In 1996/97, Naw Mi Aye's family reunited again and has been living in Byu Village ever since. Naw Mi Aye is 45 years old and a mother of three children. Her husband is running a small-scale trading shop and does some gardening.

In the past, when the family needed money for education, health, social activities and business investment, they had to borrow money from the money lenders who charged high-interest rates. In July 2017, the concept of the Village Saving and Loan Association was introduced to Byu Village. The VSLA started its first investment cycle with 25 women, even though more women had been interested to join the first VSLA launch. Together with the other women who were also interested in forming a group, Naw Mi Aye formed a new VSLA with the support and guidance of the project team from the VSLA group that already existed. VSLA members receive loans with a low-interest rate. Members are using the borrowed money to trade Chinese peppers and to grow their own crops to support their family's living. In the past, they usually had to lend money with high-interest rates and faced financial difficulties. But for now, they are able to solve this problem by borrowing money with low-interest rates. VSLA members invested in their agricultural business. The income generated had not only helped to solve the problems of their

families, their livelihoods, but also contributed to their children's education and health condition. It has also helped to deal with the financial issues that were linked to high-interest rates in the past. Naw Mi Aye will continue to be a member of the VSLA. She already has plans to extend her agricultural business with the next loan.



‘Money Lenders used to charge 5% per month of interest payments. Today, we are able to borrow money for only 2%.’

Ga Htwe Yee Yee is 41 years old. She lives with her husband and their three children at Ma Daw Village, a small village located in the rural area of Pa Law Township. The infrastructure is in a very poor condition, with no access to the national electricity grid or communication network. The roads are very narrow, what makes travelling and trading with other villages and cities very difficult. Most of the villager’s ethnicity is Pwo Karen. Two of Ga Htwe Yee’s children are attending school. Her eldest son is married but still lives at his parents’ house. The family is running a small scale agricultural trading business. Hence, limited access to finances has always made it difficult to expand their business. To find access to education service and health treatment, the family had to borrow money from moneylenders that charged high interest rates of up to 5% per month (more then 60% p.a.).

In July 2017, the ELDP project team introduced the first Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) at Ma Daw Village. A group of 11 women decided to found a VSLA group. Ga Htwe Yee refused to be part of the first cycle because she was not sure how it would make any positive difference for her situation. After the first cycle of VSLA was completed, Ga Htwe Yee saw the positive impact and kindness of the members. Then she decided to join the VSLA to also benefit from interest payments on her savings and lower interest rates. In her group, members can borrow money with only 2% interest payment per month. Ga Htwe Yee has used this opportunity and has borrowed money to invest into her agriculture trading business. Other VSLA members have also used loans to expand their agricultural business, by selling fruits and vegetables to other villages. With the additional income, more villagers are able to send their children to school and to receive better medical treatment. Ga Htwe Yee is convinced that the implementation of the VSLAs have improved the lives of many villagers. She will continue being an active member and will encourage others to join and to form new Village Saving and Loan Associations.

How does Ga Htwe Yee benefits from the ELDP project?

Loan Period: 3 months
Loan amount: 400.000MMK

Interest payment
Money lender (5% per month) = 20.000 MMK
VSLA (2% per month) = 8.000 MMK

Savings of up to 12.000 MMK per month



‘Now, I am able to sell traditional snacks worth of up to 12.000MMK per day.’

Saw Tar Moe Aye (17) is a young man from Maung Ma Htu, a village located in Dawei Township, Tanintharyi. He lives in his parent’s house, together with his four siblings. Saw Tar Moe Aye helps his parents with taking care of his three younger brothers who are still attending school. Because of his parents’ low income, Saw Tar Moe had to work as a Day Laborer after he finished Grade 5. Fortunately, Saw Tar Moe Aye heard about the Community Vocational Training Center (CVTC) and decided to attend the cook and bakery training session. After he successfully finished the training course, he started his own business by producing and selling traditional snacks at his own village. Saw Tar Moe Aye felt very much supported by his family and friends during the first weeks of his business, during the time he was struggling to find the ingredients and materials he needed to run the business. Saw Tar Moe Aye is offering five kinds of traditional snacks to his customers and his sales make approximately 12.000MMK per day. He saw a growing demand for snacks, for there was no provider of traditional snacks within the village. Recently, Saw Tar Moe Aye submitted his application to attend the next business-training at the CVT Center. He is eager to learn more about entrepreneurship and also considers to apply for the seed funding opportunity. Saw Tar Moe Aye’s parents are very proud of their son and grateful for the ELDP team; for giving this great opportunity to their community.



‘With the money I produce traditional cloths; I can save money and support my family at the same time.’

Naw Mu Mu Paw is 19 years old and lives together with her four siblings at her parents’ home at Duu Yin Pin Shaung, a village located in Pu Law Township. The infrastructure has improved over the last years. Now there is a concrete road all the way to the village. This makes transportation of people and goods possible, even during the rainy season. After a series of illnesses, Naw Mu Mu Paw had to quit school at Grade 8. Since then, she helped her parents by taking care of the families’ chicken and pig farm. She also helped her parents in their daily housework and is involved in local church activities and the youth church program. A few months ago, Naw Mu Mu Paw heard of the opportunity to attend the vocational training and decided to attend the traditional weaving training session. Naw Mu Mu Paw successfully finished her training and started a weaving service. By the family’s support, she was able to buy weaving materials to start her little business. Later she attended the business training and she received a loan worth of 10,570 MMK. With this seed funding, she was able to meet the customers’ demands which didn’t run low ever since. Today, her income from selling traditional clothes varies between 30.000 to 80.000 Kyats per month. Now she can save money for herself and help her family from her income. Naw Mu Mu Paw is thankful for the opportunity that was given to her. She has learned how to produce traditional clothes and to run a small business, so that she can earn her own income. She is encouraging other villagers to learn from her experience and to become a student at the Community Vocational Training Center (CVTC).



Rice Bank, Most Significant Change Story

Interviewer	
Name:	Saw Chit Mike Mike
Position	M&E assistant, Data Base Officer
Organization	TKPSI
Interview Date	30.4.2019

Participant	
Name	Naw Eh Si
Position	Rice Bank President
Village	Shwe U Chaung
Township	Thet Yet Chaung Township

1) History of the village

Shwe U Chaung is a Village Tract that runs under the village of Eh Eh, That Yet Chaung Township. There are 42 HHs whose main businesses involve gardening, hillside cultivation and paddy fields. The transportation during the rainy seasons is difficult and there is no mobile network available. In the summer season, it is easy to make income from seasonal production. But during the rainy season, there are fewer opportunities for jobs and making income. Therefore, these situations are a threat to their livelihoods.

2) Background of the Interviewee

Naw Eh Si lives in That Yet Chaung Township, Eh Eh village, Shwe U Chaung Village Tract. She is married and is the mother of two children. Her private business is a pig husbandry. During her free time, she does her housework and helps her husband with gardening. Now she took on the responsibility of the rice bank president. She is also involved in VDC and serves as a VDC's secretary.

3) The answer of Naw Eh Si about the rice bank

The situation before establishing of rice bank

Previously, there were no rice banks operated in the village. So, the villagers encountered frequent shortages of rice/paddy

in their place. Therefore, the villagers had to borrow rice from other villages and to pay high-interest rates due to insufficient amounts of rice/paddy. It was difficult to travel from one place to another to purchase rice and to pay all the transportation costs.

Collaborate with the project after project implementation

When the project was implemented at the village, the implementers identified the needs of the village and they found out that it is necessary to have a rice bank in the village. On July 3, 2017, with the help of the project implementers, the villagers formed a committee of 9 members. They drafted necessary regulations for the implementation. Then they instigated to build a rice bank. With the project support fund, the villagers constructed one rice bank from October 28, 2017 to December 5, 2017. Every household has to save 1 basket rice and to set up an interest rate of 2 baskets for receiving 10 baskets of rice as a loan. So, they can lend rice/paddy easily by avoiding high-interest rates and long-distance travels for rice/paddy lending. The increase of earnings from interest rates will be reused, to have additional grain. Later on, they will transform it into cash and use it for the village development. The main priority for rice/paddy loans is to involve vulnerable people who are in need of rice/grain. They set up a systematic loan system for providing equity for vulnerable people. As an interviewee, Naw Eh Si once lent rice, so that she could resolve

her family's livelihood issues. So far there are 42 HHs who save rice/paddy into the rice bank. They received rice from 10 HHs in 2018, and from 19 HHs in 2019. The positive outcome is that they can resolve the problem of insufficient availability of rice/paddy. In the village it is difficult with transportation in the rainy season. Therefore, they have no sufficient amounts of rice. But now, villagers see the positive impact of the rice bank on their villages. Although they do not have any exact plans for their future work in their villages, they are at least able to borrow rice/paddy frequently.

Photograph:
Rice Bank Building



ANNEX 2: LIST OF ENUMERATORS

No.	Name
1	Nant Shar Gay Bwa (Team Leader - Enumerators)
2	Saw Pyit Nyein Chan Aung (Coordinator)
3	Saw Kyar Day
4	Saw Govachev
5	Saw Dah Dah
6	Saw Htoo Ka Lo
7	Naw Lay Paw
8	Naw Wah Eh Gyi
9	Naw Phaw Soe Blay
10	Chit Mike Mike
11	Saw Hsar Nel Hsee
12	San Nay Myo Aung
13	Saw Hsar Mei Htaw
14	Naw Endream
15	Naw Star Light
16	Naw Smiling
17	Saw Lwe Shee (Finance and Logistics)

Actual Sample Size (n)	344.0
#of Clusters	15.0
Sampling Interval	219.0
Starting Number (randomly chosen)	42.0
HH in a Cluster	22.9

ANNEX 3: END LINE SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE AND VILLAGE LIST

Sr.	Name	Townships	Village Tract	House- hold	Cumulative HH	Calculation	Series of Clusters	Total HH to be Interview	Remark
1	Seik Chaung	Dawei	Aa Nyar Pyar	61		42	1	23	Program Team Deci- ded to collect 15 clusters for the whole program area.
2	Dar Thwe Kyauk		Aa Nyar Pyar	65	126				
3	Ahtat Seik Hoyone		Myin Kan Baw'	73	199				
4	Ka Mate		Myin Kan Baw'	73	272	261	2	23	
5	Hnan Pa Yoke		Myin Kan Baw'	93	365				
6	Kyeik Pee Laung		Phaung Taw Gyi	85	450				
7	Phaung Taw Gyi		Phaung Taw Gyi	120	570	480	3	23	
8	Pyar Thar Chaung		Pyar Thar Chaung	200	770	699	4	23	
9	Maung Mahtu		Pyar Thar Chaung	80	850				
10	Ka Thauung Ni		Pyar Thar Chaung	188	1038	918	5	23	
11	Kyauk Htu		Pyar Thar Chaung	130	1168	1137	6	23	
12	Byu	"Thayet	Ka Nyin Chaung	116	1284				
13	Mar La Kar Chaung		Ait Ait	61	1345				
14	Pa Dauk Ngae		Pe Det	41	1386	1356	7	23	
15	Pae Ta Khot		Pe Det	61	1447				
16	Takun Ding		Pe Det	211	1658	1575	8	23	
17	Pe Phyan		Pe Det	65	1723				
18	Lel Pyin Gyi		Ait Ait	171	1894	1794	9	23	
19	Mee Laung Chaung		Ait Ait	66	1960				
20	Ait Ait		Ait Ait	198	2158	2013	10	23	
21	Shwe U Chaung		Ait Ait	42	2200				
22	Nyein Chan 1		Ait Ait	48	2248	2232	11	23	
23	Phu Poke	Pa Law	Kyout Lon Gyi	150	2398				
24	Tharyar Kone		Palaw Pyar	40	2438				
25	Pyin Gyi		Palaw Pyar	48	2486	2451	12	23	
26	Thar Myay Pyin		Palaw Pyar	143	2629				
27	Yae Shar		Palaw Pyar	68	2697	2670	13	23	
28	Zar Di Win		Palaw Pyar	119	2816				
29	Matlaw		Palaw Pyar	49	2865				
30	Phaut		Thoung Yan Gun	196	3061	2889	14	23	
31	Ka Byar		Ka Dal'	67	3128	3108	15	23	
32	Let Pan Pyin		Ka Dal'	42	3170				
33	Durein Bon Shaung		Durein Bon Shaung	115	3285				
34	Total Villages		Total HH	3285			15	345	



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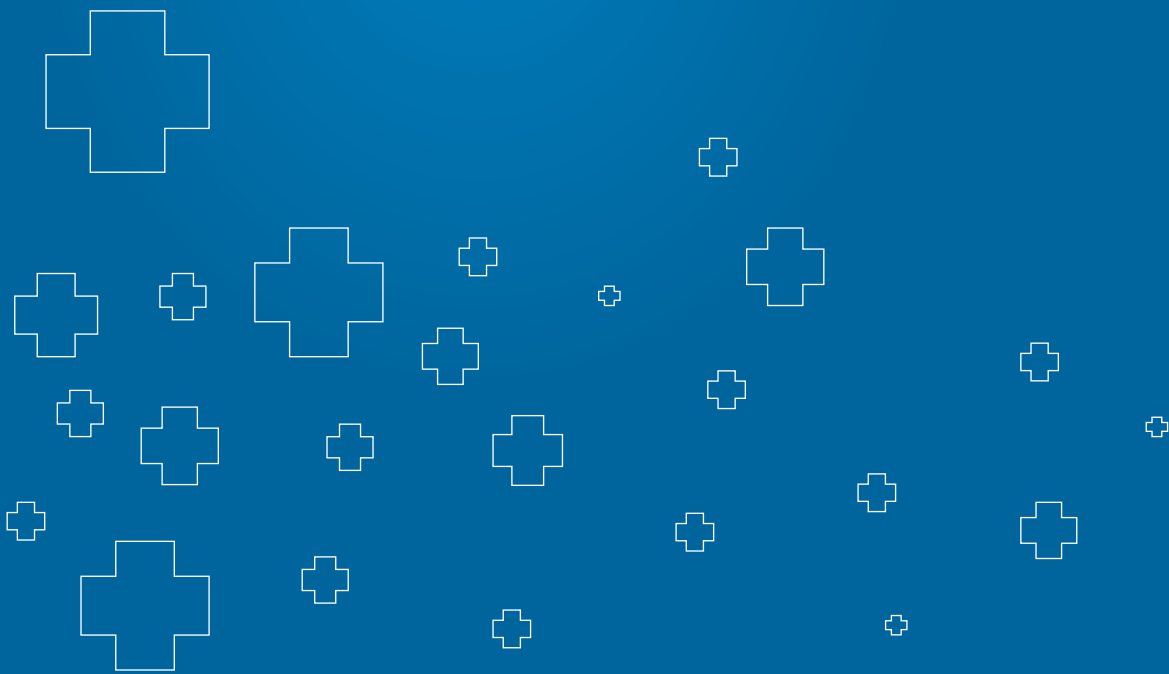
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