



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT

Myanmar Project – 2021 Year

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Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Development Report

Myanmar Project – 2021 Year

Introduction

The aims and objectives of the WIF's sustainable livelihoods and community development project are to restore the forest with new mangrove trees for CO2 climate mitigation, to provide a helping hand to the disadvantaged community in overcoming the abject poverty as a reward for the people's partnership to take care of the forest for the next 20 years. Income from the sale of VCUs will be equally shared with partner investors to secure the future of the forest in the best interest of all stakeholders. Parts of livelihood investment is included in the initial planting budget, while the long-term livelihoods support is secured by sharing of VCU income, which will bring the poorest majority to earn up to 100% more during the next 5 years.

Project Summary

WIF has actively engaged in mangrove restoration in Myanmar since 2012. Its sustainable livelihood projects are designed to implement the project activities through a community participatory planning approach proposed by the Village/Community Development Committees (V/CDC) and endorsed by WIF standard guidelines and selection process to prioritize projects with the highest impact. WIF's Livelihood Unit also provides technical assistance and guidance to the Village/Community Development Committees in charge of project implementation to ensure grassroots participation of the village.



Women participation in Planting activity

Target Beneficiaries

WIF is implementing activities in Ayeyarwady Region and a baseline survey conducted in 2015 by WIF reported that 62% of the population in the project areas live beyond the poverty line. They do not have many livelihoods opportunities apart from fishing, and they used to work as daily workers. According to the Myanmar Living Condition Survey 2017, about 1.8 million poor population are living in Ayeyarwady Region.

Planning and Implementation

The project design involves an extensive participatory process, including a baseline survey with field visits to targeted communities, key informant interviews/meetings, and stakeholder meetings/workshops. WIF assesses the needs of those communities through the application of a community participatory planning approach and develops a community development action plan.

Community Mobilization and Engagement

Mobilized community participation towards Sustainable Livelihoods Development is a vital part of project implementation to achieve better outcomes for all stakeholders, community ownership and sustainable development. WIF Livelihoods team has mobilized in targeted villages and formulated village development committees in each village tract and ensured marginalized groups

have a seat at the table and can participate in the process on an equal footing, ownership, and builds a strong base for the intervention.



Meeting with Village Leaders and community members at Bawmi and Chaung Tha areas

Key Activities/ Programme

WIF is implementing five programmes of livelihoods project activities including (i) income generation activities, (ii) cash for work, (iii) Awareness Raising/ improving knowledge, Communication and Campaign, (iv) Life skill/ vocational training and (v) Financial Support activities. Activities for vulnerable groups are identified on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with community development committees and communities, with careful attention paid to gender equality in decision-making and participation.

1. Income Generation Activities

Income Generation activities is intended to support communities with a means to meet their immediate needs that will increase family income and will improve the economic progress of the communities.

Ice Plant Business Project: Shwe Thaung Yan area is a small city at western part of coastal area of Ayeyarwady Region where people do not have many livelihoods opportunities apart from fishing and they used to work as daily workers. During the field support mission on 25-28 January 2021, Livelihood team has met with the for discussing livelihoods development activities such as group project business, ice plant installation, and other livelihoods activities to implement in the targeted areas. Shwe Thaung Yan area is located in coastal area where fishing communities lack basic infrastructure and services. Electricity and freshwater supplies are absent in many areas. Many households are heavily dependent upon fishing for subsistence and income generation and landlessness is at a high level, making households especially vulnerable to falling catches, as they have few alternatives to ensure their subsistence. Many of the coastal areas and remote inland areas remain under-developed and this constrains the benefits that local people can gain from involvement in the fisheries sector. Therefore, communities are willing to establish ice plant for the creation of livelihoods opportunities of the local people and sustainable income generation for the communities. The purpose was based on an urgent request by the fishermen who has for long tried to get ice to secure their catch when 40% of it is spoilt on the way to the market due to non

availability of ice. The project has a very high social and economic impact on the sea harvesting economy and food security in the area.



Fig: Producing of Ice block



Fig: Producing of Ice block



Fig: Ice breaker machine and breaking ice for ready to use

Fig: Staff record daily data in the book



Fig: Selling ice block to the buyers

Fig: Selling ice block to the buyers



Fig: Ice plant bill board at the coner of the road



Fig: Management Committee Meeting

With the support of WIF, Ice plant has been completely installed in the community contributed land in the end of November, 2021. From the profit of this project, Management committee agreed to allocate 20% of net profit for the community development fund. In close collaboration with WIF, village tract leaders and village development committee, management committee will cooperate sustainable livelihood and community development activities in their area through conducting annual meeting and action plan.

- **Fuel Efficient Stove Producing:** WIF has organized fuel-efficient stove making projects as a part of environmental conservation activities that create job opportunities and extra income for the communities. Total 37 participants received technical knowledge, and they will produce 1821 stoves to distribute to the vulnerable households in 15 villages and earned 7000-8000 MMK per stove during the project period. The stoves can be made by material readily available in the communities and save over 40% of biofuel.



Beneficiaries received fuel-efficient stoves and using for cooking

- **Increased family income by providing crab equipments:** Supported crab nets to 106 households of disadvantages villagers to generate income for their family to earn daily income in 9 villages through village development committee in close collaboration with local authorities.



Crab equipment distribution to the beneficiaries in Chaung Tha areas

- **Seasonal Livelihoods opportunities through Mangrove seed collection**



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project areas' unemployment has sharply increased. Villagers from targeted villages got seasonal job opportunities by collecting mangrove seeds near their villages during lean seasons and the hardship time of Covid-19 and political instability and can earn (8000-15000MMK/day). It creates a seasonal livelihoods opportunity for the targeted communities to earn income for their family during the seed collecting period.

Villager received income cash by collecting mangrove seeds

Seaweed Production: Expanded WIFs blue carbon concept with sea weed production and sea grass conservation projects. In addition to its high blue carbon value, the sea weed production project also prove its value as livelihood contributor with jobs and sustainable development. WIF has supported many households in targeted villages to produce seaweed that increase family income and increase of nutrition levels by linking with market.



Seaweed production in the chaung tha areas

Seaweeds have been used as food, skincare and personal care, etc. in some civilizations around the world and it has been reported that edible seaweeds are rich in proteins, lipids and dietary fibre. Seaweed project has started in August 2020 in Shwe Thaug Yan area, Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar. WIF has selected to cultivate **Gracilaria spp** in the farm and it is a group of warm water seaweeds. This project is to develop and produce seaweed value-added product such as food, snacks, skin care, cosmetic, soap, etc. especially for the local people by supporting both technical assistance and services as it is a good livelihood opportunity for the local communities to get extra income and trade by growing this seaweed. Worldview International Foundation (WIF) is producing skin care; sjolive products in support of the business partner to identify viable commercial opportunities and establishing business development plan to achieve sustainable livelihoods and community development for our targeted communities for their sustainable income.



Skin care product production from the seaweed extracts

2. Cash for work programme

This programme helps meet the immediate basic needs for families whilst building assets helping them strengthen their livelihoods, reduce the risks from natural disasters, and make them and their communities more resilient to shocks. The activities create daily job opportunities for the villagers who can earn 8000MMK per day during the project period by renovation and construction of drinking water well, water supply system, improving drainage system in the targeted villages proposed by the village development committee.

Improving village drainage system: For reducing health and environmental risks, WIF has supported the village areas where drainage and sanitation are poor, water runs over the ground during rainstorms and contaminates water sources through improving village drainage system.



Improving drainage system in project area

Improving better transportation to access economic and social services: WIF has supported village access wooden bridge in Chaung Tha to improve better transportation to access economic and social services through renovation of wooden bridge is 90 ft at Ward (2) and 92ft length of timber bridge in Nga Pain Ta Lae village. In addition, road renovation is implemented 700 ft long in Ka Nyin Kwin village and 600ft long in Pyar tike village to improve better access to social services, market, etc. according to the community proposals through the village development committee.



Wooden bridge construction at Chaung Tha Ward (2) and Nga Pain Ta Lae village



Road construction project in Ka Nyin Kwin village and Pyar Tike village

Improving safe water accessibility and sanitation: To easy access to clean drinking water, WIF is supporting hang dug well project through the leading of village development committee for the people living in low-lying areas are particularly vulnerable to disruptions in their access to safe water. In addition, WIF has supported fly proof toilet for sub rural health center in Kan Gyi village to improve good sanitation for a healthy living environment for people and to protect the natural resources such as surface water, groundwater, and soil, and provide safety, security and dignity for people when they defecate or urinate.



Fly proof toilet in Ka Nyin Kwin village and Well digging project in Magyizin Pyar village

Rain Water Harvesting project: The main purpose is to help alleviate the shortage of drinking water during the summer and to reduce the spread of contagious diseases through contaminated water, and to increase the number of healthy families by providing big clay pots to the 33 disadvantaged households in U To village, Kan Gyi area.



Provision of big clay pots to the disadvantaged households at Chaung Tha area

3. Awareness Raising/Improving knowledge

WIF continually provides learning opportunities for children facing poverty, delivering education supplies at the targeted school to ensure their right to education. These items provide access to learning, helping to improve IT skills, knowledge and education. The provided materials include computers, printers, tables and chairs, solar panels, batteries and accessories, desks and chairs, education supplies, etc. It will create more IT skills opportunities for school children and teachers for their future career development and sustainable development.



Students learning IT knowledge in school



Solar lamp provided to school children



Support scholarship stipend pay to recipient student

Scholarship Program: To ensure that all targeted women have access and complete their continued education, including university, WIF has continually supported the financial needs of students to complete their education that contributes to national growth and prosperity. Forty-one students from Grade-9 to university level are selected to support scholarship grants in the upcoming academic year.

Health Awareness on Hygiene and Four Clean: Health awareness on Hygiene and four clean (Water clean, Latrine Clean, Food Clean and Hand Clean) principles was conducted to improve hygiene knowledge, practices and reducing water-borne diseases in Kan gyi, Ka Nyin Kwin, U To, Chauk Eain Su and Taung Ni Maw villages in collaboration of rural health staff. Participants were received knowledge on safe drinking water, clean food, clean latrine, and practice of handwashing to reduce diseases such as diarrhea, intestinal parasites, typhoid, malaria and hepatitis and hygiene kits in the session.



Hygiene and health awareness session in project area

4. Life skill/ Vocational Training

WIF has organized fuel-efficient stove making training for 37 persons and provided both practical and theory lessons on building a fuel-efficient stove to use and saving less pressure on firewood. The training on basic handmade personal care product making training was conducted to seven villages in Chaung Thar for women and youth to learn for their own handmade technique and start own businesses positive. Moreover, WIF has supported home garden training to 40 participants in 4 villages as a strategy to enhance household food security and nutrition. Home gardens are an integral part of local food systems and addressing food insecurity and malnutrition as well as providing additional benefits such as income and livelihood opportunities for resource-poor families and delivering a number of ecosystem services. In addition, WIF has trained youth pioneers from Chaung Tha and Bawmi areas to build video shooting/editing capacity with mobile phones to produce stories that matter to them and/or their communities.



Fuel efficient stove making training



Video shooting/editing with mobile phones training



Home Garden training



Soap making training at Chaung Tha areas

5. Financial Support activities

Revolving Fund is established by linking with the income generation and vocational/ life skill training. The village revolving fund will support cash as capital to the selected beneficiaries through the Village Development Committee and local authorities. This program is essential to improve economic progress and support start-up capital in building micro-enterprises and home industries. WIF has supported 299 households for fishery, livestock, agriculture and small

business, etc. activities through village revolving fund in 10 villages. Capacity building activities and information sharing of financial services will be provided to the targeted villages.



Bookkeeping training and disbursement village revolving fund in the Chaung Tha area

Emergency Response to the COVID-19 global pandemic

During the pandemic period, WIF has supported the basic food items such as Rice, Cooking Oil, Onion, Eggs, and beans to solve food shortages during the lockdown period, as well as the lack of income due to not being able to work. In addition, WIF has provided personal protective equipment (PPE) such as surgical masks, hand sanitizer, Infra-Thermometer, hand gel, etc., to the Covid-19 Task Force Committees and clinical materials such as patient monitor and electrocardiogram to General Hospital.



Provision of clinical materials to local general hospital



Food items distribution to beneficiary

Monsoon tree plantation activity to promote community energy forest



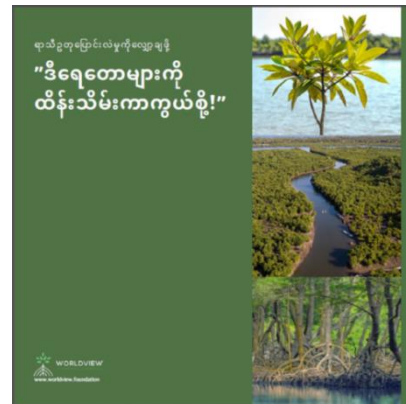
WIF has distributed a total of 1,160 small plants, including high energy *Gliricidia sepium* and other plants, to households, village development committees and school committees to reduce the pressure of fuelwood for cooking purposes. Moreover, WIF has a plan to expand energy forest for homes based on successful experience by WIF from ongoing mangrove restoration projects.

Villagers grow small plants in public areas

Media and Public Education

WIF has developed public education and advocacy messages with newsletters and pamphlets for improving education and awareness on environmental protection and sustainable livelihood development.

The grassroot communities are motivated and willing to take part in these actions. Therefore, WIF develops information, education, and communication materials such as newsletters, pamphlets, etc. in a monthly basic,



A drone shot of mangrove forest in Shwe Thung Yan area, Ayeyarwaddy Division
Photo - Yu Lin Kywe

Mangroves in Myanmar

Mangroves are trees that grows between high tide and low tide areas. They can be also regarded as evergreen forest that can survive in the intertidal zone.

Depend on the tidal inundation, mangrove species distribution can be different and the tide is important role for the formation of mangrove vegetation.

In worldwide, 42% of mangrove forest can be found in Asia and 21% are in Africa. 15% of mangrove forest are growing in the middle and northern part of America and 12% are in Australia and peninsula. South America owns 11% of mangrove forest. Mangroves are the precious gift of nature between land and sea to humans.

There are two kinds of mangrove forest in Myanmar. Which are as follow.



2021.9.1

Provision of cylinder and personal protective equipment to Social Rescue Team



The Worldview International Foundation provided oxygen and other medical supplies to a relief group in Kuan-Chan-Kuan township, Yangon Region on 9th September, 2021.

Success Experience of Seaweed Production



Worldview International Foundation delivered a seaweed production training in Shwe Thungyan project area, Ayeyarwaddy region. After delivering the training, the trainees were implemented seaweed farm project as a group with the support of WIF. In July, individual business farming expanded successfully with the support of revolving fund.

Establishment of a village revolving fund



WIF formulated a revolving fund committee



Graphics educational and awareness-raising

Challenges/ Risk Management

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many planned activities in the field areas are delayed and suspended. On 1st February 2021, the military seized power after detaining democratically elected leaders with a one year of state emergency that gradually increased human rights violations and political instability. However, WIF is taking care of project implementation in close coordination with field office areas and communities as it is a non-political, non-government organization. WIF is well-established with a dedicated team in the fields and head office and the overall WIF activities are well in progress in partnership with related stakeholders.

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