

airavati

Annual Report

01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



Vision

To ensure that the Ayeyarwaddy River flows far into the future, as well as preserving the environment, culture and way of life for the many communities surrounding it.

Mission

To cooperate with local communities based on their culture, customs and resources and shared values when implementing environmental conservation and community development activities across the country.

Uniqueness

To focus on the 20 million people live in the Ayeyarwaddy River basin by providing humanitarian, environmental, and community mobilising agenda. Airavati values inclusion, embraces diversity, equality and transparency, and promotes the rich cultures that define our identities across the different ethnic nationals that compose the mosaic of the Union of Myanmar.



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AIRAVATI REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

by Christine Schmutzler

COVER

Detail of Children's Art
"The Homeland I remember"

PHOTOS

by Airavati

p. 7, 13, 15, 19, 20-23, 26, 27

by Christine Schmutzler

p. 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, 24

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THANKS TO ALL

The Airavati thanks the first donors, especially the individual donors, and its partners that support local ownership, all of which have made programme implementation possible during the first year.

Photo: <http://www.rd.com/true-stories/inspiring/elephants-save-bridge/>

The Airavati's Vision and Mission

as Framed by its Founding Members



Vision

TO ENSURE THAT THE AYEYARWADDY RIVER FLOWS FAR INTO THE FUTURE, AS WELL AS PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND WAY OF LIFE FOR THE MANY COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING IT.

Mission

TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES BASED ON THEIR CULTURE, CUSTOMS, AND RESOURCES AND SHARED VALUES WHEN IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Executive Summary

This annual report covers the period of 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, Airavati's second year of programme implementation. The report details the goals met, and challenges faced in Airavati's efforts to support project area communities meet their self-prioritised needs through specific program components.

Airavati received a total of 312,543 US\$ from 3 international partner organizations and individual donors. Altogether 3,506 individuals (54% of whom were women) in 14 villages and 3 IDP camps were covered by projects initiated under the 3 programme components of Community Resilience in the Confluence, Social Information and Mobilisation, and Children Overcoming Conflict and Displacement Through the Arts.

The Community Resilience in the Confluence component received the largest portion of the funds, and registered the largest programme outreach. The programme allowed village management committees to lead activities in income-generating projects, microcredit and children's education. In 2015, 28 families (12% of participants), generated annual incomes ranging from 65,000 MMK to 411,000 MMK, helping them attain improved food security. Children attending Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) classes have demonstrated a marked improvement in psycho-socio-cognitive skills.

Of special note is Airavati's initiative, Children Overcoming Conflict and Displacement Through the Arts programme, which has proven to be a viable, cost-effective, and replicable model as a psycho-social process of healing and providing support for displaced children to find expression through creative arts.

The Social Information and Mobilisation programme has also been an effective tool in mobilizing local Civil Society Organisations to promote knowledge and capacity, making local people more aware of issues related to land, natural resources and human rights.

A major challenge faced by Airavati is the urgent need for funding to continue the projects. At the time of reporting, a number of the projects could not be continued beyond 2015. The project duration was not adequate to fully address issues of poverty, enforced relocation, human rights, peace and governance. Airavati, as the sole organisation assisting displaced communities of the confluence, entreats its donors and partners to continue with their invaluable support so that these most vulnerable of communities can overcome the trauma of enforced relocation and be empowered enough to strive for their own development in a sustainable way.



Introduction

The Airavati, a Sanskrit word for the elephant river, was formed in 2013 in response to the emerging desire of the peoples of Myanmar that the Ayeyarwaddy River continues to flow far into the future. To accomplish this, the Airavati uses a sociocratic system where projects are implemented using holistic and inclusive approaches that support the values of self-determination and peace-building. Ultimately, all activities are intended to be owned by the local people and will reflect the interdependence and interconnection of all forms of life.

Airavati's programmes, using a holistic approach, empower men and women living in the most vulnerable communities to become agents of their own development and to achieve sustainable progress in overcoming injustices and poverty. The programmes adhere to participatory learning, thus, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) are regularly undertaken with key stakeholders especially the local peoples to ensure that programs respond to community needs, which constantly evolve as conditions and dynamics change.

In order for Airavati to meet local challenges and opportunities, all its programmes are founded on three essential elements:

1. Empowering local people as key change agents
2. Mobilizing communities for self-reliant actions
3. Fostering effective partnerships with local civil society organizations and other organizations with similar visions

Capacity building is a vital component across the spectrum of Airavati's work. All its programmes and projects include capacity building in various development-related subject matters for all key stakeholders especially the local peoples in the poorest and most marginalized villages. Because participating villages are generally in very difficult situations, training on human rights, land rights and natural resource management are incorporated in all the programmes. Airavati utilises local CSO partners and internal technical officers to provide the trainings, and whenever needed, both local and international experts.

The first initiative of Airavati was assessment of villages most affected by the Myitsone dam construction. The assessment conducted in the confluence, was held in November 2013, where the local people identified and prioritised their most critical needs.

The results of this assessment formed the basis for Airavati's support which was strategically addressed by the six programme components that include:

- Community Resilience in the Confluence
- Community Resilience in the Delta Area
- Tales of the Riverbank
- Community-Led Watershed Advocacy
- Social Information and Mobilisation (SIM)
- Children Overcoming Conflict and Displacement through the Arts

During the reporting period however, only three programme components were operational. The three other projects which were started in 2014 had to be temporarily deferred to 2015 for various reasons. The Community-Led Watershed Advocacy project is awaiting approval of its 3-year proposal formulated in 2015. With regard to the Tales of the Riverbank project, the literary artists are still in the process of selecting the most relevant stories.

1. Community Resilience in the Confluence

Introduction

The Airavati Resilience in the Confluence, now in its 2nd year of implementation, consists of two priority projects- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Sustainable Livelihood Development Programme (SLDP). These projects were designed in response to the results of the needs assessment conducted in 2013 of the four villages most affected by the Myitsone dam construction in the confluence (Tangphre, Mazup, Dawngpen and Lahpre). Given the below than average living standards in the villages, Airavati devised flexible strategies appropriate to the peoples' conditions to ensure that the programme will really benefit them. Thus, Airavati adopted a highly participatory approach to community development, where the villagers themselves identified the strategies and prioritized the interventions to be supported by the Programme through the Village Management Committees (VMCs). The Programme was anchored on the Participatory Action Research (PAR) strategy to empower the communities to plan, manage, decide and monitor the projects and the funds to achieve empowerment and self-reliance in the long-run. Capacity building is embedded in all components of the Programme.

The education activities were based on the ECCD model designed and successfully implemented by the Metta Development Foundation throughout many areas of Myanmar. The ECCD activities focus on the holistic development and growth of children aged 5 years old and younger to prepare them for primary school.



The SLDP aims to assist people who had been displaced by the Myitsone dam construction to improve or at least restore their livelihoods, incomes and standard of living by supporting both economic and conservation activities with strong capacity building measures. This programme essentially provides start-up funds for local livelihood projects that have experienced severe setbacks when families were relocated and removed from their homesteads.

The SLDP and ECCD operations are interlinked as it is expected that the income to be generated from livelihoods will support the teachers' salaries, nutrition for children and child care centre maintenance for long-term sustainability.

Each of these programme areas are discussed separately with detailed information about their objectives, activities and accomplishments for the second year of operation.

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)



The general objective of the ECCD programme component is to support holistic and healthy development, and learning abilities of young children under five years of age. The programme provides intensive training to community leaders, ECCD management committees, teachers and parent education facilitators. It also constructs new ECCD centres and improves existing ECCD centre facilities and provides teachers and children basic educational materials. Depending on the request of a community, the programme may provide food to supplement children's nutrition. Teachers' salaries are likewise provided to be phased out when income-generating projects are able to help increase household' economic security thereby enabling the villages to support their own ECCD centre operations.

Overall, ECCD has achieved the targets set in the expected outcomes and objectives on the 2nd year of implementation. As revealed by the mid-term assessment, the programme has contributed in building the capacities (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of the ECCD teachers, parents and children, VMCs and villagers. Pre-schools have created a safe and stimulating learning environment for children in addition to providing more time for parents to earn a living. Also, positive attitudinal and behavioral changes were taking place among the families, teachers and villagers as follows:

- Parents have improved parental child care practices, have better understanding about child development, and allow more freedom to children for creativity and exploration.
- ECCD teachers have greater commitment, patience and child friendly style of teaching styles, thus, are better in teaching children after the trainings.
- Children have better attitude compared to non-ECCD children. They are more skilful and confident in speaking and performing before an audience, increased socialization, improved nutritional status and improved hygiene and personal skills
- Villagers have increased awareness and commitment to ECCD, as well as willingness to share in ECCD expenses despite their very poor financial condition. The communities' attitude toward sending children to ECCD has improved as parents expressed appreciation for the value of education.

The activities and outcomes associated with the specific objectives are shown in the table.

Summary of ECCD Accomplishments by Objective

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY SUMMARY	SUMMARY OF DEGREE TO WHICH EACH OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY WAS ACHIEVED
1 Improved access to quality education for children 5 years old and below in 4 priority communities	At least 50% of children 0-5 years old (a total of 150) in 4 villages enrolled in ECCD centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 81 children (m 41, f 40) enrolled in 3 ECCD centres ■ 2 teachers were hired for 2 ECCD centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 90% of targeted 90 children enrolled in ECCD centres ■ 50% of targeted 4 teachers hired for 2 new villages
	ECCD centres in 4 confluence villages are better equipped to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The old, unsafe and inadequate ECCD centre in Dawngpen was replaced with safe and adequate new centre with toilet, water supply & fence. ■ 128 nos of teaching & learning aids were distributed among 3 ECCD centres ■ 5 tables, 20 chairs and 2 cupboards were distributed among 3 ECCD centres ■ 1 Partition was provided for 1 ECCD centre ■ 59 children (m 29, f 30) from 2 ECCD centres were fed supplemental food every month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 100% of targeted 1 ECCD centre ■ 150% of targeted 2 ECCD centres ■ The specific objectives for the ECCD centres were achieved. ■ 97% of targeted 60 children in 2 ECCD centres receiving supplemental food
2 Develop capable teachers, parents, community leaders and residents, who understand and can provide appropriate child care and nurturing practices for children 5 years old and younger	Enhanced capacity of ECCD teachers, parents & community representatives/leaders to respond to children's needs Training included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 90 parents (m 4, f 86) received Parent Education Facilitators (PEFs) training ■ Month long ECCD teachers training for 1 teacher ■ ECCD Teachers Refresher Training for 7 teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1125 % targeted 8 parents from 2 villages ■ 17% of targeted 6 teachers trained ■ 100% of targeted 6 teachers trained
3 Establish functional ECCD Village Management Committees (VMC) with enhanced organisational, operational and financial management capacity to implement and sustain early childhood interventions and inclusive education services	Improved capacity of ECCD Village Management Committees to manage ECCD centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 19 people (m 6, f 13) from 2 villages attend VMC meetings ■ 25 people (m 11, f 14) participated in exchange visit model ECCD centre ■ 3 ECCD VMCs conducted regular monthly meetings, ■ Supervisory and monitoring visits and prepared monthly reports ■ 1 annual review and planning session participated in by villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 136% of targeted 14 members of 2 VMCs ■ 100% of targeted 1 exchange visit ■ The specific objectives for the ECCD centres were achieved.

ECCD Accomplishments

COVERAGE

For the reporting period, ECCD projects were implemented in the three villages of Tangphre, Mazup and Dawngpen. A total of 293 persons participated in the ECCD activities consisting of 81 children, 7 teachers, 90 parents, 25 VMCs and 90 local people. Two-thirds of the participants were women.

- A TOTAL OF 293 PERSONS PARTICIPATED, 66% WOMEN
- 81 CHILDREN ENROLLED, 49% GIRLS
- 1 NEW ECCD CENTRE CONSTRUCTED
- 3 ECCD CENTRES PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND LEARNING MATERIALS
- 4 TRAININGS CONDUCTED WITH 123 PARTICIPANTS, 88% WOMEN
- FEEDING PROGRAM FOR 59 CHILDREN IN 2 ECCD CENTRE
- 7 TEACHERS PROVIDED WITH MONTHLY STIPEND

ENROLMENT & GRADUATION

For school year 2015-2016, a total of 81 children, 41 boys and 40 girls, were enrolled in the 3 ECCD centres. Among them, 41 were old students and 40 new students. While the second year accomplishment was only 90 percent of the targeted 90 ECCD pupils (45 old pupils and 45 new pupils), it has a higher turnout of 48% graduates over the first year that registered only 27 graduates, representing 35%.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ECCD CENTRE

A new ECCD centre was constructed in Dawngpen and provided with essential facilities like toilet, water, and fencing, as well as teaching and learning aids. It was cost-shared: the land was purchased by the villagers, construction materials were procured by Airavati and labor was provided by carpenters and villagers. With the new ECCD centre, the number of pupils increased from 16 to 22 and the community has become more united and determined to make the project work.

TYPE OF TRAINING	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS		
	Male	Female	Total
ECCD Teacher		1	1
Teacher Refresher		7	7
Parental Education	4	86	90
Exchange Visit	11	14	25
Total	15	108	123

Building the capacity of teachers, parents, VMCs, and community members is essential for ensuring the project's success. Four types of trainings were conducted, participated in by 123 key stakeholders, mostly women, as shown in the table. The exchange visits to two Metta-assisted ECCD centres provided the teachers, VMCs and village leaders the opportunity to learn from the experience of other centres, i.e., how to sustain ECCD operations after project termination.

VILLAGE	NO. OF ECCD VMC MEMBERS		
	Male	Female	Total
Tangphre	4	2	4
Mazup	2	2	6
Dawngpen	2	2	4
Total	8	6	14

ECCD VMC MEETINGS

ECCD management teams with a total of 14 members (43% women), conduct meetings regularly, with majority of members attending. Although not included in the capacity building activities, these meetings were observed to have capacitated the members in planning, management, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of activities.

OTHER ECCD SUPPORT PROVIDED:

- Salaries of seven teachers (50,000 MMK/month salary)
- Provision of supplemental feeding for 59 children at the request of the 2 villages of Dawngpen and Mazup to improve nutritional status of children.
- Additional ECCD-related activities financially supported by the VMCs and the communities:
 - Excursion trip (Tangphre)
 - Participation of 90 persons in the World Children's Day activities.

CHALLENGES

A major challenge of the ECCD is the low economic condition of the confluence families. The mid-term assessment and PME results show that the parents and villagers are not financially stable yet to support the needs of the ECCD centres, especially the salaries of teachers. Only Tangphre VMC has started providing 10,000 MMK additional allowance to the two ECCD teachers. Some parents have started earning from livelihood interventions but these incomes are of minimal amounts and are mostly utilised to meet the more critical food requirement of the family. Airavati would need to continue giving support to ECCD to sustain its operation.



Interview with ECCD Teacher from Tangphre on Differences and Changes of ECCD Students

Hka Tawng observed that children who have studied for 2 years in ECCD centres improved their attitude, behavior and mindset. ECCD children have become more mature, more obedient, polite, helpful, and sharing.

She also noticed that children were improving in learning skills and can read and write. There were physical changes especially in appearance and nutrition status of the children. The children can manage by themselves their daily routine process at school – eating and hygiene.

Hka Tawng said, "As children have a quick manner in learning, I have noticed that they could also learn the behaviour of the teachers quickly. So, I realise that teachers should not only be good in teaching and caring for the children but must also possess good attitude and behaviour so that the children can imitate the best from the teachers." In the beginning, she thought that ECCD was mainly for teaching children how to read and write. She said, *"Now I know that ECCD is teaching the children not only how to read and write, but it also teaches them through playing, asking questions, giving more time to talk with children to help them with their learning."*

Hka Tawng, 3 years as ECCD Teacher in Tangphre

Sustainable Livelihood Development Programme (SLDP)

The overall objective of SLDP is to improve and sustain the livelihoods of 384 households or 2,130 family members from the four communities most affected by the Myitsone dam construction. It seeks to strengthen the earning capacity of the people by providing a package of financial and technical assistance designed for diversified small-scale community-based agriculture and income-generating projects.

Financial support covers start-up capital for livelihood activities to buy animal stocks, feeds, seeds, farm tools, shops stocks, etc. Technical support generally consists of trainings designed to build/improve the capacities of key stakeholders on selected livelihood technologies and to strengthen the operation of VMC organizations. These livelihood interventions are expected to generate profit and increase family incomes that will enable them to meet basic needs including children's education.

Results of the **mid-term assessment** conducted in June 2015 showed that the SLDP livelihood projects have helped generate additional incomes, although in small amounts, which supplemented basic family expenditures. There was also improved health, nutrition and food security gained from some livelihood activities like vegetable growing, poultry and eggs production which are mostly used for family consumption. The micro credit union (MCU) has been very helpful in responding to the local people's most pressing problem of lack of capital/low income because then, they can easily borrow money at a low interest rate.

Faced with the very limited economic opportunities existing in the confluence and the restrictive policies of the Government, it would seem that Airavati-assisted livelihood projects maybe the only available option available to the villagers to generate additional income for the family. The many SLDP livelihood initiatives and achievements have given the villagers hope for a better future and have lured more people to live in the villages.

The table below shows that specific outputs and activities increase the income and productivity of beneficiary households as they manage their livelihood projects.



OBJECTIVES	Summary of SLDP Accomplishments by Objective	
	SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1 To increase productivity and income of beneficiary households (75% of total households in 4 priority communities of the confluence or a total of 288) by Providing diversified small-scale livelihood opportunities	Capable Programme beneficiaries on development concepts, appropriate technologies and financial management of projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110% of targeted people got Fishpond Training 97 targeted people got MCU Awareness raining 55% of targetted 200 people received training about basic animal husbandry and breeding livestock
	Established profitable and viable livelihood projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 236 villagers from 3 villages received livelihood support for projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35HH raised pigs 6HH raised poultry 23HH raised seasonal crop plantation 11HH set up small shops 6HH established rice bank 3 villages received seed funds to form MCU groups with total of 155 members from 3 target villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 167% of targeted 138 beneficiaries received livelihoods opportunities
2 To improve the development Knowledge and management skills of SLDP VMCs and Communities through capacity building in order to achieve self-Reliance and empowerment.	More capable and active SLDP VMCs in project management and organizational processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 VMC members (m 14, f 17) from 2 villages received VMC Management Training 191 people (m 63, f 128) from 3 villages were trained in Land Law & Human Rights Awareness 62 people (m 47, f 15) from 4 villages participated in the Land Law Myitsone Advocacy Workshop 41 people (m 20, f 21) from 4 villages participated in the VMC Workshop 70 people (m 25, f 45) attended for 2 days the Micro Credit Union Awareness raising sessions in Dawngpen in May 2015 and 24 people (m 8, f 16) in Laphre in June 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 221% of targeted 14 VMC members from 2 villages received 293% of targeted 14 VMC members from 4 villages in PDP
	VMCs and communities properly managed livelihood funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 beneficiaries and VMC members (70%women) from 4 villages attended Project orientation meeting in June 2015 35 VMC members (male10,female25) together with Consultant Airavati start carried out Mid-term evaluation session in June 2015 Regular monthly report were submitted by VMCs in 4 villages 	All specific objectives were achieved

SLDP Accomplishments

COVERAGE

For the Year 2015-2016, a total of 897 persons, 57% women, were supported by SLDP. Only the three villages of Dawngpen, Laphre and Mazup were given financial support. Capacity building interventions were continuously provided to key stakeholders in the four priority villages.

- 897 PEOPLES SUPPORTED, 57% WOMEN
- 234 PERSONS (52% WOMEN) PROVIDED 19,000,000 MMK FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SIX TYPES OF LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS
- 633 PEOPLES (61% WOMEN) PARTICIPATED IN EIGHT TYPES OF TRAININGS

DIRECT/FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For the reporting period, the programme continued its support to livelihoods implemented on the first year. The sum of 19,000,000MMK in financial support was extended to six new projects, i.e., pig raising, poultry raising, seasonal crops plantation, small shops, rice bank, and MCU seed funds. In Mazup, Dawngpen and Laphre, a total of 234 persons, 52% women, availed of SLDP fund support. Engaging in priority livelihoods by majority of the villagers has served as an effective and dependable coping strategy - a financial resource in times of need, food for family consumption and additional income to meet basic family needs.

A new project, the community-based-and-led Rice Bank was established in Dawngpen Village as a food security tool and a social protection mechanism to help marginally poor households to access rice at a reasonable cost during critical periods and during the months without family income. The paddy is then paid by the borrowers when they generate income.

Among the livelihoods implemented, the most popular with the most number of beneficiaries is the micro credit union (MCU). This may be due to the poor economic condition in the villages where many households borrow money from traders at high interest rates to finance both productive and family needs. For the reporting period, 5,000,000 MMK capitalization was provided to the MCU in the three villages of Mazup, Dawnpen and Laphre. A total of 153 villagers (representing 2/3 of total SLDP beneficiaries) borrowed from the MCU fund, of which 59% are women. Local people find the MCU very helpful in reducing their indebtedness and financial hardships.

SLDP Beneficiaries of Financial Support By Project Type

PROJECT TYPE	AMOUNT RECEIVED	BENEFICIARIES			VILLAGE	
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL		
Raising Livestock	Chickens	1,200,000	6	0	6	Dawngpen
	Pigs	7,000,000	14	21	35	Dawngpen, Mazup and Laphre
Seasonal Crop Plantation	2,600,000	22	1	23		
MCU seed funds	5,000,000	62	91	153		
Small Shops	2,200,000	3	8	11	Dawngpen and Mazup	
Rice Bank	1,000,000	6	0	6	Dawngpen	
Total	19,000,000	113	121	234	3 Villages	

CAPACITY BUILDING

To ensure the efficient operations of the livelihoods engaged in by the beneficiaries, eight types of trainings were conducted for 633 villagers, 61% of whom were women. Training topics included animal husbandry and livestock raising, fish pond management, MCU awareness, VMC training, land law and human rights awareness, land law and advocacy and excursion trip. The excursion trip to the successful farm in Waingmaw Township and Metta Development Foundation's Centre for Action Research and Demonstration at Alam Village provided multiple knowledge to VMCs and village leaders on livestock breeding, handicraft making, community-led rice bank, and agriculture plantations.

An important training module was related to land laws and Myitsone advocacy. Considered as a major problematic but important resource, the land law training was well attended by local people from the four priority villages as well as seven other affected villages in Myitsone region.

Summary of SLDP Training Conducted

TYPE OF TRAINING	VILLAGES	PARTICIPANTS		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Micro-Credit Union Awareness	Dawngpen & Laphre	25	45	70
Fishpond Training	Laphre	5	17	22
Animal husbandry and Breeding Livestock	Mazup, Laphre & Dawngpen	5	43	48
VMC Management Training	Dawngpen & Laphre	14	17	31
VMC Workshop	Tangphre, Mazup, Laphre, & Dawnpan	20	21	41
Land Law & Human Rights Awareness	Tangphre, Mazup, Laphre, & Dawnpan	63	128	191
Land Law & Myitsone Advocacy Workshop	4 target villages & 7 other villages	47	15	62
Excursion trip	4 target villages	67	101	168
	Total	246	387	633

Status of MCU Support

During the reporting period, all the four villages have developed operating guidelines and created management committees to oversee the operations of the micro credit union. Owing to the high demand for credit facility, the VMCs have mobilised savings among members thereby increasing the MCU capitalization to 23, 023,000 MMK as shown in the table. The SLDP provided only 22% of the total MCU funds. Other sources of funds include contribution of members and the transfer of some of the SLDP revolving funds provided in 2014 to MCU operations. A total of 117 borrowers availed of loans from the MCU in the total amount of 20,764,700 MMK for both personal needs and income generating purposes

Status of SLDP Support

Funds Received, Expenses and Sales – During the reporting period, almost 93% of the 19,000,000 MMK SLDP funds released to the three villages of Mazup, Laphre and Dawngpen were reported as spent for six types of livelihood projects. Only 40% or 28 beneficiaries of three projects (pig raising, small shops and seasonal crops) reported total sales of 6,715,000 MMK. Poultry products were generally used for home consumption and social affairs. Field reports show that the incomes generated from the SLDP were used to repay portions of the SLDP revolving fund and to supplement the family's food requirements.

The table below shows information regarding each type of livelihood project.

Micro Credit Union (MCU) Performance

VILLAGE	BENEFICIARIES	FUNDS RECEIVED MMK	TOTAL FUNDS (MMK)	LOANS (MMK)	BALANCE (MMK)
Tangphre	21	0	5,947,700	5,561,700	386,000
Mazup	29	2,000,000	7,105,200	5,845,000	1,260,200
Laphre	22	1,000,000	3,691,800	3,358,000	333,800
Dawngpen	46	2,000,000	6,278,300	6,000,000	2,780,000
Total	117	5,000,000	23,023,000	20,764,700	2,258,300

Livelihood Projects

PROJECT TYPE	BENEFICIARIES	FUNDS RECEIVED (MMK)	QTY	DEATHS	ANIMALS SOLD	SALE PRICE	TOTAL EXPENSES	ANIMALS REMAINING
Pig Raising	35	7,000,000	78	24	18	1,175,000.00 of 14 benefit from Laphre	5,638,883	51
Poultry	6	1,200,000	95	26	For home consumption		1,200,000	69
Small shops	11* 2 not successful	2,200,000			3,700,000 Net Profit		2,200,000	
Seasonal Crops	23* 1 not successful	2,600,000			1,840,000 sale of 5 beneficiaries from Mazup and Laphre			
MCU		5,000,000						
Rice bank		1,000,000						
Total		19,000,000						

CHALLENGES

A concern is the high death rate of animals purchased –31% for pig raising and 27% for poultry raising. Field reports show that the major causes of death are improper nutrition and unsanitary practices (constipation for pigs, diseases brought in by market carriers for chickens, and small insect bites for chicks). After these concerns were consulted by the Project Team with the veterinarian, briefings on nutrition and sanitation of animals are then conducted during village meetings to minimize animal losses in the future.

Another major challenge is the low financial profitability. For pig raising, beneficiaries are affected by the high cost of production and low price of produce by the traders. Airavati may need to include support in the linkage to other marketing channels and develop a cheaper but more efficient feed formulation to increase the SLDP profitability in the future.



Feedback of SLDP Beneficiary

“I am very happy to be a beneficiary of the livelihood project of Airavati. With my pig-raising business, I feel that my dream in life has been fulfilled. Now, I can stay at home and take care of my three children because I already earn money from taking care of pigs in my backyard. I started raising 4 piglets in 2014. Although one pig died, I was able to make a total net profit of 300,000 MMK (USD 285) from three pigs after six months. This additional income really helped my family meet other basic needs especially payment of school fees of my children. Now, I am able to continue pig-raising on my own without the support of the Project. I hope that I will be able to make more profit this time.”

Lu Tawng Shanghkaw, SLDP Beneficiary, Tangphre Village

An Interview with Kai Seng

As Chairperson of the Village Management Committee of SLDP in Tangphre, I am fully informed of the project's status and issues from the regular reports of the assigned VMC officers. Goat-raising has been reported to be successful for three reasons: 1) No feed cost. Goats depend on grasses only; 2) Goats are easy to raise; 3) Goats do not get sick easily. Those who started with 4 goats now have 15 goats already. The family can make money from selling them when they are in need of money.

Chicken-raising has been useful generally for food security- food for the family and nutrition for children. Chicken soup is generally consumed by mothers while nursing babies. In addition to food security and nutrition, some beneficiaries also sell chicken for money for children's education fees and family's health expenses. Most of chicken beneficiaries continue raising chicken.

For pig-raising, I have observed that only very few beneficiaries can earn high income, maybe due to improper nutrition of animals. Majority depend on natural food such as yam leaves, banana trees, food remnants from restaurants for feeds. They do not depend much on commercial feeds.

It is difficult to measure or indicate how successful small shops are. But it is obvious that they are earning because the shops are getting bigger.

I have observed that the various livelihood projects provided by Airavati gave the local people impetus to stay in the village and provided hope for a better future.

Kai Seng, VMC Chairperson, SLDP, Tangphre Village



Expression & Voices of Displaced Children and Youth from the Confluence Region

A new project started early 2016 in Myitsone — Expression & Voices of Displaced Children and Youth from the Confluence Region — adopts the design and strategies of a similar project implemented by Airavati in Laiza. Due to the relevance of the project to the existing situation of the children, it created so much interest that 586 children (54% girls) registered to participate, when only 200 would be finally selected.

The art project team provided one painting session with all the registered children. By selecting paintings, the project team selected 210 children as the participants of the art project. These 210 children were divided into small groups of 30 – 40 children. There were six groups. Until March, 2016, each group was offered two painting sessions with two topics, as shown in the table. Airavati plans to train and enable school teachers to reach more children in future.

Many children showed serious interest in painting. It was evident in their paintings that they remember their old villages. They drew pictures of slash and burn farms, smokes from the farms, Ayeyawaddy confluence, mountain ranges, trees, flowers, river banks, rocks, and sky.

Topic	Allegory
Our River	<i>Water is indispensable and Ayeyarwaddy river is lifeblood for us</i> <i>I always remember our Ayeyarwaddy confluence and its spectacular scenery.</i>
The village we remember	<i>The participants drew the pictures of the village that they once evacuated due to the Myitsone dam project. But, they still have fond memories of their old environment.</i> <i>I never forget our paddy fields and environment in the old village</i>



“Our River”

2. Social Information and Mobilisation (SIM)

Officially started in April 2014, the Social Information and Mobilisation (SIM) is a research, documentation, archiving and publications project focused on community issues and community voice in matters of socio-economic development. The rationale for SIM is: Government policies will work only when the voices of the poor and marginalised people are heard and their poverty situation understood. The project's ultimate benefit is a deeper understanding of the community's unique circumstances and the translation of information into more responsive policies and interventions to address the socio-economic conditions of the disadvantaged populations. SIM is steered and implemented by the SIM core group consisting of local CSO leaders initially from the two states of Kachin and Northern Shan, which may expand geographical focus over time. SIM also provides support to communities and independent social researchers working in the same fields of community interest.

Project Components and CSO Partners

SIM is structured in three components and coordinated by highly capable CSO officers who have good track record in development work and are connected in recognised and credible organizations. The first component- land assessment is handled by Daw Bawk Hkawn, Director of Social Development Dept, KGZ; the social assessment is implemented by Daw Dau Nyo, Director, Sha-it; and the third

component- land protection and cultural sites reservation is managed directly by Thomas Mun Dam, Executive Director of Humanity Institute in collaboration with U Sai Lin of Namkyio Cultural and Literature Association. Resources are being provided to support their efforts in the form of basic allowances, mentorship opportunities, networking and research costs to collect data for human and land rights advocacy campaigns.

The information gathered in SIM component activities will be provided as resources to the decision and policy makers which are expected to make existing policies and laws more responsive to the real needs and conditions of the most vulnerable.

- 1.148 PERSONS, (51% WOMEN) PARTICIPATED IN SIM-RELATED ACTIVITIES
- LAND ASSESSMENT COVERED 1,073 PERSONS IN 10 VILLAGES IN KUTKAI TOWNSHIP, NORTHERN SHAN STATE
- LAND PROTECTION THROUGH CULTURAL RESERVATION COVERED ONE VILLAGE IN KACHIN STATE
- SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WAS CONDUCTED IN ONE VILLAGE IN KACHIN STATE, WITH 75 PARTICIPANTS

Activities and Outcomes

During the reporting period, a total of 1,148 persons, 51% of whom were women, participated in SIM-related activities. Overall, SIM has provided a platform for different stakeholders to come together and discuss issues of importance in the lives of the most vulnerable which led to the formation of the Farmers' Network in Kutkai, a Multi-Culture and Literature Association Committee and CSO Network in Kachin State.

The following activities and outcomes were achieved by the project components:

Component 1: Land Assessment

Started in July 2015, the land assessment covering 10 priority villages in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State was completed in December 2015 with the publication of the results of the study in Kachin and Burmese languages. This assessment determined specific land problems including the root causes of the peoples' poverty situation, the interplay of socio-economic-political-environmental factors in the local peoples' poor condition as well as action points to better respond to priority needs of the villages. The publication will be distributed to concerned parties, especially government institutions which can help respond to the critical issues raised in the study.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN INCLUDE:

- Project Orientation Meeting participated in by 24 persons - 20 leaders from 10 villages, three representatives of Land Assessment Project and one SIM core group member;
- Hiring of two full-time staff responsible for project management and monitoring;
- Holding of 10 meetings with 15 Village Management Committee members (20% women);
- Organized and shared Land Law Training and Land Assessment Study to 1,024 villager (47% women)
- One meeting with village representatives and Church Committee regarding land and natural resource issues
- Meeting for recruiting 10 data collectors;
- Conduct of Training of Trainers (TOT) on Land Use Data Collection for 10 data collectors (Topics include: PRA; the relationship between human and nature; techniques in asking questionnaires; and data collection and analytical skills).

Data gathering activities (surveys and focused group discussions) were completed in October 2015 while data consolidation and analysis were done in November 2015. Also conducted were the presentation of study results for validation to : 1) survey and FGD participants, 2) village leaders, and 3) the community. The presentation to three different audiences ensured the accuracy of the data before publication.

Results of the mid-term assessment revealed that the participatory nature of the conduct of the land assessment facilitated by the trained "local data collectors" was an effective strategy in getting community collaboration and mobilizing community action. This strategy was able to establish trust and ownership among the village participants thereby facilitating the collection of more accurate and reliable information on local realities. The assessment was able to bring out the voices, interests, practices, and problems of the villagers, which included the leaders, farmers, women, youth, and the most vulnerable residents.

During the reporting period, the Project continued to technically support the newly formed Farmers' Network in Kutkai to improve coordination and strengthen capacities related to land related issues amongst farmers in the 10 covered villages.

Component 2: Land Protection and Cultural Sites Reservation

This covers one village named N- Dawng Bum, near Laung Sha Yang villages in Putau Region, Kachin State. A multi-culture and literature association committee was formed to deal with land and cultural issues in Putau Region and to raise awareness among the public on land issues and to start tangible attempts to protect and preserve cultural sites in the region. One cultural site was identified in Jinghpaw to be in danger of being destroyed and a restoration plan was developed for it. However, due to limited funds, the plan to protect and preserve the identified cultural site by building stones and marking the cultural area was not implemented.

Component 3: Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

Initial activities supported by the project were the conduct of meetings among the various civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in the three townships of Putao, Bhamaw, and Myitkyina, Kachin State. These meetings were participated in by an average of 20 persons (70% males and 30% females) from 26 local non-government organisations (NGO) and one international non-government organisation (INGO).

The SIM Project through support to these meetings has created the space for the voices of CSOs to be heard and a venue to share information and thoughts. The regular interaction and updating of information and events among CSOs have enhanced the knowledge of members on human and land rights. These meetings have contributed to the formation of the Kachin CSO network that aims to coordinate and strengthen civil society stakeholders and promote an enhanced role for CSOs in human and land rights related development.

On February 12, 2016, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) training was conducted at Maliyang village. This is the village where the Dawngpen people displaced by the Myitsone dam construction were forcibly moved to. The training was participated in by 34 persons consisting of four data collectors, one project manager from Aravati, and 29 Maliyang villagers.

After the training, data were collected from 41 households. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the impact of the Myitsone dam construction on the living condition of the local people. The data gathered were consolidated and analysed to come up with the SIA report book which will be distributed to different media groups, members of parliaments, CSOs and government administrative departments, as well as the China Power Investment Company (CPI). It is expected that the results of the assessment will provide a better understanding of the real needs and condition of the displaced people and hopefully, will be considered and incorporated in formulating more appropriate policies and support services for the affected communities.

The highly participatory strategy adopted in the conduct of the social impact assessment was effective in soliciting the support and cooperation of the local people. The involvement of both the religious leaders and village administrator who are highly trusted by the villagers facilitated the conduct of both the training and the SIA. Likewise, the participation of key stakeholders in the preparation of questionnaires before the training and the conduct of the SIA awareness training before data collection facilitated the better understanding and full support of the local peoples in the SIA.

The table below summarises the accomplishments in the SIM programme component during the second year.

Summary of Accomplishments of Social Information and Mobilisation (SIM)

ACTIVITIES	AREA	PARTICIPANTS
Project orientation meeting	Kutkai, Northern Shan state	24
12 meetings with VMC, community leaders, local people, church committee regarding land assessment	10 villages in Kutkai, Northern Shan state	1,039
Conduct of TOT on land use data collection	Kutkai, Northern Shan	10
Conduct of survey, focused dialogue, consolidation, analysis and write-up of Land Assessment Report	Kutkai, Northern Shan	13
Preparation of social impact assessment to be conducted after the elections	Kachin State	
Conduct of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Training	Maliyang village, Kachin State	34
Data collection (Survey and focused dialogues), consolidation, analysis and write-up of Social Impact Assessment	Maliyang village, Kachin State	41

Challenge of the Project

A major issue is funding for the continuation of the project. The project has just started and there are still critical activities that need to be undertaken to fully achieve the objectives. The SIM project has kindled interest on issues related to land, natural resources and human rights affecting the marginalized people and the community. It is critical that such interest be promoted and honed to reach the next level, by promoting and supporting another phase, focusing on local people demanding their rights and advocating to proper authorities for appropriate policies, interventions and actions.

Mid- Term Assessment

Results of the mid- term evaluation conducted in September 2015 showed that the SIM Project has demonstrated success in encouraging and supporting farmers and local people in voicing out their concerns and problems and laying the seeds for continued citizen initiatives at the local level. SIM interventions have led to making village leaders and local people gain better understanding of their situation. All the SIM core group members including farmer leaders and villagers acknowledged the relevance of the project in empowering and capacitating the population on human and land rights, environmental sustainability and cultural sites protection and preservation, thereby actively participating in all the stages of the development process.

SIM's strategy design in introducing training as a key component of the project led to farmers and groups becoming aware of their duties and responsibilities. It was also observed that through legal information imparted both through trainings and information dissemination packs, awareness on land and human rights has improved. By virtue of its relevance and appropriate interventions, within a short period of time, the project has

been able to reach out to a number of the key stakeholders - women, communities, public and private sector, and has awakened their awareness of their democratic rights.

Six months before the completion of the 2nd year of SIM operations, the advocacy work of the project research findings and recommendations still need to be tackled. To facilitate the implementation of critical activities not yet started by the SIM project and achieve the desired objectives, a major strategy recommended for the SIM extension phase is to continue supporting the networks that the SIM project helped to organize- the CSO network

and multi-culture and literature association committee in Kachin as well as the Farmers network in Kutkai Northern Shan. Various reports show that these networks have provided a platform for different stakeholders to come together and discuss issues of importance that are affecting the lives of the most vulnerable. The formation of more formal bodies like these networks would give the villages stronger voice, wider representation and more credibility to represent the local peoples' interests/needs to the government and other key resource holders.



3. Children Overcoming Conflict & Displacement through the Arts

Started in October 2014 and up to May 2016, the project has been designed to stimulate creative expression and self-recognition through the arts of about 400 displaced children and youth (between the ages of 7 and 19 years) who have been affected by the armed conflict and living in the three internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Laiza since June 2011. To do this, the children will be taught different forms of artistic practices as tools of expression of their feelings and thoughts about their experiences after being separated from their homes and families and being deprived of their cultural heritage. With these activities, the art project has the opportunity to connect the social memories of Kachin communities and empower children and youth to inherit Kachin culture and history. By showing their creative work in exhibitions, the project can advocate the global impact and resonance of the children's personal and community narratives and their hope and right for peace.

Painting is the primary artistic method being taught. The painting classes involved three steps:

1. Talking with children about mixing colours;
2. Proposing a topic;
3. Encouraging children to find their own colours and lines and paint the painting.

Before beginning to paint, topics closely related to the children's lived experiences are discussed with them as this process encourages students to face and think about what happened to them and their communities and endow with their own particular feelings in the paintings.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

THE PRIMARY ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

- conducting an intensive field investigation of children and youth in the target locations
- developing a curriculum that will specifically address findings gathered during the field study regarding the children's needs in the areas of arts and culture
- procurement and transport of the necessary art materials to the target locations
- learning about arts and culture and making art with children during the 12 month period from April, 2015 to March, 2016.
- providing training for teachers in IDP camp schools
- exhibition of the art works in 2 locations of Myanmar/China border, and hold 2 art exhibitions, one in Yangon, Myanmar, and one in Chiangmai, Thailand.
- raising exposure by filming the process and posting three quarterly 4-minute-long video clips on the Internet, as well as disseminating them through various networks. Catalogues of the works exhibited will also be made and widely disseminated.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the reporting period, the children's art project in Laiza conducted activities according to the implementation plan. The processes of the activities were recorded by data, diaries, reports, photos and videos.

Art Activities Among Children

To find out the most related topics to the children life experiences, in May 2015, the project team continued to discuss the topics for the coming art activities. Three topics were selected: *"The Homeland I Remember"*, *"What Happened"*, *"I miss you but you are no longer here"*.

The project team conducted 6 months' regular art activities and collected the art works of the 400 participating children (51% females) from the three IDP camp schools in Laiza namely: Jeyang IDP Camp Primary School, Hpunglum Yang IDP Camp Primary School and Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School.

- 19 art activities of Topic II *"The Homeland I Remember"*, conducted with 623 paintings, 1 mud sculpture and over 1000 photos collected. This topic encouraged the children to recall the memories of their homelands (how it looks like, smells like, tastes like, feels like and the hope of going home) and showed how beautiful their homelands are in their paintings.



"What Happened"



- A total of 15 art activities were implemented with 473 paintings and over 1000 photos collected in art activities of topic III “What Happened”. This topic encouraged the children to reflect on their memories of what happened, their experiences of conflict and displacement, and the difficulties, threats and fears that are still in their lives. Instead of painting the conflict itself, this topic encouraged the children to say out what happened by painting the sound, the smell and the moon light, to unveil the impact of the conflict and displacement in their lives.
- 443 children participated in art activities of topic IV “I miss you but you are no longer here”. 14 activities were conducted with 443 paintings and over 1000 photos collected. This topic encouraged the children to paint and to remember the memories of special persons in their lives whom they missed. The two hours’ painting class has brought the children back to their special beloved ones.

Various materials including acrylic colors, mud, water and crayon sticks are used by the children in art works. In December 2015, the project team introduced a new art material, mosaic. Although more expensive and difficult to transport, the project was able to start Mosaic Art Class among 32 children at Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School in Laiza. Mosaic art was applied in art activity of topic IV—“I miss you, but you are no longer here”.

“The Homeland I Remember”

In March 2016, the team supported the oil painting class at Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School. They selected and sent paintings to Spain for possible exhibition in the future.

In addition to the regular art classes, the project team also supported the request of the Je Yang IDP Camp Primary school to conduct art activities during the summer camp of children in April 2015. A total of 158 children participated in four summer camp activities as follows:

- Summer Camp Activity I: 54 children, Art method: Mud sculpture, Topic The Sense of Mud
- Summer Camp Activity II: 24 children, Art method: Painting with acrylic colors, fabric and the brush, Topic: The Road of My Dream
- Summer Camp Activity III: 26 children, Art method: Painting with Chinese colors, fabric and brush. Topic: The Sun behind the Clouds
- Summer Camp Activity IV: 54 children, Art method: Painting Topic: Coloring the Sculpture of Mud

In all of these topics, the children were able to express powerful emotions and memories through their images and the colours they chose. They said that they felt so much joy and satisfaction from painting as their bad feelings were released through the activities.

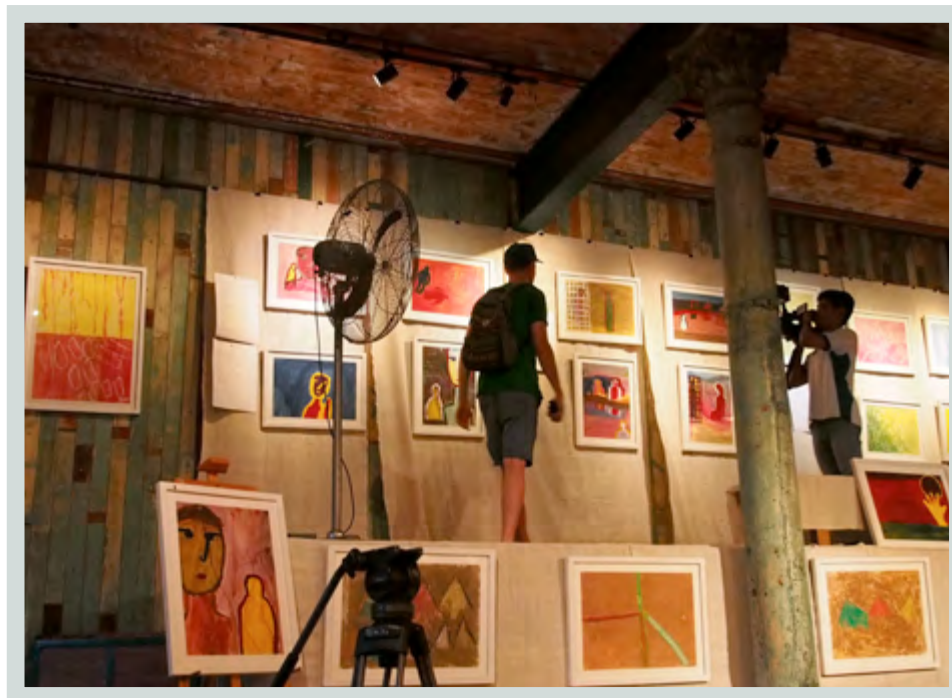
“I miss you but you are no longer here”



Art Exhibitions

Three art exhibitions were held at the three IDP camp schools of Laiza, Kachin June 2015 where 325 art pieces of children were exhibited and films were shown. Over 3,500 children, parents, school teachers, persons from local NGOs and organizations attended the exhibitions. The “Jingpo and Kachin Youth Art Festival” in Mangshi, Dehong Prefecture was held February 2016. Kachin artists, scholars and activists were invited to discuss important issues pertaining to Kachin youth in a forum for the artists during the exhibition. Culminating exhibitions were held in Yangon and Chiangmai last March 2016.

The team is also preparing for the Yangon exhibitions scheduled in May 2016.



Teachers Trainings

In October 2016, 24 teachers from the 4 target IDP camp schools participated in the second intensive training course on artistic methods. The project team shared with the teachers the implementation steps of the activities of topics III and IV. After attending the trainings, the teachers assisted the project team with the children’s activities at the target schools. These teachers will further apply what they learned through the trainings and start to lead the art activities at their schools.

Video Documentation

The entire project has been recorded in an 8-minute documentary film which was uploaded on line and shared with donors and partner organizations. The video was also shown at the art exhibition in Mangshi City at the Chinese border last February 2016 and significantly raised the public awareness on the children’s art initiative.

Other Activities

There were several international organisations that visited the project which helped raise project awareness among international communities. These organizations included: Global Times and the Phoenix Satellite TV from China, Documentary Art Asia (DAA), Relief Action Network of IDP and Refugees (RANIR), and 3 volunteer documentary filming teams from China. The volunteer team from China filmed the children’s art classes of topic II which will be used by the project team for the project’s documentary editing. In November, 2015, a sociologist from Brown University of America visited the art project in Laiza. The project team gave her 25 sample paintings of children for possible exhibition at the university in 2017.

Summary of Accomplishments in the Children’s Art Project, April 2015-March 2016

ACTIVITY	OUTCOME
Completion of 6 months’ art activities with the 685 participant children	The project team conducted 6 months’ regular art activities including the summer camp courses among the 685 participant children and collected the art works.
Conduct of 3 art exhibitions in target IDP camp schools	In June, 2015, 3 art exhibitions were held at the 3 target IDP camp schools of Laiza, Kachin State. 325 art pieces of children were exhibited. Over 3,500 children, parents, school teachers, persons from local NGOs and organizations attended the exhibitions.
Raising project awareness	Visitors from Global Times and the Phoenix Satellite TV from China, Documentary Art Asia (DAA), Relief Action Network of IDP and Refugees (RANIR), and 3 volunteer documentary filming teams from China learned about the project and viewed the children’s art activities.
Conduct Art Activities of Topic II in the Target Schools	In October, 2015, the project team conducted the art activities of the topic II (The Homeland I Remember) with the 400 participant children from the 3 target schools in Laiza, Kachin State. Conducted 19 art activities . 623 paintings, 1 mud sculpture and over 1000 photos of the activity processes were collected.
Conduct of Second Teachers’ Training	On October 9, 2015, the project team conducted the second teachers’ intensive training. 24 teachers from 4 IDP schools of Laiza attended the training.
Conduct Art Activities of Topic III in the Target Schools	In November, 2015, the project team conducted the art activities of topic III (What Happened) with the participant children. 15 art activities were implemented among 586 participant children from the 5 target schools. 473 paintings and over 1000 photos of the activity processes were collected.
Edit Video for the Project’s Progress	In November, 2015, the art project in Laiza edited an 8-minute-long video which documented the process and progress of the children’s art project from October, 2014 to October, 2015. The video was uploaded on line and shared with the donors and the partner organizations, and at meetings and conferences.
Conduct Art Activities of Topic IV in the Target Schools	In December, 2015, the project team conducted the art activities of topic IV (I miss you but you are no longer here) among 443 participant children from the 5 target schools of the Myanmar-China border. The project team conducted 14 art activities. 443 paintings and over 1000 photos of the activity processes were collected.
The Mosaic Art Class at Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School	The art of mosaic was introduced to 32 children of Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School in December, 2015 in topic IV (I miss you, but you are no longer here).

Hka Ra, 17 years old, Je Yang IDP Camp, Laiza, Kachin State

“I am at grade 10 of Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School. I attended the painting classes for over one year already. Before we only painted with the pencil. When the painting teachers (the project team) first came to paint with us, we were provided with paper, colors and the brush. The teachers asked us not to use the pencil and not to draw specific images. I was not used to the way and I was not confident. So I was hesitating to go to the painting classes. But all my friends were going, and I would like to go too. Then I was very interested in the stories and the topics the teachers told us at the painting classes. I felt very encouraged and was really eager to paint out the story with the teachers.”

“Also, the topic ‘I miss you, but you are no longer here’ touched me deeply. We experienced a lot due to the armed conflict. Families cannot be together. I lost the person I love. The same happened to my friends. I was sad when hearing the teachers talk about this topic. I was sad to think about the beloved person who is no longer here, but meanwhile I did want to bring him back by painting and let him appear on my painting. With the encouragement of the teachers, I completed my mosaic work with this topic. When making the art work, I felt connected to this beloved person. I was happy and quiet.”

“It is my last year at high school. Next year I will graduate. With the current situation, it’s difficult to pursue the hope for the college. Probably I will go to the nurse school and learn some useful skills.”



*“I miss you but you are no longer here”
by Hka Ra*

Ester, 18 years old, Je Yang IDP Camp, Laiza, Kachin State

“I am Ester. I am at grade 9 of Alen Bum IDP Boarding High School. I have been painting with the teachers (the project team) since last year. I like painting. It makes me happy. When the teachers come to paint with us, each time they propose a topic and encourage us to tell a story of our life. I was very interested by these topics because they made me think. They made me think seriously about what happened, about my life and my hope.”

“The topic ‘What happened’ impressed me a lot. Very often we say and hear people say what happened. When talking about what happened, we often use the word ‘conflict’. But as the teachers said, there are so many details behind the fact of the conflict that influence people and their life more. The teachers encouraged us to paint out the memories that we cannot forget. ‘The Sound of Bullets’ was proposed. How can we paint the sound that cannot be seen and touch? Yes we did it and it was powerful.”

“These topics are giving me strength in this difficult situation. Because of these topics, I felt more and more connected to the art classes. I would like to go through this difficult period by painting and thinking. As long as the teachers have time to come back to us, I will always be waiting to paint.”



*“The sound of the bullets”
by Ester*

Organisational Development

Airavati Board Meeting

The Airavati is officially registered as a non-profit organisation in Myanmar as approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 13, 2015. It received its tax exemption status from the Ministry of Finance on January 16, 2015. To date, it has a total of 18 staff (56% women) consisting of 8 field personnel, 4 national coordination staff, and 6 partners/volunteers. Airavati's offices are located in Yangon, Myitkina and Laiza, Kachin.

The organisation relies heavily for resources on its partners, individual donors, local CSOs and international organisations. The Confluence Programme is supported by Oxfam Novib, the SIM by EBO, and the Children Arts project, by Miserior. Metta Development Foundation provides project office space at Myitkyina and KIO Educational Department for the office at Laiza.

Being a new organisation, Airavati provides continuous capacity-building interventions to its staff. Regular meetings and review sessions are also held to further deepen their knowledge and skill bases for community development work.

The Board of Directors of Airavati met on January 7, 2016 for updates on project status, challenges and the way forward. The meeting was attended by 19 persons consisting of the Board of Directors and Airavati personnel (Male 11, Female 8).

The agenda was divided into 2 sections. The first section was a presentation by the respective Coordinators on the status of Airavati-supported projects. Updates on the financial status as well as capacity-building of the staff were presented. After the presentation, the Board Members discussed the issues raised. For collection of the Tales of the Ayeyarwaddy Riverbank Project, the Board advised that instead of continuing with the current selection method, it will be more effective to hire a consultant who will interview local people, assess the situation and write the stories or poems. Related to fund access from donors, the Board agreed to formulate policies in joint collaboration with partner local organisations like Metta Development Foundation, Paung Ku and other big partner groups. All the Board Members expressed their commitment to support Airavati fund-raising and staff capacity-building activities.

The second section focused on the meeting with the leaders of the Confluence Programme from the four relocated villages. Facilitated by the Project Coordinator, each village leader presented a progress of the support provided by Airavati. The Board gave advice on issues raised and words of appreciation for their commitment and support to the programmes. There were 26 participants in the meeting (Male 13, Female 13).

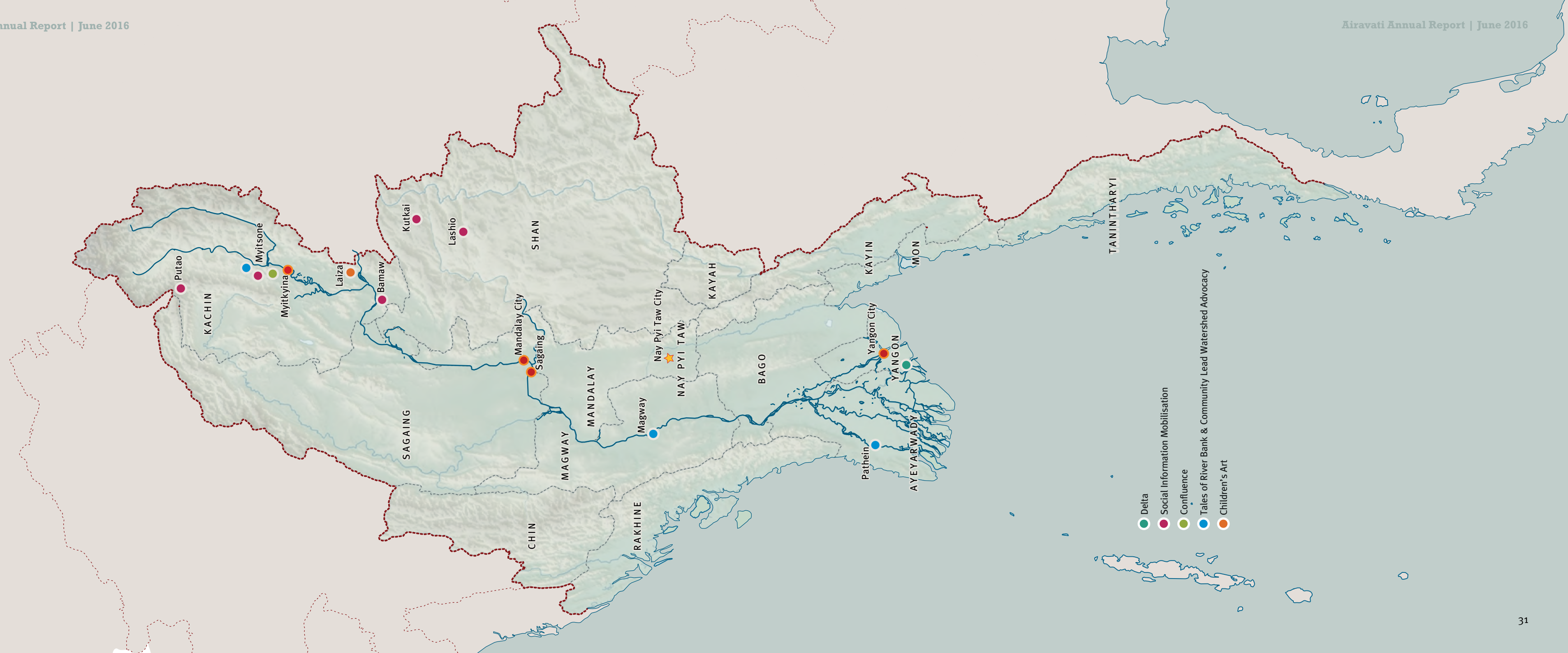
In the evening, the Airavati Board met with the leaders and local people of the relocated village, Aung Myin Thar. The villagers discussed their difficulties related to Myitsone dam construction and the type of support they needed. The board members responded to the issues raised and motivated the group to continue supporting the programmes.

Finances

Project Fund Receipts and Payments Account 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

	USD		USD
Opening Balance as at 01 April 2015	69,575		
		RECEIPTS	
Bank Interest & Other Income	3,967		
		GRANT RECEIVED	
Individual Donor Laphai Nang Seng Mai	32,845	Research, Survey, Advocacy, Movement Exchange Visit	11,546
EBO	42,862	Consultant Fees	2,856
Oxfam Novib	102,191	Travel & Transport	8,727
Foundation to Promote Open Society	24,932	Equipment	2,536
Misereor	34,785	Furniture & Fittings	
		Local Logistics Cost	21,530
Temporary Borrowing	1,062	Office Rent	
		Office Repairs and Maintenance	230
		Personnel Salaries	46,599
		Kachin IDP Relief	22,653
		Administrative cost (Core Budget)	7,988
		FIXED ASSETS	
MMK Generation		Equipment	560
Transfer from Euro Account		Furniture & Fittings	469
TOTAL RECEIPTS	233,644	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	180,190
ADVANCE REFUND	9,324	ADVANCE	3,313
		EXCHANGE LOSS	13,242
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,543	TOTAL PAYMENTS	196,745
		Closing balance as at 31 March 2016	115,798
		Project Fund	77,515
		Reserve Fund	38,283
			115,798
GRAND TOTAL	312,543	GRAND TOTAL	312,543

Map of Airavati Programme Areas



Founders and Board Members

The board members are unique because they are actively engaged in supporting the Airavati.

■ **LAHPAI SENG RAW** – Board chairperson, Seng Raw is the co-founder of the Metta Development Foundation (Metta) where she was the Executive Director until 2011. The Airavati's seed funds were donated from the monetary award she received as the recipient of the 2013 Ramon Magsaysay Award. Seng Raw is from Myitkyina in Kachin state where the Ayeerwady River originates and has a strong connection to preserving the river.

■ **DR NWET KAY KHAING** is a researcher in the areas of migration, environment and media studies. Her international studies are in the areas of international development and human rights and peace building. She has also been a regular writer for newspapers and magazines, and currently, has been advocating for preserving indigenous knowledge for natural resource management as a crucial element of sustainable development. She is from the lower Ayeerwady.

■ **MYINT ZAW** is a co-founder and program manager of Ju Foundation. He is also a former executive editor of International Eleven Weekly, and has focused on the area of environmental journalism for more than a decade. His international studies are in the area of international development. He is committed to advocacy initiatives for raising the international community's awareness about Myanmar's civil society.

■ **MAUNG HLA THAUNG** is an architect that focuses on natural buildings designed to complement the surrounding environment. He consults with many of Myanmar's local non-government organisations providing expertise in the areas of environmentally friendly designs, as well as integrating the use of recycled materials.

■ **BEATRICE LU JA** is one of the co-founders of Metta Development Foundation. As a veterinarian, she mobilised people in the areas of agriculture and livestock in Alam village of Kachin state. Her strong leadership as a community worker led to the establishment of Metta's first living and learning centre - the Centre of Action Research and Demonstration. Another area of expertise is as an HIV and AIDS educator. Currently, she is Metta's Myitkyina Branch Office Coordinator.

■ **SAW MIN NAING** is one of Metta's co-founders and is part of Metta's leadership team. His background is in veterinary sciences and international development. Saw Min Naing is one of the first staff sent into areas to form relationships in new communities where Metta had not worked before. He is also known as a strong community mobiliser who has supported Metta from its beginning in a leadership role.

■ **SAI SAM KHAM** is currently Metta's executive director. He is from Shan state where he began volunteering for Metta and within six years became its second executive director in 2011.

■ **NYI NYI ZAW** is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with vast experience in areas of business and finance and is currently Metta's Financial Controller. He is very committed to eliminating poverty throughout Myanmar and works in specific communities helping children improve their lives.

■ **KYAW THU**, a trained dentist, is the founder and current the director of the Paung Ku, a Myanmar NGO that is recognized for strengthening civil society as indicated by its name. Dr. Kyaw Thu with his deep commitment and vast experience is in the area of equitable environmentally sustainable development, together with peace and social justice across the nation.

■ **OHNMAR KHAING**, PhD, is currently the Programme Manager of Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). She has nearly 21 years of professional experience in food security, agricultural development and rural livelihoods, with special focus on science-policy interface; project design, development and management; capacity-building and raising of public awareness. She has developed an extensive national and international network, including cultivation of strategic partnerships with the government and donors, civil society organizations and the private sector.

■ **MAW HTUN AUNG** is Natural Resource Governance Institute's Myanmar Officer as well as founder of the local public policy think tank, Another Development. His experience is in the area of sustainable development and his educational background is in computer science, social policy and social development, and public administration.

■ **NWET KAY KHINE** is a researcher in the areas of environment and media studies. She has also been involved in training as facilitator and resource person discussing sustainability and governance issues. She has been writing in several newspapers and magazines for the last ten years. She is active in advocacy for reviving the "Commons" as a vision for natural resource management in sustainable way. She is a native of Mawlamyine.

Contribute

The Airavati's work is made possible through collaborating with local and international partners.

Donations can be made by directly depositing funds into:

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Swift Code: MFTBMMMY
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Account Name: Airavati Organisation
Hlaing Township
Account No: 1 DA – 03 – 00177

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Hlaing Township
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