

# **Airavati**

**Annual Report**

**01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017**

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## Airavati

### 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.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report covers the period of 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, Airavati's third 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 programme components.

Airavati received a total of ..... US\$ from 2 international partner organizations and individual donors. Altogether 1,470 individuals in 4 villages, 6 regions and 20 IDP camps were covered by projects initiated under the 4 programme components of Community Resilience in the Confluence, Community Resilience in Delta, Community led Watershed advocacy, Children Overcoming Conflict and Displacement Through the Art and one additional projects Initiative Peace Building project.

The Community Resilience in the Confluence component did not received the fund for ECCD and SLDP project for this year. It only received for the activities that had to cure the trauma that they had received from the force relocated of Myitsone Dam construction. For the ECCD and SLDP programme operation, although the fund did not received for programmes operation, communities especially 4 VMCs from Confluence region continued their programme implementation through the revolving fund which was recollected by the previous two years programme implementation and Micro Credit Unions which were founded in previous two years by Airavati. In this years, through total of MMK 30,010,000 revolving fund from 4 villages, 96 beneficiaries received the 7 kinds of livelihood support for their income generation. MCU programme increased their members numbers to 245 members and it continued generate the operation with MMK 39,983,930. It was helpful for the members for the whole years. The interest of the revolving fund and MCU used also in the operation of 3 ECCD centres especially for providing ECCD teacher's salary and necessary support. The arts programme which was desired for the psychosocial support for the children from the displaced regions. 210 children participated in art project activities. 5 topics were drawn together with children and 2 community level exhibitions, 2 Yangon exhibitions and 1 Myitkyina exhibition conducted with total of 193 children's drawing. 13 minutes documentary of Confluence arts programme produced.

Community led watershed advocacy programme launched the first step of implement through conducting Eco Leadership Intensive Training. 17 leaders (male- 14, female-3) from 7 CSOs which situated in Myitsone, Dry Zone, Delta, North and Southern Shan and Pautao regions participated in the training. 80% of the training targeted goal had met and the entire participant designed the model of Peaceful Federal Democracy Model designed during the meeting.

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. In the reporting period, 667 students and 98 teachers from 21 IDP camp schools participated in the art works. 5 topics were drawn during this year.

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. As stated in above, although the VMCs had managed the revolving fund and MCU fund, they are still weak in financial management sectors. On the site of organisation, the weakness are found in financial management, report production and conducting the project and programme orientation and staff orientation when the new project or programme is started and the new staff is recruited. In future,

Airavati need to be strengthening the stated major challenges for the VMCs financial management status for their sustainability and organisation financial structures and office operation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation operating system. 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 Ayeyawarddy 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 approach to strengthen the contribution and ownership of the 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 4 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 organisations and other organizations with similar visions
4. Strengthening organisation operation systems and procedures for both partners CSOs and Airavati

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 marginalised villages. Because participating villages are generally in very difficult situations, training on Eco Leadership for natural resource management are incorporated in all the programmes. Airavati utilises local CSO partners, internal and external 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 four programme components were operational. The three other projects which were started in 2014 and 1 programme had to be temporarily deferred started from the end of 2015 because of various reasons. The new programme component which is called Community- Led Watershed Advocacy project could start the first through conducting Eco Leadership Intensive Training in March. The additional project for Peace Initiative project could take place by the former Board Chairperson of Airavati.

## **1. Community Resilience in the Confluence**

### **Introduction**

The Airavati Resilience in the Confluence, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of implementation, consists of two priority projects- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Sustainable Livelihood Development Programme (SLDP). In this reporting period, Airavati could extend the new project of psychosocial support to cure the trauma of the displaced children from Myitsone Dam Construction had started. These projects were designed in response to the results of the needs assessment conducted in 2015 of the four villages most affected by the Myitsone dam construction in the confluence (Tangphre, Mazup, Dawngpen and Lahpre). In these three programmes implementation, only the new programme received the fund support. Another old two programmes, ECCD and SLDP project did not receive fund for the whole year. These two programmes run through the management of VMC with the recollected fund of revolving fund and MCU activities which were supported in the previous years. 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 art programme implemented with the coordination and leading of staff from Laiza art project.

The ECCD activities focus on the holistic development and growth of children aged 5 years old and younger to prepare them for primary school. ECCD programmes operated the academic years with the support of VMCs. With the new fund raising initiative and interest of revolving fund, VMCs run the ECCD programme.

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. VMCs led the operation for the whole years and them start-up funds for local livelihood projects through recollected revolving fund and MCU programmes supported by Airavati in last two years.

In origin, 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 but in practical it is hard to reach it. As the organisation could not have supported the fund to the VMCs because of the funding gap, VMC

could not stand up the ECCD operation with the supported revolving fund and MCU programme. VMCs could only work for the survival of the ECCD programme. But in reality, it is hard to reach for the sustainability. Art programme should also be continued because it has received a lot of interest and recommendation of the related stakeholder. Through these findings, Airavati should continue the support of the three programmes and through continuing the operation it can be contribute to sustainability of the programmes.

## 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. During this year, Airavati has faced with funding gap for the whole year and ECCDs operation were run by the management of each village VMC. Airavati could support just only monitoring and providing the necessary guidance. 3 communities management committee have continued the ECCD operation through the interest of MCU and the support fund of revolving fund. On the other hand, VMC tried to raising the fund through singing Christmas Song, collecting the donation and showing movie. They have to give MMK 70000 per teacher per one month.

VMCs supported one teachers for ECCD one month training during this years. Although they tried to the fund raising for ECCD centre operation, VMCs have a lot of difficulties like providing teachers' salaries for 7 teachers for the whole year and nutrition support for children. The interest of the MCU and fund received by the various fund raising activities were merely helpful for the survival of ECCD operation. Through this Airavati noticed that villages need continue support on SLDP and ECCD operation in future. If it could continue support these two programmes in Confluence, the sustainability community led ECCD centre operation will be more potential by the improvement of household income and resilience. The following activities are accomplished in 2016-2017 Academic year.

- One ECCD teachers received one month ECCD teacher training
- ECCD teachers have greater commitment, patience and child friendly style of teaching styles, thus, are better in teaching children after the trainings.
- Community especially VMCs took the main role for ECCD programme operation and could run the ECCD operation by themselves for the whole year. They have high ownership and the potential of ECCD sustainability has seen in targeted communities.
- 68 children attended in 2016-2017 academic years and 35 children had graduated.
- VMCs and communities have strongly initiated for the various fund raising of ECCD operation.

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
<b>1</b> <b>Improved access to quality education for children 5 years old and below in 4 priority communities</b>	<b>At least 50% of children 0-5 years old (a total of 150) in 4 villages enrolled in ECCD centres</b> 68 children (m=33, f=39) enrolled in 3 ECCD centres, 35 children (M-13, F-22) finished ECCD 8 teachers were hired for 3 ECCD centres	51.5 % of targeted 68 children finished ECCD Education 100% of targeted 8 teachers hired by 3 villages
<b>2</b> <b>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</b>	<b>Enhanced capacity of ECCD teachers, parents &amp; community representatives/leaders to respond to children's needs</b> Trainings included: One Month long ECCD teacher training for 1 teacher	12.5% of targeted 8 teachers trained



## ECCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Coverage

For the reporting period, ECCD projects were implemented in the three villages of Tangphre, Mazup and Dawngpen. A total of 76 persons participated in the ECCD activities consisting of 68 children and 8 teachers.

### Enrolment & Graduation

For school year 2016-2017, a total of 68 children, 29 boys and 39 girls, were enrolled in the 3 ECCD centres. Among them, 35 were old students and 33 new students. The second year accomplishment was only 51.5 percent of the targeted 68 ECCD pupils (35 old pupils and 33 new pupils).

- A total of 76 persons participated.
- 81 children enrolled, 57.4% girls
- 1 ECCD teachers received one month ECCD teacher Training
- Feeding program for 68 children in 3 ECCD centres by families and VMCs.
- 8 teachers provided with monthly stipend

### ECCD Teacher Capacity Building

One ECCD teachers received one month ECCD teachers training from Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) ECCD Department. The training Fees and others support was provided by VMC.

Type of Training	No. of Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
ECCD Teacher		1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

### Other ECCD Support provided:

- VMC has supported the salaries of seven teachers (70,000 MMK/month salary)
- Parent and VMCs collaborate in supplemental feeding for 68 children from Tangphre, Mazup, and Dawng Pen ECCDs.

Additional ECCD-related activities financially supported by the VMCs and the communities:

- Fund raising activities were conducted for ECCD operation for 2016-2015
- Participation of 90 persons in the World Children's Day activities.

## Challenges

A major challenge of the ECCD is the funding gap of ECCD programme support. Organisation has been trying for the funding opportunity for ECCD and Livelihood for Confluence regions since October 2015 but still to now it in the state of fund raising status. On the other hand, the low economic condition of the confluence families is another root cause for ECCD operation. During this period VMCs finding a way of fund raising through doing various kind of fund raising like video showing, collecting donating, Sang a Christmas song and use the part of interest rate from revolving fund and MCU. Although they have different ways of fund opportunity in fund raising activities, the total fund that have received from the fund raising just only helpful for the survival of ECCD programme. They could provide the salary of teachers, sent the teacher to attend the ECCD teachers training but very limited for it, and could provide fund for buying essential material for ECCD.

According to these findings, Airavati would need to continue giving support to ECCD to sustain its operation.

**Interview with ECCD Teacher from Mazup on  
Differences and Changes of ECCD Students  
Pawm Htu Ring, 3 years as ECCD Teacher in Tangphre**



My name is Miss Pawm Htu Ring. I have worked here in Mazup ECCD centre for two years. The ECCD program is good for children, teachers, and parents. It is good for children because it is the only one place where the children can learn holistically. Significantly, the children improve good relationships and sanitation. It is also good for teachers because they can also practically learn children's behaviour. This is very important for teachers. And there is a mutual learning between parents and teachers by providing parent education, for an example, some parents became realized that they were also responsible for child care and development.

## **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. But during in 2016-2017 financial years, Airavati could not continue to support community led Sustainable Livelihood Development Programme because of the funding constraints. So, for the whole financial year communities especially VMCs from four target villages has continued the livelihood programme through the revolving and MCU fund which have received from 2014 to 2015 financial years.

For the financial assistance and generation, VMCs mostly focus to collect back the revolving fund from previous provision. There have 153 beneficiaries who received the provision from livelihood programme in 2014-2015. VMCs collected back MMK 20,935,500 from the total amount to collect back MMK 300,100,000. It showed that 69 % of total distributed budget have recollect. Among the four villages, only Mazup village could collect back the entire distributed fund. Micro Credit Unions have continued operating in four villages and each MCU committees received the profit from regular running. Now, in the four villages of Confluence regions, there are 245 members participating in MCU group and the total fund has now reached to MMK 35,389,080. The original supported fund was supported by Airavati to the villages were MMK 5,000,000 except Tangphre village. Airavati encourage Tangphre to be generated the MCU through the revolving that they had received in 2014 fund support. As result, during three years of MCU operation, both of Airavati fund support and individual members saving the numbers of MCU fund is straight increased. Village Revolving fund was also supported for the income generation assistance. During this year, VMCs from 4 villages could provide 96 households for their income generation assistance.

The SLDP programme which is running by the VMCs from four target village could carry out not only for income generation assistance. It has also supported community led ECCD centres operations in three villages. Through the interest of MCU and revolving fund VMCs could provide the regular teachers' salaries and necessary provision for ECCD operation. Beside, Airavati could organise for the composition of core villages committed to solve out the needs of the four Confluence regions villages and one committee was established in Confluence region. Each committee from 4 villages established the fund for core group and the core group could purchase 4 acres land in confluence region to take out the collective action for Myitsone Dam construction against movement and their village development work. Another is that especially for Tangphre, they could provide the school ferry cost for the students who had to go and attend school at the new relocated villages.

The significant changes have seen in Confluence SLDP project were the unity among 4 villages VMCs and the ownership senses in communities had found through they established core committee, conduct regular VMCs committee without receiving fund support by Airavati. Continue their ECCD operation and SLDP operation.

Although these changes have seen but faced with the very limited economic opportunities existing in the confluence and the restrictive policies of the Government, it would seem that VMCs-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 village.

## SLDP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Coverage

For the Year 2016-2017, a total of 341 persons were supported by VMC through revolving fund and MCU generation that have received through previous 2 years SLDP programme. Most of the villages could collect back the revolving fund and only Mazup village had collected the entire distributed fund at the end of March 2017. The total of revolving fund collection is 69%.

### Direct/Financial Support

For the reporting period, the programme continued its support to livelihoods implemented through revolving fund which have supported from the previous 2 years. The sum of 30,010,000MMK in financial support was extended to seven new projects, i.e., pig raising, poultry raising, seasonal crops plantation, Banana plantation, small shops, fishery, and Fish Pond. In Mazup, Dawngpen, Tangphre and Laphre, total of 96 persons availed of VMCs 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.

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, 35,389,010 MMK Fund was generated in Four MCU group in the four villages of Mazup, Dawngpen, Tangphre and Laphre. A total of 245 villagers (representing 71.8 % of total SLDP beneficiaries) borrowed from the MCU fund. Local people find the MCU very helpful in reducing their indebtedness and financial hardships.

- 321 peoples supported, 71.8% were benefited from MCU programme.
- 96 persons provided 24,465,500 MMK financial support for seven types of livelihood projects
- 245 peoples (most women) participated in MCU.

## SLDP Beneficiaries of Financial Support By Project Type

Project Type	Amount Distributed	Beneficiaries			Village
		Male	Female	Total	
Revolving Fund	30,010,000			96	Tangphre, Mazup, Laphre, Dawngpen
MCU	39,908,930			245	Tangphre, Mazup, Laphre, Dawng Pen
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,918,930</b>			<b>341</b>	

### 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 39,908,930 MMK as shown in the table. The VMCs provided 57% of the total SLDP fund as MCU funds. A total of 159 borrowers availed of loans from the MCU in the total amount of 20,764,700 MMK for both personal needs and income generating purposes.

### MICRO CREDIT UNION (MCU) PERFORMANCE

Village	Members	Beneficiaries	Total Funds (MMK)	Loans (MMK)	Balance (MMK)
Tangphre	87	58	12,845,000	12,380,000	465,000
Mazup	61	52	14,571,900	14,497,500	74,400
Laphre	23	17	3,825,450	3,545,000	280,450
Dawngpen	74	32	8,666,580	4,966,580	3,700,000
Total	<b>245</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>39,908,930</b>	<b>35,389,080</b>	<b>4,519,850</b>

## Status of SLDP Support

**Funds Received, Expenses and Sales**– During the reporting period, The total of Revolving Fund MMK30, 010,000 that related to SLDP programme was delivered to four villages by VMCs. There are 95 beneficiaries received fund support for livelihood assistant. Through funding support from VMCs, they utilised the fund for Seasonal crop plantation, Poultry breeding, pig breeding, banana tree plantation, fishery, established small shop, and fish pond established. At the reporting period, 69.8% of revolving fund has recollect and the rest of the amount is still in pending for recollecting. Only Mazup village collected the whole total amount of the revolving fund. The most amounts left of revolving fund is from Tangphre and Dawngpan. The total of pending of fund was 28.6 % one fourth of the total revolving fund.

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

Village	Type of Fund	Beneficiaries	Total Fund Distributed	Total Collected Fund	Late Payment
Tangphre	Revolving Fund	45	1 7,010,000	11,635,500	5,374,500
Mazup	Revolving Fund	24	4,000,000	4,000,000	0
Dawng Pen	Revolving Fund	14	6,000,000	2,800,000	3,200,000
Laphre	Revolving Fund	13	3,000,000	2,500,000	500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>96</b>	<b>30,010,000</b>	<b>20,935,500</b>	<b>9,074,500</b>

## CHALLENGES

A concern is the high rate of laid payment of both revolving fund and MCU. 30 % laid payment of revolving fund showed the potential threat has occurred for revolving fund operation. After these concerns were consulted by the Project Team with management teams especially board, the decisions were come out. According to the decision, Project Team have to be encouraged the VMCs to work on financial management more than before and the accountant of Project Team have to be supervision and guiding in financial management process.

Another major challenge is the financial gap of Airavati fund support. Although communities has their fund, it could not coverage for who development intervention for their village development. Especially, they had met the problem in ECCD operation. Teacher's salary provisions the main barriers for the committee. According to these finding, Airavati should continue their livelihood programme provision in future.

## Change Story of SLDP Beneficiary



My name is Mitung Roi. I live in Aungminthar. I moved from Lahpe. There are 13 family members. When I lived in the old village, I used to raise pigs. But after moving to this new village, I could not afford to raise pigs. I am really interested in raising pigs. I was very glad to receive a start-up fund for pig raising. With that fund, I bought a female pig for breeding. In the first time, it produced 8 piglets and I sold them. In the second time, it produced 6 piglets. I sold 4 piglets and kept two piglets to raise and now I have those two pigs.

Because of pig raising, I could reduce my family hardship last year. The income from selling piglets dealt with kitchen affairs (food). I could afford to pay labour charges for growing 1,000 eaglewood (aloewood). And, I could support my daughter until she passed the matriculation. Moreover, the pig raising made me happy and improve knowledge, e.g, how to make a profit.

However, unfortunately, our house yard is low and easily flooded in the rainy season. I wish I could have a better pig house.

## ***Children Overcoming Conflict & Displacement through the Arts in Myitsone***

Since 2010, local people of the Confluence Region were relocated to the new villages due to the Myitsone dam construction, which greatly changed the life of people and the indigenous communities in this area. Indigenous ways of life and livelihood which once governed the communities have been disrupted due to the environment change. The parents and the children got traumatized by losing their land and are with fears and uncertainties about the future, which further caused the spiritual frustrations and the increasing behavioural disorders.

In response to the psychosocial needs of the parents and the children living in the relocated villages, Airavati started the art programme in the Confluence Region in January, 2016. 210 children (108 boys and 102 girls) have been selected as the participants of the one-year art project. Art activities of five topics have all been accomplished with the participant children and youth and over 1,200 paintings have been collected. 3 teachers' intensive trainings have been conducted. 2 community-level exhibitions, 2 extended exhibitions in Yangon City and 1 culminating exhibition in Myitkyina City have been successfully organized. Over 3,000 photos have been taken and one 13-minute-long documentary film has been produced.

Many children showed serious interest in painting. It was evident in their paintings that they remember their old villages. They drew pictures according to the 5 topics and it had carried high encouragement for them. The Art Project could express the suffering and consequences of Myitsone Dam construction affected on the local people and it became one of the advocacy channels to advocate their difficulties to every level of stakeholders. Especially, it could highlight the psychological issues of Youth and children. On the other hand, the Project became the best curative project for the traumas of Youth and children even for the adult people.



Topic	Allegory
<b>Our root</b>	The topic of describing the decedent of Kachin people root. It showed the culture, wisdom, memories and origination of Kachin ethnic. It carried memory on the remembrance of their root.
<b>Our Homeland Myitsone</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>I never forget our paddy fields and environment in the old village</p>
<b>The Clapping Hand</b>	<p>The topic expressed the memory of the huge machines entered the village, villagers were forced to be present and to watch. The machines destroyed the field, the bamboo and the crops in such a short time. They were made to keep watching and to clap hands when all that happened. After the event finished, an old person of the village went crazy after that day.</p> <p>The topic is focused to re-expressed the feeling of sorrow and fear of the local people.</p>
<b>The Awaiting Home</b>	The topic expressed the sadness of the villagers when they went back to see our old village because the roads disappeared in the bushes, the crops and fruit trees are gone, and the houses broke down. As human can bear, hold, hide and let out emotions and feelings and nature and environment also have feelings that need to be heard and cared but it is hard to imagine how the old village and home are awaiting the return of us and the living warmth of life. This topic was imagined the feelings of villagers and awaiting home.
<b>Children Floating on River</b>	The topic expressed the uncertainty of the children's future. According to the interview not one children express that "I live in Mali Yang. I go to the school of Aung Min Thar. It is the only one high school in the relocated area. I take the boat every day to cross the river. Every day, I float once with my friends. We are floating on river, and also floating in life, floating into the future that we do not see." So, this topic was mostly point out the feeling of uncertainty.

## Children Overcoming Conflict & Displacement through the Arts in Myitsone Accomplishment

### Arts Activities

According to the five topics, relevant art activities have been designed and conducted among the 210 participant children since July, 2016. The 210 participant children (boy-108, girl-102) from the 5 target schools were divided into 7 groups. To complete each topic, the project team had to conduct 7 activities, 1 activity with each group. Totally 35 activities have been conducted from July-December, 2016. Over 1,200 paintings have been collected. The landscape of the Confluence is rich and beautiful with abundant resources and materials. The art activities of the project tried to find the natural materials from the environment,

such as the sand, the stones and the soaked wood from the river, and used them with children to make art. Furthermore, the activities tried to find out the deepest memories and experiences as the themes of the art activities by interviewing the relocated villagers and express them with the children through the art works, through which the knowledge and memories from the parents and the understanding and emotions of the children have been creatively integrated.

By introducing the five topics of the art activities to the children, the art teachers of the project explained that all villagers have the responsibilities to inherit the important memories of the old villages. The art teachers encouraged the children to tell these memories and the impacts from the displacement experience by making art works. To find out the deepest memories of the old villages, the children were encouraged to recall the important details of their memories, such as the unforgettable pictures of the old villages, or of what happened during the relocation process. The oral narratives and the painting processes provided healing opportunities for children and youth to let out of their worries, anxiety, confusion and fears.

Sr. No	Name of topic	Participants			School	Date of Implement
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Our roots	108	102	210	5 schools	July 2016
2	Our Homeland Myitsone	108	102	210	5 schools	August 2016
3	The clapping Hands	108	102	210	5 schools	August – September 2016
4	The awaiting home	108	102	210	5 schools	August – September 2016
5	Children Flooding on River	108	102	210	5 schools	November 2016

### **TOT for Teacher Training**

In order to make the art activities sustainable and reach more children in the relocated area, intensive trainings have been provided for the school teachers. Totally, four intensive teachers' trainings were conducted among the participant teachers from the 6relocated schools. Five courses were provided during these three trainings. During the first teachers' training in July, 2016, the teachers were all very shy and constrained and expressed that they could not paint. In the third training in January, 2017, the teachers showed the same change as the participant children, enjoying painting with various materials without hesitating. They are all with more freedom and confidence than before when making art. These teachers are expected to further apply what they learned through the trainings and start to lead the art activities at their schools in the new project year. After attending the last training, the teachers all expressed the trainings were very creative and supportive, and they hope to be further supported by the project to make art activates with more children at their schools in the coming future.

Date	Activities	Participant Villages	Participants		
			Male	Female	Total
<b>27.7.2016</b>	Teachers' training on Topic 1 and Topic 2	Aung Min Thar, Dawngpan	1	14	15
<b>26.8.2016</b>	Teachers' training on Topic 3	Tanghpre, Aung Min Thar, Dawngpan, Lung GaZup	2	14	16
<b>14.1.2017</b>	Teachers' training on Topic 4	Aung Min Thar, Dawngpan, Tanghpre	1	7	8
<b>14.1.2017</b>	Teachers' training on Topic 5	Aung Min Thar, Dawngpan, Tanghpre	1	7	8

## Exhibitions

To share the art creations of children and youth by exhibitions in their communities, and country to advocate the national impact and resonance of their personal and community narratives is the third objectives of the art programme. In order to achieve the objective, Airavati held two community-level exhibitions in the relocated villages in Myitsone, two exhibitions in Yangon, and one culminating exhibition in Myitkyina City. In two community level art exhibition 52 painting per each had shown in two community level exhibitions. Exhibition had also showed two times at Yangon through participation in the events which named as “The Future River in Myanmar” campaigns. There were 31 paintings shown in these two events. One Myitkyina culminate exhibition had conducted in October 2016 and there were 39 painting shown in the exhibitions. In Myitkyina exhibition, there were 31 children and 6 schools teacher invited and the villagers participated in the event. It has been over 6 years since the forced relocation happened. However, these five exhibitions were the first art exhibitions of the displaced children that ever happened in public. Totally 193 paintings were displayed at the five exhibitions. For the first time, the exhibitions passed the voice and concerns of the displaced children and adults by bringing their art works and words to the outside public. It greatly raised the project awareness among the general public.

No.	Exhibition	Date	Venue	Number of Displayed Paintings
1	Community-level exhibition	2-4, September, 2016	Mazup Nursery school, Aung Min Thar Village	52
2	Extended Exhibition	8-9, October, 2016	Yangon Gallery, Yangon	31
3	Extended Exhibition	23-30, October, 2016	National Museum, Yangon	31
4	Community-level exhibition	22-23, December, 2016	Primary school, Mali Yang Village	40
5	Culminating exhibition	11-13, January, 2017	YMCA, Myitkyina City	39
<b>Total</b>				<b>193</b>

## Video Documentation

In January, 2017, a 13-minute culminating documentary film with English subtitles was produced for the art programme. This film will be uploaded to Airavati website and shared with donors and partner organizations. The film will also be shown in the relocated villages. The project team will look for opportunities to submit the film to film festivals and screening events so as to further expand the programme's vision and impact.

## CHALLENGES

Challenges exist in the children's art programme mainly include:

- The issue of Myitsone Dam still remains sensitive in Myanmar. Currently, only few organisations are implementing projects in the Confluence Region. Airavati is one of the few. When promoting and advocating the art programme, the team needs to be cautious. Through the year, the team gained experience on this. The sensitiveness shows the necessity and importance of the art programme.
- The art activities' schedule often needed to be postponed because of holidays and other school activities. More teachers were expected to participate in the intensive teachers' trainings.
- Assessment of the project needs to be promoted. In-depth interviews and case story collecting are needed to further spread the impact and effectiveness of the art project.
- It is hard to recruit appropriate persons for the needed positions. The current art teachers should be kept. Meanwhile, to further promote the project, more human resources are needed, including a well competent art director.
- In the coming future, the focus of the project implementation has to change from direct implementation of the art activities to more capacity building and empowerment of the

local school teachers from the relocated area so that the teachers and schools will act as the main promoters and implementers for the future project. Airavati decided to provide essential and necessary capacity building trainings, the manual and guide book on the art activities, the need materials and the relevant monitoring and assisting for the target schools in the new project period but it will be taken unexpected time period for continuation of it because of scarcity to access the funding for desired plan.

- Besides, an artists' network needs be built up in this area so that a certain number of volunteer artists will be invited to the project area each year and support the art activities regularly. This is essential for the sustainability of the art project.

## 2. Community Resilience in Delta Region

The Community Resilience in the Delta Area programme component addresses the impact of climate change and reducing the risk of disasters in the Ayeyarwaddy river delta where activities are focused in Yangon region. The activities include setting up MCU projects. Villagers from Aii Kha Luang (population of 218 HH; 911) were motivated to form a MCU and there has 69 beneficiaries in 2016-2017. Villagers initiative the MCU programme by themselves. The total amount of saving plus interest of the MCU group at the end of one year rotation cycle was MMK 4,016,650 (including interest rate from loan). A steering committee of 9 members is guiding the project which is prioritising loans for small enterprises and agriculture activities. The average amount per loan is MMK 50,000 which is to be repaid within 4 months. Members repay at an interest rate of 2% per MMK 100. This is a considerable savings for local people because the interest rate is higher at 8-10% when borrowing elsewhere. During the reporting period 69 persons was taking loan for: selling seasonal products, animal breeding and solving for their family emergencies condition. Every beneficiary has a chance to take a loan between 1 to 3 times from the association during this saving year. The following table summarises the accomplishments for the MCU in the delta.

Summary of Accomplishments for  
Community Resilience in the Delta Area  
AiiKhaLuang Village

Activity	Beneficiaries/ Participants
A MCU has formed	69 HH
Loans approved	69 beneficiaries

### 3. Community Led Water-Shed Advocacy

#### Eco Leadership Training

In March 2017, Airavati conducted Eco leadership Intensive training at Myitkyina Metta CARD training centre. There were 14 male and 3 female CSO and local NGO leaders from Myitsone, Delta, Dryzone, Putao, Yangon and Shan State joined the 8 day Eco leadership training. The content included :

- Understanding Riverside Issues, natural systems, and relationships to livelihood;
- Political Economy – Mega Development Project: Understanding Neoliberalism and Globalisation;
- Study visit to Myitsone Dam area and International River Festival at Confluence
- Alternatives to capitalism: successes and failures of socialism and social democracy;
- Political Ecology: a challenge to mainstream political ideologies;
- Green Politics and the Myanmar context;
- Deep ecology – from Ego to Eco;
- Social movement, local government, national politics, big business in present Myanmar context;
- Spiritual Activism: cultural integrity and empowerment of ordinary people for change;
- From community organizing for empowerment to social movement for structural change.

As training goals had set as “Community leaders from Delta, Myitsone and Dry zones have developed their eco-leadership capacity to engage in protection of their environment and biodiversity and established strong network to advocate for policy change toward sustainable management of their environment,” the training received the targeted goals as planned. The total of 80% inspired by deep ecology, inter-connections between social, policy and economic structures, social movement, natural resource governance information. All participants had clear understanding of definition of Eco-leadership - in summary moving from ego to eco; having a broad perspective on society considering 4 dimensions (social, economic, ecological and cultural); using participatory and community organizing methodologies. . Eco village Transition Asia provided the curriculum and the main facilitation team PrachaHutanuwatr, Jane Rasbash & Sayer Maung Day. Additional sessions led by Saya Maw HtunAwng on Myanmar context to Natural Resource Management and Fu Guo Shang on Therapeutic Art for IDPs. The trainees co-created a vision for a Peaceful Federal Democracy as the base for an ideal society during training period and it would like to describe as follow.

## PEACEFUL FEDERAL DEMOCRACY

<u>SEEN</u>	<u>RESULTS</u> Emergence of Eco villages around the country; Myitsone eco-village in dam area Cultivating good leaders who consider cultural values & ecology; Strong civil society movements Efficient public transportation; Culture of transparency and accountability in governments, businesses & people
<u>UNSEEN</u>	<u>PATTERNS / NORMS IN SOCIETY</u> Balance & Cooperation between govts; civil society, religious institutions, businesses; Model of development considering ecological and sustainable; Curbing urban expansion <u>INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT PATTERNS</u> Effective Govts, public institutions; CSOs; religious institutions; legal institutions; academic & research; National Human Rights Institution; Progressive green tax; Community forests reforestation; green economy - job creation – appropriate technology; Natural resource governance; renewable energy; regulating mining so it does not harm local communities& nature; <u>BELIEFS</u> Human rights; Good education & healthcare; respect for local culture; Strong local economy; development of local, production; <u>VALUES</u> Happiness; Love of nature and the environment; love of local ritual and culture; respect for village institutions and leaders; cultivating unity rooted in local context; embracing low impact way of life

## Participants List of Eco Leadership Intensive Training

Sr. No	Organisation	Region	Participant List			Remark
			M	F	T	
1	FDA	Min Bu, Dry Zone	2		2	
2	Ayeyar Myay	Upper Min Hla, Dry Zone	1		1	
3	Regional Water Network	Delta	2		2	
4	Metta Development Foundation	Myitkyina	1	1	2	
5	Metta Development Foundation	NaungHkam, South Shan	1		1	
6	Namshani	Pautao	1		1	
7	Confluence Local people	Confluence	1	2	3	
8	Airavati	Myitkyina	1		1	
9	Airavati	Yangon	2		2	
10	Metta Development Foundation	Bago	1		1	
11	NAG	Man Pan, North Shan	1		1	
	Total		14	3	17	



## **4. 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. In 2016 August, the project has extended the project targeted area to 23 IDPs which were in Myanmar China Borders. The project had 2 years project extension from the previous donor, Misereor, and during these project implementation it have planned to extend the participation numbers up to 2000 children from 23 IDP camps schools. 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 arts 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 four steps:

1. Talking with students about mixing colours;
2. Proposing a topic; and
3. Encouraging students to find their own colours and lines.
4. Capacity building local teachers for the sustainability of the Art activities.

Before beginning to paint, topics closely related to the children's lived experiences are discussed with them as this process helps stimulate their imagination and the images that emerge while painting.

### **SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From April, 2016 to March 2017, there was an important period for the art project of Laiza due to the changes of the political and security situation. The changing situation has caused some unexpected factors which was challenging to the project. During this special period, the project team accomplished the progress as below:

- 2 Exhibitions had conducted in Yangon and there has 155 paints shown in the event.
- The team carefully made renovation budget, planned for and implemented the renovation process and built up the new Laiza project office.
- The team safely transferred the office, the staff house and the collected paintings of children to the new space.
- The team tried to maintain the art activities with the participant children, started the 5 topics of the project year, introduced new artistic tools and methods to children and encouraged the children to keep painting more even in the difficult situation.
- The team conducted the intensive teachers' trainings in Laiza Center, Zai Awng District and Mai Ja Yang District.
- In the unsafe situation of Laiza, the project team managed to stay safe and rent a space on the Chinese side of the border to keep the collected children's paintings safe.

- According to the changes of the situation, the project team timely made necessary and important adjustments and managed to maintain the project implementation in the most appropriate way.
- With the unstable situation and the shortened school semester, the team managed to make art activities with the participant children.
- During the art activities, the school teachers trained in 2016 were encouraged to get more involved in and provide more support for the activities. Monthly reports have been collected from these teachers.
- 2 more art teachers have been recruited.
- The team made the assessment visit to the new camp and distributed the donated materials.
- An opening ceremony was held for the new office of Laiza. An exhibition was built up for the ceremony and afterwards moved to the camp for further display.
- The yearly progress exhibition of the art project was successfully conducted in Myitkyina, Kachin State.
- The team visited the new camp again and started to make the specific schedule and plan for the art activities of the re-displaced children.

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 August 2016, the project team continued to discuss the topics for the coming art activities. The five topics were selected as a curriculum for the coming project years. The curriculum is composed of 5 topics including:

Topic 1: The Back on the Road

Topic 2: Life in Boxes

Topic 3: The Bullet Hole

Topic 4: The Emptiness of Land

Topic 5: This Kind of Blue

Started from September 2016 to March 2017, the project team conducted regular art activities and collected the art works of the 400 participating children (51% females) according to the 5 topics that have planned to draw in this year.

- The topic 1, "The Back on the Road", conducted with 400 old students from the same previous two years in Laiza project. 400 paintings were collected. This topic highlighted the backs of Kachin people walking on the road, the fleeing road, the road in the camps, and the road to the unknown future.
- The topic 2, "The Bullet Hole", conducted with 400 old students from the same previous two years in Laiza project. 400 paintings were collected. This topic highlighted how children were sitting and playing around the school's wall that was fully covered by bullet holes and how the children are close to the bullet holes.
- The topic 3, "Life in Boxes", conducted with 400 old students from the same previous two years in Laiza project. 400 paintings were collected. This topic highlighted the living picture of the real life status in the camps. The shelters and houses in the camps are similar, small and close to each other like boxes. Each "box" has to hold a family with 3-4 persons, or a family with 7-8 persons.

The empty and unified “boxes” are of no sense of home but made home for the children and their family.

- The topic 4, “The Hand In the Crack”, conducted with 400 old students from the same previous two years in Laiza project. 400 paintings were collected.
- According to the intensify conflict between Government Military and KIA, school had closed on December 2016 to January 2017. In February, the school was reopened for a short time for semester break exam. At the time project had drawn the five topics with the children from 3 targets schools in Laiza which were: Alam Bum High School, Hpung lum Yeng Primary school, and Je Yeng Primary School. In the previous 3 session drawing activities, all of the 400 hundred children participated but in this time only 208 children could participate in the drawing session. The project conducted 27 drawing session

In this new project implementation years, project has extended the targeted schools to 23 schools. They set out the three main areas for combination. One is Laiza, other at Mai Je Yeng, and the final one at Zai Awng. Project team has work directly with the three IDP schools in Laiza and for another 20 IDPs schools Project team change the strategy on providing training to the teachers and let them to organise and run the drawing session in their Schools.

## **Arts Exhibitions**

During May 19-30, 2016, 2 exhibitions were held in Yangon, Myanmar in two different spaces, including Pansodan Scene, a local active gallery in Yangon which is commercial and has its own local audience network, and Goethe Institute, a non-profit institute that is sponsored by German government, holds events of culture and art regularly in Yangon and offered its space to the project for free. 155 paintings were displayed at these 2 exhibitions. 6 children artists and 3 teachers from the participant IDP camp schools had a chance to participate in these two events. Airavati published 300 sets of postcards and 200 bags with the designs of the children's paintings. It has been over 5 years since the military conflict broke out in Kachin State. However, the May Yangon exhibitions were the first art exhibitions of the displaced children that ever happened in public of city. For the first time, the exhibitions passed the voice and concerns of the displaced children by bringing their art works to the outside public. It greatly raised the project awareness among the general public. For children, when people saw their paintings, they gained recognition as equal individuals who are able to express their strength and creativity and actively engage in envisioning and fashioning the future they desire. With the appreciation and recognition gained from the exhibition, children, teachers and parents all began to believe that changes can happen just because of how wonderful they are. Another really important outcome from the Yangon exhibitions was that some national and international artists and activists who came to or heard about the exhibitions expressed that they would like to come to Laiza to assist the project as volunteer art teachers.

## **Teachers Training**

From September 2016 to January 2017, there has 4 times of teachers trainings conducted in 3 selected regions for combination. The three centres that had planned to conduct the teacher training were: Laiza, Mai JaYeng, and Zai Aung. Among them Laiza centre and Mai Ja Yeng centre have finished two times of teachers training which the total of 134 teaches (Male- 51, Female-83) at the time Zai Aung centres has finished once with the total of teachers 41 (Male - 21, Female-18 ). Through capacity building the local could extend the project targeted area and children numbers to participate in the projects and it also the opportunity for the schools to

create the extra curriculum for the creative ways of children trauma healing. Not only the schools had an opportunity to own the new curriculum but also for the project, it is also helpful for the building the sustainability of the implementation. Through conducting teacher's training, approximately 3000 children from 23 IDP camps have an opportunity to participate in this project.

Sr. No	Time of Session	Drawing Centre	No. of teacher			Coverage School	Period
			Male	Female	Total		
1	1 <sup>st</sup> time Drawing	Laiza	16	26	42	7	September 2016
2	1 <sup>st</sup> time Drawing	ZaiAung	23	18	41	6	December 2016
3	1 <sup>st</sup> time Drawing	Mai JaYeng	12	14	26	7	December 2016
4	2 <sup>nd</sup> time Drawing	Laiza	22	14	36	6	January 2017
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> time Drawing	Mai JaYeng	1	29	30	7	January 2017
Total			74	101	175	33	

Note- The numbers of participated teachers and the numbers of schools could duplicate.

### Upload the Project's Culminating Video on Line

In August, 2016, the project team completed the 13-minute-long culminating video with the subtitles both in English and in Chinese. The video was uploaded to the biggest video web side of China [www.youku.com](http://www.youku.com). The Chinese version has been reviewed by 842 times and the English version has been reviewed by 358 times.

### Continue Baseline Survey of the New Project

In August, 2016, the project team established contact with the new target schools one by one and confirmed the basic information of the schools and the numbers of the teachers who will attend the intensive teachers' trainings. The schedule of the teachers' trainings in the 3 training centers—Laiza, Zai Awng and Mai Ja Yang was mostly worked out.

### Staff's Drawing Training

The Laiza project is unique because of its artistic theories and methods. To share the art process with children, the project team needs to learn about art too. In August and September 2016, the art teacher from Yangon, Min Zai Dau Hkawng, started to provide 2 times of drawing trainings for the team which was very supportive. The staff started with the basic drawing skills and colour theories. The effectiveness of the trainings was proved in the following children's art activities.

### Exhibitions

Two exhibitions which were one time in opening ceremony of Laiza new office and another one at Myitkyina has conducted during the reporting period.

## **New Office Opening Exhibition**

In October, 2016, a new space was rent at Laiza downtown for the safety of the project staff. After 3 weeks' renovation work, the project's Laiza Office including the staff house and the collected paintings of children were safely moved to the new space.

On March 03, 2017, the project team held an opening ceremony and an exhibition for the new office. The organizations and institutes of Laiza, including the local government departments, the schools, the camp committees, the NGOs and INGOs, etc. were invited to the event. Children's art creation was printed in big size and displayed. The progress and effectiveness of the art project was more thoroughly introduced to the local people and organisations.

## **Myitkyina Art Exhibition**

During March 17-21, 2017, the yearly progress exhibition of the art project was held in the capital city of Kachin State, Myitkyina. It was the first exhibition of the project organised in Myitkyina. Totally 69 paintings from 12 topics were displayed at the exhibition. The paintings were all framed. 6 children artists and 3 school teachers were invited from the IDP camp schools of Laiza to the exhibition. The children and the teachers witnessed the influence of the exhibition and how people were touched and inspired by these story-telling art creations. There were 227 persons attended the exhibition in Myitkyina, including 58 individuals from Myitkyina City, 66 displaced persons from the IDP camps near Myitkyina and 103 persons from the organizations and institutes. The participants from the organizations and institutes included 32 NGOs and INGOs and 3 Medias. The exhibition was highly recognized and praised by the attendants. The attendants from the IDP camps, children and women, were very attached to the stories told through the paintings. Some of them cried at the exhibition. The attendants' record and the comments from the attendants proved the success of the exhibition in Myitkyina and the outcomes of the art project.

## **Preparing for Art Activities for the Re-displaced Children**

Right after the yearly progress exhibition in Myitkyina, the project team rushed back to Laiza to prepare for the art activities for the children who were re-displaced by the conflict and relocated in the new camp--Sha-it Yang. On March 28, 2017, the team visited the new camp and started to make the time schedule and the needed art material list for the upcoming art activities in the new camp. It's still school vocation in Myanmar now. However, to try to make the art activities and the healing process of it benefit the children who were very recently re-displaced and re-traumatized, the project team decided to start the art courses during the vocation. From April, 2017, the team will begin the art courses with children of the new camp.

## **Other Art Activities**

### **The Visit of the Volunteer Film Maker**

During January 16-29, 2017, the volunteer film maker from China, Ms.Zheng Mingli, visited the art project in Laiza and helped filmed the Laiza teachers' training and the children's art activities. The filming materials have been saved. Ms.Zheng Mingli will visit the art project of Laiza again in the project year 2017-2018 and help to edit a documentary film for the art project.

## Challenges

Challenges exist in the children's art project mainly include:

- The environment of the art project is impacted by the changing situation and context of the conflict and peace building process of the country. With the unstable situation, the project needs to keep making adjustments to reach the goal and objectives.
- The worrying situation of Laiza makes it difficult to bring the volunteer artists to Laiza to support the art activities.
- With the 20 new target IDP camp schools, the workload will increase greatly and requires more art teachers. The project needs more human resources. A project manager and an art teacher are still in urgent need.
- The situation of Laiza keeps changing and stays unstable. With the unstable context, the project needs to keep making adjustments to reach the goal and objectives.

## Photo Report of Laiza Art Project

### *The Hand in the Cracks*



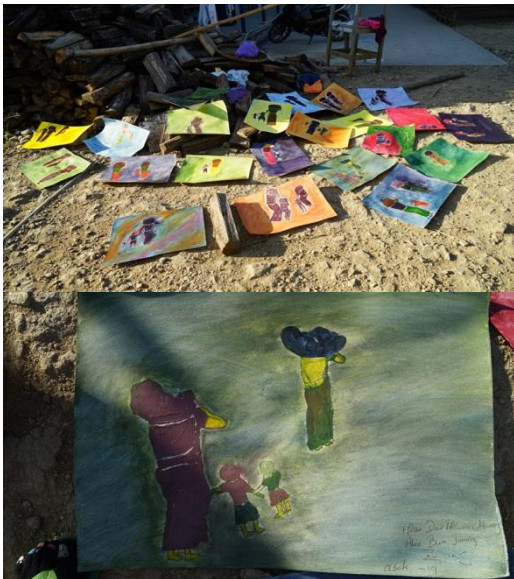




***On the Road***











*The Awaiting Home*



## *Life in Boxes*



## *This Kind of Blue*







## Change Story 1.

Roi Nu, 13 years old, Je Yang IDP Camp Primary School



"I am Roi Nu. I am 13 years old. Six years ago, I fled to Je Yang IDP Camp with my family. I was 7 years old. Some memories of that day stayed. On our fleeing road, it was windy and raining heavily. Many people were fleeing together. I was with other children on the back of a truck. Some children were crying. My little brother was crying too. After some time, we had to get off the truck and start to walk. We kept walking and stopping and walking again in the slippery mud. My father, mother, sister, brothers and I stumbled on the road, wearing the plastic.

My youngest brother was born in the camp. He is 5 years old now. Life in the camp is not happy. I don't want to say it's miserable either. We survive on the relief from people. Whether the food is good or not good, we eat it. At home, I wear whatever my parents give me. My parents want me to go to school. I go and obey the disciplines and try to perform well as I don't want to worry my parents. At this school that has been built up with people's donation and relief, I want to study hard. In one year, I will go to high school. Although there's still no hope for the university after high school, I will try hard to learn more at the Alen Bum Boarding High School.

So far we have been painting with the art teachers (the project team) for over two years. I remember the first painting the teacher painted with us was The Tree of Life. The teacher told us that like the young sapling that grows into a tall tree, people's life is the same, starting from a small seed, growing out of the soil, reaching into the sky with the branches, experiencing the thunders, storms and nurturing of the sun, and finally growing into a tall tree.



*The Tree of Life*

I think the idea and vision of the painting class is meaningful. Firstly, children have the opportunity to learn painting. Secondly, through seeing our paintings, people in the world will know what we have been going through, have empathy and understanding for our feelings and support us.

The topic that touched me most is Life in Boxes. Life in the camp is in restrictions and limitations. We eat what we are fed. We cannot do what we are not allowed to do, otherwise we would be punished. We must obey the arrangements and have to live in these boxes specially built up for us. We cannot build something by ourselves and we have no space to build it either because the land we are living on has its own owner that is not us. With these restrictions and constraints, I can really feel what Life in Boxes means to us.

Many children in my school would like to paint with the art teachers too, but they don't have the opportunity yet. My wish is that more children could have the opportunity to paint with the teachers like me."





*Life in Boxes* by Roi Nu

## Additional Implementation

### Initiative Peace Activities

During the reporting period, the former Board Chairperson of Airavati, Lahpai Seng Raw, has contributed in peace process of Myanmar through participating in several meetings and workshops that were organised by herself or Government, Local stakeholders like CSO, LINGO, INGO and armed groups. She participated in 13 meetings and workshops for the whole years. Through working in peace process, she could have provided a lot of inputs and advices to the groups that were working together with her to promote the peace process in Myanmar. The detail information of the meetings and workshops that she had participated are as followed.

No	Date	To	Reason
1	04-11 April 2016	Laiza	To talk with KIO for peace
2	06-14 May 2016	India/Tibet	Kachin Education Tour Dharamsala, May 2016
3	21-26 May 2016	Turkey	To attend World Humanitarian Summit
4	17-29 July 2016	Germany	International Conference on: Historical Preconditions and Causes for the Political Development of Present-day Myanmar
5	7-12 August 2016	Myitkyina	To talk with Daniel Kapp/ 11th there for a meeting with KFA
6	19-20 August 2016	Myitkyina	JST Meeting
7	30 Aug - 3 Sep 2016	Nyipyitaw	21st Century Panglong Conference (1st session)
8	4-15 Aug 2016	Australia	Global Leadership Program Macquarie University
9	23 Oct - 07 Nov, 2016	Berlin, Germany	HBS internal discussion on the 25th and 3 day- conference on Global Perspective where she talk on CSO challenges.
10	15-21 Nov, 2016	Potao	to discuss Drug Issue amount youth
11	12-27 Dec, 2016	Maesot, Thailand	MAHIDOL-OXFORD TROPICAL MEDICINE RESEARCH UNIT
12	30 Dec - 06 Jan, 2016	Pin OoLwin, Lashio	For Interfaith Conference.
13	02 - 09 Feb 2016	Changmai? Thailand	Japan foundation Metting at Thailand and a closed door consultation and strategy meeting on the situation in Northern Rakhine State at Chaingmai

## **Leprosy Care and Treatment (Donated by Australia towards Leprosy care and treatment + US Church)**

During 2013, local authorities and nurses from Hting Nan Rural Health Care centre from KIO administrated identified that three generations of Saibaw Nan Aung's family residing in the village of Dam from Sumprabum Township are afflicted with leprosy. Three persons from the Saibaw Nan Aung were infected. The local authorities found that the medical treatment within their reach could not effective in providing complete healing and wishes to receive medical assistance from outside organizations and have been requested to relay their appeal for help on their behalf. Soon after that, Pota O District Officer from KIO informed to Metta and consulted for further medical treatment for these three patients. Then Daw Lahpai Seng Raw, former Executive Director of Metta Development Foundation took immediate action and consulted with Dr Zaw Moe Aung, Country Director of The Leprosy Mission of Myanmar about the case and proposed for further assistance. Then the possible plan for immediate treatment for affected patients was developed. Since the area is quite remote and isolated from township healthcare centre and it's also difficult for the Leprosy Mission of Myanmar to send leprosy experts for treatment. So, Dr Zaw Moe Aung, Daw Lahpai Seng Raw requested to the local authorities from Pota O District to send 3 nurses to Mawlamyine for attending the intensive training on special care and treatment for leprosy patients. After intensive training, the Leprosy Mission of Myanmar assisted with necessary medicines and sent them back to Hting Nan Rural Healthcare centre. The following activities had accomplished through 3 trained nurses.

### **Intensive Cared and treatment for the Patients**

After the nurses back from Mawlamyine, they started providing the treatment to the patient but transportation the main challenges for the nurses to provide the treatment to patients. Through discussion with the village authorities of Pota O District, they decided to build the separated shelter for the patient was constructed at the Hting Nan Rural Healthcare Centre compound and provided intensive care and treatment by skilled nurses. Under the continue care and support of medical doctors of Leprosy Mission, the patients received cared and treatment almost one and half year in Hting Nan Rural Healthcare Centre.





*The patients receiving medical cares and treatment at Hting Nan Rural Healthcare Cente with Dr. Dr Saw Samular from Leprosy Mission of Myanmar and Miss Nang Htu-Nurse-KIO (April 2014)*

### **The Leprosy Mission to Mali Hkrang Walawng**

The mission trip was jointly coordinated and conducted by Metta Development Foundation (Metta) and The Leprosy Mission of Myanmar in April 2014. The team set out the objective for the mission trip as:

- To check health condition of 3 leprosy patients who has been undergoing medical care and treatments since February 2013 and re-treatment if needed
- To conduct further medical checkup on leprosy diseases for those leprosy patient's family members, relatives and other villagers from the areas and
- To conduct public awareness on leprosy diseases and personal hygiene

Originally, the mission trip has been coordinating since January and planned to happen in March but due some circumstances, the mission trip actually happened during the month of April 2014 with the five persons from Leprosy Mission, Myanmar, Health Department of Kachin Independent Organisation (KIO), and Metta Myitkyina Branch staff. As I mentioned before, the area was quite remote and only accessed on foot. There was one Rural Healthcare Centre except Hting Nan village which was one day walk from the area. Generally, most of the income generation system of the villagers depends on slash and burn shifting cultivation. As they are living in the remote area, their knowledge of health education are in the lowest level except the infection of leprosy. They know the symptom and infection of leprosy because of this they discriminate on the infected family. It showed that health education awareness should raise up in this region.

During this mission trip, the team provided the treatment to 3 patients, examined the medical check to 13 persons (m-4, f-9) and conducted the awareness session on leprosy and personal hygiene at Thing Nan and Thing Bu Kawng villages. 165 villagers received the awareness.

During the mission trip, 2 new case within the family was examined and the medical doctors from Leprosy Mission refer them to get a treatment from Thing Nan Rural Healthcare Centre. After 6 months the new two patients were totally reliefs and they are now living with their family at their native village.



Medical doctor also examined the health conduction of 3 old patients who have taken the treatment since February 2017 during this trip. Among them Saibaw Roi Ja and Hting Nan Mung Aung are totally relief and stopped the medical treatment. Saibaw Gum San's condition was also improved but still requires another 6 months to have MDT.

### **Current Situation for the Patient's family**

Regarding to the findings of Gum San, his leprosy is a kind of high BI index. It mains leprosy reaction and it will continuous to happen for two to four years depending on the BI index of the patient. Leprosy reaction means the body is clearing off the Dead Leprosy Bacilli from the body. This reaction will occur off and on until the BI index drop down to 2+. According to the medical doctor's findings, the patient might have the BI index from 4-5+. Because of this the patient needs to have prednisolone and other vitamin groups.

Due to this reaction, the villagers, friends and neighbors from the area suspected that Gum San is still badly affecting with leprosy and found that it's difficult in their association with their family members who are concerned about being infected with the disease and informed and requested to local authorizes for further care and treatment for the family. Through this findings, local authorities from Sumprabum Township requested to Metta for additional medical assistant and care for the family. As I mentioned, the area is quite remote and far from Myitkyina and it's very difficult to visit and see health condition of the affected family. So, Metta consulted the responsible person from Leprosy Mission of Myanmar and Metta assisted medicines MDT with Omeprazole 20mg, Calcium carbonate 500 mg BD and prescribed by physician and nutritious and hygiene materials for the family in November 2016 with the donated by Australia towards Leprosy care and treatment.

Beside this, additional nutritious and hygiene materials support to the affected family is also a crucial at the movement. In every year, rice farm was destroyed by rats, pests, diseases and local communities always faced with shortage of food. They have to survive through eating non-timber forest products (NTFP) which were low nutritious values. So, it's important to support nutritious supplements and hygiene materials to the leprosy infected patients as well as the family members.



*Nutritious and hygiene materials donated by Daw Nang Baw (Australia)*



*Affected family receiving medicines, nutritious and hygiene materials support  
(Hkin Du Yang village with Nurse (Nang Htu)- blue jean)*

### Conditions for Gum San

As mentioned above, due to leprosy reaction, Gum San condition requires specially healthcare by physician and local authorities from the Pota O District proposed to continuously to Metta for further care and treatment related with the leprosy. Dr Zaw Moe Aung and Dr Saw Samular from Leprosy mission, Myanmar suggested and referred to consult with the medical doctor from Head of State Health Department-Kachin, former Yenada leprosy centre in Sagaing and Dr K Naw Aung from Myitkyina General Hospital about Gum San case before sending straight to Mawlamyine. Through the leading of Metta Development Foundation, Kachin Branch, the consultation was conducted with the related department and all stated that there has a skilful medical staff in Myitkyina but there was insufficient of the medicines related with the leprosy. Under these conditions in Myitkyina, they all agreed to refer the patient to Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Mission Hospital for further care and treatment since June 2017. All his medical fees and personal expenses were supported through the fund of **Australia towards Leprosy care and treatment as well as US Church**. Currently, Gum San's condition was quite relief but require times for care and treatment to overcome leprosy reaction from his body.





*Saibaw Gum San who is receiving further care and treatment at Mawlamyine*



*Saibaw Roi Ja (Younger sister of Gum San) who received care and treatment in 2013-2014 at Hting Nan Rural Healthcare Centre*

**Awareness on Health Education, hygiene and Sanitation for the Communities**

## Capacity Building

In the reporting period, 10 Airavati's staff had received 8 trainings for promoting the competency and skill of the staff. Some staff received more than one training. All of the trainings were very supportive and effective for the staff to improve their capacity. Among the trainings, two courses like Water Governance and Trans Boundary policies approach for Water governance training and workshops were conducted in abroad and the rest were conducted in Local. The detail capacity building trainings were described in the table as follow:

Sr. no	Training Name	Organised by	Participants			Period
			M	F	Total	
1	Organisation development and Leadership for change	IPACE (American Centre	2		2	25 April-03 July, 2016
2	Project Development and proposal Writing training	MERN	2		2	5-7. 10. 2016
3	Water Governance Training (Training of Facilitator)	Oxfam	1		1	20-22. 2. 2017
4	Eco-Leadership Intensive Training	Airavati	3		3	13-20.3.2017
5	Financial Management Training	Airavati	4	3	7	13-14.12.2016
6	Child Rights(CRC)	Metta	2		2	31 August to 1 September 2017
7	Performance Development Commitment	Airavati	5	4	9	April 2016
8	Trans boundary Policy Approach for Water Governance	Oxfam	1		1	28 February to 3 March 2017

## **Organisational Development**

The Airavati is officially registered as a non-profit organisation in Myanmar as approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 13, 2013. It received its tax exemption status from the Ministry of Finance on November 25, 2015. To date, it has a total of 17 staff (53 % women) consisting of 10 field personnel, 4 national coordination staff and 3 part-time staff. 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 Art Programme is supported by Oxfam, 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.

## **Annual Review Workshop**

Airavati Annual Review Workshop was conducted in June 2016 at Inle. There were 12 staff and board members (Male- 12, Female-5) participated in the workshop. During Annual Review Workshop, 2015-2016 financial years accomplishments, achievements, majors achievement and majors challenges of 3 offices (Yangon, Myitkyina and Laiza) were presented and drew out. All of the board members and staff had learned the strength and weakness of organisation and the way that organisation should move in the coming years. Finally, 2016-2017 programme focus area were set out and depend on it the detail work plan for the 2016-2017 were developed together.