

## AIRAVATI ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT

01 APRIL 2017 to 31 MARCH 2018

***Airavati*** was founded in 2014 to ensure that the Ayeyarwady River flows freely for all time. This entails preserving the environment, culture, and way of life of the diverse communities that flourish along the Ayeyarwady's path – from its watershed in Kachin State to its delta in the Ayeyarwady Region. Project activities aim at developing better livelihood options, while also providing a platform for peace building.

**Vision:** Airavati is a Sanskrit word for the elephant river adopted by the great Ayeyarwady River that flows for more than 2,000 kilometers from north to south through Myanmar. The elephant's ears help control the temperature of its body. Elephants are herbivorous and can be found in different habitats including savannahs, forests, deserts and marshes. They prefer to stay near water. They are considered to be keystone species due to their impact on their environments. Airavati's vision seeks to ensure that the elephant's habitats continue exist along the Ayeyarwady River.

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

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

**Thanks:** Airavati thanks all local partners, donors and supporters together empowering local ownership of programme components.

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Legal Status as a National NGO Registration #: 1/Local/0003 Ministry of Home Affairs 25 November 2015

Tax exemption status Ministry of Finance/16 January 2015

*In Memory of Saw Ler Wah (19 August 1983 – 25 December 2017)*

*By Si Si Tun, Human Resource Advisor*

*The unexpected death of Programme Coordinator Saw Ler Wah in December 2017 has greatly saddened all of us at Airavati Foundation. He joined Airavati as a Program Coordinator on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Yangon Head Office. He was mainly responsible for providing guidance and technical support to field teams from Myitkyina and Laiza areas. He was also responsible for coordinating field visits for visitors/partners and for organizing capacity building activities for the staff. Monitoring and evaluation of the projects were also included in his assigned tasks. He was very able to supervise and to get things done well during his tenure with us. He was a good friend, colleague and staff to all of us. Saw Ler Wah had more than 10 years' experience working in the humanitarian and development field in Myanmar. He had a strong passion to develop the community as well as the people around him. He always worked towards the progress of the organization. We truly appreciate his attitude, professionalism and the contributions that he provided in each chapter of his work and life during the past years. We sincerely acknowledge the hard and good works he had done for Airavati. We are proud as well as blessed to have a colleague like him. He was a man of integrity and we miss him deeply. Saw Ler Wah a devoted Christian leaves behind his wife Khin Lay Nwe.*

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## **Executive Summary**

This annual report covers the period of 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, Airavati's 3rd 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. Much of the efforts are supporting IDP in Kachin and Northern Shan states and communities at Myitsone disrupted by the proposed dam. Airavati received a total of US\$ 174,658 From four international partner organisations and one individual donor.

The largest proportion of funds went to the Children's Art Project in IDP camps in Kachin state. Eco leadership had minimal funds for follow up activities to the Eco leadership training in March 2017 in Myitsone and Dry zone. Community Resilience in the Confluence did not receive any funds this year although the Myitkyina team supported on community activities such as Microcredit Union (MCU) and Early Childhood ECCD schools. The Peace Fund received on-going funds to further the Peace Process in Myanmar particularly engaging with Kachin civil society and political leaders leading to the emergence of Vision 2020 that received start-up funds in the lead up to the 2020 elections supporting collaborative efforts of political stakeholders and participatory democracy.

### **Successes:**

- Community Resilience (at Confluence) components have sustained MCE and ECCD activities with very limited funding.
- Eco leadership has maintained and furthered interest on community resilience and caring for environment amongst stakeholders in Myitsone and Dry zone with very limited funding
- Children Overcoming Conflict and Displacement Through the Arts programme has proven to be a viable, cost-effective, and replicable model as a psychosocial process of healing and providing support for displaced children to find expression through creative arts.
- Airavati are encouraged by the efforts of the Peace Fund and Vision 2020 project introducing a participatory community approach to politics and the peace process.

**Challenges:** An urgent need for funding to continue Eco leadership and Community Resilience (Confluence) Components to reach full potential. A 3-year ongoing proposal has been prepared with a view to Airavati initiatives along the river (Myitsone, Dry zone, Delta) inspiring community resilience and broader social movements in different parts of the country. While significant steps have been taken efforts were not adequate to fully address issues of poverty, enforced relocation, human rights, peace and governance in Myitsone (Confluence).

Airavati, as the sole organisation assisting displaced communities due to proposed Myitsone dam 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.

The key aims and outputs of the 5 components during the reporting period are detailed below –

AIRAVATI PROGRAMME COMPONENT SUMMARY			
Component	Project location	Aim	Key Outputs
1. Community Resilience in the Confluence (SLDP, ECCD)	Myitsone, Kachin State	To continue running ECCD programmes and micro credit union in 3 villages at Myitsone.	3 on-going ECCD schools in Myitsone target villages 92 community members engaged in MCU activities in 4 target villages
2. Eco Leadership	Myitsone, Dry zone	Stakeholders in Dry zone and Myitsone address environmental issues and community resilience	80% of participants increased eco leadership capacity * Stakeholder Awareness Event, Myitsone. * Myitsone Women Dialog on Gender-Related Issues. * Stakeholder Awareness Event, Dry Zone.
3. Children Overcoming Conflict & Displacement through Art	IDP camps in Kachin state	Children and youth supported in overcoming trauma and in their re-integration in a peaceful society in Myanmar	*Network of artists teaching art to children in IDP schools * 3,082 children in 19 IDP schools participated in 274 art activities * 77 teachers from 19 IDP schools received art training * Art exhibitions in IDP Camps, Myitkyina, Yangon, Thailand, Spain
4. Peace Fund	Myanmar	To further establish key relationships and facilitate meetings between different denominations as part of the Myanmar peace process and continue attending meetings, networking with diverse leaders and facilitating the peaceful strengthening of civil society considering social, economic and environmental concerns.	Meetings and roundtable discussions on: *Public Consultation * Humanitarian Policy & Dialogue on IDP Protection * Renewable Energy * Kachin Humanitarian and Forestry Policy * Vision 2020
5. Vision 2020	Kachin State	Support participatory, accountable and inclusive democracy in Myanmar by reinforcing capacity of Kachin political parties as legitimate, capable, effective and accountable representatives of the Kachin constituencies leading to increased seats at Kachin and National Myanmar Parliaments in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority Rights &amp; Inclusive Citizenship</li> <li>• Conference for Vision 2020</li> <li>• Defining Common Kachin Vision</li> <li>• Survey research (1% of voter population)</li> <li>• Position paper Kachin CSOs</li> </ul>

## **Introduction**

Airavati was founded in 2014 to ensure the Ayeyarwady River flows freely for all time. This entails preserving the environment, culture, and way of life of the diverse communities that flourish along the Ayeyarwady's path – from its watershed in Kachin State to its delta in the Ayeyarwady Region. Project activities aim at developing better livelihood options, while also providing a platform for peace building. 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 reflecting the interdependence and interconnection of all forms of life. Airavati's programmes 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 programmes 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 in 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. In the last two years there has been more focus on Peace Process and the lead up to the 2020 elections in a bid to address the current devastating civil unrest and social injustice in Kachin state.

Currently Projects are being initiated in Kachin State and North Eastern Shan State and 2 Dry zone divisions (Ayerwaddy and Magway) and eventually in 3 more delta area divisions (Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway). Airavati has 2 Regional offices in Myanmar, Yangon and Myitkyina.

In this reporting period Airavati is working with 5 Components.

### **Component 1 - Community Resilience at Confluence (April 2017 to March 2018)**

This component is made up of the Sustainable Livelihood & Development Project (SLDP) and Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD). The objective is to improve and sustain the livelihoods of 384 households or 2,130 family members from the four communities (Tanghphe, Mazup, Dawngpan and Lahpe) 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 as well as supporting a more holistic approach to early? Many community leaders from the target villages joined the eco leadership training and follow up workshops some also attended the Durable Peace Programme (2).

**Early Childhood Care Development:** Tanghpri, Mazup and Dawngpan have ECCD schools. It is a significant achievement that they have continued running self-support. The Airavati Myitkyina team supported through joining committee meetings and supervising the schools to run the ECCD programmes smoothly. Funds are raised locally from activities such as children's performance, slide shows, and partial support from Micro Credit Unions (MCU). In the 2017-2018 academic year 24 students graduated from the 3 ECCD schools (Male 8, Female 16). School committees' management skills have improved by learning from experience although it is increasingly challenging for families to sustain the ECCD schools due to economic hardship. The ECCD teachers from Tanghpri school joined a teacher's training organized by Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC)

Key Output: 3 on-going ECCD schools in Myitsone target communities

**Sustainable Livelihood & Development Project:** The Micro Credit Union (MCU) program is the main activity operating in all target villages. The Myitkyina team supports capacity building of MCUs to ensure they run smoothly including monthly meetings and regular review and renewal of MCU regulations and format. A rice bank has been established in Dawng Pan and they have collected over 100 sacks of rice. The MCU committee members had an exposure visit to learn about pig raising. It is a significant achievement that all MCU teams increased the amount of money saved are supporting some community activities themselves.

No	Village	Member	Revolving money in Myanmar Kyat	Outputs
1	Mazup MCU	61	Over 20,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92 community members engaged in MCU activities in 4 target villages</li> <li>3 ongoing ECCD schools in Myitsone target communities</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges:</u> Although communities have MCU funds they cannot cover all the needs particularly in ECCD operation that needs to cover teacher salaries, community resilience and sustainable livelihood actions.</p> <p><u>Successes:</u> Resilience of communities to continue activities without outside funds.</p>
2	Lahpe MCU	21	Over 3,700,000	
3	Dawng Pan MCU	25	Over 3,000,000	
4	Tang Hpre MCU	85	Over 14,000,000	



## Evaluation meeting Micro Credit Union and Sustainable Livelihood & Development Programme, Tanghpri, Myitsone

### Component 2 – Eco leadership

In Myanmar people are united in their through many ethnic areas and the watershed. In March 2017 and 8-Myitkyina. The training brought Myitsone, Dry zone and Delta area of impacts on the environment by land grabbing and connecting social solutions that can be used to address vision for a Peaceful Federal change. After the training Eco-experiences in their communities and building a foundation to be an movement concerned with the whole community resilience in pilot villages unsuccessful in attaining funds for a 3-watershed management and with some small financial support from momentum in Myitsone and Dryzone a Women Dialogue on Gender (Sept to Nov 2017).



love of the Ayeyarwady River that passes diverse ecological systems in the day Eco-Leadership Training took place in together community leaders from Ayeyarwady to learn more about the infrastructure projects, resource extraction, and cultural issues while exploring these issues. Participants co-created a Democratic society to support multi-level Leadership alumni shared their with local stakeholders. This project is inspiring example of a grassroots of the Airavati watershed. It also supports along the river. This project was year follow up to actualise community led community resilience. However, Airavati Heinrich Boll Foundation have kept up for 2 follow up stakeholder meetings and Related Issues caused by Myitsone Dam

The aim was for participants to connect as an emerging network to advance a strong civil society, low impact lifestyles, more equitable economic systems and care for the environment and local cultures. It was implemented in Dryzone and Myitsone. The groups were very motivated and inspired after the meetings. For the alumni of Eco-Leadership Training, this was their second time to learn, explore and discuss river issues, issues of development projects and foreign investment and so on. For newcomers, the meetings were the first step to get engaged with the issues and to work together with the Eco-Leadership Training alumni and other community members to start community initiatives that would ensure a more sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. Activities were unable to extend to Delta area due to lack of funds.



Attendee, Stakeholder Awareness Meeting (Dry Zone)



Attendee, Stakeholder Awareness Event, Myitsone



Ms. Nang Pu Lecturing at Women Dialogue Meeting (Myitsone)

### Vision for a Peaceful Federal Democracy

<u>SEEN</u>	<p><b>RESULTS</b></p> <p>Emergence of Eco villages around the country; Myitsone eco-village in dam area</p> <p>Cultivating good leaders who consider cultural values &amp; ecology; Strong civil society movements</p> <p>Efficient public transportation; Culture of transparency and accountability in governments, businesses &amp; people</p>
<u>UNSEEN</u>	<p><b>PATTERNS / NORMS IN SOCIETY</b> Balance &amp; Cooperation between gov't; civil society, religious institutions, businesses; Model of development considering ecological and sustainable; Curbing urban expansion</p> <p><b>INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT PATTERNS</b> Effective Gov't, public institutions; CSOs; religious institutions; legal institutions; academic &amp; 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&amp; nature;</p> <p><b>BELIEFS</b> Human rights; Good education &amp; healthcare; respect for local culture; Strong local economy; development of local, production;</p> <p><b>VALUES</b> 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</p>

Summary of Achievement Eco leadership Component		
Goal / Indicator	Progress	Challenges
<p><b>Goal</b> - – The participants of the stakeholder meetings led by Airavati organization have better understanding of local issues around natural resource exploitation and are able to link them with the connecting issues such as loss of land and livelihoods, loss of local knowledge and cultures, environmental degradation and loss of fish and plant species, and civil wars and social tensions. They are also equipped with skills and attitudes to address these issues in a practical way.</p>	<p>52 participants joined two Stakeholder Awareness Events, one in Myitsone (12 m/15f) and another in Dry Zone (13m/12f) and 22 participants (4 m/ 18 f) joined the Women Dialogue on Gender-related Issues looking at Myitsone dam project from gender perspective. Participants learned about social, environmental and structural issues related to resource exploitation in Myanmar. They explored social, economic, cultural and ecological issues caused by globalized economy, chemical farming, Myitsone dam project and other mega development projects, unethical business investment and gender-related issues around resource exploitation. They learnt that these issues have tremendous impact on traditional values, cultures and way of life, ultimately destroying their happiness and wellbeing. The vision for ‘Peaceful Federal Democracy’ co-created by Eco leadership participants was a guiding document to share with stakeholders. Spontaneous follow-up actions are happening in communities supported by Airavati team</p>	<p>Expected funds for a 3-year continuing project have not been raised. The intention is to increase community resilience in Ayeyarwady riverside communities in Myitsone, Delta and Dry zone and create a network of riverside activists concerned for the health of the whole watershed. Whilst stakeholder events were held in Myitsone &amp; Dry zone available funds did not allow for an event in Delta area.</p>
<p><b>Training Goal:</b> Community leaders from Myitsone and Dry Zone develop eco-leadership capacities to engage in protection of environment &amp; biodiversity by starting community-led initiatives &amp; establishing strong networks at community and national levels to advocate and influence policy making so natural resources managed sustainably by local communities.</p>	<p>The participants were primarily from Myitsone area and Dryzone. Group discussions, brainstorming, role-playing and experiential learning tools were used in the meetings. This helped to convey contents very relevant to the current situation. This increased the capacity of the participants and paved the way towards future networking and engagement in their attempt to protect the environment, biodiversity and influence opinion for a sustainable change.</p>	<p>The meetings have inspired participants to create some ongoing initiatives although lack of financial support means the impact will be limited.</p>
<p><b>Indicator</b> - Stakeholders in Dry Zone and Myitsone area have better understanding of the environmental issues and make concrete plans to address these issues.</p>	<p>At least 80% of participants expressed they have developed their eco leadership capacity and found the activity helpful for future work. After the meeting, Myitsone community leaders will share what they have learned with other communities and organizations in their respective areas, and Dry zone community leaders confessed that only now they realize the importance of maintaining the ecosystem. Many topical areas of these meetings were new to some community leaders, because most of them focus their social engagement on agricultural and land issues. After this meeting, they agreed to focus more on the ecosystems and vowed to share their learning and new knowledge with their families and the farmers from their communities.</p>	<p>Lack of funds meant activities could not be extended to the delta area.</p> <p>“Eco” and “Dam” are new terms for dry zone some participants found difficult to grasp</p>

<b>Indicator</b> - Women in Myitsone have increased understanding of gender-related issues and make concrete plans to address these issues.	17 women leaders gained increased understanding of gender-related issues. Most understood gender roles and gender division of labor. They expressed that gender roles between men and women do not need to be fixed and that women can accomplish what men can. Most participants expressed that now they knew gender rights issues around natural resource exploitation and that they are subjected to more risks and endangerment by Myitsone dam project because they are more vulnerable than men. They requested more training on gender and federalism, and gender-based natural resource governance. The meeting was too short to explore linkages between gender issues and cultural, economic and ethnic conflicts on a deeper level.	More time needed in women dialog to share experiences about women's rights violation by the government and other forms of authoritative power. In the future, they also want to focus their learning on land policies and natural resource policies in relation to federalism.
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**Sustainability** - Participants are implementing the following in their communities

- Promoting better quality of life by mobilising the community for social change
- Sharing information (community, network and regional levels) using documentary films and other materials provided as part of the follow up process
- Participating in ecological and political discussions with stakeholders in their area
- Facilitating community discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of development projects and the condition of the environment
- Building alliances with peer and youth groups
- Promoting low impact lifestyles
- Organizing local people for change and facilitating community discussions
- Strengthening existing and establishing new community resilience actions e.g. community forestry and fishery; adaptation to and practicing organic agriculture; waste water management & environmental conservation

As an emerging network they are committed to

- Establishing and strengthening a strong network promoting a vision of Peaceful Federal Democracy, Eco villages and Community Empowerment
- Sharing information within the network
- Sharing information to participant networks e.g. farmer's network in dry-zone through committee meetings

**Component 3 - Children Overcoming Conflict & Displacement through Art**

'When art teachers from the **Airavati Organisation** encouraged her to reflect on her memories of the conflict, she drew a pair of hands covering a bright moon'.

<https://www.mmtimes.com/lifestyle/20548-the-art-of-survival.html> - 19 June 2018

This project works with children in 19 IDP schools in 18 IDP camps in Zai Awng, Laiza and Mai Ja Yang. This is a conflicted area in Kachin State close to the Chinese Border.







## Topic 2: Camps Washed Away by Torrents

In July, 2017, some camps located in the mountain area suffered from the torrents. The project team talked with children in the camps of Laiza and produced this series with children to let the outside world know that the natural disaster made the situation of the camps even worse.





### Topic 3: The Holes for Hiding

In Dec, 2017 and Jan, 2018, the government army launched mortar shelling attacks near Mung Lai Hkyen Camp, Laiza. People dug bunkers to hide from the attacks. Many children experienced digging and hiding in bunkers. The project team created the series of The Holes with children right after the attacks. This let out of fear, anxieties, anger and hope of children. It passes the important messages of the children to the outside world.



#### Topic 4: The Fingerprints of Survival

To survive on distributed life materials, displaced persons have to put thumb prints as their signatures. Young kids and old people who don't really understand the meaning of thumb prints often put their fore-finger prints instead. Children and their family have been putting fingerprints the past six and a half years. When creating this series, children gave a name to this special finger with their own understanding—the finger that looks for food, drink, blankets and clothes.



#### Art Activities with Direct Participant Children

Due to changing situation in Laiza some activities could not be undertaken. However, the project conducted art activities in 3 main IDP camp schools of Laiza with 250 direct participant children who have been attending the art classes since October, 2014 using the new curriculum. 21 art activities were conducted in the IDP camp schools in Laiza Region. Some children groups finished all the topics while some could not due to the intermittent military attacks.

#### Art Activities with Re-Displaced Children

Children and their families re-displaced in January 2017 from Zai Awng Region face ongoing trauma. They were relocated to three main IDP camps in Laiza and Sha-it Yang a new camp. Sha-it Yang is located in the mountains and in rainy season it gets very cold. Living condition is poor with sanitation issues. Topics addressed through the story-telling painting process were 'Our Roots' and 'The Homeland I Remember' involving 83 children aged from 7 to 16 years old (43 boys and 40 girls). 7 projects trained school teachers assisted with art activities. Despite the muddy and flooding floor and the leaking roof, the children warmly welcomed the art activities and were very happy during the process. Ongoing art activities are planned and materials provided.



### Art Activities with Indirect Participant Children – Project extending to benefit more displaced children

From July, 2017, 88 projects trained school teachers conducted art activities in 19 camp schools along the Myanmar-China border increasing children reached from 250 to 3082

### Distribution of Art Materials and Follow-up School Visits

Since July 2017 when the trained teachers commenced art activities the project team has made follow up visits and distributed art materials to IDP schools. The intermittent conflicts meant a lot of adjustments to schedule in total 6 school visits during the reported period, follow-up visits inspired and encouraged the teachers and the children. During the follow-up visits, the project team collected children's paintings and the activity reports submitted by the school teachers.

### Outputs

- 3,082 children from 19 IDP camp schools participated in 274 art activities conducted creating 9591 paintings
- 88 project trained teachers commenced 253 art activities for 2832 children in 19 IDP camp schools (indirect beneficiaries).
- 3 volunteer artists joined project activities including 2 photographers and 1 documentary film maker
- 7 intensive training courses conducted involving 77 teachers from 19 IDP schools (2017-2018).
- Exhibition, Chiangmai, Thailand (111 paintings) attended by 228 visitors from 22 countries (March 2018)
- 5 exhibitions of 24 paintings held in Spain from September, 2017 to April, 2018.
- Approximately 5,000 photos of artworks and activities
- Copies of 2017 painting album disseminated to the community stakeholders, the partners and organizations for advocacy.
- 6-minute project documentary filmed and posted on line
- 12 topics for painting sessions developed with teachers and children.
- Painting album published and distributed among participant children and partner organisations (2nd produced July 2018)
- T-shirts produced with design of the children's paintings for advocacy

**Successes:** This inspiring project has supported many children to acknowledge and work with inner feelings about displacement. The exhibitions have raised awareness internationally of the situation in Kachin as well as the effective methodology of working with trauma through art.

**Challenges:** Building a long-term artist network will take more time due to the security issue and the unstable situation in Laiza. Artists cannot easily come and join the art project.

Due to re-displacement, the participant population have encountered new challenges and more needs. The project team addressed this by adjusting the activity schedules and providing temporary material aid and distribution and the temporary art classes in the new camp Sha-it Yang. The project team established contact with individuals and organisations in Spain, Germany, France and Thailand for the possible exhibitions in future.

The Children Art Project is financially supported by Misereor.

## Component 4 – Peace Fund

Myanmar has many on-going complex and inter-related issues including armed conflict, displacement, poverty, migration, ecological damage and trafficking in drugs. Despite recent changes in government and proposed cease-fires there are many vulnerable and marginalized persons. These basic issues cannot wait until federalism and democracy are stabilized. What is needed are various groups of people to meet and work together on issues such as land grabbing, access to education, forced relocation and so forth, in solidarity. Consequently, all elected officials need to learn to work together for a common vision. Despite the 2010 elections there are deeply concerning on-going issues that need to be addressed for vulnerable and marginalized persons throughout Myanmar.

The Peace Fund contributed to the following significant actions in the reporting term.

- Mobilising leaders at Peace Conferences In 2017/2018 significant meetings Seng Raw attended included meeting with political leaders in Loikaw, Forest & Environmental Policy and Public Consultation Meetings in Laiza, Vision 2020 consultations and meetings, Humanitarian Policy & Dialogue on IDP Protection in Mae sot, Renewable Energy Round table in Naypyidaw.
- Facilitating the Humanitarian Policy of the KIO - Seng Raw also took part in facilitating this Policy and is currently involved in the Kachin Forest Policy formulation.
- Mobilising leaders in Kachin on Vision 2020 to support participatory, accountable and inclusive democracy in Myanmar by reinforcing the capacity of Kachin political parties as legitimate, capable, effective and accountable representatives of the Kachin constituencies. This has now morphed into the 2020 Vision component.

Successes – a key output of this component is the Vision 2020 project that will support solidarity and a community led agenda for political parties in Kachin state.

Challenges – this is by nature an extremely difficult and sensitive area to work in requiring effective communication with diverse and challenging stakeholders.

Misereor and Euro Burma Office (EBO) financially support Peace Fund activities.

## **Component 5 - Vision 2020 (grew out of Peace Fund commenced November 2017)**

The brutal action of the current government has displaced many peoples in Kachin. Kachin political parties are divided and do not collaborate effectively. Vision 2020 is a 3-year project in partnership with Humanity Institute, Myitkyina. The purpose is for *Peoples of Kachin State to have full access to rights and live their life with dignity, ownership and cultural identity*. This will be achieved through *establishing one party or Coalition of Kachin political parties for the 2020 election*. Developing a Common Policy for 2020 to 2025 based on direct contact with voters reflecting real needs and rights of the peoples of Kachin State and Building Capacity of Kachin Political Parties & CBOs with clear administration, internal coordination, deliberation & decision-making mechanisms for institution building in place. The following activities have been implemented so far -

**DIALOG WITH KACHIN SOCIETY (SURVEY)** - In 2014, a *Consultation Forum on issues of concern and interest to Kachin society* (1<sup>st</sup> Kachin Forum held in Chiang Mai, Thailand) explored areas to research relating to Kachin peoples. The main topics included access to education, resource conflict and environmental degradation, land rights, cultural identity and degradation, demographics of population, displacement, increasing gap between rich & poor, economy of exclusion, drug issues, women rights and disarmament raised are still relevant today. A survey of 1% of the Kachin state population is on-going to explore these issues. 80 data collectors including Kachin, Shan, Bamar and Myanmar Indians were recruited to collect quantitative data. Preliminary findings have been shared with political party leaders, religious leaders, civil society organisations and Kachin National Conference. The last surveys are scheduled for June 2018 and full data will be analysed after that. The initial findings of the survey research from townships including Putao, Momauk, Machangbaw, Kar Maing and Njang Yang was presented at several party leaders' meetings, Kachin national conference where CSOs leaders, party leaders, religious leaders and community elders were present, and CSO leaders meeting. The final survey research will reveal needs, concerns and issues of all people living Kachin State and the findings will be sent to relevant stakeholders for further reform process. The survey research is the first ever Kachin state-wide research with an extensive questionnaire exploring different issues and needs of the public.

The Norwegian Burma Committee (NBC) and Misereor financially support Vision 2020.

Organisational Development The Airavati Foundation is officially registered as a non-profit organisation in Myanmar approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs on November 15, 2015. It received its tax exemption status from the Ministry of Finance on November 25, 2015. It currently has 13 staff (53 % women) consisting of 10 field personnel and 3 national coordination staff. There are also volunteers brought in when there are big events. Airavati's Offices are located in Yangon and Kachin state capital Myitkyina. Airavati also got special support from Mr. Naw Ja Ding Rin and Ms. Si Si Htun \_ for HR and Mr. Nyi Nyi Zaw\_ as financial advisor. There are also many individuals helping us voluntarily and as consultants:

	Name of Employee	Position	Remark(s)
	Yangon		
1	Mr. Dam Khaw Ling	Training Coordinator and Logistician	Full time
2	Ms. Mo Mo Han	Accountant	Full time
3	Ms. La Pye Wunn	Cashier	Full time
	<b>Myitkyina</b>		
4	Mr. Tu Hkawng	Project Coordinator	Full time
5	Mr. Naw Awn	Field Coordinator	Full time
6	Ms. N.Seng Hoam Noom	Cashier	Full time
	<b>Laiza</b>		
7	Ms. Kaw Seng	Project Coordinator (Art project)	Part time
8	Ms. Seng Bu	Project Assistant	Full time
9	Ms. Bawk Htun	Cashier	Full time
10	Ms. Ja Bran	Art Teacher	Full time
11	Mr. Sunday	Art Teacher	Full time
12	Ms. Hkawn Ring	Cook	Part time
13	Mr. Mahkhaw Yaw	Driver	Part time

Yangon	Myitkyina	Laiza
1. Pann Ei Ei Zaw _ for internal auditing 2. Jane Rasbash, Pracha Hutanuwatr and Maung Day for Programme development and consultation. 3. Nyi Nyi Zaw_ Financial Advisor 4. Ding Rin Naw Ja and Ms. Si Si Htun for HRM and Organisational Development	1. Ms. Ban Htoi and Ms. Bawk San as Cashier 2. Mr. Seng Lat Maw as financial controller 3. Mr. Dan Hkrawng as accountant and 4. Ms. Nan Raw as organiser of beneficiaries	1. Christine Lim - University student from USA 2. Anais Rolland - University Student from France 3. Deng Kaiji, Zhao Daming, Zhang Junfeng - Photographers from China 4. Zheng Mingli _ Documentarty film maker from China

Airavati relies heavily for resources from its partners, individual donors, local CSOs and international organisations. Metta Development Foundation provides project office space at Myitkyina and Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) Educational Department for the field office at Laiza.

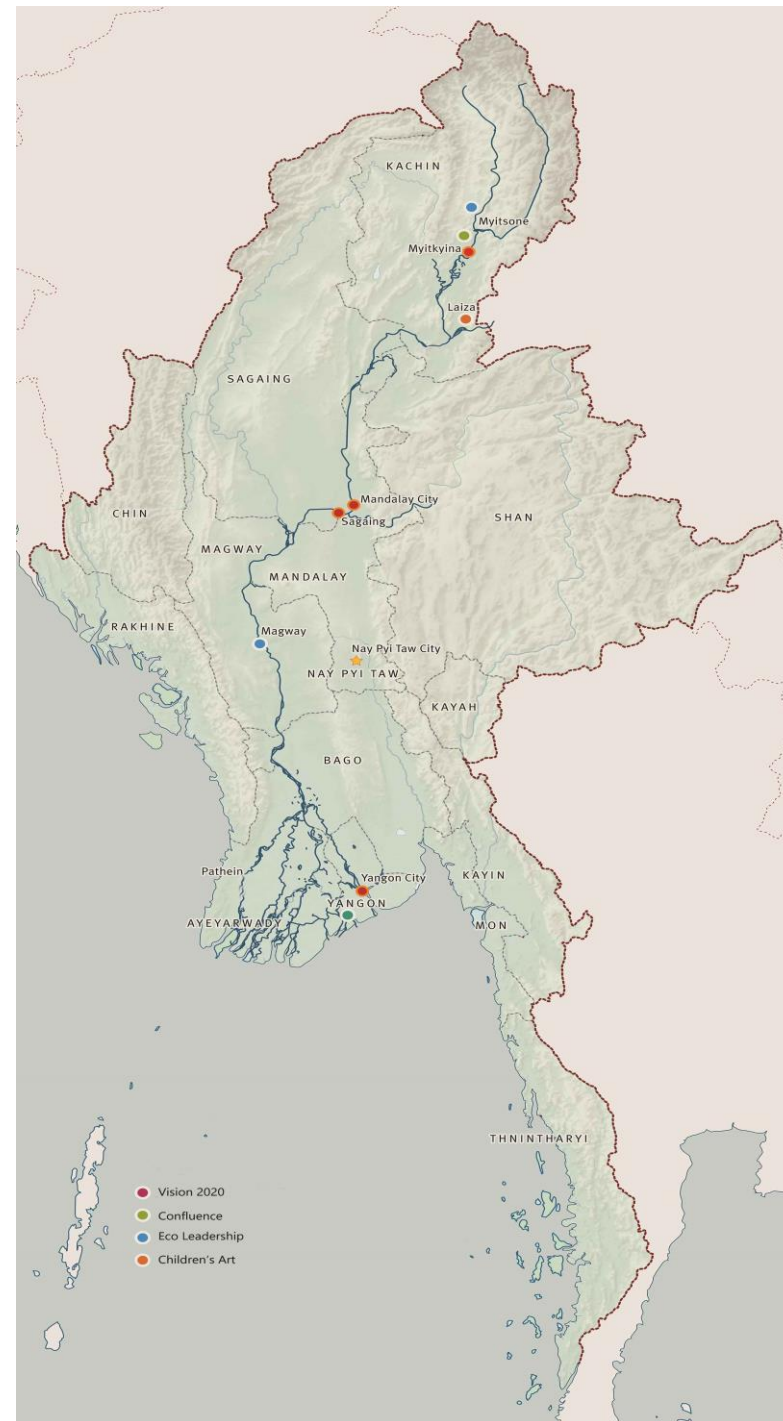
Being a young organisation, Airavati provides continuous capacity-building interventions to its staff. Regular meetings and review sessions are held to further deepen their knowledge and skill bases for community development work. Four Airavati team members engaged in eco-leadership activities learnt much new knowledge on the issues of the grassroots communities with regard to natural resource exploitation of the central government and business investors. Discussions with community members have provided them with insight and inspiration they will carry with them in their future work.

## Financial summary

**Project Fund Receipts and Payments Account**  
**01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018**

	USD		USD
Opening Balance as at 01 April 2017	98,711		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
Bank Interest & Other Income	870	Direct Assistance	23,293
		Training	5,883
		Meeting	3,139
		Forum	1,909
<b>GRANT RECEIVED</b>		Research, Survey, Advocacy, Movement Exchange Visit	761
INDIVIDUAL (LAHPAI NANG SENG MAI)	1,491	Consultant Fees	1,736
EURO BURMA OFFICE (EBO)	5,593	Travel & Transport	14,654
NORWEGIAN BURMA COMMITTEE (NEC)	44,510	Equipment	566
HEINRICH BOLL STIFTUNG	5,072	Furniture & Fittings	269
MISEREOR (ARTS PROJECT)	105,702	Local Logistics Cost	21,817
MISEREOR (PEACE FUND)	11,420	Repairs and Maintenance	1,001
		Personnel Salaries	30,460
		Administrative Cost (Core Budget)	4,863
		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
		Equipment	1,820
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>174,658</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>112,171</b>
ADVANCE REFUND	1,029	ADVANCE	7,091
TEMPORARY BORROWING FROM METTA	2,565	EXCHANGE LOSS	5,708
		TEMPORARY BORROWING TO CORE	12,593
		TEMPORARY BORROWING REPAYMENT	6,156
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>276,963</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>143,719</b>
		Closing Balance as at 31 March 2018	133,244
		Project Fund	91,617
		Reserve Fund	41,627
		<b>133,244</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>276,963</u></b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>276,963</u></b>

## Map of Airavati programme areas



Contribute:

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

Donations can be made by directly depositing funds into:

### **Foreign Currency Accounts**

Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank

Address: 80/86, Mahabandoola Garden Street Yangon, Myanmar

Swift Code: MFTBMMMY

Telex No: 21300 BANKFE BM 21348 BANKFE BM

#### **1. USD Account**

Account Name: Airavati Organisation Hlaing Township

Account No: 1 DA – 03 – 00177

#### **2. EUR Account**

Account Name: Airavati Organisation Hlaing Township Account

Account No: 1 EA – 03 – 00013

Myanmar Kyat Account

Bank Name: Kanbawza Bank

Bank Address: Kamayut Branch, Yangon

Account Name: Airavati Organisation Hlaing Township

Account No: 0211230003068,

**Board Members: Airavati Board members actively engage in supporting Airavati Programmes**

**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. Airavati's seed funds were donated from the monetary award she received as recipient of the 2013 Ramon Magsaysay Award. Seng Raw is from Myitkyina, Kachin state where the Ayeyarwady River originates and has a strong connection to preserving the river.

**Nwet Kay Khaing** is a researcher in migration, 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.

**Myint Zaw** is co-founder and program manager of Ju Foundation. From 2009 to 2015, he worked with artistic and literary circle for peace and sustainability in Myanmar. He also presented seven environmental photography and arts exhibitions on conservation issues which is also part of civil society movement against mega dam in critical watershed area of Irrawaddy River in Myanmar. He is also a former executive editor of local Eleven Weekly Newspaper and worked in the area of media development from 2005 to 2009. He studied in Chulalongkorn University of Thailand and University of California, Berkeley. He is a PhD Candidate at Australia National University. He published several public policy books in Burmese language and participates in several literary talks and public speaking engagements.

**Maung Hla Thaung** is an architect who focuses on natural buildings designed to complement the surrounding environment. He consults with many of Myanmar's local NGOs providing expertise in environmentally friendly designs, as well as integrating the use of recycled materials.

**Beatrice Lu Ja** is a co-founder of Metta and former Metta's Myitkyina Branch Office Coordinator. She is from Myitkyina, Kachin State. As a veterinarian, she mobilises people in agriculture and livestock. 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.

**Saw Min Naing** is a co-founder of Metta's. His background is in veterinary sciences and international development. He was one of the first staff sent into areas to form relationships in new communities where Metta had not worked before. He is a strong community mobiliser who has supported Metta from the beginning in a leadership role.

**Sai Sam Kham** is currently executive director of Metta Development Foundation. He is from Shan state where he began volunteering for Metta within six years, he became Metta's 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 director of Paung Ku, a Myanmar NGO recognized for strengthening civil society. Dr. Kyaw Thu has deep commitment and vast experience in equitable environmentally sustainable development, together with peace and social justice across the nation.



**Dr Ohnmar Khaing** is Programme Manager of Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. She has 21 years of 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 public awareness. She has an extensive national and international network, including cultivation of strategic partnerships with government, 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 sustainable development and his educational background computer science, social policy and social development, and public administration.