

## Background

# World Vision Myanmar

World Vision Myanmar has been working in the country since 1995. The programmes span from HIV/AIDS, Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Micro Enterprise Development (MED).

The work in Karen State was started in 1997. Initially, the primary focus was on CNSP and it later evolves into Area Development Programmes - an integrated multi-sectoral approach in helping the communities.

In its ADP approach, World Vision Myanmar actively recruit and train Community Development Volunteers (CDV). They are actively involved in implementing the activities and mobilizing the communities. Below is the detailed information of World Vision's work and plan in Chit Kyin Nar ADP.

## Community Profile

### Chit Kyin Nar Area Development Programme (MYA-175732)

Chit Kyin Nar ADP is in Hpa-an, Karen State. Karen State is the Southeast region of Myanmar, sharing its border with Thailand in the east and surrounded by Mon State and Kayah State. Hpa-an is about 120 miles from Yangon or approximately 13 hours drive.

Hpa-an has a population of 400,000 and 90% of them live in the rural area. 50% of the population is Karen, 20% Mon, 20% Myanmar and 10% other ethnic groups. Most of the Karen population is Buddhist while the other ethnic groups are either Christians or spirit worshippers.

Chit Kyin Nar means "Loving Kindness" in Burmese. The ADP consists of 19 villages with a total beneficiaries of 19,359. By 2007, the ADP hopes to help some 50,000 people through its programmes.



A typical house in Chit Kyin Nar ADP.

## Concerns

### 1. Poor Health Conditions

The health of the communities is generally poor due to inadequate access to proper health facilities.

Only about 10% of the communities have proper sanitary latrines. Access to safe drinking water is also not readily available. These pose considerable health risks to the children in the communities.

HIV/AIDS is also a growing concern as more and more youths are crossing over to the Thai border to look for jobs as it is difficult to find work due to the shrinking Myanmar economy.

### 2. Lack of Educational opportunities

Although it is the country's mandate that every child should attend at least primary education but many families are finding great difficulties in meeting this requirement.

Naturally, early childhood development and educational programmes are neglected which place the child in a disadvantage situation during his or her growing years.

### 3. Low Economic Development

The main livelihood of the communities is agriculture. Only a small number of them make their living through animal husbandry or engaging in small businesses.



Children at day care centre eating a nutritious meal provided by the project.

Although the lands are fertile and productive but the rice production level is not as high as it should be. This is due to natural and man-made disasters like fire, flood and landslide. Ongoing conflict between the rebels and the government also play a part as it caused some of the farmers to lose their lands. All these have severe impact on families' income level and income generation capabilities.

### 4. Poor Social Developmental skills

The poor development in the communities is due to the lack of leadership and lack of knowledge among the communities. In the long run, to develop the community to its fullest potential, there is a need to empower the leadership through training and education.

## Project Goals

The project will be implemented in partnership with the communities and the local authorities. The project plans to enhance the capacity and empower the communities in such a way that will lead to a sustainable and wholistic development.

The project started in September 30, 2002 and will aim to phase out on September 30, 2017. By that time, the communities are expected to be able to stand on their own and continue the work that World Vision has started.

### ◆ Improve the health condition of the communities

The project seeks to do this by empowering the capacity of the local health workers and volunteers through training and networking with the relevant local health authorities. It will also equipped the workers with proper equipment and the essential drugs for treating common ailments in the communities.

In addition, the project will also install tube wells, sanitary latrines and proper drainage system to create a more healthy enviroment for the communities.

Due to lack of knowledge, many mothers do not know how to provide nutritious food for the children. As a result, the project plans to implement a supplementary feeding programme and train the mothers to prepare nutritious meals for their children.

### ◆ Increase educational opportunities

The project will support children from poor families so that they can continue their education and also helps them to improve their school performance. This support will be extended to children in day care centre and pre-schools. It will also look into the non formal education for children who are over aged and are not eligible for attending formal education in the country. This will help them to acquire skills that will improve their job opportunities.



School children learning traditional Burmese dance.

The project will also organize and facilitate health education in the schools for example on HIV/AIDS issues. It will also improve the water systems and sanitation in the school so that the health condition of the children will be improved.

### ◆ Increase the income level

The project will implement income generation programmes especially for poorer families. Depending on the situations, the project may provide loans for these families to start small businesses that will help supplement their present income.

Vocational skill training programmes will also be established in the communities. This will enable the unemployed to acquire additional skills and enable them to find suitable jobs in the town or nearby places.



The new school that World Vision project helps to build

### ◆ Improve the community capacity

As the communities are prone to disasters, the project will train a relief team that will prepare, lead and organize the communities during disaster situations.

The project will also establish a working relation with the Church in the communities regarding spiritual nurture and other training programmes.

Besides the above, a core group of community development volunteers will be trained to lead and spear head future development in the communities.

### Hope for Mi May Sandar & her family

Mi May is seven years old. She lives with her father, 55 and mother, 50 in Chit Kyin Nar ADP. Besides her, there is an older brother and sister. Both of them are married and are no longer staying with them.

Her father, Sein Kyaw Aye is a farmer and each year is able to harvest about 400kg of rice from his land. But this is not enough for the family. For six months every year, Kyaw Aye will drive a horse cart to fetch villagers around the areas. He makes about S\$1.10 a day which is just enough to meet the daily needs of the family. His wife Daw Sein Mya is a housewife and helps in the farm during the planting and harvest seasons.



Daw Sein Mya (from left), Mi May (sitting) and Sein Kyaw Aye.

The situation in the family will become difficult if one of member falls ill or their crops failed in any way. Kyaw Aye does not have any savings that he can fall back on. During such times, he has to borrow at high interest rate which will put the family in more financial difficulty later.

Mi May is now in kindergarten. The project helps her by providing uniforms, school fees and regular medical checkup. Without all these, Mi May may not be able to continue attending school.

Kyaw Aye has big dream for Mi May. He hopes that she will grow up to be a teacher and contribute to the community. Through World Vision Child Sponsorship programme, Kyaw Aye may realise his dream one day!