



SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WASH
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
(SASA-WRC)

Activity Completion Report

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2011



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Safe and Sustainable Access to WASH for Rural Communities (SASA-WRC)

UN-HABITAT MYANMAR

General Information

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Glossary | 2 |
| Programme Summary | 4 |
| Executive Summary | 6 |
| 1. Activity Summary | 6 |
| 1.1 Summary Data | 12 |
| 2. Activity Description | 12 |
| 2.1 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey | 12 |
| 2.2 Community Mobilization | 13 |
| 2.3 Formation of Village Recovery Committee | 13 |
| 2.4 Community Action Planning | 14 |
| 2.5 Community Contracts | 16 |
| 2.6 Training and Capacity Building | 17 |
| 2.7 Promoting Hygiene Education and Sanitation Practices | 17 |
| 3. Expenditure/Inputs | 19 |
| 4. Approach/Strategy Adopted and Key Outputs Received | 20 |
| 4.1 People's Process Approach | 20 |
| 5. Key Outcomes | 21 |
| 6. Expected Outcomes | 21 |
| 7. Expected Long-term Benefits and Sustainability | 22 |
| 8. Overall Assessment | 22 |
| 9. Relevance | 22 |
| 10. Appropriateness of Objectives and Design | 22 |
| 11. Implementation Issues | 23 |
| 11.1 Community Consultation | 23 |
| 11.2 Transparency and Accountability | 23 |
| 11.3 Partnership and Collaboration | 23 |
| 11.4 Weather Conditions and Materials Transportation | 23 |
| 11.5 Publicity and Visibility | 23 |
| 12. Financial Management and Fund Flows | 24 |
| 13. Monitoring and Evaluation | 24 |
| 14. Gender | 25 |
| 15. Lessons Learned | 25 |
| 16. Recommendations for Further Engagement | 26 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 17. Handover/Exit Arrangements | 27 |
| 18. Documentation Produced by Activity | 27 |
| 19. Physical Assets Purchased with Activity Funds | 27 |
| 20. Contractual Obligations/Terms and Status at End of Activity | 27 |
| 21. Continuation of Components of Activity | 27 |
| | |
| Map 1.1 Project Target Village Tracts in Wundwin Township (Dry Zone) | 6 |
| Map 1.2 Location of Activities by Type by Village Tract | 8 |
| Map 1.3 Total Cost of Activities by Type by Village Tract | 9 |
| Map 1.4 Cost for Training by Type by Village Tract | 10 |
| Map 1.4 Total Number of Training Participants by Type by Village Tract | 11 |
| | |
| Table 1.1 Water and Sanitation Activities Implemented in Target Villages | 7 |
| Table 1.2 Types of Trainings Conducted and Number of Participants | 7 |
| Table 2.1 Achieved Outcomes from Implementation of Promotion of Hygiene Education and Sanitation Practices Component | 18 |
| Table 3.1 Actual Budget (USD) | 19 |
| Table 3.2 Total Amount per Community Contracts Approved | 20 |
| Table 3.3 Total Amount per Trainings Approved | 21 |
| | |
| Glossary | 2 |
| CAP | Community Action Planning |
| DDA | Department of Development Affairs |
| VRC | Village Recovery Committee |

Programme Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Project Title | Safe and Sustainable Access to WASH for Rural Communities (SASA-WRC) |
| Country | Myanmar |
| Location | Myanmar / Dry Zone – Mandalay Division / Wundwin Township (39 Villages) |
| Project Number | XB-MYA-11-X01 |
| Donor | AUSAID |
| Project Scope | Construction of community and household water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 39 villages and 1 ward across Wundwin township |
| Start Date | 1 January 2011 |
| End Date | 1 July 2011 (Non-cost extension until 31 August 2011) |
| Budget | US\$ 554,330 (including AOS) |
| Executing Agency | United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat |
| Cooperating Institutions | Department of Development Affairs (Ministry of Border Areas), WASH Thematic Group, Village Water Committees (VRCs) in each community |
| Sector | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) |



Executive Summary

The Safe and Sustainable Access to Rural Communities (SASA-WRC) project was implemented by UN-Habitat and funded by AUSAID. In the beginning, the agreed project duration was for six months from 1 January to 30 June 2011. Immediately following agreement, UN-Habitat mobilized its personnel and resources in order to establish community groups in 39 villages and 1 ward of Wundwin Township (Mandalay Division, Dry Zone) and train them to be part of project implementation through the "People's Process", a tool for community-driven recovery and development. UN-Habitat has ensured that all of its settlements support programmes are implemented on carefully evaluated needs-basis with focus on quality and ownership and avoidance of supply-driven emphasis on spending money for the sake of delivery. These principles have ensured the SASA-WRC project's appropriate delivery to the people, and have addressed the key factors of sustainability of assets, facilities, utilities and services after the phasing out of the project. Nevertheless, the time required to mobilize the communities and provide them the relevant training to implement, operate and maintain the majority of project components by themselves with only technical assistance by UN-Habitat, delayed the project's progress. Upon UN-Habitat's request, a no-cost extension of the project was granted by AUSAID, thus the project ended on 31 August 2011.

Empowering communities to make decisions regarding their own development was the basic approach of the project. The project was implemented in 39 villages and 1 ward. The actual number of villages covered superseded the number of villages planned (38) and in addition the actual number of activities and outputs exceeded the number that was planned due to increased assessed need on the ground. The project directly benefited 9,971 households (69,101 people) which represents a one third increase over planned figures. 52% of the beneficiaries (35,863) were women. The total project budget was US\$ 554,330 out of which 82% was directed to community water supply and sanitation support activities.

Local communities in target villages were empowered through a regular community sensitization and mobilization process where 40 Village Recovery Committees (VRCs) based on existing committees were formed through election process. The UN-Habitat's People's Process approach aims at 50% female participation in VRCs; however existing power structures somehow hindered women's empowerment, particularly at the management level. Although the project was welcomed by both villagers and local authorities, there was resistance to women's involvement at decision-making level.

Prioritized interventions implemented (what/when/where) were decided in consultation with VRCs and community members during Community Action Planning (CAP). The identification of needs aimed not to be viewed as making a "wish list" of what communities wanted in general, but as of a process of understanding their present situation and a way forward for better life conditions and well being. The community was involved in drawing a social map in order to create a spatial overview of the main features in the settlement. This helped them develop an understanding of the status of the settlement and the location of water sources. They identified the water and sanitation problems confronting them while going through a process of realization about their present situation. Following this, the community presented the water and sanitation problems they identified and why they considered these to be problems. Needs were endless but there were some things that could be addressed and it was necessary to prioritize them. Discussions followed about what resources were available to address their needs and communities themselves prioritized them.

Training and other capacity building workshops were conducted in order to facilitate project activities on the ground. A total of 193 Community Contracts were signed for 3,012 water and sanitation infrastructures within 12 major categories of activities: distribution of ceramic jars with cover (30 gallon), construction of concrete tanks for hand washing, fly-proof latrines, hand-dug wells, pond renovation-earth work dig and fill, school sanitary toilet and hand washing facilities (double units), upgrading of feeder roads, upgrading of small bridges, shallow tube well with pumping units, pipe water supply system (1,200 feet) and construction of ground tank for drinking water (20,000 gallon).

In the UN-Habitat Community Contract system the community is at the centre of the process in terms of identifying the works, designing the works, managing the execution, controlling the finances, procurement of materials, managing labour, store keeping and accounting and accountability to the community.

The construction of small bridges and upgrading of feeder roads has not only provided wages for labourers, but has provided better and safer access to markets. Faster and easier travel to the market means greater income for the household and lower prices for the buyer. Thus both seller and consumer benefit from improved infrastructure which has indeed provided better access to livelihood opportunities.

The Community Contract system formalized accountability and placed monitoring in the hands of the people served. The openness of procedures and economic transactions were the key to accountability. It strengthened the trust both within the community and between the VRC and the local authority. By doing this the communities became more responsible for their own development work. They acquired a feeling of ownership and attachment to the facility, which automatically ensures long-term maintenance and sustainability.

A redressal mechanism was put in place to help in identifying shortcomings in project implementation and community's complaints and grievances. Community members were able to contact UN-Habitat's Township Coordinator if they felt their concerns were not been adequately addressed by the VRC.

Local communities' active involvement in the project implementation exposed them to many practical realities linked to operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Through increased involvement and empowerment communities better understand the importance of the sustainable operation and maintenance of the project.

The project implemented training for village water and sanitation committees, training them on operation and maintenance of low-cost water systems, including water treatment systems. The objectives of the trainings were to transfer the knowledge and skills necessary to operate and maintain water treatment systems, and provide structured opportunities for water committee members to apply what they learned. Cross-cutting aspects of sustainability, capacity development and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) were mainstreamed into the project to facilitate communities' better management of their lives, post-intervention.

It was realized that the provision of safe water and sanitation needed to be championed and the good results needed to be disseminated in order to mobilize greater support and greater resources for addressing WASH needs across the Dry Zone. The project process, approach, and results were documented and new studies documented and deemed useful for future planning and designing of new WASH-focused projects.

With the progress of the project on the ground, outstanding achievements and major breakthroughs were made. Living conditions improved with the provision of selected water supply and sanitation infrastructure in target villages, with a greater level of accountability and transparency in local communities. Therefore community-based water supply and sanitation infrastructure produced extra outputs. In the process, some valuable lessons were also learned while some very practical challenges were encountered and overcome.

Without AUSAID support, UN-Habitat would not today have access to the Dry Zone, and furthermore this opportunity gave UN-Habitat ample time of eight months for conducting in-depth research into pressing issues of general drought conditions/WASH sectoral focal analysis through the KAP survey and a manual on drought.

The above intervention provided solid evidence and paved the way for UN-Habitat to enter a partnership with PACT and other NGOs, putting up a compelling proposal to USAID for a total envelope of US\$ 55M in response. It has been accepted as the one and only successful consortium. UN-Habitat will implement WASH activities for a period of five years, covering over 1,000 villages across Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and South Shan Divisions.

1. Activity Summary

1.1 Summary Data

Activities were identified, prioritized and implemented in consultation with the communities themselves who developed their own community action plans highlighting areas of greatest needs.

The project was operational in 39 villages and one ward of Wundwin Township. Living conditions for beneficiaries have been significantly improved by facilitating access to safe water and sanitation through the provision of 3,012 (193 Community Contracts) water supply and sanitation schemes, and 11 feeder roads.

The activities were designed to be of high quality, particularly the construction and infrastructure activities, with close technical supervision to ensure high quality standards. To ensure that all inputs are sustainable, the approach was a combination of traditional practices strengthened with DRR techniques and modern technologies carefully designed to ensure maximum long term impact for the villages, significantly enhancing the living conditions of the people in the target township long into the future.

The project focused on water and sanitation needs in only one township in order to improve conditions for a higher proportion of the population within the target area. At the same time the project educated wider communities, particularly school children, on safe hygiene practices, trained communities on safe building methods, and promoted improved local governance via the 'Peoples Process'- providing a platform for sustainable development, led by the people.

All project activities were funded by AUSAID with no other donor or partner government funds. However the project closely coordinated with the Department of Development Affairs of the Ministry of Border Affairs which provided heavy machinery for the construction of water piping systems and over-head ground water tanks.

Map 1.1 Project Target Village Tracts in Wundwin Township (Dry Zone)



Table 1.1 Water and Sanitation Activities Implemented in Target Villages

| No | Village Tract | Village | Type of Activity | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|
| | | | SST | FPL | CT | CJ | HDW | STW | PR | USB | UFR | PS | OHG | |
| 1 | Yae Twin | 1 Yae Twin | | 44 | 44 | 26 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| | | 2 Leik Tet | | 35 | 35 | 26 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | | 3 Ko Kar Taw | | 25 | 25 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 4 Kyaung Kone | | 20 | 20 | 24 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 5 Ma Gyi Taw | | 39 | 39 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 6 Ka Lar Kar | | 27 | 27 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Nyaung Oak Phee | 7 Yoe | | 30 | 30 | 30 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 8 Kywe Thar | | 30 | 30 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 9 Done Kone | | 30 | 30 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 10 Nyaung Oak Phee | | 20 | 20 | 30 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 11 Kan Thar | | 30 | 30 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| 3 | Su Pan | 12 Kan Swe | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | | 13 Tha Yet Kan | 1 | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | | 14 Myin Kya Kan | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| | | 15 Su pan | 1 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| 4 | Kone | 16 Kone | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| 5 | Yoe Zone | 17 Yoe Zone | 1 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 18 Ma Gyi Oke | | 35 | 35 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 19 Tha Pyay Thar | | 30 | 30 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 6 | Tha But Kone | 20 Tha But Kone | | 30 | 30 | 26 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | | 21 Pe Pyit | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 22 Koke Ko Taw | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 7 | Tha Mar Kan | 23 Tha Mar Kan | | 40 | 40 | 26 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | | 24 Tha Nat Kha Taw | | 10 | 10 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 25 Kyauk Oe | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 26 Oke Hne | | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 27 Min Kone | 1 | 20 | 20 | 26 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 28 Se | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| 8 | Ywe Thee | 29 Ywe Thee | 1 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 30 Kyauk Pon | | 15 | 15 | 26 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | | 31 Sone Kone | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | | 32 Koke Ko Pin | | 25 | 25 | 26 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| 9 | Kywei Kan | 33 Kywei Kan | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 10 | Khin Ban | 34 Khin Ban | | 30 | 30 | 26 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| 11 | Se(south) | 35 Se (south) | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 36 Kone Kan | | 25 | 25 | 28 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | | 37 Taung Nyo | | 15 | 15 | 26 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 12 | Gon | 38 Gon | | 20 | 20 | 30 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 13 | Nat Kan | 39 Nat Kan (W) | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| 14 | Myo Ma Ward | 40 Myo Ma Ward | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 5 | 960 | 960 | 1,000 | 36 | 36 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 0 | |

NOTE:SST: School Sanitary Toilet; FPL: Fly Proof Latrine; CT: Concrete Tank for Hand Washing; CJ: Ceramic Jar; HDW: Hand-dug Well; STW: Shallow Tube Well with Engine; PR: Pond Renovation; USB: Upgrading of Small Bridge; UFR: Upgrading of Feeder Road; PS: Piping System to Village; OHG: Over Head Ground Tank

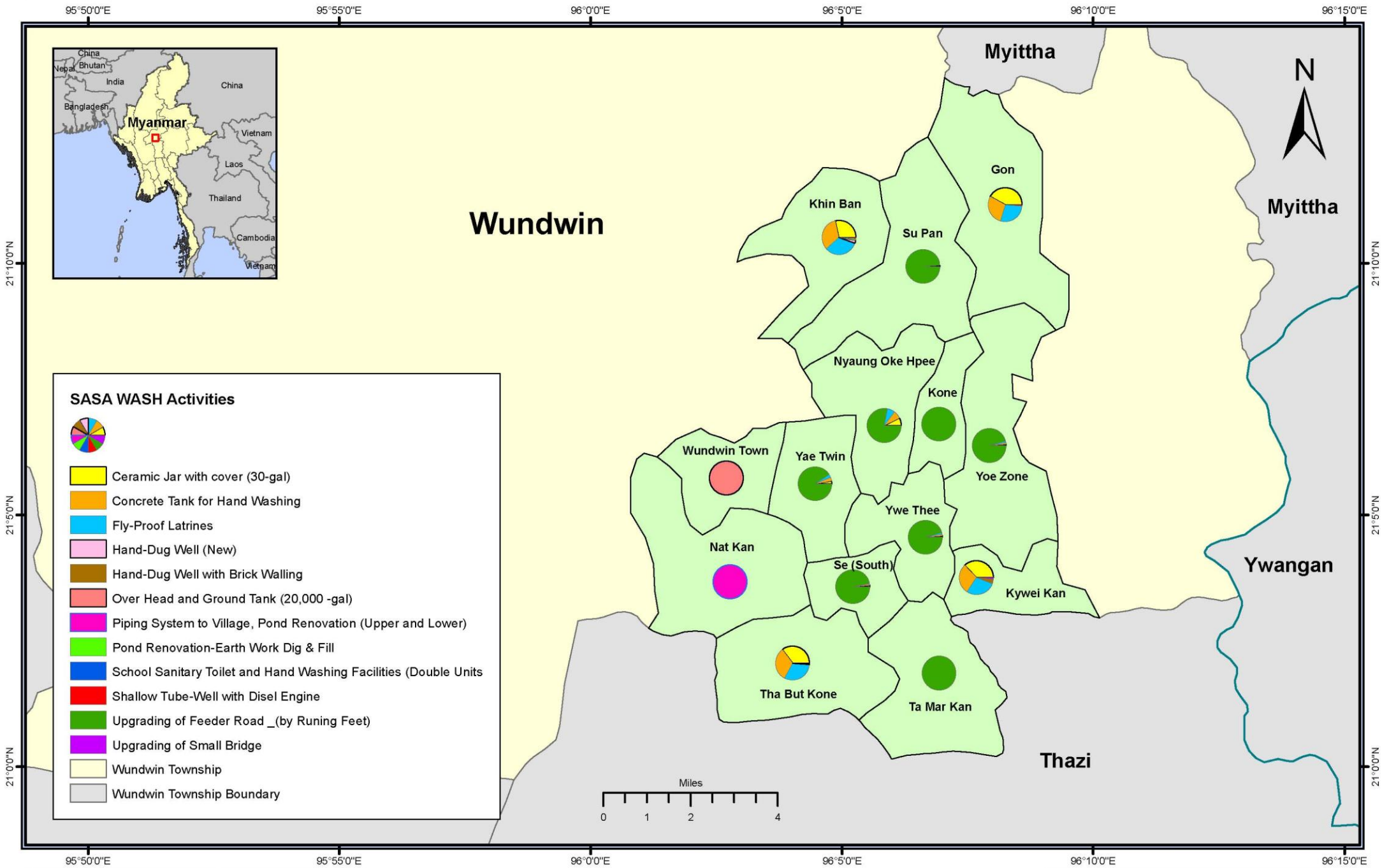
Implementation was targeted in 38 villages, however one more village was included due to community request.

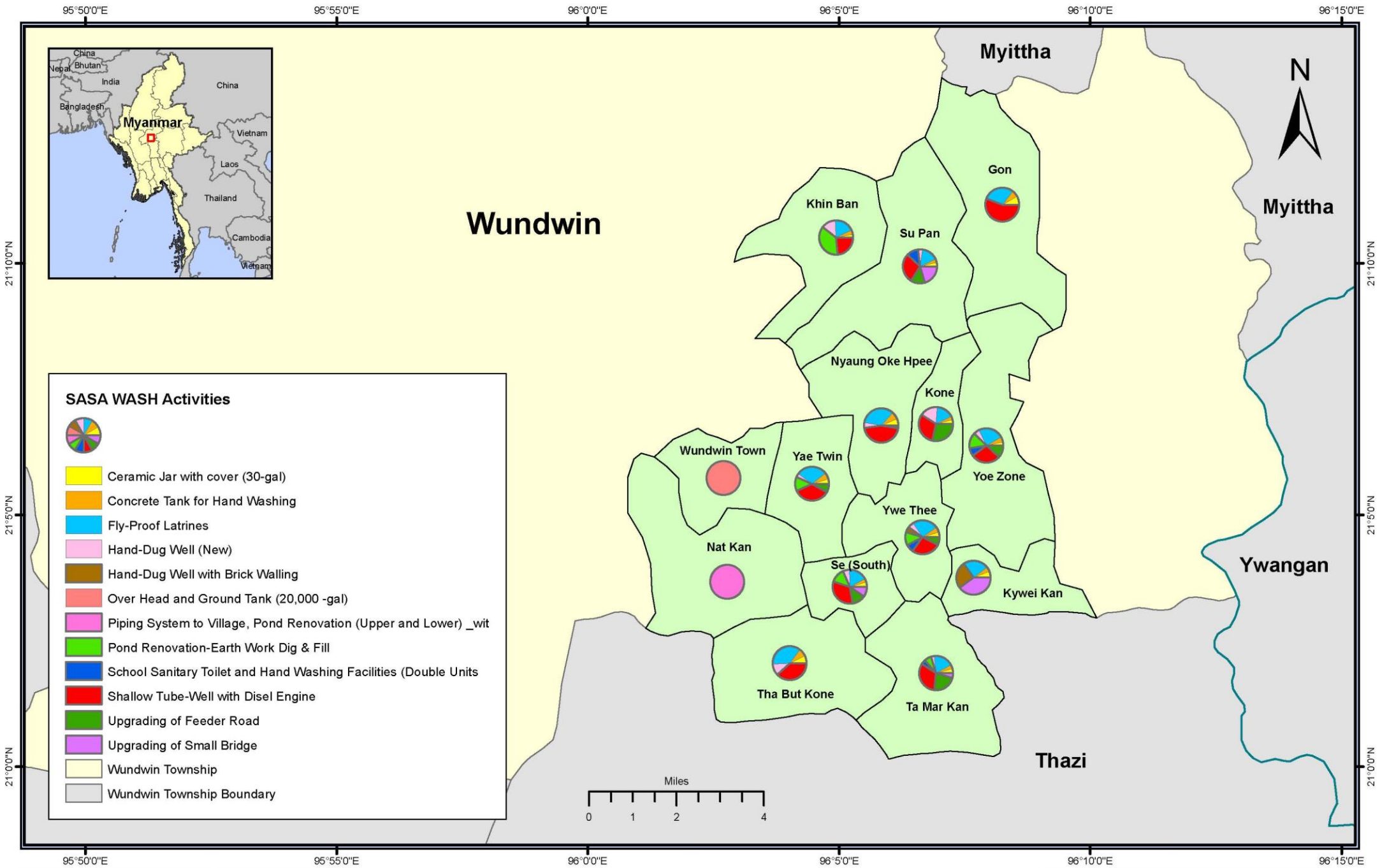
Two more activities were included during implementation based on community needs (Over Head Ground Tank and Piping System to Village)

A total of 48,500 running feet of feeder roads were upgraded

Table 1.2 Types of Trainings Conducted and Number of Participants

| No | Type of Training | No Participants (Planned) | No Participants (Implemented) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Masonry Training | 20 masons | 20 masons |
| 2 | FPL Construction Training | 20 carpenters | 20 carpenters |
| 3 | Hand Pump/Engine Repair Training | 40 villagers | 40 villagers |
| TOTAL | | 80 participants | 80 participants |





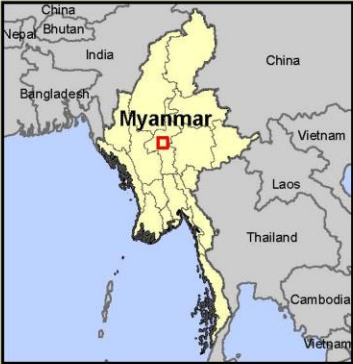
95°55'0"E 96°0'0"E 96°5'0"E 96°10'0"E 96°15'0"E

| Sr. No | Township | Village Tract | Carpenter Training (in kyat) | Hand Pump/Engine Repair and Maintenance Training (in kyat) | Masonry Training (in kyat) |
|--------|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Wundwin | Nyaung Oke Hpee | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Wundwin | Su Pan | 0 | 933,000 | 0 |
| 3 | Wundwin | Ta Mar Kan | 0 | 0 | 1,025,000 |
| 4 | Wundwin | Yae Twin | 954,000 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| 5 | Wundwin | Yoe Zone | 0 | 933,000 | 0 |

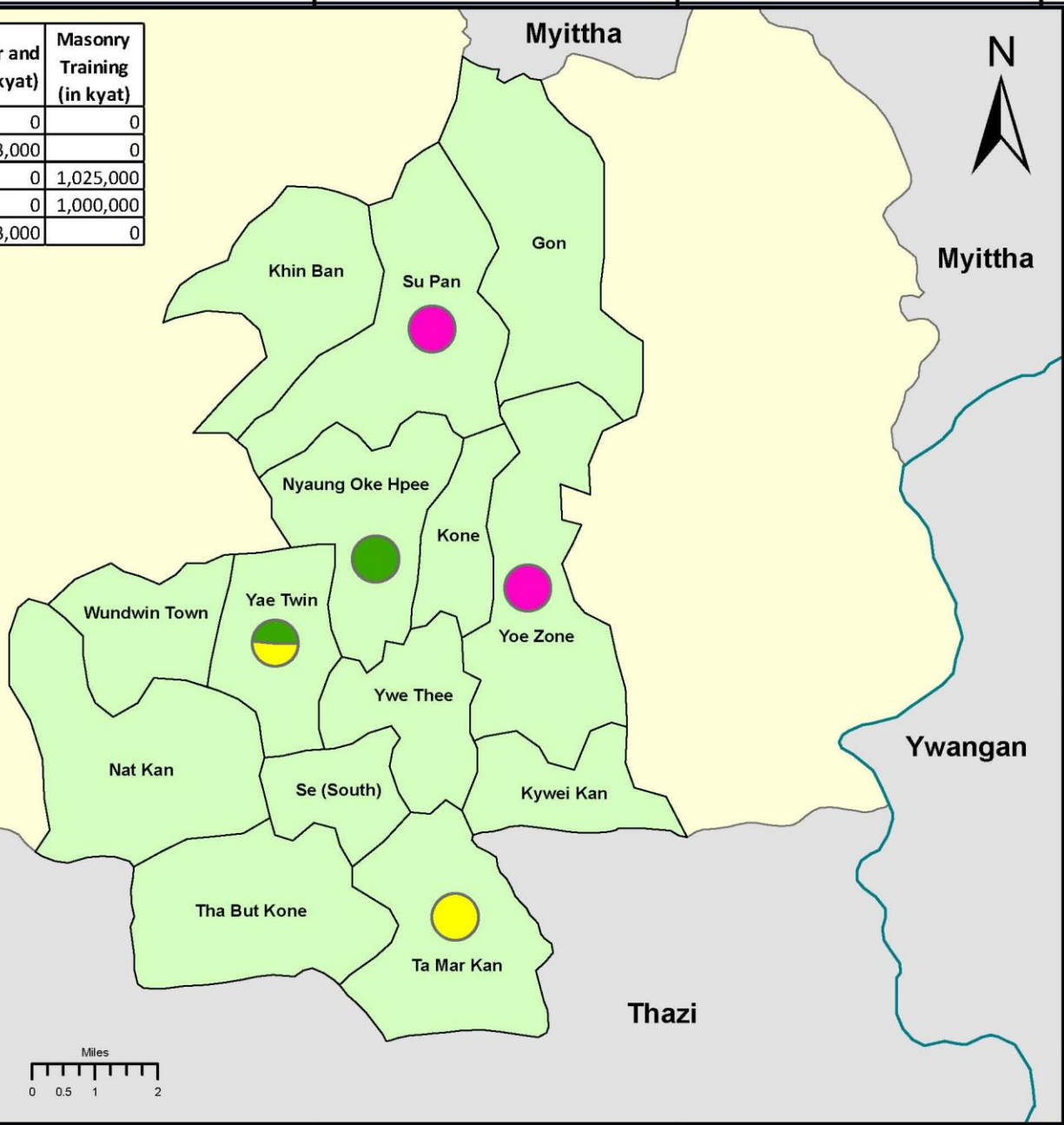


21°10'0"N
21°5'0"N
21°0'0"N

21°10'0"N
21°5'0"N
21°0'0"N



Wundwin



SASA WASH Activities

-  Carpenter Training
-  Hand Pump/Engine Repair and Maintenance Training
-  Masonry Training
-  Wundwin Township
-  Wundwin Township Boundary



95°55'0"E 96°0'0"E 96°5'0"E 96°10'0"E 96°15'0"E

95°50'0"E 95°55'0"E 96°0'0"E 96°5'0"E 96°10'0"E 96°15'0"E

| Sr. No. | Township | Village Tract | Carpenter Training (person) | Hand Pump/Engine Repair and Maintenance Training (person) | Masonry Training (person) |
|---------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Wundwin | Nyaung Oke Hpee | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Wundwin | Su Pan | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| 3 | Wundwin | Ta Mar Kan | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| 4 | Wundwin | Yae Twin | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| 5 | Wundwin | Yoe Zone | 0 | 20 | 0 |

21°10'0"N

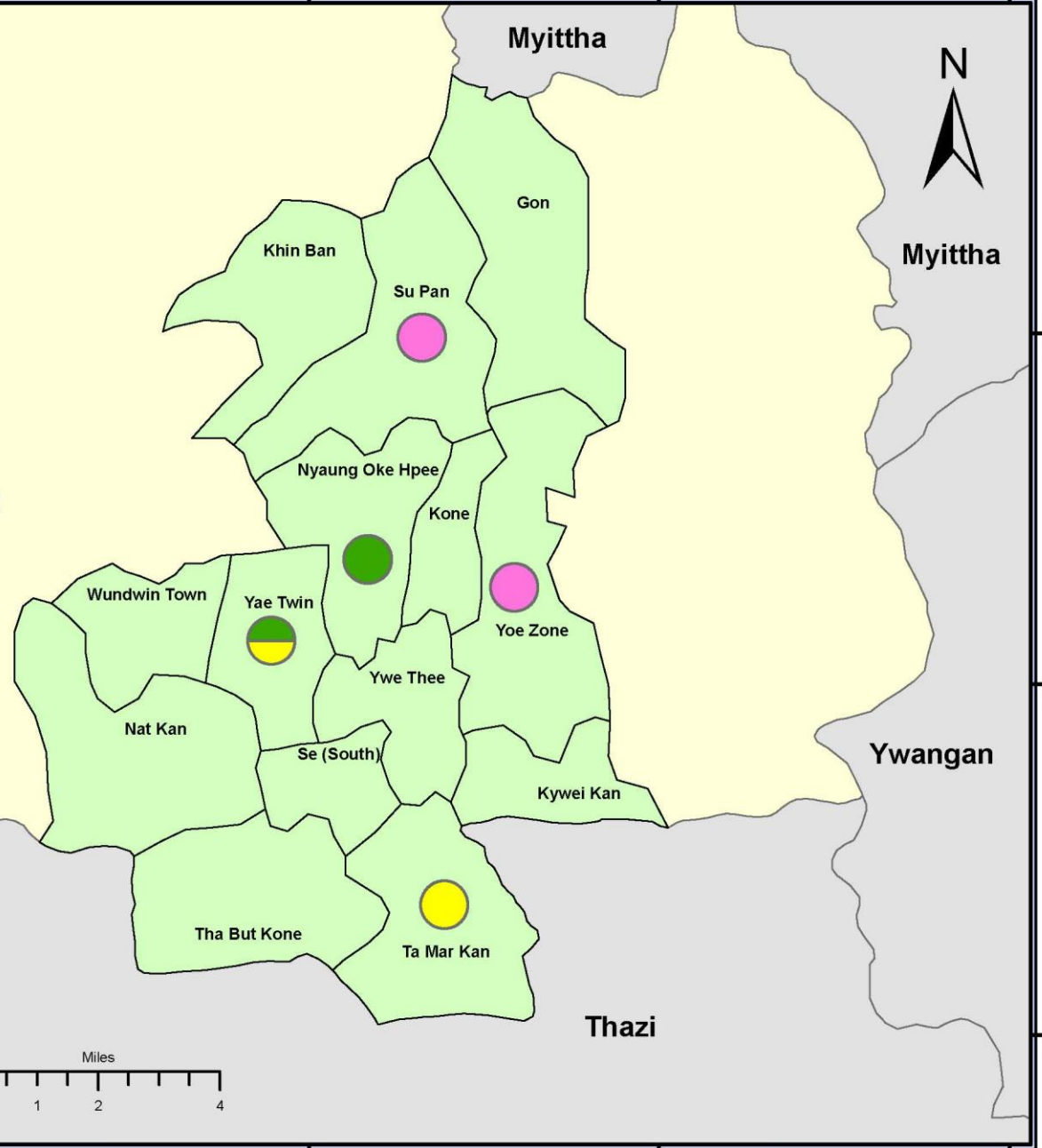


Myittha

21°10'0"N








Wundwin



21°5'0"N

21°5'0"N

SASA WASH Activities

-  Carpenter Training
-  Hand Pump/Engine Repair and Maintenance Training
-  Masonry Training
-  Wundwin Township
-  Wundwin Township Boundary

21°0'0"N

21°0'0"N

95°50'0"E 95°55'0"E 96°0'0"E 96°5'0"E 96°10'0"E 96°15'0"E

Map Number: UNH-SASA-04
Data Source: UN-Habitat, MIMU

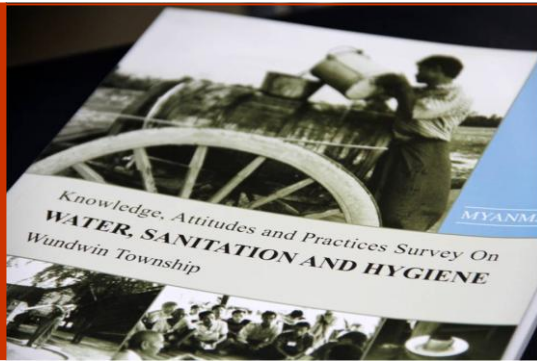
Date: 20-Sep-2011
Datum: WGS-84

Total Number of Training Participants by Type by Village Tract, Wundwin Township

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2. Activity Description

2.1 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey



| | Total | Count | Percentage (of 500) |
|--|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Good | | 284 | |
| Fairly good | | 255 | |
| Somewhat bad | | 118 | |
| Bad | | 111 | |
| Very bad | | 88 | |
| Unusable | | 83 | |
| Perception about norms for clean/safe water | | 82 | |
| Colorless, transparent | | 60 | |
| Being water from tube well / hand pump | | 14 | |
| No sediments | | 10 | |
| Boiled water | | | |
| Filtered water | | | |
| Acceptable taste/odorless | | | |
| Free from germs (e.g. chlorinated, not causing sickness or diarrhea) | | | |
| Cool | | | |
| Not salty | | | |
| Flavored | | | |
| Because the water has been kept overnight | | | |
| Because the water weigh at least 3.6 lbs | | | |
| Because of harmful chemicals (e.g. calcium, iron) | | | |
| Because of the water response | | | |
| Because of No response | | | |

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) studies are highly focused evaluations that measure changes in human knowledge, attitudes and practices in response to a specific intervention, usually outreach, demonstration or education. The primary purpose of the KAP survey was to systematically assess the current knowledge, attitudes and practices of communities. The survey aimed at researching norms, values, beliefs and community practices in relation to water, sanitation, environment sanitation, personal hygiene and food hygiene. The KAP survey was conducted in 38 villages of Wundwin Township by Myanmar Survey Research (MSR). The KAP survey was designed to collect i) Water Related Information, ii) Sanitation Related Information, iii) Environment Sanitation Related Information, iv) Personal Hygiene Related Information, and v) Food Hygiene Related Information.

The survey applied both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the quantitative method, household interviews, individual interviews, and observation checklists were conducted in a sample of 500 households. In the qualitative component, 12 FGDs and 20 Key Informants interviews were conducted.

The survey was published and widely distributed to donors, UN agencies and I/NGOs. The survey found that the three main sources of water in the area for both drinking and kitchen use are

tube wells, brick-lined wells, and dams. According to the observation checklist, the drinking water in 29% of the sample households is rated good while 4.4% is somewhat bad, and the majority (66.4%) is fairly good. About 10% of households reported that they have difficulty in getting water for drinking and kitchen purposes, especially during summer. It also found that 31.6% of male adult, 27.5% of female adult, and 22.3% of children (age 8-15) defecate openly "sometimes or always".

The most common type of latrine is the pit latrine with slabs (82.2%). The main reason for not building latrines is lack of money (49%), followed by those who do not have space (27%) and those whose soil is not appropriate for digging a pit because it is swampy or waterlogged (9%).

To sum up the findings from the survey, the following recommendations were made:

- Regarding water, focus should be placed on the quality of drinking water. About 81% of the households treat the water using cloth filter, incorrectly thinking that the water is safe to drink by applying this kind of treatment. This suggests that these people need to get proper knowledge on the method of water treatment
- The facts that 27% of the 500 households do not have latrines and that open defecation is such a common behaviour of, indicates the need for these sanitation issues to be addressed.
- Even though the villagers claim that they have acquired knowledge about water, sanitation, and hygiene, they are still in need of proper knowledge in health and personal hygiene

2.2 Community Mobilization

Community mobilization has been the first step towards implementing the project. During the process communities were empowered to lead the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance because communities that are fully involved make informed decisions, reach sustainable solutions, and achieve better results faster, while at the same time enhancing their solidarity and capacity to undertake project activities.

UN-Habitat's Community Facilitators assisted communities in holding mass meetings and encouraged them to understand the need to organize for collective action. Communities were informed about the project objectives and scope. During community mobilization baseline data was collected. Local communities were at the centre of the process of decision-making and all activities performed at the local level were recognized and owned by them.

“I am from Yay Twin VT, Poe Kar Taw village. I am responsible as Chairman of the Village Recovery Committee. My name is U KyawMyint. In the village, we called a meeting when we were about to start the People's Process. Village Committee members were selected by the community to manage all the work step by step. We identified the essential needs of the villagers and proposed it to the agency which helped us to provide the things we need.”



Meetings during Community Action Planning

2.3 Formation of Village Recovery Committee

The reason for Village Recovery Committee (VRC) formation was to address the common development issues faced by the entire community. UN-Habitat's People's Process approach aims at 50% female participation in VRCs. However since committees were already formed and cultural tradition in the area does not permit much involvement of women on decision-making activities, the percentage of female members was low. The VRCs were formed by existing members and new members elected democratically by communities.

The members elected a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and an assistant. The VRCs were responsible for transparent and accountable management of funding with the treasurer as mandatory signatory and the chairperson and secretary as alternative signatories. A member of the local authority of each village stamped their signature as witness.

UN-Habitat provided training to guide members in best practices for committees, such as ensuring representation of all village inhabitants, training on community mobilization, quality control, procurement, finance and bookkeeping. In total 40 VRCs were formed.

2.4 Community Action Planning

Prioritized interventions to be implemented were decided in consultation with community members during Community Action Planning (CAP). UN-Habitat ensured that identification of needs was not viewed as making a "wish list" of what communities want in general, but as of a process of understanding their present situation and identifying a way forward for better life conditions and well being.

To start with, the community was involved in drawing a social map in order to create a spatial overview of the main features in the settlement. This helped them develop a better understanding of the status of the settlement and the location of water sources. The community divided into groups to identify the WASH problems they faced. They went through a process of realization of their present situation. Following, the groups presented what they had identified as WASH problems and the reasons why. Needs can be endless but there are some things that can be addressed and it is necessary to prioritize them. At this point, it was discussed what resources were available to address their needs and community themselves prioritized them. Communities were also supported in identifying approaches and ways of tackling their prioritized needs, practices, attitudes and challenges.

From all approaches, actions that could be realistically undertaken by the community with available resources were identified and a step-by-step plan of action for implementation these priorities were prepared, discussed and agreed upon.

The project ensured that decisions taken by the VRCs were upheld by the community and allowed for sustainable recovery building on existing power structures and hierarchies within the community. This adds weight to the argument for providing sustainable long-term solutions for access to safe water to these neglected rural communities.

2.5 Community Contracts

A Community Contract is a contract awarded to a community to carry out physical works that have been identified during Community Action Planning. It is important to note that Community Contracts emerge from a process in which communities identify their needs, prioritize their problems and agree upon plans for their solutions. Community Action Plans developed by VRCs on behalf of communities identify and prioritize project activities on a consensus basis. All decisions finalized at the community level were discussed in detail by UN-Habitat which approved their actual implementation on the ground.

The project implemented 193 Community Contracts (3,012 schemes) in 39 villages, however it was initially planned to cover 38 villages; one more was included during implementation upon request of community. The project activities included different kinds of water supply and sanitation infrastructure: distribution of ceramic jars with cover (30 gallon), construction of concrete tanks for hand washing, fly-proof latrines, hand-dug wells, pond renovation-earth work dig and fill, school sanitary toilet and hand washing facilities (double units), upgrading of feeder roads, upgrading of small bridges, shallow tube well with pumping units, pipe water supply system (1,200 feet) and construction of ground tank for drinking water (20,000 gallon).

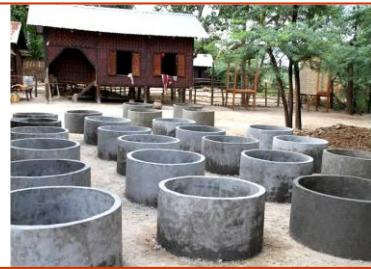
All project activities were implemented through the community contracting mechanism where local communities played the lead role and took primary responsibility for labour management, procurement, quality maintenance, progress reporting, and timely completion. At completion of each activity a completion certificate was handed over to VRCs.

The capacity of this empowered community was the result of the rigorous community mobilization process of the project which encouraged VRCs to take initiative and leadership for implementation of activities.. This was an example of the effective capacity building measures of the project in the target villages. At the same time, the UN-Habitat team supported each VRC and ensured that the standard parameters were followed as was laid out in the designs and Bill of Quantities (BoQ).





Ceramic Jar Distribution



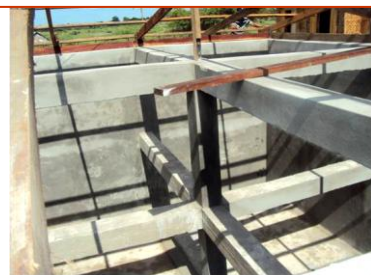
Fly Proof Latrine



Pond Construction



Small Bridge Construction



Over head Ground Water Tank



Feeder Road Upgrading



2.6 Training and Capacity Building

The People's Process approach was completely new to target communities which had never before been invited to participate directly in their own development. As a result, numerous trainings were organized involving all key stakeholders at different stages and times. Communities supported by practical knowledge and ground experience were invariably in a better position to formulate very well articulated WASH proposals.

Training was also provided to eighty carpenters/artisans/masons and village members on masonry, construction of fly proof latrines and repair of hand-pumps and engines for tube wells. The trainings for carpenters and masons emphasized integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures.

Training sessions were not limited to classroom lectures but rather consisted of substantial information and skills transferred through practical exercises and involvement with project activities on the ground. Implementation of project activities had provided local communities with hands-on experience and enriched their knowledge and understanding of community-led development initiatives. Training and capacity building had straightforwardly facilitated the implementation of diverse WASH infrastructure-related activities.





2.7 Promoting Hygiene Education and Sanitation Practices

School sanitation and hygiene education go beyond the construction of water and sanitation facilities. Good practices require good facilities that are kept clean and are used by the children in a hygienic manner. Good practices also result from education that is practice oriented, and builds skills and attitudes as well as knowledge. The project believed that addressing sanitation in schools was very useful because young children are far more receptive than adults to new ideas. In their primary years they can be stimulated to cultivate the habits of good personal hygiene. The promotion of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation can help children to adopt good habits which will last throughout their adult lives.

Through a local partner – NGO Social Vision Services – the project component ‘Promotion of Hygiene Education and Sanitation Practices’ was implemented in all target villages. The goal of promoting hygiene education and sanitation practices aimed at preventing or mitigating water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases and facilitating community participation in decision making. The component targeted mainly school children and some adults who were encouraged to participate in a group process using participatory methods and IEC materials that are adaptable to what is culturally suitable and locally available and where gender is systematically included. All IEC materials were developed by UN-Habitat for post-Nargis interventions, and the culturally adapted to the Dry Zone.

After in house training and preparations, two teams of educators travelled to Wundwin Township to start implementation. In coordination with UN-Habitat field staff, the local authority was informed and verbal permission was granted to NGO SVS to access target villages to implement activities. Coordination was also carried out with Village Water Committees (VRCs) to inform communities and obtain venue, which were mainly schools. Since authorization provided by local authority was only verbal, initially school principals of Kone and Naung Oak Phee villages refused to host activities, but after advocacy from VRCs, permission was finally granted. Approximately 2,500 children directly benefited from the component.



Table 2.1 Achieved Outcomes from Implementation of Promotion of Hygiene Education and Sanitation Practices Component

| Achieved Outcome | Activity |
|--|--|
| Knowledge shared about which water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases the communities are most worried about getting | Quick assessments on water, sanitation and hygiene knowledge at village level were conducted |
| Based on different activities considering gender roles (cultural and contextual) identified by communities themselves water, sanitation and hygiene activities in which women are more involved were highlighted | Groups were equally distributed (both sexes mixed) and discussions were encouraged about the role of women and men and how both can be more equal partners on water, sanitation and hygiene related activities |
| How children see themselves and think in relation to hygiene practice | School visits were carried out for quick assessment on water, sanitation and hygiene knowledge |
| High community/children participation and ownership. Skills development was encouraged and informal discussion was supported, giving opportunity to illiterate people to express themselves through drawings | Schools were visited and support provided to communities to form discussion groups and involve them in drawing best practices |
| Children identified good and bad practices. Why bad practices happen and how to change them, and why good practices happen and how to improve them | Children were first shown a poster (Why did Papu get sick?) to identify bad practices, and a second poster (Papu looks healthy, what has been done?) to identify benefits of hygiene behaviour changes. Children were encouraged to discuss and propose behavioural |
| Awareness of transmission patterns and preventive measures for water and sanitation related diseases, as well feeling of team spirit and mutual understanding was developed | Hygiene awareness sessions were conducted to explain disease transmission (chain of contamination) and children were encouraged to point out actions to prevent water born diseases, faecal-oral diseases, vector born diseases and hygiene-related skin/eye infections. Children were encouraged to find things out from other children (for example if they had got diarrhoea and how it affected them, etc) |



IEC Materials for Hygiene Promotion

3. Expenditure/Inputs

Please see below budget showing figures for the planned and actual activities. From the total funding, 82% has been directly allocated to communities.

Table 3.1 Actual Budget (USD)

| BL | Description | Total Budget | Total Implemented |
|--------------|---|----------------|-------------------|
| 10 | Project Personnel | | |
| 11.01 | Chief of Party – International | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 11.51 | M&E Specialist – International | 16,420 | 16,420 |
| 17.01 | Township Technical Coordinator – National (1#) | 6,871 | 6,871 |
| 17.02 | Junior WASH Engineer- National (1#) | 2,072 | 2,072 |
| 17.03 | Community Mobilizers – National (3#) | 14,103 | 14,103 |
| 19 | Component Total | 49,465 | 49,465 |
| 30 | Training and Workshops | | |
| 32.01 | Community Workshops and Trainings | 24,162 | 24,162 |
| 32.02 | Editing, Printing and Distribution of Hygiene Awareness Materials – targeted for School-children | 5,238 | 5,238 |
| 32.03 | On-the –Job training for local artisans (carpenters, masons) including transport, facilitators/trainers, toolkits, venue, accommodation, food allowances, handouts/guides | 11,789 | 11,789 |
| 39 | Component total | 41,189 | 41,189 |
| 50 | Miscellaneous | | |
| 51.01 | Operations and Transportation | 45,452 | 45,452 |
| 59 | Component total | 45,452 | 45,452 |
| 70 | Community Grants | | |
| 72.01 | Community Water Supply Schemes | 244,498 | 244,498 |
| 72.02 | Community Sanitation Schemes | 137,461 | 137,461 |
| 79 | Component total | 381,959 | 381,959 |
| 99 | Project Total | 518,065 | 518,066 |
| | Programme Support Costs (7%) | 36,265 | 36,265 |
| 99.99 | TOTAL | 554,330 | 554,330 |

Table 3.2 Total Amount per Community Contracts Approved

| No | Activity | Community Contracts | Amount (Kyats) | Amount (US\$) |
|--------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ceramic Jar with cover (30-gal) | 38 | 14,000,000 | 19,718 |
| 2 | Concrete Tank for Hand Washing | 38 | 14,400,000 | 19,398 |
| 3 | Fly-Proof Latrines | 38 | 72,000,000 | 96,991 |
| 4 | Hand-Dug Well (New) | 10 | 15,900,000 | 19,273 |
| 5 | Hand-Dug Well with Brick Walling | 2 | 3,180,000 | 4,435 |
| 6 | Over Head and Ground Tank (20,000 –gal) | 1 | 14,300,000 | 19,944 |
| 7 | Piping System to Village, Pond Renovation (Upper and Lower) with over flow and Water Tank (3000-gal) | 1 | 11,540,000 | 16,095 |
| 8 | Pond Renovation-Earth Work Dig & Fill | 7 | 25,855,000 | 35,768 |
| 9 | School Sanitary Toilet and Hand Washing Facilities (Double Units) | 5 | 11,190,000 | 13,999 |
| 10 | Shallow Tube-Well with Diesel Engine | 35 | 97,120,000 | 135,453 |
| 11 | Upgrading of Feeder Road | 13 | 33,256,000 | 46,171 |
| 12 | Upgrading of Small Bridge | 5 | 15,560,000 | 21,535 |
| TOTAL | | 193 | 328,301,000 | 448,781 |

NOTE: Amount in US\$ has been calculated using UN exchange rate. Activities were implemented in various dates, thus exchange rate varies (7-15 June US\$ 1 = Kyats 825; 16-30 June US\$ 1 = Kyats 710; July US\$ 1 = Kyats 717; August US\$ 1 = Kyats 725)

Table 3.3 Total Amount per Trainings Approved

| No | Type of Training | No Trainings | Amount (Kyats) | Amount (US\$) |
|--------------|--|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Hand Pump/Engine Repair and Maintenance Training | 2 | 1,866,000 | 2,603 |
| 2 | Masonry Training | 2 | 2,025,000 | 2,809 |
| 3 | Carpenter Training | 2 | 1,954,000 | 2,710 |
| TOTAL | | 6 | 5,845,000 | 8,121 |

NOTE: Amount in US\$ has been calculated using UN exchange rate. Activities were implemented in various dates, thus exchange rate varies (7-15 June US\$ 1 = Kyats 825; 16-30 June US\$ 1 = Kyats 710; July US\$ 1 = Kyats 717; August US\$ 1 = Kyats 725)

4. Approach/Strategy Adopted and Key Outputs Received

4.1 People's Process Approach

UN-Habitat has been involved in humanitarian assistance projects in several countries in Asia. During the implementation of these projects, the underlying principle has been to place the affected people at the center of the process. This means mobilizing the affected to take decisions on their recovery and supporting them along the way. UN-Habitat strongly believes that unleashing the potential of the people is the only way in which all the affected people can recover in a short time. People have been able to cope with extreme difficulties and have demonstrated a relentless ability to improve their lives in the face of extreme circumstances. In a humanitarian assistance scenario people's ingenuity and creativity need to be directed towards the rebuilding of their lives and their physical assets.

The UN-Habitat's community-driven approach, the People's Process, requires trust in people and recognition of the way people organize themselves. During the implementation of the AUSAID supported pilot project, communities took part in assigning priorities, in decision making and in taking action. They were encouraged to execute the project which built on their own skills and know-how. Groups of families and whole communities that share common interests and goals worked out Community Action Plans. In order to implement these plans UN-Habitat signed community contracts, provided funding and set up joint accountability formats, in such a way that the community groups were in full control of their own expenditures with the technical assistance of UN-Habitat.

5. Key Outcomes

- Empowering communities to make decisions regarding their own development was the basic approach of the project. The project was implemented in 39 villages and one ward – number that exceeded initial plan – and directly benefited 9,971 households, representing a population of over 69,000 people, where 52% were women.
- 39 Community Action Plans (CAPs), which facilitated identification and prioritization of water and sanitation infrastructure, were developed. Each village's implemented activities have been as a result of CAP's community prioritized activities, hence they have benefited from the project as a result of water and sanitation infrastructure itself, as well as from income generation through employment-intensive activities and skill development. The participation and formulation of CAPs has motivated the affected people to take the lead in the planning and implementation of project activities. It has been important that the community itself prepared the CAP because this helped the community to internalize the plans and to take responsibility for implementation and follow-up maintenance and sustainability of assets. The lists of needs identified by CAPs in each village were long and therefore demanded large scale investment while UN-HABITAT was working with a limited budget of definite scale. A database has been created with this information and it will continue to facilitate UN-Habitat and other organizations' attempts to launch new projects in these areas
- After completion of several rounds of awareness building and other basic training of community mobilization and empowerment, 40 VRCs were formed in target villages. The VRCs were responsible and accountable for management of funding with the treasurer as mandatory signatory and the chairperson and secretary as alternate signatories. The VRCs organized the community for selection of beneficiaries, preparation of CAPs and Community Contracts and during implementation assigned specific tasks to members as necessary.
- Community Action Plans developed in all VRCs had identified and prioritized village level water and sanitation infrastructure on consensus basis. 193 Community Contracts (3,012 schemes) were developed, approved and implemented. All proposals were implemented through the community contracting mechanism where local communities played the lead role and took responsibility for all kinds of labour management, procurement, quality maintenance, progress reporting, and timely completion.
- Through upgrading/building of small bridges the community's potential for continued enhancement in livelihoods has increased, and the infrastructure has provided access to market opportunities giving people prospects to improve their livelihoods by selling/buying products. This infrastructure has connected communities with health centers and schools as well.
- Several rounds of training and workshops were conducted. Support in this form simultaneously exposed beneficiaries of this project and also enhanced their confidence and encouraged them to initiate similar activities on their own. Regular training at different levels had simply facilitated the implementation of water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Leadership role and active participation of local communities in planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of program activities; all program activities were implemented by the VRCs.

6. Expected Outcomes

| Expected Outcome | Outcome Achieved | Evidence |
|---|--|---|
| Capacity among rural communities to plan, access resources, implement and maintain improved water sanitation and basic access schemes, with disaster resilience measures enhanced. | This project was fundamentally based on the philosophy of community mobilization and their empowerment, development of skills through hands-on training and community-driven approaches where target communities actually led the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of the program and will continue for the program sustainability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routine monitoring ▪ VRC Agreement ▪ Documents elaborated during Community Action Plans ▪ Community Contracts ▪ Data base with detailed information about beneficiaries/activities ▪ Financial and technical reports ▪ Publications (IEC materials) |
| Health of families in the Wundwin Township of Dry Zone improved by providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities, whilst raising awareness of water conservation practices, hygiene and health related issues. | Awareness of consequences of lack of good hygiene practice and water born diseases, prevention measures and access to safe water through use of simple and low-cost purification treatments increased among communities, therefore health of villagers improved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey ▪ Final Report ▪ Publications (IEC materials) ▪ Data base with detailed information about beneficiaries |

7. Expected Long-term Benefits and Sustainability

The project implemented capacity building trainings for village low-cost water and sanitation committees on operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, including those of tube wells operating with diesel engines. The objectives of the trainings were to transfer the knowledge and skills necessary to operate and maintain water and sanitation facilities, provide structured opportunities for Village Water Committee (VRC) members to apply what they have learned because it is the people who oversee a community's water facility that ensure its success and longevity.

UN-Habitat ensured the project activities focused on quality and ownership; therefore communities should be willing to contribute to the capital and maintenance costs of water supply systems. During the project implementation clear operation and maintenance strategies were developed in consultation with stakeholders to strengthen VRCs to collect affordable water fees within the village and use them to meet most of their maintenance costs. The responsibility of UN-Habitat was to ensure that the VRCs were involved and capacitated in the process of drinking water governance and ensuring sustainability of facilities/utilities provided to them.

Consistent reliance on safe drinking water from treated sources will be ensured through periodic observation and water quality testing by trained village members and VRC members. In addition water sources have been protected (e.g building fencing and covering wells) to avoid external contamination. Individual households were supplied with ceramic filters and ceramic jars for storage and sedimentation.

8. Overall Assessment

The overall assessment of this support is tangible. The local communities are now more organized, aware and exposed to community-based access to safe water and sanitation efforts. Their understanding of the community-driven approach and their role in project implementation was a significant development in the field of community mobilization and construction or upgrading of water and sanitation infrastructures. The community mobilization process resulted in several noticeable achievements in the areas of consensus building, community contribution and expanded networking among VRCs. At the same time, well planned training activities had profoundly supported and guided the smooth and successful execution of all components of projects on the ground. The training component was the backbone of the whole initiative, which touched on all spheres of project planning and implementation.

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9. Relevance

First and foremost, the reason for UN-Habitat to engage in this project has been humanitarian: to help the poor and vulnerable people of Dry Zone. As the leader in WASH implementation in Myanmar, with prior experience in WASH implementation in the Dry Zone and Delta, UN-Habitat felt obligated to engage in this project. In addition, the project contributed to MDG Goal 7, Target 10, to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The project also contributed to the realization of Goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women, because reduced time, health, and care-giving burdens from improved water services give women more time for productive endeavors, adult education, empowerment activities and leisure. Also pertaining to Goal 3, convenient access to water and sanitation facilities increase privacy and reduce risk to women and girls of sexual harassment/assault. Finally, community-based organizations for water management can improve social capital of women by giving them leadership and networking opportunities and building solidarity among them.

10. Appropriateness of Objectives and Design

With capacity building and awareness raising communities are able to address shorter-term humanitarian and long-term development needs. Community empowerment has been the foundation of the project objectives and design, and henceforth its success and sustainability. The project operated on the basis of Village Recovery Committees and village members' engagement in the process. Through careful facilitation the project received support of the Department of Development Affairs (DDA) for coordination, easier access to target villages and provision of heavy machinery where necessary.

The project has promoted low-cost and low-technology solutions, which have made efficient use of project funds and have helped ensure sustainability.

Community contracts were a central element of the project strategy. Under the contracting mechanism, communities and groups of householders were eligible to develop joint plans for constructing deep-tube or hand-dug wells, ponds, concrete tanks for hand washing, latrines for community schools or feeder roads among many other water and sanitation infrastructures. The project's efforts have focused most strongly on access to sufficient quantities of water and provision of safe drinking water; sanitation and hygiene components have supplemented the project's safe and accessible water activities.

Key factors for success have been capacity building and mobilization, technical support from UN-Habitat staff throughout the entire process, provision of training on operation and maintenance, use of diverse activities to enable all community members of different ages and abilities to participate, and sustainability of the project as a result of greater feelings of ownership by communities since they were fully involved with the project implementation.

11. Implementation Issues

11.1 Community Consultation

The consultation process received positive response where communities were able to raise their water and sanitation needs and identify project interventions from those mentioned in the proposal as a result of major consensus by target communities. During implementation in the various villages, also consultation with local authorities was always incorporated in the project approach.

The implementation strategy was to actively involve community members at each stage in the process, from needs assessment and prioritization, to developing water and sanitation improvement plans, to carrying out construction and developing mechanisms to ensure long-term maintenance.

11.2 Transparency and Accountability

VRCs have posted financial statements during the procurement stage and have shared the details of funds allocation at the mass community meetings. VRCs were successful in maintaining clear and transparent account of their expenses, which was achieved through the process of community active involvement, public accountability, reporting and documentation. Cash books and financial reports were always available for communities to verify transparency.

11.3 Partnership and Collaboration

Partnership and collaboration, at all levels and stages of the project, were crucial to success. From the beginning and during project implementation there was close coordination among the four UN agencies supported by AUSAID (UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN-Habitat). At Yangon and field level the project coordinated with the Department of Development Affairs (DDA) of Ministry of Borders Affairs. Coordination and collaboration with the WASH Thematic Group continued throughout.

All VRCs were formed with the knowledge of village authorities who informed the local authorities at the township level. As a result of this degree of recognition by local authorities, the communities were able to enjoy greater ownership of project activities.

During project implementation, direct exchange of information and knowledge through exposure visits among the target villages took place supported by UN-Habitat staff.

11.4 Weather Conditions and Materials Transportation

Intermittent rains caused some delays during implementation, also affecting access to target villages when roads became muddy and swampy hindering transportation of materials. Weather conditions also delayed implementation of hygiene promotion activities where parents, due to heavy rains, did not want to send their children to attend activities.

11.5 Publicity and Visibility

The project activities were documented and publicized through use of different channels in the field, Yangon, various locations of Myanmar, key events such as major workshops and trainings, inauguration and handover of project activities, visits by donor mission and through UN-Habitat's website.

Signboards installed on each project site with brief information about the project activity also gave visibility to the project and donor. Additionally, a project brochure was prepared and distributed among a large circle of relevant stakeholders in order to disseminate necessary information about the project.

12. Financial Management and Fund Flows

The following were the steps of fund flow: The Village Recovery Committee (VRC) on behalf of community submitted a proposal to UN-Habitat field office, after proper revision and approval. The proposal along with a request was sent to UN-Habitat Yangon office.

In Yangon Office, the Programme Coordinator and M&E Specialist checked activities under the proposal and allocated amount per activity. Once approved, it passed on to the Operations Officer to revise it in line with budget. After the Country Programme Manager stamped his signature as sign of approval, the request was sent to UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka, Japan to be revised by Programme Management Assistant to get endorsed by Programme Management Officer and submitted to Human Settlements Officers in charge of Myanmar. Finally, it was approved by UN-Habitat Regional Director.

From ROAP the request was submitted to Head Quarters in Nairobi for final approval by Programme Support Unit Director. When approved and registered in the system UN-Habitat ROAP sent financial authorization to UN-Habitat Yangon office. Operations Units in Yangon prepared payment request signed by Country Programme Manager and submitted to UNDP Myanmar. After UNDP released payment, UN-Habitat Yangon office sent funds to Wundwin field office where it was received by Finance Assistance who in turn remitted respective receipt. Finally funds were handed over to VRCs by Township Coordinator, Technician and Finance Assistance.

Cash for implementation of activities was transferred in instalments to Village Water Committees (VRCs) in each target village through a formal instrument called a Community Contract. It is important to note that cash was transferred to VRCs that represent the whole community. Cash transfers were not addressed to individuals. A Community Contract also functioned as a cash voucher that had to be endorsed by: 1) VRC members (chairman, treasurer and one other member of the VRC); 2) UN-Habitat (Country Programme Manager, Area Coordinator and Township Coordinator); and 3) a representative of the community as a witness.

This process changed the community from a recipient to a partner in sustainable change for the better. Community Contracts were a tool for community empowerment and a process that ensured both social and economic accountability. UN-Habitat experience has shown that community organizations are accountable not only to funding agencies but also to the people that they represent and serve. Therefore the question of accountability has to be a two-way process. The people are the best judges of any facility that they have been provided: whether it is worth the cost and whether it is done to satisfactory standards.

13. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project monitoring framework has ensured an effective multi-stakeholder monitoring of activities through on-site monitoring, regular reporting, and financial expenditure tracking to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of project resources. The monitoring and evaluation systems generated useful data that supported effective implementation of activities; subsequently, a comprehensive and disaggregated database was created.

The community monitoring system that UN-Habitat implemented in the project was introduced to the VRCs and the progress of the project was monitored accordingly. A participatory monitoring system that originated from the communities was designed for communities to monitor the progress they were achieving. The monitoring system was both qualitative and quantitative. This has ensured full accountability to the community and has provided feedback to UN-Habitat.

During the implementation period a number of village consultations were held to discuss the progress to date and to seek joint solutions to problems and obstacles that arose across all the interventions. Meetings were held with VRC members to obtain feedback. In addition, there has been close coordination with the Department of Development Affairs of the Ministry of Border Affairs which has been periodically informed about project activities.

Local Accountability has been ensured through transparent mechanisms for public information and dissemination (community notice-boards).

14. Gender

Existing power structures somehow hindered women's empowerment, particularly at the management level. Although the project was welcomed by both villagers and local authorities, there was resistance to women's involvement. Some of the pre-existing VRCs and local authorities insisted that only men serve on the project management committee; therefore there were only 11% women in management positions, almost all of them as treasurers.

The project demonstrated that women's active participation in water and sanitation activities is essential because of their key roles in the provision and maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene at the household level. The project also recognized that in working together in partnership, women and men are effective and can foster increased collaboration between the two sexes at the household level. However it is important to recognize that gaining men's support for the inclusion of women was a slow process.

The project supported enhanced and safer access to water and sanitation facilities, and provided hygiene education and health practices materials that met the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men in target communities.

The project provided enhanced water and sanitation facilities, material and hygiene education that met the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men in target communities.

There is now an increased acceptance of and respect for women's new roles as members of VRCs, resulting in more equitable sharing of organizational tasks for community meetings.

“Actually, women do not come out to the forefront as the men usually do in Myanmar. I do not like this attitude. We are the same if we are honest.”



15. Lessons Learned

- Top-down projects (supply-driven) are designed by professionals with controls established by bureaucrats which consume too much project time and money, and thus have less impact on the lives of people. This project has proven that when people are placed at the centre of the process of decision making and action (need-driven) they optimize resources with a greater degree of satisfaction, reaching a larger number of people.
- If communities have no project ownership and do not receive proper training in operation and maintenance, the water systems provided will not be sustainable. It was seen in the project area that diesel engines for tube wells were provided by humanitarian agencies in previous years. However, due to lack of maintenance they fell into disrepair or ruin and replacement parts were simply unaffordable or not locally available to communities. Therefore the project demonstrated how important it is to discuss with communities about ownership and to make sure that they understand that it is the community itself which will oversee the community's water facility in order to ensure its durability/sustainability.
- Although the work plan took weather conditions into consideration, the intense rains delayed some of the activities due to difficult access for staff and materials transportation, therefore a three month non-cost extension was requested. For future interventions in the area it is important to give major consideration to risks and assumptions while preparing the proposal and work plan.
- UN-Habitat has gained more successful experience in the Dry Zone through the implementation of this project. This experience demonstrated that working through grassroots entities achieves more efficient and effective development while empowering villagers to have a stronger voice in local decision-making processes. At the same time, an important lesson learned is that work plans must take into consideration that additional time is needed at project inception for community mobilization to properly take place.
- Women's participation as community members and committee members was especially vital in the project given the many gender considerations involved. In addition to performing the bulk of agricultural labour, women in Myanmar bear the burden of managing the household water supply. In regards to sanitation, while it is largely men who do the physical constructing of latrines, it is women who maintain them, and it is women who are most likely to assist children, the disabled and elderly members of the household in using latrines.

- The needs of elderly and disabled persons must be considered early in the project design and implementation process as it is much costlier to retrofit water and sanitation facilities later (after they have already been constructed)
- Village Recovery Committees were an effective platform for resolving local conflicts and reaching consensus on any project related issue.

16. Recommendations for Further Engagement

Due to the topography and climate of the region, frequent droughts and water shortages will continue in many areas. Recent climatic changes compound the problem leading to delays in time and frequency of rainfall, disrupting critical agricultural processes in the region in addition to severe water shortages which have disastrous, often fatal consequences for the population. Hence, the region needs further support not only to access safe water but to construct community infrastructure that provides basic access to water sources, activities which could be implemented by employment-intensive, and in turn this basic access community infrastructure will also work as market access for community members to improve their livelihoods.

This project was a pilot project and had a duration that does not very much support long-term sustainable interventions. A longer term project would have had more far reaching impacts on the people of the Dry Zone, improving health and quality of life for many thousands of people.

It is imperative to increase household-level access to sufficient quantities of water because access to sustainable sources of safe water is a critical development and humanitarian issue that will help improve communities and allow them to better address livelihoods issues. Women are limited in their abilities to engage in either entrepreneurial or agriculture activities, for example, if they must spend many hours each day collecting and hauling water.

It is crucial that access to sustainable sources of water is developed for these populations, coupled with basic education on safe hygienic practices. If water collection infrastructure is upgraded or newly constructed, it is also essential that communities are instilled with the know-how to effectively maintain such structures so they have better capacity to manage such disasters as severe drought or disease outbreak in the future.

The AUSAID funded intervention provided solid evidence and paved the way for UN-Habitat to enter a partnership with PACT and other NGOs, putting up a compelling proposal to USAID for a total envelope of US\$ 55M in response. It has been accepted as the one and only successful consortium. UN-Habitat will implement WASH activities in Dry Zone for a period of five years, covering over 1,000 villages across Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and South Shan Divisions. This intervention will allow UN-Habitat to support communities in need with innovative solutions.

The expertise in WASH, operational capacity, and staff presence on the ground in this region would enable UN-Habitat to cover more villages in the Dry Zone if additional support is provided from donor partners such as AUSAID.

17. Handover/Exit Arrangements

All water and sanitation facilities were handed over to the Village Recovery Committees of the 39 target villages and one ward. A completion certificate was signed off by representatives of the VRC and UN-Habitat. Upon signing of this document the VRC, on behalf of the community, confirmed that activities under the respective Community Contracts had been completed according to the designs and specifications and all clauses stipulated in the agreement.

UN-Habitat will continue its presence in the Dry Zone for the next five years implementing a WASH and basic community access program funded by USAID.

“This road is 5,600 feet long. 40 people are working on the road upgrading. The good thing is that now we can easily access nearby villages and get our agricultural products sold. Also it is easier for our children to get to school.”



18. Documentation Produced by Activity

| Name of document | Type of document | Document Owner | Date Document Produced | Location/s of Document |
|--|---|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | Survey | UN-Habitat | June 2011 | UN-Habitat Widely distributed to donors, UN agencies, I/NGOs and WASH Thematic Group |
| IEC materials for hygiene promotion | Posters, stickers, colour books, flip charts, pocket guides | UN-Habitat | April 2011 | Project target villages |

19. Physical Assets Purchased with Activity Funds

| Physical Asset | Cost | Date of purchase | What will happen to asset following completion of activity? |
|--|---------|------------------|---|
| Generator | USD 951 | 27-May-2011 | It will remain with UN-Habitat Meikhtila Office (Dry Zone) |
| Desktop Computer (for server at Yangon office) | USD 592 | 27-May-2011 | It will remain in Yangon to continue using it as base server computer |

20. Contractual Obligations/Terms and Status at End of Activity

All project activities have been implemented by communities through the community contract modality. Only two activities – Promotion of Hygiene and Sanitation Practices, and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey - were contracted through Small Scale Contract according UN rules and regulations.

| Name of contract | Contract Number | Contractual Obligations/terms | Status at the End of Activity |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Small Scale Contract | SACC 11-002 | Promotion of Hygiene and Sanitation Practices in Wundwin Township (38 villages) by LNGO Social Vision Services | All target villages covered and final report submitted to UN-Habitat |
| Small Scale Contract | CSSR11-01 | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey on water, sanitation and hygiene (38 Villages) by Myanmar Survey Research | Survey completed, final report submitted to UN-Habitat. Report printed and distributed |

21. Continuation of Components of Activity

All project activities have been 100% completed and handed over to communities; communities have signed Completion Certificates.

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No. 6, Natmauk Road, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (95 - 1) 542 910 ~ 919 Ext: 168~170
Fax: (95- 1) 430 628, 544 531, 545 634
Email: desk@unhabitat-mya.org
www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org