

act:onaid

Myanmar



Empowering People For Change

Dear friends and colleagues of ActionAid,

In the blink of an eye, a fresh Myanmar new year is once again upon us. It is the time to be grateful for the blessings of the past year and to weigh up all our achievements as an organization.

This newsletter contains several articles, and other publications of ActionAid's and gives an overview of the most important activities conducted between the













Community Based Tourism

CBT is a growing
business development
activities, such as

months of January through May 2019.

With that in mind, Myanmar New Year presents itself as an opportunity to start afresh, to start strong, and yet another chance to do everything we aspire to do this year, with conviction. What's amazing about chances is how we get them every year. Therefore, set positive goals and resolutions. And be excited for what we can achieve together this 2019.

*Warm regards,
ActionAid Myanmar Newsletter Team*

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 -  ActionAid International
 -  Mboutik
 -  Global Platform Myanmar
 -  ActionAid Women's Rights
 -  ActionAid Child Rights
 -  Myanmar Consortium for Community Resilience
 -  MBoutik Social Business
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irrigation system improvement, women empowerment process, livelihood and climate resilient activities are being integrated into the various development activities done by communities. ActionAid has been working in the dry zone area since 2011. We started providing capacity to youth in dry zone. Youth from villages received this opportunity to work with ActionAid and their own community and local government. As a result, the community become more empowered. Recently, CBT project in villages of Myaing and Pakokku Township was successfully delivered and is functioning well. There was also a high-level awareness with media and government attention since it is providing an alternative



2019 Fellow's Conference

This year's Fellows' Conference brought together 400 fellows, and other participants, for three amazing days of learning, sharing and a fun in Mawlamyine. Fellows are a diverse, committed, hardworking and grounded force made up of young people from rural areas across Myanmar. They are at the core of ActionAid's force for change, particularly important in the process of peace building and negotiation. We are proud to call this force of 800+ individuals our Fellows. The Conference articulated an input which mirrored hope and new confidence, particularly among the new Fellows and younger generation.

The setting, a local school, became the location where youth leaders and activists came together to discuss the National Youth Policy and the future of the Fellowship Program. For most, this is one of the few opportunities they have to meet their network of brothers and sisters.

The head of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), U Ko Ko Naing, delivered remarks on behalf of the Union Minister and the Chief Minister of Mon State. He discussed the importance of the youth in participation in Myanmar. Struck by the congregation of youth from so many different ethnic groups from

and innovative livelihood, providing almost 50 thousand US dollars income per year. In addition, more income generating activities such as weaving, handicraft producing from bamboos and petrified woods are coming up as new social enterprise scheme.

News in Brief



Organisational Shirt #1: AAM Restructure Finalized

AAM has undergoing a process of change through a staff restructure. A new structure was approved

across the country, he used the opportunity to share words of encouragement. The next day, the Minister of Resources and Forestry of Mon State delivered a speech in which he emphasized the role of youth as the most valuable resource of all.

A panel discussion on youth and their future followed. The panelists included Mr. Alan Saw U, Director of the Karen Development Network (KDN), Dr Ne Win, Youth Advisor at the Ministries of Social Welfare and Resettlement, Mr Saw Lin Thet, former Fellowship Programme Manager at ActionAid Myanmar and Ms Daw Khaing Khaing lin, MP of Thaton Constituency. The panel was moderated by Htoi San Aung, Senior Programme Manager at Oxfam Myanmar and former ActionAid Myanmar Staff. The key issues discussed was Youth Policy Implementation and its challenges. For instance, some of the youth in Kayah Region did not accept youth policy, hence it was difficult to implement a youth policy.

The Fellows joined with representatives from political parties, youth affairs and students from Mon State. This was followed by an open floor for questions. We are proud of the conduct, critical thinking and input from our Fellows during the conference. They were approached afterwards by the Union Minister of Mon State The final day concluded with a cultural night, where each ethnic group took the stage for their performances of unique song and dance to showcase their culture.

by the Country Director on 21st December 2018 and shared with all AAM staff on 14th January 2019. By the end of April, all staff in the new structure had been recruited. AAM is proud to have the following people as part of its senior management team.

- Country Director, ActionAid Myanmar
- Head of Programme, Policy and Advocacy
- Head of Innovation & Partnerships
- Head of Programme Quality & Research
- Head of Finance and IT



Name: Saw Soe Min Naing
Location: Hpa An , Kayin State
Fellow since: 2013
Age: 29 years old

“If every ethnic armed group and government officials participate in dialogue about peace process in our country, we will get closer to sign NCA. Everyone has to come together to build peace. I don’t want only “EAOS ” to sign the NCA. I want everyone to be involved! Women’s groups, armed ethnic groups and government officials. The sustainability of the ceasefire depends on a strong community engagement.”



- Head of HROD
&
Administration



Organisational Shift #2: Office Clean Up

From April to May 2019, we have been working hard to revamp our office. In April, AAM Administration team started to renovate the Yangon office. We have plans for it to become an inspiring working space for us and our partners. Part of this process was an extensive office clean up. This exercise served us to have an enabling working environment for everyone. Everyone participated in the

Name: Naw Sandar Myint Thein

Location: Billin, Mon state

Fellow since: 2013

Age: 27 years old

"The village leader didn't like me for two reasons: one, because I am young and two, because I am a woman. Being young and a woman prejudiced him against me. Conversely, neither of these things deterred me from my efforts to develop our village. It was difficult, I'm not going to lie. In our small village in Bilin, it was uncommon for women to speak up until I became a fellow of ActionAid Myanmar."



Name: Pwi Ah

Location: Rihkhawdar, Chin State

Fellow since: 2018

Age: 26 years old

"This is my very first time at a Fellows' Conference. The purpose of the Fellows' Conference is to build mutual care and understanding among youth. I have the chance to meet diverse ethnic fellows. I can feel the solidarity being built among us."

cleaning the office.

ActionAid

Myanmar

Videos



MCCR's Journey of
Change



Introduction to
ActionAid Myanmar



Name: Naw Lucy

Location: Patheingyi, Arrawaddy region

Fellow since: 2014

Age: 31 years old

"The issue I really wanted to raise was children's education in our Village. Ever since attending Fellowship programmed, I have invested myself in working with Child Sponsorship programmed. We have made a detailed village book with prioritized action plans that enabled us to raise fund for the children in our village. Not only did it cover education of the children, but also it led us to improve transportation in our village."



The Change Maker



Inspiring Women



The Village Book



Meet the Myanmar
Fellows

Women's Rights: Urban Safety Awareness Workshop

We all want to know that the spaces we use to conduct our everyday activities are safe for us and for our families to use. There are several incidents of violence against women in urban areas. Regressive norms that women have to deal, including violence by men are often considered permissible. In addition, women have limited access to basic services, which makes the occurrence of violence more likely. This issue is very important for the women that AAM Women's Rights team works with. Responding to this, AAM conducted a Gender Urban Safety Survey in Mandalay and Yangon in early March to understand the gender safety gaps and issues driving urban violence. A 3-day workshop was held, focusing on four areas of discussion - women's safety at home, in public places, in the work place, and in school. The workshop focused on the factors driving urban violence, gender safety gap in urban areas and women's perception to safety. The three days of workshop included debate and discussion around the role of institutions such as the police/government in preventing and promoting GBV, gender safety gaps in urban areas and the role of media in addressing urban safety issues. The purpose was to strengthen the knowledge and practical skills in gender and urban safety. The statistics show that violence against women in Myanmar is all together 34% in psychological abuse, violence by sexually intimate partners and child marriage.

The workshop was attended by CSOs, local administrators and government staff from general administration, fire brigade and line ministries. The



Young Global Leaders
From Myanmar



Empowerment for
Transformative
Change in Myanmar

outcome was that the institutions were motivated to listen to the safety needs of women and girls and respond to them together. AAM were able to encourage the participants to advocate for and operationalize women and girls' safety needs to government institutions such as Police, GAD, YCDC, DSW, and EPC. The participants from governments and women organizations showed interest in the topics and discussed actively in all sessions. There was a high degree of collaboration between women organizations, CSOs and line ministries.



Women's Rights: International Women's Day Event in Yangon

International Women's Day (March 8) is the global day to celebrate the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women. It is also the day to increase public awareness of violence against women. The theme of the International Women's Day 2019 campaign was 'Balance for Better'. Working group members from GEN, including AAM, collaborated to staff their booths all day, distributing research papers, books and other IEC materials (Information, Education and Communication) in

Maha Bandula Park, Yangon. Several celebrities were involved to advocate for Women's Rights and give inspirational speeches. Many people participated in the event and joined activities such as quiz sessions. Balance drives a better working world. Let's all help create a #BalanceforBetter #IWD2019 !



Governance: Civic Action in Mawlamyine

ActionAid Myanmar (AAM) has a strategic plan to develop CSO's platforms in different areas of Myanmar. On the 12th February, AAM focused on Ye Township in Mawlamyine. The aim was to bring all Civil Society and community-based organizations together to work towards developing a plan to achieve the Mawlamyine network's vision, mission, and to strengthen engagement with local authorities. A workshop was established to increased communication and understanding among and between CSOs and local authorities. The workshop was held at the General Administration Department (GAD) and participants included their officers, as well as grassroots organisations at village level. Participants representing 34 villages from Ye Township attended the workshop on strengthening decentralization and advancing transparency at the

township level.



Governance: Campaigns For Change

ActionAid Myanmar (AAM) is leading a consortium with Phan Tee Eain (PTE) and Capacity Building Initiative (CBI), implementing a 4-year project. We work with 83 CSOs and 10 networks to strengthen civil society's engagement with government over policy formulation and implementation. This is the final year of this project focused on grassroots level collective advocacy campaigns. The organizing committee members came together to share their experience of campaigning and strategize jointly on how best to deliver effective campaigns on the ground. Networking games were included, for the participants to have a stronger bond across States. The main learning was how to develop a strong campaign on a range of issues.

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