



Voices of the Sufferers

It was raining that morning. Though it was a cold day, people gathered to hear the voices and stories that warmed their hearts- whether with anger or resolve. At the front of the hall there was a notice that said: **Survivors Gathering.**

All around the room people were wearing red t-shirts with a message on the back, Let's hear the voices from our heart.

World Vision Myanmar, once again, in collaboration with The Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking In Persons (CBTIP) brought together 31 survivors (12 men, 19 women, including 9 children) from 19 different townships for a survivors' gathering event from 31 May to 3 June 2016. Cases of

"It helps us in our awareness raising activities on anti-human trafficking and safe migration,"

trafficking included forced labour on fishing boats in Thailand and Indonesia, forced marriage to Chinese men, forced prostitution, and labour exploitation in Thai fishing industry.

The survivors perspectives and insights offer up the most genuine voices around the issue of trafficking. When they are encouraged to speak, they become a strong voice for change with decision makers.

Prior to the final event with the CBTIP members, the survivors came together for three days to share about



Traditional beliefs affecting child health
Page - 3



A student's future dream
Page - 6



Our rights, our voices - Promoting children's rights

Youth play an essential role in community development, particularly the promoting children's rights. Unfortunately, in many cases, children and young people are left out of the decision-making process about the issues that will affect them.

"We want to let you know that you have your own rights,"

World Vision Myanmar continuously promotes child and youth participation, most recently by holding a two-day youth forum in Yangon.

"We organized this forum to hear from children and youth about the concerns facing their communities, and we discussed how we can work together to address them," says Salai Aung ZinKyaw, World Vision Child Protection specialist for Yangon Zone.

About 100 youth representatives from seven townships came together to discuss the issues

and make recommendations. The children identified their own debate ground rules during the very first session. In this increasingly tech-savvy world, they proposed an important rule- no selfies. But, as not everyone agreed, they made the concession allowing the occasional selfie as needed.

Their excellent recommendations included creating job opportunities with fair wages, obtaining National Registration Cards, services for out of school children, child protection hot line numbers, law reinforcement, and sufficient health clinics in their communities.

On the last day of the forum, members from Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) shared about human rights and rights related to children and young people.

"We came here to help you understand about human rights, something which we could not talk about for the past 50 years. We want to let you know that you have your own rights. We will support you in promoting youth

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rights," says U KhinMaung Lay, member of MNHRC.

Staff from the Anti-Trafficking Task Force (Child Unit) shared about the types of cases that can be reported for action. One example is if a child is forced to buy alcohol by his or her parents.

"Our unit takes action when cases are reported. I would like to encourage parents, caregivers and youth that it is the better to protect children in our own community and prevent cases from happening," says M. Kawn Din, Police Major, ATTF (Child Unit).

"By participating in this forum, we gained self-confidence and we learned about our rights," says Myo Aung, an 18-year-old from Hlegu, Yangon region.

"I am very happy to join this forum. Here, I gain new experiences. I learned what other child groups are doing. Upon my return, I will organize our group to establish a saving and loan group so that we can create our own funding," shares ThidaMoe, a 15 year-old youth representative from Kyangin, Delta.

A similar forum will be organized in other parts of the country where World Vision Myanmar operates.

World Vision Myanmar requests that the government will address the recommendations made by the children, so that we can work together to fulfil the rights of children.



Traditional beliefs affecting child health

‘Carrying heavy loads while pregnant will help you have a less painful delivery.’

Daw Lay Lay, a 42 year-old mother, heard this from the elderly women in her community since she was young.

Majority of the people from Arkhar community believed that a child's illness or even death was due to witches. When a child was sick they tried to cure them with their traditional practices, rather than visiting health staff. They did not practice birth spacing because they believed that it was against God's will, resulting in women having many children.

Daw Lay Lay, now a community health volunteer was once a young mother married before 18. It was the arranged marriage, the practice of that particular community.

“I always wanted to be a doctor if I had a chance to go to school,” Daw Lay Lay recalls her childhood dream. She stopped going to school after the 1988 uprising.

In 2010, World Vision introduced Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition programme in Daw Lay Lay's community. With determination, Daw Lay Lay participated in the training. She was the qualified health volunteers among the 15.

She has a strong desire to change her community's wrong belief. She doesn't want the new generation to practice the same.

So, Daw Lay Lay got educated about pre and post natal care, child health, and nutrition in the community especially for mothers. Without giving up, Daw Lay Lay tried to educate the community for two years.

“People here are stubborn. It took me two years to change their mind,” says Daw Lay Lay. “I explained them that birth spacing is not against God's will. Only when you cannot feed your children and they commit the burglary, that's sin. Then they listen.”

One of the mothers whom Daw Lay Lay took care of was Daw Yar Shay. She actually delivered five children but only three remains. The first one died just 15 days after birth but never found out the cause.

The Arkhar community believed that whenever you visit the newborns, you have to bring a small gift for the baby as a blessing for the child. Otherwise, the child can get sick.

It coincidentally happened to Daw Yar Shay's third baby. When the child got sick, she visited her neighbor's houses asking for gifts expecting her



baby would recover. However, the child's condition did not improve. Finally, she took her child to the hospital, but sadly it was too late.

The community still believed that a witch took the child's life.

Daw Lay Lay's role here is crucial. She encouraged Daw Yar Shay and explained to her that the child's death was not concerned with the witch. It was about childhood illness. She also invited Daw Yar Shay to the health sessions.

Day Yar Shay has learned a lot from health sessions. She listens to Daw Lay Lay and took her advice.

"I was told that my daughter [her fourth child] was underweight and advised to feed her chicken soup, eggs, and vegetables. I took the advice and practiced what I learned. Later, my daughter gradually regained weight" shares Day Yar Shay. "I also exclusively breast-fed my youngest son till he was 6 months old," She adds.

Women are now fully aware of safe motherhood; antenatal, safe delivery and postnatal care. They now consult with midwives once they are pregnant and practice family planning.

The stubborn community now has changed their attitude and behavior, leaving the harmful traditional belief and practices behind.

Myanmar Cook Stoves Pilot Project, World Vision Myanmar



According to 2014 census, over 86% of households in rural-Myanmar are using firewood for cooking. Among them over 64% households are using traditional 3 stones cooking stoves (WVM research). Household Air Pollution (HAP) caused by traditional cooking stoves caused circulatory and respiratory diseases contributes to 4.3 million deaths per year, with women and children are the most vulnerable ([source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/en/)).

In Myanmar, an estimated 49 million people are affected by HAP, resulting in an estimated 48,521 deaths, including 3,520 children ([source: Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, http://cleancookstoves.org/country-profiles/58-myanmar.html](http://cleancookstoves.org/country-profiles/58-myanmar.html)). The use of these traditional cookstoves in households creates significant Health and Environmental problems.

To help reduce household air pollution, World Vision Myanmar works in (18) targeted villages in Patheingyi and Einme townships, Ayeyarwady region and provides awareness on HAP since the beginning of 2016. Through 18 Community Based Organizations (CBOs), WVM distributes improved cook stoves to the families in the communities. As of today, 1,582 households received improved cook stoves and have started using it.

Improved cook stoves reduce household air pollution, CO₂ emissions and wood fuel consumption resulting in saving time to collect fuel and/or saving money to buy firewood. It generates positive health, good environment, and women's empowerment.

Types of improved cook stoves that World Vision Myanmar distributes:

1. All improved cook stoves produced by Forest Research Institute, Yezin and performance tested at Institute of Technology Cambodia.
2. Envirofit M5000
3. Zama Zama flat pack (Gasifier)

Special event for former child soldiers



March 19, 2016 - Children officially discharged from the military were given the opportunity to share their experiences and raise their voices for stronger assistance at a special event, organised by World Vision Myanmar and UNICEF Myanmar.

The children and youth were mistakenly placed into the military, and the event provided a place to voice their concerns regarding the reintegration assistances and to improve the support based on the recommendations.

Officials from the army, representatives from concerned government departments, members of Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), and 36 discharged youth presented at the event.

Colonel Soe Lwin, Senior Liaison Officer from the Ministry of Defense addressed in his opening speech that, "The Tatmadaw does not impose the law for the citizen to serve in the military. It is youth's decision and permission from the parents to join the army. Those

who were in the army were just mistakenly recruited. Since the signing of the Joint Action Plan (JAP), 744 minors were already discharged. We thank UNICEF and World Vision for providing enough support for those children."

Mr. Aaron Greenburg, Technical Co-Chair of CTFMR as well as Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Myanmar thanked the government officials at the event and young people for sharing their experiences. "Since 2012 until today, we've seen the excellent progress between the government and CTFMR. However, there's still more work to be done," Mr. Greenburg says.

Myat Min Thu, Child Protection Officer, Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF Myanmar, made a presentation on the progress of JAP implementation and the strong collaboration and partnership of CTFMR members. He also presented the economic difficulties and social issues faced by the discharged children when reintegrating into the community. Later, children presented their

experiences by performing role play. A poem composed by youth was recited and presented at the event.

A great discussion followed about lessons learned to improve the future arrangement and to strengthen the partnership and supports.

"This learning event enabled us to gain self-confidence. We learned a lot from this event. We thank World Vision and UNICEF Myanmar for organizing such event and supporting us to rebuild our lives," says one of the discharged youth.



The event was concluded by the word of thanks from the National Director of World Vision Myanmar, Mr. Suresh Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett thanked the collaboration of the CTFMR members and encouraged to continue the partnership. He also thanked youths and encouraged them to work best in their normal lives and pursue success.

A Student's Future Dream

It's raining. Raindrops relentlessly fall from the skies changing dusty roads into mud, gathering in the hollows scattered across the road. Children in white and green uniforms quickly pull out their umbrellas and raincoats for cover.

Among them was Lu Lu.

"It was usual walking in these kinds of muddy roads during raining season," recalls 16 years old Lu Lu about her schooling days. "I've admired teachers for their commitment since I was little. I always wanted to be like them."

Lu Lu lives with her family in NyaungYwar village, which is about a one-and-a-half-hour drive from Yangon. She is the eldest daughter among 6 siblings. Her parents are simple farmers who grow paddy, beans, and vegetables, but struggle to support the family. They only have a primary level education.

"When school opens, I have to borrow money from neighbor with high interest to support my daughter's schooling," says Daw Lei Win, Lu Lu's mother.

Children from Lu Lu's village need to walk about 5 miles, take a boat another hour to reach to school.

Life is not always easy, unfortunately for Lu Lu as well. While she was in primary school, she often sick from flu and failed her monthly exam. Her parents decided to stop supporting Lu Lu's education.

As soon as local World Vision staff heard this news, they met with Lu Lu's family and asked them to keep her in school. They invited them to participate in income generating activities.



World Vision started its programming in Lu Lu's village in 2016. The programmes include sectors like health, education, livelihood, agriculture, and child protection.

" I am successful because of World Vision's support,"

A World Vision agricultural specialist, Kyaw Maw Zan provides training sessions for the community on pests, vegetables diseases, and how to make and use simple natural compost. The organization also helped provide insecticide, fertilizer, and good quality seeds for better production.

World Vision provided one mature cow for Lu Lu's family as well.

"Previously, we could barely produce 60 baskets of paddy. But after we received training from World Vision we normally reap around 70 baskets, we even have 3 cows now," says U Win Naing, Lu Lu's father.

"I don't need to borrow money from others for my daughter's

education now," said Daw Lei Win.

World Vision also supports life skills training through child group for children on decision making, emotional management, communicating with others, and setting life goals.

"I learned not to give up when face obstacles during this training. It really gave me strength to try again," said Lu Lu.

With hard work, Lu passed every academic test with outstanding marks and passed the matriculation test in one attempt.

"I am successful because of World Vision's support," says Lu Lu.

Lu Lu is a volunteer tutor at the night study group.

"Some children don't have anyone who can help them with their studies and I am happy to help them," said Lu Lu.

Lu Lu is preparing and excited to go to university majoring in geography.

Child Protection Awareness Training for School Teachers



School teachers are as important as parents in nurturing children. Protection is the main component in nurturing children. As part of building teachers' capacities, Child Protection Awareness Training was provided for the primary school teachers in Kyangin Township. Over a hundred teachers participated in the training.

Child Protection Awareness workshop



Child protection is everyone's responsible. Local authorities are the main protector of children in the community. In order to provide child protection knowledge, World Vision and Township Child Rights Committee jointly organized a one-day child protection awareness workshop for ward and village authorities on 14th July. 89 heads of ward and villages authority including Kyangin Parliament representative attended the workshop.

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Training for Caregivers



Kayah State, Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with World Vision Myanmar jointly organized one month training on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) for Caregivers in Loikaw Township, Kayah state. 64 caregivers from Demoso and Loikaw township attended and received the completion certificate.

Courtesy Call with Chief Minister of Yangon Region



WVM National Director, Mr. Suresh Bartlett and team paid a courtesy call to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and team on 4th June 2016. During the meeting, WVM National Director presented about the overview of World Vision Myanmar to the attendees. The Chief Minister also explained about the development activities that Yangon Region is planning to implement in the near future and called for the collaboration. WVM agreed to collaborate and contribute its effort to compliment the work of the government.

Collaboration meeting with Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force



In order to promote child protection and human trafficking awareness more effectively in targeted communities, Department of Social Welfare, Thannitharyi Region, Thannitharyi Region Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and WV Myanmar conducted collaboration meeting on 10th, June, 2016.

During the meeting, child protection, safe migration and anti-human trafficking related issues were discussed. According to meeting decisions, awareness sessions and competition programmes regard to child protection and anti-human trafficking will proceed and continue in targeted communities and schools by coordinating with village volunteers. Total 25 participants have discussed and participated in this meeting.

Fully development with sufficient time to play



Children will be fully developed physically, mentally and emotionally if they have sufficient time to play appropriate to their age. World Vision Myanmar provided Toy Making training for the caregivers in Aung Myay Thar Zan Township. 26 caregivers from 10 ECCD centers participated in a 4 days training and learned how to make toys for the children with locally available and affordable materials.

their experiences; learn from each other and to discuss the issues they wanted to address. The survivors presented their concerns and recommendations through drama, illustration and call and response presentation. Their stories were also presented in a video narrated by them.

The final event attendees included representatives from the Myanmar government including: Anti-human Trafficking Task Force, the Departments of Social Welfare, Immigration, Labour, Justice, Attorney General, General Administration, plus colleagues from the UN, other INGOs, and media representatives.

"Government, international and local partners, the returnees, if we all work together, we can combat human-trafficking. I

want to encourage all of you to collaborate together in our future plan," said, Police Brigadier General Myo Swe Win in his opening remarks.

The survivors were encouraged to share about their experiences and raise their concerns to fight for justice and equal rights. The issues they raised included:

- Obtaining national registration cards
- Information about how to travel abroad legally
- Monitoring businesses to ensure workers are paid and have basic benefits
- Better access to news and information from Thai factories where Myanmar people are working
- Permission to contact family members and to speak freely between Myanmar citizens

while detained in Thai shelters

- Bringing justice and taking serious action against smugglers, traffickers and brokers

"Thanks for sharing your difficulties openly. By organising this event, we can hear the survivors' voices. It helps us in our awareness raising activities on anti-human trafficking and safe migration," said Daw Nandar New Han, Deputy Director from Yangon region Department of social welfare.

World Vision has been fighting against human trafficking and will continue its effort in collaboration with concerned government bodies and other NGO partners to end modern slavery.

List of Service Pin Awardees for the Month of March, April, May & June 2016

Name	Designation&Location	Starting/Effective Date	Service Year
1. Saw Fulton	Food Department Manager/ National Office	4-Jun-96	20
2. Saw Chester Thein	Driver cum Logistics Assistant/National Office	12-Mar-01	15
3. Sai Zaw Moon	ADP Manager/Pyigyitagon	18-Apr-01	15
4. Sein Win	Driver cum Logistics Assistant/ National Office	21-May-01	15
5. Wan Htun	Integrated Field Team Coordinator/ Hmawbi	7-Apr-06	10
6. Cing Muan Lian	Program Finance Coordinator/Tiddim	8-May-06	10
7. Thet Tun	Government Relations Coordinator/Mon&Kayin Zone	15-May-06	10
8. Cing Muan Lian	Program Finance Coordinator/ Tiddim	8-May-06	10
9. Kyaw Min Naing	Community Development Facilitator/ Thabaung	1-Feb-06	10
10. Saw Adeeno	Zonal Government Relations Coordinator/Hilly Zone	23-Jun-16	10
11. Khin Nyein Aye	Program Finance Coordinator/Launglon	1-Mar-11	5
12. C. Lalthlantluangi	Administration Assistant/Tiddim	1-Mar-11	5
13. Nant Anna Shwe Net	Community Development Facilitator/Myeik	3-Mar-11	5
14. Kyaw Lynn	Community Development Facilitator/Thayetchaung	15-Mar-11	5
15. Orchid Cho	Customer Services Coordinator/ Pathein	1-Apr-11	5
16. Myat Myat Thin	Program Finance Coordinator/Hlegu	25-Apr-11	5
17. Naw Helen	Program Finance Coordinator/Myeik	25-Apr-11	5
18. Kyaw Soe Lin	Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Facilitator/Chauk	2-May-11	5
19. Khaing Yu Yu Htwe	Program Finance Coordinator/Palaw	9-May-11	5
20. M Zaw Naw	Program Finance Coordinator/ Kachin	16-May-11	5
21. Ye Win Zaw	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer/Coastal Zone	18-May-11	5
22. May Wah Paw	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer/National Office	16-May-16	5
23. Naw Zar Zar Saw	Program Finance Coordinator/ Thanbyuzayat	1-Jun-11	5
24. Maung Maung Tar	Community Development Facilitator/ Bogale	6-Jun-11	5
25. J Han Thein	Administration Assistant/Aungmyaythazan	22-Jun-11	5
26. Naw Aye Aye San	Cleaner/National Office	1-Jun-11	5

NEXT ISSUE OUT IN AUGUST

please email your contribution to THARLIKAR AT:

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HR News