



World Vision Myanmar Day of Prayer

Theme on "Fullness of Life", World Vision Myanmar's staff once again assembled together on the "Day of Prayer" and welcome another fiscal year:

Every year on 1st October, staff across the country came together and reflected on the shower of God's blessings and reviewed on what has been achieved in the past year. Moreover, the commitment for the new year to serve the vulnerable children in Myanmar and self-dedication were made.

God wants all children to possess "life in all its fullness". To fulfill this, God has called World Vision's family members

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to serve in His ministry. We all are committed and dedicated to endeavor for the Children to enjoy good health, experience love of God and neighbors, Children are educated for life, and care Cared For, Protected and Participating.

Let's all create a world which gives fullness of life for the children in Myanmar.



"I am happy whenever I get letters, postcards and stickers from my sponsor,".. Page 3



These enthusiastic girls all had a strong desire to learn amidst their family's struggles... Page 4



World Vision and other NGOs make an advocacy call at government meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 September 2016
- In order to effectively address children's issues and increase collaboration for the realization of child rights, the NGO Child Rights Working Group (NCRWG) in which World Vision is a member, paid an advocacy call to the Women and Children's Rights Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) in Nay Pyi Taw on 14th September 2016.

47 members from the 19 local and international organizations came together as a group and presented to the committee in one voice. The issue raised with the committee was based on the 2012 Concluding Observations prepared by UN Child Rights Committee, which was reported to the government. The recommendation in the observation includes sufficient allocation of the budget, the establishment of a child rights unit under Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, endorsement of the child law which is in line with CRC and the national laws, disclosing the Citizen Budget in a way which the public can easily understand, and allocation of 20% of the national budget for education. "This is a good meeting because

we need CSOs support in our future work. I believe that the government will be able to endorse the child law and women's protection law within this year. As we can't reach out to the entire public, we need the help of civil society organizations (CSO) to reach them. I want to encourage you to continue your good hearts and work," said Dr. Mya Thaug, Chairman of the Women and Children's Rights Committee of Amyothar Hluttaw.

"The main objectives of today's meeting are based on the recommendation from 2012 Concluding Observations report. We will continue to advocate the concerned ministries, parliament members, members of the Women and Children's Rights committee and Human Rights Commission to act on the points that we've raised," said Ni Ni Hla, Head of Child Rights Governance Program from Save the Children.

"The discussions in this meeting emphasized different perspectives like education, law, budget, etc. which enable our committee to better plan and make decisions. We also got more information and questions that we want to submit

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to the parliament. We also need the inputs from the NCRWG in the child law reviewing process because those are the citizen voices. We want to collaborate with the national, regional and state, township and community levels on children issues," said Hla Hla Soe, Secretary of the Women and Child Rights Committee as well as the Upper House parliament member.

For the first time, the NCRWG met with the Lower House's Social Development Committee, Public Affairs Management Committee, Health Committee and Education Committee members in March 2015 and discussed and advocated about more budget allocation for health, education and social welfare in order to invest more in children.

About NGO Child Rights Working Group
NGO Child Rights Working Group is lead by Save the Children, World Vision and Pestalozzi, and was established in 2009 with members from 19 international and local organizations to voice fully for children's rights. In 2016, NCRWG member groups included 50 organizations and continue to work for children's rights throughout the country.

For More Information about NCRWG and the involvement of World Vision, please contact Win Pa Pa Than, Manager, Protection Department, World Vision Myanmar, win_pa_pa_than@wvi.org Ko Ko Win, Protection Specialist, World Vision Myanmar, ko_ko_win@wvi.org



Sponsorship – An encouraging word

The busy city traffic was left behind as we entered a small village, situated on the outskirts of Yangon. As we entered the village our car wheels bounced over bumpy, dusty roads. Old wooden houses covered with thatched roofs lined up along the side of the road. The surroundings are quiet, and it's lightly raining. In this village, most families earn their income by doing odd jobs. When our car arrived, a family welcomed us to their one story house. Thazin, age 10, lives here with her family. She is wearing a traditional green dress and was so excited to share about her experiences of participating in the World Vision sponsorship programme.

Friendship

"My closet is filled with many letters, cards and presents from Grandma Margret [her sponsor in Australia]," she said. Thazin enrolled in the sponsorship program when she was 5-years-old. "I am happy whenever I get letters, postcards and stickers from my

sponsor," says Thazin. "I read it together with my family at home." Thazin likes to express her feelings and thoughts through drawing. "I love drawing pictures such as mountains and houses during my free time at school and home. World Vision gave me this drawing book," said Thazin, a grade 5 student. Charming Thazin is recognized as an outstanding student among her classmates and teachers for her friendship and diligent studies. "I always have lunch with my best friends at school and we study together," said Thazin. "My favorite subject is English." She gets higher marks in English than other subjects during exams.

Thinking about the future

As part of the community model, at Thazin's school, World Vision helped build a fence, renovate the building and playground, and provided classroom furniture. "In previous years, students had to learn in a small, crowded room but now children can study more comfortably in this new building,"

smiled lecturer, Daw Thet Mon who has been serving at Thazin's school for over a decade.

"I will try to become a doctor. We have poor families here in our village so I will give them treatment without charges!" said Thazin.

For long-term sustainability, World Vision supports vulnerable children not only through direct benefit activities such as sponsor correspondence, holiday celebrations, medical support, school stationery, and educational sessions but also indirect community support through school renovation, early childhood care and development programmes, livelihood activities, and village saving and loan groups.



Three sparkling stars from the east

It was a remarkable time in World Vision's Tarchileik programme area in eastern Myanmar when the high school exam results came out in July 2016. Twenty-seven children who participated in World Vision programming in the area passed their high school exam, one of the most difficult exams in a student's life.

Meet Kham, Pan, and Moh. These enthusiastic girls all had a strong desire to learn amidst their family's struggles. Kham and Pan passed their exam in 2106 and Moh in 2015.

Kham's story

Kham passed the exam with stellar marks, something that has never happened before in her family or village.

"I am very excited to learn that I've earned three distinctions," Kham says. "I want to become the headmistress of a school. So I will go to the education college to get a degree in Education," she shares. Kham is the only person in the family who is pursuing her education. Her parents are illiterate and speak only their own ethnic language. Her two elder brothers can barely read as they just briefly attended a Shan (an ethnic group) monastic school. Kham wants to escape from poverty and from traditional farming. "My daughter when she was at grade 5 challenged us that if we are not going to send her until she passed matriculation, she would stop going to school now. So, we decided, even if we do not have money, we will sell our property if we have to and send her to school," shared Nan, Kham's mother, who is so proud of her achievements.

Pan's story

Pan is currently volunteering with the World Vision sponsorship program in Tarchileik, monitoring the younger sponsored children in her community.



Pan passed high school in one year, whereas it is common for many students to take 2 or 3 years to pass. Pan's father works as a farmer and her mother sells items like eggs and fish to local shops.

Pan said, "I want to graduate and earn my living as an educated person."

"When I was about to start my grade 6, my mom asked me to drop out from school to look after my younger brother. She also didn't give me my school fees. So, I took my savings from my piggy bank and enrolled myself and paid for the school fees for the first month," Pan shared.

Although Pan's school is a government school, which supposed to be free, the village hired more teachers as the government appointed teachers were not enough for the students. These teacher fees are collected from the students.

When Pan's parents learned about their daughter's determination, they no longer wanted her to quit school, and even tried their best to support her school fees of 30 baht per month (just under \$1 USD).

Pan's desire is to become a nurse. "I wanted to become a nurse because I want to help sick people. When I was young, my mom got very sick in the middle of the night. A nurse immediately came and helped my mom. She then felt better. From then

on, I decided to study and become a skillful nurse to serve those who are sick," she shares.

Moh's story

Moh was born into a difficult family situation, as both parents are addicted to alcohol. During the planting or harvesting season, her parents would cross the border and work on a farm in Thailand. For those days, Moh took care of her younger brothers and sometimes was absent from school.

She decided she wanted to make her future better.

She never thought of dropping out from school, instead she was determined to work harder amidst the struggles. World Vision provided a bicycle to Moh so that it would be easy for her to access school, a 15-minute ride by bicycle from her village.

Moh was rewarded for her efforts when the exam results came out. She went to the university and studied for one semester but she had to stop after that because she could not afford the school and hostel fees.



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However, Moh didn't give up.

She now works at a petrol station as a cashier and is saving money. "I stay at the hostel provided for the workers by petrol station owner with the other girls. As I do not have to pay for meals, I save money for my school fees. I will continue at the university with distance education majoring in English," said Moh says. "I will study until I graduate and become an English teacher."

All three girls were World Vision sponsored children and supported throughout their school years. When they were young, along with all sponsored children, they were provided with school stationery, school uniforms, and backpacks each year.

So that students to have a place to study and digest their lessons, World Vision established a night study program, paying for the electricity fees and teachers' honorarium.

World Vision is proud to see the success of the girls. Their strong desire to become educated and to escape from the poverty will enable them to reach their goals. About World Vision in Tarchileik

Tarchileik Township bordering with Thailand to the south is situated in eastern Myanmar. The capital town, Tarchileik is a business city where many merchants and businessmen trade with Thailand. While town people have good businesses, people living in the rural areas still support themselves through farming and livestock breeding. Many youth and adults also cross the border to work in Thailand.

World Vision started this area development program in Tarchileik in 2000 and has supported children, their families and the communities in different sectors including education, health, livelihoods, anti-trafficking, child protection, and emergency responses.

Child Groups Gathering – Hseini, Northern Shan State



Awareness raising and child participation is the one of the effective tools in protecting children. Child Protection is one of the main sectors implementing in WV area development program. In addition to the awareness raising activity, World Vision establishes child protection group (both adult and children) in the community and builds their capacities in order to identify children issues and better address the problem in the community. In addition, WV also organizes child group gathering for the groups to exchange their experiences faced in their communities. On September 16, WV Hseini ADP organized child group gathering event for children from 4 communities and allowed them to learn from each other. 50 children from 4 children groups participated in the gathering and shared their experiences.

Coordination Meeting with Health Department for MNCH

Seeking pre-natal care and consulting with skillful birth attendance enables the mother to safely deliver the child and enable the baby too grow up healthy and possess brighter future. To help promote Maternal Nutrition and Child Health. (MNCH), World Vision is going to implement a five-year MCHN program in Tharbaung Township, Ayeyawaddy region. To jointly implement the program, World Vision organized a program launching meeting with regional ministry of health department at Pathein and discussed about how to work together. Regional health department Director, Dr. Tun Myint, officials from Health department and staff from World Vision participated in the meeting.



Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training, Hseini

WorldVision Hseini has conducted 4 days training on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training. During the training community health volunteers learned about practices and proper nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers. Dr. Shwer Sabei Thein, Zonal Health Specialist from Hilly facilitated the training and 27 community health volunteers from different villages were attended. At the last day of the training, volunteers went practical visit to the target villages.



Evaluation data validation workshop



Aungmyaythazan Area Development program (ADP) has conducted an evaluation data validation workshop to 2nd phase evaluation of the ADP, with staff, volunteers, community based organization members, youths, township level government authorities and the department officials such as general administration department, department of social welfare, Anti-trafficking Task force, department of labours, Immigration, Information and communications, and partners likes NGOs present in the township. The workshop went well and received positive inputs to finalized the evaluation findings and carry on the third phase of the ADP.

Establishing health awareness billboards



In order to promote health awareness to public, WorldVision Myanmar-Mawlamyaing ADP in collaboration with township health department established health awareness billboards on three topics which include maternal and child health and tobacco.

Quarterly Township Child Right Committee Meeting - Dawei Township



WorldVision in collaboration with Township Department of Social Welfare organized Township Child Rights Committee (TCRC) meeting on 20th September at Dawei, Tanintharyi Region. TCRC committee members, representatives from World Vision, Future light, YKBWA, MRCS and other partner organizations, Community-based child protection groups and village heads attended the meeting. Director from department of Social Welfare delivered the opening address and lead the meeting and reviewed the last meeting minutes. And then, the attendees discussed about child cases occurred within three months and the cases that have been reported and addressed.

This meeting was the 6th TCRC meeting which has been held quarterly since July 2015.

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Person Day



World Vision has been actively working together with the Central Body of Trafficking in Person in combating Human Trafficking. To commemorate the Myanmar Anti-trafficking in Person day which falls on 13th September, personnel from World Vision participated in the ceremony organized by the government in central, regional and state levels.

Prize Award to the outstanding children



World Vision has organized prize awarding ceremony for the outstanding students who passed their respective exam during 2014-2015 school years. A total of 161 children representing the communities and involve in World Vision child development program passed their respective grades. Among them, 30 were matriculated students in which 5 passed with flying colors- 4 distinctions, 3 distinctions, 2 distinctions and 1 distinction respectively. One student passed the secondary level education (grade 8) with all distinctions. World Vision is very pleased and proud for the children.

Child Voices Forum 2016



Listening to the voices and recommendation of the children is one of the best way to address the issues faced by the children in their communities. World Vision organized a regional level Child Voice Forum on 2nd September at Tanitharyi region, Dawei city hall. A total of 150 children representatives from Thayet Chaung, Laung Lon, Palaw, Myeik and Kawthaung townships attended the forum and presented their concerns and recommendation to the regional government. The regional level Social and Municipal Minister delivered the opening address, followed by the advice and comments from the other ministers. World Vision presented about the activities implemented in the region as well as in the country.

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training, Myaung Mya



Infant and Young Child Feeding training was organized for the community health volunteers in Myaung Mya area development program. The objectives of the training are to upgrade the knowledge of Community Health Volunteers regarding IYCF, to elaborate the importance of Breastfeeding and and to describe the importance of Complementary Feeding. The volunteers learned the theory followed by practical visits to the mothers of under-two year old children.

Children and Youth Forum



To allow children and youth to identify, discuss and present their feelings and perspectives, World Vision organized a two-day children and youth forum in Loikaw Township, Kayah State on 8th and 9th September. Children and youths presented the issues and problems that they had experienced in their community through role play, action song, cartoons and art work. A total of 629 children from Loikaw and Demoso townships participated in the forum. At the end of the forum, 50 youth representatives from Loikaw area development program were elected to represent and work for their respective communities.

Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness and Planning Workshop



Kyangin is a disaster particularly food prone area. For better knowledge and planning, World Vision Kyangin office organized a day workshop on DRR awareness and planning with members of Township Disaster Risk Reduction committee and Civil Society Organizations based in Kyangin. A total of 199 members participated in the workshop and learned how to develop Township DRR plan, how to share responsibility and how to connect with the responsible person when disaster occurs.

