

## Respond to Flood Affected Families in Thabaung



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In August, many families from Thabaung Township were affected by floods due to heavy rains and rising tide level from Nga Wun River. To help the flood affected families, World Vision distributed a two-week ration of rice, oil, salt, pulse and high energy biscuit provided by World Food Programme (WFP). 3,264 households from different 44 villages received the rations and benefited around 17,000 people.



## Respond to Flood Affected Families in Thabaung



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maternal, child health and nutrition awareness sessions conducted by World Vision. The community health volunteers also supported me to go to Sub-Rural Health Center to receive iron tablets and tetanus vaccination,” shares Nyo. “I realized that I was not eating properly while I was expecting my first two children. But as for my third child, I ate nutritious foods and practiced what I have learned from the awareness sessions so that there was no problems during delivery,” Nyo adds.

“I fed Khant only my breast milk until he was 6 months old. He got all the vaccinations that a child should get too. He is healthier than my other children,” says Nyo.

“I also shared these experiences to other mothers and now the behaviours of mothers in my community have been improved. They are starting to provide exclusive breastfeeding to their children” she adds.

“I would like to suggest lactating mothers to feed only breast milk to their child until 6 months old and try to be patience with it” shares Nyo.

“Now, I am glad that I can cook nutritious foods for my children”, Thanks so much World Vision for educating us” says Nyo.

Now, with World Vision Myanmar’s supports, the community has learned the importance of maternal, newborn and child health as well as nutrition of pregnant mothers and children.

## Strong and Healthy Khant

**K**hant, a 1 year and 10 months old boy is healthy and growing strong. His mother, a 38-year-old Nyo, participated in World Vision’s Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition Programme while having pregnant of Khant.

Nyo did not take proper antenatal care and had not eaten nutritious food when she got pregnant with her first two children. In addition, they did not receive exclusive breastfeeding, proper complementary feeding and complete immunization. Hence, they were not as healthy as Khant.

“I had never heard about importance of antenatal and postnatal care for mothers when I was expecting my first 2 children. I did not understand the importance of immunizations and nutrition as well. Only when World Vision started working in our community, I got to learn about the

importance of maternal and child health and nutrition,” says Nyo.

Plots of rubber plantations surrounded Nyo’s village. She lives with her family in a small village in Palaw Township, Thannitharyi Region, the southern-most part of Myanmar:

Most of the families in the village work on odd jobs in rubber and betel plantations to earn money. Nyo also works as a casual labourer in a rubber plantation while her husband works at a car workshop as a mechanic.

World Vision Myanmar initiated maternal, child health and nutrition programme for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and mothers of under-five children in Nyo’s village since 2014 with funding support from DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Australian Government. “Since then, I got a chance to attend

## A violent mind to a tender heart



### Win come from a long-line of aggressive family members.

Since her husband left them, Win is the sole provide for her two children. She started to support her family by purchasing green vegetables from the market and sells them in her ward. Later she opened a small drink and snack shop at home.

"I have looked after my younger relatives for 10 years now. Their parents are away for work and faced too many difficulties to keep them. I always discriminated against them and never treated them like my birth children. I still beat them, even when they grew up. One boy ran away while I was travelling. But still I didn't realize what I was doing," Win recalls.

Win's younger relatives are back with their father, and some are already working so that they no longer stay with Win.

"Mom beat me and also dragged and dropped me roughly. She once beat my brother until he bled from his nose. When my mom was very angry, my brother and me went to the

nearby house to get away from my mom. We returned home when she calmed down," Noe Noe recalls.

"Now, mom does not beat me and my brother anymore," Noe Noe adds with a grin.

"When I first attended the education session, I heard about child protection (CP) and how to treat the children. I felt like, as if he [the volunteer] was pointing at me. I started to understand CP but I could not change my attitude and still treated my children badly," Win says.

"But as I continued to participate in the awareness-raising sessions and life skills training, I realised my bad behavior of mistreating children," Win adds.

"Realizing this, I called my younger relatives that I used to looked after and apologized for my mistreatment. I feel so sorry whenever I think of the time I had treated them badly. Now, even if I get angry, I calm down myself by taking a shower or doing something harmless. I no more beat my children," Win shares.

"Now I work as a full time volunteer

for World Vision. I facilitate health awareness sessions with mothers and trafficking and Child Protection awareness sessions for children, youth, and parents," Win smiles.

"I never mingled with people when I was young and never acted as a leader. I now can lead the activities in the community as well as in my life. That's all because of World Vision," Win cites.

"Before, my two kids stayed away from people. They were afraid of people. Since, I let my son join the children group, he has improved his interpersonal skills. His attitude and behavior improved too. I am happy to see him helping others and sometimes leading in the group," Win says.



"As my behavior changed, I become more familiar with the neighbors. As I am a volunteer for World Vision, I've also earned the respect from the schoolteachers. Thanks a lot to World Vision for giving me knowledge and changing my bad habits. As I change my behaviors, I wish others will do the same," Win wishes.

A young mother is aware of the importance of protecting and nurturing children with care. Her transformed behavior now leads to a brighter future for her children and families in her community.

## Partnering with Churches



**In our continued work for holistic community development, World Vision is expanding its partnership with churches in the areas where the organization is already implementing programming.**

Churches are often seen as a separate entity from humanitarian organizations. Many churches also perceive themselves as a place just for spiritual nurturing. But in fact, the role of the church in supporting those in need is vital and effective. The role of the church endures in communities. They were there before World Vision arrived and will be there when World Vision leaves.

World Vision strongly believes that the active involvement of the church in reaching the poor is an effective approach.

For smooth implementation, World Vision signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) on 19 August 2016 to effectively launch the mission to churches. World Vision will also work to strengthen the capacities of the church leaders about understanding holistic development so that they could adapt themselves into development action in addition to the spiritual nurturing tasks.

With this partnership, World Vision hopes that churches will be champions in comforting and supporting their communities.

World Vision has been working in Myanmar since 1991, partnering with many faith groups in the communities where we work.

## 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.



## Awakening to life after surviving a nightmare

There's a saying in Myanmar, "Ta Ywarh Ma Pyaun, Thu Gaung Ma Phyt", meaning "You won't prosper, if you do not move out from your village." Believing this adage, Zaw decided to move from his village in the central part of Myanmar, to look for a job, dreaming of a better life.

Zaw and his friend arrived at a Thai border town where they worked at a prawn-processing factory for five months. Not earning enough, Zaw and his friend contacted a broker who advised them to work on an Indonesia fishing boat.

"I was told that I would get Myanmar Kyats 300,000 a month (about USD \$250)," Zaw recalls. Zaw agreed and followed the broker. When Zaw asked for the wages at the end of the month he was told that he would be paid only when he got back to Thailand. He received petty cash of 150,000 Ks (about USD 130) every three months. When Zaw realized that his dream and reality were completely different, it was too late to go back.

"There was no proper working time. Sometimes, I worked for 24 hours without rest. I was even beaten sometimes, when I refused to do the work they asked me to do," shared Zaw as he talked about his bitter experience.

"I saw the fighting between the fishermen. If someone died during a fight, they threw him into the sea. Sometimes, our fellow fishermen were beaten until they died," Zaw recalled. He says they were often beaten for no reason, other than being perceived as working too slowly or not to the satisfaction of the foreman.

"Whenever a fisherman was sick, they were taken to the doctor. But they never returned to the boat.



*"I was happy to hear that I will be able to return to my home country, I thought I would never return ..."*

We called that doctor "Dr. Dig Hoe" because whoever went to see him, ended up buried. Soon we dared not report even if we were sick," Zaw shared.

After two years, Zaw demanded to return home. However, he was not allowed. Hopeless, Zaw carried on for another 7 months in these terrible conditions.

Then one morning while still at sea, Zaw and the other fisherman woke up to start work, however, they were told to stop working. All the men were then sent onshore, collecting personal data in order to send them back home.

An agreement between the Myanmar and Indonesia governments was made to help the fishermen who have been cheated into working on the boat. The necessary documents for them to return to their countries were prepared by immigration officials, and with the support of the International Organization for Migration.

The fishermen working on the Indonesian fishing boats were finally heading home. Zaw was released

from his floating jail.

"I was so happy to hear that I will be able to return to my home country. I thought I would never return," Zaw shared.

Zaw, 41, is now back to his family, living with his parents and younger sister. He never did receive the wages that he had worked for during his time on the boat. In an effort to give Zaw a new opportunity, World Vision supported his training fees to complete a course on mobile phone repair and provided a laptop. Zaw has opened mobile phone repairing and software installation shop at his home and earns 15,000 ks to 20,000 ks (USD 15 to 20) a week.

"I will never go to abroad again, not even to Thailand," Zaw declared. Zaw's dream now is to open a big phone shop of his own in two years time and help those who have survived through similar experiences. Back after a three-year nightmare, Zaw is wasting no time to achieve his new dream.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Meeting with Township Child Rights Committee



Township Child Rights Committee (TCRC) plays a vital role in addressing child protection issues in the townships. To help reduced the child protection cases in the areas, World Vision Myanmar conducts regular meeting with TCRC every month. On 25th August World Vision Myanmar organized a meeting with Palaw TCRC at Palaw Township. Both WVM and TCRC shared their operations, experiences and discussed further activities that they will be jointly implementing.

## WVM meeting with Regional Health Department (Ayeyawaddy Region)



To jointly implement the health related programs effectively in the region, World Vision Myanmar organized an advocacy meeting with regional health public health department of Ayeyawaddy region in Patheingyi on 23rd August 2016. During the meeting, WVM presented health related programs which will be implemented in the fiscal year 2016 and 2017 to the regional health department and requested for the collaboration and support.

## Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan Design Workshop



World Vision hosted a Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan Design workshop held for WV East Asia Region, from 12 - 15 July 2016 at Bagan, Myanmar. Staff from Global center, support offices, regional office and national offices participated in the workshop. As part of the workshop, the participants conducted one day field visit to one of the Area Development programs and learned about the activities implemented by Myanmar program. As a result of the year-long effort, World Vision Myanmar was awarded "Mainstreaming Sponsorship in Programming".

## Meeting with Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation



To contribute to the government's plan of improving agriculture and livestock sectors and to enhance the lives of rural farmers and their children, World Vision Myanmar organized a meeting and presented about the programs and activities focusing on the well-being of children, to the government officials from the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The department agreed to sign a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will allow the organization to implement the agriculture and livestock based multi development activities in Myanmar.

## Child Protection Training



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.

## Play hard + learn hard = hungry!

Little Su Pone, devours her #noodles after a morning of fun - learning about plums, singing, stretching, and playing at a World Vision supported preschool centre outside Yangon, Myanmar.



## Enjoying a silly classroom energizer!

Thazin, wearing white and green hair-clip, enjoys a silly classroom energizer activity with her best friends beside her. She takes part in the World Vision sponsorship programme, and loves to get letters from her Australian sponsor - "Grandma Margret". World Vision helped renovate Thazin's school.



## Around the World Note Book

Sian Pain loves to share about the pictures and countries in his Notebook with his little sister with feeding some firewood in the kitchen to make warm. "After I received this Notebook, I had a chance to observe different countries, pictures and birds. Among them, one of my favourite pictures is a photo of Jesus standing statue. After my school hours, I place sticker pictures with relevant places with help from my little sister at home. I am so happy when I got this Notebook. I love Petra and it's carved. Thanks for sending us this wonderful card, sponsor," says Sian Pain.



## Around the World Note Book

Vungh Lam lives in a village of mountainous area, Tiddim Township, Chin State in Myanmar. Vungh Lam shares about the places and countries from Notebook to her mother with feeding kitchen with some charcoal to make warm. "I love Australasia and pictures of people surfing. I share about birds from South America, Petra and places from Asia with my friends. I am so happy to receive this Notebook and to see the places I have never seen before. I got a chance to see deserts, bridges and its relevant countries. Thanks so much sponsor for sending me such beautiful pictures", says Vungh Lam.

