

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



To date, UN-Habitat Myanmar under its Community-driven Development Programme Unit has benefited over 1,800,000 people in 1,314 villages across 25 townships with access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and community infrastructure and renewal electrification. This support could not be possible without the kind contribution of USAID, LIFT and the Government of Japan, as well great support by and coordination with the Department of Rural Development (DRD). The CDD Programme Unit is currently implementing three major projects in Chin State and Dry Zone, and concluding the first ever project in Myanmar, housing support to squatter families in Yangon.



1,827,762 beneficiaries

180 villages with HH water piped supply

“Daw Htay Naing, as many others from Oe Boe Village of Pale Township, suffered scarcity of drinking and domestic water every year. She says “the closer dry season was approaching the more frightened we were about lack of water. It is about 1.5 miles to reach the water source, in order to get 20 gallons of water, we spent almost half day”. She proceeds “we had to fetch after midnight, otherwise we would waste almost half day and disturb our work. Here it can be dangerous for women at night that is why we gathered to go fetching”. The water source is located after crossing among the bushes.

“To date – she continues telling us her story – it is very different!”, a beautiful smile reflects on her face, “All households of Oe Boe Village have water at their houses with installed meters; they agreed to contribute each Kyats 15,000 and five baskets of sand to make this possible. There is water throughout the day at walking distance, I have two-three extra hours to make more earthen jars and I see my income increasing, I get additionally Kyats 1,500. No more worries about water, water is here in my own house, I can bath any time I feel to do it”.

The entire community has agreed to pay Kyats 350 per household per two units of water; this quantity approximately covers all needs of drinking and domestic water for two days of an entire household. The community has also agreed on sustainability plan which includes the care of the school water and sanitation infrastructure. Shae Thot, the way forward, is here and already happening.

ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

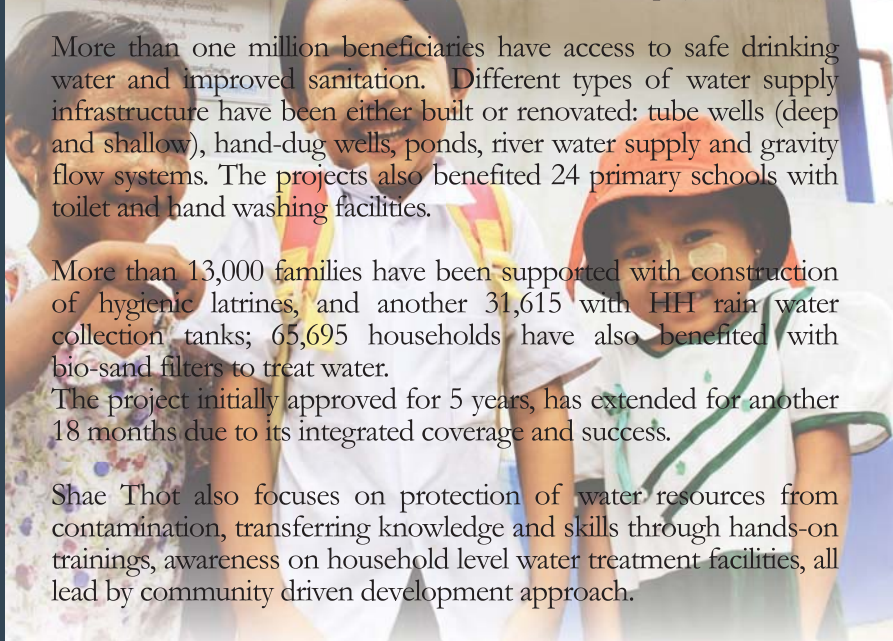
Shae Thot (The way forward), implemented in partnership with Pact, CESVI and MSI; UN-Habitat focuses on improving the quality of water, increasing quantity of domestic water and reducing the water fetching time and distance of school children and women who usually are responsible with the job of water fetching for their household. The project has recently completed its fifth year of implementation covering 790 villages in 12 townships of Dry Zone, and now has started in Nyaung-U, Meiktila and Seikphyu.

More than one million beneficiaries have access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Different types of water supply infrastructure have been either built or renovated: tube wells (deep and shallow), hand-dug wells, ponds, river water supply and gravity flow systems. The projects also benefited 24 primary schools with toilet and hand washing facilities.

More than 13,000 families have been supported with construction of hygienic latrines, and another 31,615 with HH rain water collection tanks; 65,695 households have also benefited with bio-sand filters to treat water.

The project initially approved for 5 years, has extended for another 18 months due to its integrated coverage and success.

Shae Thot also focuses on protection of water resources from contamination, transferring knowledge and skills through hands-on trainings, awareness on household level water treatment facilities, all lead by community driven development approach.



HOUSING SUPPORT TO SQUATTER FAMILIES

Yangon has approximately 300,000 squatters, many from Ayerawady Region who arrived after Cyclone Nargis hit in 2008, and others from various rural areas that migrated to the former capital in search of job opportunities. After Hlaingthaya, Dagon Myo Thit (Seikkan), located in the eastern part of Yangon and originally planned as an industrial zone, ranks second in squatter population with over 50,000 squatters.

UN-Habitat received funding from the Government of Japan to assist the Government of Myanmar addressing the problem of squatters through a pilot project to provide housing and basic facilities to most vulnerable families. In this context, a low cost housing project to serve 240 families in Dagon Seikkan with 12 numbers of 5 story buildings was planned for construction with minimum land use. Land was made available by the Myanmar government.

The project is being implemented under the “People’s Process”, a participatory approach adopted by UN-Habitat, in which beneficiaries are involved in decision making processes and are considered major stakeholders in the implementation of the project. After finalization of beneficiary selection and designing of the buildings, Apartment Users’ Committees (AUCs) were formed for each building, and for common works such as compounds and other works, one Integrated Apartment Users’ Community (IAUC) was formed.

After a process of social mobilization and rigorous beneficiary selection, a Community Implementation Agreement (CIA) was signed between UN-Habitat and the respective Users’ Committees on 1 April, 2016 for the initial 6 buildings. The first phase of the project is expected to complete by 31 October 2016, and beneficiaries will move in in November 2016.



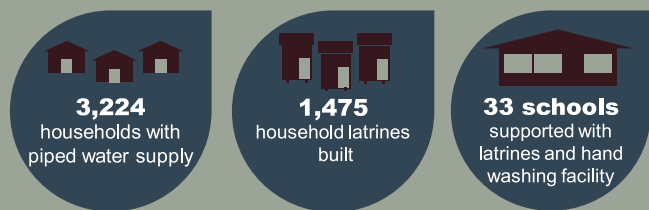
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The project, recently completed in 112 villages across Mansi, Momauk (Kachin) and Pekon (Shan), was formulated building on the experiences of a completed Government of Japan-funded project in ethnic minority areas and impoverished communities affected by disasters. Prior experiences in these areas were qualitatively enhanced access to basic services, as well as the improvement of livelihood opportunities.

A community-driven approach has been applied, allowing the beneficiaries themselves to play an important role in identifying the issues they face and selecting activities that are considered a priority to the people and communities. Selected activities included the implementation of community infrastructure, water and sanitation, hygiene education, cash-for-work activities, skills development and vocational trainings.

The project placed a special focus on women and children in responding to unexpected disaster conditions; specifically, through promoting the active participation of women in community actions, the immediate recovery of their livelihoods and social activities after disasters, and providing a safe and healthy environment for children in their everyday lives as well as in disaster conditions.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion was a major component of the project. Community infrastructure was the other major component of the project which addressed number of needs supporting communities to construct, improve and renovate different types of infrastructure facilities. In addition, Capacity building and training was an integral component of the entire project cycle.



IMPROVED WASH - IMPROVED NUTRITION



A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities, funded by LIFT, aims at providing communities with high-quality hygiene education, improved sanitation focused on zero open defecation (ZOD) and access to safe drinking water in order to give them basis for healthy and productive life through continuous community mobilization and engagement for construction with minimum land use. Land was made available by the Myanmar government.

Project opened field offices on 1 May 2016; the project will work in 212 villages across six townships of Dry Zone, Yesagyo, Pakoku, Myingyan, Natogy, Mahlaing and Taughta, aiming to benefit directly estimated 165,869 people. In order to realize

structural improvement of the health of communities that have been so long neglected, the project outcomes are: 1) Community HHs practice improved positive hygienic behavior; 2) Community households are building, using and maintaining their own latrines (more latrines in the village); 3) Water supply systems are improved and sustainably operating and used; and 4) Government water and sanitation policy discussion enriched with project learning.

Empowering communities means making sure that the voice of the community is being heard, and that the interests of all community members, without any difference, are being represented. Access to improved sanitation with zero incidence of open defecation and to affordable, suitable and sustainable water supply is crucial to improve basic health. Hence the project outputs aim at strengthening community's knowledge and attitudes regarding hygiene practices, stressing on ZOD, and that communities do not only have access to affordable suitable and sustainable WASH services - from a better understanding of how to identify, prioritize and materialize them - but communities are empowered to manage those, and are responsible for their sustainability. The project interventions will build an enabling environment in which communities are aware of their roles and responsibilities, it will center on Behavior Change Communication (BCC) by implementing Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), where communities themselves promote awareness and practice improved hygiene behavior. The project will support communities to jointly engage in the construction/upgrading of water supply quality services and create demand for construction of latrines to eliminate open defecation that badly increases women and children's malnutrition.

SUPPORTING ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The community-driven project for emergency support to poor and vulnerable communities in ethnic areas was officially launched by UN-Habitat on 1 August 2016 in Chin State. The project, being possible with the generous support of Government of Japan, will work with two hundred communities across Hakha, Tedim, Thangtlang and Falam townships, focusing on empowerment to ensure the communities jointly work to build or renovate quality WASH services, community infrastructure and housing, the latter especially affected by the 2015 floods. The project is framed within the overall objective of helping Myanmar's ethnic poor minorities and vulnerable communities to address the emergency needs to restore their normal life and to sustainably improve quality of life. Over 90,000 people are expected to benefit from project interventions.

The project aims at connectivity restored and condition improved of basic infrastructure in target communities, that they regained access to market, health and educational facilities; at increased access to safe drinking water and reduced incidence of water borne diseases; at increased access to adequate sanitation and promoted good hygiene practices; at built back better housing and ensured land tenure rights; and at strengthened capacity building and improved livelihoods through employment-intensive from project activities.

The project will support the Framework for Economic and Social Reform (FESR), the overarching initiative of the Government of Myanmar to promote social, political and economic transformation of the country. In particularly it will contribute to the policy priority under the FESR of effective implementation of people-centered development to improve health and living standards of the poorest of the poor and most vulnerable.



VOICES FROM COMMUNITY

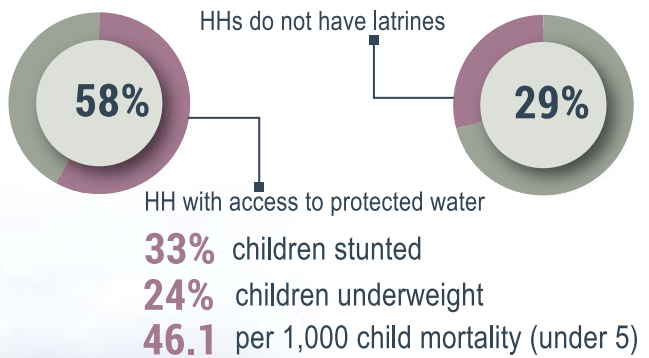
No water means no personal hygiene

“Almost all of 1,038 households of Thayat Kan village of Natogyi work as casual labor and make bamboo baskets to sell, some of them are also involved in animal husbandry.

Ma Htoo - who was born with disability in both hands - takes care of her elderly mother, and as many other in her community she faces scarcity of water. While visiting her village, Ma Htoo said to UN-Habitat “To get drinking water we have to fetch from a hand dug well located in another village, to get a five gallon bucket it takes about an hour, we spent almost a half day”. Ma Htoo explained us how difficult fetching water for her was, she said “It is difficult to get enough water for personal hygiene, it is too far away, therefore all families shower at well, which is not comfortable for women, there is no privacy”. The water source is unprotected - no fencing no roofing – where animals can easily access to. She continued “People bath at well and the dirty water enters to the well contaminating it, there is also a leak inside the well, ground contaminated water filters too. We all drink this water!”

Ma Htoo also talked about taking care of her mother “I help my mother dress and comb her hair, also her personal hygiene. I have to carry at least 15 gallons a day, but this is not enough for us, there is not much left for latrine use”. Mothers in the village bath their children in a basin, then keep that water for another child to bath, that is the way they can recycle the water. Ma Htoo said “This long practice habit is not healthy at all, especially for young children”.

To conclude she said “We need water – safe water – that is clean and of easy access to all, this will help us very much to improve our personal hygiene, then our health will consequently improve”.



Living surrounded by open defecation

“Located 13 miles away from main town of Pakokku Township, the community of U Yin Su Taung face daily life with open defecation. Majority of the households make a living from cultivation and plantation of sesame, peanut, onion, winter crops and other seasonal plants; before they were involved in betel leaf cultivation since it provided higher income, however due to water scarcity cultivation had to stop.

During UN-Habitat’s visit to the village, Ko Kyaw San - a member of the community – said “Most of villagers defecate in the open, out of 125 households 85 do not have latrines, and of the existing ones almost a quarter are in poor condition”. Ko Kyaw San and few other people who understand the problem of open defecation talked about health issues and other problems that this causes in their village. He continued “There is a habit of open defecation nearby a water stream where greeneries and vegetables are cultivated. We sell and eat these, but most people do not clean them well”.

While pointing out the stream location he said “During raining season, water covers all surface and due to water flow the feces spread all over. If a person has diarrhea or other disease, it can be easily transmitted to others. Animals like pigs, chickens and dogs eat humans’ feces and if a child plays with these animals he gets the feces in his hands, then to his mouth” – Ko Kyaw San’s showed sadness – “We are not all aware of good hygiene practices, parents let children eat on the ground, parents themselves are not aware about risks of open defecation. They practice it too, use sticks, leaves or whatever to clean up, and almost never wash their hands after”. Today, this is the reality of U Yin Su Taung village, an entire community living surrounded and being affected by open defecation. This, as in another 211 alike villages, is where UN-Habitat with LIFT fund will support communities to practice improved sanitation and to enjoy the benefits of improved nutrition.”

