



STEPPING TOGETHER IN DEVELOPMENT



WHAT IS NCDDP?

The National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP) implemented by Department of Rural Development aims to empower poor rural communities to benefit from improved access to and use of basic infrastructure and services through a people-centered approach.

Since 2013, the NCDDP has enabled over 12,000 communities across 63 rural townships home to 7 million people in all of Myanmar's 14 States and Regions and

the Nay Pyi Taw union territory to choose, plan, build and monitor small infrastructure projects that they prioritize.

The project has grown from an initial IDA (World Bank) grant of US\$ 80 million to approximately US\$ 546 million, including funds from the Myanmar Government, an additional financing credit from IDA, and concessional loans and grants from the Governments of Italy and the United Kingdom.



“After I read the project manuals, I came to understand that the project can help us to develop our community. As we implement the project by ourselves, we have a chance to use our own knowledge, learning from our experiences, and do better in the following year. Our committee members could immediately apply the knowledge that we received from the project trainings. I recorded the audio of trainings on my phone, and it helped me better understand the project by listening to it again and again.”

**Daw Mya Kyin, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee member,
Thamingone Village, Kawhmu Township.**





Annual Multi-Stakeholder Review Meeting

The annual union-level Multi-Stakeholder Review (MSR) is the culmination of the project’s commitment to transparency, learning and adaptation. As the project expands, with more and more townships participating, it becomes a challenge to engage with all stakeholders across Myanmar. To ensure that the voices of all people

are heard, prior to the union MSR, the NCDDP conducted village level social audit meetings; township level MSR meetings, and a series of forums for community facilitators, technical facilitators and key experts of the NCDDP.

“Peace and Prosperity” is this year’s MSR theme.

Union level MSR: Summary of MSR meetings from 2014 to 2018

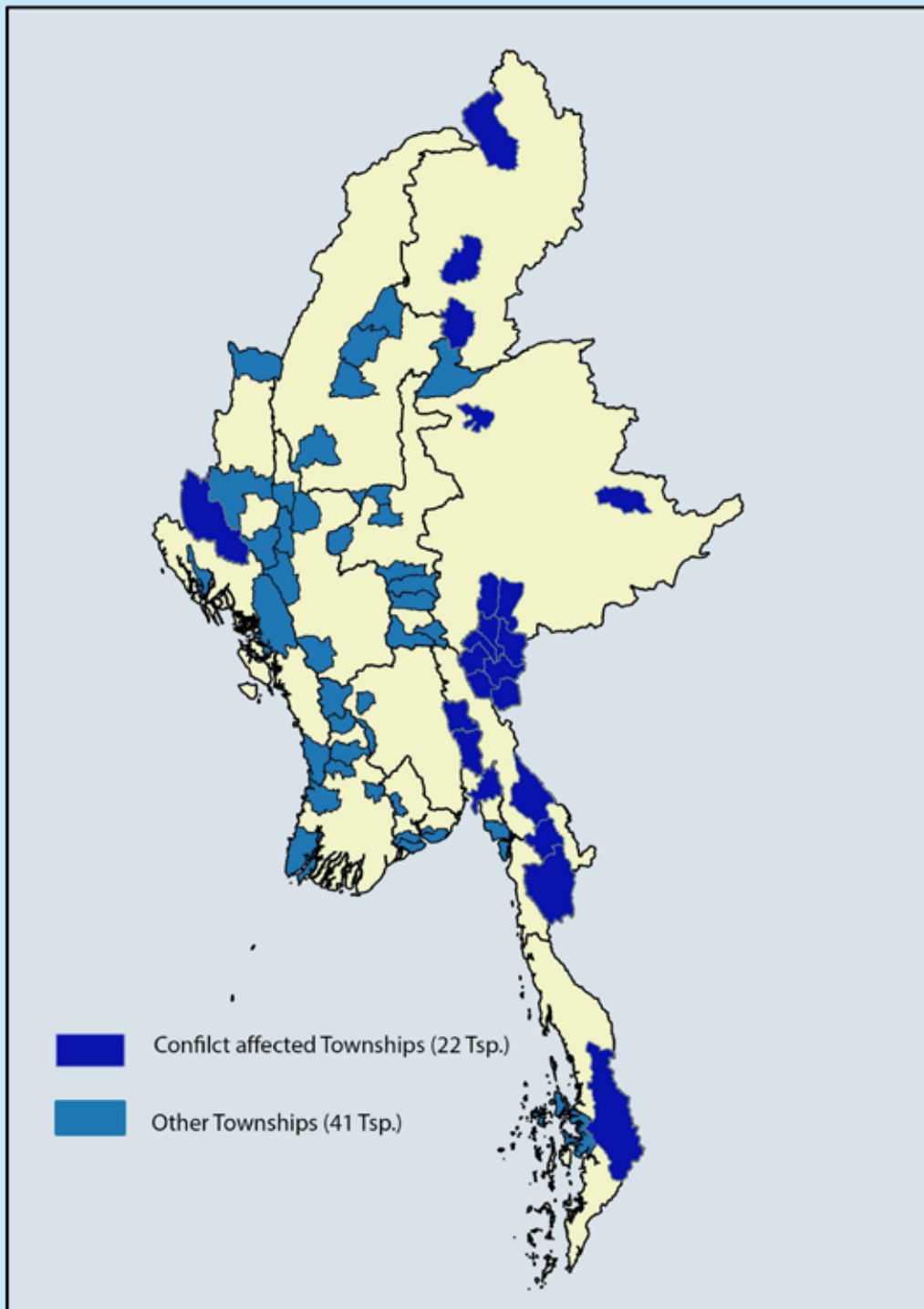
	Year 1 (2014)	Year 2 (2015)	Year 3 (2016)	Year 4 (2017)	Year 5 (2018)
Date	18th August	25th August	15th September	21st September	5th October
Theme	Empowering communities	CDD and rural development	Supporting Democratic Practices at community level	Community Resilience	Peace and Prosperity

Opportunities to work together in challenging contexts

The NCDDP operates nationally, in some of the poorest and more remote townships in the country that present a range of difficult operating conditions, including mountainous terrain, remote villages, and conflict affected areas. In the year one of the project, one of the NCDDP township eligibility requirements was “absence of armed conflict”, however, this was modified to

“minimum operating conditions”. Therefore, in some townships, the Project is being implemented in cooperation and collaboration with ethnic organizations. (Conflict affected townships are highlighted in darker color in the map.)

For those areas where the project needs to consult with ethnic organizations, the NCDDP has developed



No.	Year	State/Region	Township's Name
1	Graduated	Chin	Kanpetlet
2	(Year 1)	Tanintharyi	Kyunsu
3	Year 1	Shan	Namhsan
4	Year 2	Ayeyarwady	Lemyethna
5		Magway	Siddokaya
6		Nay Pyi Taw	Tatkon
7		Rakhine	Ann
8		Sagaing	Pintebu
9	Yangon	Htantabin	
10	Year 3	Ayeyarwady	Thabaung
11		Kyangin	
12		Bago	Monyo
13		Kyaukkyi	
14		Chin	Paletwa
15		Kayah	Hpruso
16		Demoso	
17		Kayin	Kyainseikgyi
18		Magway	Mindon
19		Ngazun	
20	Mandalay	Nyaung-U	
21	Chauangzon		
22	Mon	Bilin	
23	Nay Pyi Taw	Lewe	
24	Myaung		
25	Sagaing	Banmauk	
26	Tanintharyi	Tanintharyi	
27	Yangon	Kawhmu	
28	Year 4	Ayeyarwady	Ngapudaw
29		Bago	Paduaung
30		Chin	Melupi
31		Kachin	Mogaung
32		Kayah	Bawlake
33			Hpasawng
34			Loikaw
35			Mese
36		Shadaw	
37		Pauk	
38	Magway	Saw	
39		Tilin	
40	Natogyi		
41	Mandalay	Pyawbwe	
42		Yamethin	
43	Mon	Paung	
44	Nay Pyi Taw	Pyinmana	
45	Shan	Hsihseng	
46	Yangon	Kungyangon	
47		Kyauktan	
48	Year 5	Ayeyarwady	Darubyu
49		Ingapu	
50	Bago	Shwegyin	
51		Thegon	
52	Chin	Tonzang	
53	Kachin	Putao	
54		Shwegu	
55	Kayin	Hlaingbwe	
56		Kawkaik	
57	Rakhine	Gwa	
58	Ponnagyun		
59	Sagaing	Kani	
60		Kyunhla	
61	Shan	Mabelin	
62		Mawksai	
63		Mongkhet	



specific processes and procedures to make sure that the Project can be smoothly in these areas and in collaboration with these groups. The project is discussed in a series of meetings with ethnic organizations and conflict-affected communities, and DRD maintains regular contact and engagement through regular meetings and communications by DRD township and senior union level DRD officials.

As communications and contact grows, so does trust. The Ethnic Organizations learn more about the Project's objectives and goals by observing NCDDP trainings. To facilitate cooperation, staff lists are exchanged and agreements reached on project IDs being used to allow for safe travel in certain areas. Finally, through this process of confidence-building, joint agreements can be established on areas for NCDDP operations. In some areas, representatives of Ethnic Organizations present at the Social Audits at the village level in the process of seeking public feedback.

Even if a local conflict occurs in some area during implementation, the project can be paused and resumed immediately after, with the consent of local people. This

practice helps avoid project termination and ensure that all communities get the full benefit of the Project.

As a result of these successful collaborations with ethnic organizations, community members are willingly participating in the village meetings, and have the opportunity to select sustainable infrastructure as part of their village development plans. In addition, through the project, women in these areas have the chance to reveal their own thoughts and ideas for their village development.

NCDDP also works closely with other partners to ensure the Project's success. These partners include local and international NGOs that serve as Township Technical Assistants (TTAs) and who support DRD in the roll-out of the program and training of participating communities. Our partners also include the Government departments working at township level that interact and coordinate with the NCDDP through the Township Planning and Implementation Committee, and local Civil Society Organizations that participate in consultations and feedback as part of the regular social audits and township MSRs.



"I was a volunteer for CDD project from the first year project cycle to the third. Then, I became a project staff-- community facilitator-- so that I can reapply my knowledge and experience in my career."

Daw Htet Htet Aung, Community Facilitator, Sidokdaya Township.





Jointly designed and implemented more than

21,643

Sub-projects



Paid person days of labor the project has created

4,395,624

days



92%

Community members reporting high or very high satisfaction levels



Rural health center

95



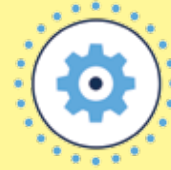
Electrification

1,453



Water Supply

3,336



Other

635



Village connecting road and suspension bridge

11,370



Built or rehabilitated more than

3,433

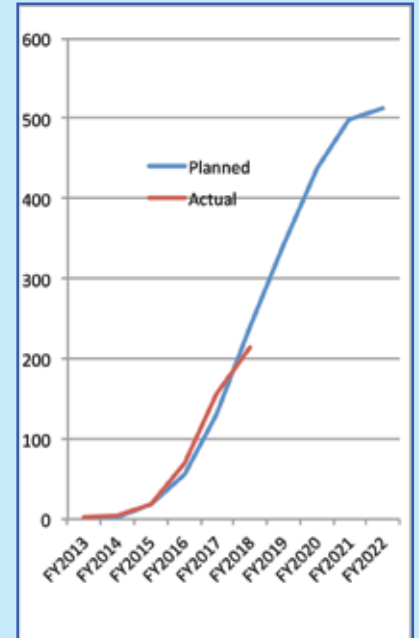
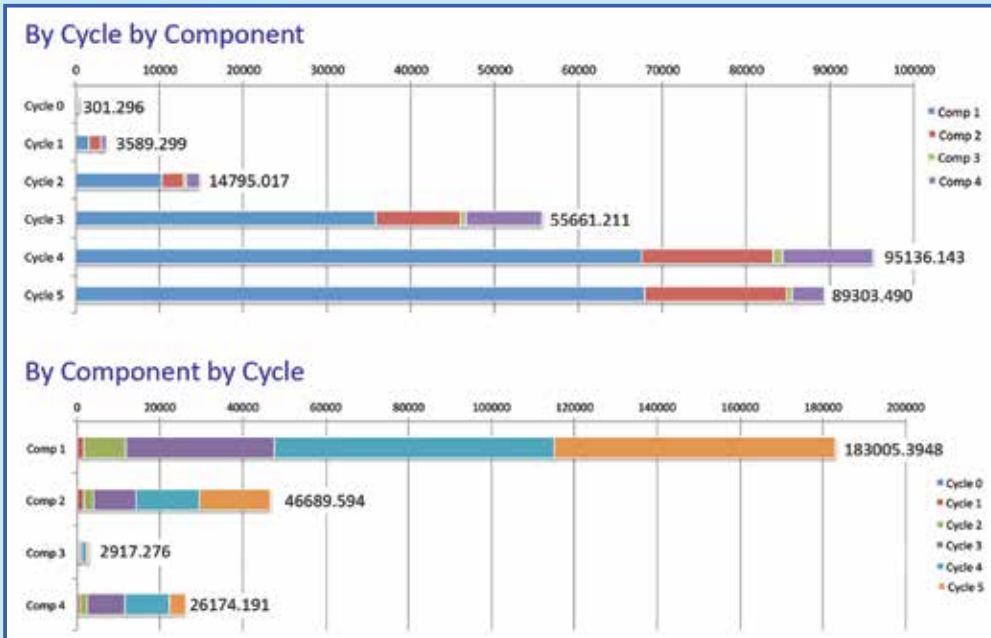
schools



Project Structure and Budget Allocation

The project consists of five components. Community block grants that are directly transferred to the community bank account of each village-tract, Facilitation

and Capacity Development of community groups, Knowledge and Learning, Implementation Support, and Emergency Contingency Response.



Sub-projects	Cumulative	Current Year (2017/2018)
Roads/bridges	11370	3967
Water supply	3336	649
Electrifications	1453	585
Schools	3433	887
Medical Centers	95	25
Community Hall	1188	557
Library	122	37
Sanitation	99	32
Village Market	9	5
Other	635	289
Total	21740	7033





Benefits of projects

The NCDDP has been under implementation for five years. At the end of every sub-project cycle, DRD facilitates review meetings at all levels of implementation. At community level, annual social audits are carried out to assess beneficiary satisfaction with the process and outcome (sub-projects) of the NCDDP in their village, and what aspects of the process would they recommend changing or improving. These recommendations are then carried forward to multi-stakeholders reviews (MSR) at

township level to compile all recommendations from beneficiaries and to identify additional issues that require attention. Specialized community facilitator, technical facilitator, and other expert meetings are also convened to review experiences and make recommendations for NCDDP implementation. Finally, the MSR at Union level brings all of these experiences from implementation of the previous community cycle together to discuss ways to improve the project's implementation for the next cycle.



We formed a water supply committee, and collected charges for the use of water. We regularly inspect the conditions of pipelines and pumps before they become totally damaged. The damaged ones are repaired immediately. I understand this is our responsibility for maintenance as the Project has set up this infrastructure.

Daw Khin Khin Htay, Beneficiary, Kwam Thal village, Chaungzon Township.





After first five years implementation, both DRD and community increase their efforts for better project quality as they both have broader knowledge and experiences.

The NCDDP has provided tangible improvements in the lives of the almost 7 million people living in the 63 townships where the Project has been active over the past five years. The benefits come from the broad range of community level infrastructure such as access roads, bridges, health centers, schools, community halls, water supply and electricity that every village selects themselves and oversees the implementation. As a result, community members are improving their access to these basic services and can also save money, for example, by reducing expenses for water, reducing cost of getting crops to market, reducing the need for candles or batteries

for light, etc. In addition, as the communities take direct responsibility for implementing the sub-projects, most all skilled and unskilled labor is contracted directly in the community itself, which has further economic benefits for the village. And, while the NCDDP can provide job opportunities for the local people, project committee members also gain skills and confidence that can help improve many other aspects of their lives. For example, the knowledge on accounting and procurement methods in NCDDP could be used in their household tasks and other similar community projects. Team work listening to the ideas of other people, collective discussion and negotiation and collaborative decision-making are examples of good practices from the project that beneficiaries have used in other settings.



Village road, MarkWee village, Twee Twan village tract, Tonzan Township.

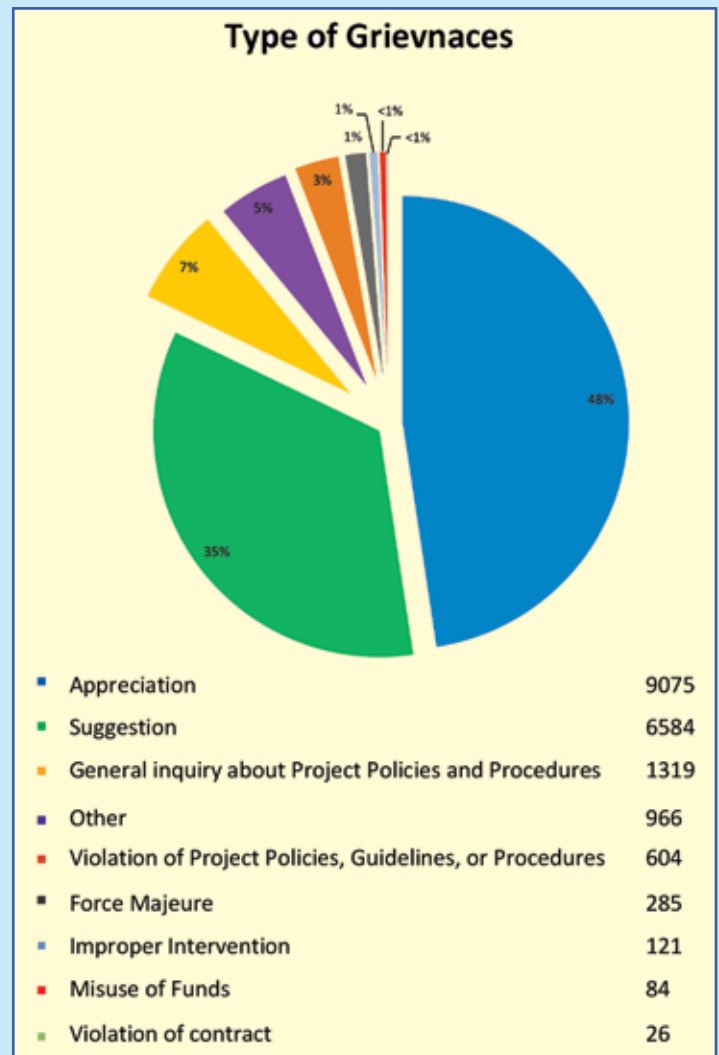
A Project built on Transparency and Accountability

In the NCDDP, communities implement the sub-projects by themselves. In addition, the project ensures that what is done is transparently known to all members of the community, and that the different groups involved (DRD, TTAs, facilitators and community members themselves) are accountable for their respective responsibilities. Communities form a 'monitoring and evaluation' committee, sub-project accounts are publicly presented and displayed at all times during implementation, and the project has a robust grievance handling mechanism. This mechanism gives freedom of suggestion or criticism to all community members, and to date, more than 21,000 such suggestions of complaints have been received, of which 99% have been resolved.

“ We have informed all villagers at the village meeting about the grievance mechanism that can be made through suggestion boxes, mobile phones or in person. At first, some people submitted complaints directly to the Union level in Nay Pyi Taw. I felt upset about such complaints although we did our best. Later, we invited all villagers to the meeting and explained how we implemented our project activities. All project information including financial data are announced on notice boards, helping to gain the trust of the public. As a result, committee members of the Project have got experiences on the practices of responsibility and accountability.
U Myint Win, Chairman of Village Project Support Committee, Kaythawady village, Belin Township. ”

Even though it's called the Grievance Handling mechanism, most of the submissions received are appreciation letters and suggestions on the requirements of the Project, rather than more serious issues of misuse of funds, violation of project procedures, or breaching of contracts.

U Kyaw Lwin, Chairman of Project Supporting Committee, from Shwe Yin Hmyaw village, Tha Yet Kone village tract in Thabaung Township said that "I have never seen that kind of team work in our small village in the past. Some looked skeptical at organizing four or five volunteers to repair the village roads. By setting up this GHM system, now transparency has increased Any doubt can be made clear by questioning. We can learn more about the rural development programs. In the future, there will not need to be prior facilitation to organize for village activities. These are some of the good practices we've seen".



Gender Equality of Project



Daw Win Win Cho, Member of Procurement Sub-Committee, Tal Zar Village, Tal Zar village tract, Sidoktayar Township

“In the past, women did not serve any role in rural development programs in the villages. As a result, we didn’t know much about such things.

I become a committee member and began to attend the meetings. Through participation and training, I gained confidence as I could take part in selection of sub-projects.

Women are now considered to be members of any development groups and committees in the village. Women have got the seats in administrative body of the village as well. Both women and men can participate in any development sector of the village.



“Our family make our living by selling handmade snacks. My wife and I make the snacks every morning. When she goes to the market to sell the snacks, I do household chores such as cooking and washing. When she returns home, I go out for cultivation work for daily wage. Both of us work together for our family.”

U Aung Ye Linn, Member of Grievance Committee, Mei Sal Nam village, Mei Sal Nam village tract, Mese Township.



Daw Nu Nu, Chairman of Village Project Support Committee, Pauk Myine Village tract, Aung Thu Kha Village, Lewe Township.

In the past, women were only taking care of the infants and doing household chores. However, the NCDDP has proved that women can perform their tasks like men as they get knowledge..

In the past, we were scared to go to offices and banks. We have now more confidence to do so. This is a developing trend for women. I am happy about this change. If I am elected again as a chair person for the project, I will take up duties for development of our village. Thanks to the NCDDP, we have gender equality in the Project and the views and ideas of women have been recognized.



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All ethnic and religious groups, the poor and other marginalized groups are working together in the project implementation. We all decided that we will do the same way for our village development even projects is finished.

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