

EDUCATION FOREVER

INSPIRING HOPE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

REPORT PREPARED FOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Integrated Education & WASH Response in Sittwe Township, Rakine State



DONOR

Consortium of Donors who contributed towards Education Forever, a Sadqah Jariya project.

LOCATION

Sittwe Township, Rakine State, Myanmar.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

3970

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT

£265,372

COST OF STRUCTURAL & WASH UPGRADES

£131,412

THE AIM

Rakhine State, in western Myanmar, is relatively underdeveloped compared to other states and regions in the country. It suffers from the second highest rate of poverty (almost double the national average) in Myanmar, with regular tensions and conflict between Buddhist and Muslim communities. According to the Myanmar HNO 2019, there are 715,000 people who need humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, including 128,000 living in IDPs camps in Central Rakhine, 470,000 non-displaced stateless people and 116,864 other vulnerable people. Due to severe curtailments to access for Muslim communities from 2012 onwards, children living in the IDP camps (and some children living in Muslim villages who do not have access to a Government school) continue to depend on access to primary education from Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) and Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) centres supported by humanitarian agencies.

OUTPUTS

The project started on 15th June 2020, with the overall objective to ensure that children affected by conflict in central Rakhine State learn from quality, inclusive, safe and protective education that is supported by communities and the State and Union governments. To reach this objective, MA-UK supported a consortium of the main education partners engaged in service provision in the IDP camps in central Rakhine State: SCI, LWF, and Plan International. Technical support in the area of inclusion was provided by local organisations. MA-UK also worked with local partner ABCD to implement this project.



BAW DU PHA CAMP



BAW DU PHA CAMP



THET KAE PYIN VILLAGE



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MA-UK successfully achieved its objective of structural and WASH upgrades to TLCs and NFPE centres.

- MA-UK committed to the renovation and reconstruction of 14 TLCs and 9 NFPE centres (4 with WASH support) based on coordination with the consortium. 14 TLC renovations/constructions are finished and handed over to Camp Management Committees (CMC)/Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). Construction of 9 NFPE centres are finished and handed over to CMC/PTA.
- WASH/infrastructure - 100% complete in 3 NFPE centres and 1 TLC (overhead tanks, handwashing stations and latrine in 1 NFPE centre).
- Hygiene promotion awareness sessions were conducted by camp-based volunteers in 9 NFPE centres.

In addition to the above through coordination with Plan, MA-UK completed distribution of student kits for 1,437 students in 13 TLCs at Say Thamar Gyi Camp. Actual distribution reached 1,659 students (777 girls and 882 boys) – This led to the increased enrolments of students.

OUTPUTS

The consortium worked towards 3 key outcomes which were:

OUTCOME 1: Increased, inclusive and sustained access to education for children affected by conflict.

OUTCOME 2: Improved quality education through continuous teacher professional development and school community engagement.

OUTCOME 3: Improved conflict-sensitivity, inclusiveness and sustainability of state and national level provision for education in emergencies.

However Muslim Aid-UK (MA-UK) specifically worked towards the first objective of increased, inclusive and sustained access to education for children affected by conflict.

MA-UK aimed to ensure that primary education facilities in central Rakhine State are designed with a leave no one behind approach and are more inclusive, especially for girls, children with disabilities, and children from other marginalized groups.



ACCOUNTABILITY

How have beneficiaries participated in the project during the project?

In collaboration with ABCD the target communities (including teachers and PTA members) contributed feedback through the monitoring of activities at TLC and NFPE centres and on beneficiary complaints and feedback related to project activities. Additional alternative approaches were also used, such as utilising remote management systems and setting up feedback mechanisms to address the issues and complaints.

Sample from the mid-term review focus group discussion in Say Tha Mar Gyi IDP Camp, Sittwe: The Volunteer teachers reported that MA-UK ensured community engagement in their interventions, and all qualitative respondents consistently indicated that MA-UK formed working committees for the construction intervention with CCCM, PTAs, Volunteer Teachers and women for their interventions in the camp, whereas Village Administrator, 10/100 Household leaders, CSOs, social works organisations and service providers were more included in intervention located in villages. According to volunteer teachers interviewing during the mid-term review: ***“They asked the permission for the new building to all of us, they formed the committee, they asked us to participate in the monitoring, I saw the buildings and toilets.”***

What stakeholders were engaged in this project and how were they engaged?

Throughout the project, MA-UK and ABCD shared information with and coordinated with multiple stakeholders including consortium partners, EiE Cluster and WASH Cluster members, as well as the State Education Department (SED), Township Education Office (TEO) and Township General Administration Department (GAD). Collaboration with consortium members, both bilateral and within TWGs was consistent throughout the project period. With the suggestion from the TWG, the Sittwe Coordination Group meeting was held regularly in Myanmar language and MA-UK participated regularly in this since October. Bilateral coordination also took place with Plan to utilise their field staff for the student kit distribution process. Following extensive coordination led by SCI, with support from the EiE Cluster and WASH Cluster coordinators, EiE and WASH leads agreed on coordination modalities and WASH in TLC responsibilities in Pauktaw and Sittwe IDP camps.

Challenges

In addition to the seasonal setback like heavy rain, the military coup in Myanmar on 1st February 2021 severely impacted the project implementation process by hindering mobile and internet communication, information access and data flow, banking and payment issues, logistics and supply chains (due to increased prices of goods and commodity demands), and the safety and wellbeing of project staff. Despite these challenges, considerable progress was made during this reporting period. In July, a 2-month No-Cost Extension (NCE) was approved by HQ, bringing the project end date to 30th September 2021.

Despite experiencing various challenges, especially related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the military coup, the project has made significant progress towards its overall objective.





