

Participatory Evaluation: Gulf of Mottama Project

(GoMP Phase 2 Project Activities)

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Report by: Point B Design + Training/Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab (MCCL)

Presented to: GoMP and Stakeholders

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List of Abbreviations

CFDA - Coastal Farmer Development Association

CFM - Community Facilitator and Monitor

EAFM - Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management

EMU - Ecosystem Management Unit

FDA - Fishery Development Association

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

GoMP- Gulf of Mottama Project

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

Helvetas - HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

KII- Key Informant Interview

MCCL - Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab

MMK - Myanmar Kyat

MTR- Mid Term Review

TCC - Township Cluster Coordinator

VDC - Village Development Committee

WASH- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1.0. Executive Summary

“The project will leave and we need to carry this on. We have the raw materials. We have skills and knowledge given by the project. The village has to decide how to use the raw materials to continue to build the product (a good village with conservation of natural resources)” - participant from Karte

This Participatory Evaluation (PE) was conducted by Point B Design and Training (PointB) and its Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab (MCCL) during October and November, 2022. Its purpose is to inform the Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP) of stakeholder perceptions and experiences in order to guide potential adaptations and changes to assure sustainability as the project transitions from Phase 2 to Phase 3. The overall goal of the GoMP is “The Unique Biodiversity of the Gulf of Mottama (GoM) is Conserved and Sustainably Developed in order to Benefit Human Communities that Depend on it.” It is expected that this Participatory Evaluation will support the project so that Phase 3 of the GoMP will be able to emphasize a bottom-up approach leading to both increased sustainability of biodiversity conservation while enhancing the lives and livelihoods of communities of the Gulf of Mottama.

The PE used a combination of Focus Group discussions, Key Informant Interviews along with the interactive tools of Force Pair Ranking and Perception Mapping (2 by 2 Matrix) to gather GoMP information through Phase 2. This evaluation interacted with 18 focus group discussions. This included 2 Focus Groups Discussion of 7 to 16 project beneficiaries from 9 villages (7 in Mon State and 2 in Bago Division) all directly bordering on the Gulf of Mottama. From the implementation side of the project, the PE team interviewed 7 GoMP staff and support officers including: 4 officers (Fishery Officer, Agriculture Officer, Livelihood Officer, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Officer), 3 Township Cluster Coordinators (Mawlamyine, Kyaikhto, Bago), 1 member of the Fishery Development Association and 1 member of the Coastal Farmers Development Association were chosen as Key Informants, for a total of 9 Key Informant Interviewees.

The evaluation criteria followed the Mid-Term Review criteria in 2020 including: context, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender and social equity, and impact. The PE reflects the considerable efforts of project partners to enhance the livelihoods of communities, while conserving the biodiversity of the GoM. The PE has found significant evidence of success through its discussions within Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews of the following behaviors:

- **WASH activities** - Training on the 4 cleans (water, hand, toilet, food) and material support are effective in the community and majority of attendees changed their behaviors after training.
 - In addition, drinking water tanks and ponds have been highly appreciated by the majority of villages.

- **Community Awareness Training** - Community participation and knowledge is increasing. VDC Management skills within the community are improving.
- **Revolving fund** - Targeted loans to individuals with a clear plan for its use have been very successful, especially specific agriculture and fishery loans.
- **Agriculture inputs and activities** - Farm techniques training, seed bank, and farm monitoring have been rated within the top 3 interventions from the project in 10 focus group discussions.
- **Fish patrolling** - Ranked highly, and has been especially missed since patrolling was discontinued due to COVID and the coup.
- **Animal husbandry** - Highly ranked in some villages, but complained about in others due to animal disease and death.
- **Protecting natural resources and mangroves** - This is being mentioned more and more, indicating an increased awareness within the community as impacted by project activities toward Conservation of Natural Resources and Biodiversity.

Limitations and challenges have been directly linked with the severe impact of both COVID and the coup - they are more localized within certain villages in specific areas and are not as ubiquitous as the successes mentioned above. These include:

- Training (traditional training approach) that is not interactive and only informational was not relevant or practical.
- The community needs to be consulted, and more focus given to their true needs before designing implementation strategy or projects.
- Livelihood training approach was less relevant and effective. There is no market and limited financial gain for the skills that were trained (Beauty Salon, cutting hair, sewing, repairing motorcycles). In addition, women could not travel to the training location and many youths have already left the village for other jobs.

Based on both Focus Groups and Key Informants, highly useful information for future project implementation, Key Recommendations include:

- Mangrove tree plantation and resource protection are activities the community really value.
- The revolving fund is an area the community wants to keep after the project ends.
- Increased transparency in VDC leadership and increased inclusivity - Involve the whole community. Especially increased inclusion of women and the lower socio-economic groups - are highly valued.
- Support, combining sustainability, connection, and empathy. To sustain the successes so far and beyond the project, we need to support communities in the form of training campaigns and village activities concerning biodiversity conservation awareness and best practices for all age groups. Engage children in schools through the adults in the fields and on their boats to

connect to their environment and to connect with each other, with empathy to work together for their community and their environment.

- Develop more connected higher level of oversight, inclusivity and follow-up for sustainability of project impacts from project beneficiaries themselves with villages connecting together (EMU approach).

Significant agreement between implementers in the KIs and beneficiaries in the FGDs was found from the comparative results of the Ranking activities. In relation to the perception of importance, both groups ranked Awareness, WASH, Conservation and Resource Management and the Revolving fund as, “most important” or top priorities moving forward into Phase 3. It is felt by the researchers to be important for sustainability of the project to have both groups in general agreement of important activities within the project moving forward.

2.0. Project Background and Objectives:

This PE was conducted with the support of the Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP), implemented by HELVETAS Myanmar, Network Activities Group (NAG) and the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which implements Coastal Natural Resources Management in the Gulf of Mottama. Through a participatory approach, Point B and its subgroup, Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab (MCCL), elicited feedback on project performance and impacts from community members in selected villages throughout the project area. This yielded rich insights that complement ongoing quantitative monitoring and evaluation efforts by GoMP staff. This PE covers GoMP activities from the Mid-Term Review of Phase 2 (2020) through to late 2022.

The purpose of the PE of the Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP) is:

- To contribute to the accomplishment of the overall goal/impact of the GoMP, “The unique biodiversity of the GoM is conserved and sustainably developed in order to benefit human communities that depend on it.”
 - Determine the relevance of implemented activities in relation to the differing and varied contexts within the GoMP as highlighted by project activity: effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, connection to gender and social equity, and projected achievement impact of identified outcomes.
 - Identify suggestions for needed corrective change in program actions in the final phase to minimize the risk of failure and to reach desired identified outcomes and impact, particularly focused on the beneficiaries.

2.1. Statement on work conducted

This Report of the Participatory Evaluation of the Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP) activities has been conducted and prepared by Point B Design + Training (Point B) and the Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab (MCCL) with all reasonable skill, care, impartiality and diligence within the terms of their work within the Gulf of Mottama Project. Point B and the MCCL utilized local resources to implement the evaluation, in order to develop local skills to be able to further undertake such evaluations and research in the future. The information in this report reflects the best judgment of all concerned in relation to the local community situation within the GoMP, its understanding of the project and available information gathered at this time.

Point B has made every effort to meet the expectations of the GoMP partners to deepen understanding of project activities and their acceptance and use by project beneficiaries, yet no investigation can ensure complete assessment or prediction of the community or natural environment.

Point B hopes that the information and recommendations within this report will enhance the Relevance, Efficiency, Sustainability, Inclusion (Gender and Socio-Economic level), Effectiveness, Impact of any decisions made or actions taken by the GoMP in the future based on this report.

2.2. Methodology

Point B initially conducted a desktop review of GoMP reports and assessments to inform our evaluation approach. We chose to follow-up the Midterm Review (MTR) from Phase 2 (early 2020) and used their criteria for comparability, though we selected more interactive methodologies that increased forthright community participation, comparing and contrasting project inputs to enhance insights. The Midterm Review followed the guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which states:

“An evaluation is an assessment, as systematic and objective as possible, of an on-going or completed project, program or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, developmental efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors.”

(from Midterm review)

Thus, we focused on the same evaluation criteria as the MTR: efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, inclusion, impact and sustainability. PointB then added another key aspect/criteria of the GoMP project, inclusion of gender and socioeconomic-level.

To assess the project on these criteria, we used a combination of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KII). In these formats, we integrated visual and interactive tools in our interview and discussion questions to elicit information in a semi-structured way (see details below).

2.3. Village and participant selection

With the guidance of GoMP staff, 11 villages were selected of which 9 were available that had at least 3 on-going activities from the GoMP. Data were collected from the 7 villages in 3 townships from Mon State and 2 villages within one Township in Bago Division. Point B shared participant selection criteria which included a range of livelihoods and other social identities such as ethnicity and religion to capture the interactions between gender, class, other social identities in shaping livelihood options, interactions with their environment and agency in influencing decision making. The participants included representatives from fishery groups, farmer groups and revolving fund groups of the Village Development Committee (VDC). All of them were direct beneficiaries from the project. In coordination with field staff, we gathered with 7-16 participants in each FGD. These included 2 groups in each village, one "off-farm" with 5 fishers, 2 livelihood beneficiaries, and one "on-farm" with 5 farmers and 2 livelihood beneficiaries. In Zeikayae village (Thaton Township), there were 15 people in one FGD, this was because it is a small village and the leader wanted all his community members to join and learn from the discussion.

Again, with help of IUCN and Helvetas and NAG, 4 officers (Fishery, Farming, Livelihood and WASH), 3 Township Cluster Coordinators (Mawlamyine, Kyaikhto, Bago), 1 FDA and 1 CFDA were chosen as Key Informants to understand broader perspectives, insights, and relationships concerning the villages and project implementation, and give recommendation to improve the project.

Table 1. Surveyed villages and participants list

Township	Villages	Total FGD Participants	Men	Women
Kyaik Hto Township	Kyauk Seik	16	7	9
	Su Pu Nu	18	6	12
Thanat Tan Township	Tanat Tan	16	10	6
	Aung Bone Gyi	18	5	13
	Kyar Si Aung	16	9	7

Bilin Township	Gwa Thaung	24	6	18
Thaton Township	Zeikayae	31	9	22
Paung Township	Kar Tal	20	7	13
	Zee Gone	20	6	14
	Total	179	65	114

2.4. Visual and Interactive Tools

In addition to questions asked in FGDs and KIs related to evaluation criteria (please refer to the Appendix for questions and section 2.5 below for the Evaluation Criteria), the Participatory Evaluation Team also used the following tools to enhance and deepen interactions between the interviewers and the respondents. These tools attempt to close the gap sometimes called the “reality gap”, between the implementers and the beneficiaries. Filling this gap might be the “number one” priority for the implementers. Each group has its own perception of their needs and wants, priorities, and benefits. In order to bridge these gaps of perception, the evaluation team chose two tools that, though simple in concept, are very effective in clarifying and illuminating perceptions of individuals and groups.

These two tools include:

2.4.1 Perception Map or 2x2 Matrix:

To go beyond just talking, the 2x2 Matrix Perception Map gives the community a chance to organize and reorganize concepts physically, on paper, as they interact and discuss with each other in a focus group. A Perception Map supports the researchers to gain a deeper understanding of what the community “really” thinks about the project, including, what works, what value it brings, and what needs to improve. To stimulate meaningful discussion, they can organize the cards, discuss with others, and change their mind if they wish.

It is especially relevant in this situation to use activities that require physically rearranging ideas, as we are working with people who make their living through physical labor. The Perception Map, 2x2 Matrix allows people to physically place cards with GoMP activities related to different activities and sectors in the Matrix which represent different degrees of relevance and effectiveness of the activities and discuss the reasons for organizing the cards in the way they did. With this type of process, the information at hand becomes more authentic and strategic decisions on future direction become clearer.



2.4.2. Ranking Activity and Prioritizing Tool:

We used a tool called the “Ranking Activity” to prioritize desired changes in the community for the future, and stimulate discussion and debate concerning relative value of different projects, activities, and results or impact. This activity stimulates comparison, discussion, and prioritizing by a group of people and opens up a deeper understanding of the beneficiaries' mindsets.

The Ranking Activity, also called Pairwise Ranking, helped to gain insights within Key Informant Interviews into the factors that are most important for the people interviewed and understand the rationale and bias for their choices.



2.5. Evaluation Criteria

Here we outline how we defined and approached the evaluation criteria in the GoMP context.

2.5.1 Context

The Context criterion seeks to understand whether there have been significant political, socio - economic and/or environmental changes influencing the project. When this is the case, the review seeks to understand whether the project has been able to adapt to this change. Under this criterion, consideration is also given to whether there are expected important contextual changes for which the project needs to prepare.

We used a systems-thinking approach to better understand how GoMP activities affect ecosystem functioning and sustainability. The context looked at the community in relation to the ecosystem where it is located, and how the GoMP has supported the local communities. In addition, the context identified ways that the communities have adjusted their behavior to support ecosystem sustainability and their awareness of this. The context also looked at the enablers and constraints of specific communities toward understanding, interacting and adjusting to support healthy ecosystem functioning through wise use of local resources.

2.5.2. Impact

Impact is focused on behavior changes and their effects on the community, on biodiversity and the ability of the ecosystem to continually support the biodiversity while also allowing opportunities for local community livelihoods. This is linked to sustainability because management capability is important for sustainability and a sustainable environment with sustained resources and biodiversity is an expected impact of the project.

2.5.3. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of community management and how it connects the community to participate in decision making that supports both local livelihoods for the community and the ecosystem within which the community is embedded. This starts with working with community understanding the perception of their work with GoMP and the perceived achievements of outputs and outcomes within program activities this could include the following points:

2.5.4 Sustainability

Sustainability is focused on the communities' perceptions and understanding of their surrounding ecosystem and their knowledge and behaviors toward its sustainability. This would include discussions concerning the following points:

- Ecosystem knowledge, its application, and how it relates to changes in the

- behavior of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary in the community.
- Community structures, their capacity and effectiveness, and their sustainability. This would include the VDC, local governance FDA, CFDA, etc.

2.5.5. Relevance

Relevance pertains to project inputs, outputs and outcomes and was assessed in relation to the GoMP approach including methods and activities in relation to the culture, socio-economics, ethnicity and GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) situation within the community.

2.5.6. Efficiency

Efficiency of project activities looked at how the project adapted itself to make it easier for all community members in relation to timing, location, safety, social inclusion, timing socio-economic status, gender, livelihood, and ethnicity to join in and actively participate in project activities. It also included how the project promoted itself to attract the entire community's attention.

2.5.7. Gender and socio-economic status

Gender and socio-economic status and participation within the project have already been included in most of the other sections of this PE, but we focus on it again within this section because it is an important issue for the development and sustainability of community structures, relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency and the impact of the project. Questions pertain to how program activities integrate and support learning and decision-making. This relates to the 4R assessment for Gender which includes: Redistribution, Recognition, Representation, and Reconciliation of the gender and social economic, and ethnic status of the beneficiaries.

3.0. Key Findings from Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

We organized key findings for the focus group discussion into two categories: drivers and barriers. Drivers refers to those actions that lead toward achieving the goals of the GoMP. Barriers refer to the actions and attitudes that restrict or lessen the GoMP to accomplish its objectives in relation to context, impact, effectiveness, sustainability, of project inputs and the sustenance of the local environment/ecosystem, relevance and gender and social inclusion.

For example, some of the cross-cutting or noteworthy things learned from the FGD include:

Some of the change that villages were particularly proud of include:

- Increased toilets and toilet use.
- Increased knowledge and ability to speak up.
- Increased interest, participation, and collaboration.
- Better drinking water system and roads.
- Loans from revolving funds especially have beneficial impact on the fishers.
- Reducing costs for compost, fertilizer and techniques to develop natural fertilizer.
- Mangrove planting.

Some of the barriers that hinder project success include:

- Project coverage - the number of villages that receive project support.
- Resource support for agriculture is not sufficient.
- Limited monitoring and follow-up support.
- Inconsistent resource support that was relevant and timely.
- Limited women participation in decision making.
- Changes in context - Covid, political situation.

Isolated issues:

The PE found that one village had a number of issues concerning the project resources and the VDC committee management. Findings indicate that there has been a lack of transparency in the revolving fund, lack of trust of the VDC leadership, blocking of learning for farmers, weak monitoring, not having the appropriate people in the right position and favoritism.

Table 2: Key Findings from FGD's

Note: As much as possible, we tried to keep the flavor of the language when translating the responses.

Criteria	Drivers	Barriers
Context	<p>Community strength:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gained more knowledge on conserving their community. Increased cooperation 	<p>Uncontrollable Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing. Patrolling is not active. Political situation-no active local/state government. Effects of Covid 19. <p>Ethics of leadership (<i>only one village</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No transparency Do not listen to the community's voices
Impact	<p>Knowledge gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and conservation of fish resources, ecosystem, patrolling. Importance of 4 cleanliness practices (hand, water, toilet, and food). Understand disaster risk/prevention and share concepts with other villages. <p>Behavior change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved parenting skills due to awareness training and community meetings that have opened our minds. More transparency and happier within the family and community. Through the Community becoming more collaborative and empowered and taking initiative for development. Dispose waste properly. Change mindset - Taking ownership of project activities - Protecting 	<p>Lack of trust on project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only lecture and talk. New farming techniques not successful cause loss of money. <p>Limited transparency: weak in financial management, no transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favoritism and lack of transparency. Decision making by only leaders leads to people leaving the project. But those leaders don't share back information to the community <p>Struggle with basic needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of time and not being able to attend meetings. Need capital money. Cannot take action on

	<p>mangrove trees from animals.</p> <p>Percentage Across the villages, between 10% and 40% of the community members exhibited behavior change.</p> <p>Two villages said that 80% of their community exhibited behavior change.</p>	<p>building toilets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People took loans from the revolving fund for animal husbandry but they used it to pay back their unrelated debt. ● Half of the attendants don't change because they still have to use old fishing methods to make ends meet. <p>Fixed attitude- Not willing to change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Used to their lives and not willing to change. ● Project doesn't know the ground situation. We want to do the development of our village by ourselves.
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<p>Effective-ness</p>	<p>Community application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "In the past I didn't even notice what was happening with the rice plant. After attending training, I came to notice and also knew how to get rid of snails." ● People apply what they learned from the WASH training ● Majority of the community follow fishing rules after the awareness <p>Consulting before implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community contributed money to build the well. ● Community discussed and shared the village needs to the project ● Project used Cash-for-work to build a road instead of hiring a machine. This helped give the community work during COVID 	<p>Limited to no transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruit wrong people who do not listen and take actions ● Fail to implement the activity that are already promised (from one village) ● Resources were benefit to only one person (from one village) <p>Weak relationship and trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "We don't give suggestions to the project. Even if we do, they won't listen" ● Weak in demonstrating and being practical ● Believe project would not listen to the community
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<p>Sustain-ability</p> <p>Project inputs and eco-system / environ-ment</p>	<p>Leadership skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage, communicate, share updates and connect with community as well as outsider. • Organization, people, time, money (bookkeeping), <p>Collaboration - working together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking ahead about how to conserve the resources by working together and gaining income for the family, also prevents disasters and floods. <p>Youth community involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We need to involve youth in the activities so that they can lead in the future, because we want the activities and changes to be sustained." • "We will continue to pass on our knowledge to the youth step by step until everyone is able to contribute. Before the project ends, we already have started to prepare our village, like parents giving inheritances to their children to continue." 	<p>Need more practical techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to have better quality rice that can be exported abroad. <p>Motivation and interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need resources and time <p>Job opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less job opportunities for fishers. However, with mangrove trees, community can get fish, crabs and shrimps easier and can gain more income.
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Relevance	<p>Listened and gave guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Listened to community need and responded with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seed distribution ○ Mangrove tree planting ○ Water storage tank ○ Rice seedlings ○ Well digging ○ Planting mangrove trees ○ Water basket 	<p>Limited needs finding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training not relevant to the community (lack of youth due to migration, no market, parents don't allow, don't have time) ● Irrelevant rice and bean seedlings - more pests, low productivity, weather condition, and no buyer and market ● Crab farming - lack of time, can't travel, cost money ● Irrelevant farming techniques - shortage of plants, no irrigation
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<p>Gender and socio-economic status</p>	<p>Higher levels of self-efficacy and capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Believe that women have brain power and have the ability to make decisions. ● Women shared information in the household ● Women developed skills and confidence through awareness and training, ● Women started small businesses and developed critical thinking skills with project loans. ● Women outlier has the desire to share and empower other women. <p>Influence of institutional structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Because of the project, women take initiative and attend the meetings. ● Opinions of women are valued in the meetings. ● Women participation has increased. ● Men and women get equal pay because of the project. ● Project prioritizes poor people and doesn't discriminate against social status. ● Community is open to women leadership. ● "Now, if a man 'wears pants', women also can wear them. Now is the time for women to lead, so men and women collaborate and work together". ● Men are proud of their wife's involvement in meetings. 	<p>Education and socio-economic barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of education and afraid to lose face in the meeting ● Project encourages everyone to participate, some couldn't due to poor finance <p>Gender division of labor as barrier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women are responsible for household chores, cooking and hospitality ● Women too busy and can't be involved much and couldn't attend the meeting <p>Tradition and social norms that restrict women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men lead in committee activities and decision making. ● Women are weak in decision making. They are involved but don't make decisions. ● "In the past, if women intervene, they get scolded." <p>Community recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inclusion of women and lower-level socio-economic groups in the meeting and trainings ● The project should be organized to involve more women and also should conduct some awareness raising training for women such as women empowerment.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project needs to wait when women are free and give capacity building training to women, such as leadership training and management training.
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4.0. Key Findings from KII

Some of the change that Staff were particularly proud of include:

- Piloting a WASH committee in collaboration with the VDC committee in one village where the community manages the budget and activities. This was done by the WASH sector.
- Building strong foundation of FDA and CFDA, and building their capacity to become community trainers.

Some of the limitations that were most frustrating include:

- Compost methods learned from the project is much cheaper, but people do not trust them. They need to see the evidence of success (demonstration projects facilitated with project staff)
- The need to build more trust with the community about the project and its methods in farming methods.
- *Human resource is the main challenge for implementation - different sectors of GoMP project were implemented through CFMs.*
- *Lacking data to measure behavior change. In phase 3, KII participants mentioned they would like to develop an assessment for behavior change and possible interventions.*

Table 3: Key findings from KII

Note: As much as possible, we tried to keep the flavor of the language when translating the responses.

"Although consortiums tried their best at coordination, for us is like my mind and another's body."

Criteria	Success	Limitations
Management Capacity	<p>Engage the whole community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The last EMU, both project members and non-project members were inspired and attended together. ● For construction, both project members and non-project members are involved and ready to help. ● Community management has increased during the second phase through capacity building. Where CFM can't visit villages due to the current situation, VDC members are leading the project activities. 	<p>Community Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After building the capacity of the community, many of them leave and work abroad. ● "There are weaknesses in collaboration and coordination with the village development committee (VDC) but the project can't address them effectively yet." ● Because of the challenges caused by the political situation, conservation work is useless, it is like "pouring water into the sand". <p>Leadership and management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership now is dominated by one person who is doing everything. If women spoke up and became involved in management it would be better. ● Right now, the project has to lead because communities are still weak in collaboration. Because of weak collaboration there is less development. ● It is very important that the Chairman and advisory board of the VDC are highly motivated to work for the community.

<p>Context and Relevance</p>	<p>Program review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do a yearly review of the village action plan with the VDC committee and listen to community suggestions. TCC leads on that and officers also do yearly review for their activities, such as seed bank review meetings, adapting the original guidelines, and adding more in the plan if necessary. • The program has had review sessions to make sure the activities are relevant to the local areas. <p>Income opportunities In the project activities such as building roads, digging water ponds, building fences for drinking water and mangrove planting, community members were involved and received payment for their labor from the project. It was very helpful for the community especially because they can get another source of income during Covid and unstable political situation.</p>	<p>Usage of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The project doesn't integrate findings from research enough. The research is good and the officers have the idea of integrating the research into the project, however, people who make the decisions, don't understand the concept and connection. So, at times our ideas get rejected." (From One Kil) <p>Activities implementation and follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community doesn't need some activities. They don't have the technical skill to do them. Sometimes the activity is done in the wrong season and doesn't get the expected result. Therefore, we need more monitoring of the program. The community needs to be involved when deciding on the activities. • The project needs to think whether the activities are relevant to the community or not, and listen to the community voice.
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Skills and conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youths are able to speak up more. • Community collaborates to protect resources. 	<p>Challenges with resource protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no changes in the village because of the project yet. They are still catching fish as they did before, because it is their only livelihood, they only have this job. • The project still needs to develop their knowledge and awareness, and has to persuade the people who have not been involved yet.

		<p>They need to find an alternative job for the villagers in the spawning season when they can't, or shouldn't, catch fish.</p> <p>Lack of baseline data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order to measure the behavior of the community we currently don't have any data to understand community behavior change. In the future the project needs to conduct assessment to understand what behavior has changed due to project activities and what is needed to change the behaviors. <p>Material support and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coverage of materials support (can't cover all the 8 townships and villages)
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<p>Effective-ness</p>	<p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the difference between conserving the ecosystem and not conserving • Using teaching materials for teaching about the environment • Reducing the use of natural resources 	<p>Trust and evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers not using techniques in Bago due to lack of trust and evidence of success • More follow-up of training with monitoring of behaviors in the community • Lacking sufficient data in the project to measure changes in the community
<p>Sustain-ability</p> <p>Project inputs and ecosystem / environment</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical infrastructure is built up and is available after the project exits including - toilets, light, road • The project gives roads, and the villagers still conserve/maintain it successfully. <p>Increased collaboration and leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the committee members received several trainings on leadership, accounting, and facilitating meetings, they also can continue to work by themselves. • People are more collaborative, able to lead themselves, less dependent on the project. <p>The importance of success story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are doing mangrove, fishing, farming etc., If other people see they are benefiting from them, then they will want to do 	<p>Community concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolving fund - Thinking of continuing the revolving fund, but if the village takes it over may not last. • Mangrove depends on the village. If they can conserve it is good. If they cannot, it will go into the hands of the rich village people. <p>Resource protection and mangroves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since natural resources are getting rare, fishing is not very good anymore and if the ecosystem improves, they can catch more fish and gain more income for their families. This is the hope of the villagers. • In order to be able to change, more information needs to be shared, they need to know and share with others. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrolling activities are supported by the project activities currently. After the project, how to continue patrolling will be a challenge.

<p>Efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash for individuals working on project activities is sufficient. ● Project contributes 70% of the cost for WASH and livelihood projects with the community contributing 30% of the total cost of the project. (at least one community complained that this is too much for them to pay) 	<p>Changes in context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● With the present governance situation, the project activities are like “pouring water into the sand”. We used to have experience talking in the parliament and the village committee got to decide. We need to visit the villages that are weak in development work but now we can’t go to the field and visit so we can’t handle or implement much of the project work. ● Now we can’t go to the fields in Kyaik Hto so we can’t work with the VDC group because of the present rules and regulations. In some villages, VDC members were arrested and some of them had to flee. ● One KII participant had significant worries and concerns about the sustainability of the project <p>Challenges in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For income generation, because of the disruption between Covid and the coup, people who borrowed money took advantage and didn’t pay back. ● Seed bank is good for the long term but the community need to have more ownership ● There are times when we didn’t reach our goal - even when we caught people using illegal fishing nets, they got away with it because they are people with wealth and power and often in positions of
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		<p>authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digging water pond - The project wanted to give the work to the community people, but hired a backhoe so the community didn't get the work. (One KII)
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<p>Gender and socio-economic status</p>	<p>Knowledge leads to empowerment 60% of the women are involved in meetings and they also discuss in the meeting.</p> <p>Local women are inspired to speak up more because of training and sharing experiences of foreign women. They see that women are equally working with men, they can follow this model.</p>	<p>More capacity building is needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We need to give more time and capacity building for women to participate in decision making. ● Just representation is not enough if the women's voices are not heard and included in decision making, women will be devalued. <p>Strategies to shift behaviors/tradition are needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women have the capacity but tradition emphasizes that men should be involved in the decision making. We don't see many women in leadership positions of the village. ● For VDC, FDA and CFDA, women are not involved as key persons but in the role of finance and accountant.
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Table 4: Perception map (2X2 matrix) for FGD

Activities	Frequency of voting for highest relevance and effectiveness (Out of total 18 FGDs)	Reasons
Agriculture	6	<p>The project supports rice seedlings and fertilizers for the farmers. Agriculture is the main livelihood of the village and the project gave training on farming methods. Due to this knowledge, the farmers grow better rice plants and the traders also like the better-quality rice.</p> <p>Overall, training and resource support related to agriculture is relevant and effective for the community. However, the community finds it difficult when staff don't arrive on time. The community doesn't know how to manage pests. Due to Covid and the current situation, the staff can't come to the village often. But when they are called on the phone, they gave the community advice on how to manage the pests.</p>
Awareness Training	6	<p>It is effective and relevant for the community because in the past, their village is very poor and doesn't have much knowledge. Because of awareness activities, they have developed knowledge and skills and became more outspoken. The community is interested in the awareness and willing to attend now and the project conducted frequent training to the community. However, the limitation is that the behavior change is still weak.</p>
Drinking water pond	6	<p>Clean water is very important for the community because they all rely and need clean water to drink. The project supported a water tank and it is really effective. Water is the most necessary thing for the whole community and the whole village relies on it.</p>

Revolving fund	6	<p>The Revolving Fund is effective because it is helpful for the community. Because of loans, their livelihoods were okay during Covid. People got loans and started small businesses and their household income increased. It is also helpful for small vendors.</p> <p>The revolving fund is relevant and effective for the community, however, due to Covid and the political situation, people find it difficult to pay back the loan.</p>
Seed bank	6	<p>The rice seedlings are effective for the farmers but it is not enough because farmers only get seedlings for 1 acre although they own 15 acres. All the farmers want rice seedlings. They only have difficulty when the salt water intrudes into the field. The rice seedlings are effective unless the weather destroys them. For a seed bank, they have to work with CFDA because he shares the knowledge and techniques.</p>
Research	5	<p>Research is very effective because VDC members are now collecting fish data every month to understand what fish are caught, what fish are becoming less in the sea and what to do to solve that. They receive knowledge from the research through their questions. The community wants the answer for the research activity and they are interested in it.</p>
Wash	4	<p>In the past, they didn't have toilets in the village and didn't know much about sanitation practices. Because of the WASH activities, they now have toilets in the village and their village has become cleaner. The villages improved in terms of sanitation practice due to Wash activities. Now they have toilets in most of the households, but not all and there are still households that cannot afford to build a toilet.</p>

5.0 Ranking Activities

To foster more interaction and discussion between the focus group members and a sharing of potentially different viewpoints we used the ranking activity. In each village and focus group we took 10 to 15 blank pieces of paper and wrote different activities, one per page, that corresponded to activities implemented in the village. The Focus Group then had 5 to 10 minutes to discuss among themselves and place these in order of the most important to least important. After they agreed on an order, they explained their thinking to the FGC facilitator.

Summing up the ranking activities for 18 focus groups from 9 villages in the GoMP we found that the Most successful activities included:

Table 5: Focus Group Discussion Ranking data from 9 villages for the Relevance of Phase 3 activities:

Domains	Numbers of times ranked in the top 3
Agriculture includes farm techniques training, seed bank, farm monitoring	10 times
Animal husbandry	6 times
Fishery Patrolling	5 times
Drinking water pond	
Awareness training	3 times
WASH activity includes wash training, toilets	
Revolving fund	
Mangrove	2 times
Fishery	
Protecting resources	

Table 6: Ranking Data from 8 Key Informant Interviews for the relevance of Phase 3 activities

Domains	Numbers of times ranked in the top 3
Awareness	3 times
Wash - Drinking Water Pond, Water purification System	
Conservation- Resources Management	
Revolving fund	2 times
Job opportunities	
Mangrove, Fish and Crab Pond	1 time
Skill development and management	
Agriculture	
Safe migration	
Strengthening associations	
Fishery	
Patrolling	
Accounting training	
Sewing training	
Fixing motorbike training	
Fishery law	

Note:

- One KII didn't participate in a ranking activity due to time limitation

Similarities between KIIs and FGD:

- Awareness Trainings in all sectors
- WASH - Drinking Water Pond, Water purification System
- Conservation- Resources Management
- Revolving fund

We found a significant level of agreement between the KIIs and FGDs on the importance of Awareness, WASH activities, Conservation and Resource Management and the Revolving Fund to continue into Phase 3. This agreement was significant and clear, even though the Sector Officers were mostly focused on ranking their own sector. This shows that the Sector Officers and beneficiaries agree on these priorities. The connection between the implementers and beneficiaries of the project is important for a smooth cohesive transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3. It is especially important for the sustainability of the project to see agreement between such domains as awareness, conservation and resource management for achieving sustainability during the final phase of the project.

6.0. Key Insights:

What works well:

- Community gained more knowledge and awareness towards personal hygiene, waste management and the importance of conserving the ecosystem.
- When project staff develop good connections with the community, their projects and interventions are more likely to be accepted, with more collaboration and change in community behaviors.
- KIIs and FGD agreed on the importance of Awareness Trainings in all sectors, WASH, Conservation/Resource Management, Revolving Fund

What could be improved:

- Traditional training approaches were not relevant with the community with low literacy level. Participatory training with demonstration, visuals with follow-up guidance after the training are needed to drive behavior change.
- Needs finding and consultation with the community before designing implementation strategies.
- Need specific and detailed indicators to guide officers and partners organizations in implementation
- Current livelihood training approach is not relevant to the community. Changes in target group, location of the training and training design are needed.
- Unstable resource person in the community - people who got the training several times left village to work in foreign countries
- MME Framework, indicators, output are general and difficult for the partners and officers to follow.
- Limited resource person in the community. Currently, resource person are taking two to three roles and responsibility

Useful information for future project implementation

- Mangrove tree plantation and resource protection are activities that the community really value but have difficulty to conduct by the community

itself. It requires permission, funding, and coordination with government and associations.

- Revolving fund as one of the areas that community wanted to keep after the project
- To increase transparency in the VDC leadership and more inclusive approach - involving the whole community

7.0 Limitations to this evaluation

- Contextual changes - Coup and Covid
- Village leaders and leadership influence in the FGD
- Limited discussion with most vulnerable people - education, social status, less discussion because of limited resources in the project activity.
- Timing and participation
- Variability of on farm activities in selected villages - some fishery dominant villages had very little agricultural activities (3 villages).

8.0. Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Engage the whole community

"The work that we are doing now we can't do it alone, we have to work together and that's why we have accomplished so much. By helping, supporting, giving advice and taking advice from each other, we have developed our living standard of living. We have worked through trusting each other. Projects also teach us and take us along."

- **Suggestions:**
 - Community involvement beyond just the VDC committee in meetings. Training connecting ecosystem conservation and community development is important for sustainability of the project outcomes.
 - Peer to peer sharing will be an alternative approach to increase community participation. This is important as farmers tend to believe peers rather than the project and through this approach, the project can increase access to the most vulnerable population who are not able to give time to attend the meeting and meeting.
 - Information campaigns to raise the awareness of ecosystem conservation and resource management for the whole community through posters, storybooks and different visual aids. For example, the Storybook concerning marine mammal stranding response has proven to be highly successful to increase interest and empathy for stranded marine mammals to rescue them. This existing Storybook can be put into school curriculum, (think of other ideas) community campaigns, Training children to form good habits when they are young ensures future sustainability.

Recommendation 2: Training that is interactive

"In the awareness training, better to be interactive, roleplay and visual. If just talking, people forget after the training."

- **Suggestion:** Majority of the community understands the project is in Phase 3 and they want to build skills and resources to sustain the ecosystem. Interactive training with demonstration, practical activity and visual aids is important. Also training delivers practical advice to the community from the trainers and field staff concerning issues that they are facing in their community.

Recommendation 3: Include women in decision making not just representation

"The project couldn't break the culture and traditional belief of women such as women sit at the back of the meeting and men sit up front. Men lead the discussion."

- **Suggestion:** Women empowerment strategy
Utilize "outlier" women as role models and encourage women to guide and support each other to increase more women to participate in decision making. Even though some sectors of the project activities do encourage and integrate women participation, the development of an overall gender empowerment strategy and follow-up support for women is needed.

Recommendation 4: Emphasize and more deeply develop empathy for the environment and wise use of natural resources.

"The project will leave and we need to carry this on...we have the raw materials. We have skills and knowledge given by the project. The village has to decide how to use the raw materials to continue to build the product (a good village with conservation of natural resources)." - participant from Karte

- **Suggestion:** Develop lessons/curricula for biodiversity conservation for all levels of schools and design and initiate external projects for children and youth.

Expand mangrove tree plantations in communities and set up community leadership to manage the mangrove areas. This has also been requested by the community as they see mangrove forests as long-term sources of income with abundant fish, crab and shrimp.

Recommendation 5: Develop more connected oversight, inclusivity and follow-up for sustainability of project impacts from project beneficiaries themselves with villages connecting together (EMU approach)

Suggestions: *"We can't conserve alone; we need our neighboring villages' collaboration."* - A VDC leader.

- **Connect** communities that share environmental issues together with training that includes sharing of issues, and ideas for working together toward environmental protection, perhaps this is one of the priorities of the Ecosystem Management Unit (EMU).
- **Ideate** around how to restart fishery patrolling groups, in addition the group could survey waste and support WASH activities. A potential question to ideate with could be: "How might we establish more oversight within and between villages during a difficult time?"

Recommendation 6: More leadership development for VDCs

"We need to have the right people in the right place. If not, then it is difficult for the person who is leading and for the village. And we need to choose people based on education, age and background situation.

- **Suggestion:** Capacity building around communication, facilitation, leadership and community management. It would be helpful to bring together VDC teams from different communities that have issues in common or are neighboring each other, to develop connections and share learning between each other.

Recommendation 7: Develop strategies to deliver vocational/livelihood training for people who cannot travel

- **Suggestion:** Develop women entrepreneur empowerment programs in relevant areas to be able to inspire women to develop small businesses.
- **Expand** financial management training currently conducted for youth. Expand this to women to enable them to manage loans.

Recommendation 8: Community development training strategies to include all social levels and develop community planning

"In the past I didn't know anything. I became more mature as a member. I used to drink but not now."

- **Suggestion:** Delivering training in locations where women and people of different socio-economic levels can access. For example - Clusters of villages can come together in one village to receive training and share what works and doesn't work in their own community. This can strengthen relationships between villages and the sharing of success stories and lessons learned may inspire and connect villages and village leadership to develop networks for collaboration and mutual support, especially for conservation of Biodiversity.

Recommendation 9: Communicating research findings to the community

"There are frequent research activities in the village. It is relevant but not effective. We go and answer but we are not motivated."

- **Suggestion:** Hold a Research symposium in a village or villages where other communities might join. CFM can share back the research findings with the communities.

Acknowledgments

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Community Members
Staffs from Gulf of Mottama Project
Community Facilitator and Monitor (CFM)
Members of the VDC Committee
Fishery Development Association (FDA)
Coastal Farmer Development Association (CFDA)
Township Cluster Coordinator (TCC)

APPENDIX

Questions and Findings from FGD's

Note: As much as possible, we tried to keep the flavor of the language when translating the responses.

Context

- What is special or unique about the community that you live and work with each day? What makes it different from other communities? (in relation to languages, skills, businesses, use of natural resources)
- What have been changes in your community and its surrounding ecosystem? What has caused these changes?
- How has the GoMP project helped your community to adapt to changes in its surrounding ecosystem with these changes?
- What are the GoMP activities in your community areas?

Village	Context and GoMP Activities
Kyauk Seik	In Kyauk Seik village, no activities focused on agriculture. They overwhelmingly depend on fishing for their livelihood. Similar to many villages along the Gulf of Mottama, its primary religion is Buddhism and its ethnicity is dominated by Burman. They are very proud of their sense of unity and working together with a team spirit. For example, even if two neighbors are angry with each other and have arguments, they still will help each other when necessary, such as when a family member dies.
Su Pu Nu	The main livelihood of the village is fishing. In the last four years, there has been little change in socio economic levels. There has also been little change with the surrounding environment or ecosystem yet. After the project started, roads were improved and we received financial support so these things have changed now. Fish resources have been destroyed or depleted during the last five years up until the present. Since fishing is not better yet, we have to work differently in different seasons. Because of overfishing, chemicals used to prevent snails on farms, as well as electrical shock and poison is used to catch fish, less fish are being caught and the ecosystem is being decimated.
Thanat Tan	The main livelihood of the village is agriculture and the second livelihood is fishery. What they are proud of in their village is having better roads and transportation compared to other villages and having a community volunteer group. For example, if there is a funeral, they go around the village and ask for rice donations and feed the community for 7 days after the funeral. Other villages don't

	<p>have this custom. After they got electricity, they became prouder of their own village. They also have cars and houses with aircon.</p>
<p>Aung Pone Gyi</p>	<p>The livelihoods in this village include agriculture, animal husbandry, wild fishpond fish farm, and buying and selling goods. It is significant to them that their village has a community center, but there is no clinic. Most things are similar with other villages, including religion and only the Burman ethnic group in the village. What they are most proud of in the village is that they are very united and have a team spirit. What they appreciate about the project is how it has developed income generation, supported the elderly, built roads and light posts, and established a village center when there was no center in the past.</p> <p>On the negative side, the ecosystem is degraded and the resources are becoming rare. When they patrolled and confiscated illegal fishing nets like during 2019-2020, they felt the fish resources would become abundant again. But patrolling became rare again due to Covid-19 and the coup.</p> <p>The community feels it is more developed than before. Before, the villagers did not consistently use a toilet. After moving to a new place due to landslides, the physical condition of the villagers has improved. After receiving awareness raising training from the project, their mental condition has also improved. The Gulf of Mottama project conducted some activities in the village such as personal hygiene training and GoMP supported the community construction of new roads and developing a water supply after they moved to the new location.</p>
<p>Kyar Si Aung</p>	<p>The main livelihoods include agriculture, fishery and daily labor. What is important to note about this village is that it has not been established as long as most of the other villages and they do not have water in the summer. In the last four years they installed light posts. "In the past we couldn't even ride a motorbike in the village, but now because of the project, it is improved". Social collaboration and communication have also improved amongst youth. Before they were not able to speak up but now they are able to. The project supported the village in building a road and WASH activities, now the toilets are cleaner. They have also learned more about natural disasters.</p> <p>In the last four years the village has had land formation due to sedimentation. Last year they caught a lot of fish because the project took action systematically on illegal fishing. But now because of Covid and the coup people, do not follow the rules anymore and they catch as they want.</p> <p>The project supported the village with road construction, toilets, support for a dike and pipe installation, seed banks, income generation activities, wash activities and training, constructing a drinking water pond, and building water tanks. Additional training</p>

	<p>conducted in the village included sewing, patrolling, mechanical repair, agriculture, EAFM, dry fish, natural disaster, and accounting.</p>
Gwa Thaung	<p>Gwa Thaung has a road, seed bank and drinking water pond, with plenty of drinking water from the project. Livelihood activities in the village have included sewing, mechanic and beautician training, but were not relevant and people could not attend. Animals like pigs and goats were available but they had to take a loan to get them.</p> <p>In the past in their surrounding ecosystem the sea was closer so they could gather crab, but now the sea is further away, so they gather fewer crabs. The reason for this is a large amount of erosion took place in the village and now, there is sand sedimentation. This has created more land for farming.</p> <p>In this village, they grow three species of rice - KyarPyan, TaungPyan, BayKyar and Japan. The rice prices are different and hard rice gets lower price, so they normally grow KyarPyan.</p>
Zikekayae	<p>In this village they have fish, birds, shrimp and rice. They mostly farm, but also fish, though there is not much fish, they try to catch fish using 1 and 1/2" to 4" nets. It takes them about half an hour to reach the sea, and they can catch fish at the end of the stream. They also work as a daily labor.</p> <p>The difference between this village and other villages is that they are poorer, it is harder to get a job, and they can't afford to buy fishing nets, while other villages can buy nets. They were not as badly affected by Covid as other villages. For the last 5 years they have struggled to make ends meet. They have to borrow money, with interest, to feed their children. Right now, it is even more difficult than before. They say a large problem for them is that other villages catch fish using electric shock and poison.</p> <p>Fishermen can't afford to buy a fishing boat. When it is time to plant rice, they plant and then try to catch fish using fishing nets. After the harvesting time they also try to fish using fishing nets in the stream. If they sell fish, they will get only 1000 or 2000 MMK. Nothing has changed in the last five years financially but with the project they now have a road, school, water ponds, and cover the water pond by the project.</p> <p>They are able to maintain drinking water, and have received skills and knowledge concerning agriculture and the use of clean/good seeds for their rice fields. They also have received money support that has been helpful.</p> <p>The difference between their village and other villages is that we are free to stay anywhere they want and don't have to buy land, just</p>

	<p>build wherever we want and fence it. They have extra land and also have a place to conduct village affairs. Land is not expensive.</p> <p>In the past there were no activities but now because of income generation they have had an opportunity to plant and raise animals. People are less educated in their village, so have less knowledge. If the project comes one or two times, they often forget the information delivered. But now because the project comes to give training many times, they have started to gain knowledge.</p> <p>The project comes and gives training on how to plant mushrooms and it has become a small business for them. Now that they have plants in their yards, they feel good about it. In the past they had to go to the city to get food. The project gave 12,000 MMK to 16 people for agriculture support. Then the project gave them 5,800,000 MMK which included support for agriculture, income generation and fishery.</p>
Karte	<p>Almost all of the household went abroad. Most of the people who remain work in the sea, agriculture and a few people sell things. The size of the land under cultivation for There are people who do agriculture as big as 10 acres but most of the people have only 3-5 acres under cultivation acres. They are mainly Buddhists and are mixed ethnic Religious is Buddhist. Ethnicities include Mon, Myanmar, Kayin, and Hindu. Most of the people were born in this village. Starting from 2019, the start of the project almost all of them became project members. In the past, they had large boats and small boats and they worked in fishery, but now not many boats are left and less people work in fishery. They now plant mangrove. Their village transportation is bad and they are poor.</p> <p>There is no clinic, health workers or and ambulances. If the road is not good, we have to self-fix them. Their fishing nets were destroyed by a large fishing boat which had a big boat and had work permit so they couldn't report them to the government. They are working as a small fishery so we can't get working permits. People from Bilaung, Alat, Khin Tan and Zeegone come with boats and nets and there is no law on dividing portions so it is difficult for them. They told the project about it and the project negotiated for them but they only stopped it for a short while and only when they talked to them, now the outside fishers came to fish again. From the project we do have an improved road and water pond with fencing around the pond to protect from animals.</p>
Zee Gone	<p>The majority of the village are Mon Buddhist. Most of them work fishing as their main livelihood. Second, animal husbandry. Third, farming. There are 5 people who own 6-7-acre farms. Most of the village works as daily workers; fishing, harvesting rice, and daily labor. They work both in their village as well as in other villages.</p> <p>In their own village they focus more on fishery – which is the main livelihood, but have small animal husbandry and small business selling -drinking water bottles. They have a good road and good mangrove</p>

forest area. From WorldView they got a solar power electricity system, so, though a small village, they have electricity that other villages don't have. They collect rainwater during the rainy season and have good drinking water. During the months when there is no fish they work as daily workers on farms.

Gender and Social Equity

As in other sections, give a brief summary here. E.g. Questions on gender and social equity yielded discussions on XYZ issues/topics, etc. What was common? What was unique?

- How has the project considered gender and social equity in implementing its activities and local decision-making?
- What is a good way to involve women in the decision-making process?
- What benefit can we gain by involving women in decision-making?
- How does social status (rich/poor, ethnicity, religion) affect participation in community structures and decision-making?
- What could the project do to enhance the participation of people from all levels of social/ethnic status to join in with community activities?

Village	Gender and Social Equity
Kyauk Seik	<p>There are equal opportunities for both men and women in every sector. Moreover, the project stipulates that every sector has to be built and have activities that include 40% women participation. In the future, the project should be organized to involve more women and also should conduct some awareness raising training for women such as women empowerment.</p> <p>One participant mentioned that most of the women participants from the FGD were not interested in these kinds of activities and discussions in the past. Now, due to project activities related to awareness and training, women have become more interested and more outspoken. now. Example: one male participant mentioned that one woman is now attending the meeting at the township level and coordinating project activities in the village. She is outspoken and when they have a meeting, they have to tell her to please let others talk and discuss.</p>

There is no discrimination now between men or women in the project since the project made everyone aware of the benefit and need of including both men and women equally. If there is no woman in a house it won't be easy for men to have food. They say that "Now, if a man wears pants, women also can wear them". If there are 10 people in a group at least 4 should be women. Now is the time for women to lead, so men and women collaborate and work together". Non-members (of the VDC) are also working together with the VDC. They help for example: cleaning up the road or cleaning up the waste. There is no discrimination. If there are things that need to be done they can do, everyone supports the community and they even encourage youth to help and support. we go ahead and do them and we also tell the youth to help and support. Their Our village now has cohesiveness.

There are 4 social class groups: group A is less and some B's but most of them are in group C and D. There is training on no discrimination. Group D is the first priority in giving financial support. They all have different opinions and thinking but we accept everyone's ideas and work together. In the village there are more females because men are out fishing.

45 % of women are involved. Some of the work has to be OK by women. Some of the men are not interested to be involved but they let their wife attend the meeting. Some men are proud of their wife's involvement in meetings.

They think that it would be better if people from all social status were involved. Men and women would all have equal rights and it would be better for both. Women are more quick-witted. Men have short tempers. Women are able to apply management skills in many ways.

Su Pu Nu

Because the project considers gender, if they form a committee 40% should be women. Women from the village can't go and attend meetings in the city, that's why there seems to be more men in the committee. In this village women don't have time, they are too busy with their farming work, with family matters, they have poor health and also some can't do it.

Yesterday, there was a gender training from October 12-14, they called two women but because they were not both free only one woman attended the training. Mostly men make decisions. If men decide, women also discuss together. The decision is made when both agree. A committee formed for electricity could not have women. They couldn't be involved because women couldn't go to the city often.

In other GoMP activities more women are involved such as revolving fund but, in some groups, women do not participate like the electricity committee because women are too busy with their farming work, with family matters, they have poor health and also some can't do it. In order to include all the sectors in the past, projects had four categories ABC and D. Later, they do not divide like that anymore because they have more funds. Before, the first priority was giving loans to the poor but the amount is not much either. Now they can give loans for the agricultural sector and farmers can loan 700,000 kyats and fisher can loan 300,000-400,000 kyats.

Both men and women work together in their business - There is no discrimination toward poor or rich men or women.

The project called for the women to lead but the women themselves found it hard to be involved because of poor education and shyness. Afraid to make mistakes in front of others,

Women are more confident within their own community and feel more comfortable to be made fun of by their own community. They are shy when going outside of the community and are afraid of being made fun of.

Thanat Tan

They include women and people from different social status in the meeting and training. They try to invite equal numbers of men and women because of the project, for example, there are more women in the awareness training. They invite women especially when they need a large number of attendants. Women are also beneficial in the meeting because they discuss and negotiate with others.

When they make the decision, both men and women, people from different social status are involved. They feel that women are good at communicating everything.

	<p>They work together both men and women with no discrimination. For example, if this job fits with him or her they then would ask them to do it. The project said it is a men's work but if the man is not around women work instead. In decision making also they negotiate and collaborate together. There are not many changes concerning decision making. They say it was like this before. The only thing is they have gained more knowledge. In village, there is no discrimination between social status they all work together.</p>
<p>Aung Pone Gyi</p>	<p>The GoMP project considers males vs females in their activities emphasizing gender equality. For example: in fishery, agriculture, income generation, also for sewing both male and female were accepted, there was no discrimination either with rich or poor, all are equal. Having both male and female involvement is beneficial because both male and female gain equal benefit being involved in village activities. Women are the main resource in the village for hospitality such as: cooking, and placing serving. Men eat and drink (expressed by a woman). Males work more in committee activities.</p> <p>They encourage and support everyone to collaborate in the project. For example: The deputy chair likes coming to this type of meeting and so they inform him about attending meetings or training.</p> <p>If the project wants to include all of the levels of social status, give out money. In the past, if they are paid, they would all come, they all will come if the project pays phone bills or money everyone comes. These incentives are then good at persuasion.</p> <p>If it is like that, all types of people would come to the meeting even if it is raining hard, but if they are not given anything they will not come anymore in the past. But now they don't need money because they are more interested to learn and recognize they have already learned from the project activities.</p> <p>In the past the community needed to call "wild" people but when they know that they gain knowledge no need to pay them, now they are "domesticated". The community doesn't have to pay them now and the project also does not pay them anymore.</p>

<p>Kyar Si Aung</p>	<p>They feel they now have gender equality, even wages are the same and both men and women can attend the meetings. Both men and women also participate in making decisions. If the ideas are good they accept them. In the family men still make more decisions, though. Women are more intelligent and think more about family matters. Men work to bring in income for the family, while. Women have to do everything at home, especially the younger girls. In the village donation activities. In some meetings girls are lazy or hesitant to speak but if they are encouraged and favor them only then they can be motivated to speak up. The village needs to include all people regardless of whether they are poor or rich and gather everyone's perspective whether it is right or even if it is not useful for the community, they are useful in their home.</p>
<p>Gwa Thaug</p>	<p>More women are involved because men go for outside work and they come back late. There was no discrimination between rich and poor and men and women, even older people who have no support can directly receive loans and also often get money even if they are not VDC members. Men and women made the decisions. Myanmar, Karen, and Mon live here and can express their culture. Women are smarter, they can think more about what is right and wrong, they are better in many ways. Women also have developed their skills, in the past, they just stayed at home and people used to think women should stay at home. After the project, with the loan from the revolving fund, women were able to sell things in their neighborhood and developed critical thinking skills such as learning how to make and calculate profits.</p>
<p>Zikekayae</p>	<p>When there are meetings, they call both men and women to attend. When the project gave support money, rich people didn't get it it is prioritize for poor people. If women lead, the village will develop more and have higher social status. In the long run, the project needs to guide us for inclusion of women and inclusion of all socio-economic levels. There are mostly Myanmar ethnic people in the village with some Mon and Karen ethnic people. When a meeting is called, they all come and attend the meeting.</p> <p>If there are 3 men as a part of a group then there also should be 2 women joining the group as well. Even attending the meeting there should be an equal ratio of men and women. Women are smarter. Both men and women worked in their own way. Example: when there is a religious fair, women are involved in cooking and men involved in carrying stuff. For supporting family livelihood, women can sell fish while their husband brings back the fish. Women also plant vegetables in their yard and also help take care of the animals.</p>

Karte	<p>More women are involved. Now women and men get the same labor fees. In the past if men got 10,000, women only got 5,000 kyat. In the past women could not interfere and now women are involved in the activity. Now if we make decisions both men and women are involved. Not cock crow time anymore – hen crow. Women can think and decide, men are more self-centered. Men and women can discuss openly.</p> <p>In the household it is also the same. They don't abuse women and discuss together with their wife. Sometimes it is necessary to give women priority and favor them (this was reported by an agriculture group). Women are weak and that is why they don't speak up in the meeting. In the household there is often have violence and abuse (this was reported by the fisher group)</p> <p>Men and women all have equal opportunity. However, women are still discriminated against – husband says the wife doesn't go – if you go, I will kick you. This is the biggest challenge for women. And women don't have much knowledge and they are weak in speaking up – they don't dare to speak up. Men often don't give them a chance to go to meetings or training.</p> <p>For women to be involved in decision making for the woman to be involved first persuade them with money – too difficult to talk to them – only pay money – if you give them a 1000 a day the husband will allow them to go to the meeting – if they are not married, they will go back and tell their parents.</p> <p>For me women make the best decisions – in the household women are the bravest because they have to deliver the children – fighting with death – They for example often deal with loans, the money – when project people come the men in the village don't want to see them – because they owe them money – so they send the women and will not come and see the project people. Men drink so decision making is weak.</p>
Zee Gone	<p>Women attended the training and shared back with their husband when male are not free. In the VDC group they are set up with 5 males and 4 females. In the village, female work is like cultural norms but actually women were the ones who had to work, cook, send children to school, cook for the husband before and after they came back from fishing in the sea so they don't have much free time. After the husband brings back fish the women are the ones have to work after that.</p> <p>Example: after the husband brings back the fish their wife has to cut open, clean and send to the fish dealer. Women involvement is weak in decision making, so that is why we need to give training to the women when they are free.</p> <p>More women attend the meeting because men are busy and cannot attend. If the meeting time clashes with work they cannot come but otherwise they attend – men are better with decision making, women</p>

are weaker – but they still help make the decision – we have to make decisions together. At home we consult – husband and wife. Decision making needs to involve listening to the women also along with men. If men make decisions, it might be extreme – both men and women get the same amount and both can work the whole day. For meetings, sometimes all people attend the meeting and sometimes only the people who are free attend the meeting. There is no discrimination between rich or poor – everyone contributes what they have. For example, if someone doesn't know bookkeeping, they can ask help from other people and they receive help.

Impact

1. What were your (community's) practices in conserving your environment before the project?
2. What has changed in your community due to project activities?
3. How did the project support you to alter or adjust your behaviors in relation to conserving the surrounding ecosystem(s)?
 1. What was the largest influence in changing your attitude and the community's attitude?
 2. Have some not changed their attitudes and behaviors?
 3. Why do you think they have not?
 4. What can the project do to change their behaviors?
4. How does the GoMP project affect collaboration and communication in your community to better work together to utilize resources while still protecting the ecosystem?

Village	Impact
Kyauk Seik	<p>There were no activities related to conservation before the project. The community is gaining knowledge because GoMP often conducts awareness raising training in the village.</p> <p>The villagers have a better understanding concerning conservation due to project activities such as patrolling, since their livelihood is mainly dependent on fishing. About 60% of the village population have still not changed because they lack background and are so busy struggling for their livelihood. Even though some people are not changing, the project usually supports the community in one way or another.</p> <p>Before they lived near the river so they swept waste into the river but now they have their own yard. They have changed and do not throw</p>

	<p>it into the river anymore. In the past after defecating, it was just left like that. No one knew how to keep it clean but now there are nicer toilets in our village. Before the project, if there was a meeting people were afraid to speak up but now many are sitting in the first row and not afraid to speak up anymore.</p> <p>The project supports the community to get water from a hill in the village. There was some problem at that time, but after negotiating, it was worked out. Though some people complained. Before the project people threw waste as they pleased. People who were dirty and didn't pay attention to their environment are now aware of personal hygiene. Illiterate People in the past are now able to teach others. People think of it as the development of the village so now the village is developed.</p> <p>After project activities and learning people changed in the way they communicate with each other, and now have a different standard of living. In the past there were not many toilets, but there are now a lot more. Before people didn't wash their hands after using the toilet, and there was no waste bin in homes but now people know to wash their hands after using the toilet and every house keeps a waste bin in their house.</p> <p>The project gave strategies, training, and small fisher came to know more about why there are less fish through training. To keep from losing fish there is a need to have 2 people patrolling. Even non-project people inform others when they see illegal fishing.</p>
Su Pu Nu	<p>With lower interest rates from the project loans, people are able to acquire good boats and nets, have better roads and better jobs. Within the family and community there is more transparency and people are happier. Whatever is needed can be obtained, fishers have more work and are able to solve problems</p> <p>After the project groups were formed by sector in the past villages couldn't follow and just do what is better for them. Before the project they didn't know where to attend the training but now they are interested.</p> <p>80% of people have not changed their behavior yet - not interested, no time to attend the meeting, need to persuade them with loans and then they will come along. It would be good if the whole community is involved in project work and change.</p>
Thanat Tan	<p>Before the project we only had farming there was no ecosystem conservation. Now we know how to conserve the ecosystem. The project supports building a road, classroom, monastery and initiating revolving funds. Revolving funds are effective because money can be borrowed with small interest supporting small business.</p>

	<p>There are other projects in the village but they didn't support the village like this. During COVID time the project supported people who were ill and donated soap and masks. Now the community has gained more knowledge. They appointed 10 leaders but everyone works equally and shares back their knowledge.</p> <p>Before the project the village didn't know not to fish during spawning season.</p> <p>A person won the auction by the government for a fishing spot and they told him to fish using 2-inch net but he used an illegal fishing net and covered the bottom with tarp so we don't get fish anymore. Every year the same person got the auction. He got 800,000-900,000 MMK and he sold back some parts for 200,000 MMK. The person who got the auction close all streams.</p> <p>Next year, the community is planning to solve this problem. That person is a member of the fisher group. He had attended fishery training even though he knows what he does is not good but he still does it. He does it for his own good and that causes other fishers a lot of problems. Farmers also close their farms and can't fish in their farm so have to steal fish. Actually, everyone knows it is not good even the village leader knows about it. No one said not to give auction but have to follow the rules and guidelines. All the equipment, even electric shock is illegal but it still doesn't change the behavior, it is selfish.</p> <p>Fishery training was delivered and the project said if the community worked close to the sea it would be good. But in order to work we will need 1,200,000-1,300,000 MMK and we don't have that amount of money. If we work in the village, we can do with 30,000 MMK.</p> <p>Our village has had a good rice yield. Private sector advertises fertilizer, but it is expensive but the project fertilizer is cheap. The project gave beans and fertilizer but not enough for a farmer who owns 5 acres and up. Only for people who own less than that.</p>
Aung Pone Gyi	<p>The main reason the community has changed is because they increased their knowledge, and people have changed their attitude. Though 90 out of 100 have not changed their behavior yet only 10% have changed. Why the others do not change is that they don't believe in decomposition and fertilizer, so they didn't do it also.</p> <p>They told the benefit of using fertilizer farmers did not follow and use it. (One male) If they use it then it will be effective, not using it so ineffective, but they do not believe.</p>
Kyar Si Aung	<p>The last 4 years, before the project started there were no conservation activities. People caught birds as they wished. No one knew what type of birds were valuable but now the community can conserve birds. They can also plant more plants to help conserve the ecosystem. In the</p>

	<p>past they caught many fish. Last year foreigners came and rented a boat to watch the birds and they got money from boat fees and also support money to not kill birds and received money to do other business. The community are able to use toilets, and know about throwing waste away properly but do not have a place to throw so just throw anywhere. In the past they threw waste in the river but now they keep it in the house. They like WASH activities after training. They now throw waste away systematically. Before there were only 2 toilets in the whole village. Now all have toilets in the village. In the family, women received practice for washing their hands after handling fish and also washing their hands before they breastfeed.</p> <p>Before boats, men caught birds but now after the training they do not catch them anymore and know the benefits of the birds. Birds show signs that can forecast the weather. In conservation if men were not free women did it. Before the project, women were not part of anything they were left out of issues of the community. But now when there is a meeting the women will asked "Do you want to abandon me" and they go and attend the meeting.</p>
<p>Gwa Thaung</p>	<p>Before the project, community members threw the plastics and burned them, but now they keep plastics. Now they don't bury them because it is bad for the soil. After the training, they take a bath with soap. But they can't afford a toilet bowl yet.</p> <p>Because of the project, family livelihood is better, healthier, more communication, collaboration, knowledge etc. They listen to each other, both women and men. There are 3 ethnic groups - Karen, Mon, and Myanmar. They have gained more knowledge and their minds have opened up gained knowledge of how to use fertilizer, farmers now know how to use fertilizer and change the way they plant rice. GoMP training has helped them to make natural fertilizer which is cheaper than buying fertilizer.</p> <p>Hygiene knowledge has been acquired - They learned to wash themselves and wash before going to bed. Practices with personal hygiene and the use of water were not known or practiced before GoMP. Many people do not have time to be part of the project and to attend meetings and training. About 50% benefit from the project; others are too busy trying to make a living. The project gave technical support but didn't support the village with toilet bowls. Income generation: There was good cooperation so they received more support from GoMP. The project gave men and women equal pay for road repair, but the community decided to pay more to men, some people even donated their time. CFM is like a family member to us.</p>

Zikekayae

In the past they threw waste as they pleased, it was not systematic. When the water pond became less, they had to fix it themselves. In the past, they all caught birds and also used all kinds of nets to catch fish. There was no training in the past. Now they throw away waste systematically. They have project support to repair the water pond. Now they only catch once in a while. When they catch fish, they do not use illegal fishing nets anymore. Now they invite us to attend the training. They have less members of fishery group so they don't get support from the project. In the past also they had less fish. When salt water intrudes, they get sea fish. Adults who used to attend the training have now migrated abroad so youth have to attend the training. Women were afraid of meeting people in the past and they didn't know anything, so after coming back from the meeting they didn't say anything about the meeting, just nodded and came back. Now they know how to plant trees. We don't have boats nor nets so we can't catch out of the water gate.

After the project, they gained more knowledge but do not follow. Before the project they know just a little bit about the waste. They used to burn it or throw it into the river. Later they came to know how to throw it systematically. Their village has improved compared to before. The project supports the household level. During Covid time they supported our village. We have road and ponds now and systematically have gained more knowledge and come to know what they didn't know before. The project gave pigs. They tried hard to keep them but they all died. In the past most of the households raised animals. They also raised cows and goats later. They got extra money through this.

Concerning revolving funds, some haven't harvested rice so can't pay back yet. Before they could run it, but because of Covid can't give anymore and right now can't solve it yet. "I myself have to collect the money and see they are not doing well, so it is hard to collect". (interviewee)

In the past, they did not dare to contact anyone, but now, know that their village will improve. After the project they got to attend meetings. In the past, people didn't come to the training even when people called them, but now they come and are able to speak up. Younger ones also come. They also allow women to attend the training. They also are able to fence the pond. In the past the road was so muddy. Toilets you can see through front to back, now it is improved a bit.

The project gives awareness. There are about 50% that have not changed yet and the reason for not changing are they do not listen, do not understand, some are illiterate. Some know but don't know how to apply or use it.

Some do not go, even though they are invited. Some just received knowledge so they are encouraged by the education. Some have finished only grade 4 and they do not let their children learn but ask

	<p>them to work. Now parents have come to understand, they can't read, so they have to ask their children to read for them. They can't sign or write their name, some of them can only write a stick or cross that's why they learned to send their children to school because if they do not have education, they will lose face. If they have more education, then they can change more.</p> <p>The project involves all levels of people in conservation. Some only know 1 out of 10 words. In the past, even when called, they didn't come, maybe because of many reasons. Some people think that it doesn't relate to them, and are less interested. But now they come to the meetings. They don't just look at themselves anymore but look for whole village development. Through educating them they now come to the meetings and also encourage and motivate others. We also tell them that the project needs to involve more people, not just one person. Everyone has their own ability. We need to live harmoniously. If there are more meetings then they will understand better.</p>
Karte	<p>Impact has been that they gained more knowledge, higher status, more education, improved personal hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry and health. Now they use "tan toe method". In the past we used a lot of fertilizer but now we don't use that much anymore. They know how to make ORS, and they throw waste properly.</p> <p>The project shows favoritism and is not transparent. Only leadership positions make decisions even on a big issue. So many people left the project because they are not happy.</p> <p>The project is weak in management skills, not transparent, and does not have financial clearance meetings. They said that the project doesn't know the ground situation and they want to do the development of their village by themselves. 1/3 of the people from the village need to change in order to persuade others that the villagers and the project need to work together. Some of them can't change because they are already attached with their life the way it is so they are not willing to change. Some have to struggle with their basic needs so they can't attend the training. They want the project to give financial support to the elders but the project said if they give support money the village will have problems. As for their village it is better to give. They are able to speak up more and improve in managing their children because of the awareness, meetings, supports and encouragement.</p> <p>When parents go to the meetings and come back and tell their children their behavior can change, but if you don't follow it will be the same. We need to follow the project and their expertise or things won't change.</p> <p>Waste management training to not throw plastics away but manage properly.</p>

	<p>Households have more debt because they don't have business but still take the money, because the interest is much lower than outside of the project. But they don't have any way to pay it back, so are in debt because they have to borrow from outside of the project to pay back the project debt, and then have higher interest in the long run.</p> <p>If people follow the project, they get benefits but if they don't follow the project, they don't get benefits.</p>
Zee Gone	<p>After the project, people are able to speak up. Gain more knowledge and have collaboration. People came to know about ZeeGone. In the past, the village was like a ward where people knew only about Ahlat. Through project support and from selling as a vendor one can open a shop. They say that 80% have changed their behaviors but 20% still have to change. The reason people have not changed is because they have less knowledge, don't know. And some rich people think it is not related to them. For the development of the village everyone should cooperate and work together. This is the most project staff visited where they come 3-4 times in a month.</p> <p>Fishers go to the sea and come back and eat and sleep. After the project came, they had to attend many meetings to gain knowledge and learn what they didn't know before and develop more collaboration and discussion together.</p> <p>Drinking water is better than before and it is easier to call people to join the meeting than in the past none would attend.</p> <p>Better roads, in the past rainy season mud and summer dust made motorbikes or bicycles difficult. Before the road was no good.</p> <p>Also drinking water- in summer needs water donation from Paung township for drinking water. They only have washing water and cooking water.</p> <p>In the past, I always used the bigger net but some people used the smaller net.</p> <p>If goat and cow come to the mangrove forest, we all chase them – in past we would leave it. Now, they know that after planting they would have to conserve the place – 4 practices training and we now have a toilet. 30-40 % have not changed their behavior yet because they don't have time and have to struggle with their living, because most of them are daily workers who work in the sea and sometimes, they have no food. They need nets and it would be good if the project could give down payment on nets for the fisher.</p>

Sustainability

1. What does success look like for your community from the GoMP? / How

will we know that the project has been successful?

1. What will the community be doing differently?
2. How will the leadership work?
3. How will the community management structure work?
4. How will the community work with the government?
2. How have the project activities built the capacity and knowledge of your community so that it is committed to sustainable usage of natural resources for the future?
3. What attitudes or behaviors still need to change in the community in order for the work of the GoMP project to be sustainable?
4. What project activities do you recommend continuing and why?
5. Does the community have the resources and motivation to continue the activities?
6. In your opinion, if there is no GoMP in the future, what will happen to behaviors, structures, and achievements from the GoMP so far?

Village	Sustainability
Kyauk Seik	<p>“When the project is successful the community people only see ‘What will the project give’, but if we can practice conservation the community will improve”. Each and every person will improve their skills. A leader’s ideas and thinking about what are the needs of the community is important. For the community, they share with the leaders and ask for what they need but non-project people think that what the project people are asking for is only for themselves, But the truth is the project people are asking for the betterment of the whole village, including the non-project people.</p> <p>For example: concerning waste, the leader asked the project to give a waste bin, but when they didn’t get it the leader asked all the houses to keep plastic bags in every house. “We are connected with each other”.</p> <p>For the management everyone needs to do their part well because no one can do it alone. Example: religious fair, committee members communicate and connect with everyone concerning how much for offerings to contribute toward community development and who to collect from. This is not only with development related work but also with other work that involves younger and older people to collaborate.</p> <p>The community will continue to pass on its knowledge to the youth step by step until everyone is able to contribute. Before the project ends, they’ve already started to prepare for their village like parents giving inheritances to their children in order to continue.</p> <p>For example. right now, from the project giving training on accounting and strategy, the trainers train practically and assess in</p>

	<p>the village. The community then hopes to be able to handle income generation activities.</p> <p>The community will continue to maintain strategies and techniques from the project. They will continue to do as they have done during the project time. They have responsible teachers who continue to come so they can still depend on them. The GoMP trainers give training fully so even if the trainers are not around, the committee members will continue to do conservation work. They do not fully control the community, but teach the community to do the work together with them and they have trust in the village.</p> <p>For example: "Building a water tank; the project gave us a budget and they came back to check after we finished building, only checking through the phone sometimes. If they can't come, they communicate with us through the phone. If we can continue to maintain cooperation and coordination together then it will sustain. The work that we are doing now we can't do it alone, we have to work together. That's why we have accomplished so much. By helping, supporting, giving advice and taking advice from each other, we have developed our standard of living. We have worked through trusting each other. Projects also teach us and take us along. For example, writing meeting minutes so that after the project finishes our village can continue to conserve and work on our own."</p>
<p>Su Pu Nu</p>	<p>Success is receiving needed support from the project, and gaining more knowledge. Committee members got chances to travel to other cities and gain more knowledge and were able to communicate with others. "As technology improves, our attitude/mindset also improves."</p> <p>If there is no more project the memories concerning the work will remain. In 2019 the project supported water tanks. During Covid time the project supported 70,000 Kyat per person. Then for dams (levees) first it was 7,000,000 kyat and second another 6,000,000 kyat. Even if the project stops the village will continue to maintain and to keep income generation projects because the village already has millions and millions of funding.</p> <p>Now township FDA are also starting to give ice boxes, and generating funds through selling rice. Income generation activities will continue with interest after the project.</p> <p>For agriculture, the village is already prepared for after the project, since they work together with the project, they think they can do it. Leaders have to handle bookkeeping. After the project they do not have anyone to rely on. So, they have to connect step by step. The project has already set up rules that after 3 years the committee members need to change. For the village there are not many people</p>

	<p>to change so they haven't changed yet. The project is also structured toward sustainable conservation.</p> <p>Now the village continues to do the activities but if there is no more project, they still have to continue to do it. If Kyaik Hto stops the patrolling activity, Belin might continue it. The government department is not involved anymore. What we understand is that the project goes to the government department who does the patrol. But now it stops working with the government. "Our village is always ready to have 2 people standby. We will be involved forever".</p> <p>"If successful, the village will be happy, more money, higher social status, able to do more religious donations, there will be more cooperation from the leadership and the people." This is a vision statement.</p>
Thanat Tan	<p>If the project is successful, we will welcome all the people who come to the village. we will work more to develop. Leader will encourage and develop the organization. Have transparency in awareness. After the project is finished the people who left will continue to work. There were 11 people in the group and now will maintain them. We already received necessary training, skills, knowledge and will continue forever and will not disappear.</p>

<p>Aung Pone Gyi</p>	<p>If the project is successful the village will get rich, it will be happier, have discipline, and collaborate well. Even a grandmother wants to take income generation and go for pilgrimage. People will have more work. When it is successful the villager will get richer. The leaders will be happy and motivated because the project is successful. Everyone will be working for the betterment of everyone. The village will be led with discipline, each year the leader will work to improve the village so more people will follow. When more follow then success can be attained.</p> <p>When the project is successful, there will be more discipline in management. When the leader leads and has followers, they will have more strength and everyone will gain more knowledge and discipline.</p> <p>With good management people will be motivated and happy. Ko Moe Aung is the first step and other people will also work for the betterment of the community. They will observe other people who start to do well and if they are doing good, they will follow and collaborate.</p> <p>Even if there is no project the village will still continue to do the activities. What will be left behind after the project is knowledge which will be passed on to the next generation. Agriculture and fishery skills will still continue because those are our village's livelihood, along with our mindset and attitude. Sewing, beautician and income generation will not be able to be implemented anymore.</p>
<p>Kyar Si Aung</p>	<p>If there is no more project, the village will still work for the betterment of itself. Leaders will also discuss and work together. Older people will handover to younger people by next year and work together with them. If our village can reach 75% of the down payment money it can achieve. Even with no more project the village will still preserve it. The whole village needs to be good; they need to maintain the knowledge. Even if there are no project activities, knowledge and awareness will still be left.</p>
<p>Gwa Thaug</p>	<p>If our village is successful, we can maintain improvements - we will follow the rules and improve religious and social matters - even if no project. The leader (leadership) should have more knowledge, and needs to work more - the village can't stay like this forever. (The leadership) has to be improved for sustainability -it needs to think about improvements like school, clinic, etc.</p> <p>If the project supports the village will also contribute, if the project gives 50 %, the village is ready to give 25%.</p> <p>They need to think about how to unite people and give updates for management and the villagers. The leader will think about if there is no more project and everyone will still have to work for the benefit of</p>

	<p>the village, and choose people to lead and work with us. If the village can conserve and maintain - the project inputs will grow.</p> <p>“Guidance from elder people - money from project will be shared with our children and our children's children” - The village needs to talk with the youth and ask them to be part of the membership. “We look forward to many trainings and to continue to learn and grow and apply what we learn.”</p>
Zikekayae	<p>If the village is successful everyone will get a job and the village will not have to sit like this anymore. If the village compares now and the past, our village has improved a bit.</p> <p>“When the village is developed it will be greener everywhere, we will sell different things and have our own business and more fish. We will see people riding motorbikes, cars, with more fish and birds and it will be easy to find work. People will work in groups and have higher standards. People will work as beauticians and also have workshop training, and people will plant more plants.”</p> <p>If there is no more project there will be less awareness and people will have less understanding. When there is a project there is support, if no more support there will also be weak village development. The people all need to remember and not to lose knowledge and skills.</p> <p>“When the project is successful people will be happy, get rich, have better livelihood, they will feel blissful, and business will improve”.</p> <p>If the project improves everyone can tell their children because of the project the village is successful and proud. The village will continue the income generation activities after the project ends. Money will not decrease but will increase. If the village does it systematically it won't lose but will continue after the death of the present leaders into their children's time.</p> <p>“I have been involved, working, since the beginning of the project so I have things to do in future too.”</p> <p>“In the next accounting training the idea of letting youth be involved was considered. It is important that youth start to develop these skills. The transferring of skills from the older village members to younger ones is important for the future of the village. It is also a good example for others. I share whatever I have learned managing budgets and set an example for others to also share their knowledge.”</p> <p>The project will improve. Actively collaborate and follow rules and regulations. If the organization's rules are followed then the village can prosper. Sometimes it is difficult to follow the project fully because of livelihood. In order to be successful, people need to have work throughout the years. Now that is not the case. For agriculture now they throw out the seeds and harvest rice using machines.</p>

In our village there is no self-employed business (work). We have 47 households and most of them have to stay home without a job. Some days they find fish, other days they don't get fish. It is hard to get by each day. Now in a family if they get 5000 MMK income it is not enough that is why it is hard to be involved in this.

The reason people don't get fish is that other people are getting people to use a variety of equipment to catch fish. Our village only uses nets but others use electric shock, shovels or use big boats. If our village keep a net and leave at the shore and if we don't go and look at it then our boat will be also gone. If our village keeps nets to catch prawn and leave them overnight, they don't understand and shovel all.

In the past when they were casting nets one night, they got about 10,000 MMK. Now they can't get anymore and this has happened for more than 3 years probably 5 years now. Others came with electric shock and we didn't dare to tell them to stop. They came from "Kyauk Lone Gyi". Here about 30 households have to depend on the stream. If our village doesn't catch fish, it is hard to get other work.

Now people use machines to harvest rice. The reason why is that in some houses there are no men and if the rice is harvested manually there will be a need for man power, but it is hard to hire or get labor. Labor charges would cost one person for 7000 but with a machine, one-acre costs only 40,000 MMK. With a machine no need to carry. The extra money is donated for religious activities. Nothing can be sold in our village.

If the fish price in Thaton is 15,000 MMK, in our village we only got 5000 MMK because of bad transportation. They also don't get good price for rice and get low price for fish from the fish traders.

For animal husbandry, I don't want to take the stress and give other stress. If the animals die, the community will lose their money. Although, they want to do animal husbandry, they had experiences of pigs died due to disease. If the livelihood doesn't work, then the village has to use the income generation fund. There is also responsibility and accountability. "I myself am involved in the agriculture group, for harvesting time I have to hire piecework."

In this village people own at the most 20 acres. 12 people work on other's farms. There are only 4 people who own the paddy fields. Most of the people in the village work as daily workers. In the past the land that was kept for pasturing now has become farmland. In the past, the boss used the land as salt land and now uses it as a rice field. The village reported to the project about the problems with the stream but because of the political situation had to stop many times.

"We can't conserve alone, we need our neighboring villages' collaboration." from the leader of the VDC in Zikekayae.

<p>Karte</p>	<p>“If I am successful the village people will follow to raise the crab and will have more interest and the village will change – then if I talk about raising fish they will follow, if someone starts the others will follow.” – person from Karte</p> <p>Before the project leaves, the village wants to have mangrove and more fish. If they get that it will be good for not only the village and children but for the whole country. They need trees and forests to avoid natural disasters.</p> <p>Our village people have to go somewhere else and be someone's slave, but if they can get more job opportunities the village can reach its goal of becoming a “green village”. The leader has to encourage others not to cut the trees.</p> <p>Even after GoMP exits the work will still have to continue. Village management will be different. The accounting training will be helpful to manage the work and not waste resources so the leader needs to stay on top of all this.</p> <p>The project will leave and the village will need to carry this on. They have the raw materials (skills and knowledge given by the project), The village has to decide how to use the raw materials to continue to build the product (a good village with conservation of natural resources)</p>
<p>Zee Gone</p>	<p>Mangrove forests grow and protect the village. They also give fresh air, and better business.</p> <p>Gender groups make decisions without prejudice...everyone wishes that if there is no more project, the mangrove forests, along with the revolving fund, and 4 WASH activities will continue. Then, before the end of the project, the village requests the project for more people to come and give more training for awareness, including, cleaning up drinking water, and mangrove forest.</p> <p>“If the project is successful I, myself, will not continue to work my present work in fishery but will change to another livelihood, something that is more comfortable. This is because working in the sea is dangerous. If I can, I will open a shop on the sea shore and leadership will be more effective from the leaders. If we are alive, we will continue to do it and if not then we will hand it over to the youth. For the management body, the leaders will continue to develop the village. The village will be more united and everyone will work for the benefit of the village.”</p>