

LOCAL GOVERNANCE MAPPING

MAPPING HIGHLIGHTS IN MAGWAY REGION



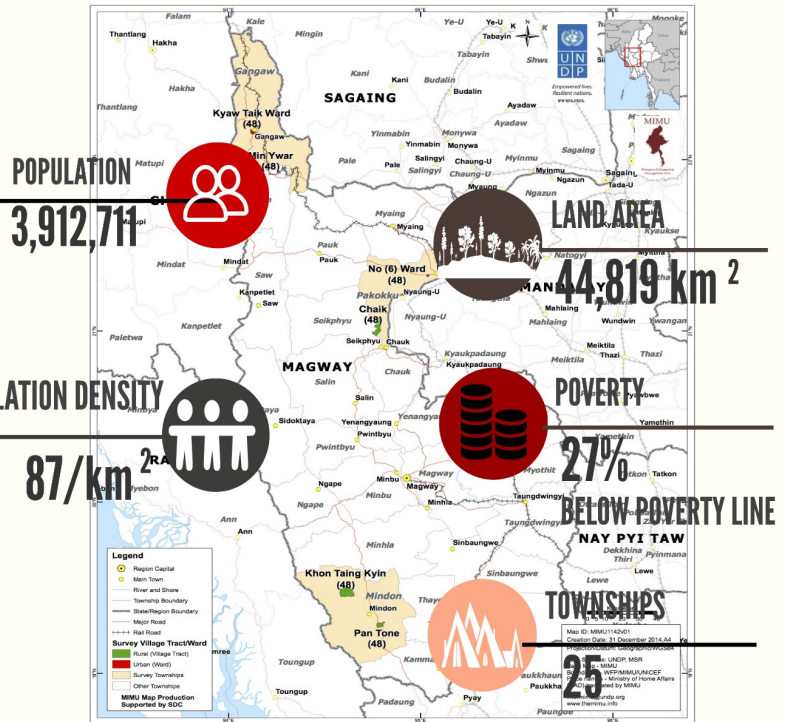
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BACKGROUND

In 2014 a mapping of local governance took place in Magway Region. This is part of a nation-wide local governance mapping carried out by UNDP in collaboration with the General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs. For an overview of the methodology see Fast Facts: Local Governance Mapping in Myanmar.

In Magway the mapping was conducted in Pakokku, Gangaw and Mindon townships, where citizens, service providers, committee members, civil society representatives and local administrators were interviewed about local governance and service delivery.

Around 300 citizens and 100 service providers and local administrators shared their experiences and impressions of **development planning and participation access to basic services** (specifically primary primary health care and drinking water), and **information transparency and accountability**. This high-light shares some of the key findings in Magway.



Source: MIMU

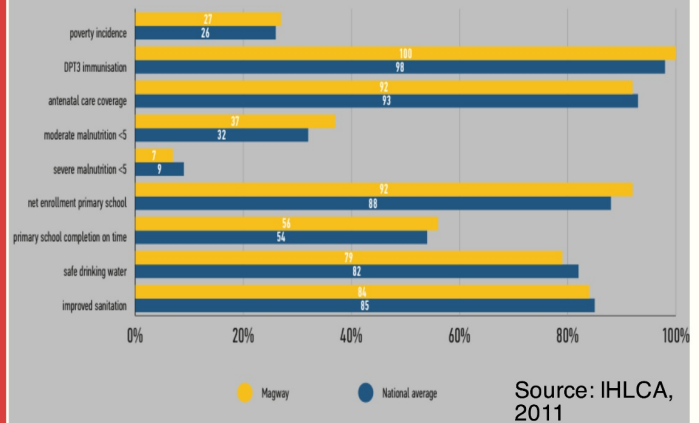
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Magway Region is one of the core regions of Myanmar, hosting about seven percent of its population. Its economy is dominated by agriculture but also petroleum production and other extractive industries. Magway's oil sectors earned the Region the epithet "the oil port of Myanmar".

Magway Region has not been affected by armed conflict, ethnic tension or major natural disaster in recent years. Overall stability has led to relatively well-functioning state institutions.



Magway's social development indicators such as poverty, education and immunization, safe drinking water and sanitation are comparable to the national averages, but there are significant disparities within the Region.

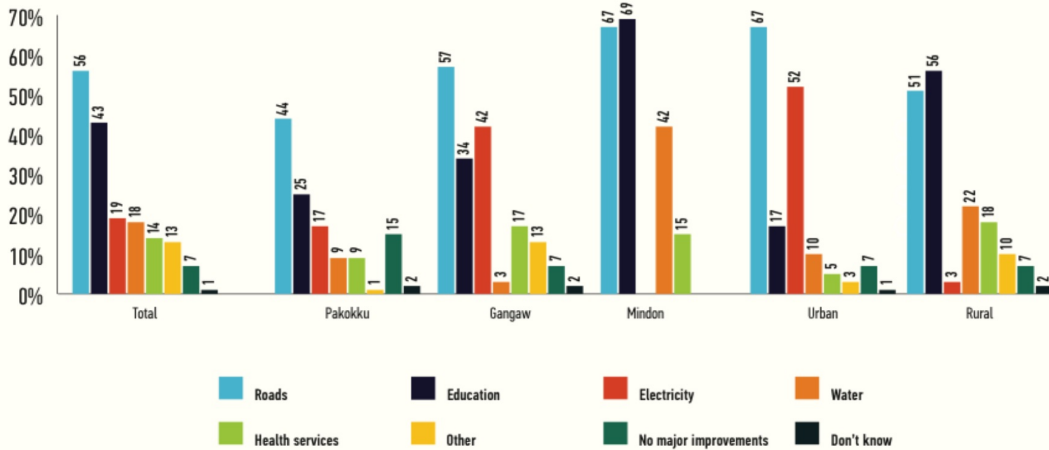


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IMPROVEMENTS SEEN AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



Improvements in Magway

- * Improvement in roads were mentioned most often (56%), followed by improvements in education (43%), improved access to electricity (19%) and drinking water (18%).
- * Only 7% of the citizens is of the opinion that government has not made any major improvements in the last three years.

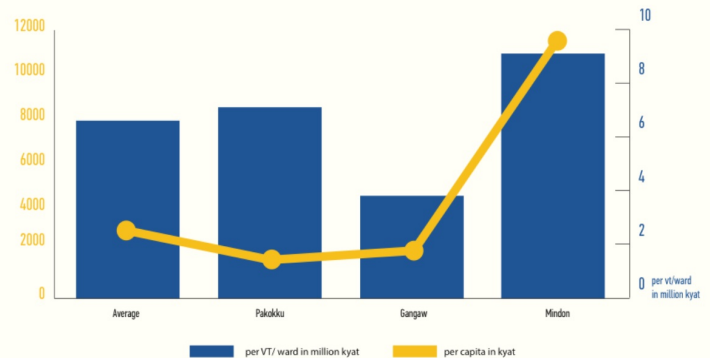
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION

Development Funds

| | The Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) in million kyat | Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in million kyat | GAD Rural Development Fund (RDF) in million kyat |
|---------|--|---|--|
| Pakokku | 69 | 100 | 330 |
| Gangaw | 51 | 100 | 133 |
| Mindon | 58 | 100 | 536 |

PRF, CDF and RDF combined for 2013/2014

Per capita availability in Magway of PRF, CDF and RDF comes down to approximately 3 USD, varying from 11.5 USD in Mindon to 1.7 USD in Pakokku.



Township Administrator (TA)

In all three townships the TA is taking a leading role in development. The TA guides the Township Development Support Committee (TDSC) by proposing a short list of potential projects that has been compiled by a planning committee composed of government staff only. Whether or not the advice of the TDSC is accepted depends a lot on the discretion of the TA, making the TDSC's advisory role rather non-committal.

Township Development Support Committee (TDSC)

In Magway, the TDSCs are playing a role in the prioritisation process at the township level and in progress monitoring. They meet on a regular basis with the TA to discuss development-related issues in the township.

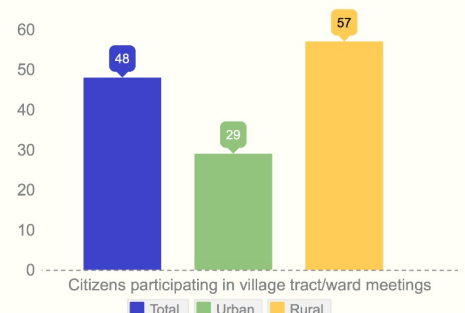
The TDSCs are mainly composed of government officials and representatives of the business sector. Their members are predominantly from urban wards and there was only one female TDSC member in the three townships.

Township Municipal Affairs Committee (TMAC) and the Department for Municipal Affairs (DMA)

Both the DMA as well the TMAC members that were interviewed in the three townships were positive about the way the TMACs are operating in their township at the moment. Decisions are taken jointly between TMAC and DMA with regard to the projects to be included in the annual plan. TMAC members have direct contact with Ward Administrators (WAs) and community members, and will listen to their needs and complaints and in addition explain to people why they have to pay certain taxes or levies.



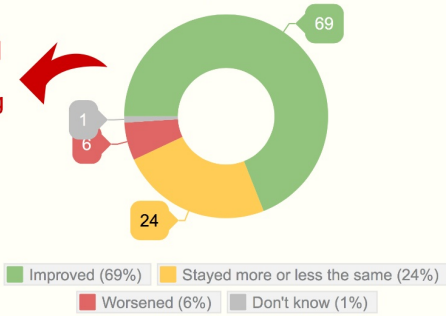
The joint TA - VTWA - TMAC - TDSC meetings are important for vertical coordination between the township and the local communities. They are often attended by the elected Hluttaw members who can take important matters to the Region Hluttaw



BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Has primary education in your village tract/ward improved over the last three years?

Key reason for perceived improvement: a new or improved school building (65%)



PRIMARY EDUCATION



69% of the people perceived improvements in primary education over the last three years, and 82% of the respondents with children attending school were satisfied with the quality.



As a result of the additional budget available, enrollment rates for primary education have gone up in Magway and the average size of classes has gone down. In 2014/2015 the ratio was one teacher for 18 students.



While more information is collected at the grass-roots level to feed into the planning system, the actual planning is still done at other higher tiers.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



63% of the people perceived improvements in primary health care, and 60% were satisfied with the quality. 98% of respondents perceive equitable treatment in receiving health services.



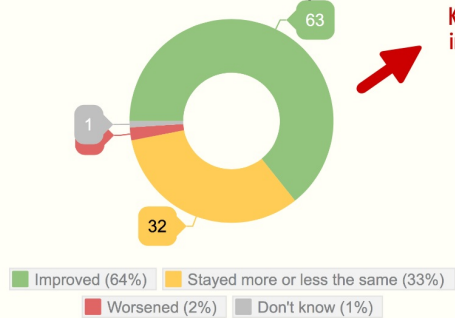
55% of the respondents said they always have to pay for medicines at a public health facility, while most essential drugs should be provided for free.



As everywhere in Myanmar, the TMO is not part of the TMC. Most of the TMOs interviewed in Magway mentioned that it would improve coordination with other departments if they were members of the TMC.

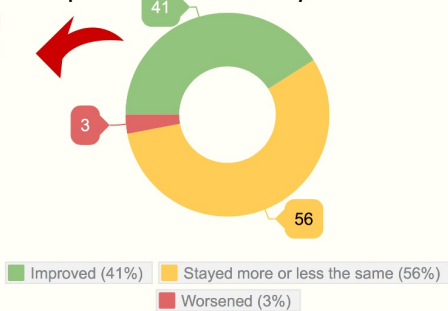
Has primary health care in your village tract/ward improved over the last three years?

Key reason for perceived improvement: improved health facility building (52%)



Has the provision of clean drinking water in your village tract/ward improved over the last three years?

Key reason for perceived improvement: the water source is nearer (43%)



WATER PROVISION



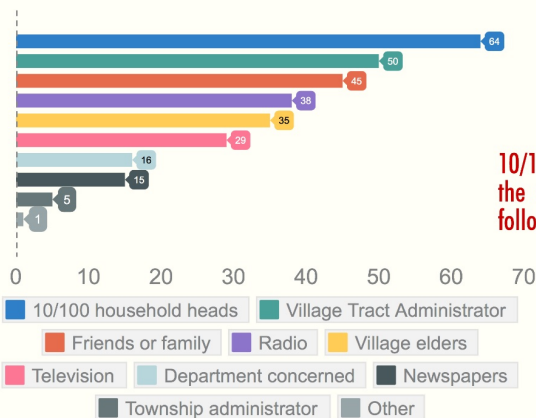
The majority of the respondents feel that the provision of safe drinking water has not improved over the last few years.



It appears government is becoming more responsive to the need for provision of drinking water: more and more resources over which the local committees have some say (i.e. the PRF, the CDF and municipal revenues are allocated to improve access to drinking water).

INFORMATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sources of information on new laws & directives



10/100 Household Heads seem to be the major providers of information, followed by VT/WAs.

Elected VT/WAs

Following the enactment of the 2012 Ward and Village Tract Administration Law, the VT/WAs are now elected representatives of their communities. 47% of the people interviewed noticed a difference in response and communication of VTA/WAs after the elections, with more urban people noticing a difference than rural people (59% versus 40%). Key reasons why people noted a difference include that people see more hospitals, roads and bridges (51%), and more equitable treatment between rich and poor people (26%).

Position of VT/WAs

VTAs are often caught between the demand and needs of their communities that they bring to the attention of the administration at township level, and the limited ability of the township administration to address all issues at the same time. This is often blamed on the VTA/WA by the community. This may explain how in one meeting held in Pakokku with seven VTAs/WAs, the average score given to job satisfaction was 4.5 with none of the VTA/WAs giving a score above 6.

CSOs

It appears CSOs have more space to operate and are more appreciated by the government for the work they are doing to improve the welfare of citizens. However, their effectiveness depends a lot on the personalities of the main players on both administration and CSO side, as well as on the way CSOs have positioned themselves in the local community.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



In the community dialogues, different groups from the community such as women, youth and elders, as well as local service providers and the village tract/ward administrator, discussed key issues of and possible improvements for local governance and service delivery.

To illustrate, in one community the ward administrator promised to provide information about development projects to the community through the ward development support committee. And when the time has arrived, the ward administrator promised he will actively inform the community to elect the members of the ward development support committee. In another community, the ward administrator would support the community in getting clear instructions on procedures for land registration.



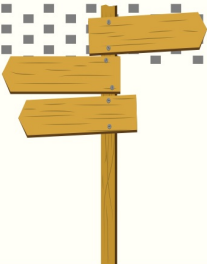
CONCLUSIONS

TDSCs in Magway are mainly composed of business sector representatives, hence their membership needs to be widened as per the Presidential Notification 27/2013. TDSC members' roles and functions should be further clarified through detailed guidelines taking a cue from the TMAC's legal framework.

For the improved management of the various development funds, consideration of the funds within a coherent planning framework at township level would increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Further deconcentration within sectors to lower levels in the respective departments could address immediate problems such as staffing and availability of basic resources.

Specification and clarification of the regulations regarding administrative complaint handling and dispute resolution would help to create more clarity and limit the space for arbitrary rulings and possible maladministration.



For a more detailed report on Magway please visit:
www.mm.undp.org

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