

LOCAL GOVERNANCE MAPPING

MAPPING HIGHLIGHTS IN KAYIN STATE



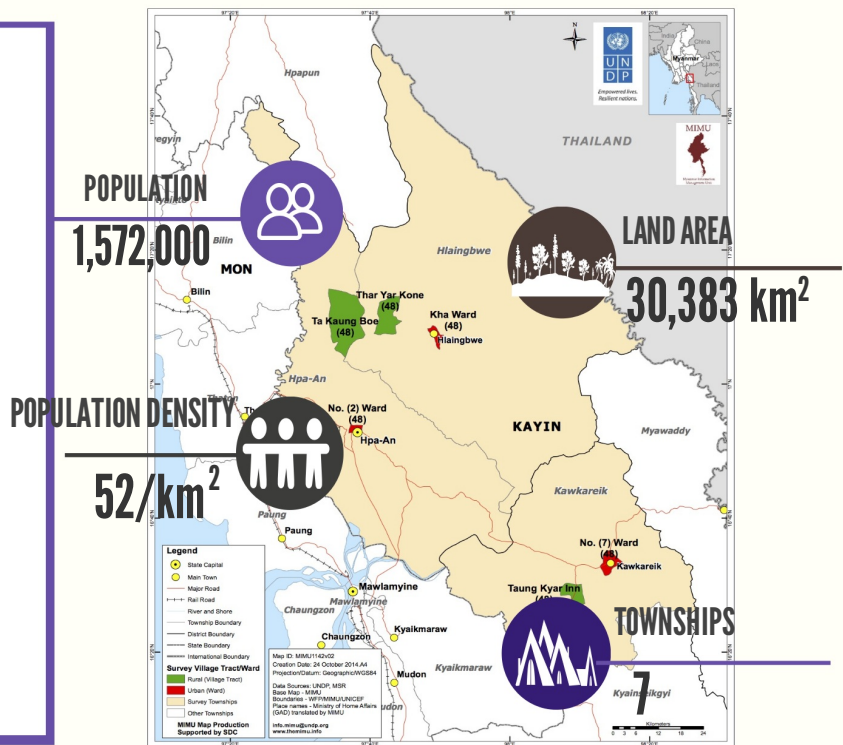
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BACKGROUND

In 2014 a mapping of local governance took place in Kayin State, forming part of a nation-wide local governance mapping carried out by UNDP in collaboration with the General Administration Department (Ministry of Home Affairs) in 2013-2014. For an overview of the methodology see Fast Facts: Local Governance Mapping in Myanmar.

In Kayin the mapping was conducted in Hlaingbwe, Kawkaeik and Hpa-An townships, where citizens, service providers, committee members, civil society representatives and local administrators were interviewed about local governance and service delivery.

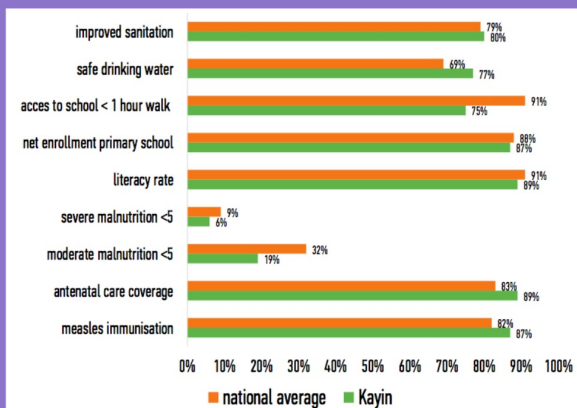
Around 300 citizens and 100 service providers and local administrators shared their experiences and impressions of development planning and participation, access to basic services (specifically primary education, primary health care and drinking water), and information transparency and accountability.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



Source: MIMU

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The health, education, water and sanitation situations in Kayin State are on par with and even ahead of other parts of the country. However, the social infrastructure is underdeveloped due to the long-lasting conflict, affecting the more remote villages most of all.



Source: IHLCA, 2011

The economy of the Kayin State is strongly reliant on agriculture, with rice, groundnut, beans, coffee and tea being the dominant crops. A special economic zone has been established in the Thai border town of Mae Sot and Myawaddy in Myanmar, and the capital Hpa-An became an industrial zone in 2012. The garment industry is expanding especially in Hpa-An. However, labour force participation of women has gone down.

SAFETY

The ceasefire agreement of January 2012 between the government of Myanmar and the Karen National Union (KNU) has improved the peace and security situation in Kayin, with 88% of the respondents reporting feeling 'safe' in their village tract/ward and more than half (55%) reporting improvement in the safety situation.



Safe (88%) Neither safe nor unsafe (7%) Unsafe (5%)

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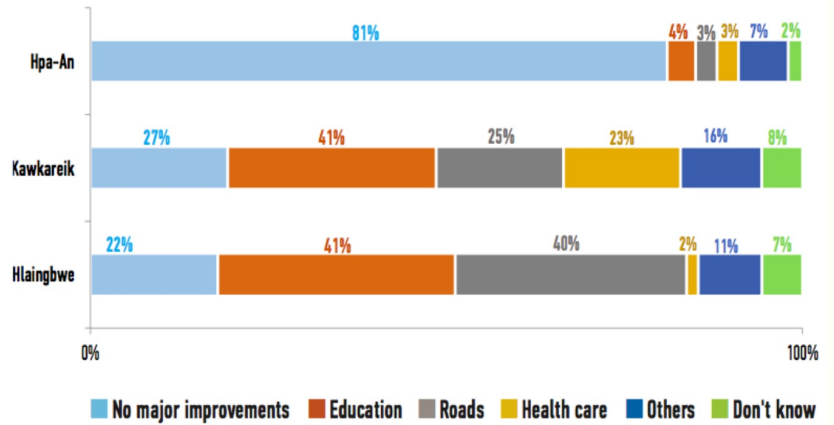
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IMPROVEMENTS SEEN AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

PERCEIVED KEY IMPROVEMENTS IN KAYIN

Improvements in education – 28%
 Better roads – 23%
 Improvements in health care - 9%
 No major improvements – 43%

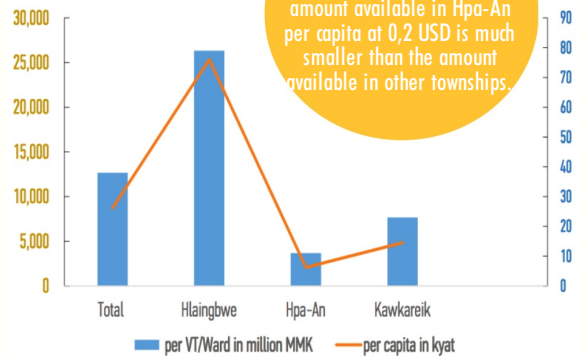
Township committees as well as CSO representatives appreciated the government's commitment to the peace process, the increase in freedom of speech, and government's openness to share their plans and involve citizens.



DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION

Development Funds

	The Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) in thousand USD	Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in thousand USD	Development fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs in thousand USD	GAD Rural Development Fund in thousand USD
Hlaingbwe	246	100	6392	3.5
Hpa-An	222	100	691	-
Kawka-reik	179	100	1180	-



Village Tract Administrators (VTAs) and the Township Development Support Committee (TDSC)

In Kayin, VTAs play the most important role in the identification of projects. Project proposals are submitted in combined VTA/TDSC/TMAC meetings and the Township Administrator prioritises.

One interviewed TDSC member stated: "We have no knowledge about budgets for development projects so we can't prioritise."

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

The municipal services in the 3 townships focused on maintenance of internal roads and other issues, not on provision of water supply which emerged as a key need.

The TMAC and DMA are raising revenues through license (restaurants), taxes (building, vehicles, water supply) or fees (garbage collection).

Township Management Committee (TMC)

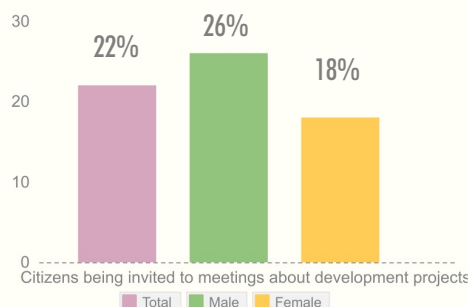
Rather than development and coordination, the TMCs in Kayin State focus on maintaining law and order and peace and security in the townships, given Kayin's security situation.

In none of the three townships in Kayin, either the requested budget or approved budgets is discussed in the Head of Department meetings and they are also not discussed with the various support committees.



"Government decision-making has become more in line with the desires of local citizens, but people's involvement in decision-making is very low."

Citizens participating in community dialogue

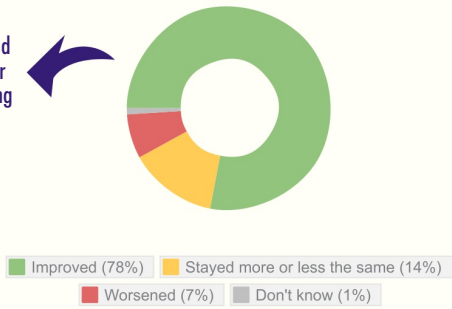


While there are greater number of public representatives (Elderly and Respected persons) in Township Committees, they are mainly from urban ward areas – limiting perspectives from rural areas.

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 (84%)



PRIMARY EDUCATION



78% of the respondents perceived improvements in primary education over the last three years, and 82% of the respondents with children attending school were satisfied with the quality.



Teachers believe they adhere to the code of conduct from the Ministry of Education, and feel they take complaints from parents seriously.



It has become easier for the Township Education Officer to recruit local teachers to deal with staff shortages, but these are often not formally qualified. In 2013/2014 the Hlaingbwe TEO appointed 402 new teachers of which only 25 had completed the teacher training college; the remaining 377 were recruited locally.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



Two-thirds of the respondents in Kayin perceive improvements in the quality of primary healthcare, and 55% are satisfied.



96% of respondents perceive equitable treatment in receiving health services.

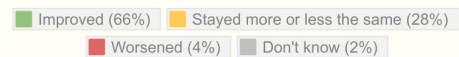
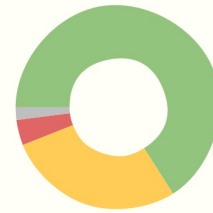


56% of the respondents said they always have to pay for medicines at a public health facility, while most essential drugs should be provided for free.

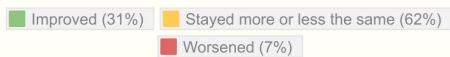
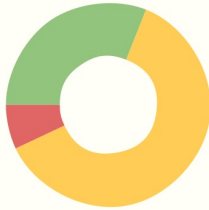


In one township the township medical officer (TMO) stated: "There is no use for me to be a member of the TMC or to discuss health issues with the TDSC as I can't respond to their issues anyhow."

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



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



WATER PROVISION



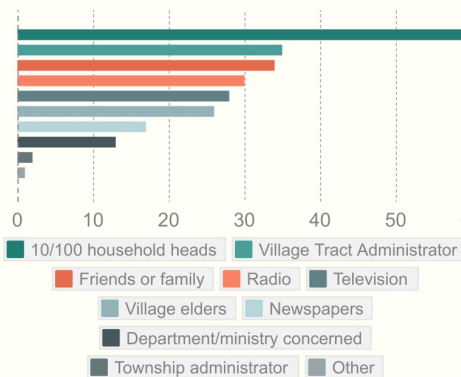
Only 31% of the respondents perceived improvements in provision of drinking water.



Barely 1% of the respondents had been involved in a meeting with the government to discuss possible improvements in water provision

INFORMATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

If there are new laws or directives from the government, how would you usually learn about them?



10/100 Household Heads seem to be the major providers of information.

Perception gap on information provision



All the six VTAs (100%), but 29% of (288) citizens feel the Township Administration is providing them with sufficient information about development projects. This perception gap may be because of the 10 Household Heads who usually pass on information from the VTA to citizens.

Anti-corruption Efforts

CSOs and NGOs in Kayin would like to see stronger efforts to prevent corruption from the township administration.

CSOs

CSOs in Kayin are ambivalent with regard to the new governance environment arising in Kayin. On the one hand, they would like to meet more often as a group of CSOs and also meet with the township administration to coordinate activities and to discuss issues of interest. On the other hand, they are hesitant to do so as they don't know how government would respond to such initiatives.

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, Health service providers proposed to form a health support group consisting of citizens to reduce illnesses and disease.

STATE LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritise investments in service delivery according to community priorities. Expand and enhance the capacity of township government to respond to local needs and priorities, such as access to clean water.

Make information about development projects available to the public using notice boards and pamphlets. In addition, organise meetings to provide information about public budget expenditures.



In the State level workshop in Hpa-An where interim findings from the mapping in Kayin were presented, government and civil society from the State, township and village tract/ward level made recommendations. These include:

Take measures to strengthen women's engagement in decision-making. Set quota/ratio's for committee membership, and women's organization should actively encourage and support women participation.

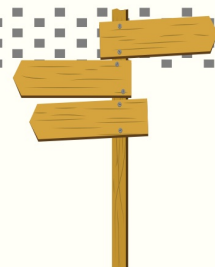
CONCLUSIONS

To improve the collaborative process, a gradual expansion of the role of the TDSC in the selection, prioritisation and monitoring of projects in Kayin could be considered.

Nearly half of the respondents in Kayin do not perceive any improvements in service delivery. Given that people's needs and problems vary significantly across townships, overall government responsiveness and specific solutions need to be tailored to make them people-centered.

There is poor articulation and understanding on both the health care service provider and people's side. For example the rules related to the distribution of drugs and medical supplies are not clearly articulated. This needs to be addressed in order to avoid erosion of trust of citizens and prevent unchecked corruption in the delivery of basic services.

Township administrations should make a clear statement and invite the CSOs for a (regular) meeting to discuss their present status, explain the new regulations regarding CSO registration, and explore in what way the township administration and the CSOs could work together to contribute to the development of the township



For a more detailed report on Kayin please visit:

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