

# It's all about the money ...

Enabling people in Myanmar to engage with the  
government and influence planning and budgeting



DANIDA



*COVER: Former  
Fellow Ma Kay  
Khine Win, 25, is  
now working as  
a primary school  
teacher in Thit  
Seint Pin village*

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*LEFT: Kids from Thit Seint Pin village rushing towards the new primary school building, which was funded by the constituency budget of a local Member of Parliament.*

*NEXT: The eight principles of ActionAid's human rights based approach visualised*

People in Thit Seint Pin village – like most in rural Myanmar – never considered it their right to receive public services and they never knew the details of the planning and budget process or how to influence it

## Director's foreword

The availability and quality of education, health and other public services require adequate funding – more specifically a sound prioritising and redistribution of public finances. Developing plans and budgets top-down increases the risk of a country wasting its resources and not meeting the needs of its people. Using a participatory bottom-up approach, on the other hand, can increase efficiency and thereby the chances of progress and prosperity.

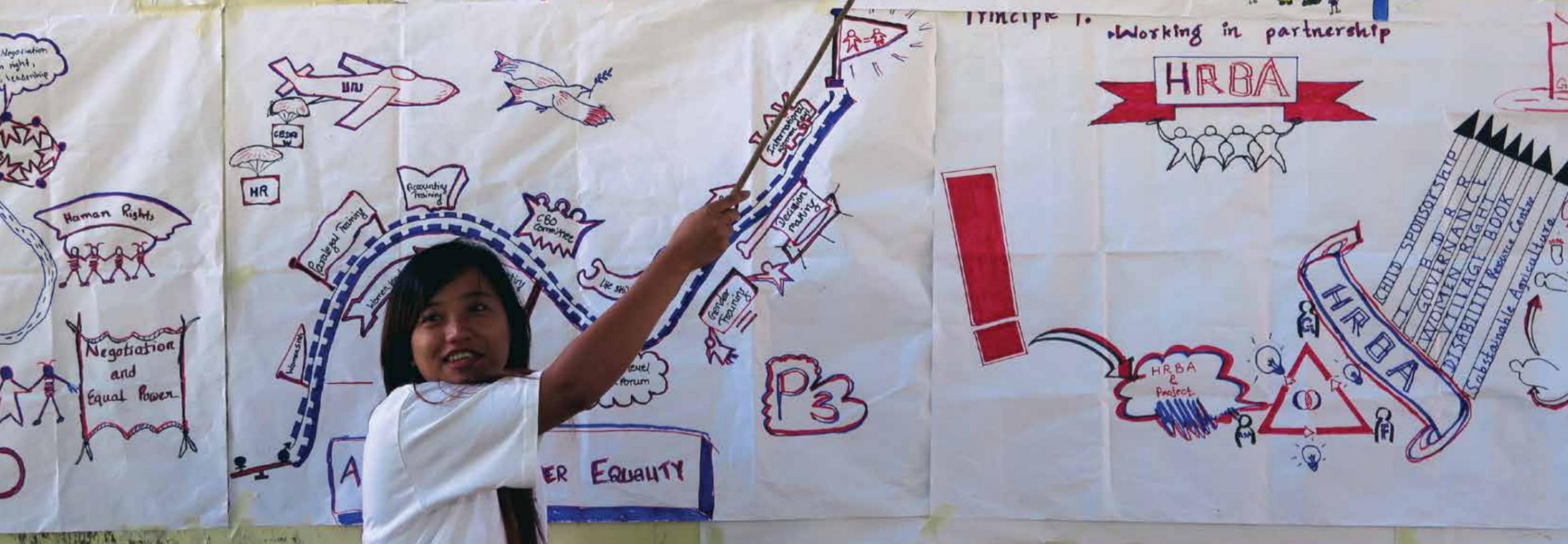
Our project *Citizens for accountability in public service financing* focussed on enabling the people of Myanmar to engage with the government and influence the national planning and budgeting process in order to ensure that much needed public services would be delivered in rural areas around the country. Acknowledging the role of the media – in holding the government accountable and encouraging the public to engage with public service financing – the project also focussed on strengthening the skills and knowledge

of journalists in reporting on the budget process.

Through photos and case stories this booklet attempts to capture the activities and results of the project. People in Thit Seint Pin village – like most in rural Myanmar – never considered it their right to receive public services and they never knew the details of the planning and budget process or how to influence it. Journalist Mya Wun Yan never covered the local budget prior to receiving training on the topic. She now says that the budget is probably the most dangerous thing to cover because if you follow the money you are bound to find corruption too.

We wish to thank Danida for funding this ambitious project, and all our staff, fellows and friends for supporting the implementation.

*Shihab Uddin Ahamad*  
Country Director  
ActionAid Myanmar





Former regimes made decisions top-down and most people were left with little choice but to accept what public services they received, not to mention that many basic needs were never met

## Introduction: Citizens for accountability in public service financing

*LEFT: Children in Thit Seint Pin village attending class in the new school, which has dramatically increased their overall comfort and ability to concentrate*

*NEXT: Ma Kay Khine Win has taken her class outdoors to avoid disturbing the other students while doing loud verbal exercises*

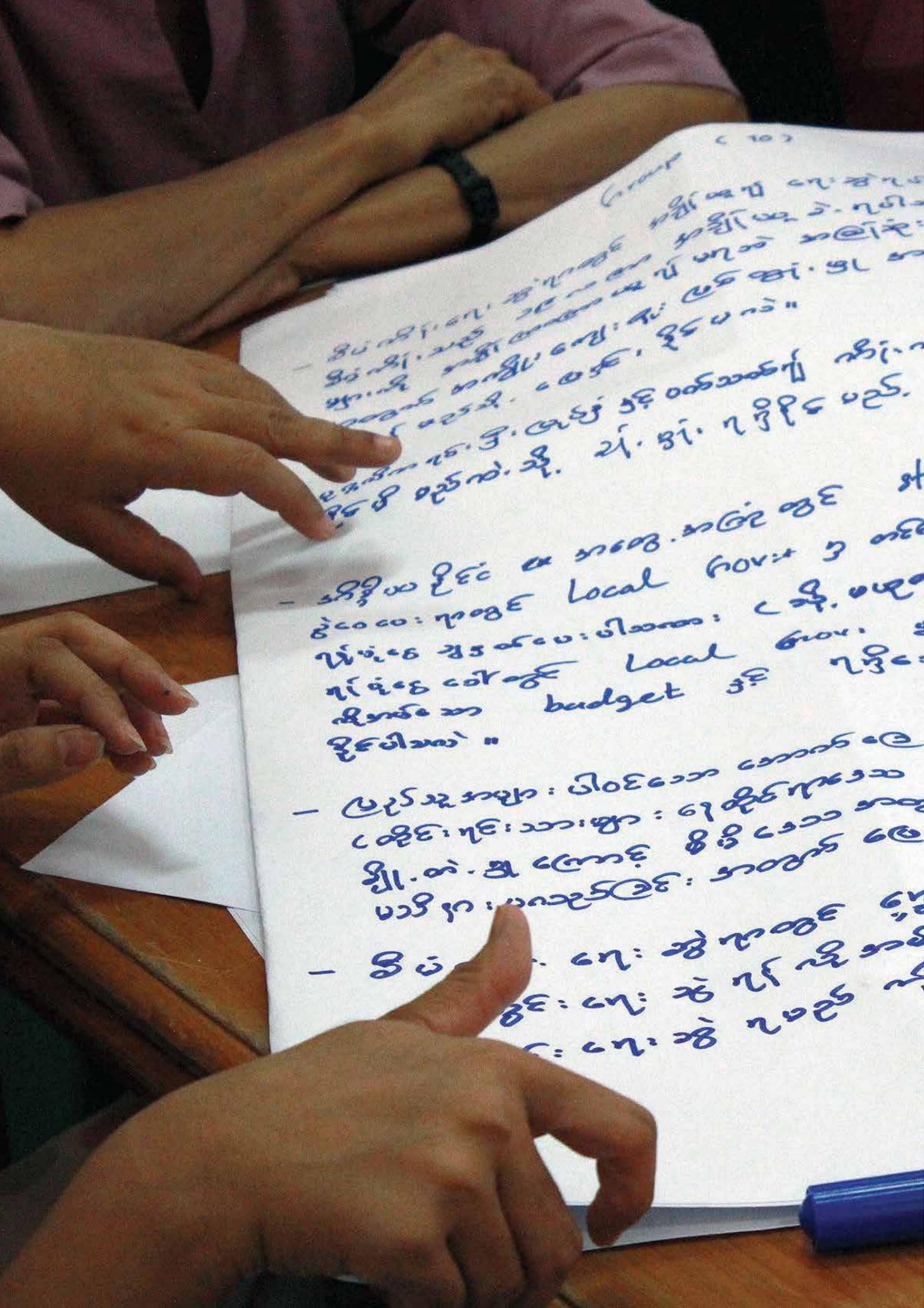
Historically, the people of Myanmar have had little say over how public finances were prioritised and distributed. Former regimes made decisions top-down and most people were left with little choice but to accept what public services they received, not to mention that many basic needs were never met.

The current reform process is an opportunity to change this. The Danida-funded *Citizens for accountability in public service financing* was a two-year project initiated in 2012, aimed at enabling the people of Myanmar to engage with the government and influence the planning and budgeting process. To further promote accountability the project also included training journalists in reporting on public service financing.

\* ActionAid Myanmar's overall theory of change is based on the belief that the causes of poverty can be challenged and that change can and will happen; that a human rights based approach to sustainable, community-led development and strong youth and women leadership can be powerful drivers of change; and that all changes have to be led and facilitated by the people of Myanmar with support from the international community.

It is a priority to reinforce the change processes through engagement with civil society, which will work in solidarity with people; the media, which will amplify people's voice to influence the state; and the state, which will ensure justice and promote, protect and fulfil people's rights.





LEFT & NEXT: Government officials engaged in group work during a workshop on accountable, participatory bottom-up planning and budgeting in Nay Pyi Daw, the capital of Myanmar

The Danida-funded *Citizens for accountability in public service financing* was a two-year project initiated in 2012, aimed at enabling the people of Myanmar to engage with the government and influence the planning and budgeting process

\* The *Citizens for accountability in public service financing* was guided by this theory of change and further employed a range of innovative, context specific methodologies.

*Fellows* are at the heart of all ActionAid's activities in Myanmar. They are young, energetic village volunteers elected by their own communities and equipped with the necessary confidence, skills and knowledge to facilitate participatory development in their communities. *Fellows* employ various participatory rural appraisal tools to mobilise people to collect vital demographic data, analyse their situation and prioritise their own context specific action plans. All this information is compiled in comprehensive *Village Books*, which can be used in development processes by the community, ActionAid as well as the government.

For this particular project ActionAid International's *Economic literacy and*

*budget accountability in governance* approach was adapted to the local context in Myanmar. It provides the tools to build capacity and promote constructive debate between marginalised communities about how public services are financed and allocated. The tools seek to democratise knowledge about political economy in an easily understandable manner.

\* At village level the project mobilised people to participate in the development of primary school budgets through workshops with *Fellows*, School Management Committees, Parent Teacher Associations, and government representatives. Through trainings, participatory analysis and networking opportunities the villagers became conscious of rights and opportunities for exerting influence and obtaining funding for not only quality education but, with time, any public service they prioritise.

During the current reform process the



Handwritten text in Burmese script, likely a list or document, covering the majority of the large sheet of paper. The text is written in a cursive style and is organized into several columns.



*LEFT: A government official raising her questions during a panel discussion on accountable, participatory bottom-up planning and budgeting*

*NEXT: ActionAid keynote speaker Bart Robertson opens the latest of four public round table discussions about the budget*

Throughout the project ActionAid strived to bring representatives from villages, government, political parties, media, academia and civil society together as often as possible to build understanding, networks and alliances

government has undertaken a major decentralisation process demanding all government departments to develop their own bottom-up plans and budgets. This is welcomed by many local government officials, however they struggle with a lack of human as well as financial resources to see it through.

The project supported this process at national level with public round table discussions, opinion polls, the formation of a budget think tank and numerous workshops for members of parliament, government officials, politicians and civil society organisations on how to enforce an accountable participatory bottom-up approach to planning and budgeting.

The *Village Book* concept has also provided practical inspiration on how to collect context specific data and action plans from rural communities.

Recognising the important role the media plays in holding the government

accountable and encouraging people to engage, the project conducted trainings for local journalists, building their skills and knowledge on how to report on the public service financing process – a topic many journalists are unfamiliar with, and feel discouraged from engaging with.

The journalists also had the opportunity to participate in an exposure visit to India as well as engagement with rural communities in order to change the understanding and perspective on rights.

The project further trained a number of rural citizen journalists to identify stories locally and bring national attention to these issues.

Throughout the project ActionAid strived to bring representatives from villages, government, political parties, media, academia and civil society together as often as possible to build understanding, networks and alliances.

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*LEFT: Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw with the budget that convinced a local Member of Parliament to fund a new school building in Thit Seint Pin village through his constituency budget*

*NEXT: The first drawing of the new school building which Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw developed with the school Headmistress*

## Case story: Only the people from a given village know what that village needs

Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw, 22, was motivated by an interest in development as well as a vague sense of worry when she decided to become a Fellow in Thit Seint Pin village, Mandalay Region, two years ago.

“It is difficult to describe in words, but I have strong feelings for my village and I was afraid it would be left behind in the reform process, both in terms of economy and education,” she said.

Especially one richer village in the area ignited that fear.

“Most people there have passed grade 10, but here many drop out after grade 4 to help their family in the fields.

Education is important because it gives you more job opportunities, better living standards, greater chances of a leading role in society and generally higher esteem and trust from other people,” said Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw.

But to get an education, you need money. According to government policy attending primary and middle school is free – but in practice parents are required to pay donations of about 50,000 Kyat (approximately 50 USD) per year to the

school. After middle school, tuition fees gets progressively more expensive. Grade 9 and 10 will set a family back at least 250,000 Kyat per year.

“Most people in my village are farmers so their income is highly dependent on the weather. The average household income is between 300,000 and 1,500,000 Kyat per year,” said Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw.

Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw has finished grade 10, which none of her six siblings have surpassed. Her family makes a living growing sesame, corn, chilli, tomatoes and cotton on 10 acres of land.

As a Fellow she facilitated a *Village Book* process in her community, which established that the top priority was to improve education, followed by transportation and agriculture.

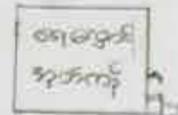
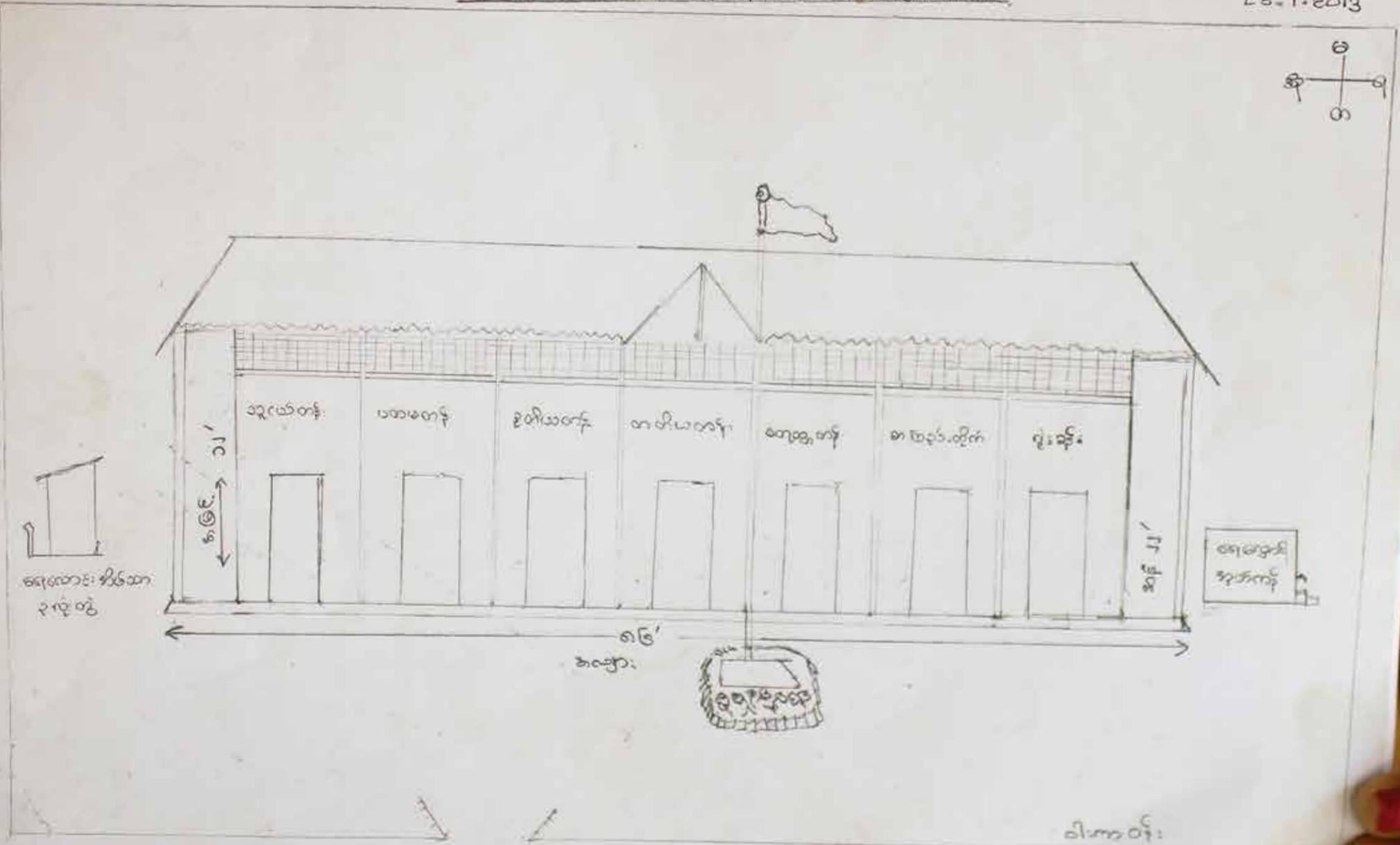
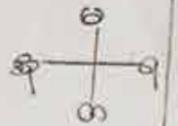
In early 2013 Thit Seint Pin was selected as one of 20 villages in Meiktila Township to participate in the Danida-funded project *Citizens for accountability in public service financing*.

This became a significant part of Ma Ohn

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*LEFT: The better of the two old school buildings in Thit Seint Pin village, which is still standing today (top) and the new, concrete building which last year replaced the most dilapidated one (bottom)*



*NEXT: Village leader U Win Bo in conversation with Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw about village development affairs, which the two spent a significant amount of time cooperating about*

“ Before the training I did not even know that we had the right to ask for funds for public services from the government. But now I know which budget lines are available, how and when to prepare and submit a budget and which government officials to communicate with – Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw, Fellow

Mar Kyaw’s work over the coming years. Soon she was invited to attend a training on how villages can influence public service financing, which she attended along with the school Headmistress, Daw Than Htay.

“In the past the budget was prepared by government officials – this was the first time we were involved. Before the training I did not even know that we had the right to ask for funds for public services from the government. But now I know which budget lines are available, how and when to prepare and submit a budget and which government officials to communicate with,” said Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw.

At a village meeting after the training it was decided to submit a budget for constructing a new school building. The village already had two school buildings but both were old and dilapidated.

“With the increased focus on education in our village more children are attending school now than when the old school houses were built. There was very little space – it was neither comfortable nor safe,” Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw said.

The Fellow, the Village Leader and the school Headmistress took lead in developing the budget and regularly consulted with other members of the Parent Teacher Association and School Management Committee. It took two months to complete the budget.

At the next training, in June 2013, Ma Ohn Mar had the chance to present her village’s budget and submit it to a number of relevant government officials and politicians who were also attending.

“It made me quite anxious but people encouraged me and said it was an important opportunity so I had to do it. Once I was speaking my anxiety disappeared. Later during the same event I met the local planning officer, U Myint Aung, and he encouraged me to continue to prepare and submit budgets,” she said.

Six months later, in December 2013, they received news that they would receive 48 of the 61 Lakh (approximately 6,100 USD) they had requested from the constituency budget of local Member of Parliament U Kyaw Aye. The remaining funds were raised through volunteer





“ I suddenly realised that, in the past, the government could not possibly know what we needed – yet, it was a new concept that we could express that ourselves. It seemed very genuine though, since several respected government officials and Members of Parliament were there too – U Win Bo, Village Leader

*LEFT: A math class in the new school building*

*NEXT: Ko Myint Zaw, 11, remembers how rain used to leak through the roof and walls of the old school so the children and teachers would get wet. When it was windy the whole building was shaking. He finds it much easier to concentrate now in the sturdier and more spacious school*

labour and donations of materials and cash. The most dilapidated of the old school houses was demolished and a new concrete building constructed by March 2014.

“When the budget was prepared top-down the government officials did not know what was needed in each village, so not all budgets reflected the reality on the ground. Only the people from a given village know what that village needs – so we should prepare our own budgets to ensure that our needs are met. Now every village can submit their budgets but unfortunately most people still do not know that,” said Ma Ohn Mar Kyaw.

\*

U Win Bo, 45, has been the Village Leader of Thit Seint Pin the past four years. In the past the Village Leader was never involved in the budgets, he recalls.

“The first time I heard about the new bottom-up approach was in the Shwe Zaw Lu monastery during a training organised by ActionAid in 2013. I suddenly realised that, in the past, the government could not possibly know what we needed – yet, it was a new

concept that we could express that ourselves. It seemed very genuine though, since several respected government officials and Members of Parliament were there too,” he said.

During the workshop he learned how to make a budget, how the government allocates budgets, and the details of the budget calendar.

“I never knew any of that before,” he said.

After the training U Win Bo shared the information about the bottom-up approach with the villagers.

“This increased their participation in village affairs – they now know that they can express their needs and expect results if they participate,” he said.

According to U Win Bo it had been impossible to construct the new school, had they not received the trainings.

“I only heard about the new bottom-up approach at that workshop. On top of that I had the opportunity to interact with decision makers, I made





“ When the old school was constructed, we only got the funds because my cousin was working for the Township Administrator – Daw Than Htay, Headmistress

*LEFT: School Headmistress Daw Than Htay has worked in the same school for 20 years without being involved in the budgets until last year*

*NEXT: After receiving funds to construct the new school house, Daw Than Htay helped prepare a budget that provided funding for a well in the school compound to ensure fresh drinking water for her students*

good connections and some of the government officials and MPs even visited our village afterwards,” he said.

After the school was constructed U Win Bo and other villagers soon prepared another budget for a well in the school compound.

Recently he also prepared a budget for one more school building to replace the remaining old one, which he submitted to the education department.

Meanwhile one of the members of the Village Development Committee discussed the same proposal with their local parliament member to increase the chance for funding.

Ko Myint Zaw, 11, used to study in the old building, but today he attends grade 4 in the new one. He likes drawing and wants to be an engineer, when he grows up – so he “can construct new buildings”.

“When it was raining it leaked through the roof and walls of the old school and we got wet. When it was windy the entire

house was shaking. It is much easier to concentrate now and it is much more comfortable because there is more space,” he said.

\*

Daw Than Htay ,45, has been the school Headmistress for the past 15 years. She was never involved in the school budget before.

“When the old school was constructed, we only got the funds because my cousin was working for the Township Administrator. Otherwise the Township Clerk would prepare a budget and hand us our salaries and pay for our general expenses as they occurred. I never tried to influence that process,” she said.

In 2013 she attended two trainings. The Township Officials had never before shared details about how budgets are developed, but at the training she learned about the entire process. She also received information on how to improve the quality of education.

“Most interesting was the budget calendar. Now I know when the financial year starts and ends. The facilitator



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“ I am not educated and have no inheritance to pass on to my children. The least I can do is ensure that they get an education and that the school is well maintained – Daw Tin Htwe, PTA member

*LEFT: Daw Tin Htwe with the three of her seven children that are still in school, Aung Nay Lin, 12, Thein Htwe, 8, and Hein Wai Yan, 6*

told us that the government policy has changed and that a bottom-up approach to planning and budgets are generally encouraged,” said Daw Than Htay.

She can not guess when a new school house could have been constructed if the training had not been provided.

“But it would definitely have taken a while – if ever. And I am convinced that the old one would have simply collapsed within no more than 5 years,” she said.

\*

Daw Tin Htwe, 45, a widow and mother of seven children, volunteered for the Parent Teacher Association three years ago even though she was already busy working long hours as a casual farm labourer to provide for her family.

“I am not educated and have no inheritance to pass on to my children. The least I can do is ensure that they get an education and that the school is well maintained. If they could become teachers or engineers they would have so many more opportunities in life and could help improve the village and the country,” said Daw Tin Htwe.

Her main responsibilities in the Parent-Teacher Association is to attend meetings, keep the school compound clean, help organise events and encourage children to attend school.

Her three youngest are still in school and her dream is for them to complete grade 10. But it will be hard to make that come true. Compared to her earnings of 5 to 8 Lakh (approximately 5-800 USD) per year the tuition fees in grade 9 and 10 are steep and will require significant savings.

Daw Tin Htwe attended the budget meetings regarding the school construction and recalls the Village Leader sharing information about the bottom-up approach.

“Since we got the money to construct the school and the tube well I know that the bottom-up process is real. Before I could not really believe it. Apparently we can also calculate the cost of providing electricity and water to the village and submit those budgets to the government to apply for funds,” she said.

Daw Tin Htwe does not remember



“ We were inspired by the information contained in the *Village Books*, which we became familiar with during the ActionAid training in early 2013 – U Myint Aung, Staff Officer, Meiktila Planning Department

*LEFT: U Myint Aung holding all the proposals he has received from Fellows. With his knowledge of different budget lines available he often succeed in finding funding for the proposed development projects*

*NEXT: The new school building in Thit Seint Pin village as illustrated by one of the students – the drawing is one of many decorating the thin partitions between grade 2, 3 and 4 who all attend classes in the same building*

the financial details discussed at the meetings. She attended and was consulted but did not actively contribute.

“I would like to become more involved in the future. But first I need my children or other members of the Parent-Teacher Association to teach me how to calculate,” she said.

\*

U Myint Aung, 44, is Staff Officer of the Planning Department in Meiktila Township and has 18 years of experience in making plans and budgets. Two years ago he received news that he should now use a bottom-up approach. The order came from the highest level possible: the President of Myanmar, U Thein Sein.

“At first I thought it would be impossible to implement because our budget was too small to meet the needs of the people. We also lacked capacity in the department itself. But we began to prioritise according to the new approach and with time I realised that it can be done. However, we still face a lot of difficulties, primarily that there is just not enough money,” he said.

The Planning Department have developed a questionnaire for the villages to complete, which had to be revised a number of times.

The current version asks each village to detail recent development activities, priorities and needs among many other questions.

“We were inspired by the information contained in the *Village Books*, which we became familiar with during the ActionAid training in early 2013,” said U Myint Aung.

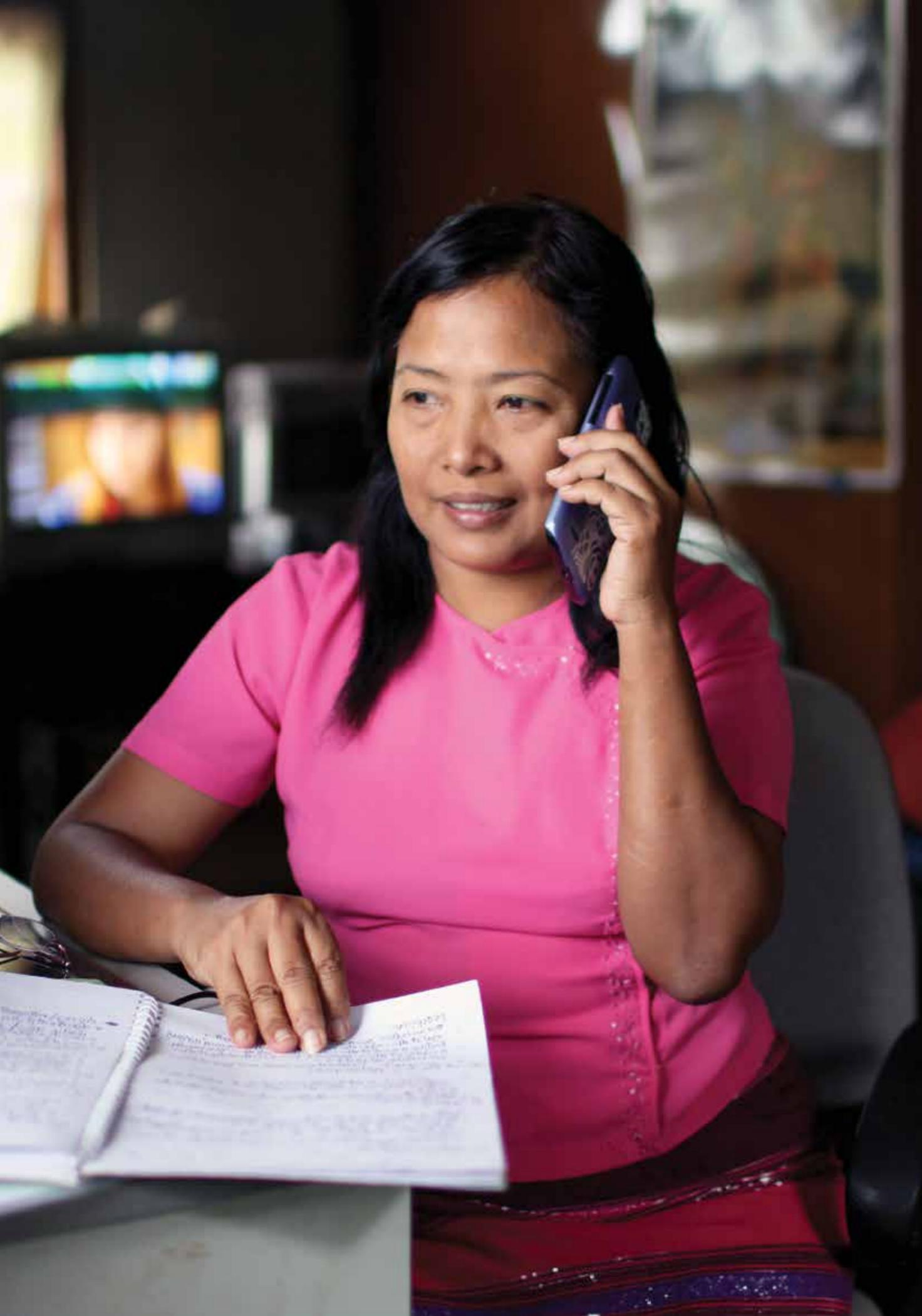
Now the Planning Department analyses all the questionnaires and develop plans and budgets accordingly.

“But the Planning Department can not lead the process in each village, we do not have the human resources for that. Therefore the *Village Book* is very helpful and we encourage the Fellows to present them to us and request a meeting when necessary. I have received more than 40 proposals from Fellows already, I always read them and try to accommodate them the best I can,” said U Myint Aung.



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*LEFT: Daw Mya Wun Yan interviews some sources via phone but most often she needs to meet people face-to-face to get information*

## Case story: The budget is probably the most dangerous topic to cover

Last year Daw Mya Wun Yan, 46, attended ActionAid's journalist training about budget reporting. It was not the first training she had received but it was significant to her.

"The training was just what I needed at the time. A very specialised and professional introduction on how to cover the budgets," she said.

\*

Daw Mya Wun Yan grew up in Yangon, studied English and Biology at the University, and was at the front line of the 1988 student uprising, which cost many of her friends either their freedom or even their lives.

Today she lives in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State. Divorced and a single mother of three she is still a social activist at heart.

"I have worked most of my life as a private tutor, and I always made sure to also educate the children about the 88 uprising and the true history of this country, something they would not learn through the school curriculum," said Daw Mya Wun Yan.

Shortly after the Saffron Revolution in 2007 she began writing online posts about social issues. Earlier it had been difficult to access the internet in the provinces of the then isolated country.

"I wrote about education, regional affairs, conflicts and political prisoners. I received a lot of feedback, both positive and negative, but it felt relatively safe since my presence was restricted to the online sphere," she said.

When the current reform process was initiated she was invited to become the news editor of a new Shan State journal named Eastern Yoma, which was founded by friends and acquaintances.

"At first I wasn't interested, I preferred writing online because it seemed more convenient. But they persuaded me with the fact that my stories would reach more people and have a greater impact if I was working for a printed journal," she said.

Daw Mya Wun Yan had no formal education or experience as a journalist. Three old books by famous Myanmar journalists was all she had to build her new professional life.



“ There used to be many more journalists, but most of them quit. You need a lot of enthusiasm to stay in the trade. It is hard work and it will not make you rich –  
Daw Mya Wun Yan

*LEFT: When Daw Mya Wun Yan became a journalist she learned through reading three books by famous Myanmar journalists*

“That was the only way at the time – you had to learn from more experienced journalists,” she said.

Daw Mya Wun Yan held that job for one year before becoming a freelancer.

“I just got up and left one day when I found out that the journal had sold all my photos and research concerning the Bagan Air crash to a news agency instead of printing it in our paper. I had spent all my working hours to collect it.”

\*

The Eastern Yoma is now closed and Daw Mya Wun Yan only knows of four other journalists in Shan State.

“There used to be many more journalists, but most of them quit. You need a lot of enthusiasm to stay in the trade. It is hard work and it will not make you rich,” said Daw Mya Wun Yan.

She writes about ten articles each week and submits them to a handful of Yangon based journals. Every week she has to check each paper herself to see if they have printed any of her stories.

“They do not tell me whether they print

my stories or not, and they only pay for the ones that are printed. I need to remind them to pay me,” she said.

Each printed article pays between 2,000 and 5,000 Kyat (2-5 USD). Until 2014 Daw Mya Wun Yan supplemented her income by giving private tuition, but now she has become too busy. But she still volunteers English classes at a local orphanage every weekend.

“Before I worked to survive and provide for my children but now they are older and we have a home so I do not need much income. When you can afford it you should devote yourself to helping others. That is what I think,” she said.

Since Daw Mya Wun became a freelancer she has had the chance to attend a number of journalism trainings provided by NGOs.

“The first trainings were about conflict journalism but also included basic journalism skills. It was very useful and important to me. Before I did not know much about ethics for instance - I soon realised that I had been writing some rather unbalanced and one sided articles. Also, I gradually realised how



“ I believe conflict will decrease with the current reform process while it will only become more important to cover the budgets – Daw Mya Wun Yan

*LEFT: As a freelancer Daw Mya Wun Yan contributes to a number of Yangon based journals such as Flower News, The Ladies Journals, Democracy Today, The Yangon Times, Pae Tin Tharn Journal and Modern Journal*

much knowledge you need to work as a journalist,” she said.

Last year Daw Mya Wun Yan also joined ActionAid’s training on budget reporting.

“At that training I learned about the national budget, which sectors receive what percentage of the budget and who to contact for information. I was happy that the training was so specialised. Moreover, I believe conflict will decrease with the current reform process while it will only become more important to cover the budgets,” she said.

Before the training she never reported on the local budget. The process was too complicated to understand and the sources too reluctant to share information.

“Journalists should keep track of the budgets and inform the people, but most journalists do not know how to do. Instead they focus on current news, which is easier and more in demand. When three bombs exploded in Taunggyi last week all the editors in Yangon called and asked me to write about it. Now, I think that is disappointing. People will forget about it after a day or a week - but the effects of the budget on

education and health, not to mention all the corruption, will have consequences for years to come,” she said.

Since the training Daw Mya Wun Yan has made a habit of attending the government budget meetings in Taunggyi, which gives her access to information that is otherwise hard to come by.

“Covering the budget is almost like investigative reporting. People are afraid to give you information, because it might expose too much corruption. I think the budget is probably the most dangerous topic to cover,” she said.



Mya Wun Yan is now working on several stories about the budget.

“Sometimes the government constructs infrastructure that is not needed just because the officials get kickbacks from the contractor. Other times they keep all the money to themselves,” she said.

The details of the stories Daw Mya Wun Yan plans to investigate will not be divulged here, but it is clear that she needs more time, facts and information before they can be published.



“Covering the budget is almost like investigative reporting. People are afraid to give you information, because it might expose too much corruption. I think the budget is probably the most dangerous topic to cover – Daw Mya Wun Yan

**LEFT:** Daw Mya Wun Yan works from home surrounded by her mother, her children, three dogs, two cats and a bowl of goldfish. But she would not want it any other way: “I am not a factory worker,” she said

One story she has already printed six articles on is that of a Village Administrator who pocketed 3,000 Lakh (approximately 30,000 USD) intended for providing electricity to an entire village.

“After I covered the story, the Village Administrator was forced to retire,” said Daw Mya Wun Yan.

Later the story continued to unfold.

“It all started in 2008, but I only learnt about it in 2013 so I had to investigate back in time – at first the authorities did not like to talk about it but I confronted them and in the end the Audit Department came to check. I think the case will end in the High Court and then I can get even more detailed information. If I had not attended the training on budget reporting I could only cover this case roughly – now I can monitor the whole process, and I intend to continue to cover it as long as it takes,” she said.

\*

Daw Mya Wun Yan also attended two budget round table discussions in Yangon and was invited to India on an exposure visit.

“It was especially interesting to learn

that people in India demonstrate against their government to claim more budget for education. You would never see that here – most people does not know that education is a public service, their right,” she said.

In her experience people are only beginning to think that the government should provide infrastructure whereas most still consider education and health a personal issue. Just last week she encountered that attitude during a meeting at her children’s school.

“The school demanded a donation so I asked to see their budget: last year they had only budgeted with the infrastructure they needed not books and other learning materials. So they had a huge deficit, which the parents had to pay,” said Daw Mya Wun Yan.

She asked the teachers why the parents had to pay when there is a government budget for education - but they couldn’t really give an answer.

“The problem is that many parents are afraid their children will be punished by the teacher if they do not pay. Some children are forced to drop out of school in the end.”

ActionAid is an international organisation, working with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice. We facilitate communities to identify their own needs and collaborate with them and allies to bring sustainable change in their lives.

ActionAid has been working in Myanmar since 2006. We have an MoU with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement as well as with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and we are registered as an INGO with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Our current annual budget is now around 10 million USD.



ActionAid Myanmar, in partnership with 17 local and international organisations, supports more than 700 communities in 9 states and regions – around 200,000 people. Along with community-led, self-reliance work, ActionAid Myanmar is actively involved with policy making at the national level.

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