

LOCAL GOVERNANCE MAPPING

Mapping Highlights in Kachin State



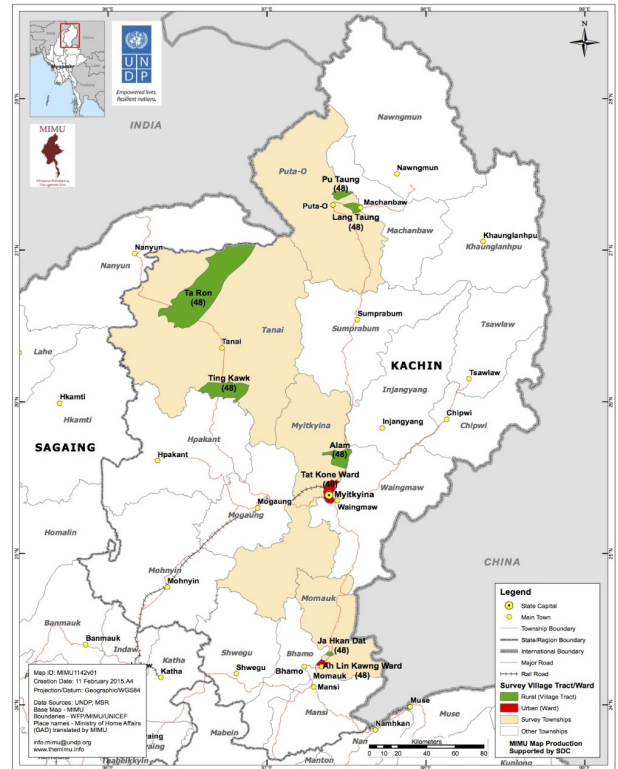
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Background

In 2014 a mapping of Local Governance was carried out in Kachin State. 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 Kachin, the mapping covered Putao, Momauk, Tanai and Myitkyina townships, where citizens, service providers, committee members, civil society representatives and local administrators were interviewed about local governance and service delivery.

Approximately 400 citizens and 120 service providers and local administrators shared their experiences and impressions of development planning and participation access to services (specifically primary education, primary health care and drinking water), and information transparency and accountability. This brief provides an overview of some of the key findings in Kachin.



Source: MIMU



Socio-economic context

Nestled well into the eastern Himalayas, the most northern part of Myanmar is occupied by the State of Kachin with India to its west and China to its east and the north.

With the third largest land area and a population of about 1.7 million people, it is home to several ethnic groups, mainly, Kachins, Bamars and Shans. The economy is largely dependent on agriculture, and Kachin produces considerable quantities of rice, corn, groundnuts, pulses and beans, sugarcane and vegetables. The economy also includes forests with timber production, jade mines and other mineral products.

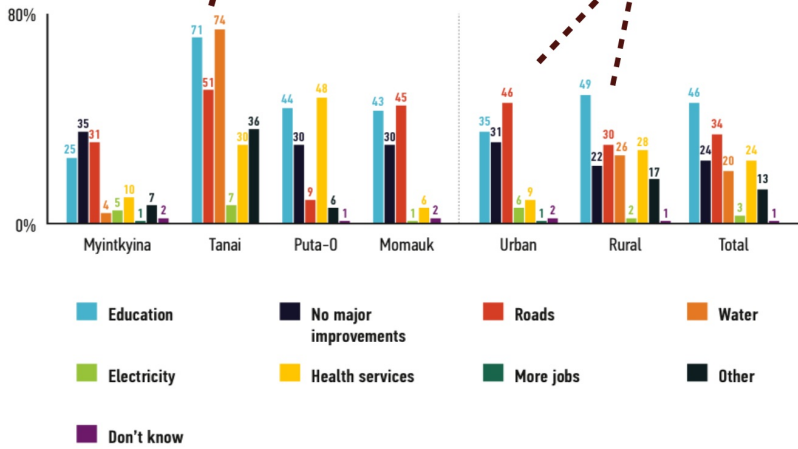
Kachin State has witnessed conflict over a long period. Since 2011, Kachin has seen the most serious of all the armed confrontations affecting the country, and pending a lasting settlement of the decades-old conflict, local governance systems and mechanisms will be affected by this state of affairs.



Improvements seen at the community level

Three-fourth of the citizen respondents perceive improvements made by the administration.

Most visible improvements seen by people are education (46%) and roads (34%).



The need for reliable all-weather roads between townships and the districts is a key priority along with the need for safe water and reliable electricity supply 24 hours a day.

Development planning and participation

Development Funds

Development funds in Kachin at township level:

Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) per township - 300,500 USD (Tanai), 18,400 (Putao), 116,000 (Momauk), 196,300 (Myitkyina)

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) per township +/- 100,000

Rural Development Fund (RDF) per township - 191,400 (Putao), 22,400 (Momauk), 909,500 (Myitkyina)

Border Affairs Fund per township - 293,700 (Tanai, including NATALA Funds), 896,900 (Putao), 218,600 (Momauk), 145,000 (Myitkyina)

TA

In interviews with the Township Administrators (TAs) all but one said they held regular weekly meetings with the development committees where challenges and progress are reviewed.

In Putao, the TA conducts twice monthly meetings with the WA/VTAs and relies on this mechanism to give feedback to the community and to hear any reports.

TMAC

The Executive Officer of DMA Myitkyina was unique in describing his relationship with TMAC as "fruitful and beneficial" to his function. The need to discuss tax rates and collection methods is important he said, since the committee members have first hand information and can be persuasive in communication efforts with local citizens.

There were two women members in the visited TMAC, one in Tanai and one in Putao.

At the sub-national level, there are emerging opportunities for local actors, such as Support Committees, Village Tract/Ward Administrators (VT/WAs) and the people to influence the planning process and decision-making for public-sector investment.



TDSC

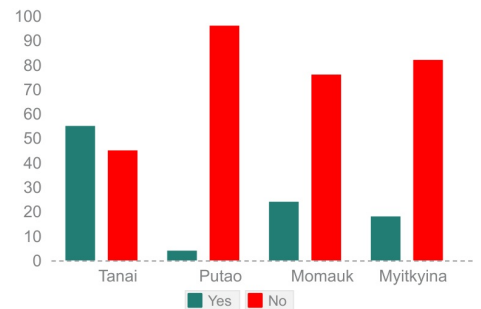
Three of the four visited townships have all seven of the prescribed Township Development Support Committee (TDSC) members in place (Tanai 6). The person elected by majority of the committee members acts as the chair and in most cases it has been a representative from the community. There are no female members in the committee. The TDSC members felt that for the first time they are able to have direct meetings with senior management at the township level and line departments to discuss local needs and give direct input on planning.



PRF

Information about the PRF is insufficient both for township committees and citizens, and although the total allocation to the State is published in the newspapers there is often no further information on how much is allocated for each township.

Citizens being aware of development funds being spent in their village



Three quarters of township inhabitants [81% in rural areas] are not aware of any government funds being spent in their area.

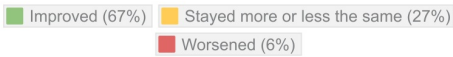
Citizen participation in meetings

61% of people (rural 64%, urban 54%) "sometimes" participated in community meetings. The reasons that participants did not participate were: "Never invited/ did not hear of one/ there are no meetings organized in this village" (43%), and "Too busy to attend or they are held at a time the respondents were not available" (43%).

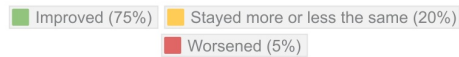
Access to basic services: primary health, education and water

A large majority of people perceive improvements in the quality of health care provision (67%) and quality of primary education (74%). 43% felt that the availability of drinking water had improved.

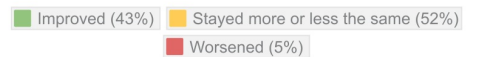
Perceived improvements in healthcare



Perceived improvements in primary education



Perceived improvements in water provision



Improvements in health care



For healthcare the more remote areas rely almost entirely on public services (92% in Tanai and 80% in Putao). Myitkyina and Momauk (48% and 54% respectively) favour private practitioners. Public health facility managers from both urban and rural areas confirmed that health services had improved. Responsibility for managing public health facilities is shared between the health manager, health assistant and Township Health Officer fairly equally.

Local decision-making in education



A budget for temporary teachers, who can be locally appointed and paid, is used in each township to boost teacher student ratios.

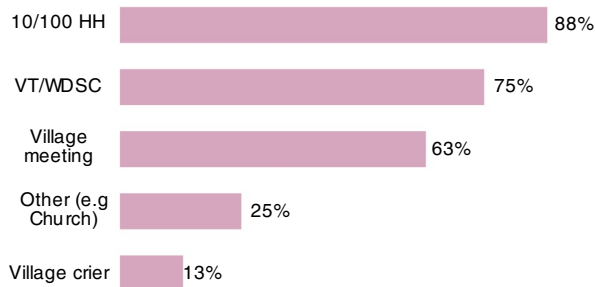
All schools have a Parent Teachers Association (PTA) but the main role of the PTAs is limited to providing small repairs and maintenance, especially in rural areas and few parents participate (10%).

Time to get to water source



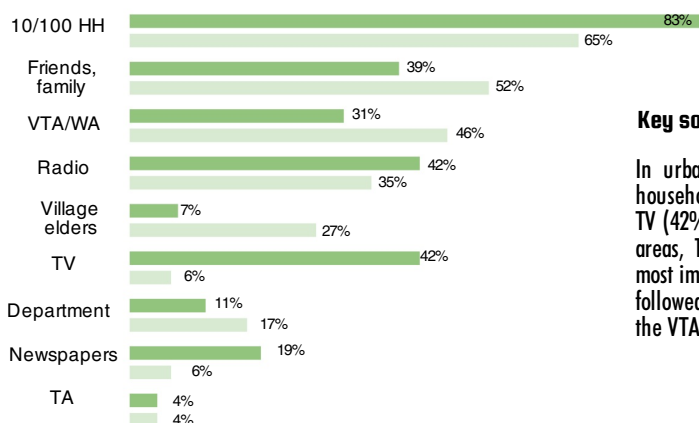
Notwithstanding improvements the people of Tanai and Putao townships are most affected by the lack of proximity of water with almost half of Tanai people and 42 percent of the people in Putao have to walk up to 15 minutes to reach their water source

Information, transparency & accountability



Preferred channel of communication for VTA/WAs

Village Tract/Ward Administrators (VTA/WAs) prefer to pass the information they receive from the Township Administration along to their communities using the 10/100 HH representation network, the Village Tract/Ward Development Support Committee (VT/WDSC) or by calling a village (tract) meeting)



Key sources of information for people

In urban areas people rely on the 10/100 household heads (83%), radio (42%) and TV (42%) for information provision. In rural areas, 10/100 household heads are also the most important source of information (65%), followed by family and friends (52%) and the VTA/WA

VTA/WA Elections

57 percent of people say that the VTA/WA have not been able to make a difference in response to local problems or in communications since their election to the position, compared to earlier when they were appointed.

Freedom to express

Almost equal numbers of people feel free or not at all free (28%/29%) to say in public whatever they want in discussions about local government. And almost 38 percent wanted to be careful about what they wanted to express openly.

First person to approach in case of a dispute

For most citizens the VTA/WA is the first person to approach to resolve civil cases like domestic issues or land disputes.



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 village tract in Momauk health staff agreed to provide health care to the elderly who cannot come to the clinic/health facilities by visiting their homes on Thursdays and Fridays. In a village tract in Myitkyina, it was discussed that township departments should make procedures, rules and regulations related to applying for a plot of land clear to the people.



Conclusions

- 1 The township development planning process, affected by limited budget with funding from multiple streams, requires clear guidelines grounded in participatory planning.
- 2 Spending of local development funds can be improved through capacity development for management of the funds, monitoring and evaluation, planning at the local level, and improvements in the current local planning process.
- 3 Due to the history of practicing strong hierarchical methods for decision making in Kachin, building confidence of local level citizens to participate in meetings, and convincing them of the critical usefulness of their participation will need more effort.
- 4 Direct and indirect election of WA/VTAs, members of VT/WDSC and to the State Hluttaw strengthen accountability mechanisms but require further consolidation to improve accountable representation.



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