

LOCAL GOVERNANCE MAPPING

MAPPING HIGHLIGHTS IN SAGAING REGION



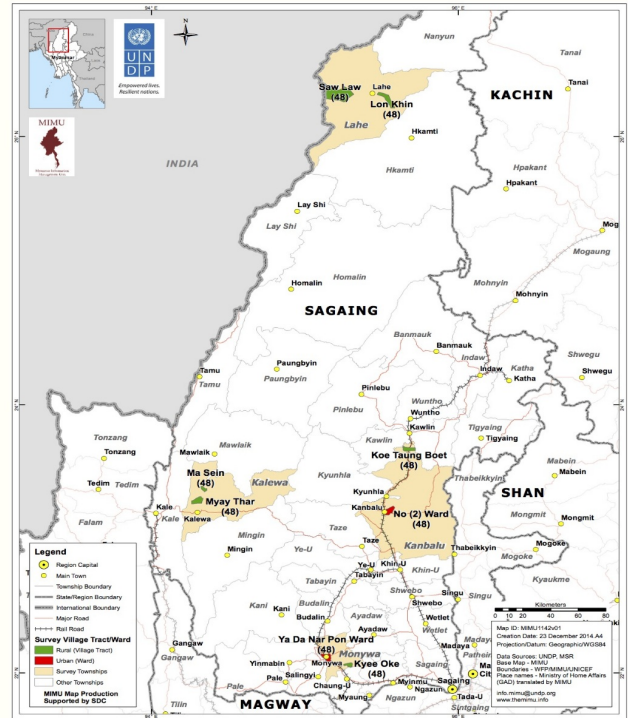
Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

BACKGROUND

In 2014 a mapping of local governance took place in Sagaing Region, forming 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 Sagaing the mapping was conducted in Kanbalu, Kalewa, Monywa and Lahe 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 100 service providers and local administrators shared their experiences and perceptions 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 Sagaing.

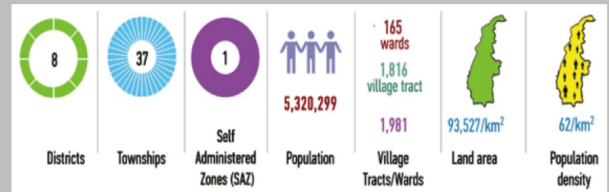


Source: MIMU

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Sagaing Region is the second largest constituent unit of Myanmar, and the largest of the 7 Regions with the fourth largest population. The 2008 Constitution established a Naga Self-Administered Zone (SAZ) comprising three of Sagaing Region's townships.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy with rice and wheat as the main crops. Forestry products have also played an important role in the economy. In addition, natural resource extraction is an important sector with gold, coal, salt and small amounts of petroleum being produced. Sagaing's economy benefits from the main rivers for transportation, communication and trade.



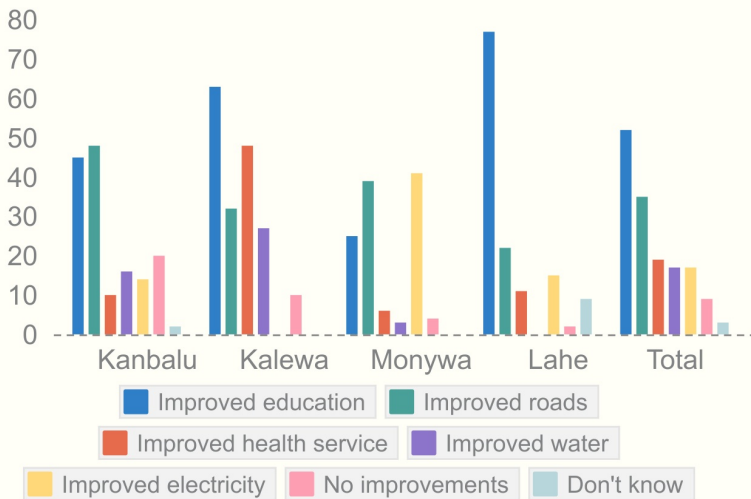
The local economy and socio-economic indicators are highly diverse with the urbanized South showing reasonably good living standards by comparison to its remote northern areas, where the ethnic minorities live with significantly lower standards of economic activity and social sector performance. Parts of the townships belonging to the Naga SAZ are among the poorest, most isolated and least developed of Myanmar.

Supported by:



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

IMPROVEMENTS SEEN AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



Improvements in Sagaing

- * Overall, improvements in education facilities or services were mentioned most often (52%), followed by improved roads (35%). There were large variations between the townships.
- * While rural communities highlighted health concerns and access to safe drinking water, urban respondents highlighted jobs and economic opportunities as the main challenges.

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION

Development Funds (2013-2014)

	The Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) in USD	Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in USD	GAD Rural Development Fund (RDF) in USD	Border Area Development Fund in USD
Kalewa	82,900	100,000	1,000	313,000
Kanbalu	(data unavailable)	100,000	328,600	0
Monywa	10,770	100,000	226,960	0
Lahe	(data unavailable)	100,000	130,290	1,318,250



P
R
F The effectiveness of the PRF was widely recognized, with TDSCs circulating a list of projects to the TMC for consolidation.

C
D
F For CDF planning, the elected Hluttaw members from the respective townships (not in the SAZ) have joined together to form a super-committee consisting of the TDSC, the TMC, the TMAC and the elected Hluttaw members. Projects funded through the CDF in parts of Sagaing required citizens to self-fund and complete half of the project before they applied to the CDF for the second half of the funding.

R
D
F The collection of projects for consideration under the RDF is managed by the Rural Development Department (RDD). The RDD completed a community survey in 2014 to capture priorities for communities. As the Rural Development Officers (RDOs) sit on several township committees, the lists are coordinated with other township submissions through these mechanisms. In Monywa it was noted that the arrival of the RDF and rural development staff led to a refinement of the TMAC's focus to only urban areas.

Township Management Committee (TMC)

The TMC was referenced as the hub of the wheel and Village Tract/Ward Administrators see the TMC as a platform to raise issues with and receive information from different members of the committee. The TMC provides a regular opportunity to sector departments to share technical information.

Township Development Support Committee (TDSC)

The election process for TDSCs' citizen member has resulted in the inclusion of a representative from the community of elders.

The TDSC members consider their role to cover both rural and urban areas. However, members also noted that without operational funds to support travel or other expenses all members on the TDSC were from areas in or near the urban centres, and no TDSC reported regular engagement with VTDCs

In Lahe, the TDSC is not fully operational.

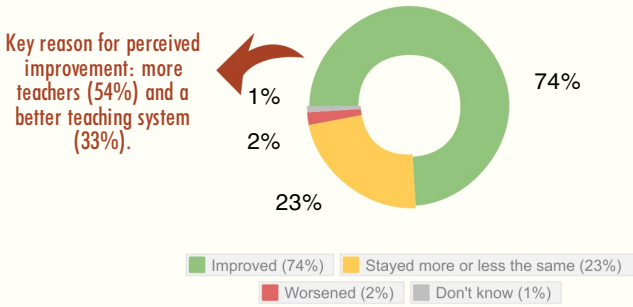
Township Municipal Affairs Committee (TMAC)

Sagaing affords TMACs a great deal of autonomy in establishing resource and expenditure plans for their municipalities, but there is often negotiation between the Region and the municipalities over these.

In two of the three non-SAZ townships visited, the TMAC approved project expenditures in rural as well as in urban sites.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

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



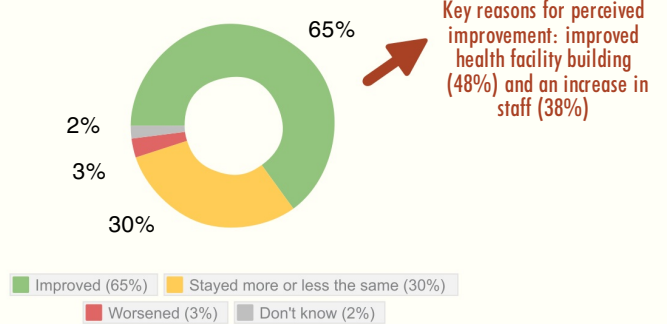
PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Satisfaction with the quality of education at primary school was particularly high in Kalewa (91%) and Lahe (86%).
- Township Education Officers (TEOs) coordinate with other township officers and committees through the TMC, and have monthly meetings with the WA/VTAs. The high school headmaster coordinates the flow of information to and from the middle and primary schools of a school cluster. Each school has a committee to manage repairs and improvements and a Parent Teacher Association for curriculum and related matters.

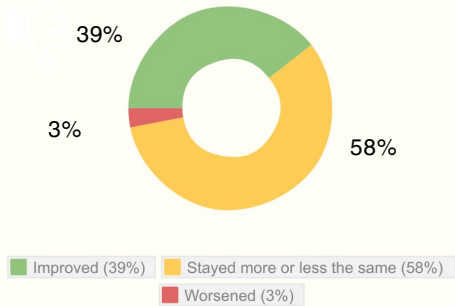
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

- In most wards and village tracts people were satisfied or ambivalent about health care services
- In one of the village tracts of Lahe (Saw Law), the dissatisfaction rate was 50%.
- 83% of the respondents reported they always or sometimes pay for drugs, but health facility managers mentioned that no patient had to pay for medicines and consultation.

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?



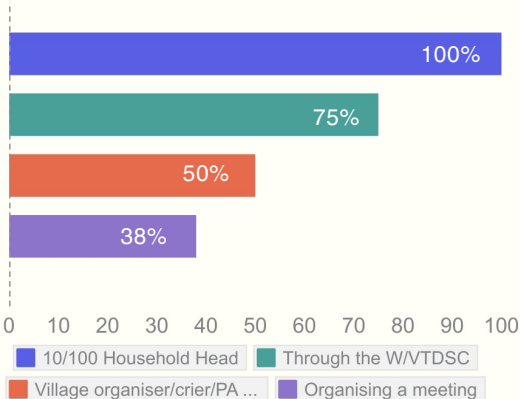
WATER PROVISION

- Lahe as part of the Naga SAZ received significant support from the Ministry of Border Affairs for capital investments in development, including in water supply.
- Only 10% of the respondents recalled any invitation to discuss water supply with government officials. Water supply projects were identified as targets by TMACs, Rural Development Officers and WA/VTAs

INFORMATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

INFORMATION FLOW TO COMMUNITIES

The Village Tract/Ward Administrators (VT/WAs) noted the importance of 10 Household Heads in providing information from citizens to the WA/VTA and in relaying information from them to the citizens. In larger wards and village tracts, a group of 10 Household Heads may select one of their members to coordinate communication and efforts of the other 10 Household Heads in the group with the WA/VTA.



PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION



In Kalewa, the TA has established a meeting space for all of the township committees. The room is lined with information about requested and approved projects, creating a publicly accessible point for sharing progress on approved projects.



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 VTA promised to report the status quo of erosion of a river bank to the Township administration, since it is threatening the safety of nearby schools and houses. In another village, the VTA and VTDC agreed to share information on all planned development projects, while the community members promised to participate in meetings if they are invited.



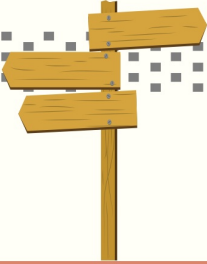
CONCLUSIONS

In order to improve planning efficiency, the geographic scope and area of focus for the TMAC/DMA and the DRD should be clarified for clear focus in urban and rural areas.

Support could be created for TDSC representatives to more formally engage with the groups (workers, farmers, business organizations) they represent.

Voting and selection processes for the WA/VTA and W/VTDC would benefit from review and may need to be standardized to capture lessons learned in the first round of elections.

10/100 Household Heads and Ward/Village Tract Development Support Committees form an important link between VT/WAs and people. Further clarification on this role could strengthen their dissemination of information to citizens.



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

UNDP Myanmar
No. 6, Natmauk Road,
Tamwe Township
Yangon 11211,
Myanmar
E-mail:
communications.mm@undp.org
January 2015