



Supporting Peace through Natural Resource Management in Burma's Ethnic Regions (P-NRM)

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-486-A-13-00003

Year 1 4th Quarterly Report

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Submitted by: Mercy Corps in partnership with Ar Yone Oo (AYO) and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS)

Mercy Corps Myanmar:

Jenny Vaughan, Program Director
No. 87-C Kan Street (U Kun Zaw Avenue)
10 Ward, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95 (0)1 524419
Mobile: +95 (0) 95083126
Email: jvaughan@mm.mercycorps.org

Mercy Corps Headquarters

Tammy Teske, Senior Program Officer
45 SW Ankeny Street
Portland, OR 97204
Tel: 503 896 5000
Email: tteske@mercycorps.org

I. Introduction

Launched in May 2013, Mercy Corps' *Supporting Peace through Natural Resource Management in Burma's Ethnic Regions (PNRM)*¹ aims to strengthen the capacity of local community, civil society, and government leaders to prevent and resolve natural resource-based conflict. As much as it is a "conflict" program, *PNRM* is also a "governance" program. Focused at the subnational level, the program supports the broader transition and decentralization process by building the capacity of township level government actors to address community concerns related to development and natural resources, while also building the capacity of civil society to constructively engage with government. Key activities include interest-based negotiation training for local leaders, monitoring of alternative dispute resolution processes, and the implementation of civil society- and government-led projects that address resource-related tensions. Implemented in partnership with two local organizations, Ar Yone Oo (AYO) and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), the program has a strong emphasis on building local peacebuilding capacity.

II. Highlights

- Completed interest-based negotiation training for civil society and government leaders.
- Conducted first quarterly exchange meetings for civil society and government leaders trained in interest-based negotiation in southern Shan State.
- Launched dispute resolution monitoring system.
- Conducted two Land Law Education Training of Trainers (TOTs) in partnership with Land Core Group.
- Began working with local institutions to develop projects to address natural resource tensions.

¹ Publicly known as the *Inclusive Natural Resource Management Program (INRM)*.

III. Activities

Activities implemented during the January-March 2014 period focused on baseline data analysis and completing interest-based negotiation training.

Baseline: We completed analysis of the baseline data and presented preliminary findings to USAID on March 18. We expect to release the baseline report by the end of April.

Interest-based negotiation training: To date, we have trained 139 government, civil society, and community leaders in interest-based negotiation (IBN), exceeding our target of 80. During the January-March 2014 period, we conducted 5 trainings, training 111 leaders. Because the January training of government staff in Chin State was predominantly attended by junior staff, we held a second round of training in March targeting more senior staff. According to Tedim’s township agriculture officer, *“I think IBN tool is very systematic and it will be useful not only to resolve natural resource based conflicts but also for other social conflicts.”*

Date	Title	Location	No. of Participants	No. of Men	No. of Women
January 16-17, 2014	Shan State Government IBN Training	Taunggyi, Shan State	32	28	4
January 23-24, 2014	Chin State CSO/Community IBN training	Tedim, Chin State	23	20	3
January 28-29, 2014	Chin State Government IBN training	Tedim, Chin State	31	28	3
March 17, 2014	Chin State Government IBN training	Tonzang, Chin State	14	14	0
March 18-19, 2014	Chin State Government IBN training	Tedim, Chin State	11	9	2

Quarterly exchange meetings: A core component of our IBN training program involves bringing participants together on a quarterly basis to share dispute resolution experiences, network, and learn additional negotiation skills and other substantive content. In Shan State, we held our first quarterly exchange meetings for government representatives on March 5 and for civil society and community representatives on March 7. The meetings were excellent, with high levels participation and lively discussion from attendees. Participants (particularly government representatives) remembered key concepts from the IBN training, indicating acquisition of real knowledge. About half of participants indicated that they have tried to resolve disputes since participating in the IBN training.

Date	Title	Location	No. of Participants	No. of Men	No. of Women ²	Type of Participant
March 5, 2014	Shan State Quarterly exchange meeting	Taunggyi, Shan State	16	13	3	Government
March 7, 2014	Shan State Quarterly exchange meeting	Taunggyi, Shan State	17	15	2	CSO/Community

Dispute resolution monitoring: Drawing on Mercy Corps global experience, we developed and launched our dispute resolution monitoring system this quarter. This system allows us to track the

²² The number of women is low because the negotiation training program targets existing government and civil society leaders, most of whom are men. The women who participate in the program, however, do so actively.

number of disputes program participants attempt to resolve, as well as key information about these disputes that will further our understanding of conflict in our program sites. Mercy Corps' M&E team trained program staff in how to collect data. Dispute resolution data will be reported in the next quarterly report.

Partner capacity building: We conducted three operational and technical capacity building events during the quarter, including:

- Advanced Negotiation Skills: 2 days, 7 partner staff
- Program Management & Gender Integration: 6 days, 2 partner staff
- Dispute Resolution Monitoring: 3 days, 11 partner staff

Land Law Education TOTs: In collaboration with the Land Core Group, Mercy Corps conducted two Land Law Education TOTs, one in Taunggyi on March 10-14 and one in Tedim on March 24-28. The five-day trainings covered topics such as definition of lands and types of land, land utilization, land management groups, land registration, benefits and rules of land registration certificates, land conflict, and fines and compensation. The 28 participants included representatives from local government, civil society organizations, and Land Management Committee members. Upon completion of the TOTs, the trainees were formed into eight training groups, each of which will conduct at least three three-day trainings for 90 farmers and Land Management Committee members in their communities, reaching an expected 870 farmers and Land Management Committee members over the course of 29 trainings. Training groups will receive funds from Mercy Corps to conduct the trainings.

Summary of participants in Land Law Education TOTs:

Location	Participants			Actors		
	Male	Female	Total	Government	CSO	Land Management Committee member
Chin	17	0	17	11	5	6
Shan	9	2	11	0	11	0

Farmer Forum: On 20-21 March, AYO and Mercy Corps convened a Farmer Forum in Tedim. Organized in collaboration with Kazaitha (a local farmer network), the forum was attended by 48 farmers from Tedim and Tonzang townships. Convened at the request of local government, the forum's objectives were to promote relationships between government line departments and local farmer groups, to jointly identify ways to promote food security and income opportunities, and to strengthen the network of local farmer groups (CSOs) to promote their existing technical exchange program. The forum was facilitated by the Tedim township agriculture officer and the INRM program team. Sessions included a presentation on the land laws and land registration process by the Tedim township Settlement & Land Records Department (SLRD) officer, plant protection and the rice stem borer by a plant protection specialist from Kalaymyo, ecology and environmental awareness, animal husbandry, and IBN. The forum offered a good opportunity for farmers to interact with government technical staff and ask them questions. Several participants commented that this was the first time they had had the opportunity to speak with government technical staff and that they now felt more comfortable approaching government staff. A second forum will be held in September.

Networking: Mercy Corps supported 26 civil society representatives, representing 16 different CSOs, to participate in two peace and land related networking events.

Date	Title	Location	No. of Participants	No. of Men	No. of Women
March 3-4, 2014	7th Civil Society Forum For Peace	Yangon	9	8	1
March 20-24, 2014	Land Law and Development Forum	Pindaya, Shan State	17	12	5

IV. Upcoming Activities

Upcoming activities for the next quarter include:

- Quarterly exchange meeting for leaders trained in interest-based negotiation.
- Developing and issuing a newsletter highlighting negotiation successes to program participants.
- Ongoing dispute resolution monitoring.
- Small grants for the implementation of land law education campaign, nurseries, and community forests.
- Reaching out to local media to identify opportunities for cooperation
- Developing conflict analysis curriculum.
- Support to government for additional land law awareness raising activities.

V. Challenges & Learning

- Government involvement in other activities (e.g., census) undermined their participation in some program activities (e.g., quarterly exchange meeting).
- Scheduling of a number of activities within a short time frame (e.g., quarterly exchange meeting, Land Law Education TOT, Land Law & Development Forum) reduced expected CSO participation in some activities, as invitees could not attend all events.
- Program staff need to learn more about strategies for resolving natural resource disputes in order to provide more targeted advice to participating leaders struggling to resolve similar issues.

Annex A
Outputs Achieved through March 2014

Indicator No.	Indicator	Target	Cumulative 2013	2014			Cumulative LOP
				Jan	Feb	Mar	
Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key leaders in Chin and Southern Shan to work across lines of division to resolve natural resource disputes that are fueling tensions.							
3	# of leaders selected to participate on Natural Resource Leadership Councils. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	100	65	73	0	25	163
4	# of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups. Disaggregate by state, township, and type of event. "Events" include dispute resolution/interest-based negotiation training, inter-group dialogues, and Natural Resource Leadership Council quarterly meetings.	n/a	6	4	0	7	17
5	# of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, ethnicity, and type of event. "Events" include dispute resolution training, inter-group dialogues, and quarterly meetings.	200	114	102	0	134	350
7	# of community natural resource councils formed or strengthened. Disaggregate by state and township.	8	0	0	0	0	0
8	# of members of community natural resource councils. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	80	0	0	0	0	0
9	# of natural resource disputes identified. Disaggregate by state, township, type of conflict, and scale.	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
12	# of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	80	28	86	0	25	139
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of local organizations to implement natural resource projects that support negotiated agreements.							
16	# of capacity building trainings delivered to program partners. Disaggregate by partner, location, and type of training.	8	5	0	3	1	9

18	# of natural resource projects implemented. Disaggregate by state, township, type of project, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries.	32	0	0	0	0	0
19	# of people benefitting from natural resource projects. Disaggregate by state, township, type of project, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries.	800	0	0	0	0	0
20	# of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts. Disaggregate by state, township, type of public information campaign, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries. Public information campaigns include outreach and awareness-raising activities focused on natural resource issues, government policies, best practices, etc.	15	0	0	0	0	0
23	# of higher-level decision-making and dialogue forums related to peace, natural resources, and development attended by local actors. Disaggregate by state, township, and type of forum.	5	1	0	0	2	3
24	# of local actors who participate in higher-level decision-making and dialogue forums related to peace, natural resources, and development. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	20	1	0	0	26	27

Annex B
Milestones Achieved through March 2014

Activities	Anticipated Results & Milestones (Outputs)	Status - Qtr 4
Program startup		
Develop messaging strategy	Draft talking points developed by June 2013	Achieved
Kick-off workshop & workplanning with partners	Workshop held with partners by June 2013	Achieved
Finalize subgrant agreement with local partners	Subgrant agreements signed with partners by July 2013	Achieved
Recruit staff	Staff hired by July 2013	Achieved
Open field offices	Field offices opened by August 2013	Achieved
Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key leaders in Chin and Southern Shan to work across lines of division to resolve natural resource disputes that are fueling tensions.		
1.1 Establish natural resource leadership councils in Chin and Southern Shan/Selection of participants for dispute resolution training	Conflict assessment report drafted & key issues identified by July 2013	Achieved
	Target townships selected by July 2013	Achieved
	100 participating leaders selected by Sept 2013	Achieved
1.2 Create natural resource user groups at the community level	8 community natural resource councils selected by Sept 2013	Achieved – 8 vulnerable communities and 20 CSOs profiled. Key activities to be implemented in collaboration with these communities and CSOs.
1.3 Conduct natural resource conflict assessments in priority areas	2 maps produced by Dec 2013	Achieved – detailed assessments conducted in both southern Shan and northern Chin States.
1.4 Conduct dispute resolution training for leadership council members	100 leaders trained in dispute resolution/negotiation by Nov 2013	Achieved
1.5 Host quarterly information exchanges	4 intergroup meetings held by Apr 2014	In process
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of local organizations to implement natural resource projects that support negotiated agreements.		
2.1 Conduct capacity building for local partners	2 partner OCAs conducted by July 2013	Achieved
	2 partner capacity building plans by July 2013	Achieved
2.2 Implement natural resource/economic projects that support negotiated agreements	Grant system & guidelines developed by Oct 2013	Achieved
	First call for projects released by Oct 2013	In process
2.3 Build a coalition of natural resource partners at the national level	National engagement strategy developed by Oct 2013	In process
Objective 3: Foster a constituency for peace by building mutually beneficial economic relationships across lines of division.		

3.1 Conduct conflict-market assessments	60 economic actors trained by Nov 2013	-
	Assessment report drafted by April 2014	-
3.2 Support economic initiatives that build bridges across lines of division	Subsidy/voucher system & guidelines developed by Dec 2013	-
3.3 Strengthen economic associations that cross ethnic and regional lines of division	2 economic associations selected by Nov 2013	-
	2 economic association strategic plans developed by April 2014	-