



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

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Year 2, 6th Quarterly Report

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

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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

- Conducted interest-based negotiation training for 28 national level civil society and government leaders.
- Conducted four quarterly exchange meetings for civil society and government leaders trained in interest-based negotiation (IBN), including two in northern Chin State and two in southern Shan State.
- Conducted dispute resolution case study development training for the program's field team.
- Ongoing implementation of natural resource projects, including land law awareness-raising, community forestry initiatives, and community nurseries.

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

- Disbursed three small grants to CSOs to support implementation of natural resource projects.
- Conducted the program's second farmer forum in northern Chin State.
- Conducted 65 meetings with government representatives at the state and township levels.
- Convened a Natural Resource and Regional Development Forum in northern Chin State.
- Facilitated government engagement activities including a civil society visit to the General Administration Department in southern Shan State and a coordination meeting between township government departments and civil society organizations in northern Chin State.

III. Activities

Objective 1: Strengthening 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. Activities implemented under this objective aim to strengthen the ability of civil society and government leaders to work together to resolve natural resource-related disputes.

National negotiation training: On 9-10 August, Mercy Corps conducted interest-based negotiation (IBN) training for national-level civil society and government leaders. Twenty-eight leaders from government departments, political parties, and civil society organizations participated in the training, which was led by Mark Gordon, Mercy Corps board member and negotiation expert. Participation rates were excellent, with no attrition from the first to the second day. Following the training, a participant from the National League for Democracy published an article about the training in a local paper. Mercy Corps is following up with participants to determine future opportunities for collaboration.

Quarterly exchange meetings: During the reporting period, the INRM team conducted four quarterly exchange meetings (two in Chin State and two in Shan State).

- In Chin State, Mercy Corps held its second quarterly exchange meeting for government representatives on 30 July and CSO/community leaders on 31 July. Most of the participants shared experiences of trying to resolve conflicts by using interest-based negotiation. Program staff observed that participants who previously relied on traditional negotiation practices to resolve conflicts are increasingly incorporating principles and practices of interest-based negotiation. U Zam Cin Thaug, Village Tract Administrator of Suang Pi Village Tract, said during the quarterly exchange meeting that, "In the beginning, I wasn't very impressed by IBN techniques but along the way I realized that this is the very useful tool. I normally used traditional negotiation practices to resolve disputes but it is very useful to diagnose the conflict using the 7 Elements Tool and it is really effective in resolving disputes." In addition, government leader participants are increasingly recognizing the importance of positive engagement with other parties. U Sian Khan Mang, Bead Officer from Tedi Forestry Department, participated in the IBN training and said to CSOs during the Farmer Forum, "Our forest activities cannot be achieved without the support of the community. We also welcome your inputs in our activities. Don't be afraid to come ask questions if you are not clear. Positive engagement is always better than the other way."
- In Shan State, the INRM team successfully organized the third quarterly exchange meeting for the government on 6 September and for CSO/community leaders on 8 September. With the support of INRM team, one participant in each meeting took the lead in sharing their dispute resolution experiences and reflected on how they have used IBN tools in practical situations. The INRM team also facilitated a session on partisan perceptions that allowed participants to recognize and appreciate differing perceptions of different groups (e.g.,

government and civil society). This session lays the groundwork for the first intergroup exchange meeting between government and civil society leaders to be held next quarter.

Table 1. Summary of Participants

Date	Title	Location	No. of Participants	No. of Men	No. of Women ²	Type of Participant
July 30, 2014	Chin State Quarterly exchange meeting	Tedim, Chin State	9	9	0	Government
July 31, 2014	Chin State Quarterly exchange meeting	Tedim, Chin State	11	11	0	CSO/Community
September 6, 2014	Shan State Quarterly exchange meeting	Taunggyi, Shan State	18	17	1	Government
September 8, 2014	Shan State Quarterly exchange meeting	Taunggyi, Shan State	10	10	0	CSO/Community

Newsletter: The INRM team produced the second edition of the quarterly newsletter, which included discussion points from the quarterly exchange meetings, a dispute resolution case study, INRM program information, and CSO information. Program participants responded very positively to the first newsletter and reported that they found it useful. For example, Sai Bo Bo, Director of Yoma Ahlinn, said that, “This is effective for information sharing and exchanges. Why not include a CSO profile in each newsletter so that we can also learn what other people are doing?”

Case study development: To capture qualitative data about the types of conflicts participating leaders are resolving and their strategies for doing so, program staff have begun developing dispute resolution case studies. To build team capacity to develop the case studies, the program conducted a five-day training in July with the Shan State staff and developed a set of case study guidelines. Two members of the Shan State team (KMSS staff) will visit Chin State in November in order to train the Chin State team. Five case studies are currently in development. Case studies will be shared with USAID, peer agencies, and participating leaders for learning purposes in the next quarter.

Dispute resolution monitoring: The program has recorded 30 dispute resolution attempts over the life of the program by participating leaders in our dispute resolution monitoring system. To date, participating leaders have resolved 24 of the 30 disputes. Most of these disputes concern natural resources. In the next quarter, the team will also track other types of disputes so that we can gain a broad view of the types of disputes that participating leaders are addressing.

Objective 2: Strengthening the capacity of local organizations to implement projects that address natural resource tensions. Activities implemented under this objective aim to strengthen the technical capacity of INRM local partners AYO and KMSS and support CSO-led initiatives to address natural resource tensions.

Partner capacity building: In July, Mercy Corps conducted a five-day training on dispute resolution case study development for the Shan State team, including five partner staff and one Mercy Corps staff member. During the training, the field team learned how to conduct interviews and write case studies.

Natural resource projects: The program launched 25 natural resource projects this quarter, including 22 land law education trainings and three CSO-led projects in Shan State. Nine projects

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.

are ongoing, including three community forestry initiatives, three community nurseries, and the three CSO-led initiatives in Shan State. The land law awareness raising campaign was successfully completed, with numerous demands from the community for its continuation and additional support for land registration.

- *Community nurseries:* The establishment of the three community nurseries in Chin State is progressing well, with seedlings from the nurseries now being distributed to farmers.
- *Community forestry initiatives:* During the reporting period, participating communities worked with the INRM team to develop community forest management plans. The INRM team is working closely with each community to organize community meetings, to build consensus about rules and regulation, and to draft the management plan. The management plan will be submitted to the government along with the community forest registration applications in the coming months.

Table 2. Summary of Community Nursery and Forestry Projects

No.	Date of Project Start	Location	Title of project	Implementing organization	Staff/Member of organization		
					Male	Female	Total
1	21-Apr-14	Tedim	Nursery Establishment	Siryin Green Group	12	3	15
2	21-Apr-14	Tonzang	Nursery Establishment	Kham Kho Development Association	31	11	42
3	21-Apr-14	Tedim	Nursery Establishment	Ever Green Land Group	22	10	32
4	1-Jun-14	Tedim	Community Forest Initiative	Ar Yone Oo	-	-	-
5	9-May-14	Tedim	Community Forest Initiative	Ar Yone Oo	-	-	-
6	4-Jun-14	Tedim	Community Forest Initiative	Ar Yone Oo	-	-	-

- *Land Law Awareness Raising campaign:* This activity was successfully completed during the reporting period. From April to September 2014, with support from both USAID and the Land Core Group,³ Mercy Corps disbursed 10 small grants to eight training groups to conduct 33 land law awareness-raising trainings for 1,108 farmers and land management committee members. The INRM team has been asked by community members and CSOs to support additional trainings in the future. According to feedback, farmers found it useful to learn about the land laws. Additionally, the topic is still very new for most of the village tract land management committee members and they reported more confidence to carry out their role with community following the training. Many participants showed their willingness to register their land for better protection. At the same time, participants recognize that current law doesn't reflect their customary land use practices and encourages discussion about how to improve the land laws.
- *Small open grants to CSOs:* Through this mechanism, Mercy Corps is providing small grants to CSOs for the implementation of projects that promote the resolution of existing natural resource conflicts or that tangibly address causes of natural resource-based conflict in the community, including resource scarcity, environmental degradation, poor natural resource management practices, and limited cooperation or communication between groups who use

³ 12,733,000 MMK from the Land Core Group were disbursed to five of the training groups.

the same resource. Following an open call for proposals released in July in Shan State, Mercy Corps selected three CSO projects to fund (details below). Funds will be disbursed to 3-4 selected CSOs in Chin State in October.

CSO	Shwe Lu Pe
Location	Ta Yat Pin Hla Village, Taunggyi Tsp
Beneficiaries	290
Budget	5,600,000 MMK
Duration	September 2014 to January 2015
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness, forestry law, and community forestry workshops • Establishment of community nursery
Relevance	As the targeted area is located near Baw Saing mining area, the mining industry has significant impact on the village and there are some conflicts relating to the unofficial mining industry around the village. Furthermore, the extension of the farming areas, higher population and high usage of fuel resources can deteriorate the villagers' livelihoods and social lives. The activity will reduce natural resource conflict by conducting the awareness workshop (finding the causes of natural issues and the prevention plan how to protect these problems) to the local community. These plans will be implemented in the villages and villagers will know how to resolve and mitigate issues around natural resource by applying the conflict resolution knowledge they received from the training. Furthermore, the nursery and forest conservation activities will sustain the environment and can also protect the livelihood of the local people.

CSO	Cherry Image
Location	Lae Laung Village, Aung Ban, and Kaung Tan Village (Taunggyi, Kalaw, and Hopone tsps.)
Beneficiaries	750
Budget	7,400,000 MMK
Duration	September 2014 to January 2015
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land law outreach and land registration support • Community protection outreach • Workshop to review lessons learned and successes
Relevance	As the targeted areas have many conflicts relating to natural resources and land usage, these activities will mitigate conflicts by empowering the community through land law training and applying the registration process in the local areas. By identifying causes of natural resource conflict in the local areas and discovering ways to protect and prevent these issues in the workshop, the community will learn to resolve problems by sharing knowledge in their own villages, which will lead to less conflicts in the target areas.

CSO	Our Lovely World
Location	Lone Tan Village, Thar Mine Kham Village, and Selle Village (Taunggyi, Kalaw, and Hopone tsps.)
Beneficiaries	120
Budget	6,993,000 MMK
Duration	September 2014 to February 2015
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental law and awareness training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land law, land registration, and community forest development training • Planning workshop
Relevance	<p>As most of the people who live in the targeted areas are farmers and maintain low levels of knowledge concerning the environment, the target area is now facing environmental deterioration through overuse of fertilizer and there are always natural resource conflict issues with the forest department and SLRD as an extension of the farm areas to the government forest areas. Furthermore, there are many mining industries implemented around the targeted areas, which has impacted not only on the livelihoods of the villagers but also on the environment. By implementing these activities, the local community will know how to protect the environment and by nurturing the community forest there will be less natural resource conflicts within the local areas. By registering the land officially, the local areas have less natural resource issues in the future and by sharing knowledge of the surrounding villages, people will learn how to handle and mitigate the conflicts without depending on the other organizations.</p>

Farmer Forum: On 23-24 September, AYO and Mercy Corps convened the second Farmer Forum in Tedim, organized in partnership with the Tedim Township Forestry Department and SLRD and CSO Kazaitha. The forum brought together 53 farmers from across Tedim and Tonzang Townships. The forum aimed to promote relationships between local farmer groups and government line departments, identify opportunities to reach shared food security and income generation goals, and to strengthen existing farmer networks. Key topics included farmer experience sharing, presentation of Forestry and SLRD policies including land law and land registration, and environmental conservation. After the meeting, farmers agreed to conduct monthly information sharing meetings within their communities.

Objective 3: Strengthen the ability of local government to implement initiatives that address natural resource tensions. Activities implemented under this objective aim to support government initiatives to address natural resource tensions and to improve communication and coordination with civil society groups concerned with environmental and natural resource issues.

Natural Resource and Regional Development Forum in Chin State: With the purpose of establishing the platform that allows government and CSO actors to constructively discuss natural resource and regional development issues, the INRM team is currently in the process of establishing a natural resource and regional development forum. As a first step, the INRM team in cooperation with CSO Chin Natural Resource Watch Group, organized a natural resource and regional development forum in Tedim on 1-2 July. Participants included 55 representatives from 19 civil society organizations based in Tedim and Tonzang Townships as well as in Kalay Myo. The main purpose of the forum will be to identify the natural resource and development issues that concern communities and find the ways to engage with government to address naturally resource management peacefully. At the end of the forum, participants compiled a plan that details the level of government that must be engaged to address each issue. Chin Natural Resource Watch Group, with support of the INRM team, will present the findings to community representatives from Tonzang and the Tedim Township government authorities.

General Coordination Meeting in Chin State: The INRM team facilitated the first general coordination meeting between civil society organizations, national/international non-government organizations, and the government line department in Tonzang Township, Chin State on 26 August. Nineteen representatives from government and civil society organizations participated. At the

meeting, each department and organization presented their activities and discussed opportunities for cooperation in future activities. This meeting is planned to be held monthly in both Tedim and Tonzang Township. The Shan State team will also work with the township administrations in Taunggyi, Hopone, and Kalaw to convene similar meetings.

Table 4. Summary of General Coordination meeting

No	Department/Organization	No of participants	Type of actor
1	General Administration Department	1	Government
2	Settlement and Land Record Department	1	Government
3	Department of Agriculture	1	Government
4	Department of Planning	1	Government
5	Department of Livestock and Rural Development	1	Government
6	Township Police Force	1	Government
7	Department of Education	1	Government
8	Department of Health	1	Government
9	Department of information and communication	1	Government
10	Tonzang Township Forestry Rehabilitation and Environmental conservation organization	1	CSO
11	Merlin	2	INGO
12	Gret	2	INGO
13	MCC-Malaria	1	INGO
14	Ar Yone Oo	3	LNGO
15	Mercy Corps	1	INGO

CSO visit to government in Shan State: In order to build better relationships between CSOs and local governments, the INRM team organized a CSO visit to the Taunggyi Township Administration Office. 14 participants from Five Civil Society Organizations and INRM team joined the visit. During the visit, the leaders from CSOs asked questions to the administrator and exchanged their opinions on some issues. An open and fruitful discussion took place in the administrator's office. The leaders were happy and satisfied with the visit. Additional visits to the Hopone Administration Office and the Taunggyi Forestry Department and SLRD are planned for next quarter.

Social and environmental awareness raising exhibitions in Shan State: This activity was held in four schools in Taunggyi town with the collaboration of Our Lovely World with the support of the INRM team. The INRM team ensured that the relationship was built between the government and CSOs while organization this exhibitions. Our Lovely World, formed with environmental activists, worked very closely with Forest department and Education department to organize this exhibition. As part of the activities, trees were planted in the school compound. When the exhibition was held, other nearby two schools requested to extend the exhibition day so that the students from their school could come and observe the exhibition. Around 12,500 students and teachers have since visited or participated in the exhibition.

Table 3. Summary of Social and environmental awareness raising exhibition

No	Date	Location	Total participants
1	13-16 June	BEHS (1)	2500
2	20-24 June	BEHS (2)	2000

3	20-24 June	BEHS (6,7,10)	1500
4	27-30 June	BEHS (4)	3000
5	3-6 August	BEHS (5)	2000

Government meetings: Given the amount of time the INRM team spends meeting with government representatives and the centrality of relationship-building with government to this program, Mercy Corps has begun tracking the number of meetings the program team conducts with government representatives. During July-September 2014, the INRM team conducted a total of 65 meetings with government representatives, including meetings to plan activities, request approvals, and provide updates about the program.

IV. Upcoming Activities

Upcoming activities for the next quarter include:

- Quarterly exchange meetings (2) for leaders trained in interest-based negotiation, including the first round of intergroup quarterly exchange meetings bringing civil society and government actors together.
- Issuing the third newsletter, highlighting negotiation successes to program participants.
- Ongoing dispute resolution monitoring.
- Capacity building for field team on facilitation skills.
- Small grants to CSOs in Chin State for the implementation of natural resource projects.
- General Coordination meetings.
- Government Forum in Tonzang.
- Presenting findings from Natural Resource Management and Regional Development Forum to government representatives.

V. Challenges

- **Quarterly Exchange Meeting:** There is less participation in the quarterly exchange meetings than expected for different reasons, including some government leaders transferred to other townships, CSO representatives are employed in full time jobs, community representatives are busy with their farming activities in farming season and difficult transportation during rainy season especially in Chin State.
- **Government Engagement:** Since government representatives are key stakeholders for main program activities, the INRM team had difficulty setting up meetings to discuss program idea and to schedule the program event.

Annex A
Outputs Achieved through September 2014

Indicator	Target	2014			Cumulative LOP
		July	Aug	Sept	
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.					
# of leaders selected to participate on Natural Resource Leadership Councils. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	100	0	0	0	163
# 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	3	1	3	28
# 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	75	26	82	594
# of community natural resource councils formed or strengthened. Disaggregate by state and township.	8	1	0	0	36
# of members of community natural resource councils. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	80	20	0	0	701
# of natural resource disputes identified. Disaggregate by state, township, type of conflict, and scale.	n/a	12	0	18	30
# of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	80	0	0	0	139
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of local organizations to implement natural resource projects that support negotiated agreements.					
# of capacity building trainings delivered to program partners. Disaggregate by partner, location, and type of training.	8	2	0	0	12

# of small cash grants disbursed to CSOs and/or community groups		2	1	3	17
# of natural resource projects implemented. Disaggregate by state, township, type of project, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries.	32	9	9	7	42
# 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	295	312	160	1108
# 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	9	10	4	38
# of people benefitting from 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.	TBD	295	2312	160	12108
# 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	0	0	2	5
# 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	0	0	2	29
Objective 3: Strengthen the ability of local government to implement initiatives that address natural resource tensions					
# of meetings held with government (between our team and the government)	N/A	29	15	21	110
# of local government officials trained in skills critical for constructive engagement with both communities and civil society. Disaggregate by state, township, type of stakeholder, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.	80	0	0	0	0

# of projects that address natural resource tensions implemented by or in collaboration with local government actors. Disaggregate by state, township, type of project, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries.	8	0	2		2
# of projects that address natural resource tensions jointly implemented by local government and civil society actors. Disaggregate by state, township, type of project, and number, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity of project beneficiaries.	5	3	7	3	29