



CHANGE-MAKERS: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN MYANMAR

Zimte village Fellow

Developing young leaders to mobilise their communities to lead change and claim their rights

Project overview:

Rural communities in Myanmar face many barriers to claiming their rights and accessing basic services and entitlements. With the support of the Planet Wheeler Foundation, ActionAid Australia is partnering with ActionAid Myanmar, to empower 60 communities in leading change.

They are working collaboratively to facilitate community development and claim their rights, entitlements and access to services. Young leaders will support the formation of village-based organisations to identify the community's needs, formulate the solutions and lead the change. The community will have increased capacity to negotiate with state and non-state actors to address those needs.

Some of the key project activities and outputs:

This project is working with 30 communities in each state and support the empowerment of Fellows, young leaders and village community-based organisations (VCBOs) to engage with local authorities and drive change in their communities. The project will:

- Train 60 Fellows (one from each community) and 120 youth volunteers;
- Support the establishment of 20 VCBOs and strengthening of 40 existing VCBOs;
- Support 60 communities in developing and funding their community-designed action plan ("Village Book"), focused on addressing their highest-priority development issues;
- Support the establishment of 20 women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and strengthen 40 existing SHGs to increase economic participation and empowerment of community women;
- Strengthen the capacity of local government in bottom-up participatory planning, service delivery, and engaging with communities.

Project duration:

July 2016 - June 2019

Supported by:

Planet Wheeler Foundation

In partnership with:

ActionAid Myanmar

Location:

Chin and Kayin States, Myanmar

Project objectives:

- Empower Change-Makers (Fellows) and youth volunteers to drive change within their communities
- Empower local communities to understand their rights and implement solutions to community issues
- Strengthen the engagement and relationship between communities and local authorities

Impact:

The project has engaged villages in the Chin and Kayin States, and local authorities have committed to work with communities to make sure their needs are addressed in government services.



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