



Completion Report

MMR-GRA-COM-P03, Myanmar
Reporting Period: April to October 2016 and 2014-2016

Community Development Education

Budget: \$81,320 – fully funded!

Update:

This project supported 18 paid facilitators and six volunteer facilitators to work in communities across three areas in Myanmar. These workers facilitated participatory, community-drive, sustainable community development. Primarily working in 20 communities, over the three years of the program they reached another 19 communities with their development approach.



A dry road and canals with bridges

The program has introduced communities to the benefits of working together and assessing what resources they can contribute to solving problems. Over three years the communities have built roads, providing access for; trade between villages, attendance at schools, and emergency medical care vehicles. They have dug ponds and improved access to clean water. Schools have been built, repaired or fumigated against mosquitoes. Over the course of the program it is estimated that 46,600 people have benefited in some way (statistics have been hard to compile, as some projects, such as roads, have benefited larger numbers than something such as a well or school room).

In our last progress report we shared the story of a village with a CDE facilitator who was able to work with seven other nearby villages to build a three-kilometre road. These villages have been so impressed with what they have achieved together that they are now planning to pool resources to cement the road after the raining season finishes. If they don't have enough resources they plan to ask the municipal government for a grant.

Another village (population of 620) regularly flooded in the rainy season. The CDE facilitator worked with the village on a project to improve roadside canals. Now, even in the rainy season, it is possible to use the roads. They also put bridges across the canals – specifically to assist women and girls returning home with water and other burdens.



A school for grades 5 and 6

In another village they built a school for Years 5 and 6, as most government schools stop at Grade 4. In each instance the community chose the project and did the work. They now know what they can achieve, and have been empowered to act under their own initiative. Many villages report that if they do not have funds to complete a project they know how to ask the government for assistance now!

We are now running Phase II of this project, with ten new villages. We are excited about the potential, and grateful to have been part of such an empowering project. Thank you for giving these communities the gift of hope and the knowledge of their own agency!