



Completion Report

MMR-GRA-CDE-P03 Rakhine State, Myanmar
Reporting Period: April – December 2019

Community Development Education, Phase II - Myanmar

Budget: Fully funded and completion of a 2.5-year project, totalling \$123,000.

The Project:

This second community development project with Entrust involved training facilitators in the troubled Rakhine state to work with local communities to undertake participatory, community-driven, sustainable development. The Rakhine State is extremely poor and has suffered from the upheaval of inter-ethnic violence between the Buddhist Rakhine majority and the Muslim Rohingya, together with internal fighting between Burmese ethnic groups. Entrust has supported 10 facilitators (part of a group of 26) to work in villages to develop community projects to improve incomes and livelihoods. An additional aim is to foster community peacebuilding and gender equity, village committees that work together and to strengthen relationships between various stakeholders.

Progress Against Objectives and Impact:

- Our partners have continued to work with local non-government organisations (NGOs) in the northern and central parts of the Rakhine State. Relationships have developed well over this 2.5-year project and continue to grow
- The ten facilitators have received quarterly train-the-trainer workshops, and in turn, have then helped develop the Village Development Committees to engage and mobilise their communities in planning and implementing community-based development projects. The last 6 months has impacted 10 villages and 5,000 community members. Over the course of the project, 25 villages and tens of thousands have been impacted
- Whilst leaders are gaining confidence there is still a need to develop leaders with good decision-making tools, critical thinking and community harmony – this is ongoing and takes time
- In June and November the facilitators received training related to arts-based peace building which covered the concepts of everyday peace and working harmoniously. It ignited the facilitators to strengthen their capacity for everyday peacebuilding within their communities. As a result, different ethnicities and religions are working together more harmoniously in many villages and situations. In the poorest state of Myanmar which has and continues to experience civil conflict and turmoil, this is significant progress
- Our partners say, *“The biggest step forward for the communities has been their willingness to embrace advocacy tools for funding through outside agencies such as the government and NGOs. The alumni facilitators will continue this good development with more confidence and knowledge.”*



Gangtaw Kyun village struggles with trade during the wet season. There is a creek that swells and floods each year. In a tragic event three years ago, a villager and her son lost their lives when they tried to cross the creek in the heavy rains. With the help of the community and our project partners, a small bridge was built to provide safe access during the wet and to allow trade and business between neighbouring communities and the capital Sittwe. The positive impact before and after the project is evidence that good infrastructure is linked to improved livelihoods as communities have greater access to improve their incomes, and to keep their communities safe.

Thank you for empowering communities to improve livelihoods with all the benefits this brings and to develop skills and awareness in peaceful conflict resolution and the spreading of peace.