

LIFT Annual Report 2018



Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



Acknowledgements

We thank the governments of Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America for their kind contributions to improving the livelihoods and food security of rural poor people in Myanmar. Their support to the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) is gratefully acknowledged. We would also like to thank the Mitsubishi Corporation, as LIFT's first private sector donor.

Disclaimer

This document is based on information from projects funded by LIFT in 2018 and supported with financial assistance from Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Mitsubishi Corporation. The views expressed herein should not be taken to reflect the official opinion of the LIFT donors.

Exchange rate: this report converts MMK into USD at 1441:1, which was the average exchange rate during the year.

Photography by LIFT and partners
Design and Layout by Nikhil Sambamurthy

The Livelihoods and Food Security Fund

UNOPS Fund Management Office
12(O) Pyi Thu Lane, 7 Mile,
Mayangone Township,
Yangon, Myanmar
Phone: +95 1 65 7280-87
Fax: +95 1 65 72 79
lift@unops.org
lift-fund.org | facebook.com/liftfund

This report builds on LIFT's previous annual reports, which can be found at:
www.lift-fund.org/publications

Contents

5 Working for inclusive and transformative change

1.0

7 Executive Summary

- 7 Executive Summary
- 11 Policy Support to Government
- 13 Lessons Identified

2.0

19 Results

- 19 Introduction
- 19 LIFT's Logical Framework
- 19 Data collection sources and analysis
- 21 LIFT's Indicator Results and Achievements
- 35 Summary of LIFT's 2017 Results
- 36 Activity Monitoring

3.0

41 Geographic Areas

- 42 Delta
- 53 Dry Zone
- 63 Rakhine
- 69 Uplands

4.0

41 Thematic Programmes

- 83 Financial Inclusion
- 85 Private Sector Engagement
- 90 Safe and Rewarding Migration
- 98 Civil Society Strengthening

5.0

105 Cross Cutting Areas

- 105 Nutrition
- 109 Resilience
- 111 Social Protection
- 112 Gender

6.0

119 Policy Engagement

- 119 Nutrition
- 120 Agriculture
- 121 Land Tenure
- 123 Migration
- 124 Financial Inclusion and Microfinance
- 125 LIFT Technical Assistance to the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

7.0

131 Value for Money

- 131 Value for Money (VfM) Throughout LIFT's Programme and Project Lifecycles
- 134 Value for Money 2019–2023

8.0

139 Fund Management

- 139 LIFT Governance
- 141 Allocations of LIFT funds
- 142 Fund Flow and Partner Performance
- 142 LIFT Governance
- 144 Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
- 146 Knowledge Management and Learning
- 146 Communications

9.0

151 LIFT 2019–2023

10.0

157 Annexes

- 157 LIFT's Active Projects and Locations
- 159 LIFT's Logical Framework
- 162 On-going Projects in 2018
- 165 Project Activity Charts
 - 165 Delta 179 Migration
 - 167 Dry Zone 182 Financial Inclusion
 - 170 Rakhine 185 Private Sector
 - 173 Uplands Partnerships
- 187 Achievement of LIFT Financial Inclusion Partners as of 31 December 2018
- 189 Policy Engagement in 2018
- 196 LIFT Studies Delivered in 2018
- 202 LIFT Theory of Change (ToC)

Abbreviations and acronyms

ADB

Asian Development Bank

ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CBO

Community-based Organisation

CSO

Civil Society Organisation

DAR

Department of Agricultural Research

DC

Donor Consortium

DoA

Department of Agriculture

DoF

Department of Fisheries

DRD

Department for Rural Development

DSW

Department of Social Welfare

FMO

Fund Management Office

FB

Fund Board

FDI

Foreign Direct Investment

FRD

Financial Regulatory Department

FSWG

Food Security Working Group

GRET

Group de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques

IDP

Internally Displaced Person

IFC

International Finance Corporation

HH

Households

IP

Implementing Partner

LBVD

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

LEARN

Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions To Reduce Malnutrition project

MADB

Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank

MCCT

Maternal and Child Cash Transfer

MEAL

Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning

MFI

Microfinance Institution

MMK

Myanmar Kyat

MoAI

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

PGMF

Pact Global Microfinance

PoVAW

Prevention of Violence Against Women Law

QSEM

Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring (report)

SPPRG

Social Policy & Poverty Research Group

SRI

System of Rice Intensification

UNOPS

United Nations Office for Project Services

VDC

Village Development Committee

VSLA

Village Savings and Loan Association

WASH

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

WHH

Welthungerhilfe

Working for inclusive and transformative change

The multi-donor Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) has been operating in Myanmar since 2010, helping rural people to reach their full economic potential and resilience through improved nutrition, income diversification and skills development.

We support the growth and modernisation of Myanmar's rural economy by increasing the profits of farmers, encouraging diversification in agriculture and skilling people for new jobs with higher wages. This is providing opportunities for smallholder farmers and landless people to take part in Myanmar's development.

Ongoing research funded by LIFT and conducted since 2016 provides clear evidence of the structural transformation occurring in Myanmar's economy.¹ Rural wages are increasing significantly in real terms, which encourages farmers to mechanise operations and grow crops that are more profitable than rice. Aquaculture, especially in Ayeyarwady and Bago regions, is also growing quickly, because it is more profitable than rice farming. Aquaculture employs nearly four times more labour per acre than rice farming, which further increases rural wages through increased demand for labour and increased demand for feed and fish processing services. In research sites in Ayeyarwady and Bago, the number of non-farm jobs in rural areas has increased rapidly since 2012.^{2,3} Research in the Dry Zone in 2017, also shows rapid growth in non-farm enterprises, where since 2011, the number of retail stores more than doubled, agriculture trading and processing trebled and rental service providers more than quadrupled. Non-farm income, including remittances is the most important start-up capital for these businesses.⁴

In this changing environment LIFT provides new knowledge, technologies and access to finance and markets. In addition, we generate evidence to back the development of policies that will improve the lives of rural poor people.

LIFT support, amounting to USD 509 million, has reached around 11.6 million rural people, roughly 33 per cent of the country's rural population.

Projects are implemented by partners, who are local and international non-government organisations, UN agencies, civil society actors, academic and research bodies, and the private sector. LIFT provides technical support and guidance to the government of Myanmar.

In 2018, LIFT continued nutrition activities across Myanmar providing evidence of successful approaches that are contributing to the government's roll-out of nutrition programmes. The programmes in the Delta, Dry Zone, Rakhine and Uplands geographic areas continued and achieved good results. The Financial Inclusion Programme grew and now reaches 2.6 million people with microfinance financial services. These programmes, and the civil society engagement programme, put the LIFT strategy 2014-2018 into operation, by helping target beneficiary groups to 'step up' into commercial value chains, 'step out' of marginalised farming and into more profitable agricultural and non-farm support jobs, and to 'hang in', gaining better nutrition and skills that will enable them to later 'step up' or 'step out'.

There are many factors at work in Myanmar's structural transformation that are contributing to changes for people in rural areas. In 2018, mechanisation, microfinance and migration had significant impact on the rural population in Myanmar across the four geographic areas where LIFT works. LIFT's migration programme is the largest funding window for migration in Myanmar. Migration from rural areas continues to increase as jobs in urban areas attract rural people looking to 'step out' of agriculture. LIFT's partners work with migrants and aspiring migrants to ensure they have the skills, financial literacy and support to 'step out' safely to new opportunities that deliver the employment and financial goals they have for themselves and their families.

Migration is not the 'stepping out' solution for everyone. People also choose to stay in their rural communities and take advantage of new economic opportunities in agriculture and the rural non-farm economy. By the end of 2018, LIFT's Agribusiness Finance Programme had delivered financing for agricultural equipment valued at USD 138 million that was purchased by rural entrepreneurs who are building businesses in machinery rental services. By the end of 2018, LIFT was funding 26 financial institutions active in 247 townships and client growth increased by 23 per cent. The majority of clients use their loans for livestock, agriculture production in crops, and aquaculture. Mechanisation and credit are helping smallholder farmers 'step up' agriculture productivity and helping others 'step out' and generate income through non-farm income-generating activities.

In 2018, LIFT continued to work on nutrition, resilience, gender and social protection initiatives that support rural people in Myanmar's economic transformation across the geographic areas where LIFT works. Nutrition programmes focus on improving the nutrition for mothers and their children in the first 1,000 days of life by providing nutrition education and maternal and child cash transfers. Nutrition initiatives help people 'hang in' and build the capacity of the next generation to 'step out'.

In 2017, LIFT's Fund Board donors committed to funding the next phase of LIFT 2019-2023. The design and strategy for this next phase was developed and finalised in 2018. The next phase will intensify LIFT's focus on inclusion and the most

¹ Michigan State University, 'Agricultural mechanization and structural transformation in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta', September 2016.

² Michigan State University, Food Security Policy Project research, 2016.

³ World Bank and Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation, 'Livelihoods & social change in rural Myanmar, Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring Series (QSEM) Round 6 Report', April 2017.

⁴ Michigan State University, 'Rural off-farm incomes in Myanmar's Dry Zone', December 2017.

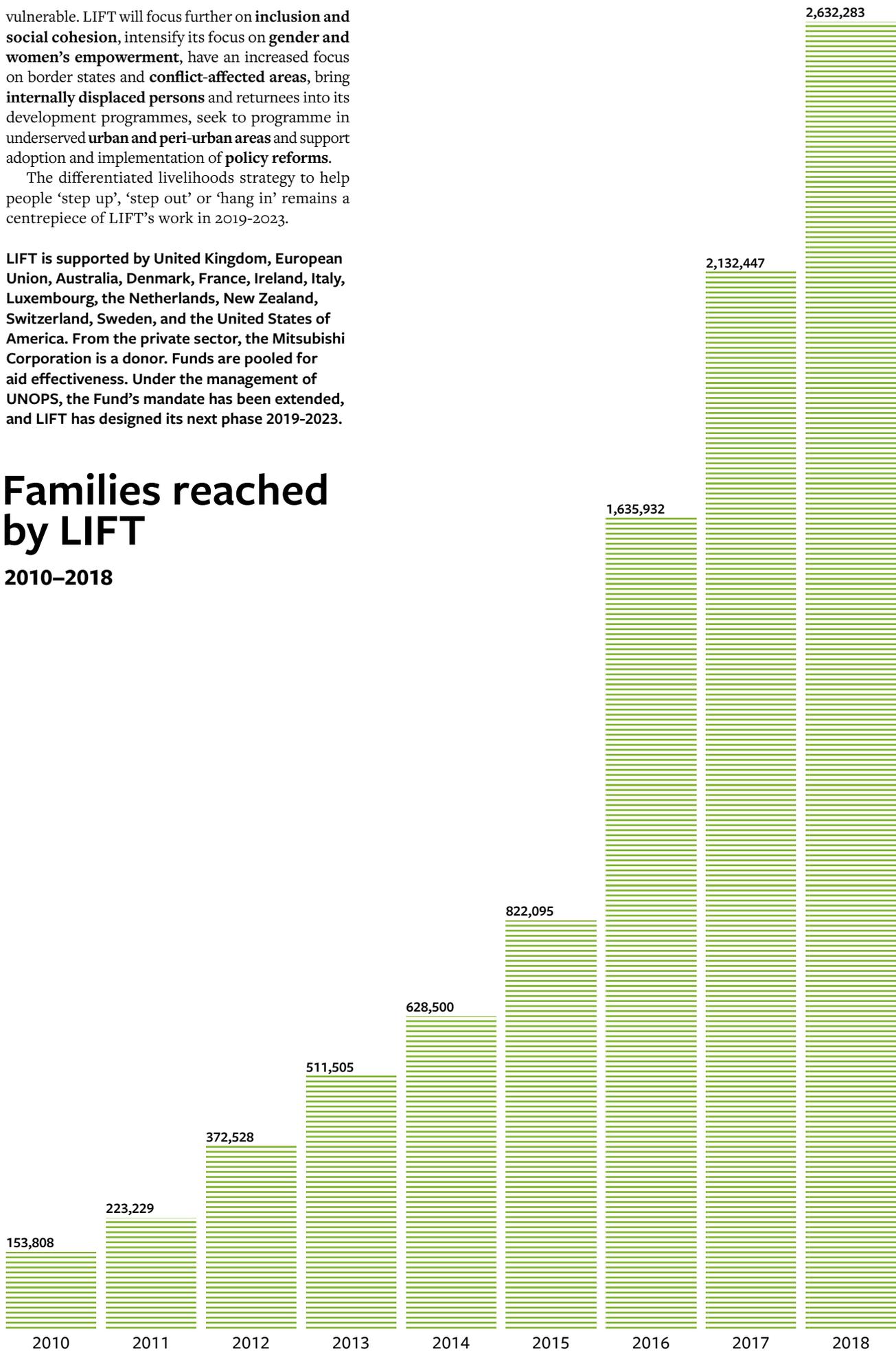
vulnerable. LIFT will focus further on **inclusion and social cohesion**, intensify its focus on **gender and women’s empowerment**, have an increased focus on border states and **conflict-affected areas**, bring **internally displaced persons** and returnees into its development programmes, seek to programme in underserved **urban and peri-urban areas** and support adoption and implementation of **policy reforms**.

The differentiated livelihoods strategy to help people ‘step up’, ‘step out’ or ‘hang in’ remains a centrepiece of LIFT’s work in 2019-2023.

LIFT is supported by United Kingdom, European Union, Australia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States of America. From the private sector, the Mitsubishi Corporation is a donor. Funds are pooled for aid effectiveness. Under the management of UNOPS, the Fund’s mandate has been extended, and LIFT has designed its next phase 2019-2023.

Families reached by LIFT

2010–2018



1.0 **Executive Summary**

1. LIFT continues to deliver good results.

In 2018, LIFT met or exceeded 26 of the 28 outcome indicators for which data was collected, including all of its purpose-level outcomes, including increased household incomes, asset ownership, income diversity, resilience, diet diversity, food provisioning and policy initiatives. Over the life of LIFT, these results translate to an estimated 5.2 million and 4.8 million people living in households that increased their incomes and assets respectively, about 6 million people with strengthened resilience, and nearly 488,000 households with improved diets. LIFT continues to support women, particularly through improved maternal nutrition, increased financial literacy and access to credit – 91 per cent of LIFT-supported financial services clients are women, and by reducing abuse and trafficking of women and children.

2. 2018 marked the ninth year for the Livelihood and Food Security Fund, with continued growth in terms of people reached.

In 2018, LIFT had worked in 247 townships, 69 per cent of Myanmar's townships. At the end of the year 11.6 million rural people—or roughly 33 per cent of Myanmar's rural population had been reached by LIFT. This represents a 23 per cent increase on the previous year. Growth in reach continues to be driven by increases in outreach by microfinance institutions that have been able to grow through LIFT's investment in jump-starting the microfinance capital market in Myanmar.

3. LIFT managed more projects in 2018 than ever before.

LIFT had 77 ongoing projects at the end of 2018, the highest number since its start. LIFT managed 87 grants over the year. LIFT worked with 60 partners in 2018.

4. LIFT continues to be a catalytic actor collaborating with the private sector.

Within four years, LIFT's Financial Inclusion Programme, which includes private sector partnerships, grew from a budgeted USD 81.1 million to USD 363.2 million, an increase of USD 282.1 million. Two of LIFT's investments leveraged significant additional funds. An investment of USD 10 million with The Currency Exchange (TCX) delivered USD 85.7 million to microfinance institutions in Myanmar as debt financing from foreign investors. LIFT's USD 18 million investment with Yoma Bank resulted in Yoma Bank delivering USD 196.4 million in co-financing that contributed to agriculture development through provision of hire purchase and loan products that meet the needs of value chain actors. Growth of non-farm businesses providing machinery rental services as a result of the programme delivers positive impacts

to poor smallholder farmers who improve their productivity and reduce their land preparation time and expenses by using rented machinery. LIFT's agricultural machinery hire purchase programme with Yoma Bank has led to other banks introducing hire purchase financial services. A second mover offering machinery hire purchase services at scale would be valuable for further development in agricultural finance.

5. LIFT's geographic programmes are tailored to each area's specific conditions, but all are strongly linked to LIFT's strategy and its goal of helping poor rural households with commercial potential to 'step up', helping others 'step out' of agriculture into more productive livelihoods and helping others 'hang in' with improved nutrition and food security.

The Ayeyarwady **Delta** remains one of Myanmar's major rice production areas and most farms are small. LIFT works to strengthen smallholders' position in the rice value chain by building farmers' links with private sector millers, input dealers and traders and by improving farmers' access to high-quality rice seed. A significant development in 2018 was the start of fixed-price contract farming. New employment and income-generating activities off farms continue to grow, particularly through aquaculture. These activities are contributing to improved agriculture production and helping the Delta's smallholder farmers with commercial potential 'step up'. The **Dry Zone**, is also an important agricultural region, producing 98 per cent of Myanmar's two main pulses crops. LIFT's work in the Dry Zone helps farmers 'step up' by improving agriculture productivity through improved soil management and crop varieties, and has stimulated the private sector to build its engagement with farmers, increasing their access to better input products and services. LIFT's Dry Zone programme includes social protection interventions designed to ensure that the economic transformation is as inclusive as possible and that vulnerable households 'hang in' and are not left behind. LIFT continues to pilot social pension delivery and collaborates with social protection committees and government staff as they expand government-funded social pension schemes. In 2018, LIFT piloted electronic delivery of elderly pensions and delivered grants to support people with disabilities. **Rakhine** is one of the least developed areas of Myanmar and continues to experience outbreaks of inter-communal violence and resulting displacement of people. Despite access restrictions in 2018, LIFT began delivery of vocational skills training in northern Rakhine for Muslim and Buddhist youth and continued to deliver skills training in IDP camps to support people 'step out' of agriculture into more productive sectors of Myanmar's or Rakhine's economy. LIFT also continued work focused on improving people's nutrition, food security, access to finance and climate-resilient agriculture. In the **Uplands**, the contexts are diverse and include areas engaged in, or affected by conflict. In Chin State, Shan State and the South-East, LIFT works with farming communities to achieve better nutrition and agricultural production with nutrition-sensitive agriculture

extension, agriculture market-based approaches and private sector partnerships. Two of LIFT's geographic programmes will end in 2019 – Delta and the Dry Zone. Learnings from both programmes are informing the next phase of LIFT 2019-2023. Two successful Dry Zone projects will begin replicating their work in upland areas in 2019.

6. LIFT continued monitoring and adjusting its approach to programming in Rakhine following the violence that led to the displacement of 700,000 people in 2017.

In 2018, LIFT's Rakhine Programme and Fund Board closely monitored the situation in Rakhine and met frequently with partners, prioritising consideration of approaches to programming that are inclusive of all communities in Rakhine, including support to internally-displaced people in camps. LIFT engaged with humanitarian actors to identify actions that meet the needs of all vulnerable people in Rakhine and stay in step with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine. Three new projects were contracted resulting from the USD 10 million call for proposals in December 2017 and became operational. Projects that continued to achieve good results and whose work was not disrupted by events in the state were extended. Partners working in northern Rakhine had little or no access to their project areas in the first half of 2018. One project was closed and another adjusted their target villages to accessible areas where they can work with Muslim and Buddhist communities. Access improved in the second half of 2018, but a new wave of violence began in November leading to more displacements. In December 2018, LIFT identified a partner to work on supporting people impacted by IDP camp closures.

7. Increasing access to financial services is key to LIFT's approach in all geographic zones.

Financial inclusion is LIFT's largest programme in terms of budget and geographic coverage. A more robust, inclusive rural financial market helps people take advantage of economic opportunities, build assets, generate employment, manage risks and reduce poor people's vulnerabilities to external shocks. At the end of 2018 LIFT had 28 financial inclusion partners (14 international MFIs, nine local MFIs, one local bank, one joint venture company and three cooperatives) who reached 2.6 million clients (91 per cent are women). LIFT-supported microfinance institutions deliver deposit services, lines of credit, leasing, term-finance, debt consolidation loans, financing for seasonal crops, livestock, small businesses and customised loans for low-income women, migrants, people with disabilities and the internally displaced.

8. LIFT's rural finance programme contributed to the acceleration of farm mechanisation, stimulating rural non-farm business growth.

By December 2018, the Agribusiness Finance Program financed 6,503 leases for equipment worth USD 138 million through 18 equipment dealers and 47 Yoma Bank branches across 12 states and regions. LIFT provides a USD 9 million partial risk guarantee to reduce Yoma Bank's exposure to delinquent hire

purchase loans. By June 2018, 2,637 AFP clients had made full repayments. The equipment financed includes more than 4,000 tractors, more than 900 combine harvesters and 1,500 transportation vehicles and farm implements. Around 100,000 farmers are estimated to be renting machinery for tillage and harvesting from rental services businesses that have developed since accessing the hire purchase finance, generating jobs in the rural non-farm economy, and reducing farmers' production costs and giving farmers more control over the timing of land preparation and harvesting. The Agribusiness Finance Programme continued to deliver finance for actors in agriculture value chains. Discounted accounts receivable injected cash at the top of the value chain resulting in increased supply of inputs to farmers: USD 7.4 million was disbursed to 20,330 farmers by the end of 2018. Payable finance allowed dealers of farm inputs access to credit to purchase from suppliers: USD 8 million was disbursed by the end of 2018, benefitting more than 15,000 farmers. Seasonal overdrafts were provided to small- and medium-sized maize traders to increase their capacity to trade and stimulate market expansion: USD 9 million was disbursed to maize traders, reaching an estimated 14,400 farmers who deal with 72 maize traders by the end of 2018. A digital loan platform was launched in 2018 allowing farmers to apply for loans without travelling to bank branches.

9. LIFT's Migration Programme reached thousands of migrants and their families across Myanmar with skills training and messaging about safe and rewarding migration.

More than 54,000 people in 732 villages learned about the importance of saving remittances. Around 10,000 people in Chin State alone participated in an innovative approach using live theatre to deliver information on safe migration. BBC Media Action's national radio programme produced and broadcast 52 new episodes of its weekly programme. National broadcasters participated in a live audience radio programme, which gave migrant garment workers in Yangon the chance to ask government, union and industry leaders about labour rights and working conditions. Significant progress was made in policy areas in 2018. Labour and civil society organisations, supported by the ILO project funded by LIFT, provided technical input to the National Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2018-2023), which was finalised at the end of 2018. LIFT's Migration Programme that began in 2016 is having a transformative effect on how migration is understood in Myanmar. A more engaged and constructive approach to migration governance is emerging, recognising the positive contribution of migrants to Myanmar and reducing the likelihood that migrants will face exploitation and abuse in their process of migration.

10. LIFT's nutrition work has continued to grow in scope and significance.

In agriculture, LIFT's integration of nutrition-sensitive practices and nutrition messaging into its work with community groups continued in the geographic regions. In 2018, LIFT conducted a review of LIFT's nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and

global evidence on nutrition outcomes to guide LIFT's future work in nutrition-sensitive agriculture. LIFT's work on fortified rice continued to make progress: 15 new distribution partners were recruited in 2018; DSW expanded its nursery school lunch programme using fortified rice programme to Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing Regions, reaching an additional 12,500 children; two new rice millers in Rakhine were ready to begin production at the end of 2018 and WFP distributed 304 metric tons of fortified rice to more than 10,000 people in Rakhine IDP camps. Maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) programmes continue with LIFT funding in all four geographic zones. LIFT's piloting of different modes of SBCC delivery and cash transfers via mobile money are contributing to continued advocacy for this essential component to be incorporated in government-led MCCT programmes.

11. LIFT's nutrition support to mothers and children in the first 1,000 days of life and to government programmes leads to increased government budget allocations to expand reach to new areas.

LIFT has made a strategic commitment to improving nutrition, focused on women and children in the first 1,000 days of life. In 2018, LIFT continued to support maternal and cash transfer programmes in the Delta, Dry Zone, Chin State and Rakhine. The statewide Chin State MCCT programme led by the Department of Social Welfare with LIFT's funding and support had disbursed six rounds of payments to 26,917 beneficiaries by the end of the year. In 2018, the government allocated budget to fund the statewide programme in Chin State from 2019, as originally intended when the programme began in 2017 with LIFT funding. Another important development in Chin State in 2018 was the formation of an interministerial group that will develop a social and behaviour change communication strategy to complement MCCT programmes. In 2018, the government also began funding and delivering MCCT in Rakhine State and absorbed the LIFT beneficiaries. The Department of Social Welfare plans to begin MCCT in Kayin and Kayah States in 2019. LIFT is providing technical support. In the Delta, electronic cash delivery of MCCT payments was piloted and the experience is informing government's consideration of delivering payments electronically in the future.

12. LIFT expanded its support to people with disabilities and the government expanded the elderly pension scheme, informed by LIFT's pilot.

LIFT supported the Government's ambition in social protection; a LIFT-funded pilot informed the government's decision to fund a universal pension scheme in 2017. In 2018, the age ceiling was lowered from 90 years to 85 years in the now-national social pension scheme. LIFT piloted delivery of social pensions by electronic transfer in the Dry Zone in 2018 and by the end of the year 1,139 beneficiaries received their pension by electronic cash transfer. LIFT continued supporting people with disabilities with a disability grant in 2018 reaching more than

2,000 people. The financial inclusion programme also supported people with disabilities with access to microfinance loans.

13. An increasing proportion of LIFT funds are managed by local entities in all geographic areas.

Grants to civil society organisations in LIFT's livelihoods and food security projects have gradually increased over time, with expenditure in 2018 reaching 21 per cent of the overall USD 62.44 million spent. All three Small grants Funds became operational in 2018 and by the end of the year 267 grants worth almost USD 3 million were disbursed. LIFT's donors continue to see civil society partnerships as central to the next phase of LIFT and decided that a proportion of all funding windows would be ring-fenced for CSO partners from 2019.

14. LIFT strengthened its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

In 2018, LIFT finalised its gender action plan that details gender-related and gender-specific actions for each of LIFT's programmes with indicators and progress against indicators assessed bi-annually by the gender focal points for each programme and LIFT's gender officer. Partners made good progress identifying successful approaches for improving women's empowerment and contributions in community decision-making. LIFT empowered women economically by diversifying their livelihood options and supporting wage employment in urban areas. Skills training provided through the Aung Myin Hmu project supported 1,764 women to find work in Yangon's rapidly growing garment sector during 2018. By developing their vocational skills, the training not only allows women to obtain employment but also contributes to better wages and working conditions within the industry. Tracer studies found that 64 per cent of women trained through Aung Myin Hmu project had higher salaries than those who were not trained. As breadwinners for their families, women are able to assert greater control over their household financial resources. LIFT's financial inclusion programme also integrated specific targets for the garment sector where tailored financial services and financial literacy training are provided for the women migrant workers in the urban areas. In 2018, LIFT's financial inclusion programme reached 2.6 million people and 91 per cent of which are women from 223 townships. Almost 58 per cent was used for livestock and small businesses, 27 per cent for agriculture, 14 per cent for small and medium enterprise loans and 1 per cent for social loans indicating that the majority of the beneficiaries, women, are able to leverage the microfinance loans and carry out livelihood activities. The introduction of social loans in the microfinance services also indicates that the MFIs are adapting the needs for their clients, the majority of whom are women.

15. LIFT continues to engage with government policy across its entire programme and many of its projects, particularly on nutrition, agriculture and land policy.

In 2018, the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) was launched with an implementation plan and the government is working towards operationalisation

of the strategy in the second half of the year. LIFT provided technical assistance that contributed to the development of the strategy and has been requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to provide further technical support on programme management and international practices to ensure the budget is utilised efficiently. Highlights of LIFT's policy work in 2018 follow this Executive Summary.

16. The design of the next phase of LIFT 2019-2023 was completed.

The consultative process of designing the next phase of LIFT 2019-2023 and refreshing LIFT's strategy began in the second half of 2017 and continued throughout 2018. The Fund Board committed to continuing with LIFT's general strategic focus to help targeted beneficiary groups 'step up', 'step out' or 'hang-in' and agreed that the 2019-2023 phase would be marked by a series of strategic shifts to: increase focus on inclusion and social cohesion, intensify efforts on gender equality and women's empowerment, increase geographical focus on ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas, bring internally displaced persons and returnees into LIFT's development programmes, increase programming in underserved urban and peri-urban areas, and work with government at different levels on targeted policies and policy reforms. The substantive work of drafting the strategies for four thematic areas was completed by mid-year. Additional funding was secured to bridge and transition the funds, and decisions were made regarding current LIFT projects and programmes that were aligned with the planned shifts for 2019-2023. Twenty projects received costed extensions and new calls for proposals were designed. As the end of the year neared, the Fund Management Office finalised the strategy and associated documents. In December 2018, the Fund Board approved the 2019-2023 strategy, which is published on LIFT's website.

Policy and support to government

All LIFT's programmes have a focus on supporting government and contributing to policy initiatives and as such policy efforts and achievements are reported in Chapter 2: Results, Chapter 3: Geographic Programmes, Chapter 4: Thematic Programmes, Chapter 5: Cross-cutting issues, Chapter 6: Policy and Support to Government, and Annex 6. This section highlights major policy breakthrough moments of 2018.

In agriculture, livestock and fisheries **Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law enacted in March 2018**

The law is a watershed in the sustainable management of fisheries in the Delta. LIFT's partner Network Activities Group (NAG) supported the Ayeyarwady Regional Government's development of the legislation. It opens up the licensing and use of inland water to small community co-management fisheries. It lays the foundation for the spreading of benefits derived from the Delta's fisheries resources and improving livelihoods, including opportunities for gender mainstreaming in sub-national governance.

Export cattle trade to China resumed in 2018

During negotiations on cattle trade with China in 2018, the Myanmar government relied on data collected in the national livestock survey, which was supported by the LIFT-funded FAO livestock project. Cattle trading with China resumed in 2018 following the negotiations and had significant impact on the livestock-raising households in Myanmar. The FAO project supported the establishment of a Cattle Trade Advisory Group to bring together key public and private stakeholders engaged on cattle sector policy and trade to China.

Cardamom declared a priority crop for government support

A project in the Uplands Programme on the cardamom value chain produced evidence of the value of cardamom as a crop and built the Multi-Stakeholder Platform linking government, growers and private sector associations. In 2018, the government declared cardamom a priority crop for government and declared it an agriculture crop, paving the way for tax cuts for farmers and development of the value chain.

In social pensions

Government delivers elderly social pensions and extends eligibility

Informed by LIFT-funded pilots of elderly social pensions, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement began delivering social pensions to people aged over 90 in 2017 and extended the

eligibility to include people over 85 years in 2018, reaching 168,578 people.

In nutrition

Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action (MS-NPAN)

LIFT actively supported the government's introduction of interministerial action on nutrition in 2017 and the development of MS-NPAN that resulted and became operational in 2018. LIFT committed to supporting the MS-NPAN inception phase in 2018 and with the Access to Health Fund is contributing financial resources and technical support to MS-NPAN, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR).

Government allocates budget for universal delivery of maternal and child cash transfers in Rakhine State, Naga Self-administered Zone and Chin State and plans to expand coverage to Kayah and Kayin States

MCCT is a flagship programme outlined in Myanmar's *National Social Protection Strategic Plan*. LIFT funded and provided technical support for a government-led statewide MCCT programme in Chin State in 2017. In 2018, the government announced budget allocations to continue the Chin MCCT from 2019. The government also rolled out a statewide MCCT programme for Rakhine, which in 2018 absorbed LIFT MCCT beneficiaries. In 2019, the Department of Social Welfare will begin implementing MCCT in Kayah and Kayin States. LIFT's technical support continues for these important government nutrition initiatives.

Government engages in strategy development for MCCT programmes to include social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)

LIFT first began MCCT programmes in 2013 and the programmes in Rakhine, Delta, Dry Zone and Chin piloted different methodologies for delivering SBCC and cash to determine the most impactful approach on nutrition outcomes. LIFT's evidence base demonstrated the importance of SBCC accompanying cash transfers. Cash alone does not improve nutrition. In 2018, the Department of Social Welfare joined LIFT partners in developing a SBCC strategy for Chin State. Indications are that SBCC will be part of current and future government-led MCCT nutrition programmes. LIFT's support for this continues.

Government explores electronic cash delivery of maternal and child cash transfers and social pensions

In 2018, a workshop led by DSW and attended by several government ministries, the private sector and development partners explored delivering social protection cash payments by electronic transfer. LIFT's pilots of electronic cash delivery in 2018 in the Delta and the Dry Zone are providing evidence and learnings in support of this initiative and DSW is committed to moving their social protection programmes to an electronic platform. A breakthrough in 2019 will depend on policy change and guidance from the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Auditor General.

In decent work and labour mobility

Government considers replication of garment skills training centre

LIFT's Aung Myin Hmu project established and operates a garment skills training centre in Yangon and develops skills curriculum for accreditation. The project developed strong partnerships between government and the private sector on competency standards. In 2018, the Department of Labour expressed interest in replicating the training centre model in regional areas. The project has been extended in 2019 and will continue working with the government to have competency standards accredited.

Generating tools and research that reaches policy makers

Several projects in LIFT's Migration Programme develop tools and research that target and reach policy makers. The CHIME study was launched at a government event in Nay Pyi Taw in late 2018. The study provides a rich body of evidence on the diverse realities of Myanmar migrants and their families and makes recommendations on leveraging migration for development. The Myanmar government has made intensive efforts to reform policy and legislation related to safe employment and migration. The ILO's Migration Programme project produced a series of policy briefs and knowledge products in 2018 disseminated directly to policy makers. Highlights of the research are included throughout this report.

Lessons Identified

Pausing for wider consultation will always bring insights and help LIFT manage risks.

When LIFT launched the REAL Dev Land Reclamation project in Magway Region, several civil society organisations challenged LIFT both publicly and privately for endorsing the *Vacant Fallow Virgin Land Law* and underestimating the implications with respect to ethnic communities' claims for customary land rights. In response to these concerns, LIFT FMO undertook a series of consultations with the CSOs and other organisations, including LIFT strategic partners. Two key lessons emerged from this valuable experience: First, with respect to land, there is a need for LIFT to expand its range of consultations to include organisations that may have different points of views concerning land tenure policy and legal arrangements. Second, with respect to all our work in conflict-affected areas, there is an imperative for LIFT and its partners to more proactively consult with a wide range of stakeholders at all levels, including at the community level. LIFT should exploit the knowledge within its own teams, partners, networks, sister funds and with independent advisers to contribute expertise, challenge our thinking and maximise our perspective.

LIFT's Rakhine Tat Lan programme partners effectively listened and responded through a community feedback mechanism.

In early-February 2018, CARE facilitated a programme-wide annual learning event with participants from the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, LIFT and CARE's Rathedaung project. The event focused on discussing the progress of the programme and identifying success stories as well as bottlenecks for the remaining implementation period. A key highlight of CARE's monitoring and evaluation project in support of Tat Lan II was the successful roll-out of a revised feedback mechanism that enabled the implementing agencies to regularly receive qualitative in-depth feedback on their activities from participants. This contributed to improved relations within communities. Feedback from participants was used in the annual outcome monitoring and programme quality review process to better understand trends in programme progress.

Benefits emerge from integrated programming and LIFT will need to avoid silos from a thematic strategy.

A review of the Delta Programme profiled the benefits of the programmatic approach that was strong in collective learning, networking among partners and collaboration with the regional government. The Dry Zone Programme demonstrated the value of connecting implementing partners

to achieve better results (e.g. creating linkages between a hydroponics project and another working on water provision). Links are also needed beyond geographic programmes to link producers to wider markets and connect with economic corridors. In the Dry Zone, where links are made with the private sector and government, project activities are replicated without LIFT's support. Projects in isolation, alternatively, can reduce scalability, replication and sustainability. Implementing partners in Rakhine expressed their preference for a programmatic approach, requiring further analysis in multiple sectors and a comprehensive programme design. An integrated perspective is valuable at the programme design phase. LIFT's 2019-2023 strategy is framed along thematic lines that may be easier to monitor and evaluate. However calls for proposals based on thematic components may miss benefits for communities and implementing partners. LIFT will need to avoid the risk of silos and develop approaches that can manage complexity and promote integrated programming.

The Government's scale-up of LIFT's early work in maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) relied on adaptability, availability, flexible resources, innovation, and a balance between agility and measured thinking.

Following four years of project innovation, the Chin MCCT programme was the first to seek a state-wide and universal coverage of all pregnant women and children aged under two, reaching 20,000 beneficiaries, and the first direct grant from LIFT to government. The combination of a clear national strategy, political commitment, resources (funding and technical assistance) available at timely moments, the appetite for risk taking and a pragmatic approach proved to be an enabling set of factors that drove the progress of the programme. As a pooled fund, LIFT was able to take risks that any single donor might not have taken. The MCCT demonstrated LIFT and its partners' ability to trial approaches and be able to inform government on successful approaches based on evidence.

Working in conflict requires focused efforts and resources, ones that LIFT will need to increase.

Flexibility has been continually required as partners have struggled with access and MoU challenges, worked in communities characterised by violence and insecurity, managed changing beneficiary numbers and retained a balance between flexibility and red lines. LIFT—as a multi-donor fund with many implementing partners, flexible funding, good relations with government and tireless staff—managed to achieve programme results in a conflict-affected area. LIFT's experience and capacity, however, will need to mature as LIFT expands still further its work in conflict-affected areas for programmes to apply system thinking/methodologies and adaptive management, for increased programming through CSOs and to effectively engage with non-state actors.

Taking cross-fund collaboration from the theoretical to the practical requires persistence and openness in a busy world.

Identifying core areas where this collaboration can take place requires time, relationship building, flexibility and openness. Significant steps have been taken for LIFT and Access to Health to collaborate, including joint programme design to target the humanitarian-development nexus, a combined approach to policy (MS-NPAN) and shared support to government to capitalise on the strengths of each fund. Priorities for the coming year will focus on coordination at implementation level, alignment of indicators and learning to improve impact and measurement of a comprehensive approach to a nutrition programme.

Gender equality and women's empowerment requires LIFT to go further.

At the end of 2018, LIFT engaged in an exercise to compile the major lessons learned on gender from all projects. The review found that mainstreaming gender in the grant selection processes is a requirement, but LIFT also needs to more intensively support targeted women-led projects to improve women's rights and opportunities for empowerment. Promoting local women's organisations creates an effective mechanism to integrate gender aspects in project implementation. Positive changes achieved by projects can be sustainable and gender-transformative contributing to lasting equality in communities. Evidence-based research on gender reveals stark differences to common beliefs, for example on the immense land management skills and knowledge that women possess, and these findings need to be discussed with policy makers and stakeholders in land governance to inform policy and practice.

Overly simplistic safe migration messages about the risks of irregular migration are insufficient to effect changes in behaviour.

Approaches to safe migration messaging often prioritise 'awareness-raising' among migrants about the dangers of human trafficking and exploitation that can be associated with irregular migration. However, educating migrant workers about these risks in a context where they often have limited choices due to poverty and lack of livelihood options is not an effective approach. Research studies have begun to question whether the use of ineffective and poorly regulated regular channels for migration offered by private recruitment agencies in Myanmar is necessarily safer. Messaging should emphasise practical information that will provide migrant workers with knowledge of their labour rights and how to access assistance if necessary rather than creating unrealistic expectations about the protection provided by particular migration channels.

Strengthening the quality and accessibility of service delivery through migrant resource centres requires partnership.

Migrant resource centres (MRCs) have been widely recognised by the ILO, IOM, IFRC and others as a good practice for providing direct support to migrant workers. There are currently

14 government-run MRCs based at Labour Exchange Offices (LEOs) throughout Myanmar. Although the model of embedding these services with government providers has significant advantages in terms of sustainability and statutory action on labour rights violations against migrant workers, it has come at the cost of limited quality and accessibility of services. Many migrants are unsure about approaching the LEOs for information and assistance and there are major capacity gaps in their ability to deliver effective services. The building of partnerships whereby government agencies focus on coordination and legal matters and CSOs and labour organisations deliver community-level services should be supported. This will enable the MRCs in Myanmar to become more efficient, effective and trusted vehicles for delivery of services to protect and empower migrants.

Migration bans are ineffective at protecting women and actually increase their vulnerability to human trafficking.

Myanmar (and several other countries in Asia) have instituted various forms of migration bans that prevent young women migrating overseas for domestic work in order to protect them from abuse. These policies however have failed to achieve their goals as they do not actually stop women from migrating and instead take away their options for obtaining legal documentation and accessing assistance – making them more, rather than less, vulnerable. Reversing this protectionist policy in Myanmar will require sustained advocacy even after the ban is eliminated to ensure that it is not reintroduced, as has happened in other countries of Asia. Application of restrictions on migration that specifically target women should *a priori* be considered a form of discrimination as they contravene the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, which Myanmar has ratified.

Sustainability of projects and their interventions need to be better considered at the outset in the project development phase.

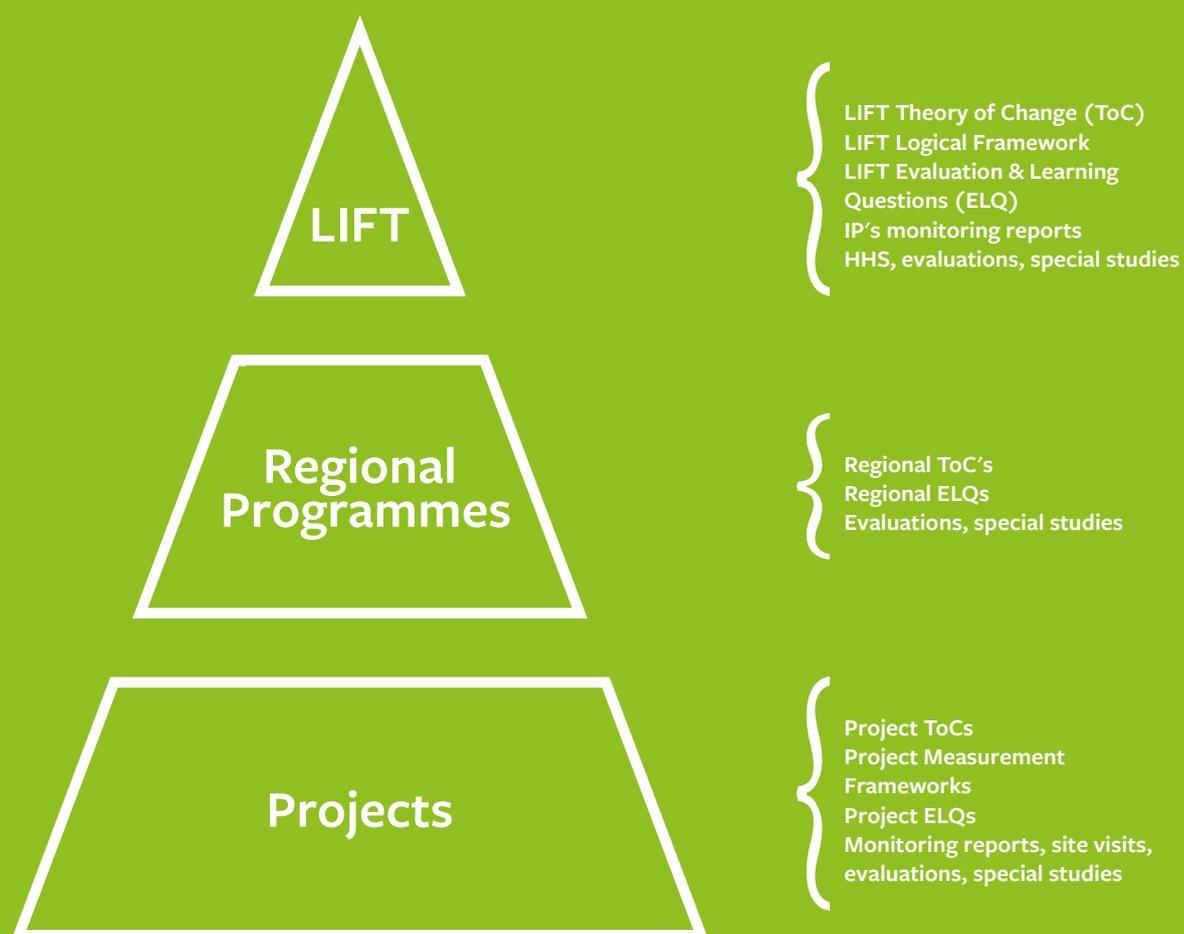
Currently the matter of sustainability is too often retrofitted towards the end of a project. Embedding sustainability elements at the design phase of the project and working to ensure the project works towards these elements will improve the long-term outcomes that LIFT is attempting to achieve. If there are activities and interventions that do not necessitate elements of sustainability (i.e. a revolving fund or a producer group) and do have finite timelines, then an approach of fit for purpose should be taken. A challenge with several of the agricultural-based projects is that a two-three year timeframe for implementation is too short, particularly when new technologies are introduced, requiring behaviour change. Four to five year project cycles would be more realistic to achieve these results. This is particularly the case for system level work, where livelihood components are diverse, and to be effective moving the poorest of the poor up the development ladder.







MEAL Framework



The figure above shows the relationship between the levels and lists the different MEAL components at each.

See *LIFT's Theory of Change* at Annex 10.8.

◀ **Figure 2.1**
Overview of MEAL
framework

2.0 **Results**

2.1 **Introduction**

As part of its 2014-2018 strategy, LIFT developed a Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework with the express functions of:

Accountability (proving)

Showing that activities are leading to specific outputs and outcomes, and that this was achieved efficiently and effectively,

Evidence-based Learning (improving)

Building knowledge and evidence about the extent to which certain strategies, interventions, approaches, and activities have been effective or not in their respective contexts and why, and using it to improve the design and implementation of programmes,

Policy Influence (guiding)

Generating and using policy and practice-relevant evidence to inform government policies and the design and implementation of government programmes.

To fulfil these purposes, the LIFT MEAL Framework consists of three levels:

LIFT FMO

The Fund Management Office is responsible for delivering against LIFT's current theory of change (ToC) on the basis of indicators set out in the logical framework and by answering a set of LIFT-level evaluation and learning questions (ELQ).

Regional programmes

Regional programmes have detailed ToCs indicating how various programme components are expected to come together to achieve LIFT programme and purpose level outcomes. They also have detailed evaluation and learning questions setting out the key questions that regions seek to answer through their projects and special studies.

Project/implementing partners

Projects have detailed ToCs indicating how they intend to contribute to specific aspects of their respective regional programme ToC. They also have evaluation and learning questions and detailed measurement plans that specify what data they will collect and report, some of which feeds into LIFT logframe indicators.

During 2018, LIFT continued to implement and report under its logical framework (logframe), developed in 2015 to describe the programme and track change against LIFT's 2014-2018 strategy. The logframe follows LIFT's current theory of change. This is the final annual report using this logframe with a new strategy and Theory of Change being adopted for 2019-2023.

2.2

LIFT's Logical Framework

The LIFT logical framework consists of four overall **purpose-level outcome statements** (high level outcomes that LIFT tracks change on), each measured by two to four indicators. These purpose-level indicators set targets and track progress on household income levels, income diversity, asset ownership, resilience, food security, diet diversity, child stunting, and public policy and budget allocation/spending changes.

The logframe has eight **programme-level outcome statements** that contribute to the outcome level indicators. Each is measured by two to six specific indicators that include both outreach (largely assessing numbers of beneficiaries) and outcome-type indicators. These include use of improved agricultural practices, agricultural productivity, establishment of enterprises, use of financial services, awareness of women and children's nutritional needs, child diet diversity, exclusive breastfeeding, use of improved sanitation facilities and water sources, and policy-oriented events and publications.

2.3

Data collection sources and analysis

LIFT draws on several data sources to measure progress in the most accurate, consistent and cost-effective way in programmes that are very diverse in terms of geographic spread, sectoral focus and the combinations of field level work and high level policy initiatives. The primary data source used to report progress against purpose- and programme-level outcomes is noted for each indicator reported. The main data sources are:

Data reported by implementing partners

Implementing partners (IPs) provide data to LIFT every six months. Much of the data is at output level and relates to the population reached by different services provided through LIFT interventions. All IPs report their data using standard LIFT activity reporting sheets/forms. As a standard practice in ensuring data quality, IPs receive training on how to fill various components of the form/sheets in addition to a user manual for continuous reference. LIFT's data capture form provides for various levels of data desegregation including by gender, age, disability, beneficiary occupation and geographical locations.

IPs submit data to the LIFT thematic/regional programme officers for first level review and quality check. Data quality checks at this level focus on accuracy in aggregations, completeness and double-counting. Verified data is submitted to LIFT M&E Officers for second level review. In addition to verifying the aggregations and double-counting, this level entails reviewing for consistency with the narrative reports. Verified data is finally submitted to the LIFT Data Management Officer for entry into the LIFT database and final quality checks and aggregation is completed to establish achievement levels as per the indicator measures. Once data has been verified in the LIFT database, the final activity and indicator data reports are produced and submitted to the LIFT MEAL Specialist for final reporting.

5 Tier 1 reach includes the number of households reached by relevant projects in LIFT's geographic programmes, financial inclusion, and several projects still operating under the previous Learning and Innovation programme. Tier 1 reach does not include the estimated number of households receiving LIFT-supported fortified rice. From LIFT's seven migration projects, tier 1 reach only includes the number of individuals who received LIFT-supported vocational training. The inclusion and exclusion criteria are based on LIFT's TOC and determining which programme activities are expected to affect logframe indicators.

6 To avoid possible double counting, tier 2 consists of all microfinance active clients in 2017 minus tier 1 active clients and estimated duplication.

7 All extrapolations were calculated using the appropriate proportional weights.

The outreach data that follows is cumulative from 2010 to December 2018.

Household Survey (HHS)

LIFT Household Surveys are carried out every two years. These are large, complex exercises. The latest household survey in 2017 surveyed 7,136 households across the country (15.5 per cent of these were female-headed households). In the intervening years a lighter tracker survey is carried out, as was the case in 2018 with a sample size of 1,520 households. Tracker surveys are not designed to capture the full range of data that the full survey covers. The tracker does not provide data on some purpose-level indicators—households below the poverty line, and stunting levels in children aged under five. At the programme level, tracker surveys do not provide data on awareness of nutrition needs, children 6-23 months with acceptable dietary diversity, and infants receiving only breast milk in the last 24 hours. In order to report on the indicators that tracker surveys do not cover during this year, the results from the previous full household survey are taken and extrapolated to the household coverage figures for the reporting period. This assumes that the progress and trends reported in the previous year have been maintained.

Household data analysis is undertaken at two levels. To guide the first level of analysis, LIFT prepares comprehensive data tabulation sheets outlining all key indicator variables to be measured from the survey. The data collection firm uses the SPSS statistical data analysis software to analyse data for all relevant LIFT indicators and generate data outputs into the data tabulation sheets. Data outputs from these analyses are prepared in excel format and shared with LIFT for purposes of reporting or further analysis depending on the nature of the indicator. For percentage-based indicators, reported values are derived directly from the data outputs produced after the first level analysis. For example, P.O 1.2 % of households in LIFT villages below the poverty line (although this was not measured in 2018).

The second level of analysis focuses on indicators that are numbers based. For example, with regard to Indicator PO 1.1, the achievement % is calculated from tabulation data as follows:

% of HHs with increased income in the last 12 months
x number of HHs reached in the reporting year

The indicator is derived from the % of respondents reporting that they have perceived an increase in their income over the past 12 months compared to the previous year. This % is in turn extrapolated to the number of households reached by LIFT support in Tier 1 and 2 respectively. The outcome represents the achievement number for the above indicator.

The calculation for different indicators varies, and this is described in detail in the indicator reference sheets (IRS).

Fund Management Office (FMO)

There are a few indicators (tracking activity in policy work, support to civil society organisations) for which data on activities and progress is collected by the Fund Management Office (FMO).

Every year a wide range of evaluations and special studies are commissioned. Whilst these do not feature as primary data sources for reporting of results, they do contribute to learning, case studies and insights included in the detailed programme chapters of the Annual Report.

Most of the results data reported include cumulative achievements from 2010 to the end of 2018 to indicate overall progress over the full period of LIFT's work. In some cases achievements on certain indicators from earlier years is not available (N/A) because new indicators were developed during the programme. Further columns then detail the specific achievement of the current year, and notes the milestone originally set and percentage of target achieved.

In recent years, LIFT's Financial Inclusion Programme expanded significantly in terms of the numbers of beneficiary households reached. The programme also operates in many areas of the country where no other LIFT activities have taken place. The growth in LIFT's Financial Inclusion programming required the sample size for household surveys and tracker surveys needing to be nearly doubled.

It also became necessary and helpful to differentiate between the 'core' LIFT programming—areas where LIFT's geographic, financial inclusion and other programmes are implemented—and the areas where only financial inclusion activities take place. The 'core' programme areas are known as Tier 1 and the financial inclusion only areas are known as Tier 2. To avoid double-counting, Tier 2 figures are calculated to include all microfinance beneficiary households for the year, and active microfinance beneficiary households are subtracted from Tier 1 figures. Tier 1 and Tier 2 achievements are then added together to obtain the achievements of 2018.

For 2018, the number of households reached in Tier 1 programming is 145,295 households and in Tier 2 is 1,839,067 households.

To obtain the number of female-headed households for an indicator, the gender specific survey result was extrapolated to 15.5 per cent of the total number of households reached in 2018.

To better detect levels of change related to LIFT's programmes, and for indicators that include a score or a level, average percentages for 2017 and 2018 are subtracted from one another and the resulting differences extrapolated to the relevant number of households reached in 2018. To do this, it is assumed that the 2015 baseline results apply to the newly sampled areas in the 2017 Household Survey and the 2018 Tracker Survey.

Most figures are calculated as household figures as benefits from interventions are reasonably assumed to bring benefits to the whole family. Where a benefit is assumed to be mainly for the individual reached (e.g. training participants, nutrition of an individual child) the indicator results are calculated by individual rather than household.

Purpose-level Outcomes and Indicators

Purpose—To improve the incomes and nutrition status of poor people in Myanmar by promoting resilient livelihoods and food security.

PO 1

Increased incomes of rural households

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
1.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income	806,241 F 109,094 M 697,147	381,837 F 55,838 M 325,999	1,188,078 F 164,932 M 1,023,146	520,000	228	HHS

▲ Table 2.1

Purpose-level Outcome 1
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

– UN formed Washington Group on Disability Statistics developed a short set of 6 questions which allows individual to self-report functional limitation against 4 response categories as no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty and cannot do at all. The type of disability refers as who have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses, difficulty hearing, even if using hearing aid, difficulty walking or climbing steps, difficulty remembering or concentrating, difficulty washing all over or dressing and difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/wg_documents.htm

PO 1.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income

This data was collected through the 2018 Tracking Survey. In 2018, nearly 20 per cent of households reported to have increased their income in the past 12 months. When this is extrapolated to both Tier 1 and Tier 2 programme areas, this totals an estimated 381,000 households. There was a difference between male- and female-headed households in 2018, where only 14 per cent of female-headed households reported to have increased incomes as compared to 22 per cent of male-headed households.

When combined with the number of households to have reported an increase in income in LIFT programme areas in previous years, LIFT has contributed to increasing the incomes of an estimated total of nearly 1,188,000 households. Set against the original milestone of 520,000 households, achievement is 228 per cent of this indicator's 2018 milestone. In the Tracking Survey, households were asked a series of questions about their perceptions of income. When compared to last year's results, there has been a marked rise in households reporting an **increase** in income. This increased from 17 per cent in 2017 to 20 per cent in 2018.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 2.4% of households with at least one type of disability, as well as 2.4% of male-headed households and 2.5% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability, reported increased income in the last 12 months. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 44,000 households with at least one type of disability reported increased income.

PO 1.2 Percentage of households in LIFT villages below the poverty line

This indicator is measured every two years as part of LIFT's full Household Survey, and thus, was not part of the 2018 Tracking Survey.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 1.8% of households with at least one type of disability, as well as 1.8% of male-headed households and 2.2% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability, reported increased in assets in the last 12 months. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 38,000 households with at least one type of disability reported increased assets.

PO 2

Increased resilience of rural households and communities to shocks, stresses and adverse trends

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
2.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased asset ownership	758,305 F 107,816 M 650,489	322,628 F 38,290 M 284,338	1,080,933 F 146,106 M 934,827	550,000	197	HHS
2.2 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income diversity score	342,109	83,542	425,651	130,000	327	HHS
2.3 Number of people whose resilience has been improved and ability to cope has increased	3,744,139 F 474,597 M 3,269,542	2,257,169 F 322,512 M 1,934,657	6,001,307 F 797,109 M 5,204,198	2,400,000	250	HHS

PO 2.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased asset ownership

In 2018, combined results from Tier 1 and Tier 2, show 16 per cent of those sampled reported that their assets increased in the past 12 months. When this is extrapolated to those reached in both areas, this amounts to an estimated 322,000 households. Of these, only 10 per cent of the female-headed households reported an increase in assets compared to 17 per cent of male-headed households.

When combined with the estimated achievement in LIFT's previous programmes, LIFT has contributed to increasing the assets of around 1,080,933 households, which is 197 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

PO 2.2 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increased income diversity score

Income diversification is a significant factor in reducing household vulnerability and increasing incomes. It should be noted that not all diversification necessarily represents a positive trend. However, overall there is a strong positive correlation between increased income diversity and changes to levels of vulnerability and resilience. In LIFT's Household Survey, income diversity is represented using a modified version of Simpson's diversity index. This measures not just the number of income sources, but the extent to which household income is more evenly spread between different sources. Average sources of household income were 37 per cent from agriculture, 22 per cent from irregular day-wages, 11 per cent from remittances and other sources.

The average income diversity mean score in 2018 is about 3, similar to the 2.6 figure reported in 2017. Nearly one-third of households saw their income diversity

increase (28 per cent). However, just under one-quarter (24 per cent) saw their income diversity decrease, showing again the fragility facing many families where loss of opportunities and shocks can impact negatively on their earnings. Factoring in the households reporting decreased income, there was still an overall net gain of households with income diversity increases of 4.2 per cent. When extrapolated to households reached by LIFT in both Tiers 1 and 2, an estimated 425,000 households have experienced greater income diversification since 2015. Thus, LIFT has achieved 327 per cent of this indicator's 2018 milestone.

PO 2.3 Number of people whose resilience has been improved and ability to cope has increased

LIFT measures this indicator by using an index consisting of permutations of perceived changes in income, assets and food availability in the past 12 months. In 2018, there was an overall increase of 27 per cent of all those surveyed to have increased their resilience. When this is extrapolated to those reached in 2018 the total is almost 2.26 million individuals. When added to LIFT's previous achievement, about 6 million people's resilience have increased and in doing so, LIFT achieved 250 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

▲ **Table 2.2**
Purpose-level Outcome 2
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

PO 3

Improved nutrition of women and children

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
3.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with an acceptable dietary diversity score	431,965 F 76,324 M 355,641	55,891 F 7,378 M 48,513	487,857 F 83,702 M 404,155	400,000	122	HHS
3.2 Number of households in IFT villages with 12 months of adequate household food provisioning	492,435 F 105,023 M 387,412	130,448 F 29,189 M 101,259	622,883 F 134,212 M 488,671	540,000	115	HHS
3.3 Per cent of moderately/severely stunted children <5 years in LIFT villages	22%	NA	NA	26%	NA	HHS
3.4 Proportion of children under 5 years with diarrhoea in previous 2 weeks	17.4%	NA	NA	15%	NA	HHS

▲ Table 2.3

Purpose-level Outcome 3
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

PO 3.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with an acceptable dietary diversity score

LIFT uses an acceptable dietary diversity score, defined by the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project as the average score of the top third income group. From the LIFT 2015 Household Survey, this score is six food groups or above. In 2018, 70 per cent of households measured a score of six and above, indicating acceptable dietary diversity, compared to 67 per cent in 2017. When extrapolated to all those reached by LIFT in 2018, there was an increase in an estimated 55,000 households having acceptable food dietary diversity scores, which, when combined with LIFT's previous achievement, is slightly more than 487,000 households, or 122 per cent, who reported to have increased in assets in the last 12 months of LIFT's 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking survey, an estimated 1% of households with at least one type of disability, as well as 1% of male-headed households and 0.5% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability, indicated having acceptable dietary diversity. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 14,000 households with at least one type of disability reported an acceptable dietary diversity score of six and above.

PO 3.2 Number of households in LIFT villages with 12 months of adequate household food provisioning

Comparison between 2017 and 2018 shows an improvement in household food provisioning. In 2018, 92 per cent of households reported 12 months adequate food, up from 86 per cent in 2017. Extrapolating these results

over the LIFT-supported households in both Tier-1 and Tier-2, it could be expected that LIFT achieved 115 per cent of its 2018 milestone with slightly more than 622,000 estimated households.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking survey, an estimated 1% of male-headed households and 0.2% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported having an adequate proportion of food provision. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 15,000 households with at least one type of disability reported having adequate household food provisioning.

PO 3.3 Percentage of moderately or severely stunted children under 5 years in LIFT villages

PO 3.4 Proportion of children under 5 years with diarrhoea in the previous 2 weeks

These two indicators are measured in LIFT's nutrition component of the Household Survey conducted every two years, and thus, was not included in the 2018 Tracking Survey.

PO 4**Improved policies and effective public expenditure for pro-poor development**

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
4.1 Number and type of public policy and programme changes supported by LIFT	35	14	49	25	196	FMO, IPs
4.2 Number and type of changes in public rural development budgets supported by LIFT	18	6	24	7	343	FMO, IPs

PO 4.1 Number and type of public sector policy and programme changes supported by LIFT

LIFT tracks the number and type of public sector policy and programme changes supported by the FMO and by implementing partners. Since 2015, LIFT has supported a total of 49 such changes, which is achieving 196 per cent of its 2018 milestone. In 2018, FMO reported to have supported 14 public sector policy and programme changes. Some examples are:

Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) strategy development

Maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) in Chin State are intended to be complemented by SBCC sessions on health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene at village and ward level. In 2018, an interministerial SBCC committee was established for the first time to develop an SBCC strategy. The Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Health Literacy Promotion Unit (HLPU), the National Nutrition Center (NNC), LIFT, UNICEF, 3MDG and Save the Children participated in the first committee meeting in April. During this meeting, DSW presented its plans for nutrition education along with cash transfers. The HLPU's leading role in developing education with SBCC materials was also agreed. HLPU's recently developed infant and young child feeding materials will be used for nutrition education initially, but a broader SBCC strategy will be developed to complement MCCT programming across Myanmar in the future.

Livestock policy

A vote in Parliament during the first half of 2018 allowed the cattle export trade to proceed and it was agreed that 1

million head of cattle/buffalo would be exported to China. In discussions on the cattle trade, the Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation cited the cattle population data collected under the national livestock survey, for which the LIFT-supported FAO livestock project provided significant support. The cattle trade is a significant development and has the potential to positively impact hundreds of thousands of households – about 2.2 million HH raise cattle, and 420,000 raise buffalo. The total value of the trade is estimated at USD 1 billion per year. Traders report they are receiving an additional USD 500-700 per head at the farmgate for cattle/ buffalo that reach export standard; a very significant income increase for smallholder farmers.

Fishery Law

The new *Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law* was passed in March 2018 with the support of the Network Activities Group (NAG). It represents a watershed development in the sustainable management of fisheries in the Delta and promotes greater access and equity. It opens up the licensing and use of inland water to small community co-management fisheries and opportunities for gender mainstreaming in sub-national governance. NAG continues to support development of regulations and by-laws for implementation. The project is also assisting the region develop its marine fishery laws.

Contract Farming

Mercy Corps was invited to collaborate with the Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN) and Agri Pro Focus (APF) to assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) in establishing contract farming

▲ Table 2.4

Purpose-level Outcome 4
Indicators & Achievements

FMO Fund Management Office
IP Implementing Partner

8 To avoid double counting, if FMO and IPs worked on public sector policies and programme changes together, each change is accredited to only one entity.

standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidelines. These will form the basis of a national legal framework for contract farming. Mercy Corps has implemented contract farming through the Linking Labutta to Markets project in the Delta.

Crop insurance in piloting

The Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM) project partnered with Global World Insurance to pilot the first crop insurance scheme in Myanmar. Seventeen farmers with around 100 acres participated. Initial lessons were shared at the Crop Insurance Inaugural Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw hosted by MoALI in November 2018. The main recommendation from LLM was for the government to establish a crop insurance development roadmap for Myanmar and to take forward lessons gathered from the pilot and lessons from other neighbouring countries. While it is recognised that crop insurance is at an early stage of its development in the country, MoALI – with support from the Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Rural Development Committee of the Myanmar Parliament, has committed to establishing a crop insurance development roadmap in the near future.

PO 4.2—Number and type of changes in public rural development budget allocation/spending supported by LIFT

LIFT also tracks the number and type of changes it has supported in public sector/rural development budget allocation and spending. Since 2015, LIFT has supported 24 such changes, which is achieving 343 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

In 2018, LIFT continued to play an important role influencing public sector and rural development budget allocations and/or spending in the areas of agriculture, rural development, social protection and nutrition. From January to December, FMO and IPs report to have supported six budget-related changes. One example is:

Kayin and Kayah MCCT

In late-2018, the DSW indicated that the Government of Myanmar would provide financial support for expanding MCCT programming to Kayin and Kayah States beginning in October with financing for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The DSW attributes this development to the Chin MCCT, supported by LIFT, demonstrating the proof of concept and institutional feasibility of MCCT programming. However, there are several challenges that accompany the opportunities of expansion. One challenge is ensuring that MCCTs are accompanied by SBCC messaging. There is still a long way to go in this regard, including in Chin State. A second challenge is measuring the impact of the MCCT. In Rakhine State and Naga, for example, the rapid expansion there did not allow for any kind of baseline survey. A third challenge is putting in place an effective implementation monitoring system. In this regard, there has been good progress in Chin State that can inform monitoring arrangements in Kayin and Kayah States. LIFT's support to DSW continues.

Programme-level Outcomes and Indicators

PR 1

Increased sustainable agriculture and farm-based production by smallholder farmers

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
1.1 Number of LIFT households reached by advisory services	203,284 F 67,311 M 135,973	61,322 F 27,097 M 34,225	264,606 F 94,408 M 170,198	221,000	120	HHS
1.2 Number of households in LIFT villages who trial and/or adopt improved practices, inputs and technologies	325,390 F 47,407 M 277,983	579,467 F 62,290 M 517,177	904,857 F 109,697 M 795,160	300,000	302	HHS
1.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in productivity—crops only	292,401 F 40,188 M 252,213	131,546 F 11,648 M 119,898	423,947 F 51,836 M 372,111	251,000	169	HHS

PR 1.1 Number of LIFT households reached by advisory services

From the start of LIFT's programmes in 2010, around 40 implementing partners report to have reached a cumulative total of nearly 265,000 households with advisory services, of which 36 per cent were female-headed households. Given this achievement, LIFT has achieved 120 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

In 2018, 18 implementing partners* report to have reached more than 61,000 households in LIFT's programme areas. There is a wide variety of advisory support undertaken. Examples include:

- ‡ METTA conducts farmer field schools to teach smallholder farmers Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) processes, procedures and standards including soil and plant fertility procedures and proper water management. If farmers practice GAP for three consecutive years, they can receive a Department of Agriculture (DOA)-approved certificate. METTA has also formed and trained three seed growers associations in two townships who, in turn, and in coordination with DOA staff, inspect farmers' fields.
- ‡ WHH and GRET provide advisory services by adopting a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) approach and training key farmers and facilitating farmer-led demonstration plots and exchange visits. The main topics cover rice and vegetable production, animal breeding, and improved soil fertility management.
- ‡ Radanar Ayar, along with DoA staff, provide advisory services and train farmers on aspects of the rice value chain, including quality seed production, post-harvest improvement, farmer-led extension services, collective marketing, and contract farming with the private sector.
- ‡ CRS and KMSS, through the Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE) project, provide advisory services through production demonstration group sessions including seed sowing and early growth, home gardening training session to women, seed quality and comparison of hermetic and non-hermetic storage, and value chain development.
- ‡ IFDC provides advisory services to farmers on quality seed storage and usage, economic fertiliser application, crop protection products and the role of farm tools and equipment for water conservation. They also provide support on farm input products and technologies and climate-smart agriculture approaches.

PR 1.2 Number of households in LIFT villages who trial and/or adopt improved practices, inputs and technologies

Of those surveyed in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 programme areas in 2018, 31 per cent overall reported to have trialled (for less than a year) and/or adopted (for more than one year) improved practices, inputs and technologies, (34 per cent for male-headed households and 22 per cent for female-headed households). When extrapolated to all households reached in 2018, 579,000 households are estimated to have trialled and/or adopted improved practices, inputs and technologies. LIFT's cumulative achievement in 2018, means that LIFT has achieved 302 per cent of this indicator's 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 4% of households with at least one type of disability, 4% of male-headed households and 3% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability, reported having trialled and/or adopted practices, inputs and technologies. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 58,000 households with at least one type of disability had trialled and/or adopted improved practices, inputs and technologies.

PR 1.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in productivity—crops only

In the 2018 Tracking Survey, an average of 54 per cent of households in Tiers 1 and 2 reported to have grown crops in the past 12 months. Of these households, an average of 12 per cent reported an increase in their major crop productivity in any growing season when compared with the previous year. There was a difference between male-headed and female-headed households, where 13 per cent male-headed households and 8 per cent female-headed households reported an increase in crop productivity.

When extrapolated to the full range of households covered by LIFT in 2018, 131,000 households are estimated to have had an increase in major crop productivity in 2018. When combined with LIFT's previous achievement in this indicator, LIFT achieved 169 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 2% of households with at least one type of disability, 2% of male-headed households and 1% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported an increase in crop productivity. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 1,500 households with at least one type of disability increased crops productivity.

▲ Table 2.5

Programme-level Outcome 1 Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

* As in previous years, these partners include Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Choklei Organization for Rural and Agriculture Development (CORAD), Golden Plain, International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID), Radanar Ayar, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH). More recently, CARE International, Mercy Corps, Metta Development Foundation, The Border Consortium (TBC), Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) and the consortium of SwissAid and GRET also began to report under this indicator.

PR 2

Improved market access and market terms for smallholder farmers

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
2.1 Number of LIFT households who are members of functional producer groups	64,532 F 19,700 M 44,832	11,059 F 5,036 M 6,023	75,591 F 24,736 M 50,855	83,000	91	IPs
2.2 Number of LIFT households adopting new marketing practices	15,495 F 1,322 M 14,173	4,786 F 270 M 4,516	20,281 F 1,592 M 18,689	17,000	119	HHS
2.3 Number of households in LIFT villages securing higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities	484,844 F 48,641 M 436,203	373,185 F 37,822 M 335,363	858,029 F 86,463 M 771,566	230,000	373	HHS

▲ Table 2.6
Programme-level Outcome 2
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey
IP Implementing Partner

PR 2.1 Number of LIFT households who are members of functional producer groups

Implementing partners reported that over 75,000 households were, or had become, members of producer groups since 2010, of which 25,000 (roughly 33 per cent), were female-headed households. Partners reporting the highest numbers include Mercy Corps, Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN), Oxfam, ActionAid, CESVI and Proximity Design. Of these, 11,059 households became new members in 2018. LIFT has achieved 91 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

By far the most common type of groups continue to be agricultural and livestock producers. Examples of groups' activities for year 2018 include:

- ! The Networking Activity Group (NAG) helped communities form village and cluster-level fishery groups and supported the township-level Fishers' Development Association, focusing on wild capture fish and prawn water products.
- ! CORAD's market and value chain advisors facilitated the formation of producer groups in the grapes, onions, elephant foot yam tubers, and tree beans value chains.
- ! CDN reformed over 50 crop producer groups and trained leaders and members from more than 1,000 households, focusing on value chain development.

PR 2.2 Number of LIFT households adopting new marketing practices

This indicator applies to Tier 1 households only. In 2018, 20 per cent of those surveyed reported to have received LIFT-supported training in agriculture, livestock, fishery or aquaculture. Of those trained, 15 per cent reported to have adopted new marketing practices in the past 12 months, (17 per cent male-headed households and 8 per cent female-headed households). When extrapolated to households reached in Tier 1 in 2018, about 4,700 households are estimated to have adopted new marketing practices which, when combined with LIFT's achievement in previous years, is 119 per cent of the 2018 milestone.

In 2018, the top new marketing practices reported by beneficiaries, in order of frequency, were: negotiating a better price; sorting quality produce for sales, selling at a different time, selling to a new or different market and processing products in different ways.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 3% of households with at least one type of disability, 3% of male-headed households and 1% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported adopting new marketing practices. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 94 households with at least one type of disability had adopted new marketing practices.

PR 2.3 Number of households in LIFT villages securing higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities

When households were asked about the change in their profits from agriculture, livestock and fishery activities over the previous 12 months, the overall averages of households reporting an increase from both Tier 1 and Tier 2 programme areas were: crop sales 13 per cent, livestock sales 11 per cent and fishery sales 2 per cent.

After eliminating duplication, 22 per cent of households overall reported to have secured higher returns in the past 12 months from any of these livelihood activities, (24 per cent of male-headed households and 13 per cent of female-headed households). When extrapolated to the full range of households covered by LIFT in 2018, nearly 373,000 households are estimated to have secured higher returns which, when combined with LIFT's previous achievement, is 373 per cent of LIFT's 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 2% of households with at least one type of disability, 3% of male-headed households and 1% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 27,000 households with at least one type of disability had higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities.

PR 3

Increased and safe employment in non-farm activities for smallholders and landless

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
3.1 Number of LIFT households supported in non-agricultural skills development	50,218 F 30,627 M 19,591	14,974 F 10,576 M 4,398	65,186 F 41,203 M 23,983	65,000	100	IPs
3.2 Number of trained people who establish their own enterprises or become employed	79,888 F 33,719 M 46,169	10,156 F 1,932 M 8,224	90,044 F 35,651 M 54,393	96,000	94	IPs
3.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in income from non-agricultural activities	489,588 F 59,275 M 430,313	212,355 F 23,772 M 188,583	701,943 F 83,046 M 618,897	300,000	234	HHS

PR 3.1 Number of LIFT households supported in non-agricultural skills development

From 2010 to end 2018, 39 implementing partners reported supporting a total of 65,000 individuals (63 per cent are women) in non-agricultural skills development. LIFT has achieved 100 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

More than 14,000 households were supported in 2018. The 2018 examples include:

- ‡ KDN provided business training courses in cooking and baking, sewing, carpentry, mechanics, weaving and masonry at the Community Vocational Training Centre.
- ‡ CDN conducted a training session on sustainable coffee production and post-harvest techniques with coffee specialists at the DoA Coffee Research and Development Farm.
- ‡ The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided non-agricultural skills development training to youth. The mobile life skills and mobile vocational skills training reached in-camp and out-of-camp youth in Rakhine State.
- ‡ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted migration-related awareness and employment-related training programmes. IOM worked with consortium partners the Chin Human Rights Organization, Mon Women's Coalition, Parami Development Network, and Pact Global Microfinance Fund, and in collaboration with government technical schools and private sector actors in Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi, Shan, and Chin states and in the Dry Zone.
- ‡ The Aung Myin Hmu project under Care International provided services in information and building supportive friendships with peer leaders through Thone Pan Hla Sunday Cafes. It advertised AMH project services to new migrant women workers and factory owners/managers. AMH also delivered Quality Control training, cutting room operator and sewing machine mechanic training to migrant women by partnership with Suu Vocational Institute (SVI) and SVI provided the funding for equipment and rooms and AMH provided the technical support.

PR 3.2 Number of trained people who establish their own enterprises or become employed

From 2010 to the end of 2018, implementing partners reported supporting more than 90,000 people who established their own enterprises or become employed, of whom about 40 per cent were women. LIFT reached 94 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

Up to 2014 and under LIFT's previous programmes, the highest contributors to this indicator included MARC, UNDP, and PACT. Five IPs report that 666 trained participants have established their own enterprises or become employed, including World Vision, Eden Ministry, IOM, CARE (Aung Myin Hmu), KDN, WHH/GRET and LEAD. For example, LEAD continued to provide cash grants to small business groups and helped establish grocery shops, small trading centres for dried fish and prawns, motorcycle mechanic shops, cloth shops, tea shops and traditional snack-making shops. World Vision supported women's group members establish poultry and rice-related enterprises, and cloth, grocery and snack-making shops. Eden also continued to train victims of human trafficking in Eden's jewellery social enterprise. WHH/GRET provided vocational skill trainings, financial education trainings, agriculture, livestock, fishery, and business plan training. This was followed by support with loans of inventory credit (IC), hire purchase (HP) and small producer credit services (SPCS) for small business using financial services to Village Development Committee members, smallholder farmers and landless people.

PR 3.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in income from non-agricultural activities

In 2018, an average of 17 per cent of households surveyed in Tier 1 and Tier 2 reported that their income had increased from non-agricultural activities (18 per cent for male-headed households and 12 per cent for female-headed households). When extrapolated to all those reached by LIFT in 2018, 212,000 households are estimated to have increased their non-agricultural income. When combined with LIFT's achievements from 2010–2018, LIFT accomplished 234 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 2% of households with at least one type of disability, 2% of male-headed households and 3% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported increased income from non-agricultural activities. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 51,000 households with at least one type of disability had an increased income from non-agricultural activities.

▲ Table 2.7

Programme-level Outcome 3
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey
IP Implementing Partner

PR 4**Increased access to adequate and affordable financial services**

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
4.1 Number of LIFT MFIs financially self-sustaining	20	18	38	17	224	IPs
4.2 Number of LIFT households with access to financial services (active clients)	2,132,447 F 1,910,525 M 221,922	N/A	2,632,283 F 2,389,373 M 242,910	2,000,000	132	IPs

▲ Table 2.8

Programme-level Outcome 4
Indicators & Achievements

IP Implementing Partner

PR 4.1 Number of LIFT MFIs financially self-sustaining

In 2018, LIFT continued to support 28 microfinance partners, including 9 local microfinance organisations, 1 joint venture company, 3 credit cooperatives, 14 international microfinance NGOs and one private bank (Yoma Bank). Of these 28 partners, 18 are now considered to be financially self-sustaining, where operational costs are covered by income after adjusting for costs and inflation. These include eight local MFIs and 10 international MFIs. LIFT has achieved 224 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

PR 4.2 Number of LIFT households with access to financial services

Since 2011, LIFT's assistance to households through its microfinance partners has grown rapidly, and this programme deliberately targets female clients. By the end of 2018, LIFT's MFI partners had provided financial services, primarily in the form of loans, to 2.6 million clients, of whom 91 per cent were women. This is an increase in the number of active clients since the end of 2017, for an achievement of 132 per cent of LIFT's 2018 milestone.

PR 5

Improved nutrition, sanitation and hygiene practices

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
5.1 Number of LIFT households reached with nutrition sensitive information	213,278 F 172,104 M 41,174	327,525 F 244,733 M 82,792	540,803 F 416,837 M 123,966	400,000	135	IPs
5.2 Number of people with awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children*	172,953 F 113,640 M 59,313	N/A	N/A	190,000	N/A	HHS
5.3 Number of children 6-23 months with “acceptable” dietary diversity*	9,313 Girls 4,826 Boys 4,487	N/A	N/A	60,000	N/A	HHS
5.4 Number of infants (0-5 months of age) who received only breast milk during the previous 24 hours*	5,080 Girls 2,551 Boys 2,529	N/A	N/A	84,000	N/A	HHS
5.5 Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed sanitation services	223,453 F 45,627 M 177,826	1,789 F 840 M 949	225,242 F 46,467 M 178,775	300,000	75	HHS
5.6 Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed and protected drinking water services	165,844 F 54,296 M 111,548	5,648 F 1,310 M 4,338	171,492 F 55,606 M 115,886	260,000	66	HHS

PR 5.1 Number of LIFT households reached with nutrition sensitive information

From the start of LIFT’s programmes in 2010, 33 implementing partners IPs report reaching over 540,000 households with nutrition-sensitive information, mostly through health and nutrition training sessions that have evolved over time to focus less on general health and more on nutrition. It is assumed that the participation of one member of the household will lead to benefits for the whole household. The majority of targeted participants are women (77 per cent of total participants). Of this total, IPs report that during 2018, about 43,000 households received maternal and child cash transfers (MCCTs) and approximately 283,000 households participated in health and nutrition training sessions. LIFT has achieved 135 per cent of its 2018 milestone. Although not included in this particular indicator on nutrition-sensitive information, LIFT also supported the distribution of fortified rice to an estimated 346,000 people.

PR 5.2 Number of people with awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children**PR 5.3 Number of children 6-23 months with ‘acceptable’ dietary diversity****PR 5.4 Number of infants (0-5 months of age) who received only breast milk during the previous 24 hours**

These three indicators are measured as part of LIFT’s nutrition survey in the Household Survey conducted every two years, and thus was not part of the 2018 Tracking Survey.

5.5 Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed sanitation services

This indicator applies to Tier 1 only. In 2018, 86 per cent of households reported to have access to safely managed sanitation services, up from 85 per cent in 2017. The proportion of women-headed households increased by 4 per cent from 2017 to 2018 compared to 1 per cent in male-headed households. With this 1 per cent increase overall, an additional 1,700 households are

estimated to be using safely managed sanitation services in Tier 1. Thus, LIFT’s cumulative achievement in 2018 increased to an estimated 225,000 households, which is 75 per cent of LIFT’s 2018 milestone.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 1% of households with at least one type of disability, 1% of male-headed households and 2% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported an improved use of safely managed sanitation services compared to last year. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 1,900 households with at least one type of disability reported using safely managed sanitation services.

5.6 Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed and protected drinking water services

This indicator applies to Tier 1 only. In 2015, 83 per cent of households surveyed reported the use of safely managed and protected drinking water services (83 per cent of male-headed households; 86 per cent of female-headed households). LIFT helped achieve 66 per cent of this indicator’s 2018 milestone, an additional 5,600 households are estimated to be used safely managed and protected drinking water services. It is important to note that this indicator includes ‘improved water sources’, as in the Sustainable Development Goals, plus protected ponds which are promoted primarily in LIFT’s Dry Zone programme.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, an estimated 2% of households with at least one type of disability, 2% of male-headed households and 3% of female-headed households with at least one type of disability reported an improved use of safely managed and protected drinking water services compared to last year. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 2,500 households with at least one type of disability reported using safely managed and protected drinking water services.

▲ Table 2.9
Programme-level Outcome 5
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

IP Implementing Partner

* Not measured in the 2018 tracking survey

PR 6

Safeguarded access to and sustainable use of natural resources for smallholders and landless

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
6.1 Number of LIFT villages where common property resource management is taken up	171*	485**	656	640	103	HHS
6.2 Number of households in LIFT villages benefitting from protected/managed natural resources	80,435 F 12,484 M 67,951	384 F 384 M 0	80,819 F 12,868 M 67,951	55,000	147	HHS

▲ Table 2.10

 Programme-level Outcome 6
Indicators & Achievements

HHS LIFT Household Survey

* 2015 in old programme area

** 2016-2018 in new programme area

PR 6.1 Number of LIFT villages where common property resource management is taken up

This indicator applies to Tier 1 only. Of the 95 villages surveyed in 2018, 10 per cent report implementing natural resource management activities in LIFT villages. When extrapolated to Tier 1 villages, 485 villages are estimated to have implemented the natural resource management activities in LIFT villages. When combined with the 171 villages from LIFT's previous programme area, LIFT achieved 103 per cent of this indicator's 2018 milestone.

Major LIFT natural resource management activities include embankments (mostly in Rakhine), community forests (mostly in the Uplands), community grazing land, and watershed management in both Rakhine and the Uplands.

PR 6.2 Number of households in LIFT villages benefitting from protected/managed natural resources

This indicator applies to Tier 1 only. From 2017 to 2018, there was a 0.3 per cent decrease in respondents reporting to have benefitted from community-managed natural resources. The proportion of female-headed households reporting they benefitted from protected/managed natural resources increased 2 per cent from 2017 to 2018. When extrapolated to households reached in Tier 1 in 2018, about 380 additional households are estimated to have benefitted from community-managed natural resources. When combined with LIFT's prior achievement, LIFT accomplished 147 per cent of this indicator's 2018 milestone.

The most commonly reported benefits, in order of frequency, include ensuring protection of, and/or access to, water bodies, community forests, and common grazing lands.

According to the 2018 Household Tracking Survey, the percentage of households reporting increased benefits from protected/managed natural resources declined by 0.2% for overall households with at least one type of disability, and by 0.6% of male-headed households with at least one type of disability. However, it increased by 2% for female-headed households with at least one type of disability. By extrapolating results to village households, an estimated 330 households with at least one type of disability reported benefitting from protected/managed natural resources.

PR 7**Strengthened capacity of communities, local government, CSOs and enterprises to support food and livelihoods security**

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
7.1 Percentage of LIFT funds managed by national entities (by type of entity)	38	32	N/A	28	114	IPs
7.2 Number and type of local groups and institutions supported to promote food and livelihood security	2,790	188	2,978	2,400	124	IPs

PR 7.1 Percentage of LIFT funds managed by national entity

A major focus of LIFT's strategy continues to be strengthening local capacities, including those of government, CSOs and private enterprises. The amount of funding budgeted to such entities demonstrates, in part, LIFT's commitment to this objective, as well as levels of access and engagement. In 2018, LIFT signed 12 new contracts with national entities. The 2018 budget allocation for management by national entities is over USD 20 million, which is 32 per cent of LIFT's estimated projected 2018 programme expenditure of around USD 52 million. This achievement is 114 per cent of LIFT's 2018 milestone.

PR 7.2 Number and type of local groups and institutions supported to promote food and livelihood security

Since the start of LIFT to the end of 2018, 29 implementing partners report supporting 2,978 local groups and institutions to promote food and livelihood security. There are 188 more groups since the end of 2017. With this achievement, LIFT has achieved 124 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

The partners supporting the largest number of local groups include Care and Save the Children in the Tat Lan programme, Save the Children in the Delta 3 programme, HelpAge, Mercy Corps and ActionAid-SEDAN, and more recently, NAG under the Uplands programme.

▲ Table 2.11
Programme-level Outcome 7
Indicators & Achievements

IP Implementing Partner

PR 8

Generation of policy-relevant evidence regarding pro-poor development

	Achievement 2010–2017	Achievement 2018	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2018	Milestone 2018	Per cent achieved	Data Source
8.1 Number of LIFT-supported policy oriented events organised	384	278	662	130	509	FMO, IPs
8.2 Number of LIFT policy-oriented publications published and disseminated to stakeholders	103	67	170	75	227	FMO, IPs

▲ Table 2.12
Programme-level Outcome 8
Indicators & Achievements

FMO Fund Management Office
IP Implementing Partner

PR 8.1 Number of LIFT-supported policy oriented events organised

Since 2015, when LIFT first started tracking this indicator, LIFT and IPs have organised a total of 662 policy-oriented events, achieving 509 per cent of the 2018 milestone.

During 2018, LIFT supported 278 policy events, of which implementing partners organised 227 and FMO organised 51. The events included a wide range of activities at state/regional and national level and involved a range of different approaches to informing and supporting policy stakeholders, including government, civil society organisations, professional organisations, private sector actors, and development partners. Highlights of some of the events conducted in 2018 are:

Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan (ADS/IP)

The ADS/IP was officially launched on 7 June 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. The ADS/IP provides strategic guidance for the transformation of agricultural production in Myanmar in ways that are aimed at improving inclusion and sustainability. The Union Minister expressed his appreciation of the work of ADB, FAO, and LIFT for their support for the development of the ADS, including specific reference to the nationwide consultation process with key stakeholders at state/regional and local levels. The Union Minister also referred to NGOs, CSOs, and private sector actors as important stakeholders in Myanmar's agricultural transformation.

Mobile money workshops for cash transfers

In September 2018, the Department of Social Welfare requested LIFT's FMO to help convene workshops to inform their efforts to enable MCCT and social pension payments to be made electronically. Benefits of electronic cash transfers are greater efficiencies in making a rapidly increasing number of cash transfers, and improvements to the accuracy and transparency of cash transfers. The first of two workshops was convened on 31 October 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. This technical workshop provided an opportunity for LIFT's partners and other organisations to share lessons learned from their experiences working with electronic cash transfers. Mobile money service providers also discussed key technical

challenges that DSW may face as they proceed with electronic cash delivery. Other organisations, including the IFC, introduced some of the key policy issues that DSW may face. The second workshop was convened on 18 December and focused on the regulatory environment. Government agencies including the Budget and Audit Departments made presentations that informed workshop participants about the policy environment. Several key banking institutions also shared their experiences regarding policies related to electronic cash delivery.

Labutta and Dry Zone MCCT field visits

In May 2018, Save the Children organised a one-day field visit for Union level officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Public Health and Ayeyarwady regional government to visit the Bright Sun MCCT programme. The village visits enabled participants to observe implementation arrangements concerning beneficiary registration, SBCC messaging, and digital cash transfers. The programme concluded with a brief discussion among participants about what they had observed and learned during the field visit. This event was especially timely as Ayeyarwady Region was identified as one of two regions/states where the World Bank will support MCCT programming. One of the key policy and programming decisions that must be addressed concerns how to insure that MCCTs and SBCC messaging are mutually complementary. Save the Children organised a similar event in the Dry Zone at the end of November 2018. As with the Labutta event, the visit aimed to showcase to government officials how the LEGACY programme has been implemented, and generate discussions on the merits and lessons of different models of service delivery used within the programme. The intention was to provide government with more field evidence as DSW considers additional MCCT roll-outs.

GRET land tenure activities

LIFT FMO was actively involved with land tenure policy issues at the regional level during the first half of 2018. In June, FMO organised a meeting with the Bago Chief Minister and his cabinet to discuss land issues and the land reallocation plans for the regional government. The government requested LIFT's technical assistance

with land reallocation and LIFT linked the regional government with GRET to conduct land assessments in three sites and provide recommendations for the land reallocation process. LIFT also organised a meeting with the Ayeyarwady Regional Government for GRET to present its findings and recommendations from 23 land assessment in the region. FMO also participated in a land assessment discussion led by GRET at Wakhema Township in Ayeyarwady Region.

Engaging parliamentarians in the development of labour migration governance

The International Labour Organization organized three meetings of the Parliamentarians' Working Group on migration during 2018. During these meetings, the Working Group discussed the status of the revisions to the *Law Relating to Overseas Employment*, the role of parliamentarian committees in advancing the amendment of the Law, and the development of a law to establish labour rights protection for domestic workers. Several substantive measures to further these goals were discussed, including a request to review the draft of the *Law Relating to Overseas Employment*, and setting up a working group to start the drafting process for the law on domestic work. These consultations have had the added benefit of keeping the issue of migration as a topic of debate in sessions of Parliament. Working Group members have raised a number of important questions related to the availability of services to support successful reintegration of returning migrants and access to passports and nationality verification for migrants in Malaysia.

Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies

To support a whole-of-government approach to migration governance, the International Organization for Migration carried out a scoping study to map the existing policies, mechanisms and actors involved. The study was discussed at a consultation workshop on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies organised by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, with representatives from 13 ministries, the Office of the President, the Office of the State Counsellor and the Union Attorney General's Office. The findings of the scoping study were presented at the workshop and participants discussed the linkages of migration with their respective sectoral policies in light of the draft Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. The workshop report included recommendations on potential next steps for consideration by the Myanmar Government, including establishing an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration. During follow-up meetings, the Minister and Director General of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population stated that the report and its recommendations were being considered for high-level endorsement by the Myanmar Government.

8.2 Number of LIFT policy-oriented publications published and disseminated to stakeholders

Since 2015, LIFT has published and disseminated a total of 170 policy oriented publications, achieving 227 per cent of its 2018 milestone.

During 2018, LIFT FMO and IPs published and disseminated 67 policy-oriented publications. The publications covered a wide range of material relevant to policy, including research findings, policy briefs, and implementation guides. Highlights included:

Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme

The AVCD programme produced a prolific number of publications during the January – June 2018 period, covering a wide range of topics concerning agriculture and rural development in Myanmar. These publications include: 1) Three research highlights from READZ on climate change, extent and characteristics of agricultural mechanisation, and the relationship between mechanisation and farm productivity and profitability, 2) Two research reports from READZ on crop production and profitability in the Dry Zone, and the relationship between mechanisation and farm productivity, and (3) One international research paper on rural transformation in Myanmar, based on results from READZ and MAAS surveys, and one updated research report on the pulse sector's organisation and adaptation to India pulse import restrictions.

GRET Farming Systems in Myanmar

GRET has supported and facilitated farming systems studies across five states and regions of Myanmar. These studies have been consolidated into a publication that was presented at a stakeholder worked in early August in Yangon. The studies addressed farming system evolution in specific areas of Chin State, Kayah State, Kachin State, Sagaing Region and Ayeyarwady Region. The publication formed the basis of a farming systems analysis workshop in Nay Pyi Taw.

Understanding the migration and development nexus in Myanmar

The *Capitalising Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development for Myanmar* (CHIME) study addressed the relationship between labour migration, poverty and development to support the adoption of evidence-based policies. The research was conducted by a consortium of organisations composed of the International Organization for Migration, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP), University of Sussex, and Metta Development Foundation. The CHIME study applied a mixed-methodology approach, including a household survey of 3,116 randomly sampled households and in-depth interviews with 192 individuals in four areas of Myanmar (Ayeyarwady and Mandalay Regions, Rakhine and Shan States). The study was launched for International Migrants Day on 18 December at the Government's official ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. The event included a screening of a video on the study's key findings for an audience of over 500, including the Vice President of the Union of Myanmar, the Minister of MoLIP, the Director General, heads of United Nations agencies, diplomatic corps and other key decision-makers. The findings of the full report and 13 regional, thematic and policy briefs will be disseminated in English and Myanmar languages throughout the first half of 2019. A series of discussion workshops are planned in Nay Pyi Taw, Rakhine, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Shan and Yangon.

Lessons learned to support the establishment of a Skills Development Fund in Myanmar

The *Occupational Skills Development Law* is in the process of being updated and amended by MoLIP. The revised version of the law will include the establishment of a Skills Development Fund, which if properly implemented has the potential to provide essential funding for expansion of vocational skills training throughout Myanmar. To provide technical support to the Ministry on how to structure and implement the new Skills Development Fund, the

LIFT-funded Aung Myin Hmu project and the Overseas Development Institute drafted a technical report and recommendations. The report highlights key lessons for Myanmar based on the experience of other South-East Asian countries in establishing, funding and managing a skills development fund that can be applied as part of Myanmar's wider skills development policy framework. The Aung Myin Hmu project facilitated advisory meetings with officials and key stakeholders to share the findings of the report and discuss plans for the rollout of the Skills Development Fund.

2.4

Summary of LIFT's 2018 Results

At the **purpose-level**, LIFT can report on eight of the 10 indicators in 2018. LIFT met or exceeded the original targets in these eight indicators: increasing household incomes, asset ownership, income diversity, resilience, diet diversity, food provisioning, and policy initiatives. Highlights from these include an estimated 1.2 million households had increased incomes and just over 1 million households increased assets. Just over 6 million people have strengthened resilience, an estimated 487,000 households have improved diets, and 623,000 report 12 months of adequate food provisioning.

At the **programme level**, LIFT was able to report on 20 of the 23 indicators in 2018.

LIFT met or exceeded 16 of the 20 indicator milestones. In agricultural development, there was good performance on use of advisory services, adapting new techniques, crop productivity, and developing new marketing practices. There was also good performance in associated livelihoods diversification in non-agricultural skills development and increases in income from non-agricultural activities. Performance did not quite match milestone targets in agricultural group membership and the number of trained people establishing their own enterprises but these were still within an acceptable level of performance (91 per cent and 94 per cent respectively).

LIFT's Financial Inclusion Programme continued to grow and perform well. Targets were exceeded. In terms of impact on people, this was again the largest single intervention in terms of beneficiaries with some 2.6 million households benefitting from access to financial services. Other notable high-coverage programme initiatives were: 424,000 households reporting increased crops productivity; 858,000 with increased agricultural profits; over 700,000 reporting increased income from non-agricultural activities and the nutrition programme reached over half a million households with nutrition-sensitive information. Finally, LIFT continued to achieve considerable success in the policy realm, by again far exceeding its 2018 milestones in supporting, over the life of LIFT, 49 significant changes in government policies and programmes and 24 changes in government budget allocations. This was achieved, in part, by LIFT and its partners supporting over the last several years nearly 662 policy-oriented events and producing over 170 policy-oriented publications. There are many examples noted in the above sections on the wide range of policy initiatives, studies and events undertaken. Accurate target setting in relation to policy, particularly events, is difficult as progress is affected by a changing policy environment. In 2016, targets were conservative and have been far exceeded as the policy environment in recent years allowed for more policy-related events to be held. LIFT has exceeded many milestones significantly. In the 2014-2018 phase of LIFT, targets were adjusted twice. The

last update was in May 2017. In 2017, many of the milestones were already exceeded. Continued performance of programmes therefore resulted in milestones being far exceeded in 2018. There were new calls for proposals, extensions and project expansions that were not planned for when targets were set. This is the last year that LIFT results will be reported under this logframe. From 2019, a new logframe, accompanied by new indicator reference sheets and targets will be used. Going forward LIFT's FMO may recommend that the Fund Board considers adjusting targets more frequently.

Although these indicator results cannot be attributed all to LIFT, LIFT has contributed to these numerous improvements in significant ways. In addition to providing technical assistance, capacity development, and various types of material inputs, by making responsible financial services more available, LIFT and its partners continued to provide a large segment of Myanmar's rural population with choices and the means by which they can improve their lives.

Throughout the tables and narrative, gender disaggregation is reported along with analysis on female-headed households where possible. As can be clearly seen, there is a consistent pattern of poorer levels of involvement in, and performance against LIFT indicators, of female-headed households, clearly demonstrating that there is much to be done in achieving gender parity across the programme. There are exceptions. Female-headed households reported better results than male-headed households in using safely managed and protected drinking water and sanitation services (by one percentage point). This is perhaps reflective of traditional female roles in managing family health and hygiene. The other major exception was access to financial services where over 90 per cent of beneficiaries are women due to targeting.

Activity Monitoring

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Cumulative 2010–2017
Total number of direct beneficiary households	153,808	69,421	149,299	138,977	116,922	193,668	159,227	494,696	517,454	1,993,472
Number of female-headed households	-	3,691	16,940	19,733	14,637	42,511	15,251	17,637	11,286	141,686
Number of households with disabled persons	-	1,064	2,354	3,111	1,508	1,580	2,200	5,655	1,202	18,674
Agricultural production (crops)										
Number of households supported in agricultural production	43,454	15,701	42,854	52,310	20,659	14,887	7,723	12,170	8,009	217,767
Livestock production										
Number of households supported in livestock production	7,931	1,813	6,653	3,958	1,447	1,174	1,630	9,123	4,206	37,935
Fishery production										
Number of households supported in wild capture fishery	4,799	-	3,177	1,956	1,654	3,948	277	291	306	16,408
Other IGA (not agri/livestock/fishery)										
Number of households supported in other IGA	11,635	3,700	2,620	6,157	2,636	752	1,403	645	233	29,781
Training										
Number of participants trained in total	21,491	39,237	70,914	84,679	84,438	26,588	52,128	82,651	96,985	559,111
Number trained—agriculture related (including livestock and aquaculture)	10,443	8,530	41,231	32,367	37,171	9,348	24,803	51,900	61,322	277,115
Number trained—other IGAs (not agriculture)	6,293	4,038	3,116	3,272	5,490	2,402	8,454	3,240	5,526	41,831
Number trained—wild capture fishery related	-	-	195	121	283	2,504	2,650	1,246	1,292	8,291
Number of extension workers trained	3,801	56	1,422	6,921	3,018	2,143	792	3,086	3,208	24,447
Number trained in environmental protection/ conservation/ rehabilitation	954	1,580	6,477	7,223	6,976	271	108	621	1,818	26,028
Number trained in skills to strengthen CBO management	-	25,033	18,473	34,775	31,500	9,920	15,321	22,558	23,819	181,399

Selected Results

2010–2018



11.6 million

people reached by LIFT



2.6 million

people (91% are women) are served by LIFT-funded microfinance institutions



2.7 million

people have increased their food security by more than one month



6.0 million

people have improved resilience



1,188,000

households reported increased incomes



488,000

households have improved diets



555,000

members of civil society took part in LIFT-funded training



702,000

households increased their income from non-agricultural activities



1,081,000

households have increased assets







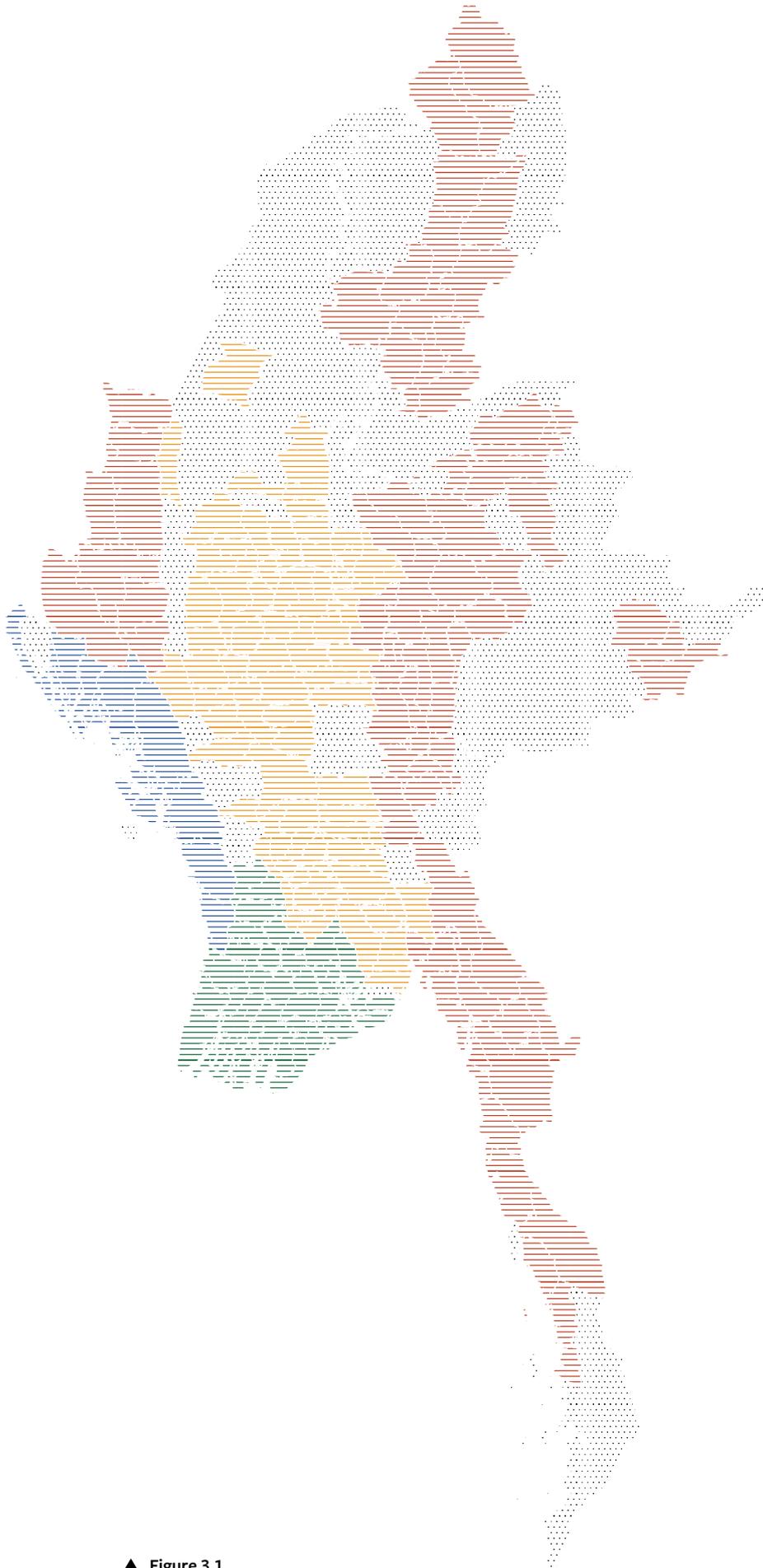
Geographic Areas

This chapter highlights LIFT's progress during 2018 in each of the four geographic zones where LIFT is active: the Ayeyarwady Delta, the central Dry Zone, Rakhine State and the Uplands region of Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, and Mon and Tanintharyi Regions. LIFT has worked in 247 townships of Myanmar.

The pathways to resilient and inclusive growth differ across the different agro-ecological zones. LIFT has designed programmes for each zone to demonstrate how the right combination of conditions and activities that can improve livelihoods, nutrition and resilience outcomes in cost-effective and scalable ways.

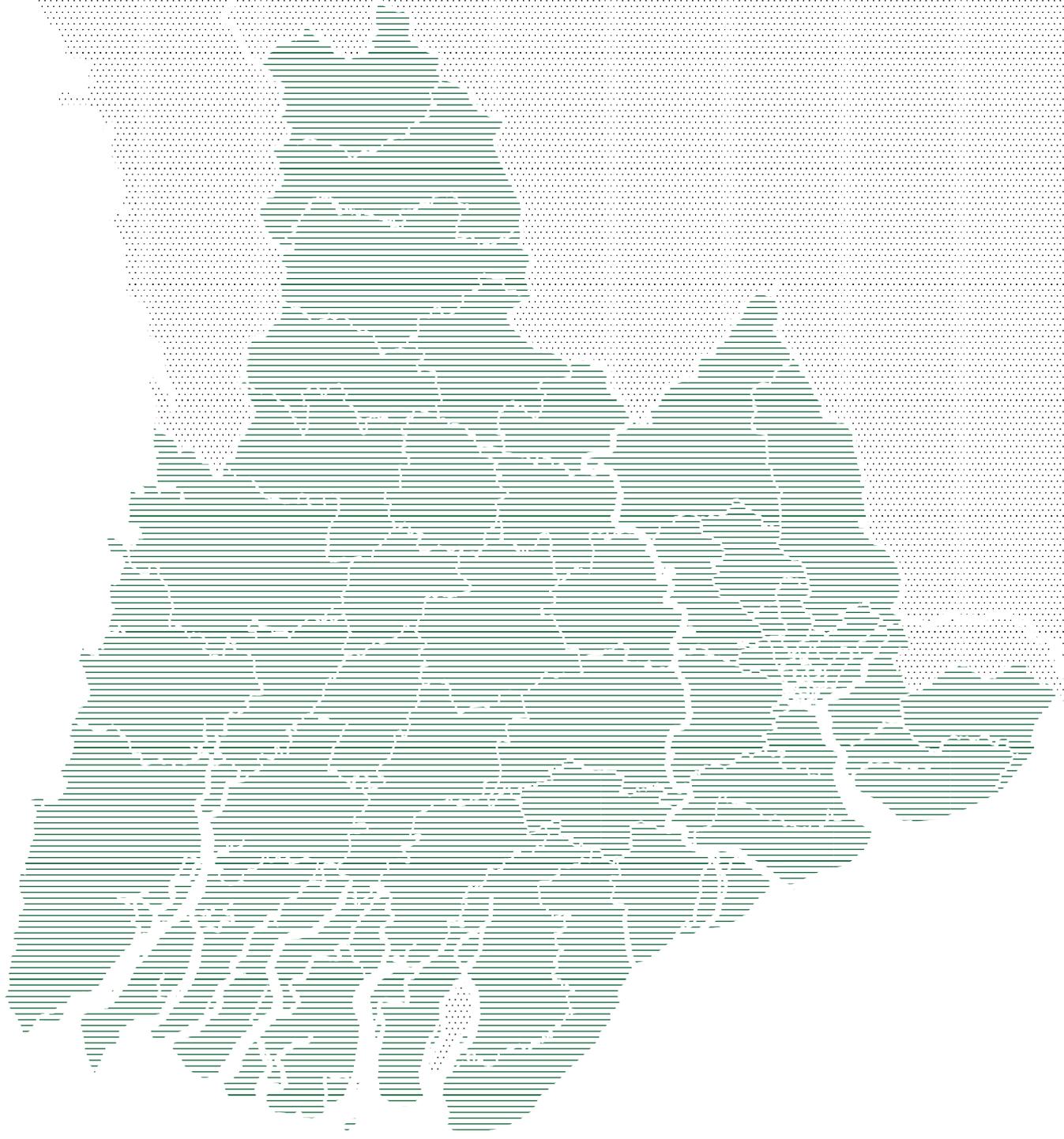
Important updates on the projects in these zones are available in Annex 4.

Financial inclusion, private sector engagement, migration and civil society programmes, which work across the zones are detailed in Chapter 4. LIFT's work on nutrition, resilience, gender and social protection are detailed in Chapter 5 and LIFT's policy work is detailed in Chapter 6.



▲ **Figure 3.1**
LIFT country coverage in
Myanmar 2018

3.1
Delta



▲ **Figure 3.2**
LIFT activity in the
Delta in 2018

Context

The Ayeyarwady Delta region of Myanmar was devastated by Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and has changed rapidly since then due to relief efforts, recovery and development. The region is still in transition, with improved agricultural productivity, greater commercialisation of rice production and growing urban migration. The headcount rate of poverty in the Delta is the lowest of all areas at 26.2 percent, but its high population density means that the number of poor remains substantial with 5.5 million estimated as poor (a figure that includes Yangon).⁵ Malnutrition rates are also high: 36 per cent of children under five are stunted.⁶

The Delta remains one of Myanmar's major rice production areas, accounting for one-quarter of national rice production,⁷ but also has one of the highest levels of landlessness at 66 per cent in the southern part of the region.⁸ Extensive coastal areas, rivers, lakes and reservoirs make the fishery industry an important source of food, income and employment. But the effects of climate change, including water drainage, salt intrusion and flooding, make Delta communities increasingly vulnerable.⁹ Migration from the Delta to urban areas with more labour opportunities has increased significantly since 2011, particularly among landless households who mostly rely on small-scale fishing or agricultural work for their livelihoods. Nineteen per cent of Delta households have migrant members and a significant proportion of them head to Yangon.¹⁰ Migration to cities results in labour shortages in rural areas and higher wages for agricultural work. Wages increased by 32 per cent between 2013 and 2016.¹¹

Farmers who have greater access to financial services and cheaper farm machinery are increasingly mechanising their farms, starting machinery-hire businesses and making agriculture more productive and profitable.¹²

Infrastructure development, moves towards permanent cultivation, and improved access to finance are contributing to improved productivity. Agricultural development has been accompanied by the development of off-farm value chain segments. The growth of aquaculture in the Delta has been accompanied by the emergence of specialist service providers upstream and downstream of the farm. New employment and income-generating opportunities create spillover incomes—for every dollar earned directly by fish farmers themselves, more than one additional dollar of income is created within the local rural economy. Most of this spillover value is captured by landless and households with small farms (less than 5 acres) who provide labour to fish farms.¹³ Diversification of incomes and development of the rural non-farm sector are key to the rural transition occurring in the economy's structural transformation.

LIFT's Delta Programme

The third phase of the Delta Programme continues to be implemented in the four townships of Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Pathein. The programme addresses the four high-level outcomes of the LIFT strategy:

- ‡ Strengthening smallholder farmers' position in the rice value chain—'stepping up'

- ‡ Improving access to new economic opportunities for landless and poor households, including off-farm income generating activities, vocational training and employment, and support for migration—'stepping out'
- ‡ Addressing vulnerabilities: improved nutrition, social protection, reduced indebtedness, disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation—'hanging in'
- ‡ Providing support to pro-poor policy development and stakeholder learning and coordination

LIFT's total investment for the programme is around USD 33 million including USD 8 million under the Financial Inclusion Programme. The current programme is planned to phase out starting in mid-2019.

A programme review was carried out in July 2018 by an external evaluation specialist to assess progress of the programme against the original programme framework strategy, to summarise learnings, and provide strategic reflection to guide decisions on adjustments needed during the remainder of the programme and to identify what merits further support. The overall performance of the Delta 3 Programme was assessed using the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for evaluating development assistance. The performance of projects against the criteria was aggregated and a qualitative assessment conducted of the achievements on programmatic learning, knowledge products, policy and practice support, and interactions with stakeholders. The programme was assessed as having 'satisfactory or higher' relevance, and as being mostly on track to achieve satisfactory effectiveness, gender equality and efficiency.

The findings indicate that areas of focus for the rest of the programme should include: (1) consolidation of achievements so far, (2) documenting and disseminating learnings to support policy work, and (3) sustainability.

Highlights

Strengthening smallholder farmers' position in the rice value chain

The rice sector is, and will continue to be, the mainstay of the Delta's economy for the near future. Rice farming provides much of the casual employment for the many landless and is the main driver of the Delta's economy. LIFT's Delta Programme supports the formation of farmer organisations, the promotion of extension and advisory services provided by farmer organisations, engagement with the private sector and government, the production and sale of quality-declared or certified rice seed, collective buying and selling with improved post-harvest management, linkages to markets and the private sector, and the provision of rural finance and access to credit.

Farmer organisations

Functional farmer organisations are effective vehicles in integrating farmers and their produce into value chains, contributing to greater equity in benefit distribution, increased economic prosperity

5 An Analysis of Poverty in Myanmar, part 2. December 2017. Ministry of Planning and Finance and World Bank group

6 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015–2016, MoHS

7 Myanmar Rice Sector Development Strategy', May 2015

8 LIFT HH survey 2015

9 World Bank, A Country on the Move, 2016

10 CHIME study, IOM 2018

11 Michigan State University, USAID, LIFT, CESD, IFPRI, 'Agricultural Mechanization and Structural Transformation in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta

12 Michigan State University, USAID, LIFT, CESD, IFPRI, 'Agricultural Mechanization and Structural Transformation in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta

13 Myanmar's changing rural economy and implications for LIFT programming: Evidence from the Food Security Policy Project, MSU

IP	Location	Focus
IOM	Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun	Research and support on migration and development
Mercy Corps Ar Yone Oo Swiss Contact	Labutta	Support to farmer producer enterprises and landless households through vocational, business and life skills development and migration-related information and linkages to Yangon-based employers
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun	Support to farmer groups, landless and vulnerable households and small-scale business for off-farm livelihood activities. Promotion of improved nutrition and basic hygiene practices.
Save the Children	Labutta	Delivery of maternal cash transfers and behaviour change communication to mothers during a child's first 1,000 days
WorldFish	Bogale, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon	On-farm research and development, and scaling-up of homestead-based aquaculture
World Vision International Myanmar	Bogale	Support for the development and diversification of livelihood options
Metta Development Foundation	Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta	Increasing rice production, quality and value through farm advisory services, post-harvest management, collective storage and marketing and farmers organisations
Link Emergency Aid & Development (LEAD)	Labutta	Livelihood support for income diversification mainly in the rural non-farm economy
Radanar Ayar	Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale	Support to local seed production, improvement of post-harvest practices, farmer-led extension services, collective marketing and contract farming with private sector
GRET	Eight townships	Small grant delivery and capacity building to township based CSOs
NAG	Eleven townships	Strategic Partnership: Co-management of Ayeyarwady wetland resources and fishery sector governance
Metta Development Foundation	Delta region with focus in Pathein	Strategic partnership: establishment of social enterprise within Metta, research and policy advocacy, strengthening the organisational capacity of Metta
Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and CDI, University of Wageningen	Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pathein	Support to rice seed sector development in the Ayeyarwady Region, strengthening public and private formal seed systems
ACCU	Pathein, Hinthada, Dedaye, Kyonpyaw, Myaungmya, Tharbaung, Wakema, Yegy, Zalun, Daik-U, Bago, Kawa, Letpadan, Nattalin, Nyaunglebin, Okpho, Paungde, Phyu, Pyay and Waw	Financial services
ECLOF	Kyonpyaw	Financial services
Fullerton	Dawbon, Hinthada, Maubin, Meiktila, Myaungmya, Pathein	Financial services
PGMF	Bogale, Danuphyu, Dedaye, Einme, Hinthada, Ingapu, Kangyidaunt, Kyaiklat, Kyaunggon, Labutta, Lemyethna, Mawlamyinegyun, Myaungmya, Napudaw, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Pathein, Pyapon, Wakema, Yegy, Zalun	Financial services
Proximity Designs	Bogale, Danubyu, Dedaye, Einme, Hinthada, Ingapu, Kangyidaunt, Kungyangon, Kyaiklat, Labutta, Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Myaungmya, Nyaungdon, Pyapon, Wakema, Zalun	Financial services
Vision Fund	Einme, Hinthada, Myaungmya, Pathein, Wakema	Financial services
YMCA	Maubin	Financial services

▲ Table 3.1
LIFT-funded projects in
the Delta 2018

and democratisation of the entire food system. This is particularly the case for smallholder farming enterprises, where aggregation can enhance their overall bargaining power and profitability. Establishing new farmer organisations and developing existing organisations is the focus of the Mercy Corps project in Labutta and the Welthungerhilfe/GRET project in Bogale. The basis of the business model rests on the notion that farmers who can group together and coordinate their actions generate improved bargaining power and attain efficiencies and economies of scale that bring financial benefits for members. Different models that include cooperatives, associations and financial service providers are being implemented across the Delta providing a diversity of approaches and opportunities to assess the contextual performance of these models.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH)/GRET's Delta RISE project builds on producer organisations developed during Delta 2 to deliver services along the value chain using cooperative and association models to structure their organisations. Producer organisations promote group-based problem solving focused on issues of concern to farmers, such as improving production volumes, standardising and streamlining production, and reducing costs of production through the introduction of new approaches and technologies. GRET and WHH follow slightly different approaches to support producer organisations. GRET supports producer organisations at the cluster level and WHH focuses on the village level. Together, GRET and WHH are supporting 42 producer organisations with 1,143 members (24 per cent are women). By the end of 2018, producer organisations had accumulated over MMK 509,000,000 (USD 340,000) in funds and savings—a clear indication of the financial benefits that accrue with the formation of these institutional structures.

Mercy Corps' Linking Labutta to Market project adopted a facilitative approach that promotes market-based schemes. Farmers join together to form well-managed farmer producer enterprises (FPEs) that pool resources collectively and build links with private sector rice millers, input dealers and traders. The project has established 77 FPEs with over 2,200 farmers (23 per cent are women) who are engaged in market-based schemes. The collective rice paddy storage scheme continues to be the most popular model among FPEs. In 2018, 50 FPEs (approximately 875 farmers) devised their own methods to ensure adequate facilities for collective paddy storage, storing 31,813 baskets (665 tons)¹⁴ of rice, with a total value of USD 215,000.

Metta's Promotion of Farmer-Managed Schemes for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development project organises farmers by establishing village track development organisations (VTDOs). The VTDOs have a range of focus areas that include establishing inventory credit (IC) schemes. Twelve ICs are now established, each made up of three villages in the Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun Townships. The promotion of IC schemes in the collective storage and selling of rice has grown and is extremely popular with farmers. Over the course of 2018, 60 farmers used the scheme for

summer paddy depositing 8,100 baskets (169 tons) of rice with an estimated benefit of USD 7,100 to participating farmers.¹⁵

The formation of farmer organisations and evaluating their functionality as viable business models has been a focus of the Delta Programme over Phases 2 and 3, as the programme sought to answer the evaluation and learning question: **What are the most effective and sustainable farmer organisations and how can they be achieved?** It is clear that farmer organisations are an effective conduit for smallholder farmers to engage with the rice value chain. Services provided by these institutions' members result in higher prices for their products and increased access to credit. External reviews of the Delta 3 Programme and farmer organisations promoted through the programme acknowledged that significant support is required to establish and grow these institutions into functional entities. For these entities to be viable and sustainable there are precursors that need to be in place: an integrated value chain that adds value to rice noting that it is a low margin crop; aggregation of village level farmer organisations into a single entity to enhance sustainability and scalability; farmers investing their own financial resources in growing the cooperative i.e. taking ownership, and having access to finance is crucial. Without these elements in place the probability of success diminishes.

Improving the production and distribution of high quality rice seed

Access to quality seed of improved rice varieties that are well adapted to prevailing agro-ecological zones in the Delta, is a precursor to increasing productivity and ensuring homogeneity of product delivered to millers.¹⁶ The use of quality seed of well-adapted and high-yielding rice varieties is one of the key bottlenecks in the rice value chain in Myanmar.^{17, 18, 19} To address this impasse, LIFT supports five projects that focus on farmer production of quality declared or certified rice seeds and the development of rice seed businesses. The **Welthungerhilfe (WHH)/Centre for Development of Innovation (CDI), Wageningen University's Rice Sector Support Development (RSSD)** project focuses entirely on developing the rice seed sector and includes support to the Department of Agriculture in the production of early generation seed, the release of registered seeds, farmer-based rice seed production, and the development of seed businesses. Twenty-two smallholder seed growers and 13 cluster groups applying participatory guarantee systems were selected and awarded funding totalling USD 110,000 for a range of business investments. These included investments in farm machinery and warehouses.

To enhance the business capacity of private seed companies to supply quality certified seed, five companies signed cost share agreements with the project to access investment funds totaling USD 100,000. These funds were used to procure seed dryers, seed processing machinery, seed purifiers and to construct warehouses. Funds are granted based on the development of robust business plans and the project mentors the enterprises as they build their seed businesses, both of which improve

¹⁴ 1 basket of rice is 20.9 kg

¹⁵ PowerPoint Presentation End Evaluation, March 2019

¹⁶ World Bank, 2007. World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development. The World Bank, Washington DC

¹⁷ Ministry of Commerce, 2015. National export strategy; Rice sector strategy 2015–2019. Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

¹⁸ Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation & IRR, 2015. Myanmar rice sector development strategy. Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

¹⁹ Broek, J.A. van den, Subedi, A., Jongeleen, F., Lin Oo, N., 2015. Pathways for developing the seed sector of Myanmar: A scoping study. Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research

the sustainability of the businesses beyond the project. Demand that is created for certified seed also contributes to sustainability of the businesses.

A robust quality assurance system is key to ensuring supply of certified seed to farmers. The RSSD project has invested in the modernisation and upgrading of the Pathein seed laboratory's protocols to ISTA²⁰ standards. The project also supported the development of a mobile smartphone app to support early generation seed demand forecasting that will provide vital information to the Department of Agriculture in supplying registered seed to growers and monitoring demand for specific rice varieties. It also has the capability of connecting farmers to certified seed growers.

The **Delta RISE project** of **WHH/GRET** has 77 seed growers producing quality seeds under the Participatory Guarantee System's certification. In 2018, 180 tons of quality seed were produced. The average profit for farmers who produced certified seed was estimated to be MMK 370,000 MMK (USD 256). The project assisted farmers to become established seed producers through training, supplying registered seed, linking producers with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) for testing and certification of seed, linking with markets, forming producer groups, and in some cases registering groups as associations. Similarly, the project implemented by **Metta** in the Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun Townships has 84 seed growers growing high quality seed varieties that are in demand locally on 86 acres of land. During the 2018 monsoon they produced 4,700 baskets (98 tons) of certified seed. Seed producers reported a MMK 3,000 – 5,000/basket (USD 2–3,50) premium over grain prices. The **Integrated Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD)** project led by **Radanar Ajar** in 60 villages of Bogalay and Mawlamyinegyun Townships mobilised 109 farmers to grow quality seed. Collectively they have produced 11,889 baskets (248 tons) of quality seed.

A significant effort has gone into the production of quality seed and distribution to farmers in the Delta. An evaluation and learning question of the Delta Programme is: **What are the most scalable and sustainable integrated models for quality seed multiplication and distribution?** As farmers see the advantages of routinely using quality rice seed in their production systems it is anticipated that demand will grow. The steps that LIFT has taken through the Delta 3 Programme places the rice seed sector on a sound footing to meet the expected growth in demand that includes a greater role of the private sector in the production and distribution of seed.²¹

Extension and advisory services

More private and public sector actors are providing training to farmers who are members of farmer organisations. Interested farmers have been trained on how to provide basic extension advice to members (on a voluntary or small fee basis), and arrangements formed with input suppliers to provide basic advice linked to their products. Projects have explicitly promoted improved linkages with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and engaged their staff in project extension activities, and trained key

farmers as trainers for ongoing advisory support. While DoA resources and extension have improved in recent years, there are still not enough resources to provide systematic coverage of many areas. Extension services in the rice value chain projects in the Delta have directly reached around 15,000 farmers and resulted in significant yield increases.

Tapping into the resources and expertise of the private and public sectors in the delivery of services and extension advice is still at a nascent stage, but is growing in the Delta. In 2018, the **Linking Labutta to Market (LLM)** project continued its collaborations with private companies, including Awba, a large input supply company. Since the extension model of using field staff was discontinued, Awba looked for other ways and decided to work through a mobile app by acquiring Htwet Toe mobile app, and by expanding its services to include soil testing. In 2018, the LLM project worked with Awba to promote the app and soil testing services through input supply and training managers (ITMs), in addition to continuing to facilitate two other apps developed and promoted by Greenway and Proximity Design. By the end of 2018, there were 113 ITMs and 350 farmers (28 per cent of them women) who had received agricultural training or advice from government extension staff or a private company.

The **Farmer Field School (FFS)** approach adopted by **Metta** is operating in 36 villages and has 644 members. The technologies that are promoted include the use of drum seeders, systems rice intensification (SRI) and variances of this approach, and the production of biofertilisers. Around 580 FFS members adopted one or more new cultivation practices and 97 non-FFS farmers adopted new cultivation practices. The most successful intervention adopted is a variation on the SRI technique to fit farmers' context. Over 640 acres of rice were established applying SRI variations. It is estimated that the benefit of SRI on the current planted area is MMK 64 million (USD 44,000) per year.

The **Delta RISE** project's extension approach promotes innovation and provides extension services to selected farmers. More than 7,200 farmers were reached through this approach that promoted a range of soil based improvement techniques (e.g. growing jute as green manure), the incorporation of rice straw and the correct application rates of fertilisers in vegetable production.

The programme review highlighted that to establish a sustainable extension system, a mix of approaches is required, involving the government, farmer organisations of various kinds and different private sector actors (input suppliers, traders, millers) and strong linkages between these groups. The private sector is probably the weakest link at the present time but has the greatest unexploited potential.

Mechanisation

To facilitate the adoption of mechanisation, LIFT funds a programme implemented by Yoma Bank that offers a hire purchase product to farmers and entrepreneurs in partnership with equipment dealers. Clients make an initial payment when they take out a loan and repay the remaining balance over

²⁰ International Seed Testing Association
²¹ Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), 2016

time, while already making use of the asset. Under the Agribusiness Finance Program (AFP), supported by LIFT, Yoma Bank reduces the down payment to a minimum of 10 per cent, allows longer tenors and provides more loans with a bi-annual repayment cycle to accommodate farmers' seasonal cash flows. The majority of rural entrepreneurs who have engaged with the programme are in the Delta and Dry Zone. The results of an impact study conducted in the Delta by LIFT show that significant cost savings come from using machinery vs traditional labour, especially after the loan has been paid off. Once a farmer fully owns a harvester, cost savings per acre are estimated to be MMK 10,00–20,000 (USD 7–14) due to improved efficiency. The number of days a worker spends harvesting one acre drops from an estimated 4.9 days/acre without machinery to 0.3 days/acre with the harvester. Tractors also deliver significant cost savings per acre, higher yields, more efficient use of time and higher crop intensity. The hire purchase scheme is contributing to growth in non-farm businesses as many farmers who buy equipment build rental service businesses and rent machinery to other farmers who then also benefit from the cost and labour savings delivered by mechanisation.²²

Linking the private sector with producers

The private sector has a critical role to play in contributing to the emergence of a competitive and vibrant rice sector in the Delta. LIFT explores opportunities through its implementing partners to create linkages between farmers and the private sector—input service providers, farm equipment dealers, viable seed suppliers, crop insurance and financial services providers, rice millers and traders. All have a role to play in ensuring that farmers can access the best services and inputs for their production systems and that the private sector becomes integrated into the rice value chain as key actors and stakeholders. Implementing partners have played a catalytic role in creating these linkages with the overall objective of developing markets that are independent of aid-funded support.

Through the efforts of the [Linking Labutta to Markets](#) project, 874 smallholder farmers are purchasing high quality inputs from market actors with an overall value of USD 331,000. With the rapid strengthening of the private sector in the Delta, there is an opportunity to explore sustainable market development with the private sector. One option is to facilitate contract farming arrangements where millers contract smallholder farmers directly to produce rice for a guaranteed market.

Mercy Corps has been successful in promoting fixed-price contract production of paddy. In partnership with U Hla Yee, a local miller, this initiative tries to address the constraints faced by both farmer producer enterprises (FPE) and millers to build a mutually reinforcing market opportunity in the rice value chain. For the miller, the scheme ensures a consistent supply of paddy that meets criteria, that is delivered at the right time with a relatively low search cost. The contracted farmers have access to improved quality of seeds in an assured market with a fixed price, reducing marketing and transaction costs. Under this new

model, both parties entered into contract production with an assured price under specific term and conditions. The project evaluated the efficacy of the fixed-price contract farming model with three FPEs, constituted by 54 farmers engaged in the fixed-price contract production of high-value rice varieties with specific terms and conditions (i.e. the miller provides the seeds; and the farmers provide paddy at a moisture content of 13 per cent). The price is set at MMK 9,000 (USD 6.30) per basket, which represents a 30 per cent premium for farmers.

Mercy Corps has engaged with Golden Sunland, a Singapore-based company, in **fixed-price contract farming** with farmers in Labutta. In collaboration with Golden Sunland, a more comprehensive contract farming scheme was established during the summer season of 2018–2019 with 3 FPEs (39 farmers on 200 acres). This new contract farming scheme provides farmers with access to finance for accessing services, access to high-yielding hybrid seeds and fertilisers, and includes credit and buy-back mechanisms. Golden Sunland and FPEs entered into this agreement after the successful field trial/adaptability evaluation of the company's hybrid SAT-15 rice during the 2018 monsoon season. The Golden Sunland contract farming attracted Myanma Awba – Myanmar's largest manufacturer and distributor of agricultural inputs – to pilot an agrochemicals' credit scheme for farmers engaged in the contract farming, offering zero-interest credit for the first three months to ensure that the inputs farmers need are available and accessible. With the high yielding hybrid seeds and advance payment provided by Golden Sunland to farmers, these bundled inputs are expected to improve farmers' yields, encourage them to grow higher-quality rice, and make the most of their resources to increase crop productivity. The Linking Labutta to Markets project and Golden Sunland are also exploring collaborations with financial institutions, both for improving farmers' access to financial services, and for Golden Sunland to expand this scheme to other farmers. The overall objective is to seek a 'bankable' contract farming scheme as an alternative way for 'consolidating' small-scale farms for efficiency and productivity enhancement.

The fixed-price contract farming initiatives in 2018 contribute valuable learnings to the Delta Programme's evaluation and learning question: **What are the most effective, cost-effective and sustainable integrated models for providing inclusive access to advisory services, credit, inputs and mechanisation in the Delta region?**

Supporting the aquaculture and fisheries sector

The fisheries sector in Myanmar plays a crucial role in shaping the national economy and provides livelihoods and food security to an estimated 2.6 million people. The Ayeyarwady Region is rich in biodiversity and fisheries production. The sector supports hundreds of thousands of small-scale fishing and casual labouring households. The fishery sector is generating the highest revenue for the Ayeyarwady Regional Government.

The new *Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law* enacted in March 2018 is a watershed in the sustainable management of fisheries in the Delta. LIFT's

²² Yoma Bank Agribusiness Finance Programme report 2016–18

partner **Network Activities Group (NAG)** supported the Ayeyarwady Regional Government's development of the legislation. It opens up the licensing and use of inland water to small community co-management fisheries. It lays the foundation for the spreading of benefits derived from the Delta's fisheries resources and improving livelihoods, including opportunities for gender mainstreaming in sub-national governance. In 2018, 107 villages in 11 townships were engaged in co-management, with more than 6,000 households (nearly 27,000 people) directly benefiting from the LIFT-funded project implemented by NAG. For many communities and fishers, this represented their first legal rights for many years with important implications for household food security and income. NAG's continues working to develop the regulations and by-laws for implementation of the law. The project is also assisting the region develop its marine fishery laws.

WorldFish's My Culture project promotes sustainable growth of aquaculture in Myanmar to improve food security and income for communities. Aquaculture is a business opportunity that is suitable for landless and rice-growing households who have access to water. The project has a holistic approach to collaborative on-farm technology development, supervised extension to small-scale aquaculture farmer groups, and scaling-up successful aquaculture with linkages to government hatcheries, the private sector and microfinance institutions. The project has reached 3,200 farmers directly and many have expressed satisfaction with the additional production that generates food and income. The project supports the Department of Fisheries-operated Hlaw Kar and Daedaye hatcheries to promote a genetically-improved farmed tilapia breeding programme to contribute to sustainable aquaculture development in Myanmar. The project extended this intervention in Mandalay and Shwebo in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), and established two new tilapia hatcheries. The aim is to establish a diversified seed supply network that is able to provide quality seed to public and private hatcheries.

Three business models were developed for grow-out farmers, nursery operators and feed mill operators during 2018 to help them develop their business plans and generate income and benefits sustainably. WorldFish conducted a study in 2018 to assess various challenges that hinder the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar and how the challenges could be overcome, aiming to sustain pro-poor SMEs.

A survey conducted by GRET in 2018 among the households participating in aquaculture activities highlighted that with rice bran feeding, aquaculture is a worthwhile productive activity and is more profitable than paddy and vegetable production. A rough estimation done with the surveyed households indicates that around 65 per cent of the fish production is sold and the rest is consumed by households. With the current village marketing system, aquaculture provides a small daily income along the production cycle while paddy provides a single but sizeable income after harvest. Households who can engage in aquaculture and grow crops around their rice paddy have access

to fish and vegetables for home consumption, allowing them to reduce their food expenses by an estimated MMK 15,000–20,000 (USD 10–14)/week during the aquaculture production period. Covering daily expenses with aquaculture income also allows households to save more money from their seasonal rice paddy income and to use it more efficiently for debt repayment and investments for the next growing season. Finally, aquaculture provides a new source of income during summer when other income generation activities are limited. Aquaculture may not provide a sizeable cash flow to households but it does have a positive impact on households' budgets. The surveyed households indicate a substantial increase in fish consumption. They eat fish more often (on average 2.2 times per week) and in larger quantity (on average 1.6 times more). The current level of production is enough to cover households' needs, which is the priority in most cases. Only the most vulnerable households, such as those relying only on casual labour, prefer to sell their fish than consume them at home.

Freshwater aquaculture has developed rapidly in Myanmar and plays an increasingly important role in national fish supply. However, its full potential is far from being realised. Historically, much of this growth has been attributable to large enterprises, with negative social justice implications resulting from the confiscation of land from other users. Closer attention to social considerations has resulted in calls for policies to create a level playing field for farmers of all sizes to encourage more inclusive growth of the sector. Evidence indicates that aquaculture in Myanmar has the potential to generate substantial incomes, employment and stimulate rural growth. Regulatory reforms are needed, most importantly the redesign of the *Farmland Law*, which currently fails to recognise aquaculture as a category of agricultural land use, limiting the sector's potential to grow.²³

Building skills and migration

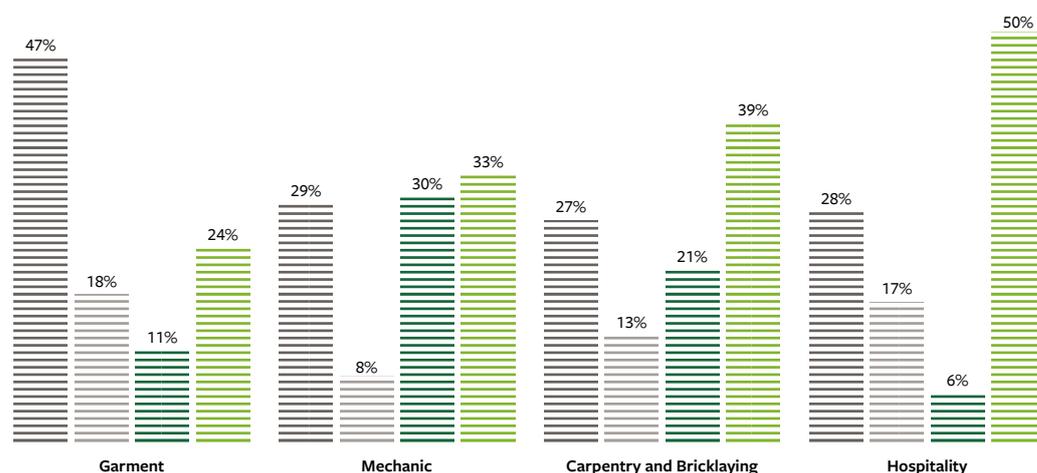
The nexus of vocational training, migration support and employment, including self-employment, is a strategic focus of the Delta Programme, which has an evaluation and learning question: **To what extent have the migration and employment interventions enabled people to access better paid and safer employment?** Projects on vocational training and employment develop and provide vocational training to selected applicants, and support them to secure employment, or start their own village-based businesses. **Mercy Corps/Swiss Contact/Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association's Linking Labutta to Markets** project and **World Vision's Growing Livelihoods in Bogale** project have the same basic focus and objectives but the approaches and strategies of the two projects are significantly different. One focuses intensively on four trades identified in a market survey and the other focuses on trades identified by the communities.

The Growing Livelihoods in Bogale project supported 260 young people (56 per cent of them women) with several vocational training curriculums. Of those who completed training, 87 per cent accessed a job either through: 1) employment/self-employment directly related to training (59 per

²³ Myanmar's fisheries in transition: Current status and opportunities for policy reform. Xavier Tezzo, Ben Belton, Gareth Johnston, Martin Callow-Marine Policy 97 (2018)

Outside-Related
 Outside Labutta-Unrelated
 Labutta-Related
 Labutta-Unrelated

► **Figure 3.3**
 Training graduates' outcomes



cent of trainees), 2) self-employment/employment indirectly related to training (13 per cent of trainees) and 3) employment/self-employment not related to training (15 per cent of trainees). Employment rates and incomes vary across the occupations. The lowest income is generated from snack making and engine repair with average earnings of MMK 80,000 (USD 56) per month. The highest income is earned by drivers, mechanics and garment manufacture workers with average earnings of MMK 300,000 (USD 208). People who migrate earn higher incomes. People who stay and work in their villages earn the lowest incomes. It is important that technical training is tailored to address the different needs of the different trainees.

Migration is not the solution for everyone and courses on activities like snack making allow people who will stay in their village to earn small, but useful, amounts of additional income. Sixty per cent of trainees migrated for work and earned an average annual income of MMK 1,920,000 (USD 1,332). The 40 per cent of trainees who remained in their villages earned an average annual income of MMK 1,044,000 (USD 724). Those who migrate do have additional expenses associated with their migration.

The question of conducting trainings on a cost recovery basis was considered, offering trainees loans to pay for their training, which they would pay back once employed. However, returns on investment for training vary a lot. Training for driving and mechanics costs about MMK 400,000 (USD 277) and generates an income of MMK 300,000 (USD 208) per month; and the employment rate is high. Providing loans to these trainees is a possibility because they have the earning capacity after training to generate enough income to repay a loan. Other trainings are more expensive and the salary less, making repayment of loans less realistic.

The Linking Labutta to Market project focuses on providing technical, vocational, education and training to landless people in Labutta. Four suitable trades were identified: mechanics, construction, hospitality and garment making. The project started initial steps to 'institutionalise' its skill training by establishing partnerships with two local civil society organisations (CSOs) and the Government Vocational Training School in Labutta. Both regular trainings and workplace trainings are progressing, and the target of assisting 1,400 youths gain decent employment is achievable with an extended timeline for the project.

During 2018, 546 landless people completed skills training, bringing the total number trained by the project to 1,350 (28 per cent of them women). Almost 80 per cent of the graduates are employed. The number of employers linked with the project increased to 77 by the end of 2018.

Despite the project's achievements, several challenges constrained the impact:

- ┆ The continued trend of youth migration, particularly from Labutta to Yangon, is reducing the number of youth in Labutta interested in training opportunities.
- ┆ The project needed to continue to strengthen the life skills component of its trainings and to negotiate with industries to offer an attractive salary package for skilled labour, in an attempt to minimise the continued issue of trainees being reluctant to take opportunities to work in cities even after receiving job offers. The project has negotiated with relevant industry actors to offer more stipends and facilities for trainees.
- ┆ Lower female participation than male participation has continued. Women's participation has been limited to garment and hospitality skills. Compared to male training graduates, more female graduates have opted to not take jobs in other locations far from family due to concerns around security, despite the inclusion of information about safe migration in the expanded life skills training.

Read about skills training in the Delta on [page 79](#)

Nutrition

Among the states and regions of Myanmar, the Ayeyarwady Region is one of the worst affected by undernutrition and its socio-economic consequences:²⁴

- ┆ 37 per cent of children under five years are stunted and 4 per cent are wasted
- ┆ 62 per cent of children between 6 and 59 months of age are anemic
- ┆ 43 per cent of all women are anemic
- ┆ 11 per cent of newborns are below normal weight at birth
- ┆ Only 13 per cent of children between 6 and 23 months of age have a minimum acceptable diet
- ┆ 34 per cent of mothers did not benefit from the national micronutrient programme during their last pregnancy (including the breastfeeding period)

²⁴ Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey, 2015.

The LIFT Household Survey 2017 found that in the Delta there was no statistically significant change in the stunting prevalence between 2015 and 2017. Exclusive breastfeeding increased from 41 per cent to 58 per cent of children, with a substantial difference between households that received nutrition-related development assistance and those that did not. Twenty-nine per cent of children had a minimum acceptable diet and only 30 per cent of women met the minimum dietary diversity target.

The Delta Programme's nutrition component focuses on improving household nutrition and hygiene, particularly for women and children within the first 1,000 days of life, from conception to age two.

Delta 3 projects support better nutrition through:

- | Nutrition awareness and education focusing on essential nutrition actions (ENA) and essential hygiene actions (EHA)
- | Improving access to nutritious food (e.g. through home gardens, livestock, fish)
- | Nutrition-sensitive programming, particularly nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- | Maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) for eligible women in the first 1,000 days window

Delta 3 has only one project, in Labutta, that is completely focused on nutrition with social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT). Two projects, both in Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun, have significant components on nutrition education alongside their main components on the rice value chain. The aquaculture development project has a deliberate and strong nutrition-sensitive approach. The goal of PATH's fortified rice project is to improve micronutrient aspects of nutrition through widespread use of fortified rice. PATH's work in the Delta is on fortified rice production with private sector rice millers.

By June 2018, **Save the Children's BRIGHT SUN** project had enrolled 5,773 women for MCCT distribution in 200 villages in Labutta Township through five rural health centres. As per initial project plans to ensure that the last women enrolled in the programme would receive at least six months of cash transfers, enrolment ended in June 2018. In 2018, beneficiaries started to reach the end of the first 1,000 days (i.e. their child reached 2 years of age) and a total of 1,000 women exited the project. By the end of December 2018, cash payments were delivered electronically in 63 of the 202 villages covered by the project and reached almost 2,000 women. The project continued to carry out post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in both operational models (physical cash and mobile payment) with slightly different questionnaires. Between January and December 2018, 4,494 PDM interviews were conducted with 3,566 project beneficiaries (63 per cent manual payment beneficiaries, and 37 per cent Wave Money beneficiaries). PDM data confirms the trends observed during previous monitoring rounds and key findings are:

- | 85 per cent of the beneficiaries interviewed had already delivered their child
- | Only 1 per cent of beneficiaries from the manual payment who were interviewed reported having missed or not received a transfer

- | 4 per cent of beneficiaries from the electronic cash payment model reported difficulties in accessing the cash
- | The majority of respondents reported using the cash to buy more food: in 91 per cent of cases for themselves, in 40 per cent of cases for their children, and in 29 per cent of cases for the family
- | 77 per cent of beneficiaries say that the MCCT programme provides them with better access to ante- and post-natal care services from midwives or health centres

In 2018, the project delivered more than 2,000 SBCC sessions/activities on infant and young child feeding, ante- and post-natal care, water, sanitation and hygiene to more than 4,500 targeted mothers and another 4,500 community members. SBCC is delivered by community volunteers trained by the project, many of whom are community health workers or auxiliary midwives. The project also continued to strengthen the mother-to-mother groups by supporting mother leaders to be more engaged in SBCC activities. Counselling activities were strengthened and during 2018 almost 900 beneficiaries received one-on-one counselling on good nutrition practices from trained staff. Mothers' progress in implementing good nutrition practices is monitored by community volunteers.

SBCC focal persons face more challenges in organising mother-to-mother group sessions in villages where beneficiaries receive their cash payments by electronic transfer.

In 2018, LIFT funded Koe Koe Tech to develop a mobile app that delivers key first 1,000 days nutrition messages. The goal is to reach underserved populations and strengthen health systems through increased access to nutrition information for health workers and digital referral mechanisms. In 2019, Ko Ko Tech will collaborate with the May May app and work to increase usage of the nutrition app.

The institutional and economic sustainability of the MCCT programme will depend on the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) securing required funding to continue the scheme. Plans are in place for a MCCT programme to be implemented with World Bank funding in the Ayeyarwady Region, possibly before the end of 2019. Save the Children is sharing operational experiences and evidence with the World Bank and DSW. The project was extended to September 2019 to bridge with the DSW programme and smoothly transition beneficiaries from one programme to another. The operational sustainability of the future MCCT programme will require an expansion of DSW's presence at the township level where MCCTs and other social protection schemes would be implemented. DSW has plans to roll-out community outreach social services, providing resources and more case managers who can provide services on child protection, gender-based violence and create linkages with health and nutrition services.

WorldFish's MyCulture project is teaching poor, rural households to grow micronutrient-rich small fish alongside commercial species in home ponds. Research in Bangladesh and Cambodia shows the technology is an effective, low-cost, nutrition-sensitive approach that increases pond productivity

and overall nutritional quality. This promotes small fish consumption in households, resulting in improved nutrition. Vegetables are integrated in the homestead ponds and communities are exposed to messaging on the importance of dietary diversity.

During 2018, the project continued to conduct cooking demonstrations, aquaculture farming training and deliver information emphasising the role of nutrient-rich small fish in improving nutrition. A fish consumption survey was conducted in May 2018 and found that mola carp fish promoted by the project were perceived by respondents to have more positive effects than other fish species on health and nutrition for young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

During 2018, WorldFish conducted research on a variety of fish-based processed products, such as fish paste and fermented fish that are widely consumed, to determine their nutrient composition and food safety, which is not well understood. Addressing this knowledge gap is important to inform consumers, developmental partners and decision makers on targeting resources that can contribute to improved health and nutrition.

The Welthungerhilfe/GRET Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development (Delta RISE) project continued efforts to expand its four-module Linking Agriculture, Natural Resources and Nutrition (LANN+) approach that promotes awareness of the causes of malnutrition to generate community action to address malnutrition. In 2018, LANN+ training modules reached 3,400 households with nutritional information and training. Of these households, more than 1,000 had started diversifying food production or food processes. In an effort to ensure sustainability, the project continued to train volunteers on delivering LANN+ training in the 30 target villages and 330 volunteers have now been trained on the approach. The project found that while it is often assumed that nutrition at the household level is largely the domain of women, men also play a significant role in achieving better nutrition outcomes through vegetable production and improving water, sanitation and hygiene in the villages.

The fortified rice project implemented by **PATH** in the Delta supported a second producer to begin producing fortified rice kernels in 2018. MAPCO Golden Lace (MAPCO-GL) installed an extrusion machine in July and the production was verified and certified by a regional team from the World Food Programme in December 2018. PATH provided technical assistance to MAPCO-GL to support its application to the Myanmar Food and Drug Administration for commercial production.

PATH continued working with rice millers to build their fortified rice marketing and distribution activities and achieved a 30 per cent increase in sales volumes. In 2018, 1,639 metric tons of fortified rice were produced and 1,526 metric tons were sold through more than 850 retail outlets in Yangon, Ayeyarwady Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Mandalay, and Magway Regions and in Sagaing, Rakhine, and Shan States.

Fortified rice has the potential to cost-effectively contribute to improved nutrition in Myanmar.

However, to have a significant impact on a national scale, the private milling industry needs to scale-up their production. Public-private partnerships between government and industry are required for rapid scale-up. Experience from other countries has shown that voluntary fortification has had limited success in achieving sustained widespread increases in the production and consumption of fortified foods. Mandatory fortification is more effective and requires strong government support and oversight.

The Ayeyarwady Region is the main rice producing area of the country with four large millers (capacity to produce more than 100 metric tons per day), 46 medium millers (capacity to produce between 40 and 100 metric tons per day), and 267 small millers who can produce between 20 and 40 metric tons per day.

The Ayeyarwady rice millers are in a good position to scale-up fortified rice production for national distribution with the right support. Ayeyarwady regional government ministers have indicated their support for raising awareness of fortified rice with consumers via mass media prior to scaling-up production and for using fortified rice in their social safety net programmes.

Looking ahead

The Delta 3 Programme has entered its final year with the majority of the projects phasing out in 2019. During this period the programme will focus on the three main recommendations of the programme review conducted in 2018: (1) consolidation of achievements so far, (2) documenting and disseminating learnings to support policy and practice, and (3) sustainability.

The review highlighted emerging opportunities in the region that build on achievements of the LIFT-funded programme:

- | Increase investment in strong, growing businesses that will increase local employment opportunities
- | Enhance opportunities for different kinds of private sector-led value chain growth, including contract farming partnerships between private sector businesses and farmer organisations
- | Increase availability of microfinance for sustainable small business start-ups
- | Increase the use of mechanisation for agriculture and businesses and develop public-private partnerships for industry-supported vocational training that lead to employment (e.g. small mechanical servicing businesses)
- | Grow knowledge and experience within communities of migration for employment
- | Strengthen civil society organisations that have the potential to play a key role in supporting safe migration and link migrants to industry- or government-supported vocational training schemes
- | The recently amended Freshwater Fisheries Law offers opportunities for co-management that the NAG strategic partnership is supporting. This could benefit from additional support if the models prove viable.
- | Develop an integrated rice seed sector with support from the Rice Seed Sector Development project. This should generate additional employment as the sector grows.

- | If the aquaculture production and business models further improve their financial viability the aquaculture sector has good potential for growth in the Delta and warrants support.
- | LIFT's considerable experience in maternal and cash transfer (MCCT) programmes in the Delta can be used to inform and support future expansion of MCCT programmes.

As the third phase of the Delta Programme draws to an end with the majority of current initiatives ending in 2019, LIFT reflects on the programme's achievements, challenges and looks to future needs and opportunities in the Delta.

A significant component of LIFT's efforts in the Delta centred around the rice value chain. Activities focused on improving farm output through productivity gains, along with improvements in the quality of the commodity produced, all of which have resulted in benefits for producers and others engaged in the value chain such as traders and millers. Producers are yet to receive significantly higher prices for improved quality crops. However, prices are expected to rise as Myanmar's domestic consumers and exporters demand and receive improvements in quality.

Due to the nature of rice production in the Delta and its low market value, LIFT's efforts focused on minimising and reducing production costs. Technological improvements, farmer organisations' collective actions and contract farming have focused on integrating primary producers into the rice value chain. Quality rice seed has been promoted to farmers and its availability improved. This has significantly benefited producers through increases in yields and improved quality of rice delivered to millers. The opportunity now is to build on the skills and capacity of the numerous seed growers supported by LIFT and create sustainable and viable seed growing businesses to service the growing demand for high quality rice seed.

Further, building on LIFT's efforts to foster farmers' collective action, there are opportunities to develop vibrant contractual arrangements between producers and millers that secure positive outcomes for both parties.

As labour becomes scarce, shifts to mechanisation will continue. Supporting this transformation through the financing of equipment and the development of service providers will contribute to improved efficiency of rice-based systems with associated increases in income.

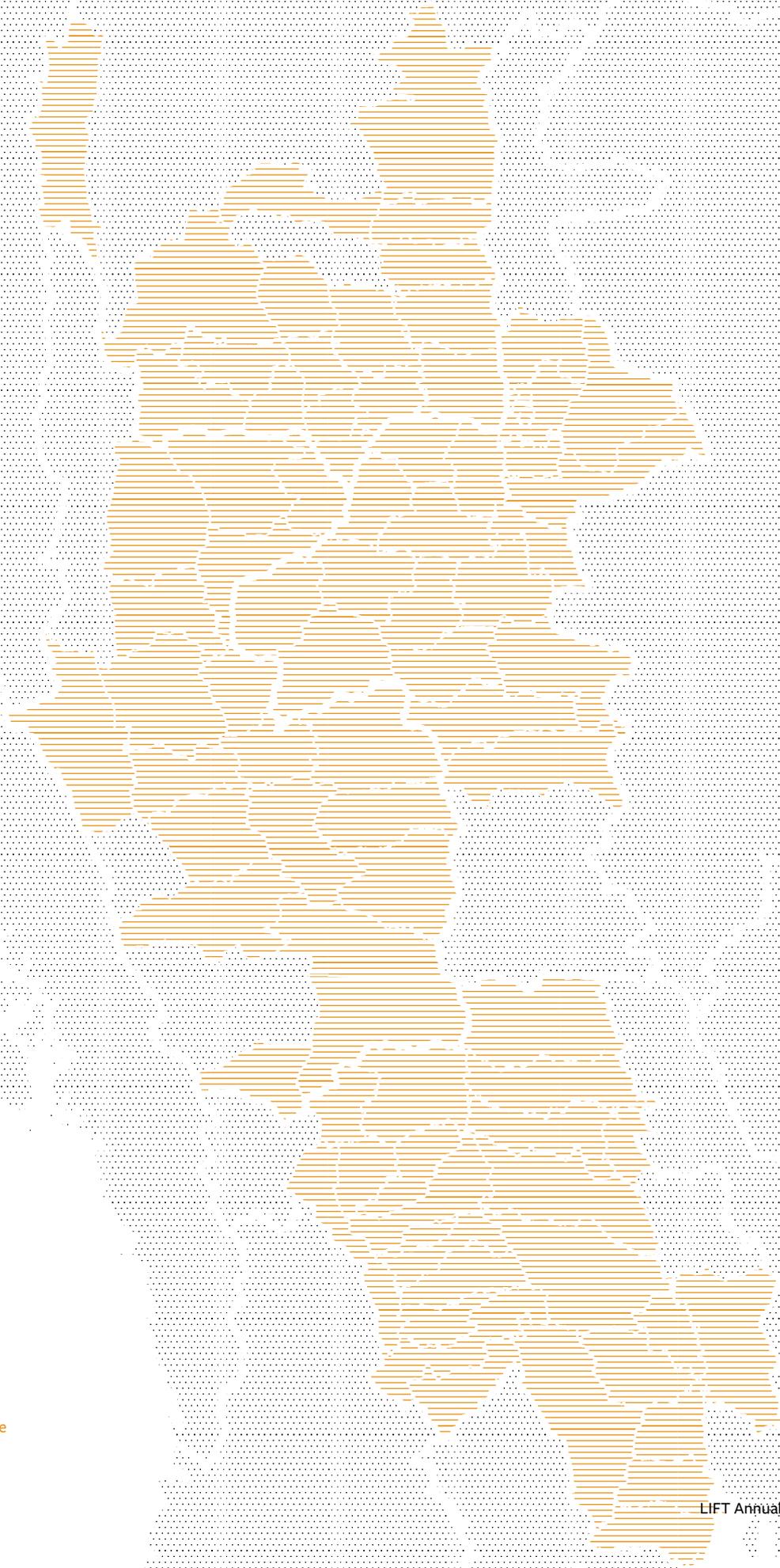
LIFT's investments in the fisheries sector have contributed to significant policy reforms that are resulting in increased access and equity in the sector for the most marginalised and providing opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the resource through targeted conservation efforts, such as establishing fish refuges. There has been a positive impact on livelihoods. Communities have increased incomes and access to fishery resources and fish for consumption. Delta communities will benefit from sustainably produced fish and the associated positive nutritional outcomes. Continuing to support these efforts is critical. There is also a need to address some issues the fisheries sector faces, including poor and inappropriate working conditions.

The Delta Programme will continue to work on improving access to new economic opportunities for landless and poor households with interventions related to the vocational training, employment, migration nexus extended. The projects of Swisscontact, IOM and World Vision are linked to LIFT's future programming aspirations, including in urban areas, and will work with new approaches to create sustainable mechanisms. Approaches to promote public/private partnerships for industry-based vocational training and expanded roles for CSOs in linking communities with training and jobs will continue to be explored.

There is still much to achieve in improving the livelihoods of poor and marginalised communities in the Delta. The legacy of the past three Delta Programme phases will continue to grow and expand as communities, CSOs, the public and private sectors take advantage of LIFT's innovations and investments.

3.2

Dry Zone



▲ Figure 3.4
LIFT activity in the
Dry Zone in 2018

Context

LIFT's Dry Zone programme began at the end of 2015 and is implemented in six townships in the Central Dry Zone in Magway and Mandalay Regions. Some of the townships are booming trading hubs, while others are agricultural areas with less fertile soils at higher elevations, located further from trade opportunities. Dry Zone soils are sandy with little or no organic matter and have a limited capacity to retain moisture or nutrients. The region is dry and agriculture is at risk from climate change effects.

The main crops in the Dry Zone are pulses, of which 60 per cent are exported, mainly to China and India. Ninety-eight per cent of the country's pigeonpea and chickpea crops are grown in the Dry Zone. The Dry Zone's agriculture, particularly beans, pulses and oil crops, has long been highly commercial. Lack of water and low quality seeds are the main barriers to improving agricultural production and making it more profitable.

Although only 53 per cent of Dry Zone households own land, 30 per cent of the households belong to the wealthiest quintile. Data on credit and loans show that the percentage of Dry Zone households with loans decreased from 79 per cent in 2017 to 70 per cent in 2018.

There are severe nutritional challenges across the Dry Zone, where 31.2 per cent of children are stunted and 36.6 per cent have a low birth weight. Improving agricultural productivity in the Dry Zone increases the availability of high value crops with high nutrient density (beans and pulses) necessary to improve the nutrition status in Myanmar.

The prevalence of households with at least one person with a disability is slightly higher in the Dry Zone (16 per cent) than in other LIFT-supported villages (14 per cent). On average, 17 per cent of households in LIFT-supported villages are headed by females, but in the Dry Zone almost 25 per cent of the households are headed by women, reflecting the levels of migration out of the Dry Zone.

The Dry Zone is an emigration hotspot. Remittances account for 15 per cent of the total income in the Dry Zone's rural economy and play an important role in supporting households. This is predicted to increase over the next decade, with rising levels of internal and international migration as Myanmar transforms from a rural, agriculture-based economy to a more urban, industry- and service-based economy.

The LIFT Household Surveys' labour market data show that the number of households hiring labour decreased in all regions. In the Dry Zone, the figure dropped from 46 per cent in 2015 to 35 per cent in 2017, but this is a higher proportion of households hiring farm labour than any other region. Tractors have replaced draught animals in many areas of the Dry Zone, as they have in other areas of the country. Mechanisation improves agricultural production and creates non-farm employment opportunities. The main drivers for mechanisation in the Dry Zone are shortages of labour at key periods in crop cycles, high rates of return on investments in tractors and harvesters, and availability of financial services from banks.

A study on the agricultural mechanisation of the Dry Zone by Michigan State University (MSU) shows that the number of machinery supply shops increased from 54 in 2008 to 234 in 2018. Sixty-one per cent of the stores were established between 2014 and 2017 when LIFT's agriculture mechanisation programme with Yoma Bank began. Yoma Bank partnered with 41 per cent of machinery dealerships in 2014, rising to 48 per cent in 2017. Half of all machinery supply shops are located in the Dry Zone.

LIFT's Dry Zone Programme

LIFT's Dry Zone Programme supports farmers and communities to overcome challenges, increase resilience and secure their livelihoods.

The Dry Zone programme has seven prioritised components, framed by the programme-level theory of change. These are:

- ‡ Increase sustainable agriculture and farm-based production for smallholder farmers
- ‡ Safeguard access to and ensure sustainable use of natural resources
- ‡ Improve market access and market terms for smallholder farmers
- ‡ Strengthen local capacity to support and promote food and livelihood security
- ‡ Increase safe employment in non-farm activities for smallholder farmers and the landless
- ‡ Increase access to adequate and affordable financial services for smallholder farmers and the landless
- ‡ Improve nutrition, sanitation and hygiene practices

Both agricultural and community-based interventions are purposefully built into the Dry Zone programme, as it is LIFT's that experience integrated activities create a longer-lasting impact than stand-alone projects. Integrating climate change adaptation measures into the Dry Zone programme leads to improved resilience of communities, helping them overcome events that damage their livelihoods. Partners working on nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and home garden horticulture in the Dry Zone have integrated their activities, with potential for positive results on beneficiary communities' resilience.

Projects began at the end of 2015 and some have successfully finished their work within the intended timeframe to 2018. Most projects have been extended to finalise implementation of exit strategies to strengthen the sustainability of their results.

Learnings from Dry Zone projects have informed the development of LIFT's refreshed strategy and results framework for 2019–2023. Dry Zone projects work at household and village levels but their influence and impact is wider and trigger changes at the system level. Good examples of this are methods to improve soil fertility, grow crops with high nutritional value, grow cash crops for local and national markets, and the close integration of financial services in the agriculture work of LIFT. Lessons from the Dry Zone guide how LIFT projects work with government, private sector and civil society to achieve sustainable results.

IP	Location	Focus
ActionAid	Nyaung-U, Myaing, Pakokku	Vocational training, jobs and access to social services
Terre des Hommes (TdH)	Natmauk, Yenangyaung, Myingyan, Taungtha	Using water-efficient technologies to grow nutrient-rich vegetables
International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyo	Agriculture advisory services
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyo	Policy work in animal health services and Livestock trade
Golden Plain	Pakokku, Yesagyo	Improving unproductive soil for sustainable yields
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	Across the Dry Zone	Technical assistance on agricultural mechanisation, seed production and farmer-led innovations
HelpAge International	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyo	Village-based social protection schemes and pilot of electronic cash transfers
Ar Yone Oo	Kale	Financial services
ASA Myanmar	Chauk, Magway, Minbu, Myaing, Natmauk, Pakokku, Pauk, Pwintbyu, Salin, Seikphyu, Taungdwingyi, Yenangyaung, Yesagyo	Financial services
Border Development Association	Monywa	Financial services
BRAC	Mandalay (Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyitagon), Taungtha, Wundwin, Yamethin, Chaung-U, Lewe, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Monywa, Myingyan, Natogyi, Pyawbwe, Sagaing, Shwebo, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Naypyitaw (Poke Ba Thi Ri)	Financial services
CCA-MAG	Myingyan	Financial services
CCA-NTG	Natogyi	Financial services
Early Dawn	Aunglan, Kamma, Taungdwingyi, Thazi, Yamethin	Financial services
Fullerton	Mandalay (Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Mhaaungmyay, Pyigyitagon), Madaya, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Myingyan, Myittha, Pyawbwe, Natogyi, Sintgaing, Thazi, Wundwin, Lewe, Pyinmana, Takon, Naypyitaw (Det Khi Na Thi Ri, Poke Ba Thi Ri, Za Bu Thi Ri, Zay Yar Thi Ri)	Financial services
LOLC	Meiktila, Minbu, Paukkhaung, Salin	Financial services
Myanmar Heard Development Organization	Lewe	Financial services
Thit Sar Oo Yin	Budalin, Monywa, Ye-U, Yinmabin, Kale	Financial services
PGMF	Aunglan, Ayadaw, Budalin, Chauk, Chaung-U, Kani, Khin-U, Kyaukpadaung, Magway, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Minbu, Myaing, Myaung, Myingyan, Myinmu, Ngazun, Myothit, Natmauk, Natogyi, Nyaung-U, Pakokku, Pwintphyu, Salin, Shwebo, Sinbaungwe, Tabayin, Taungdwingyi, Taungtha, Taze, Wetlet, Yesagyo, Yenangyaung, Ye U, Yinmarbin	Financial services
Proximity Designs	Aunglan, Chaung-U, Magway, Kyaukse, Mahlaing, Minbu, Monywa, Myingyan, Myothit, Natmauk, Natogyi, Pakokku, Pale, Pyawbwe, Shwebo, Taungtha, Thazi, Wetlet, Yesagyo, Yinmabin, Meiktila	Financial services
Sathapana	Mandalay (Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Mhaaungmyay, Pyigyitagon), Ayadaw, Budalin, Chaung-U, Kani, Kyaukse, Madaya, Magway, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Minbu, Monywa, Myaung, Myingyan, Myittha, Myothit, Natogyi, Ngazun, Pale, Patheingyi, Pwintbyu, Pwinoowin, Sagaing, Salin, Salingyi, Sinbaungwe, Sintgaing, Tada-U, Taungdwingyi, Taungtha, Thazi, Wundwin, Yinmarbin	Financial services

IP	Location	Focus
YOMA Bank	Aunglan, Magway, Minbu, Pakokku, Kyaukse, Mandalay town (Kywelsekan, Zaycho, Manawharry, Mandalay Industrial Zone), Meiktila, Myingyan, Pyinoolwin, Kale, Monywa, Shwebo, Pyinmana (Naypyitaw), Taungdwingyi	Agricultural equipment hire purchase
Save the Children	Pakokku, Yesagyo, Mahlaing	Randomized Control Trail (RCT)—nutrition behaviour change
VisionFund	Mandalay (Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanmyathazi, Mahaungmyay), Kyaukse, Madaya, Patheingi, Pyinoolwin, Sintgaing, Monywa, Sagaing, Shwebo, Chauk, Watlet	Financial services
Social Vision Service	Wundwin	Financial services
The Sun Institute	Naypyitaw (Oke Ta Ra Thi Ri, Poke Ba Thi Ri), Pyinmana	Financial services
MPSWA	Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha	Nutrition behaviour change
UN-Habitat	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyo	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Pact	Seikphyu, Kyaukpadaung, Yaysagyo, Yenanchaung, PwintByu, Myingyan, Salin	CSO small grant fund
IWMI	Myinmu	Irrigation
UNOPS	Myinmu	Irrigation
LodeStar/SPPRG	Myaung	Social protection

Highlights

Enabling farmers with commercial potential to ‘step up’ agricultural productivity

Agriculture extension

A strength of the Dry Zone programme is its contribution to supporting commercial households to ‘step up’ and benefit from increased productivity and access to markets. LIFT’s flagship agriculture extension project in the Dry Zone, implemented by the [International Fertilizer Development Center \(IFDC\)](#), engaged with a network of 53 private sector agro-input suppliers retailing fertilisers and plant protection products. All agriculture extension workers in the six townships received training together with more than 30,000 smallholder farmers. The results were improved advisory services from public and private service providers for farmers, informed use of inputs in conservation farming and good agricultural practices. IFDC embraced an approach of integrating smallholder farmers and businesses encouraging them to ‘step up’ into commercial agriculture value chains through the procurement of modern production technologies like improved seed, fertiliser, irrigation, and small-scale mechanisation, and through building technical knowledge of good agricultural practices.

In 2018, 199 demonstration plots were established by IFDC’s project, which brought the total number of demonstration plots established over the project’s lifetime to 337. Ninety farmers’ field days were held in 2018 and more than 4,000 farmers (30 per cent of them women) from 133 villages participated. Since the start of the project, 166

farmers’ field days have been held. In addition, 222 Department of Agriculture (DoA) extension staff participated in the field days and this resulted in greater engagement between farmers, retailers and government. In 2018, 201 farmer training sessions directly reached almost 15,000 farmers (35 per cent of them women) from the six targeted townships in the Dry Zone. Over the course of the project more than 31,000 farmers (30 per cent of them women) from 1,373 villages participated in 480 farmer trainings. IFDC, in collaboration with John Deere and New Holland farm equipment dealers, trained 240 tractor operators on machinery maintenance, tractor operation and basic crop agronomy. Tractor operators have direct daily contact with farmers adding another layer of technical advisory services.

In 2018, the input service providers continued to provide training and demonstration plots themselves, demonstrating their recognition of the value of these activities and their commitment to sustaining the results of the project. Twenty farmer training sessions were conducted in 2018 by retailers who receive business enhancement grants under the project, reaching more than 1,500 farmers (28 per cent of them women). Since the start of the project, 65 of these farmer training sessions reached 4,677 farmers, of whom almost 30 percent were women. In 2018, nine retailer-initiated demonstration plots/field days were held bringing the total to 41 over the project period, reaching more than 2,600 farmers, one-quarter of them women. Input service providers introduced 22 new categories of services or products to farmers in their catchment areas ranging from

▲ Table 3.2

LIFT-funded projects in the Dry Zone 2018

Type of Machinery	Number of Leases	HP Loan Amount USD million	Product Price USD million
Agricultural transport vehicle	506	5.7	7.2
Combine harvester	108	2.7	3.4
Harvester	1	0.02	0.03
Tiller (2WT)	19	0.03	0.04
Tractor (4WT)	1,936	35.6	42.8
	2,570	44	53

▲ **Table 3.3**
Cumulative data—
Jan 2016 to Dec 2018:
Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi
Taw and Sagaing Regions

Source: LIFT Financial Inclusion
Programme using average
UN Monthly Exchange Rate 1
USD=1414 MMK (2018)

sprinkler irrigation equipment to crop threshers. Farmers say the services and products save them time and helps address critical labour shortages.

Mechanisation

Efforts to introduce good agricultural practices are also supported by the LIFT-funded **Agribusiness Finance Program (AFP)** implemented by Yoma Bank, which has provided hire purchase facilities for agricultural machinery and equipment since 2016. In 2018, a total of 501 leases were issued for farm machinery worth USD 11 million from 17 authorised agricultural machinery dealers in the Dry Zone. There are 17 Yoma Bank branches in the Dry Zone in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing. Since 2016, more than 2,500 leases were issued for agricultural machinery in the Dry Zone valued at USD 53 million. The majority of machinery leased are four-wheel tractors, followed by combine harvesters and agricultural transport vehicles. The government's Agriculture Mechanisation Department (AMD) partners with Yoma Bank for leasing four-wheel tractors in the programme. In 2018, 66 rural clients were referred by AMD to lease four-wheel tractors through this public/private partnership. Smallholder farmers who are not in a position to engage in hire purchase arrangements themselves rent machinery from rural entrepreneurs investing in machinery under the programme. Smallholder farmers save money, time and improve productivity, and entrepreneurs develop off-farm rental services businesses. The Yoma-LIFT programme's contribution to the recent dramatic rise in mechanisation of the agricultural sector in Central Dry Zone is significant.

Soil fertility

The challenges facing cropping systems across the central Dry Zone of Myanmar are numerous. They include declining soil fertility associated with continuous cropping, feeding of crop residues to livestock, low water holding capacity due to the sandy nature of many soils, and the very low levels of organic matter in the soil. The impacts of climate change increase risks on current farming systems. **Golden Plain** works with farmers in 42 villages in the Pakokku and Yesagyo Townships to address these challenges through modifications to local cropping systems. A new green manure crop, sunnhemp was introduced as well as new improved short season

varieties of sesame, chickpea and groundnut into current cropping systems.

In 2018, the number of farmers adopting this new approach increased by 1,300 farmers to a total of 2,245 farmers over the period 2016 to 2018. This growth in adoption of green manuring was constrained by the availability of sunnhemp seed so farmers were trained to produce their own seed. This has been extremely successful with a total of 14.2 tons of seed being produced from 32.9 ha in 2018 for use in the 2019 season to meet the growing demand of farmers as the technology spreads beyond the target beneficiaries. The Golden Plain project conducted 120 farmer-led demonstrations with more than 6,000 farmers to introduce the new approach. Results clearly demonstrate the impact of green manuring on improving yields of groundnut (up from 20 per cent to 40 per cent) and sesame (up from 30 per cent to 90 per cent) regardless of whether traditional or improved varieties are grown. Applying sunnhemp as a green manure enhanced the fertility of the soil with improved moisture-holding capacity and a significant reduction in production costs incurred through ploughing, harrowing and weeding.

Soil samples collected from plots at the start of the project in 2016 and resampled in 2018 indicate that over three consecutive years of green manuring the soil pH declined from an alkaline reactivity to a more neutral pH. This shift in pH associated with green manuring in part accounts for the increased yields observed in farmer fields. Organic matter content increased by more than 50 per cent contributing to increased capacity of soils to hold water and nutrients.

Irrigation

In the past two years, LIFT invested in the rehabilitation of a pumped irrigation scheme in Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region. The Pyawt Ywar Pumped Irrigation Project (PYPIP) was built in 2004 and draws water from the Mu River through one primary and two secondary pump stations. The scheme is designed to provide irrigation services to an area of around 5,000 acres owned by approximately 1,000 farming households. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI). The project is a pilot to test approaches to rehabilitation and participatory water management in more than 300 pumped irrigation sites in Myanmar.

The infrastructure rehabilitation is implemented by UNOPS's Infrastructure Unit and includes remodelling of all canal systems (main canals, secondary canals, distribution canal, installation gates and hydraulic structures), installation of new pumps and some road construction. Significant changes to irrigation water distribution have been made and more farmers have better access to water since mid-2018. The final evaluation report states that "76 per cent of farmers normally served by the scheme reported having received adequate amounts of water in 2018, compared to 41 per cent in 2016" and this was confirmed by farmers participating in focus group discussions. In Nyaung Yin village, at the tail of the PS3 canal, farmers reported that water, which previously took 12 hours to reach them, now arrived in five to six hours.

The IWMI consortium with Welthungerhilfe (WHH), National Engineering and Planning Services (NEPS) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) tested new approaches to crop cultivation with improved irrigation methods and new high value cash crops of green gram, chickpea, sunflower and paddy, chili, okra, yardlong bean, bitter melon, eggplant and papaya. Chili and papaya are the most popular crops among the farmers from project villages. The gross margin for chili is consistently higher than margins for other crops, although margins do fluctuate from MMK 678,000/acre–MMK 1,377,200/acre (USD 470/acre–USD 956/acre). Market linkages to Mandalay created by truck drivers and wholesalers visiting the farming areas are critical for rapid expansion of the crops in the project area. About 63 new farmers who self-financed the replication of the demonstration plots will grow chili in coming seasons and at least 60 farmers will use urea pellets in their paddy fields in the 2019 cropping season.

Livestock

The Dry Zone is home to most of the country's cattle, goats and sheep. Livestock is an important element of the Dry Zone's agriculture sector. To support the livestock sector, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** is implementing the **Improving Farmer Livelihoods in the Dry Zone through Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing** project in six townships in Mandalay and Magway Regions. The project strengthens animal health services provided to smallholder farmers through working with community animal health workers, improving public services and extending technologies to smallholder farmers to improve animal health, feeding, breeding and marketing in the target area. The project also engages with government on policy in the areas of livestock development relevant to the improvement of smallholder productivity and marketing.

The project continues to provide technical support to the government-funded National Livestock Baseline Survey (NLBS). The NLBS collected data from all households in 20 per cent of villages and wards nationwide, reaching more than 1.7 million households. The NLBS data management centre is housed in the FAO project office and staffed by employees of the Department of Livestock, Veterinary and Breeding (LBVD), who were trained by FAO. The project also provided technical support (survey design, data collection, data management) to LBVD for a census of more than 10,000 commercial farms, chicken breeder farms and hatcheries.

The project's work with community animal health workers (CAHW) in 33 townships resulted in a baseline survey completed and the development of a five-year national rollout plan for training and accreditation of community animal health workers. Legislation that includes provision for CAHWs is in the final approval stages.

During negotiations on cattle trade with China in 2018, the Myanmar government relied on data collected in the national livestock survey. Cattle trading with China resumed in 2018 following the negotiations and had significant impact on livestock-raising households in Myanmar. About

2.2 million households raise cattle and 420,000 households raise buffaloes. The total value of the trade is around USD 1 billion. Traders pay an additional USD 500–700 per animal at farmgate now if the quality is satisfactory. By February 2019, more than 300,000 cattle had been exported to China by more than 3,500 companies. The FAO project supported the establishment of a Cattle Trade Advisory Group to bring together key public and private stakeholders engaged on cattle sector policy and trade to China.

Supporting rural households to successfully 'step out' of agriculture as a main income source into more productive sectors of the economy

Expanding access to information and services for safe and rewarding migration in Magway and Mandalay

The **Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (Twe Let)** project is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and supports safe pre-migration and rewarding migration in four states and regions of Myanmar. In the Dry Zone, IOM has delivered outreach training to support informed decision-making about migration, reaching more than 6,000 aspiring migrants. Between August and November 2018, an outcome survey was conducted to assess the effectiveness of the Twe Let pre-migration training and other activities. The results from the 603 beneficiaries surveyed in the Dry Zone were positive. Sixty-two per cent of respondents reported that their knowledge of safe migration had "greatly increased" as a result of the training and 94 per cent said they had learned about the documentation they needed to prepare prior to departure (national identification card, labour card, etc.).

The nationwide **Yay Kyi Yar** project implemented by BBC Media Action focuses on supporting migrants and source households to make more informed decisions about migration and financial management through national and local media platforms. It has developed 52 weekly episodes of a radio programme, broadcast nationally and accompanied by digital outputs, which are followed by 40 listener clubs in eight states and regions. In Mandalay and Magway, 475 beneficiaries were educated on migration and financial management through listeners clubs in four townships. A qualitative assessment of the outcomes of the programme found that members of the listener club in Magway were particularly receptive to advice on financial management suggestions. More information on listener clubs is reported in *Migration 4.3*.

Developing livelihoods

The **Socio-Economic Development Network (SEDN)**, supported by **ActionAid**, targets poor rural families, particularly women with vocational training and business literacy skills. SEDN has trained 2,520 women leaders and entrepreneurs from 134 villages in Magway Region in business literacy, numeracy and vocational skills including weaving, sewing, rattan making and jewelry making. In the second phase of the project, women established the Myanmar Women Craft Producer Association

(MWCOPA), which was legally registered in 2016. MWCOPA has 209 active female producers from 52 villages who have all received the basic training and three advanced trainings in their fields of expertise. The group has saved about MMK 9 million (USD 6,250) for social funding. The group markets their clothing, jewellery, fabrics and handicrafts under the brand 'MBoutik'. In 2018, a new store was opened in New Bagan, an area popular with international and Myanmar tourists, and MBoutik's web-based international marketing was strengthened. Women producing for the business earned an additional MMK 50,000 (USD 35) per month in 2018 on average. Since the start of the project, ActionAid included the private sector tourism industry and government partners in the planning and development of this women-owned and managed business. The business plan outlines the development of the business from a start-up ActionAid-supported business, through a transition phase to an independent entity growing to become a sustainable business by 2021. ActionAid continues to provide long-term support and guidance to the business's development.

HelpAge International provided start-up capital for income generation funds in 90 villages in Mandalay and Magway Regions to support communities develop income-generation activities outside of agriculture. Activities supported included retailing of fertiliser, cotton, rice, cooking oil, maize, paddy, palm sugar, groundnut, bamboo, and gasoline, as well as investments in animal husbandry (goat, pig, cow, or oxen), fish farm inputs, weaving, slipper production, plastic basket production, sound box decoration and rental, and acquiring tricycles for transportation. Retailing of rice, cooking oil and fertiliser are the most replicated income-generating activities as they have the most positive impact on vulnerable households, allowing people to save on transportation costs as they buy materials to sell locally. Profits generated are added to the village social protection funds for defined purposes supporting vulnerable persons and households in the villages.

Supporting rural households without commercial potential to 'hang in' using agriculture and social protection mechanisms and nutrition interventions to achieve improved food security and nutrition outcomes

According to the LIFT Household Survey 2017, the Dry Zone had the highest level of 12 months' adequate food supply across regions with 91 per cent of households having adequate supply in the past year. The survey also found that women in the Dry Zone were more likely to meet the minimum dietary diversity targets than were women in other LIFT-supported regions, with close to half of the women in the Dry Zone doing so as opposed to 32 per cent in the Uplands, and 30 per cent in the Delta and Rakhine. Although the LIFT Household Survey 2017 did not find any statistically significant change in stunting between 2015 and 2017, the Dry Zone had the lowest regional prevalence of stunting (25 per cent). The proportion of exclusively breastfed children increased in the Dry Zone from 64 per cent in 2015 to 76 per cent in 2017.

During the past four years LIFT has funded nutrition projects in the Dry Zone delivering

maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) information about good nutrition practices. Different approaches to cash and SBCC delivery have been applied to test the impact of cash transfers and SBCC activities, together or independent of each other, on nutrition outcomes.

Save the Children

Save the Children, in collaboration with the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA) and Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF), implements the **LEGACY project**. It is the Dry Zone's primary nutrition project with 11,588 beneficiaries. Eighty-nine per cent of these beneficiaries receive cash transfers and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on nutrition and 11 per cent receive cash transfers only. The women who receive cash transfers only are exposed to simple nutrition messaging printed on their ante-natal cards. The project also partners with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) to implement a randomised control trial (RCT) that assesses the impact of cash transfers combined with SBCC, compared to the impact on nutrition of beneficiaries receiving cash only. The RCT endline results will be available in 2019.

The LEGACY project has tested a variety of ways of delivering SBCC on nutrition and hygiene to mothers receiving cash transfers—mother-to-mother support groups, cooking demonstrations, individual counselling and household visits. The impact of the various approaches is monitored and analysed to contribute to the evidence base regarding which approaches have the most impact on nutrition outcomes for mothers and children in the first 1,000 days window.

In 2018, Save the Children modified the social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities based on the mid-term review's recommendations.²⁵ The majority of beneficiary women were targeted for individual counselling, especially for complementary feeding of children over six months old. Field monitoring visits, the mid-line RCT survey, post-distribution monitoring and project evaluations showed positive improvements in mother's knowledge of good nutrition practices in 2018:

- ‡ 96 per cent of mothers know when to initiate breastfeeding (up from 70 per cent)
- ‡ 80 per cent of mothers know it is important to breastfeed children for two years (up from 29 per cent)
- ‡ 50 per cent of mothers know the adequate amount of food to feed children aged 6–23 months (up from 40 per cent)
- ‡ 44 per cent of mothers know how frequently to feed children aged 6–23 months for good nutrition (up from 30 per cent)
- ‡ 73 per cent of women know the diversity of food to feed their children for good nutrition (up from 60 per cent)
- ‡ The proportion of women consuming the minimum diversity of diet increased to 62 per cent (women receiving intensive SBCC and cash), to 55 per cent (women receiving cash and non-intensive SBCC) and to 43 per cent (women in the control group who do not receive cash or SBCC).

²⁵ The mid-term review MTR recommended adapting the SBCC counseling materials to be more specific and support volunteers to identify and address the problems mothers face with families, to introduce cooking demonstration sessions in mother-to-mother support group activities, to improve complementary feeding practices and to raise awareness of pregnant women on weight gain monitoring during pregnancy.

Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association

Another Dry Zone nutrition project implemented by the **Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA)** delivers nutrition SBCC in three townships of Mandalay Region not covered by Save the Children's large nutrition intervention. Their beneficiaries do not receive cash transfers. Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA) targets the 1,000 days window and involves women's husbands and other male relatives in all SBCC activities. Special effort is made to convince mothers, grandmothers and mothers-in-law to support young women in their desire to raise healthy children. Awareness of good nutrition practices and nutrition knowledge of men and the elderly generation is very high in the target villages. Using unorthodox extension approaches like puppet theatre, the project advocates for better nutrition with school and kindergarten children, who also participate in cooking demonstrations and small group discussions about food, hygiene and nutrition. The Community Based Nutrition Promotion Groups (CBNPG) are the backbone of the project. The trained volunteers make frequent visits to beneficiaries' houses and encourage every pregnant and breastfeeding mother to eat enough nutritious meals, have a balanced diet, to practice exclusive breastfeeding for babies under six months of age, to feed nutritious and balanced weaning food to their children under two years and to weigh children regularly for growth monitoring. When records indicate malnutrition (yellow and red zones in the weight chart) the volunteers explain the child's condition to mothers and instruct them on better feeding practices. These volunteers are well trained and well connected with basic health staff. Some also implement small-scale nutrition development plans. The impact of their work has been significant and all CBNPG will continue after the end of the project.

In 2018, CBNPGs conducted around 1,300 nutrition-awareness training sessions reaching more than 50,000 people. They conducted almost 5,000 cooking demonstrations with more than 12,000 participants. Home gardening training reached more than 4,000 households and almost 800 focus group discussions on nutrition were conducted with 6,354 pregnant and breastfeeding women. As a result, 15,525 households received nutrition-sensitive information and 9,363 households demonstrated positive nutrition practices and good food hygiene. Almost 500 infants (0-6 months) were exclusively breastfed in the project area.

The MPSWA project also created a Facebook page where CBNPGs posted nutrition-related information and news of their community outreach activities, allowing their activities and nutrition messages to be viewed by a wider audience.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In 2018, the **UN Habitat** project finalised their water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities in 212 villages in six Dry Zone townships. Almost 160,000 people gained access to safe drinking water as a result of the project. In 177 villages, around 130,000 people installed piped water systems to their houses. During 2018, the project completed water infrastructure construction in 85 villages.

To support implementation of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) and to monitor progress in their respective villages 2,412 hygiene promotion volunteers were selected and trained. Their primary job was to encourage latrine construction and personal hygiene practices. Most of the volunteers were women and young girls committed to improving their villages' living conditions, creating a healthier environment for children. The project campaigned strongly for zero open defecation by educating communities about the negative health consequences of open defecation. In 2018, 670 community events to promote zero open defecation were conducted. Three-quarters of the participants were women who were responsible for food preparation and caring for children and their hygiene.

In 2018, 71 villages completed construction of fly-proof latrines including 661 latrines that were constructed with only partial support from the project. In the 212 project villages, 96 per cent of people now have access to a latrine and 159 villages report zero open defecation. The number of people practising open defecation before the project began was 54,745 (32 per cent of the total project population) and was reduced to 6,607 people by the end of the project.

Analysis of project data shows that the amount of water used for domestic use and consumption increased from 8.5 gallons per day to 20 gallons per day. Labour to fetch water was reduced. Before the project 62 per cent of households walked to fetch water from a water source twice a day and by the end of the project only 5 per cent of households were still doing so. The percentage of households with water shortages in the last three months reduced from 49 per cent to 2 per cent.

Evidence of the effects of improving sanitation and water supply systems in the Dry Zone was found in LIFT's Household Survey 2017. The majority of households surveyed in the Dry Zone reported adequate water supply in their villages since the introduction of new wells and piped water. Eighty-three per cent of households had access to a protected water source, compared to an average of 76 per cent in other LIFT-supported areas. Eighty-nine per cent of Dry Zone households in LIFT-supported villages are now using improved sanitation facilities.

Social protection funds

All **HelpAge International** project villages receive an initial payment of MMK 3 million (USD 2,100) to set up social protection funds that are managed by Village Development Committees and/or Social Protection Committees. The committees distribute low interest loans to the community. In 2018, more than 17,000 households took a loan from the funds and around 8,000 of these households did so for the first time. Eligibility for loans is based on the wealth and vulnerability index used by the committees. Vulnerable households use loans to invest in activities such as stocking their small grocery shops, buying livestock for breeding, buying farm inputs, home gardening, setting up small weaving and incense stick making businesses. Half of the interest is used to fund social protection action plan activities. As a result of high repayments, the social protection committees have been able to

use the other half to provide vulnerable households with nutritional support, clothes, blankets, and other basic needs. In 2018, more than 42,000 people benefited from these social protection activities.

Interest-free loans of between MMK 200,000–300,000 (USD 139–210) are provided to assist during household emergencies. Most of these loans are used for health emergencies allowing vulnerable households to access medical treatments they otherwise could not. In 2018, around 1,200 households used emergency funds for hospitalisation costs.

The social protection committees together with project staff arranged home and health care trainings for community volunteers to assist older people and people with disabilities. These volunteers provided social care to almost 6,000 older people and people with disabilities. The project also created linkages with Township Medical Officers to provide professional health care in the villages and almost 5,000 older people and people with disabilities received health services from skilled health staff. These services provided physical health relief as well as mental support. Recipients reported an increased sense of dignity due to improved personal hygiene, improved confidence, less depression and more hope for the future.

Social pensions

The project implemented by [HelpAge International](#) provided social pensions for people aged between 85 and 90 until October 2018 when the government began delivering the pensions. In 2018, the project supported 1,671 elderly people with social pensions. Disability grants were given to 2,165 beneficiaries.

In 2018, HelpAge piloted electronic cash transfers for elderly social pension distribution in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region. The purpose of the pilot was to test electronic cash transfers to inform the planned national expansion of social protection initiatives. The outcomes were shared with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and NGOs including LIFT's implementing partners. Electronic cash transfers of the social pension were launched in April 2018 and incrementally expanded to cover more villages in each payment cycle. A total of 1,139 beneficiaries (63 per cent women) received their social pension via electronic cash transfers. Some initial problems were encountered when beneficiaries forgot their PIN numbers, but many elderly recipients expressed pride in being able to walk to cash points and receive their payments themselves.

Improving food security

Vulnerable households in the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, landless and marginal farmers who have less than five acres, are subject to periods of food insecurity that range from four to six months due to irregular incomes, limited job opportunities and other factors. Water is scarce for at least five months of the year and farmers are unable to produce vegetables and nutrient-dense horticulture crops during those periods.

[Terres de Hommes \(TdH\)](#) provides adapted solutions to the Dry Zone introducing home-based hydroponic systems for water-efficient vegetable production. These systems require minimal space

and improve dietary diversity of households with the potential to provide additional income. TdH provided the hydroponic systems to 753 households in 42 villages over the project period from 2017 to 2019 in Myingyan, Taung Thar and Nahtogyi Townships in Mandalay Region. Through a comprehensive campaign that included on-the-job training and the dissemination of nutritional messaging, 96 per cent of households supported by the project had improved food consumption scores. A total of 753 households adopted improved practices, inputs and technologies. This resulted in year-round supply of vegetables for households who have improved dietary diversity as a result. The production of vegetables has allowed the majority of beneficiaries to make regular savings on the purchase of vegetables, as well as occasional small incomes from selling excess production. A small number of beneficiaries were able to derive regular incomes by specialising their production. Women own and manage 63 per cent of the low cost hydroponic systems and have been better able to support the nutritional needs of children in their households.

Contributing to learning and policy influence that introduces systemic change for the benefit of the rural poor

The LIFT-funded [HelpAge International](#) projects in the Dry Zone and a HelpAge project directly supporting the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in Nay Pyi Taw contributed to the government's national roll-out of the elderly pension to more than 40,000 people aged over 90 years in 2018. During the year, the government lowered the eligibility age to 85 years. Beneficiaries aged between 85 and 90 years who were receiving the social pension from HelpAge in the Dry Zone were transferred to the government's scheme.

HelpAge also supported people with disabilities in the Dry Zone with activities that improved the inclusion of people with disabilities in community activities and provided grants to people with disabilities, piloting cash delivery by electronic transfer. The projects are implemented in close collaboration with DSW and learning events are held to share the experiences of the projects and support government.

[Save the Children's maternal and child cash transfer \(MCCT\) nutrition](#) projects funded by LIFT in the Dry Zone generated evidence that contributed to the Union Government's decision to engage in nutrition as a focal area. In January 2017, Myanmar's State Counsellor visited a LIFT-supported MCCT project in Kye Village of Pakokku Township and then convened the first national coordination meeting on nutrition. In 2018, the government allocated budget for MCCT in Chin and Rakhine States, the Naga Self-Administered Zone, and in Sagaing Region. Preparations for new government-led MCCT programmes in Kayin and Kayah States began at the end of 2018. LIFT continues to provide technical support to the government-led programmes for monitoring and evaluation and baseline surveys.

The Department of Livestock, Veterinary and Breeding (LVBD) made changes to the regulatory framework affecting community animal health workers (CAHW) based on evidence from the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) project in the Dry Zone. The changes are expected to result in community animal health

workers becoming competent partners to township veterinary services. The training and certification of the CAHW will take five years and LVBD has requested more support from FAO.

Supporting government, CSOs and private sector to engage in sustainable development to improve nutrition and resilience

The LIFT Household Survey 2017 found that 98 per cent of the Dry Zone villages had active civil society organisations (CSOs), more than other LIFT regions' villages. The survey's qualitative analysis showed that community groups in the Dry Zone were highly valued for promoting social cohesion.

Pact implemented the **Dry Zone Small Grants Fund** in nine townships in Magwe and Mandalay Regions. In 2018, Pact awarded 76 grants to 71 township-based CSOs. For all grantees PACT used the Grantee Reflection Survey (GRS) and Sub Awardee Risk & Responsibility Assessment (SARRA) tools to reflect on their own performance and financial capacity. Based on the baseline GRS and SARRA, all grantee CSOs set up their own priorities for organisational, capacity and financial development plans by using partner tracking sheet.

Pact conducted 19 disclosure workshops sharing information about the call for expressions of interest in all nine townships. PACT shared information about livelihoods system strengthening and grants processes to 332 CSOs who expressed interest. Nineteen proposal writing workshops and 13 compliance, monitoring, evaluation and learning training for potential local partners were conducted to ensure Pact received strong proposals to strengthen livelihood systems in the Dry Zone.

Of the 76 contracts, 48 were cost reimbursement grants (CRGs) and 28 were fixed amount awards (FAAs). Thirty-one of the grants were still ongoing at the end of 2018; 52 projects were livelihood system oriented, 20 projects build capacity of the local CSOs.

The **ActionAid** implemented **SEDN project** provided more than 250 women in Magwe Region with the opportunity to work from home or in small women groups producing handicraft, clothes and jewellery for their shop in Bagan (described earlier in this chapter). Women have received technical training and practical life skills training making them more confident dealing with the private sector and government, and improving their resilience.

The input service providers (ISP) in the **IFDC agriculture extension** project established an ISP Cooperative Association and are another good example in the Dry Zone of private sector engagement that improves resilience and contributes to sustainable development. The ISP Cooperative Association is in the process of becoming a legal entity. Six ISP township sub-groups were formed and donated equipment (computers, projector screens, amplifiers, generators) to township Department of Agriculture offices to use when conducting farmer trainings and farmer field days. The donations from the six ISP sub-groups totalled MMK 5,160,800 (USD 3,500). After flooding in 2018, the Pakokku ISP sub-group donated crop protection products to their township's farmers and DoA staff to combat weather-related damages to their crops. The Yesagyio sub-group received a grant from the

LIFT-supported small grant facility for civil society organisations. The ISP used the grant to help poor farmers purchase agricultural inputs by allowing them to delay payment for inputs until after harvest. The ISP group retained their 6 per cent overhead contribution as risk mitigation capital in case some farmers could not pay.

HelpAge's social protection activities and **UN Habitat's** WASH activities rely on strong village based organisations to maintain the systems and processes established by the projects. The Department of Rural Development was involved in the design of WASH activities and participated in the handover of the water supply systems to villages to ensure they were maintained properly. HelpAge's social protection activities are based on the government flagship programmes.

Looking ahead

In 2018, most projects of the Dry Zone Programme were extended to finalise activities focusing on exit strategies making the achievements of the last three years more sustainable. Thorough handover procedures were designed by HelpAge, IWMI and UN Habitat in collaboration with their counterpart government agencies to ensure the management and oversight of results would be adopted by the government.

The successful IFDC agriculture extension and HelpAge social protection projects will be replicated in conflict-affected areas in the next LIFT phase 2019–2023. IFDC is engaging with private sector retailers in Kayin and Kayah States piloting the approach employed in the Dry Zone in a different political and economic environment in a different agro-economic zone of Myanmar.

HelpAge continues to engage in social protection linking the cash transfer activities in the Dry Zone with the organisation's project supporting people with disabilities in Kayin State. Piloting digital cash transfers for people with disabilities is expected to help the Department of Social Welfare introduce nationwide disability grants.

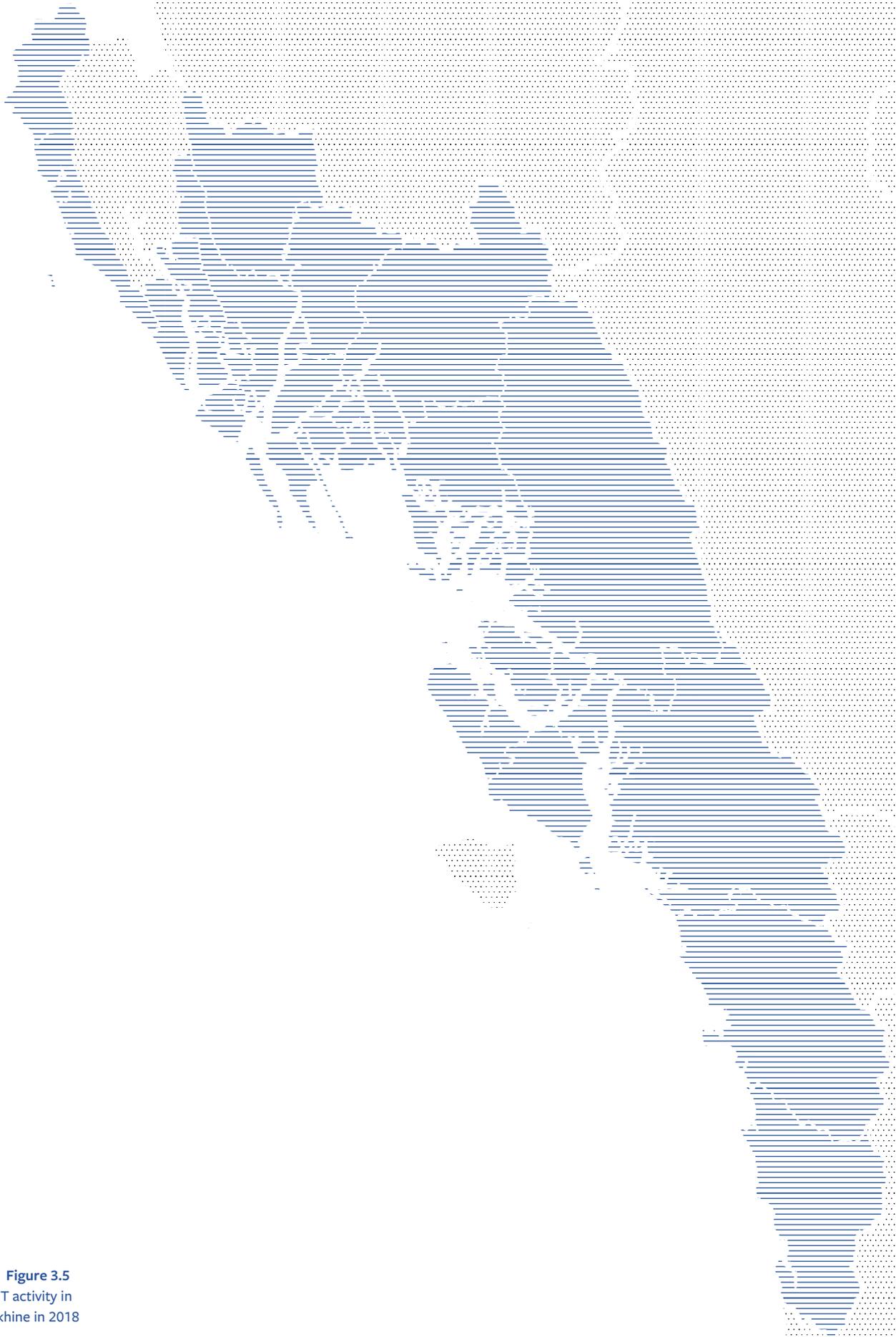
There is still a lot of work to be done in the Dry Zone. The current programme has shown many successful approaches that could be rolled out beyond the six programme townships. In some cases, programme partners have already picked up where projects stopped. Government continues to reduce the entry age for the social pension as suggested by the HelpAge project and the retailers working with IFDC have started to produce seeds for green manure to service farmers who have adopted the approach to improve their soils.

Government projects like the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GASFP), under the leadership of the Asian Development Bank and FAO, and a USAID-funded agriculture project in central Myanmar will fill some of the gaps that LIFT interventions will leave in the Dry Zone as projects close.

Although the LIFT Household Survey 2017 found that LIFT-supported households in the Dry Zone were generally best off, with better nutritional standards and higher levels of wealth than households elsewhere, it is true that LIFT's support reached a small part of the Dry Zone. Much more can be done.

3.3

Rakhine



▲ Figure 3.5
LIFT activity in
Rakhine in 2018

Context

Rakhine State is one of the least developed areas of Myanmar and has a diverse ethnic and religious population. Outbreaks of inter-communal violence in 2012, 2013 and 2017 led to large displacements of people and a massive humanitarian crisis.

It is estimated that 78 per cent of people in Rakhine are living on less than USD 1.25 a day.²⁶ Rakhine has the highest unemployment rate (15–64 years) in Myanmar, accounting for more than 10 per cent of the state's population.²⁷ Rakhine has the lowest labour force participation rate in Myanmar. Almost 60 per cent of the population aged 15 years and older is economically active, compared to 67 per cent at the national-level. Agricultural casual labour and fishing account for 26 per cent of income sources.²⁸ According to UNICEF, nearly 50 per cent of children aged under five suffer from stunting.²⁹

There are, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,³⁰ between 532,000 and 600,000 stateless Muslims, who remain in Rakhine State following the coordinated armed attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in August 2017, and subsequent security operations that led to displacement of people at an unprecedented level. More than 700,000 Muslims—over half of whom are women and girls—fled to Bangladesh from Rakhine in 2017. Around 27,000 Rakhine Buddhists and people from ethnic minority groups were also displaced, although most of these people have subsequently returned. Approximately 129,000 people remain in 23 camps or camp-like settings across Rakhine, of whom 80 per cent are women and children; the majority have lived in these settings since 2012.³¹ Over 200,000 stateless people are estimated to remain in Maungdaw District according to UNHCR and the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group.

In November 2018, armed clashes began between the Arakan Army (ethnic Rakhine) and Myanmar's military (Tatmadaw) in central Rakhine resulted in more displacements of people. This conflict continued to escalate and spread in 2019. Most of the armed clashes occurred near Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in northern Rakhine, and in Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships in central Rakhine.

The conflict and inter-communal tensions in Rakhine State are fuelled by a combination of protracted displacement, chronic poverty, segregation and lack of access to livelihoods opportunities and quality inclusive health and education services. These factors place affected communities at high risk and increase their vulnerability and dependency on assistance. In central Rakhine, the increased isolation and restrictions on the freedom of movement of the stateless Muslims, who have limited or no access to basic essential services, have left communities dependant on assistance and exposed to protection risks.

Additional circumstances in Rakhine that impact on people's vulnerability are the state's susceptibility to natural disasters, food insecurity, armed conflict, statelessness, migration, trafficking, gender inequality and socio-cultural norms in both Rakhine and Muslim communities. Grievances also exist between ethnic Rakhine and Burmese, limiting development and peace, and this tension escalated into conflict in late 2018.

In August 2016, the Government of Myanmar established the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by Kofi Annan, to examine the crisis and recommend steps to address the underlying issues, including the plight of the stateless Muslims. The Commission released its final report in August 2017, providing recommendations on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, reconciliation, institution building and development. The Government of Myanmar accepted the final report. The violence that led to the displacement of an estimated 700,000 people erupted on the same day the report was released.

The Advisory Commission's interim report in 2017 urged the Government to facilitate the return/relocation of three specific IDP communities and the final report commended the government for acting swiftly on the recommendations. Although the closure of camps represents a positive step in itself, the urgent need for a comprehensive strategy and a broad consultation process with affected communities is clear. The UNRC/HC, UNDP, UNHCR, OCHA and RCO wrote to the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in August 2018 regarding IDP camp closures. The UN agencies expressed support for the realisation of solutions to displacement and the closure of IDP camps in Rakhine, development of a national strategy for IDP camp closures, and suggestions for dignified solutions for IDPs in Rakhine State.

LIFT works in close consultation with the international development and humanitarian community in Myanmar and subscribes to the recommendations of the Advisory Commission's report. The international community agrees there is a continued mandate for humanitarian and development organisations to address the substantial development needs in Rakhine, to improve the prospects of all vulnerable people in Rakhine, in particular for the Muslim communities who remain. The government, UNHCR and UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2018, framing conditions for the 'safe, voluntary, and dignified returns of refugees in line with international standards'.

Although access for agencies improved in the central part of Rakhine during the first half of 2018, delivering development programmes continued to be challenging due to ongoing security restrictions, and armed clashes. LIFT's implementing partners had no access to Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in northern Rakhine State from the time violence erupted in August 2017 to June 2018. Intermittent and limited access was gained in the second half of 2018 but the ability of development and humanitarian organisations to collect and verify population data or conduct needs assessments remained very limited. The conflict that began in November 2018 resulted in further restrictions on development partners' access to affected populations.

Rakhine Programme

LIFT's activities on economic and social development in Rakhine State are in line with the Rakhine Advisory Commission's recommendations. Demand-driven vocational training systems, improved agricultural production through

²⁶ World Bank Group. Myanmar: Ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a time of transition. 2014.

²⁷ The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population. The Union Report: Census Report Volume 2. May 2015, p.29.

²⁸ LIFT Fund and CARE International. Myanmar. Tat Lan Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Program: Baseline Assessment. November 2014 Print.

²⁹ UNICEF. Rakhine State: A Snapshot of Child Wellbeing. 2013

³⁰ UNHCR estimation in May 2018. Access was restricted and figures are approximations.

³¹ A Joint Position of the National Protection Sector and CCCM/Shelter/NFI Cluster, March 2018.

IP	Location	Focus
Save the Children	Pauktaw	Agriculture, financial inclusion, nutrition, WASH, governance
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Minbya, Myebon	Agriculture, financial inclusion, nutrition, WASH, governance
CARE International	Kyaukpyu, Minbya, Myebon, Pauktaw	Monitoring and evaluation for the Tat Lan Programme
CARE International	Rathedaung	Food security and livelihoods
PGMF	Thandwe, Kyaukpyu, Ann, Gwa, Toungup, Myebon, Minbya, Ramree	Agricultural loan, small business loan, social loan, savings, financial literacy, and beneficiary welfare
Wanlark	Sittwe, Ponnagyun	Agricultural loan, small business loan, social loan, savings, financial literacy, and beneficiary welfare
DRC/NRC	Sittwe, Maungdaw	Vocational skills training
ILO	Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe	Vocational skills training
Mercy Corps, East-West Seed, Swisscontact	central Rakhine	Providing agriculture extension services to vegetable farmers
Yoma Bank	Rakhine State	Hire Purchase Scheme, Individual Development Accounts, Collateralised and Under-collateralise Loans
PATH	Kyauktaw, Minbya	Established fortified rice production and distribution in Rakhine
World Food Programme (WFP)	IDP camps in Rakhine State	Relief distribution of fortified rice to vulnerable groups
International Organization for Migration (IOM), University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation in partnership with Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	Sittwe, Mrauk-U, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe and Maungdaw townships	Safe and reward migration
VisionFund Myanmar	Sittwe, Kyauktaw, Mrauk U	Microfinance – access to financial services

▲ Table 3.4
LIFT-funded projects in
Rakhine 2018

protection of paddy land from salt water intrusion, mechanisation and use of better technologies, access to rural finance and socially responsible investment are key pillars of LIFT's strategy in Rakhine. LIFT's nutrition components contributed to the government's state-wide programme to combat malnutrition that began in Rakhine State in 2018.

LIFT's programming is context-specific and follows a conflict-sensitive and inclusive approach aiming to address all four of the fund's purpose-level outcomes:

- ‡ Improved policies and public expenditures
- ‡ Increased incomes of rural households
- ‡ Increased resilience of poor rural households and communities to shocks, stresses and adverse trends
- ‡ Improved nutrition of women, men and children

LIFT continues to contribute to bridging the humanitarian and development gap. LIFT is exploring programming around dignified solutions for communities affected by planned camp closures, developed through a consultation process and aligned with the Commission's recommendations.³²

The breakdown in trust between the international community and the government and Rakhine communities undermines social cohesion and humanitarian and development efforts for the people of Rakhine State. LIFT strives to be transparent about its work with all stakeholders in Rakhine and continues to seek dialogue with the Rakhine State Government, civil society and the public to raise awareness that LIFT's work is inclusive and delivers benefits for all.

Responding to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine

The attacks of August 2017 and the subsequent security operations resulted in the displacement of thousands of Rakhine within the State and almost 700,000, mostly stateless Muslim people, fled to Bangladesh. The events affected relationships among different stakeholders in Rakhine State, including within and between different ethnic communities, and with national and international actors. Events also shaped Rakhine's landscape and LIFT's way of working there.

In 2018, LIFT's partners regularly met with LIFT's Fund Board and Fund Management Office to brief both on the operational challenges and conditions for working in Rakhine State.

LIFT issued a USD 10 million call for proposals in December 2017 to ensure that humanitarian and development needs of all people in Rakhine were addressed in a coordinated way for greater stability, interdependence, prosperity and growth. The objectives of the call were aligned with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission. The call for proposals focussed on two intervention areas: access to safe livelihoods and nutrition. Applicants to the call were requested to follow operational principles that guide the actions of all international actors in Rakhine State to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to addressing identified needs of all people in Rakhine. There were eight proposals received with a total value of almost 41 million, involving 23 implementing partners. LIFT selected three proposals that

³² Recommendation # 24, 25 and 26

addressed access to safe livelihoods and nutrition in a conflict-sensitive way, submitted them to the Fund Board and received Fund Board approval in March 2018 for three projects:

- ‡ **Vision Fund Myanmar** to provide access to inclusive and sustainable financial services for communities affected by conflict
- ‡ **Save the Children International** to focus on nutrition, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) for all communities in central Rakhine
- ‡ **Danish Refugee Council/Norwegian Refugee Council** to contribute to bridging the humanitarian and development gap by providing vocational skills training for youth in IDP camps and ethnic Rakhine

Other proposals that were positively appraised were marked for future consideration when funding was available. In June 2018, LIFT's Fund Management Office (FMO) prepared and circulated a concept note Restoration of Livelihoods and Solutions for Internally Displaced People in Rakhine, which was accepted by the Fund Board, who expressed an eagerness to identify partners and design projects around camp closures and dignified solutions. UNHCR and OCHA met with LIFT's Fund Board to discuss humanitarian and development cooperation around camp closures and an IDP camp in Myebon was identified as a potential site for socially cohesive livelihoods development around a camp closure LIFT reviewed proposals submitted and in December 2018 Relief International was contracted to implement a project focussed on Myebon IDP camp and communities around Mrauk U where former IDPs had settled.

Additional funding, earmarked for programming around IDPs in Rakhine, was contributed in 2018 from the European Union (Euro 5 million).

Global Affairs Canada became a donor to LIFT in February 2019 committing CAD 16 million for three years, earmarked to LIFT's Rakhine Programme to achieve LIFT's ongoing commitment to the needs and rights of vulnerable communities, contribute to social cohesion and strengthen promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2019–2023 phase of LIFT.

Adaptive responses to constraints in 2018

In 2018, the implementation of development programmes in some areas was heavily constrained by the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the government, particularly in northern Rakhine State. Some gains were made in the second half of 2018 when intermittent approvals for access were granted. Partners adapted their approaches in response to the constraints throughout the year.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) received government endorsement in the second half of 2018 to work with the state's Vocational Education and Training Department, conducted a Labour Market Study and began TVET courses for Muslim and Buddhist beneficiaries in northern Rakhine State. In January 2019, ILO's access was again restricted.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reallocated their target communities to Sittwe Township after the crisis in August 2017. Both partners maintained an operational presence in Maungdaw by keeping offices open with a minimum number of local staff. Other DRC and NRC staff received permission to travel to Maungdaw in May 2018 for the first time since August 2017. The authorisation was for a 4-mile radius around Maungdaw. DRC and NRC were able to identify 10 villages in northern Rakhine with a mix of ethnic groups and planned to resume activities with the support of a small number of Muslim staff in their Maungdaw office in June. However, travel authorisation remained a problem. The project received a no-cost extension until December 2018 for reallocation of funding and target beneficiaries to central Rakhine.

Since August 2017, CARE was unable to access its northern Rakhine livelihoods and food security project area in Rathedaung Township. In early 2018, LIFT's Fund Board agreed to suspend the project with six-weeks' notice. FMO sent a formal letter to CARE in February, 2018 and the project was suspended started from April, 2018. CARE was not able to resume activities and the project ended in December 2018. CARE could also not gain access to their Tat Lan monitoring and evaluation project in Myebon, Minbya and Pauktaw Townships in central Rakhine. They formulated a new methodology for the study on the Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) and they collected the quantitative data by conducting key informant interviews by telephone.

The Tat Lan II project experienced anti-INGO sentiments from some local communities after the violence of August 2017, as did other implementing partners. Tat Lan II's implementing partners, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Save the Children, closed their offices for several weeks as a result. When work was able to resume it was still constrained by difficulties in obtaining travel authorisation for international staff. Both partners worked to engage and re-build relationships with communities and authorities. Save the Children worked with the General Administration Department (GAD) and Township Health Departments in Pauktaw, Minbya and Myebon Townships to obtain access to the 80 implementation villages, which was achieved by June 2018. IRC conducted several training activities for government staff, Village Administrators and CSOs in 2018. As a result, relationships between village community and township authorities improved during the year.

Partners working in central Rakhine were less affected by access restrictions and could continue their activities throughout 2018. A new financial services project implemented by VisionFund began operations in three central Rakhine townships in 2018.

Despite restrictions, LIFT was able to gain permission for international consultants visit Rakhine and access IDP camps for their planned activities on mid-term reviews, field monitoring visits and programme development work. All LIFT's FMO travel authorisation requests to Rakhine were granted in 2018.

Highlights

Technical and vocational education

The [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)/ Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)'s Vocational Training and Livelihoods Opportunities](#) project accepted new batches of students in April 2018. The project trained 338 youth in mobile life skills training, 297 youth in mobile vocational skills training, and 197 youth in vocational skills at youth education programme centres by certified trainers in IDP camps in Sittwe in 2018. During a no cost extension period (June to December 2018) the consortium relocated to 20 villages and finalised the trainings on-going in camps. New project areas were assessed through a conflict-sensitive lens. Market surveys were conducted to identify vocational needs in selected villages and to mobilise out of school and jobless youths to register for the trainings. Participants were selected based on vulnerability criteria assessed using an institutional scoring system. DRC increased the number of training courses offered from four to 19 and introduced complementary soft skills training including literacy and basic information technology courses.

During the no-cost extension period 3,800 youths were trained in life skills; 1,813 youths were trained in mobile vocational skills training by certified trainers; 1,290 youths were trained in vocational skills; 43 trainers received capacity building training, and each coach-mentor conducted an average of 30 beneficiary household visits.

The [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) supports three government vocational training schools. The start-up of the project was delayed due to recruitment of staff and ILO's considerations about when and how to engage in Rakhine post-August 2017 as their project entails a direct collaboration with the Rakhine State Government to design a technical and vocational education and training (TVET) strategy. ILO recruited a Senior Technical Advisor to run the project in Sittwe in January 2018 and established the TVET Coordination Group in Sittwe. Negotiations with government at various levels led to the ILO being informed in August 2018 that the Union Minister for Education had endorsed the start of technical and vocational training on motorcycle repair and servicing in Maungdaw Township for Muslim students and students from other ethnic groups. ILO began working closely with the Rakhine Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) on conducting a Labour Market Study and assessments of Government Technical Institutes (GTI) and Government Technical High Schools (GTHS) in Rakhine State, and delivering the course in northern Rakhine State.

Read a case study from ILO on page 80

Investment in technical and vocational training in Rakhine is an investment in the future of the state. It will be young students trained in relevant skills, ideally with access to finance to start up new businesses, who will provide the opportunity for the economic regeneration of Rakhine State. It will also be these young people who can embody peace building at a community level when given the opportunity to learn together and break down suspicion and

mistrust. For the full potential of these interventions to be realised some fundamental shifts in current national and state policy are required to prioritise community-integrated technical and vocational education, and to remove the security constraints on the state's economy.

Nutrition

The [Tat Lan](#) project implemented by the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#) and [Save the Children](#) continued its maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and social and behaviour change communications (SBCC) activities in 2018. A survey of breastfeeding women in March 2018 found a significant improvement in the knowledge of women regarding optimal Infant and Young Child Feed Practices (IYCF). In 2018, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) launched an MCCT programme across all townships of Rakhine State. Save the Children provided technical support in Rakhine State and Nay Pyi Taw and is part of the Technical Reference Group for this government-led MCCT. Save the Children and IRC worked with DSW and volunteers to avoid overlap with Tat Lan beneficiaries and ensure full coverage. Meetings between the Tat Lan Programme and DSW at national and state level in May and June 2018, resulted in better synchronisation between the Government's MCCT effort and the Tat Lan MCCT activities. DSW took over the payment of women enrolled in the Tat Lan project after July 2018.

The nutritional outcomes of the project were complemented by the infrastructure, and water, sanitation and hygiene work that the project undertook. More than 82km of embankments were renovated, benefitting community members from 26 villages by protecting more than 9,000 acres of rice paddy fields from saltwater intrusion and floods, and by providing cash for work to more than 4,000 beneficiaries who worked on the embankments, injecting around MMK 715,000,000 (USD 500,000) into communities.

During the project's implementation, more than 4,700 household latrines, 90 school latrines and four Pauk Taw market latrines were constructed. The household latrines were provided to 30 per cent of the most vulnerable households of each target village. This work was complemented with hygiene promotion with 6,650 households.

With the disruption to agricultural production and the rural economy that the security situation in Rakhine has caused, the importance of livelihood interventions, such as cash for work and maternal and child cash transfers, as well as supply side interventions, become increasingly vital to maintaining basic nutritional standards among vulnerable populations.

In 2018, another of LIFT's partners, PATH, engaged with two rice millers in Rakhine State in Kyauktaw and Minbya Townships to produce fortified rice. By the end of 2018, the two rice millers had received blending units and government site visits for FDA approval were expected in early 2019. Population Services International (PSI) conducted demand generation and market promotion activities in Sittwe. Mya, a fortified rice producer from Yangon began introducing fortified rice to the Sittwe retail market in June 2018.

The World Food Programme procured fortified rice and distributed 305 metric tonnes of fortified rice to more than 10,000 beneficiaries in six IDP camps in Sittwe, Rakhine.

Financial inclusion

As part of the Tat Lan II project, IRC and Save the Children continued support for voluntary savings and loan associations (VSLA). At the end of May 2018, CARE and Save the Children's financial inclusion team started work designing a comprehensive evaluation of Tat Lan-supported VSLA groups across all townships throughout the project period since 2013.

Read a case study from IRC on [page 80](#)

The LIFT-funded Yoma Bank Agribusiness Finance Program (AFP) project supports farmers, entrepreneurs and agri-businesses in Myanmar by providing hire purchase financial services for agricultural machinery and equipment. By the end of 2018, 18 leases were issued in Rakhine, mostly for four-wheel tractors, enabling smallholder farmers to increased efficiency in agricultural cultivation at a time when conflict reduced the availability of agricultural labour.

The financial inclusion projects implemented by Pact Global Microfinance (PGMF) in eight townships of Rakhine (Gwa, Kyaukphyu, Toungup, Thandwe, Ann, Myaybone, Minbya and Ramree) and Wanlark in Sittwe and Ponnagyun Townships were less affected by the violence that began in August 2017 and they continued to expend their delivery of microfinance services without disruption. In January 2018, PGMF had 12,000 clients and by July had 71,000 active clients.

A new financial inclusion project began in 2018, implemented by VisionFund Myanmar to provide services to internally-displaced Muslim people in the Sittwe IDP camps and to Muslim and ethnic Rakhine villagers in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U Townships. VisionFund received approval from the Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) in Nay Pyi Taw in July 2018 to expand into Rakhine and conduct area assessments.

Migration

Labour migration is becoming a key-driver of a rural transition in Rakhine and an 'out-of-village' movement of a working-age population is observed.³³ However, the LIFT-funded Capitalizing Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development for Myanmar (CHIME) study, implemented by the International Office for Migration (IOM), University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population produced a number of insights on labour migration patterns in Rakhine state, showing that migration is particularly risky and not always beneficial.

The report points to several contributing factors to the inter-communal tensions and conflict.

- ‡ A key driver of migration in Rakhine is a lack of job opportunities at home: only 37 per cent of migrants from Rakhine were in paid work prior to migration.
- ‡ Well-developed brokerage networks facilitate international migration, but few safe migration options are available, particularly for migration to Malaysia.

- ‡ Migrants from Rakhine have a much higher probability of being in precarious employment with irregular income than migrants from other regions.
- ‡ Rakhine migrants have a lower incidence of sending remittances home and they also remit less money than migrants from other regions, which is likely related to the irregularity of their income.
- ‡ Rakhine is also exceptional in that households with migrants do not have better welfare than households without migrants, which was true for both internal and international migrants from elsewhere in Myanmar.

Looking ahead

A second phase of the vocational skills training project implemented by DRC and NRC contracted in December 2018 will provide vocational skills training in Muslim IDP camps in Sittwe and in central Rakhine and will include adjacent ethnic Rakhine villages.

A nutrition project and livelihoods programme implemented by Save the Children was contracted in December 2018, with a total budget of USD 5.56 million. The main activities are:

- ‡ Nutrition (SBCC & advocacy for improving supply of quality WASH services)
- ‡ Livelihoods (cash for work, financial education training, business skills development, life skills)
- ‡ INGO Initiative

The proposed project areas are two IDP camps in Sittwe, four IDP camps in Pauktaw, 25 villages in Pauktaw and eight villages in Mrauk U.

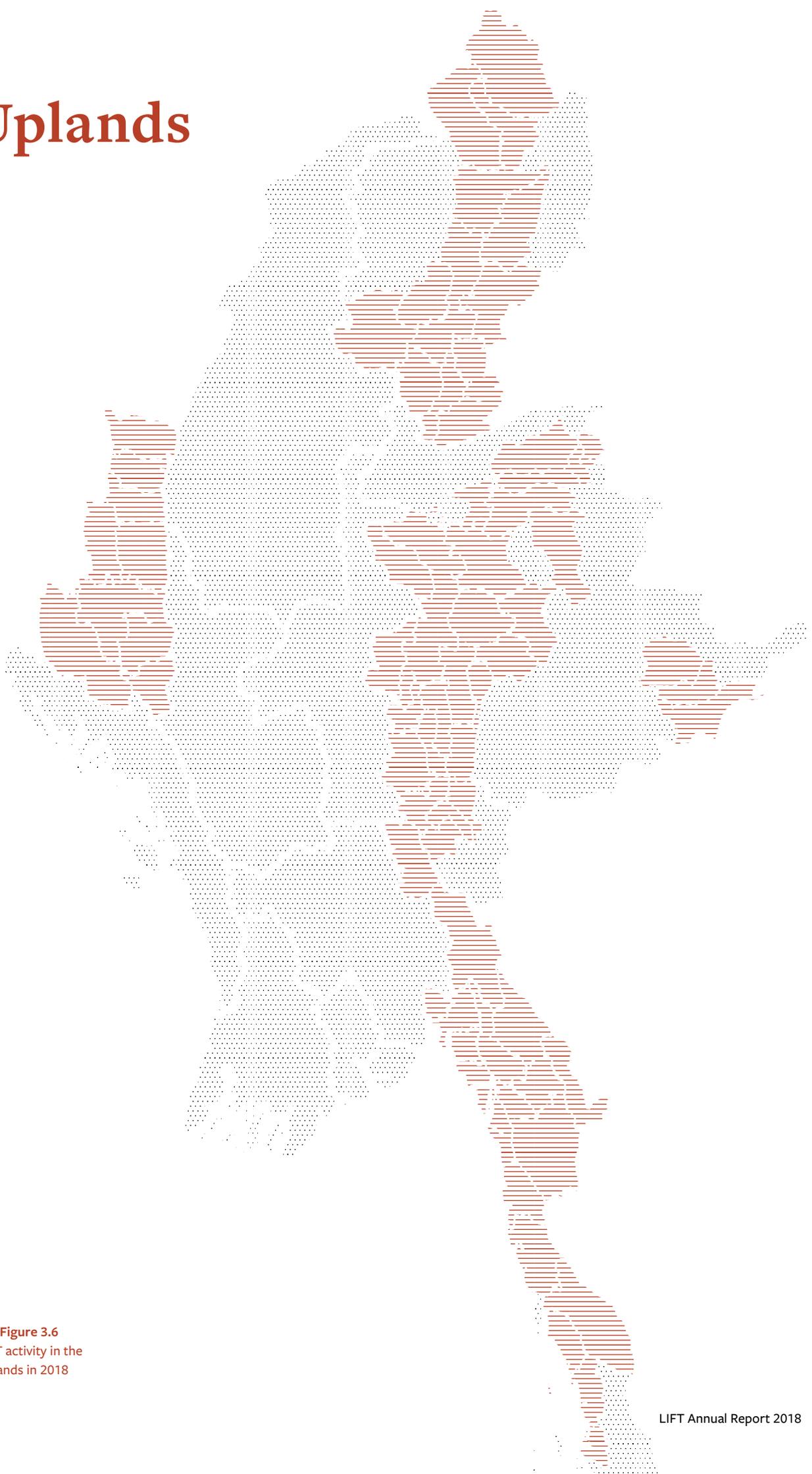
The International Rescue Committee's project was also extended to continue work in the Tat Lan project.

Relief International (RI) was contracted in December 2018 to implement a project focused on social cohesion and access to services around the Myebon IDP camp and Mrauk-U, with a total budget of around USD 3 million. The project will focus on:

- ‡ Strengthened livelihoods and social cohesion
- ‡ Support for IDP camp resettlement processes and dignified solutions
- ‡ Protection monitoring and mechanisms

It is clear from programme implementation experiences in 2018 that the success of many development interventions depends on the cooperation of government in allowing access to villages by development actors, promoting cross-community contact, and facilitation of local economic development. The security situation in Rakhine remains a major constraint to effective programming and negotiations at the state and national levels for meaningful peace and development remain critical.

3.4 Uplands



▲ Figure 3.6
LIFT activity in the
Uplands in 2018

Context

Myanmar's Upland region covers 55 per cent of the country's total surface area and is home to over 13 million people.³⁴ LIFT's Uplands Programme operates in Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, and in Tanintharyi Region. The ethnic and political make-up of the uplands is diverse and includes armed groups with different territorial claims. The uplands has a large diversity of issues and conditions in terms of access and economic development. In hilly and mountainous areas, the headcount rate of poverty is among the highest in the country, with 40 per cent of people in these areas classified in the highest segments of poverty intensity and severity indexes, consistent with substantial food poverty.³⁵

Malnutrition rates also vary across the upland areas. Stunting affects 41 per cent of children aged under five in Chin State and around 26 per cent of children under five in Kayin State.³⁶ Pockets of high malnutrition are not uncommon within areas with relatively low levels of malnutrition. For example, the prevalence of malnutrition in Thandaunggyi Township in Kayin State is much higher than the state average: around 53 per cent of children are stunted, 15 per cent show wasting and around one-third are underweight. Stunting levels are above 40 per cent in all sub-townships, and are high among all income groups.³⁷

In remote mountainous and forested areas with low population density, smallholder subsistence farming dominates agriculture production. Rice and maize cultivation in traditional rotating fallow systems (shifting cultivation) is common, although some communities are beginning to adopt terracing and irrigation, allowing for multiple crops over the course of one year. Some smallholders are investing in perennial crops and commercial vegetable production. Households in remote areas, where infrastructure is limited, face significant challenges accessing health and education public services, extension services, finance, markets for agriculture products, economic development opportunities, as well as knowledge and skills.

LIFT's Uplands Programme

LIFT's partners in the Uplands Programme are active across a large and diverse area in 41 townships across six states and one region. They deliver interventions related to the key programme components:

- ‡ Pro-poor financial services
- ‡ Agriculture extension and value chain development
- ‡ Sustainable natural resource management
- ‡ Skills training
- ‡ Nutrition
- ‡ Migration
- ‡ Capacity building for local stakeholders

Partners endeavour to create synergies across these components and to adapt approaches to the local context, particularly in terms of conflict sensitivity, gender and nutrition. The programme focuses on three areas:

- ‡ In Chin State, there is a strong focus on nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension, in close collaboration with the government.

- ‡ In Shan State, the focus is on financial inclusion, agriculture market-based approaches and private sector partnerships.
- ‡ In the south-east, where there are ceasefire agreements, the priority is on engaging multiple stakeholders, including government and ethnic armed groups, to transition from a humanitarian context to longer-term development strategies, and to create new opportunities for internally displaced people.

Highlights

Nutrition

Chin MCCT

In 2017, with LIFT funding and support, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR), through the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), implemented a statewide nutrition maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) programme in line with the National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP) in Chin State. The overarching objective of this Chin nutrition programme is to improve nutritional outcomes for all mothers and children in Chin State during the first 1,000 days of life, from conception to two years.

A baseline survey was conducted across Chin State at the beginning of the programme to provide the basis for measuring and evaluating the outcomes of the programme over time. Internationally accepted indicators on nutrition, infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF) and health seeking behaviours were assessed. The report of the baseline survey was finalised in February 2018 with the endorsement of DSW. Findings from the survey confirmed that levels of stunting among children under five (37 per cent) were still significantly above the national average in Myanmar of 29 per cent, highlighting the need for interventions that improve nutritional outcomes for mothers and children.

Low income households fare less well on most indicators. However, some nutritional outcomes, like wasting, are not linked to income levels, confirming the need for the universal coverage approach taken by the government programme.

Decisions on health and nutrition spending in households are seldom made by women alone.

Chin remains one of the poorest regions in Myanmar, and adequate household food provisioning is still lower than the national average. Dietary diversity is low. While most children receive the recommended number of meals per day, there is a sharp decrease in adequate meal frequency for children aged 12–23 months.

Children below the age of two who are still being breastfed are significantly less likely to be stunted and suffer less from infectious diseases. Breastfeeding rates for children under 12 months are high but breastfeeding rates drop significantly for children aged 12–23 months. One-third of respondents think breastfeeding should stop at six months of age.

Remoteness impacts on nutrition outcomes, particularly health seeking behaviours. The lack of access to health services has a significant impact on good knowledge and practices related to nutrition.

Findings from the Chin baseline survey led to several recommendations about the need for

³⁴ Twenty-six per cent of the population: this number is based on the census of 2014, which considers the 'Uplands' as the following states and regions of Myanmar: Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Tanintharyi. There is a significant proportion of people in some of these states living in lowlands and coastal areas. There are also significant numbers of people living in Upland areas of other states and regions that were not included in the 2014 census definition

³⁵ An Analysis of Poverty in Myanmar, Part 2, December 2017, World Bank Group

³⁶ Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015–2016, MoHS

³⁷ Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor in Northern Kayin State: Nutritional Causal Analysis, Consortium of Dutch NGO's (CDN), World Concern Myanmar (WCM), Cordaid October 2016–January 2017

IP	Location	Focus
Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) in consortium with Cordaid and World Concern Myanmar Partners: Karen Baptist Convention (KBC) and KMSS	Thandaunggyi in Kayin State	Supporting agriculture extension, value chain development, natural resource management, land rehabilitation and irrigation. Providing nutrition education, WASH and infrastructure. Building capacity of CBO and CSO.
Metta Development Foundation	Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw in Kachin State, Lashio, Namtu in Shan State	Supporting agriculture extension, oil value chain development and natural resource management
GRET	Bogale, Maylmyainggyun in Delta; Monywa, Myin Mee Laung, Yinmabin in Dry Zone; Yangon, Mandalay urban areas	Land research project: Study about rural land issues in Myanmar in order to understand how land tenure security links with livelihoods
Choklei Organisation for Rural and Agricultural Development (CORAD) Partner: GRET	Falam, Hakha, Tedim, Tonzang, Thantlang in Chin State	Providing agriculture extension services, nutrition education, developing agricultural value chains, natural resource management
Department of Social Welfare (DSW)	All townships in Chin State	Nutrition social behaviour change communication and maternal and child cash transfers during the first 1000 days
Save the Children Partners: Danish Red Cross, International Rescue Committee	All townships in Chin State	Supporting the department of public health to provide regular nutrition training and awareness to mothers, formative research and support DSW to design a nutrition SBCC strategy, support to DSW monitoring systems
TAG International Partners: Department of Apiculture, Parami Development Network (PDN)	Kalaw, Lawksawk, Naungshwe, Pindaya, Taunggyi in Shan State, Loikaw in Kayah State	Vocational training for new beekeepers, introducing improved beekeeping practices and quality honey market development. Institutional strengthening of PBSE, Plan Bee Social Enterprise
Karen Development Network (KDN) Partners: Convenant Consult and Tanintharyi Karen Peace Support Initiative (TKPSI)	Dawei, Palaw, Thayetchaung in Tanintharyi Region	Establishing a vocational training centre, supporting natural resource management and strengthening the resilience of IDP communities
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) Partners: Cornell	Hakha in Chin State	Strengthening of Agricultural and Educational Institutions Farm-based Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Extension Capacity Building for Good Nutrition Practices
SWISSAID Partners: Metta Development Foundation and GRET	Falam, Hakha, Tedim in Chin State, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Waingmaw in Kachin State, Lashio, Hopong, Hsihseng, Kutkai, Hseni, Pindaya, Pekhoh in Shan, Loikaw, Demoso in Kayah State	Township funds; small grant support to local CSOs, capacity building, community-driven livelihoods interventions, advocacy and engagement with government, non-state local government authorities and the private sector
The Border Consortium Partners: Back Pack Health Worker Team, Human Rights Foundation of Monland, Karen Department of Health and Welfare, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network, Karen Human Right Group, Karen Office of Relief and Development, Karen Women Organisation, Tanintharyi River Indigenous People Network	Hlaingbwe, Hpaan, Hpapun, Kyinseikkyi, Thandaunggyi in Kayin State, Bilin, Kyaikhto, Ye, Mawlamyine in Mon State, Dawei, Yebyu in Tanintharyi Region	Natural resource management and agriculture extension; farm land and community forestry registration; nutrition education, WASH; social protection and community strengthening, gender sensitisation

▲ **Table 3.5**
LIFT-funded projects in
the Uplands 2018

delivery of nutrition-awareness education to help women and their families understand how to achieve good nutrition and know what they need to change to ensure they give their children the best start in life. Messaging needs to focus on the importance of dietary diversity, correct breastfeeding practices and the importance of seeking adequate health care during pregnancy. Delivering social and behaviour change communications to all populations, including the most remote, is one of the programme's most significant challenges.

Registration of pregnant women under the Chin MCCT programme across all nine townships in Chin State started in June 2017 and continues on a monthly basis. The first cash transfers to women who registered in June and July were paid in mid-October 2017, after some initial delays. Women receive MMK 15,000 (USD 10.40) per month, paid bi-monthly by cash transfer through the village tract administrator. By the end of 2018, six rounds of payments were disbursed to a total of 26,917 beneficiaries.

DSW conducted two rounds of post-distribution monitoring supported by Save the Children in the design of the tools and training of case managers.

The findings of the second post-distribution monitoring are positive overall. Bi-monthly cash transfers were collected regularly by 91 per cent of beneficiaries. Advance information about the payment date and venue reached 89 per cent of the MCCT beneficiaries, and waiting time at payment sites was reduced with 71 per cent of beneficiaries collecting their cash within 30 minutes after reaching the payment point. Almost all (94 per cent) of beneficiary women say they make decisions themselves on how the cash is used. There are clear indications from the post-distribution monitoring that cash is being used to purchase quantities of a variety of food items that are consumed by women and children. Global evidence suggests that giving cash to women has a positive impact on the wellbeing of women and children as women tend to spend more on the food and immediate needs of children.

The insights and reflections collected through post-distribution monitoring highlighted to DSW's social protection team what needed to be addressed, such as programme communication, regularity of SBCC awareness sessions, and raising awareness about the complaints and feedback mechanisms with the general public and beneficiaries. There are some additional issues that need further exploration, such as cash being spent on infant milk formula and non-nutritious snacks. These issues will be examined in detail in the formative evaluation to be conducted in early 2019.

Supporting social behaviour change

The Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program (**TEAM MCCT**) project, which is implemented by **Save the Children**, **Danish Red Cross**, and the **International Rescue Committee**, improves the nutrition-sensitivity of DSW's MCCT programme by addressing demand-side barriers to optimal nutrition, particularly lack of knowledge about optimal maternal, infant and young child nutrition, health, and hygiene. These barriers are addressed through social and behaviour

change communication activities. The TEAM MCCT project also supports DSW monitor and learn from the MCCT programme.

Despite a short implementation cycle of only two years and delays in approvals for training, the project ramped up SBCC activities rapidly after the first year and was particularly efficient in the last six months of 2018.³⁸

The project finalised the SBCC Strategy and Action Plan in July 2018 and developed state-specific action plans. Formative research to identify infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and the reasons for them in Chin State was conducted. This research provides evidence that will be used to revise the Chin State SBCC Action Plan.

The project worked to strengthen health systems with training and provision of SBCC materials. A major activity was support to the community infant and young child feeding (c-IYCF) training of trainers for Chin State. This training was implemented by the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) for 74 per cent of basic health staff in six townships in Chin State. TEAM MCCT used the c-IYCF training to train its staff and began the process of rolling out training to volunteers. Other major training activities involved mother-to-mother support groups, orientation and mobilisation training for 48 per cent of basic health staff in three townships and 48 per cent of volunteers in Chin State.

Nutrition awareness sessions are conducted in many villages but regular monthly sessions are not conducted in all villages. The project reports that 59 per cent of village volunteers, who are auxiliary midwives and community health workers, are leading monthly nutrition awareness sessions with mother-to-mother support groups. TEAM MCCT conducted a useful survey of villages in Chin State and determined that 58 per cent of villages had functioning mother-to-mother support groups holding at least one nutrition awareness session every three months. This survey provides a good starting point to tracking community activities on nutrition and will be useful for discussing coverage of mother-to-mother support groups with the Ministry of Health and Sports and DSW.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)'s Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE) project focuses on increasing sustainable farm production and improving dietary diversity. CRS works with farmers to improve the productivity of their maize and bean crops as well as their home gardens, and delivers information to farmers and communities about the benefits of a diverse diet. The project fosters mutual support between beneficiary groups and increased access to vegetables from home gardens and farm production.

The Karuna Mother Groups and the Lead Mother-Neighbour Women Groups are established and are mostly working well. They appear to have achieved significant nutrition knowledge and practice benefits for most pregnant and breastfeeding women with children in the first 1,000 days window, despite initial low levels of community understanding and support. During 2018, the PACE project reached almost 2,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women through 275 Karuna Mother's Group meetings and counselling sessions on 11 key

³⁸ Final project evaluation, Rae Galloway

nutrition practices. A total of 1,714 participants joined 205 cooking demonstrations across the 60 target villages, learning about complimentary feeding and nutritious food preparation techniques. Eight consultative workshops on improving nutrition were held and reached 167 church and community leaders. Community leaders received continued support through quarterly nutrition bulletins with messages they were encouraged to share with their communities and congregations.

The project conducted two Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) Surveys to assess the adoption of nutrition behaviours among pregnant and breastfeeding women. Results showed high performance of the project in enhancing women's knowledge and adoption of essential nutrition and hygiene actions, and identified additional work to be done to strengthen the enabling environment.

The project conducted a study on the agriculture activities promoted to complement the nutrition social and behaviour change component and found that vegetable gardens and fields were diverse with at least 45 different species of crops currently being grown. However, there is a high degree of heterogeneity between villages, so these crops vary widely between villages. Based on baseline survey data, mothers and children consume protein-rich and vitamin A-rich foods at very different rates. While mothers consume vitamin A-rich foods 88 per cent of the time, children 6–23 months are consuming these foods only 47 per cent of the time, indicating that vitamin A-rich foods, especially dark green leafy vegetables, are available in communities but are not regularly consumed by children. Protein-rich foods were less commonly consumed by both groups—53 per cent of mothers and 43 per cent of children consumed these foods in the past 24 hours. Farmers highlighted a large number of crops used for income generation. Recommendations from the study included:

- | Focusing on protein-rich crops to address the protein needs of mothers and children.
- | Farmers would benefit greatly if there was a way for exchanging ideas between villages to take advantage of the different livelihood strategies practiced across Chin State.
- | Supporting seed systems and grain storage could help build linkages between farmers and build on project successes in hermetic seed storage.
- | Additional crops could be considered to supplement food availability and accessibility.
- | Strengthening agricultural value chains in upland areas

An objective of the Uplands Programme is to increase partners' knowledge and capacities related to agricultural value chains. In 2018, CORAD, Metta and CDN teams received support to conduct value chain analyses and design value chain interventions.

A common element in the agricultural programmes across the portfolio of projects is the establishment of farmer-based organisations. This is based on the notion that aggregation of smallholder farmers has the benefit of leveraging their access to markets and services, thereby improving their bargaining power along with creating greater equity. It also provides the opportunity for greater engagement with the private sector and the development

of farmer-based enterprises that become players in the market.

CORAD's Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State

project works with producer group members to increase their income by achieving better sale prices. Producer groups are organised and work to improve their access to markets for grape, onion, tree bean and elephant foot yam. They are supported to acquire the necessary management, marketing and technical skills to effectively link producers and buyers.

Grape is an important cash crop in several villages of Tedim and Falam Townships in Chin State where there is considerable experience with the crop. In some cases, farmers have grown grapes for more than 25 years. There is potential for improvement at all stages of the value chain (production quality and quantity, wine processing and marketing). Current wine production is mainly absorbed by Chin consumers, and the Chin product has no short-term possibility of competing with professional wineries in Shan State in terms of quality. Transportation costs are a key constraint. CORAD's approach is to form producer groups with farmers interested in improvements, which will analyse the value chain constraints and opportunities and bring producers, buyers and processors together in workshops to understand each other's costs and constraints and initiate negotiation and improvement initiatives. Producer groups develop their own action plans for long-term development. The project has promoted the formation of 11 producer groups with 259 producers.

The step-by-step approach with limited initial investments is minimising risk. Initial gains are realistically focused on opportunities for achieving better margins for producers through mutual arrangements on pricing based on quantity through group marketing and low cost quality management. Grape producer groups initiated price negotiation with buyers, particularly wine processors from Kalay. They agreed on prices for the 2018 harvest and will trade without intermediary brokers. Training on pruning, compost, integrated pest management, and study visits to other producing regions of the country were held.

Metta's Uplands Food Security and Participation in Markets

project intended to develop a new edible oil for the local market as an alternative to 'fake oils' sold by Chinese traders in northern Shan State, which are mostly mixed with palm oil and chemicals. Metta reintroduced peanut and mustard cultivation that had reduced in the area as corn cropping expanded, and set up farmer-led enterprises for processing organic, pure oil. The project created 58 value chain producer groups and associated farmer field schools. In 2018, more than 1,000 producers (34 per cent of them women) received training in the production of groundnuts and mustard. These producer groups were aggregated into six boards of directors (four in Kachin and two in northern Shan State) that oversaw the joint management of six oil processing mills. In 2018, the business model for these small and medium enterprises was restructured to represent producer groups and shareholders in the oil extraction enterprise.

Producers provide the raw material to the mill, and with the new shareholder scheme, farmers are given the option of buying up to 10 shares in the enterprise at a cost of MMK 50,000 (USD 35) per share. Shareholders are eligible to receive annual dividends based on the profits generated through the sale of groundnut and mustard oil. Currently the Kachin enterprises are regularly selling through 33 permanent wholesalers and 27 retailers in seven townships.

Building the skills and competencies in business management and marketing of these collective agro-enterprises are still at a nascent stage and will require continued support and mentoring to ensure that these are viable business models. Robust and comprehensive business plans will be developed and market opportunities explored to engage more fully with the private sector in 2019. Unrest in Kachin and northern Shan State have restricted business development and enhanced community forest activities.

SNV, under contract with CDN, conducted a cardamom value chain analysis in 2017, which confirmed that cardamom was an important crop with a steady market. Black cardamom is a neglected crop in Myanmar although it is a major income source for the farmers in Thandawngyi area of Kayin State, with a production volume of about 3.4 tons and trade value of USD 14 million annually. Improvement in cardamom quality is fundamental to the value chain's sustainability and increased profits. The project installed two multi-crop dryers as a pilot, to assess the impact of drying on cardamom product quality and whether the dryers could also be used for turmeric as a secondary crop. During 2018, SNV conducted an assessment to evaluate and review learnings from the dryer installations, involvement of the target self-help groups, and issues and concerns raised by other stakeholders. The analysis concluded that, while expensive by the standards of the beneficiary communities, the improved dryers were financially sound investments. However, the cost, lack of adequate market information, low perceived utility, and unclear governance are currently significant hurdles to the widespread adoption that would be necessary to ensure payback and profitability. Based on the experience from these two dryers, SNV introduced another affordable dryer design that is successfully operated in Laos. The construction cost for this dryer is only USD 550 using locally available materials. The cardamom season will start in October/November and SNV will record and evaluate the economic performance of the three dryer designs.

The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) is in an advanced stage of being formally registered at the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The MSP aims to operate under the official name of Myanmar Chin Pau Hparlar (MCPH). A formal organisational structure, mission, vision and strategic plan have been put in place. The MSP regularly comes together to tackle issues and concerns in the cardamom value chain. It has built relationships with relevant institutions such as the Department of Agriculture (DoA), the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVPEA).

The MSP's lobby effort led to two policy announcements from the government on the cardamom value chain that directly benefits the stakeholders. The government's recognition that cardamom has high economic potential for the country led to it being declared a priority crop for government support. This was a result of policy dialogues with the MSP, UMFCCI, the Department of Commerce and Industry, and the Department of Agriculture. Another policy change was the declaration of cardamom as an agriculture crop instead of a non-timber forest product (NTFP), which paved the way for reducing taxes for farmers.

Financial inclusion

The LIFT-funded Yoma-AFP project supported farmers and entrepreneurs in the Kachin, Mon, Shan States and Tanintharyi Region by providing hire purchase financial services for agricultural machinery and equipment since January 2016. In the period January–December 2018, 98 leases were issued to clients who bought farm machinery from 10 equipment dealers through seven Yoma Bank branches in the Shan State and Tanintharyi Region. There were 94 four-wheel tractors worth a total of USD 2.5 million, two combine harvesters and two agricultural vehicles. Other smallholder farmers access these machines through rental services provided by the AFP clients. Since the programme began in 2016, 309 leases have been issued worth USD 6.8 million in upland areas. A total of 72 maize traders from Shan State have been received USD 9.12 million as the seasonal overdraft loan from Yoma Bank's AFP un(der)secured loan products, which indirectly impacted 14,400 smallholder farmers during the 2017 and 2018 maize production seasons.

Michigan State University (MSU) research examines the rapid agricultural mechanisation that has occurred in southern Shan State, particularly since 2013.³⁹ The majority of farmers are using agricultural machinery for land preparation, planting and threshing in maize and pigeon pea cultivation. Growth in the use of machines is attributable in large part to the development of private rental services, which have made agricultural machinery available to farms of all sizes, resulting in remarkably even uptake. Unlike in other areas of the country, real agricultural wages have not increased much over the past five years in southern Shan State, and thus do not appear to be a major driver of mechanisation in southern Shan. Convenience, availability, and price have been more important factors. However, migrant flows are growing, making it likely that labour will increasingly become scarce and wages will rise more rapidly in the coming years. This scenario is likely to create more demand for the mechanisation of labor-intensive activities such as weeding and harvesting.

LIFT also supports microfinance institutions working in Upland areas. By December 2018, around 235,000 clients had received microfinance loans worth around USD 56 million. Ninety per cent of these clients are women. VisionFund Myanmar provides financial services to people living in IDP camps in Kachin State. Eight IDP camps have been established in Waing Maw Township since 2012,

³⁹ AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN SOUTHERN SHAN STATE, February 2019 FEED the FUTURE programme

with 50 to 120 households in each camp. Sixty per cent of the IDP population is Kachin, 30 per cent Shan and 10 per cent Burmese, Palaung and other minorities. Sixty-five per cent are elderly or children. Working age people can leave the camps to work in nearby villages, jade mines and farming businesses. Up to December 2018, VisionFund had provided financial services to 388 households with a portfolio outstanding of around USD 78,738,700 in seven camps, covering up to 26 per cent of total households in IDP camps, with the average loan size of USD 173. Women received 64 per cent of the loans. More than 80 per cent of the loans were invested in small businesses, primarily for livestock, 20 per cent were for clients' children's education or health needs.

Natural resource management

Access to land, water, forests and other natural resources are fundamental to upland households' and communities' food security, resilience and economic potential. Forests are an important part of upland agro-ecosystems used in shifting cultivation, harvesting of wild foods and valuable products, and for the role they play in watershed protection. In many parts of the uplands the forest environments are under stress and local communities are unable to develop sustainable management practices due to unclear and contested rights. Lack of land tenure and legal security for accessing natural resources limits farmers' ability to extract the economic benefits linked to natural resources. This component of the Uplands Programme supports smallholder farmers and local communities to secure their rights to access natural resources and strengthen their capacity to invest in, and manage them, sustainably.

The Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State project implemented by CORAD and partners focuses on the diversification and intensification of small-scale farming systems through a range of interventions. The **slash and mulch** technique introduced as an innovative approach to replace the traditional slash and burn systems common across the uplands of Southeast Asia continues to be adopted with the number of adopters in the second year of implementation increasing to 547 farmers in 58 villages. A key factor driving the high level of adoption is the increase in crop yields, on average an increase of 40 per cent compared to the traditional slash and burn approach. Much of the increase in yield is associated with changes in soil moisture, effective weed control and improved soil attributes. This is a climate smart intervention that has resilience and mitigation elements. The project promoted the use of quality rice seed to ensure homogeneity and uniformity of rice crops with over 190 farmers adopting the use of quality seed in their production systems and achieving average yield increases of 58 per cent through this intervention. The introduction of selected elements of rice intensification systems, including uniform spacing with one to two seedlings transplanted per station and early weeding, resulted in increases in rice yields of between 45 and 72 per cent. Chin farmers commonly cultivate 1 – 2 acres of rice as a

single crop and are well suited to adopting modified approaches to rice intensification systems. By the end of 2018, 351 farmers had trialed the technique. More than 200 farmers have adopted compost making to improve soil fertility.

The project implemented by **Metta** continues to provide support and training to 26 villages (nine in Kachin and 17 in northern Shan State) in natural resource management as part of its efforts to promote sustainable use of natural resources and associated access through the establishment of community forests. In 2018, more than 2,600 members (38 per cent of them women) were involved in natural resource management activities. Participants received training in natural resource management and agro-forestry techniques in the production and management of ginger, turmeric, and elephant foot yams as potential crops to be grown under perennial crops, like teak plantations. The project communities formed natural resource management planning teams with 312 members (37 per cent of them women) to develop natural resource management plans to protect land tenure rights and to manage local natural resources collectively and sustainably. Within the 26 villages, forest user groups have formed community forest management committees. In 2018, 5,432 acres (55 per cent in Kachin and 45 per cent in northern Shan) were under consideration for community forest designation. Navigating the judicial, administrative and technical details of the laws and regulations that apply to community forests is challenging. The community of practice held with upland partners in early 2018 titled Understanding Customary Tenure Practices and Community Forest Instruction highlighted how little coordination there was between the many governments bodies involved in the community forest system.

The Border Consortium's STAND UP project in Mon and Kayin States and in Tanintharyi Region promotes rights-based approaches to natural resource management. Over 9,500 applications for individual land claims were submitted for registration to the Karen National Union (KNU) and another 450 applications are seeking recognition under the Government's land registration process. More than 2,000 other farmers have either reclaimed their abandoned agricultural fields after years of conflict-induced displacement or improved their skills in sustainable agriculture. Farmers are supported by the project to register their farmlands through the Government's Form 7 process and the project facilitated a meeting with KNU local officials to explore options for land registration by the KNU's Agriculture Department. These lands are partly administered by the Union Government and partly by the KNU. It was agreed that some recognition by KNU would at least strengthen land claims and reduce the risk of land disputes. Upon the issuance of land use certificates through the KNU land registration process, villagers felt reassured that customary tenure rights of the local people were recognised. Ethnic communities are willing to have their customary land tenure secured under the protection of any laws or policies. As there are two different administrations prevailing in the areas, the communities find it difficult to choose and

apply land-related laws or policies that can provide legal protection to help secure their customary land tenure. They are facing challenges in practicing customary land management systems.⁴⁰

Vocational training

The opening ceremony of the newly built Community Vocational Training Centre (CVTC)⁴¹ was held in early 2018 and attended by representatives from local communities and project partners. The centre's development is led by the **Karen Development Network**, as part of the **Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People** project. The CVTC provides training in Karen language for people who do not have access to government technical schools due to age, language or resources. The centre provides free education and boarding. The curriculum is based on similar trainings in camps in Thailand and the graduates' certification is expected to be recognised in Myanmar and Thailand.

The training centre currently offers six technical training courses that have a standardised curriculum and five training batches were successfully completed in 2018. By the end of December 2018, 354 trainees (50 per cent of them women) completed a six-week training programme including life skills training. After completing training, graduates were entitled to participate in a two-week business training session to learn how to successfully run a business and acquire the skills to develop a business plan, which is a prerequisite for receiving small grants. In 2018, five batches of business training were conducted for 177 persons (52 per cent women) and business start-up grants were given to 106 beneficiaries (55 per cent women) who completed six training courses and decided to open their own businesses.

The centre reached agreement in 2018 with the National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) to become an approved NSSA skills testing centre for Tanintharyi Region and was certified to conduct testing for two years. One skills testing session was conducted at the CVTC in 2018. In this testing session, 40 trainees were tested in masonry and carpentry and 88 per cent of trainees met the requirements and were awarded NSSA—level 1 accredited certification. CVTC's work in building skills is complementary with the government's and private sector's strategy of building market-relevant skills in a number of areas. All the courses that are offered at CVTC are market relevant but only a few courses can be linked to NSSA and existing skill standards. The project plans to introduce skills testing for motorcycle repair and cooking and baking.

Supporting safe and rewarding migration in Chin State, Shan State and the South East

The **Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (Twe Let)** project delivers information and training services to migrant households through a partnership between the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), the Mon Women's Organization and Parami Development Network.

Because of the difficult road conditions within Chin State, CHRO developed a diverse strategy for conducting pre-migration outreach to increase access to information. The outreach is delivered via live theatre shows, at Migration Advisory Centres in Hakha, Thantlang, Falam, Tedim and Tonzang and safe migration promoters who operate at the village level. CHRO has reached around 12,000 beneficiaries through this approach and tracing surveys of nearly 200 beneficiaries show that 83 per cent have achieved a satisfactory migration experience.

In Shan State, Parami Development Network began delivering enterprise development training for aspiring entrepreneurs, seeking to leverage the increased financial resources of many migrant households. A training of trainers on the Start and Improve Your Business curriculum was carried out, with the support of an International Labour Organization (ILO) master trainer and training tools that were modified for the local context. Applying a participatory learning method to developing business plans, the training supported over 100 participants to start a new business or improve an existing venture.

In the South East, the Mon Women's Organization reached 166 people with skills development training. These trainings equip aspiring migrants with vocational skills to increase their employability and access to better job opportunities at their destinations. Coupling the trainings with job matching services, the Mon Women's Organization was able to link 152 of the graduates with employment opportunities. Given their specialisation in gender equality issues, the trainings have a particular focus on breaking down the highly gendered division of labour in Myanmar. The Mon Women's Organization Programme Coordinator said: "Skills development will inspire people to see that through addressing traditional gender stereotypes women and men can work at all jobs".

Strengthening civil society organisations

Local civil society organisations (CSO) and community-based organisations (CBO) play a key role in delivering services in isolated and conflict-affected areas. Most have a good contextual knowledge, having established long-lasting community-level relationships and trust with stakeholders at the township and village levels that allow them to operate across sensitive political and social borderlines.

Swissaid's Uplands Small Grants Fund for Civil Society was extended in 2018 to August 2019, in consideration of the good results achieved in 2017 and to allow further consolidation of the experience of small grant funds and better inform LIFT's work with civil society post-2018 in upland areas. Through a small grants fund system, the project provides funding to township-level, constituency-based organisations that are supporting livelihoods development. The small grants fund will also provide demand-driven and context-sensitive capacity building and opportunities for shared learning, reflection, and networking. The fund targets approximately 76 grantees: 14 in Chin, 15 in Kachin, 11 in southern Shan, 18 in northern Shan, and 18 in Kayah.

⁴⁰ Customary land Tenure and Security in Mixed Authority Areas, Case study from Kayin State, Myanmar, Feb 2019. Land Core Group.

⁴¹ The name was changed during 2018 from the Karen Technical Vocational Centre to the Community Technical Vocational Centre.

Looking ahead

The Uplands Programme grew substantially in 2017, and continued to grow during 2018, increasing its understanding of local contexts, developing processes and reaching more communities.

Mid-term reviews conducted in early 2018 documented achievements and learnings and provided recommendations for future programming and scaling up. Considering the challenging context, the need to remain flexible when operating within defined limits in the conflict-affected areas, and LIFT's strategic objectives post-2018, some project extensions were proposed based on the recommendations of the mid-term reviews to bridge results to new LIFT programming in the upland areas.

- ‡ CORAD received a costed extension for one year with the addition of a new component to fund investment for vegetable production, mainly for irrigation, terracing and fencing.
- ‡ KDN received a costed extension of one year for the Community Vocational Training Centre, to revise and consolidate the governance structure of the centre, to train more people in relevant courses and increase the project's value for money.
- ‡ CDN received a costed extension of one year to extend services beyond the 40 core villages and to continue work towards achieving project outcomes.

LIFT will continue to support the Chin MCCT programme, by supporting DSW to improve and consolidate the monitoring and evaluation system. The MCCT distribution will be funded with government budget allocations starting from September 2019, as originally intended when LIFT's support began in 2017.

LIFT extended the support to DSW's MMCT programme in Kaya and Kayin States, funding operational costs for one year and the design and implementation of a baseline survey to provide a basis for measuring and evaluating the outcomes and impact of the programme over time as well as providing an opportunity to develop skills and capacity within DSW to be able to carry out baseline surveys in the future.

In 2018, Save the Children's TEAM MCCT project made significant progress with the SBCC strategy for Chin State and the roll-out of SBCC activities for basic health staff and community volunteers. The project will be extended for one year to expand activities at the community level. A no-cost extension will allow for strengthening of the following activities: building better links between basic health staff and volunteers, tracking the activities of nutrition campaigns, facilitating the dissemination of information, and outcomes of campaigns. The project will also use the formative research conducted in Chin to inform revisions to the Chin SBCC strategy.

During the last quarter of 2018, LIFT issued a call for proposals titled Nutrition and decent work programmes benefitting vulnerable households in IDP camps and host communities in Kachin and northern Shan States. Proposals were received in January and selected partners will start implementation around May 2019. At this stage, the package of

proposals accepted under the call is not complete. LIFT will require a flexible approach to fill these gaps. LIFT will work to build the programme for Kachin and northern Shan with a comprehensive integrated systems approach by working towards collective outcomes that deliberately seek to enhance the potential for synergistic partnership. During the second half of 2019, LIFT will continue to work to expand the Upland Programme under the refreshed LIFT strategy 2019–2023 in Chin State and the South East.

Preparing a conflict-sensitive strategy

One of the shifts in LIFT's post-2018 strategy is an increased geographical focus on less accessible border areas in ethnic States, and on conflict-affected areas, to support more sustainable and predictable approaches to poverty and hunger reduction in protracted crises. LIFT is therefore developing a more strategic approach to conflict sensitivity.

In 2015, LIFT defined a set of conflict-sensitive principles to guide implementing partners. A conflict adviser was recruited to advise LIFT on international best practices related to 'Do No Harm' and to support efforts to engage in new areas with a legacy of ethnic conflict, division, state failure and mistrust.

LIFT's approach to conflict sensitivity has been incremental since 2015, through area-based initiatives within the Upland Programme and targeted support to civil society. But these initiatives do not yet represent a comprehensive or strategic response to the challenges of integrating conflict sensitivity in a varied and challenging operating environment. LIFT continues to work to ensure conflict-sensitivity principles guide strategic direction, programme and project design, and implementation, including during monitoring and evaluation and in generating programme learning. This forms part of the LIFT commitment to ensuring that LIFT's work does not exacerbate conflicts, leaves no one behind and that work in conflict-affected areas is accepted by key local actors.

The LIFT conflict-sensitive principles will be revised and updated in recognition of the changes in the conflict context. These principles, combined with the revised LIFT Conflict Strategy, will establish deeper awareness amongst LIFT staff and management of Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity, and build capacity to analyse and understand the dynamics of conflict in the communities where LIFT is supporting implementing partners.

A capacity building process for implementing partners will also be designed and implemented with the support of LIFT. This will seek to establish minimum expectations with regards to sensitivity across all grant recipients.

A multi-stakeholder consultation process and in-depth participatory conflict analysis will inform and guide the implementation of the LIFT Strategy 2019–2023, in terms of the types of interventions that are designed and the way they are implemented. This analytical base will be regularly updated and will feed into and inform adaptations and responses to changes in the contextual dynamics.

Geographic Areas

It is planned that this will lead to:

- | Considering conflict issues at a strategic level and integrating conflict sensitivity into programme approaches, calls for proposals, monitoring and evaluation, and other processes
- | Identifying conflict-affected areas with conflict-affected populations for integrated interventions, based on livelihood and food security needs, and addressing factors from the point of view of LIFT's areas of comparative advantage and within the main strategic objectives
- | Working in conflict-affected areas incrementally and seeking initially to build on successful existing partnerships, prioritising partners with experience and knowledge of the operating context
- | Looking to build mutual understanding across conflict lines on livelihood and food security issues, recognising the presence of multiple service providers, including civil non-state bodies and affiliates associated with some EAOs; and, in some cases, engaging directly as an FMO with local stakeholders to generate trust and working relationships
- | Strengthening connectors at state- and township-level and connecting with multiple stakeholders to build relationships and contribute to social cohesion
- | Establishing communities of practice on conflict and livelihood, involving implementing partners and associates
- | Adopting a pro-active approach to generating alternative funding modalities where there are very few potential partners who can work effectively
- | A more systematic approach that will consider conflict factors within strategy formulation and as a part of assessing funding proposals at an early stage.

Skills training helps increase and stabilise income for families

The **Linking Labutta to Market** project provides skills training to landless people to increase employment opportunities based on market demand. A survey conducted at the end of 2018 showed that landless households with graduates from the training activities had significantly more stable cash flow after participating in the training. The following two personal stories showcase the strategic importance of non-farm jobs in increasing and strengthening the stability of household income within the targeted landless and vulnerable households in Labutta.

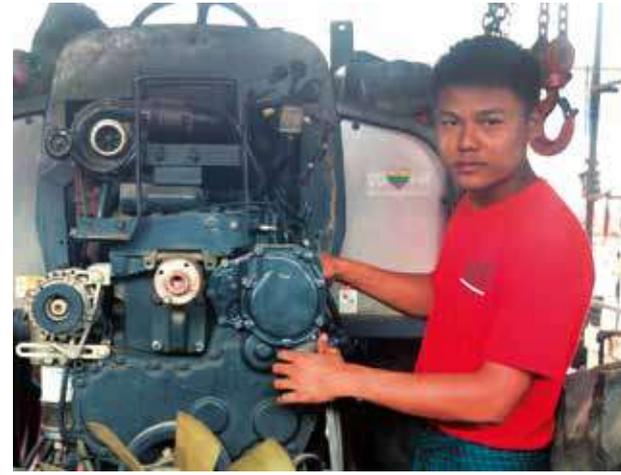


Carpentry/Masonry graduate

I am Yan Naing, from Thet Ta Yan Village, Labutta Township. I learned about the Linking Labutta to Markets project from the workshop that was held in our village. I attended an interview I was selected for the Carpentry/Masonry Training Batch 1 at Labutta.

Before I joined the training, I was working in a construction site and earned up to MMK 250,000 (USD 173) per month. I did not have basic knowledge about carpentry and so I thought that skills training would refine my technical skills. I was so eager to join. During the training period, I learned about theoretical and practical aspects of carpentry. I felt more confident to go back to the workplace when I finished the training in Labutta.

After the training, I got a job at Soe Construction with the help of the project's staff. I worked as a leader of a carpenter group at Soe Construction for one year. I was the group leader in the carpenter group solely because I had received skills training while my peers did not have any formal training. My salary was also increased to MMK 350,000 (USD 242) per month. The work at the project site at Soe Construction is completed now and I am waiting to work at a new project site. In the meantime, I am working as a contractor and have several workers under me.



I am married and my wife also graduated from the Linking Labutta to Markets garment training. She is now working at one of the large garment companies. Our salary is not only enough for our daily expenses; we can also save for our future. In the future, I would like to be a contractor.

Mechanic graduate

I am Zin Ko Ko and have been working at Shwe Htut Toe for almost two years. I attended the community mobilisation workshop in my village and from that workshop, I learned about the Linking Labutta to Markets project. I joined the Mechanic Training Batch 4 at Labutta. After the basic mechanic training, I was placed in this company and ever since have been utilising the knowledge and skills I gained from the basic mechanic training.

Before the training, I was working at one of the construction sites near my town as a daily wages worker. In that job, I earned about MMK180,000–200,000 (USD 125–138) per month and the company provided for the accommodation. I am the eldest one among three siblings. My younger brother just finished his matriculation exam and the youngest one is attending secondary school. My father and I are the only people working and supporting our family.

For this job, I have had to leave my family and am living in an accommodation provided by the company. Although my salary is not significantly more than my previous job with a construction company, I am satisfied here because I feel I am learning new things, and there is a good future in terms of career and salary. During the training in Labutta, we learned the basic theory and practice in small engine machine like 4-stroke and 2-stroke engine maintenance. Here at the workplace we are exposed to the functioning of heavy machinery and how they work. This has given me more confidence in my ability and I am confident that over time, I will earn more and be able to take care of my family, while at the same time improving my technical knowledge and my job prospects. In the future, I want to work in a large machinery company as a chief mechanic.

Read more about skills training in the Delta on page 49

Case Study from ILO

“I enjoyed so much to learn and work in such a diverse group. It’s much more fun to be all together”. 39 year-old Mohamed Zawmil has just completed a welding skills development training which brought together 58 women and men from Hindu, Muslim and ethnic Rakhine communities in Buthidaung Township in northern Rakhine State, one of Myanmar’s most complex regions.

Upon completion of the 10-day Competency-Based Modular Short-Term Training Course (CBMSC) on welding, masonry and house wiring at the end of November 2018, trainees like Mohamed were assigned to different shops for on-the-job training. The CBMSC was initiated by the Department of Technical Vocational Training (DTVET) through the Sittwe Government Technical High School, with the support of the ILO.

First on the right, Mohammed Zawmil and his fellow trainers / © ILO

Organised as a community-based training in Northern Rakhine’s township of Maungdaw, the classes were attended by women and men from the major ethnic groups of Rakhine State—Muslims, Hindus and Rakhine—in an attempt to rebuild trust among different communities.

These trainings are bringing fresh hope to the communities, especially to young members of those ethnic groups whose access to education and jobs was restricted. Opportunities for training and employment have the potential to contribute to the development of the local economy.

Read more about ILO in Rakhine on [page 67](#)



Case Study from IRC

Ma Htay Htay Win is a 35-year-old mother of three children who lives in Gyin Dway village in Pauktaw Township. As a member of the Save the Children Tat Lan infrastructure team she is working to renovate embankments and the money she earns in cash-for-work payments is essential family income.

“My husband is a crab hunter. With my first cash-for-work payment, I bought 10 crab traps for my husband’s business and paid for my daughter’s tuition fees. This time, I will save my income in our village savings and loans association (VSLA), so I can pay for my elder daughter’s education fees. This year she will be in the 11th grade, studying for her 10th standard exams.”

Ma Htay Htay Win receives MMK 4,800 (USD 3.40) each day she works.

“My family and my village have many good impacts from the Tat Lan project. Before the programme began farmers in my village lost their farms because salty water flowed onto the paddy land (destroying the fertility of the soil). Now, this embankment renovation activity will protect the land and prevent salty water flowing onto the farm. Most of the villagers are happy for the cash-for-work activity and payments. Thank very much Tat Lan.”

Read more about IRC in Rakhine on [page 68](#)





4.0 Thematic Programmes

LIFT funds thematic programmes that operate across all four geographic zones in the areas of financial inclusion, private sector engagement, migration and civil society. These are in addition to LIFT’s specific geographic programmes.

4.1 Financial Inclusion

Within four years, LIFT’s Financial Inclusion Programme, which includes private sector partnerships, has grown from a budgeted USD 81.1 million to USD 363.2 million, an increase of USD 282.1million. LIFT’s funding to the programme was USD 49.4 million for 27 microfinance institutions, USD 10 million for The Currency Exchange (TCX), USD 18 million for Yoma Bank’s Agribusiness Finance Programme and USD 3.7 million for a project implemented by Awba. Two of those investments leveraged significant additional funds. TCX’s currency exchange hedging facility delivered USD 85.7 million to microfinance institutions as debt financing from foreign investors. Yoma Bank delivered USD 196.4 million in co-financing contributed to agriculture sector development.

These investments have delivered scaled-up results that cut across all economic strata in communities, and contribute to a robust, inclusive rural financial market that is helping people take advantage of economic opportunities, build assets, generate employment, manage risks and reduce the poor’s vulnerabilities to external shocks.

Microfinance expansion

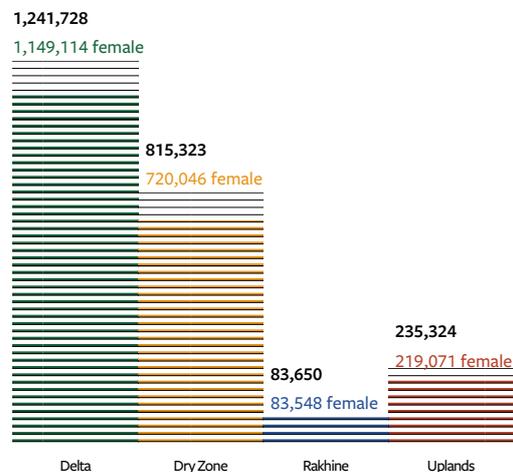
LIFT’s support to rural financial services continues to play a vital role in Myanmar’s microfinance sector. As of December 2018, LIFT has 26 financial inclusion partners (nine local MFIs, 13 international MFIs, one joint venture company, two cooperatives and one local bank) that reached 2,632,283 clients (91 per cent are women) from 223 townships. Although funding to UNCDF was phased out in 2018, LIFT’s financial services client numbers increased because of leveraging that resulted from LIFT’s debt financing program through the TCX hedging facility and Yoma Bank’s wholesale loans to 11 MFIs. The performance of LIFT’s microfinance partners is detailed in Annex 5. The majority of MFIs have microfinance license as for-profit companies under Myanmar’s *Company Law* and *Myanmar Microfinance Law*. Key 2018 microfinance results include:

- ▮ 2.63 million clients from 223 townships (growth of 61 per cent from 2016)
- ▮ USD 600 million total assets (growth of 149 per cent since 2016)
- ▮ USD 803 million in loans disbursed (during 2018)
- ▮ USD 584 million in loans outstanding (growth of 145 per cent since 2016)
- ▮ USD 96 million in savings mobilised

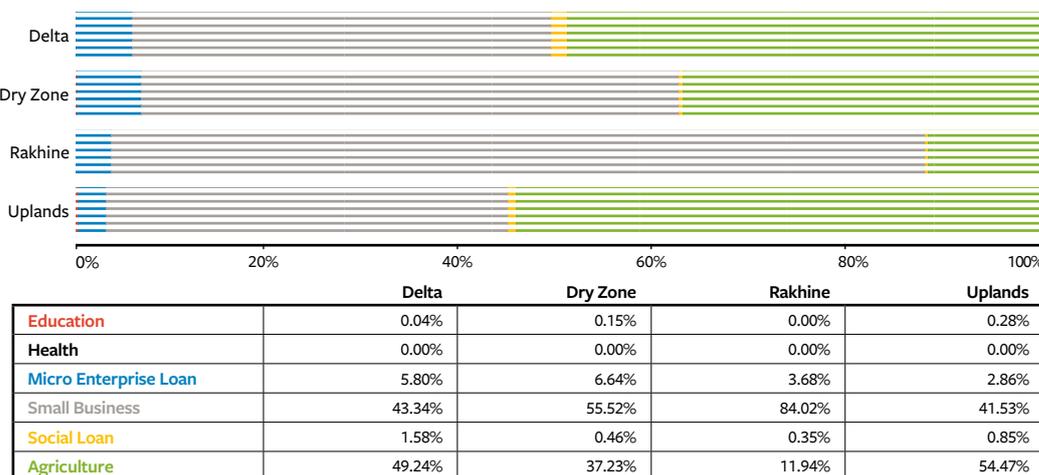
The ratio of loans outstanding to total assets is a healthy 0.83, indicating that MFI capital is being used efficiently. Almost 58 per cent was used for livestock and small businesses, 27 per cent for agriculture, 14 per cent for small and medium enterprise loans and 1 per cent for social loans.

All LIFT-supported MFIs are operationally self-sufficient (OSS), meaning they cover all their operational costs. The exception is the Sun Institute, which is 97 per cent operationally self-sufficient. Four international MFIs have improved, though not achieved, financial self-sufficiency (FSS), meaning their coverage of operational and financial costs. At the end of 2018, these MFIs’ financial self-sufficiency was 92 per cent or higher, in large part due to area expansion.

► **Figure 4.1**
Number of borrowers in each agro-ecological zone at 31 December 2018



► **Figure 4.2**
Utilisation of loans in each agro-ecological zone at 31 December 2018



LIFT is supporting nine partners of PACT in the Myanmar Access to Rural Credit (MARC) project to transform from being NGO-based MFIs to become separately registered company-based MFIs that are institutionally and financially sustainable microfinance institutions. Four of the nine local MFIs (ECLOF, BDA, MHDO and AYO) have received a microfinance licence from the Financial Regulatory Department (FRD). Three (Wanlark Foundation, YMCA and The Sun Institute) received a recommendation from FRD and made presentations to the Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee as the final stage in their microfinance licence application. Nine local MFIs have reached operational sustainability and financial sustainability. The exception is the SUN institute. Due to the Financial Regulatory Department's directive on Cease and Desist of Credit Operations to the Sun Institute, SUN's operations stopped in mid-March 2018 and its impact on financial sustainability has been significant.

LIFT's financial inclusion programme continues to support MFIs to develop and introduce more demand-driven financial services that serve diversified market segments. By December 2018, LIFT-supported MFIs were delivering deposit services, lines of credit, leasing, term-finance, debt consolidation loans, financing for seasonal crops (beans, pulses, oilseeds, maize), livestock, small business, and customised loans for low-income women, migrants, people with disabilities and the internally displaced. The programme also expanded MFI services into unserved and underserved geographical areas in Rakhine State and Uplands, including areas in conflict or emerging from conflict. The MFI Capital Market Project is essential to attracting more capital and for scaling up this expansion.

MFI Client Protection and Social Performance

Client protection is essential to ensure that MFIs do not inadvertently harm their clients. It means that MFIs take reasonable care that their products, policies, and practices avoid harmful or unfair treatment and appropriately balance clients' and their own interests as they conduct business. This minimum standard of 'do no harm' is essential to a business's good conduct, regardless of the MFI's specific mission, profit goals, or ownership structure. Social performance is achieved if MFIs go beyond the 'do no harm' standard of client protection to measure and manage progress against a specific social mission, ensuring effective translation of the mission into client benefit and appropriate behaviour toward staff, the community, and the environment. While MFIs' social missions may vary, the most common social goals pursued are outreach to underserved and vulnerable people, poverty reduction, and empowerment of women.

LIFT, LIFT's MFIs, the Capital Market Programme's impact investors and partner TCX, and the government all support financial inclusion that serves to improve vulnerable people's lives. In recent years, the movement toward responsible finance has shaped the industry's belief that financial services providers have a responsibility to deliver

financial services in a way that is transparent, fair, safe, and likely to generate benefits for poor clients.

LIFT emphasises financial sustainability. To achieve financial sustainability, MFI clients must be at the centre of strategic and operational decisions; financial services must be safe and beneficial for clients, and demand-driven. LIFT's social performance framework is implemented by all LIFT's financial inclusion partners.

TCX is compliant with International Finance Corporation (IFC) performance standards, and requires its impact investors and shareholders to be as well. TCX and impact investors accessing LIFT's Capital Market Programme integrate client protection and social performance management considerations and due diligence into their investment processes and agreements.

Impact investors, in line with their social mission, engage with MFIs that meet social performance standards. Impact investors use their own tools and Cersies/MIX/SPTF⁴² social performance assessment tools. For example, Blue Orchard (JAWEF, MIFA, BOMF) systematically analyses social performance with their own internal tool called SPIRIT that is modelled based on the SPI4. All LIFT MFI's serviced by impact investors produce social assessments.

Five LIFT-supported MFIs have received SMART Protection Certification. The SMART Certification⁴³ is based on an independent evaluation against standards of care in how an MFI treats clients. It demonstrates adherence to the Industry's Client Protection Principles.

The government has engaged in social performance standards through three regulation/activities: 1) MFIs are required to meet Financial Regulatory Department client protection principles, 2) A lending interest rate cap at 30 per cent per annum on the outstanding balance has been implemented, and 3) monitoring MFI's lending annual percentage rate (APR). LIFT is involved in consumer protection. A consumer hotline is being supported by LIFT's technical assistance to FRD. Government has taken an active role in disclosure and complaint system handling that provides poor and vulnerable clients with improved transparency, choice, redress and privacy.

In 2015, the LIFT Financial Inclusion Programme invested significant funds to incentivise MFIs to move away from their supply-driven financial services, and to design and offer demand-driven financial services (e.g. repayment schedules, tenors, types of loans to include debt consolidation, education, small business and emergency loans). This was the central focus of the Financial Inclusion Programme call for proposals in 2015.⁴⁴ These demand-driven financial services were integrated in almost all the LIFT-supported MFIs. LIFT provided grants to MFIs to conduct market research, system upgrades, staff training, internal audits, and product development.

MFIs report to LIFT a comprehensive set of data that is part of the Financial Inclusion Programme monitoring, evaluation and learning framework that measures performance against industry standards with a focus on financial performance, client outreach/depth of outreach (measured through the

⁴² <https://cerise-spm.org/>; www.themix.org/; <https://sptf.info/>

⁴³ www.smartcampaign.org

⁴⁴ www.microfinancegateway.org/sites/default/files/mfg-en-case-study-social-impact-social-performance-indicators-2009.pdf

Loan Products	Clients	Total Disbursement Million USD	Impacted Rural Households/ farmers	Yoma Bank branches	Yoma Bank branch staff
AFP HP	6,503	115.09	200,000	47	90
Borrowing Base	4	7.79	20,330	2	4
Payable Financing	60	7.96	15,733	19	38
Seasonal Overdraft	72	9.43	14,400	6	12
MFI Lending	11	60.77	191,500		
	6,677	201.05	441,963	74	144

► Table 4.1

AFP's products, finance value and impact, Jan 2016–Dec 2018

use of the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) (now known as the Poverty Probability Index), and social performance through LIFT's social performance index that is mapped against industry standard social performance indexes and government's client protection principles.

LIFT conducted a survey on LIFT partner microfinance institutions to measure the extent to which they addressed social performance in their microfinance businesses. A questionnaire measuring social performance indicators (SPI) used by Grassroot Capital⁴⁴ was used. The survey of 16 MFIs found:

- ‡ All partners expanded microfinance operations into rural areas within past 12 months and 81 per cent of them had more than 50 per cent of their loan portfolio in rural areas.
- ‡ 88 per cent of the MFIs measured their clients' poverty levels.
- ‡ All of the MFIs followed transparent and clearly defined procedures when delivering services with close supervision.
- ‡ Before delivery of services, issues of over-indebtedness were addressed by careful screening of loan proposals. The client data were well protected.
- ‡ 69 per cent of the MFIs had a loan product with less than the maximum allowed interest rate of 2.5 per cent/month (e.g. social loans at 2 per cent per month).
- ‡ 94 per cent of the MFIs implemented a well-publicised client ombudsman or equivalent system to collect and investigate complaints.
- ‡ 88 per cent of the MFIs developed new financial products within the past 12 months.
- ‡ LIFT invested in financial literacy to improve clients' understanding and effective use of products undertaken by the government through the design and production of the *Financial Literacy* booklet that has been widely distributed. In 2019, the booklet will be updated to include digital and nutritional literacy.

4.2

Private sector engagement

Agribusiness Finance Program (AFP)

LIFT launched the Agribusiness Finance Program (AFP) with Yoma Bank in 2016 to provide hire purchase finance for farm machinery to rural entrepreneurs. In 2017, the AFP expanded to deliver more rural financial services. A suite of un(der)secured loan products was launched to increase access to finance for actors in agricultural value chains. Digital mass-market financial products were developed to mobilise savings from rural smallholder farmers and Yoma Bank began providing Myanmar Kyat loans to microfinance institutions. In September 2018, the first phase of the Dealer Portal was launched, allowing digital loan applications. This can significantly expand reach to bank customers who are located far from a Yoma Bank branch.

By December 2018, LIFT's USD 18 million contribution to the AFP had leveraged value of USD 201 million USD (MMK 268 billion) of private sector capital from Yoma Bank. It is estimated that the program has reached around 450,000 rural families through this innovative approach.

Since the programme began in 2016, new agriculture machinery and equipment valued at USD 138 million USD was financed to 6,530 small and medium rural agri-businesses and entrepreneurs. The finance was accessed through 47 Yoma Bank branches across 12 states and regions. It is estimated that the programme has reached about 200,000 rural families with direct hire purchase financing for farm machinery and with resulting farm machinery rental services. The average loan tenor increased from around one year before the AFP to beyond 2.5 years as the programme progressed. About USD 86 million was disbursed for agricultural value chain actors and back-to-back semi-secured financing products for microfinance institutions.

In 2018, the AFP leveraged almost USD 100 million USD (MMK 142 billion MMK) of Yoma Bank's capital for the loan products initiated by the programme.

Contractually the three-year AFP was extended in 2018 to December 2019. The AFP enables Yoma Bank to continue implementation through the partial risk guarantee provided by LIFT. Beyond the AFP contractual period, the evergreen nature of the funds in the partial risk guarantee fund will continue to support expansion of financial services to Myanmar's rural population.

AFP farm machinery and equipment hire purchase financing

Under the AFP, rural agri-business owners are referred by equipment dealers to Yoma Bank, which provides hire purchase financing for farm machinery and equipment. The terms offered are more favourable than those previously available in the market. Before the AFP, clients needed to make a down payment of 30 per cent. Under the AFP, the down payment has steadily reduced: from 21 per cent in 2016, to 14 per cent in 2017 to 13 per cent in 2018. Clients have three years to repay the loan, rather than 12 months before the programme began. Repayments can be made bi-annually in line with small enterprises' seasonal cash flows. Previously, monthly payments were standard. Under the AFP, rural entrepreneurs can buy higher quality, more powerful machinery and equipment and build rental service businesses that allow smallholder farmers, who may not be ready to purchase machinery themselves, to benefit from mechanisation and improve their agricultural productivity. Small- and medium-sized agribusinesses from Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Magway and Sagaing Regions involved in the AFP are providing rental services across the country, moving their machinery to follow seasonal demand for land preparation and harvesting for various crops.

LIFT provides a USD 9 million partial risk guarantee to reduce Yoma Bank's exposure to delinquent hire purchase loans and to leverage private sector capital. In addition to lending to a high risk sector on more favourable terms, Yoma Bank contributes its branch network, qualified staff and branding.

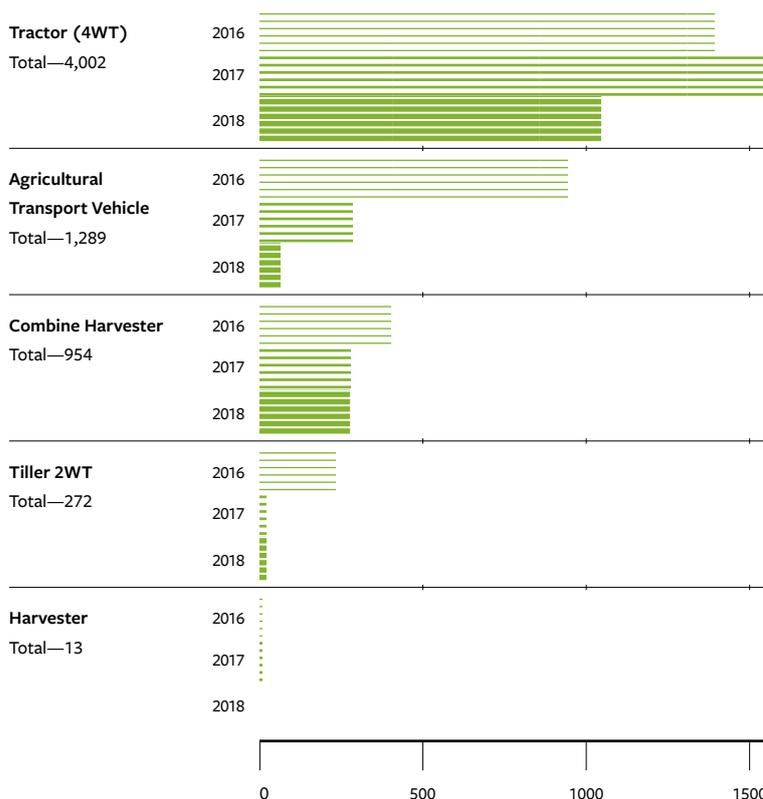
The AFP hire purchase results over three years to the end of 2018 are impressive. About USD 115 million USD (MMK 153 billion) in financing resulted in agricultural machinery and equipment valued at USD 138 million (MMK 183 billion) being purchased by 6,503 rural entrepreneurs/rural agri-businesses. The reduced down payment and extended loan tenor enabled rural agribusinesses to buy higher quality and more powerful machinery and equipment.

The equipment financed includes 4,002 four wheels tractors (4WTs), 954 combine harvesters (harvesting and threshing), 272 two wheels tractors (2WTs), 13 harvesters, and 1,289 agricultural transport vehicles. According to Yoma Bank's data, women are financially in charge of 18 per cent of agribusinesses that accessed hire purchase for agricultural machinery and equipment. Although women have gained control over assets, loans for agriculture machinery, and therefore ownership, tend to be registered to men, and so women make up 7 per cent of borrowers.

In 2018, equipment valued at USD 33 million was purchased by 1,403 rural agri-businesses/rural entrepreneurs. Farm machinery sales included 1,045 four-wheel-tractors, 19 two-wheel-tractors, 276 combine harvesters and 63 transport vehicles. The down payment on these loans averaged 13 per cent during 2018. The average loan tenor increased from 2.5 years to 2.75 years in 2018. The growth in financing demonstrates that the financing terms are becoming increasingly attractive for farmers as equipment dealers become comfortable with this more flexible credit model. It is estimated that the AFP's hire purchase financing benefitted around 35,000 rural households in 2018.

Year	Buyers	HP Loan Amount million USD	Product Price million USD	Fully paid buyers	Repayment million USD	Outstanding Buyers	Outstanding HP Balance million USD
2016	2,974	44	56	-	4	2,974	
2017	2,153	43	50	257	24	1,896	
2018	1,403	28	33	2,380	34	(977)	54
	6,530	115	138	2,637	61	3,893	54

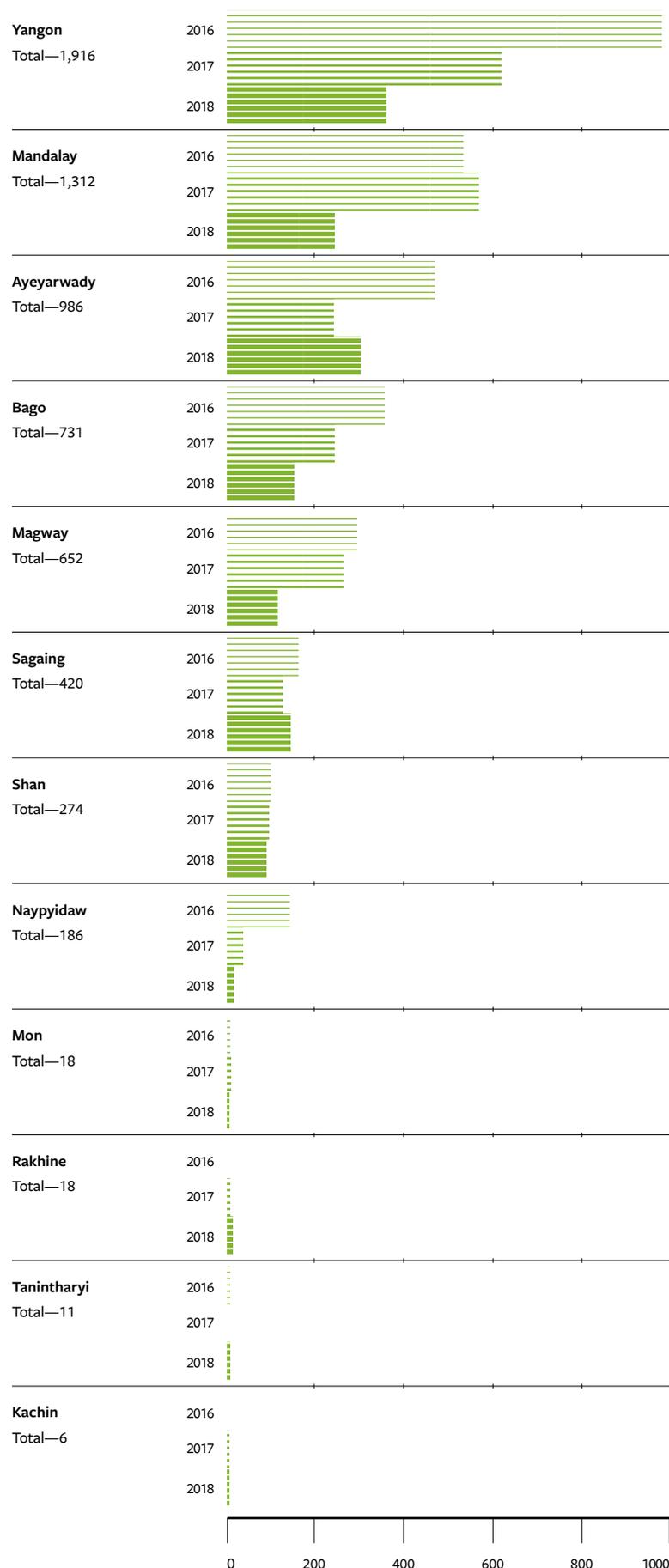
▲ **Table 4.2**
AFP's hire purchase financing
Jan 2016–Dec 2018



▲ **Figure 4.3**
Machinery financed by
AFP, Jan 2016—Dec 2018

Status	Clients	Outstanding Balance Million USD	% of Portfolio
0 Days	5,740	46.63	91%
1 to 30 Days	200	1.87	4%
31 to 60 Days	143	1.30	3%
61 to 90 Days	93	0.80	2%
91 to 180 Days	47	0.25	0%
181 and above	307	0.31	1%
	6,530	51.17	100%

▲ **Table 4.3**
AFP hire purchase portfolio
at risk



▲ **Figure 4.4**
Machinery financed by
States and Regions by
Year, Jan 2016–Dec 2018

The slowing growth in the AFP’s hire purchase portfolio in 2018 is attributed to the decline in both prices and sales of beans/pulses to India, competitive terms of other banks and equipment dealers and the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s funding of a hire purchase financing portfolio with the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank. In 2018, AFP’s hire purchase financing expanded to upland and coastal regions in Shan and Rakhine States and Tanintharyi Region.

The number of equipment dealers eligible for financing under the AFP increased to 18 in 2018 from 11 in 2016 and 17 in 2017. Over the lifetime of the project, different dealers have been driving sales at various stages of the programme. With a balanced portfolio and a broad array of quality brands offered by Tier I and Tier II dealers, Yoma Bank considers its AFP HP book to be well positioned for further expansion well beyond 2018. The number of Yoma Bank branches offering AFP HP increased from 28 in 2016 to 40 in 2017 and 47 in 2018.

By December 2018, 2,637 agribusiness AFP clients had made full repayments. Overdue accounts represent 12 per cent of the portfolio and the outstanding balance is USD 51 million (MMK 69 billion). By the end of 2018, USD 1.4 million (MMK 2 billion) was written off from the AFP partial risk guarantee fund, supplied by LIFT to stimulate a new style of lending by partially absorbing the risk. In *Table 4.3*, accounts that at some point in the past were overdue or non-performing but have since been replenished, including the USD 1.4 million injection from the partial risk guarantee.

The performance of the loan book depends to a large extent on the ability of the equipment dealer to: 1) screen potential borrowers, 2) collect instalments on time (some dealers collect loan repayments on behalf of the bank) and 3) honour the credit guarantee if a customer cannot repay the loan. In 2017 it was discovered that one equipment dealer has failed on all accounts and the business relationship was terminated. This one dealer’s breach resulted in much higher overdue figures for the programme. Yoma Bank has worked to recover the illegally-held funds, and has successfully brought exposure in the programme down from a peak of MMK 19 billion (USD 14 million) in 2016 to less than MMK 1 billion (USD 707 thousand) at the close of 2018. This figure is net of MMK 2 billion (USD 1 million) from the partial risk guarantee, which has been applied to accounts that were genuinely overdue. If further repayments are forthcoming from clients of the rogue dealer, the partial risk guarantee funds will be retroactively resupplied.

Reasons for late payments vary. In agriculture many different factors, ranging from weather patterns to diseases to volatile commodity prices, impact producers’ cash flows. As mechanisation supply increases, rental fees for machinery drop, which is good for smallholder farmers rent equipment. However, for equipment owners this impacts on cash flows relied upon to repay loans. Yoma Bank is addressing this risk by developing a scorecard for agribusinesses, which distinguishes between expected cash flow from rental income and self-generated income (e.g. through their own farming activities).

In September 2018, the first phase of the Dealer Portal began, allowing rural entrepreneurs to apply for loans using a digital platform. Thirteen of the 18 AFP equipment dealers have joined the portal. Customers can open accounts and make initial down payments directly to the dealer without needing to travel to a physical bank branch, a journey that for some farmers can take up to five hours. Rural entrepreneurs can apply for loans literally from their fields. Equipment dealers take tablets provided by Yoma Bank with them when conducting tractor demonstrations. When there is no internet access, applications are stored offline and uploaded when the dealer has internet access.

LIFT will conduct the AFP project evaluation in the second quarter of 2019.

Un(der)-secured Lending

In the second half of 2017, Yoma Bank's Agribusiness Finance Program introduced four new lending products: discounted accounts receivable financing, payable financing, seasonal overdrafts, and back-to-back, semi-secured, three-year lending to microfinance institutions. All these financing products are new to the Myanmar market and are designed to increase supply of un(der)secured loans to agribusinesses in Myanmar. The loan products are needed as the usual practice among Myanmar banks of requiring land and buildings to be provided as collateral has resulted in low supply and demand for financial services by agribusinesses.

By the end of 2018, AFP's disbursed USD 82 million in unsecured lending. The programme estimates that 240,000 rural families have been reached by these activities through 27 Yoma Bank branches.

Discounted accounts receivable financing:

This product provides a cash injection at the top of the value chain enabling input dealers to sell to more farmers on credit. As a result the supply of agricultural inputs increases in the market. Yoma Bank provides working capital to input suppliers based on the amount they sell to a dealer on credit. By the end of 2018, MMK 10 billion (USD 7.4 million) was disbursed, benefitting around 20,330 farmers.

Dealer payable financing: This product is structured so that the dealers in the middle of the value chain, rather than the suppliers at the top, are the bank's customers. Dealers apply for loans from Yoma Bank to fund their purchase of inputs from suppliers. Yoma Bank pays the suppliers directly and the suppliers accept 50 per cent of the risk of dealers defaulting on the loans. By the end of 2018, MMK 10.5 billion (USD 8 million) was disbursed, estimated to benefit more than 15,000 farmers.

Seasonal Overdraft Financing: This product is provided by Yoma Bank to small-and medium-sized maize traders to increase their capacity to trade and stimulate market expansion. Traders draw from Yoma Bank at harvest time in November and need to replay the full amount in July. Finance is provided based on 75 per cent of the previous year's peak season sales volume. By the end of 2018, MMK 13 billion (USD 9 million) was disbursed, benefitting an estimated 14,400 maize farmers who deal with the 72 corn/maize traders who received these loans.

Borrower value chain	Borrower facility limit million MMK	Inventory/ receivable value million MMK	Outstanding 31/12/2018 million MMK	Estimated # farmers reached
Fertiliser, seeds	1,000	1,333	1,000	550
Organic fertiliser	500	686	464	580
Fertiliser	6,000	13,142	5,711	Unknown
Fertiliser	2,000	4,282	1,932	19,200
	9,500	19,443	9,106	20,330

▲ **Table 4.4**
Borrowing Base (discounted receivable) Financing

Supplier value chain	Programme limit million MMK	Number of approved dealers	Total approved limit million MMK	Number of outstanding loans	Total outstanding million MMK
Animal feed	6,000	13	1,970	89	904
Fertiliser, seeds	2,000	15	1,504	44	1,323
Fertiliser	1,000	4	331	4	28
Fertiliser	1,000	1	140	9	102
	10,000	33	3,945	146	2,357

▲ **Table 4.5**
Phase 1 (including supplier partial guarantee)

Number of approved dealers	Total approved limit million MMK	# of outstanding loans	Total outstanding million MMK	Estimated number of farmers reached
27	3,051	125	2,019	10,429

▲ **Table 4.6**
Phase 2 (excluding supplier partial guarantee)

Supplier value chain	Programme limit million MMK	# of approved dealers	Total approved limit million MMK	# of outstanding loans
Aungban	21	3,060	2,728	4,200
Kyaukme	24	2,103	1,972	4,800
Lashio 1	6	960	959	1,200
Pyin Oo Lwin	2	250	67	400
Taunggyi 1	17	1,895	1,693	3,400
Taunggyi 2	2	300	265	400
	72	8,568.00	7,685	14,400

▲ **Table 4.7**
Seasonal Overdraft

Component	Purpose	Status
Remote sign up for SMART Account	Allows customers to sign up for a bank account on their mobile phones.	Pending approval from Central Bank of Myanmar
Enhanced integration with Wave Money platform	Allows Yoma Bank customers to do a cash-in or cash-out transaction at a Wave Money Agent.	Ready to launch once the regulatory obstacles removed
Smart Credit (individual unsecured credit and Digital coaching)	<p>Customers can request a personal loan on their mobile phone, which is approved based on their savings and transaction records.</p> <p>A two-way communication channel that enable Yoma Bank to provide financial education and coaching to customers, and for customers to ask questions.</p>	<p>Credit piloted in July 2018, and disbursed over 2,500 loans to nearly 1,000 Yoma Bank clients through December. Central bank approvals in early January allows Yoma Bank to offer this product to all 175,000+ SMART account holders</p>

▲ **Table 4.8**
IDA core components and status at December 2018

MFI lending: This back-to-back, semi-secured funding product allows overseas funding to be hedged and results in more micro-loans to farmers. AFP built up the product, including the design and introduction of credit policy, legal documentation, MFI scorecard, process flows, credit application format, standard for financial due diligence, and model for operating due diligence. By the end of 2018, USD 58 million was disbursed to 11 MFIs, estimated to benefit 191,500 farmers.

Individual Development Account (IDA) Programme
Yoma Bank's revised IDA programme is the only project component of the AFP that was contractually extended in 2018. It will run until the end of 2019. This programme is designed to stimulate saving behaviours in Myanmar's rural areas using digital platforms focussed on rural people without a bank account. This will enable savings but essentially offers the entire suite of borrowing, saving and transaction through the smart phone by using Yoma Bank's SMART app. In course of 2018, Yoma Bank began piloting the IDA programme, setting up the information technology platforms, channels and products. Cash is deposited and withdrawn using the WAVE money network of 38,000 agents. Yoma Bank overcame technical and regulatory hurdles in 2018 and is ready to launch the IDA scheme in early 2019.

Myanmar Allied Farmers Seed Company (MAFSCO)
LIFT is funding the Myanmar Allied Farmers' Seed Company (MAFSCO) to produce, process and market seed of priority crops, especially for beans

and pulses, oilseeds, and other open pollinated varieties crops in the Dry Zone. LIFT is supporting the start-up of MAFSCO as a locally-owned company with membership, shareholding, dividends and benefits linked to farmers' recurring commitment to seed production. It is a private company with co-operative principles that will move towards financial sustainability. The project is implemented by AWBA, a leading private sector input provider. AWBA's role in MAFSCO is to provide professional management expertise, investment capital and nationwide market reach as the distributor for MAFSCO seeds.

The project's inception phase ran from April to December 2018. During the inception phase the project:

- ‡ Appointed and trained key personnel. The organisational chart was completed and the financial system developed.
- ‡ A revised business plan was completed, including a revision of the legal issues related to registration of the farmer entity and MAFSCO. By-laws for both entities and a partnership agreement between the three parties was reviewed by LIFT and an external legal consulting firm.
- ‡ A detailed project plan was developed for the first 12 months, including a seed production calendar. The first year of activities is focused on green gram, black gram and sesame production, followed by multiple seasonal crops such as groundnut, chick pea and pigeon pea in different production locations. The programme is not restricted to defined planting windows and allows more flexibility to create the necessary farmer 'buy-in' for implementation by the project team.
- ‡ Variety descriptions and pest control were developed for each selected variety that MAFSCO expects to produce after conducting several consultations with union, state- and regional-level officials from the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) and Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) and the underground water resource department in Nay Pyi Taw. A standard operation manual for each crop will be used and training programmes will be provided for the field staff and growers.
- ‡ Farm management systems were implemented, including maintaining crop diaries, scouting forms and roguing reports to compile data electronically via FarmForce, a specialised seed production support programme that is also a monitoring tool of grower performance.
- ‡ Seed production contracts were completed and multiple farmer meetings were organised in Myohti, Magway, Pwint Phyu, Kayuse and Bago West. The project contracted 10.4 acres of green gram, one acre of sesame, 24 acres of chick peas and 15 acres of green gram. Next season's seed production is planned to include 15 acres of sunflower seeds, sesame and green gram.
- ‡ The first season of green gram was harvested in May and the second season in November with an average seed yield of 12-14 baskets per acre. The processing was carried out by the Department of Agriculture and it was germination tested. Technical data sheets for each crop were recorded. Currently the project has 1.6 tons of registered seed in inventory.

- | Seed production trials were conducted during the inception phase in Nay Pyi Taw.
- | In December 2018, the project successfully created a locally owned seed company - Pahtama Seeds Co.Ltd.
- | A revised business plan and proposal includes partnership agreements covering the farmer shareholders of the company and AWBA.
- | A company limited by guarantee has been chosen as the preferred structure for the farmers entity of the company. The farmer entity will supply high-quality seed to Pahtama Seeds, offer relevant services and representation, and contribute to a successful Pahtama seeds strategy. The project team has commenced negotiation with a Myanmar-based INGO to support in the recruitment of farmers for the farmer entity.
- | By December 2018, Pahtama Seeds Co.Ltd had contracted over 60 growers in Pale and Thongwa, Monywa for green gram seeds production.

Looking ahead

In the next phase of the Financial Inclusion programme focus areas will include promoting savings mobilisation, renewable energy (solar power) market for agriculture development, aquaculture development in Rakhine, and developing co-operatives as strategic partners.

Savings mobilisation is the centrepiece for the Financial Inclusion programme's responsible finance moving forward. Savings services are demanded by MFI clients and represent an important MFI financial service that can be both improved and extended. For MFIs, savings represents the most important source of future loan capital.

Renewable energy is one of the key factors in advancing agricultural production in remote villages that are not part of the government's electricity grid. Access to energy will further the development of the irrigation and cold storage markets.

Rehabilitating and growing the aquaculture sector in Rakhine presents opportunities for livelihoods creation. The programme will focus on rehabilitation of shrimp production that was a significant part of the Rakhine economy prior to Cyclone Giri.

The Government's Agricultural Development Strategy highlights the importance of cooperatives in future agricultural development. LIFT's current investment in Township Savings and Credit Unions, a paradigm shift from the current credit cooperative model, has been a success. Scaling this to other parts of Myanmar, with government support, in particular, Kachin, is consistent with LIFT's leveraging of both government and private sector investments.

4.3

Safe and rewarding migration

Context

Labour migration has long been an important livelihood strategy for the people of Myanmar. By migrating internally and internationally, migrants and their communities have been able to weather periods of severe economic hardship and stagnation. It is estimated that there are currently 4.25 million international migrants⁴⁵ and more than double that number (9.39 million) have migrated internally.⁴⁶ One in four people in Myanmar is a migrant.

At the macroeconomic level, the impact of migration is substantial. According to the World Bank, an estimated USD 2.8 billion was remitted by international migrants in 2018,⁴⁷ which does not include the billions more that are remitted through informal channels. Formal remittances alone constitute 4 per cent of Myanmar's GDP, which is substantially larger than the combined official development aid provided by donors.

A lack of sufficient employment opportunities at home and the promise of higher wages at destination are key motivations for people to migrate, particularly for populations in rural and conflict-affected areas.⁴⁸ An International Labour Organization study in Shan State found limited off-farm employment opportunities led many young workers to migrate abroad.⁴⁹ Migration is an important livelihood strategy in rural locations, allowing households to diversify and stabilise their incomes. Sending a family member to the city or abroad for work can provide a measure of social protection, mitigating the lack of sufficient government schemes to protect poor households from exposure to the various social and economic distresses associated with a sudden loss of income.

In spite of its social and economic importance, Myanmar has yet to establish a migration governance framework fit to the task of managing its immense labour migration flows. As a result, migration is often a considerable gamble for migrant workers and their families, with many experiencing abusive practices during their recruitment and employment. The benefits of migration disproportionately go to unscrupulous recruiters, exploitative employers and rent seeking authorities rather than contributing to the social and economic development of migrant households.

The recent political and economic reforms within Myanmar provided an exceptional opportunity to begin development of a more deliberate and rights-based approach to managing labour migration, in line with international standards and good practices.⁵⁰ Greater protection for the rights of migrant workers, whose enduring social and financial remittances continue to fuel the country's development during this critical transition period, must be viewed as both an economic and human rights imperative.

To expand the opportunities for safe migration, LIFT began funding a USD 24 million Migration Programme in 2016. The programme has contributed to increased incomes and resilience for poor and vulnerable populations across Myanmar by making migration experiences safer and more rewarding. LIFT's Migration Programme funds and supports seven projects and is the largest funding window for migration in Myanmar.

⁴⁵ Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. (2016). The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census: Thematic Report On Population Dynamics (Nay Pyi Taw).

⁴⁶ Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. (2015). The Union Report: Census Report Volume 2 (Nay Pyi Taw).

⁴⁷ World Bank. (2018). Annual Remittances Data (updated as of December 2018) (Washington DC).

⁴⁸ IOM and University of Sussex. (2019). Capitalising on Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar (Yangon).

⁴⁹ Konstanzer, B. (2017). Opportunities for Conflict-Affected and Vulnerable Youth: A conflict-sensitive economic assessment in Southern Shan State (Yangon).

⁵⁰ ILO. (2015). Safe Migration Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Myanmar (Bangkok).

Implementing Partners	Budget and Timeframe	Location	Focus
IOM, University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation	USD 2 million 2016-2019	Nationwide (focus on Ayeyarwady, Mandalay, Rakhine and Shan)	Quantitative and qualitative research on migration and development
ILO	USD 4 million 2016-2020	Nationwide	Development of internal and international labour migration governance
BBC Media Action	USD 3 million 2016-2020	Nationwide	Media information campaign on safe and rewarding migration
IOM, PGMF, Mon Women's Organization, Parami Development Network, Chin Human Rights Organization.	USD 6.5 million 2017-2019	Chin, Mandalay, Magway, Shan, Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi	Increasing the developmental impact of labour migration through mainstreaming migration into policy development and partnership with CSOs
CARE, Business Kind Myanmar	USD 6 million 2017-2021	Yangon	Skills training, networking and services for migrant women in Yangon's garment industry
EDEN project	USD 1 million 2017-2021	Yangon and Shan	Shelter and rehabilitation services for women trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced marriage
IOM	USD 1.5 million 2015-2020	Ayeyarwady	Safe and rewarding migration as a livelihood diversification strategy

▲ Table 4.9
LIFT funded projects in
Migration2018

Highlights

Strengthening the labour migration governance framework and mainstreaming migration into sectoral policies

Traditionally, government policy in Myanmar has addressed labour migration as a problem to be solved rather than a natural part of the development process that can bring significant social and economic benefits to the country if managed effectively. Because of this, the legal and institutional structures necessary to support labour migration governance remain under-developed and have had limited effect in shaping migration experiences.

To provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP), LIFT has supported the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** to implement the **Development of Internal and International Migration Governance (DIILM)** project since February 2016. The overall goal of this initiative is to establish a labour migration governance framework in Myanmar that enables women and men to migrate safely and benefit from their employment abroad. Working closely with the ILO's tripartite constituents and civil society organisations, DIILM promotes the development of comprehensive and coherent policies for migration management.

In the first half of 2018, the DIILM project organised a series of consultations with 11 parliamentarians from the Domestic and International Labour Affairs Committee and the Child and Women's Affairs Committee. The meetings provided an excellent opportunity to engage with policymakers

on the development of labour migration governance in Myanmar, complementing the ILO's direct technical support for MoLIP. Records of the Pyithu Hluttaw show that this engagement with parliamentarians directly contributed to four discussions on important migration issues in 2018, including provision of assistance for returning migrants, regularisation of migrants' legal status in Malaysia, simplifying the process for obtaining passports and improving data on migrant remittances.

Development of the 2nd National Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2018–2022) was completed at the end of 2018, led by MoLIP and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with technical input and support for engagement of labour and civil society organisations provided by the ILO. The Government has displayed ownership over the process by developing the Plan of Action and engaging a broad range of ministries to support a whole-of-government approach. Mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability for implementation of the new plan, including the development of annual work plans and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system.

Revision of the *Law Relating to Overseas Employment* also moved forward in 2018. The existing law was passed in 1999 and became outdated for effective regulation of the labour migration process. It also lacks the necessary secondary legislation to support effective implementation. Several drafts of the law were developed, which have reflected the ILO's support in organising consultations with social partners, conducting policy analysis

and providing direct technical comments. MoLIP requested an ILO review of the latest draft of the law in September 2018 and the amended law is expected to be gazetted during 2019.

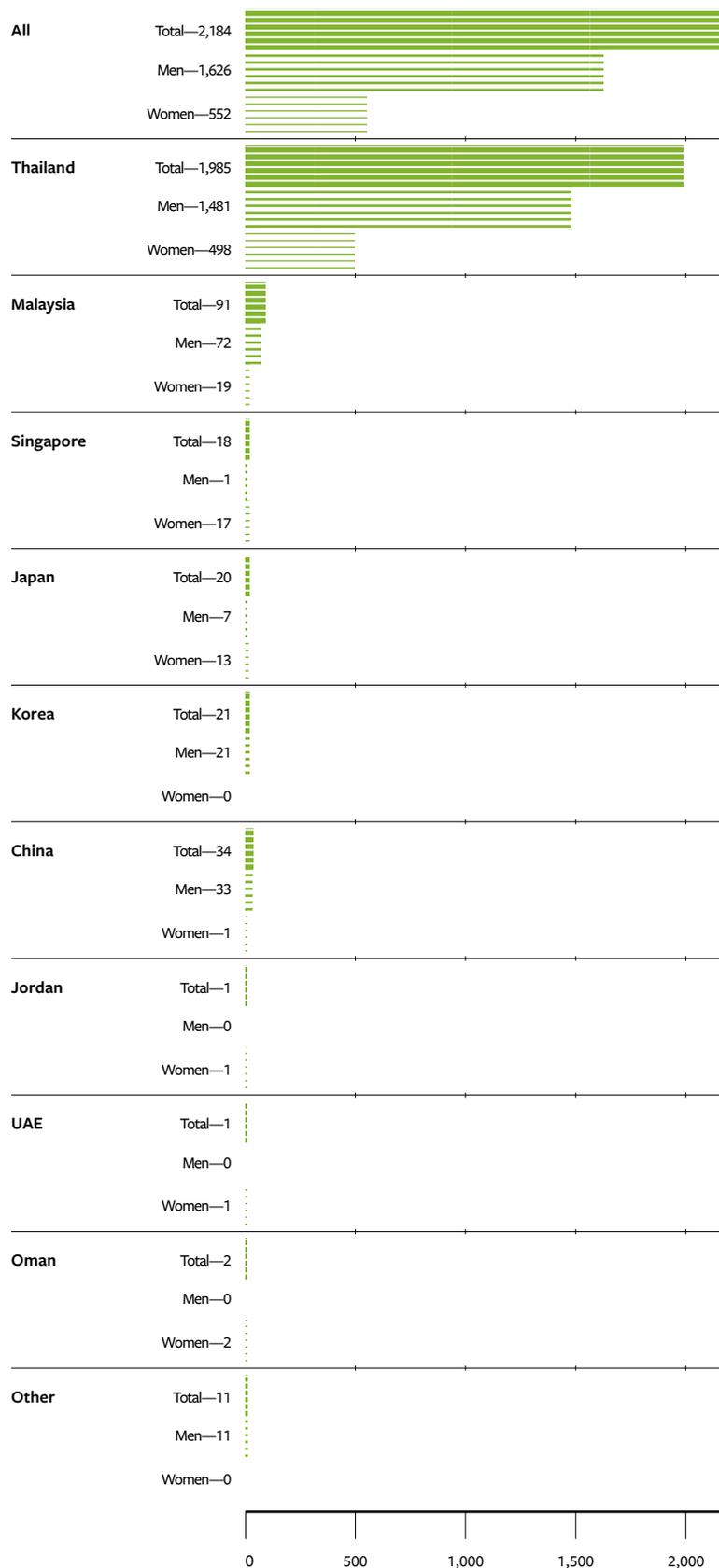
Support to build awareness and improve the operation of the complaint mechanism for migrant workers has led to increased access to justice. Department of Labour data shows that more than 2,000 migrants filed cases related to contract substitution, excessive recruitment fees, missing persons, workplace injuries and deaths. The vast majority of the cases were lodged in relation to migration to Thailand, which is by far the largest destination country for Myanmar migrants (figure 4.4). The increased demand for assistance provided an opportunity for the ILO to work with the Department of Labour to further strengthen the delivery of services, particularly in terms of ensuring that resolutions are reached in a timely manner and satisfactory remedies are awarded. The DIILM project received high-level approval to provide support on the handling of complaints to Migrant Resource Centres and Labour Exchange Offices across the country.

The ILO also provided capacity building support to MoLIP on labour migration governance through training of high-level officials. The project supported the participation of the Assistant Directors of the Department of Labour to attend trainings on social protection for migrant workers, refugees and their families, and negotiating bilateral labour agreements, sat the ILO’s International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. Both trainings are highly relevant as Myanmar is engaged in developing a Memorandum of Cooperation with Japan, and started negotiations with Malaysia for an agreement on social protection of Myanmar migrants in Malaysia. The ILO project also provided training to new Labour Attachés deployed at embassies in Thailand, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea on providing assistance services to migrants.

With funding provided by LIFT, IOM has been implementing the Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (Twe Let) project since January 2017. The governance component of the project involves delivery of IOM technical support to MoLIP on developing a whole-of-government approach to labour migration governance in Myanmar.

During 2018, a scoping study on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies was completed. The study mapped the existing policies, mechanisms and actors involved with migration and development in Myanmar to support the government in better incorporating migration issues into policy development. One of the main recommendations of the report was that Myanmar’s government should establish an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration mainstreaming, with a defined membership, a mandated lead agency/secretariat and clear terms of reference.

With the support of IOM, MoLIP organised a workshop in Naw Pyi Taw in May 2018 for key stakeholders to discuss the findings of the scoping study. The workshop was attended by representatives from 13 Ministries, the Office of the President, the



▲ Figure 4.5
Migrant worker complaint cases filed with the Department of Labour by destination

Office of the State Counsellor and the Union Office of the Attorney General. IOM prepared an outcome report from the workshop, with recommendations on next steps and organised a follow-up meeting with the Director General of the Department of Labour and MoLIP's Minister to present the key recommendations. MoLIP is considering high-level endorsement of the report's recommendations and taking them forward in 2019.

Collaborating with the private sector for a responsible and productive response to rural to urban migration

Myanmar is undergoing a structural transformation, moving from a rural agrarian economy towards a more urban and industrialised economic model. The changes have brought improved prospects for higher wages and more formalised employment arrangements for workers. A driving force behind the country's economic growth is the expanding garment sector. The garment industry has grown considerably over the past years, with revenue exceeding USD 2.7 billion in 2017. The garment sector is the largest manufacturing employer within Myanmar, engaging approximately 450,000 workers, many of whom are young women who have migrated to Yangon from rural states and regions.

Finding decent work in urban areas within Myanmar remains a challenge for internal migrants, due to inadequate information and services available to support safe migration. Women migrant workers report that a common challenge to obtaining jobs is a lack of training opportunities. Accessing factory work is difficult for low-skilled migrants as owners are reluctant to employ untrained workers. If women migrants are not able to find sufficient income quickly, they can be driven into debt or forced to take up exploitative forms of employment.

There are also substantial problems with sexual harassment in the garment sector, which can discourage women from continuing to work within the industry. In a survey of migrant workers in Yangon and Mandalay, CARE found that 42 per cent of women experienced verbal harassment. More severe forms of physical and sexual abuse were also reported. Myanmar's labour laws do not provide sufficient mechanisms to prevent or provide redress for sexual harassment within the workplace and there is strong resistance to acknowledging the problem among factory owners due to reputational concerns.

The **Aung Myin Hmu (AMH) project** funded by LIFT works to address these challenges. Implemented by a consortium of **CARE International** and **Business Kind Myanmar**, the project began in 2017. The AMH project expands the opportunities for decent work through increasing access to training, peer networks and support services for women migrants in the peri-urban areas of Yangon, focusing on Hlaing Thar Yar and Shwe Pyi Thar Townships. In addition, the project advocates for the development of sexual harassment policy and relevant complaint mechanisms in garment factories.

The results of the skills training provided at the AMH training centre and through factory training lines have been positive, with almost 2,000 women and men completing training courses for work in the garment sector. Tracing data collected by the

project demonstrate the high quality of the training provided, with 95 per cent of AMH graduates passing the National Skills Standards Authority's assessment test. Even more importantly, the training is contributing to better working conditions for migrant women in the garment sector – 64 per cent of workers trained by AMH have higher salaries than those who are not trained.

The strong partnerships established with the government and private sector companies have generated substantial support for the AMH project activities. CARE's engagement with these stakeholders includes the involvement of township-level committees in establishing women's committees, cooperation with the Department of Labour and employer associations on adoption of national occupational competency standards and support from clothing brands such as H&M in establishing training lines within factories. The investment of time and resources in building these relationships has created many new opportunities for the project, including interest expressed by the Department of Labour in replicating the AMH training model in other locations such as Bago, Patheingyi, Hpa-An and Sittwe.

Read more about the AMH training centre on page 101

To address the needs of women garment factory workers after finding employment, Business Kind Myanmar established a large and vibrant network to provide peer support through the Thone Pan Hla Association. In 2018, nearly 8,000 migrant women participated in Thone Pan Hla's 'Sunday Café' and special holiday events to share information and build supportive relationships. The growth of this community-based network is driven by the outreach of its 70 dedicated peer leaders, who bring new members to the gatherings every week. Thone Pan Hla is also actively expanding and engaging its membership through social media and has sent more than 100,000 Facebook blast messages with key information on labour rights, health, nutrition and other issues.

CARE's activities on gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace began to gain traction during 2018. In collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, the AMH project team conducted two launch workshops in Hlaing Thar Yar Township for a referral pathway to respond to cases of gender-based violence and sexual harassment. CARE partnered with Legal Clinic Myanmar to increase legal aid services for migrant women living in peri-urban areas. Legal Clinic Myanmar is working to build community awareness and train paralegals to assist communities in accessing appropriate and responsive legal services. During 2018, legal counselling and mediation services were provided for 179 cases, litigation services were delivered for 23 cases and legal advice was offered for 1,545 cases through a 24-hour hotline.

A heavy emphasis has been placed on guaranteeing the long-term sustainability of the AMH training services in the costed extension of the project. During 2018, the Overseas Development Institute finalised a strategy for a sustainable business model for the Training Centre in North Dagon and factory training lines. The objective is to achieve financial sustainability for these services by the end of 2020, six months prior to the end of

LIFT funding. Starting work on the sustainability of the training services early in the project cycle will help to ensure that AMH can carry out the strategy in a measured and consultative manner, allowing the training programmes to continue without a substantial reduction in service quality.

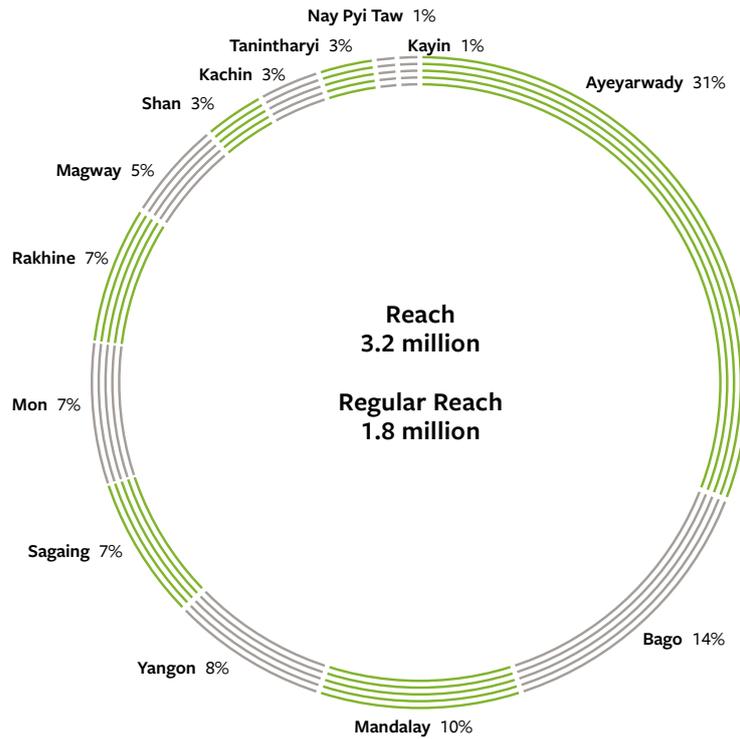
Building the capacity of civil society and media to deliver information on safe and rewarding migration
 Because of the expensive, complex and time-consuming procedures required for formal recruitment through licensed employment agencies, most migrants continue to seek out the assistance of brokers, friends or family to migrate informally. The networks that facilitate these movements were established long before any governance systems were developed to regulate labour migration in Myanmar and frequently provide a much more efficient means to an end.

However, the involvement of unscrupulous actors and the lack of accurate and impartial information can place migrants at high risk of becoming victims of abuse. As employees at destination, migrants from Myanmar are often ill-informed of their labour rights and unable to assert them when they face abuses. Women and those from ethnic minority groups are particularly disadvantaged in terms of access to information and assistance.⁵¹

In partnership with LIFT, **BBC Media Action** initiated a project to leverage national and local media platforms to support more informed decision making about migration and financial management in 2016. Key project activities include production of weekly episodes of a national radio programme, support for civil society partners in eight states and regions to facilitate inclusive community discussions about migration and household finances and organising weekly listener club meetings. BBC Media Action also supports the development of facilitation skills for civil society organisations, the formation of networks among local and national media engaging with migration issues and building the capacity of Myanmar state, ethnic and community media to produce programmes that inform and engage their audiences on migration and financial decisions.

Broadcast weekly since September 2017, the Yay Kyi Yar (Towards Clearer Waters) radio programme has established itself as a trusted, informative and inspirational programme. During 2018, 52 new episodes of Yay Kyi Yar were produced and broadcast. The programme provides a lively mix of factual information, interviews with experts, discussion programmes and personal stories to inform its audience. BBC Media Action experimented with various new formats to ensure that Yay Kyi Yar entertains and engages its target group. For example, during the Thingyan New Year festival the programme adopted the traditional than chat musical format, with local artists producing an original song related to safe migration and financial management.

BBC Media Action worked with partners to organize 40 weekly listener clubs for the Yay Kyi Yar programme across 14 regions and states of Myanmar – engaging more than 2,000 individual listeners. The broadcast partners produced live discussion programmes for the show on working conditions for



garment factory workers in Yangon and on migration to Thailand. Recorded in March and July 2018, the programmes provided the opportunity for migrant workers to directly ask questions of government, union and industry representatives about labour rights and working conditions, expanding social dialogue and accountability.

Quantitative and qualitative research studies conducted in 2018 show that the Yay Kyi Yar radio show and listener groups have significantly influenced knowledge and behaviour on safe migration and financial management. To measure the reach and impact of the programme, a nationally representative survey of 3,000 respondents was conducted at the end of 2018. Extrapolation based on the survey results suggests that the programme reached 3.2 million listeners in Myanmar. Although radio listenership has been in decline over the past three years in Myanmar, almost one-quarter of radio listeners in the country have listened to the programme. Of the 1.8 million regular listeners, 38 per cent reported that listening to the programme improved their knowledge on safe migration “a lot”. Among this group, 43 per cent said they had taken at least one action to better manage their finances as a result of listening to Yay Kyi Yar.

Qualitative research with listener groups and listeners at home mirror many of the findings of the survey, further validating the study results: “In Yay Kyi Yar, it tells you about making a business by saving 1,000 Kyat each day, which is a small amount. By working hard you can make a big business. I was motivated by that and I started saving.”—Female listener in Yangon.

▲ **Figure 4.6**
 Location of regular listeners of the Yay Kyi Yar radio programme.

State/ Region	Pre- Migration	Importance of Saving	Income Generation	Skills Development	Total
Magway and Mandalay	7,007	9,134	584	854	17,579
Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi	5,325	5,648	536	384	11,893
Shan	3,516	3,819	411	601	8,346
Chin	11,947	3,420	304	944	16,615
	27,795	22,021	1,835	2,783	54,434

▲ **Table 4.10**
Outreach and training services provided to migrants and their family members by location

Use of social media to engage with beneficiaries increased in 2018. By the end of the year the programme's Facebook page had 455,911 likes, an increase of 290,000 in 12 months. To continue to expand its reach, the Yay Kyi Yar digital team launched a new format for content on the Facebook page – a weekly cartoon series created by renowned cartoonist Maung Maung Paung Tain. The project also started using Facebook Live to increase audience interaction. Ten live events were organised and the studio-based discussions with experts were streamed on the Facebook page. This format enables presenters to respond to questions by telephone, Facebook comments and Facebook video chat. Topics included migration to Thailand, Korea and Japan, social security, financial management, job searching, starting a business with MMK 100,000 (USD 700), workers' compensation, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

In 2018, a scoping study of ethnic and regionally-based media organisations was undertaken to map and identify potential partners for capacity development activities. Following the study, partnership agreements were signed with nine media partners, including radio, online and print media. BBC Media Action conducted training on feature reporting for the nine partners in Yangon, Kayah and Tanintharyi and seven feature stories on migration and related topics were produced. In collaboration with the ILO, BBC Media Action organised a workshop in Taunggyi to build the capacity of key stakeholders from media, government and civil society. Training sessions included interviewing skills for media, developing press releases and practice responding to media questions in challenging scenarios.

To celebrate International Migrants Day 2018, the Civil Society and Labour Organization Network and the International Labour Organization organized a major informational event at Free Funeral Service Society in Yangon. The event was attended by over 1,000 migrants, workers and family members and received extensive media coverage, amplifying its messaging on the promotion of safe migration for migrants and the need for good governance of migration.

With LIFT funding, the **International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Twe Let** project conducted outreach and training activities to support safe and rewarding migration in Chin State, Shan State, the South East and the Dry Zone.

IOM and its civil society partners provided direct services to over 54,000 migrants across 732 villages in seven states and regions. Four main types of services are provided: (1) pre-migration outreach, (2) training on the importance of saving remittances, (3) training on income generation activities, and (4) skills development training and job matching. An innovative approach to enhancing engagement of migrants in pre-migration outreach has been delivering safe migration messaging through a live theatre show in Chin State, reaching nearly 10,000 people in Hakha, Thantlang, Falam and Tedim townships.

Why theatre? Read more on page 101

An outcome survey was organised to assess the results of the Twe Let project training activities in late 2018. More than 2,000 beneficiaries were interviewed across all four intervention areas. Comparing their awareness before and after delivery of pre-migration training, the survey showed that knowledge of safe migration practices had increased significantly, including the need to discuss migration with family members, set migration goals and gather information about their destination before departure. It was also found that the training on financial literacy was successful in encouraging the majority of participants (71 per cent) to increase the amount of remittances they were saving. For beneficiaries of skills training, 41 per cent reported having found a new job or business opportunity and 75 per cent said their income had increased as a result.

IOM's outreach activities are implemented in partnership with three ethnic civil society organisations who have well-established credibility within their communities and can work effectively with a wide-range of local stakeholders. The consortium partners include the Chin Human Rights Organization, Mon Women's Organization and Parami Development Network. A core objective of IOM's Twe Let project is to build the capacity of civil society partners to increase the sustainability of the interventions. This support extends beyond the technical capacity to implement the activities to building the institutional capacity of the organizations involved. During 2018, a series of capacity development workshops were held, including training on migration and development, communications, report writing, gender mainstreaming, fraud awareness and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. These workshops build on past trainings provided on financial management and monitoring and evaluation, contributing to demonstrable improvements in capacity.

To harness the positive impacts of migration and increase understanding of how migration is linked with development, IOM has been implementing the **Migration as a Livelihood Diversification Strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)** project. Working with 10 local CSOs, the project delivered training services in 221 Ayeyarwady Delta villages. Training on gainful migration reached almost 9,000 prospective migrants and close to 6,000 family members were trained on harnessing the benefits of migration. Tracing surveys conducted with randomly selected training participants found that 67 per cent of those who decided to migrate said the training had positively impacted on their migration experiences.

The MILDAS project received repeated requests from its CSO partners to make comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date information on migration available online so that potential migrants could access it more conveniently. In response, IOM created a Facebook chatbot called Mel Shwet Pyaung (Miss Migration), which provides interactive consultations and delivers relevant information. Launched in May 2018, the Miss Migration Chatbot had responded to more than 4,300 questions by the end of 2018 and its Facebook page had received 11,073 likes. The *Democratic Voice of Burma* and *Mizzima* magazine promoted the Chatbot to support greater visibility.

Establishing a more gender-responsive approach to migration governance and addressing exploitation of women migrants

Women face additional challenges in accessing safe and legal migration opportunities in Myanmar, with the type of work available to them often paying less and affording fewer labour protections due to a lack of formalisation. This reflects an undervaluing of occupations that are traditionally viewed as women's work, as well as discriminatory practices in sectors that employ both women and men.⁵² It further compounds the unequal treatment that women migrants often experience as foreign workers in destination countries.⁵³

During 2018, substantial progress was made in fostering a more rights-based dialogue on the issue of exploitation of migrant domestic workers. Returned domestic workers were supported to voice their experiences and recommendations at public forums and through the news media. During a public meeting, the leader of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar called for domestic work to be recognised as work under Myanmar's labour laws, which is an important step forward as trade unions are not traditionally active in the sector. In addition, the ILO's engagement with parliamentarians led to a proposal to set up an informal working group to support the development of legislation on domestic work in Myanmar.

The ILO's campaign activities for International Domestic Workers Day in June reached thousands of people through the distribution of information materials at market and convenience store locations around Yangon and at a public event held at Junction Square. Media coverage picked up the three main advocacy points: (1) the need for domestic workers to be recognised as workers and protected by labour laws in Myanmar, (2) the importance of developing bilateral agreements for protection of domestic workers employed overseas, and (3) the necessity to ratify the *ILO Domestic Work Convention (No. 189)* to better align the legal framework with international labour standards.

The DIILM project developed an engaging set of materials to support ongoing advocacy and campaigning on decent work for domestic workers. These include *Getting Organized: A Guide for Domestic Worker Support Groups* and the *Guide to ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work*, which depicts the articles of the convention through cartoons. A series of policy reports have also been

developed, including *Towards Ratification of the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, Legal Protection of Domestic Workers*, and a *Gap Analysis of Myanmar Law and Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201*. These tools for policymakers and advocates are being disseminated in Myanmar and English languages and 9,000 hard copies were distributed in 2018.

Although no official announcement has been made on lifting the ban on domestic workers going abroad for employment, there are indications that this may happen soon. Recruitment agencies who are licensed members of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation have resumed openly recruiting domestic workers. At the policy level, MoLIP entered into bilateral talks with countries of destination to develop agreements on deployment of domestic workers to Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. A tacit end to the ban on deployment may be the more likely scenario given the sensitivities involved.

Myanmar is considered to be a source country for men, women and children trafficked for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation, both in-country and abroad.⁵⁴ LIFT has supported **Eden Ministry** to deliver outreach and assistance to survivors of trafficking in Yangon's sex industry since March 2017. The project provides women and girls with the opportunity to sustainably exit from exploitative situations.

Through outreach in Yangon's red-light areas, the Eden project raises awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and provides free HIV testing services for sex workers. The project has screened 205 community members for HIV and provided counselling and referrals for those who tested positive. The provision of free HIV screening through its mobile clinic also creates an opportunity for Eden case managers to establish relationships with sex workers and assess whether they have been trafficked. Since the start of the project, 62 women and girls have been identified and provided with protection services.

For survivors of trafficking, the project offers holistic shelter and rehabilitation services. Eden's shelter facility provides a safe environment for survivors of trafficking to recover from their experiences, including delivery of trauma-focused counselling and creative therapies to help restore their dignity and mental health. Its services are intended to care for women's physical, emotional, economic and social well-being, offering them the opportunity to realise their full potential. Eden also provides skills training in jewelry making, hairdressing, computer literacy, coffee making, baking, sales and several languages to assist their beneficiaries with finding employment.

Eden Ministry plans to expand its services in 2019. Building on its existing services for women trafficked in the sex industry, the project will support capacity building for service providers on trauma counselling, advocate for victim-centred prosecutorial procedures, develop legal strategies to better support access to justice for survivors and increase awareness to prevent human trafficking. The project activities will be extended geographically from Yangon to Lashio and Tachileik in Shan State, with new shelter facilities set to open in 2019 in both locations.

⁵² UN Women. (2017).

Women Migrant Workers in the Asean Economic Community (Bangkok).

⁵³ ILO. (2017). Protected or Put in Harm's Way? Bans and Restrictions on Women's Labour Migration in ASEAN Countries (Bangkok).

⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State. (2018). Trafficking in Persons Report (Washington DC).

Establishing a migration knowledge partnership to inform the migration discourse

Women and men migrant workers play a critically important role in shaping Myanmar's economic and social development. However, the complexities of the migration-development nexus in Myanmar are still not well understood due to major gaps in the knowledge base. Robust evidence is needed to inform the development of Myanmar's labour migration governance framework so that it can respond more effectively to the country's rapidly expanding migration flows.

The Myanmar Government has made intensive efforts to reform policy and legislation in recent years. With such a wide array of new instruments being promulgated, there is a danger of fragmentation and a lack of coherence. To examine the disconnects within the policy framework, the ILO's DIILM project drafted a series of sister papers for its well-received *Building Labour Migration Policy Coherence* paper. The papers assess policy coherence at sub-national level, policy coherence between labour migration and anti-trafficking policies and policy coherence between labour migration and gender equality and women's empowerment policies. These knowledge products create a suite of resources for improving multi-sectoral coordination on labour migration governance in Myanmar, to be disseminated in 2019.

Limitations in capacity for collection and analysis of official data has been highlighted as another important challenge to development of labour migration policy within Myanmar. During 2018, a knowledge product *Labour Migration Data for Evidence-Based Policy Development* was drafted by the ILO. The report appraises the official data and statistics currently available on international labour migration and makes recommendations for filling key knowledge gaps and supporting the government to fulfill its reporting obligations for the Sustainable Development Goals. The paper was published in English in December 2018 and will be released in Myanmar language in 2019.

Since January 2016, LIFT has supported [IOM](#), [Metta Development Foundation](#) and the [University of Sussex](#) to conduct a large-scale research study on the relationship between migration and development in Myanmar. The [Capitalizing on Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar \(CHIME\)](#) project analyses the impact of migration at the household, community and regional levels and provides recommendations for maximising the positive contribution it makes to rural livelihoods.

The CHIME study applied a mixed methodology approach, collecting data from migrants in four major areas of origin in Myanmar: Ayeyarwady Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State and Shan State. A total of 3,116 randomly selected households were sampled and qualitative in-depth interviews were completed with 192 respondents from lower-economic strata households. Validation workshops were held with stakeholders in the four target states and regions to ensure the validity of the research findings and the University of Sussex submitted the first draft of the study report in early 2018. Following several rounds of rigorous peer

review by IOM, LIFT and other technical experts, the final draft report is expected in early 2019.

The key findings of the research clearly demonstrate that Myanmar has a highly mobile population in the four regions studied and provides a richly textured account of the variations in the drivers and outcomes of migration in each geographic area. The study highlights the reality that, as Myanmar continues to develop and more opportunities for internal and international mobility open up, labour migration is likely to continue to expand. It recommends that bold policy measures are enacted to ensure that the positive impacts of migration are supported and magnified, while the risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrants are reduced.

The CHIME report was launched on International Migrants' Day 2018 at the Myanmar Government's official ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. The high-level event was hosted by the Vice President, with participation of ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, heads of United Nations agencies and many other stakeholders – over 500 participants in all. A video of the key findings of the report was screened, featuring interviews with the Director General of the Department of Labour, Metta Development Foundation, the University of Sussex, IOM and several members of LIFT's Fund Board. An executive summary of the study in Myanmar and English languages was distributed to all attendees at the event, placing the study results directly into the hands of key decision makers.

The CHIME study generated a rich body of evidence on the diverse realities of Myanmar migrants and their families. However, the aim of the CHIME project extends beyond the publication of a report. It was undertaken to fill a knowledge gap, so that the Myanmar Government, development actors, civil society organisations and the private sector have an increased understanding of the migration-development nexus and are persuaded to act on evidence-based recommendations on leveraging migration for development. In the remaining six months of the CHIME project in 2019, the project will focus on communicating the study findings through engagement with target audiences on a range of online, offline and broadcast mediums.

Looking ahead

The thematic area of Decent Work and Labour Mobility has been established for the next phase of LIFT's programming (2019-2023). This represents a change in strategy to engage more broadly with establishing conditions for decent work in Myanmar, while maintaining a focus on internal and international migrants as some of the most vulnerable populations of workers.

Under the framework of this thematic area, the protection of fundamental labour rights will be the cornerstone for building a foundation for decent work in Myanmar. This approach makes explicit that the path to achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth must be rooted in a labour market that provides fair wages and working conditions, allows for freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and does not permit forced labour, child labour or discrimination in respect to employment.

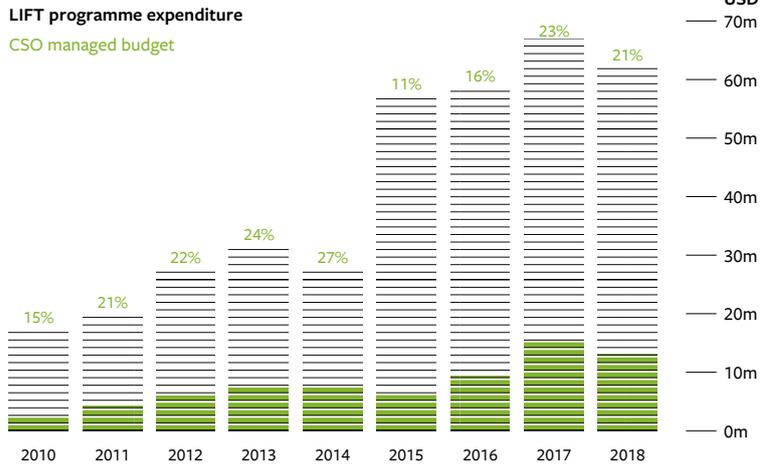
Implementation of the strategy will entail an adjustment in targeting. Rather than supporting interventions that primarily focus on individual cases of exploitation and abuse, structural factors will be engaged to achieve more transformative changes in Myanmar. The Decent Work and Labour Mobility Programme will focus on reducing the structural vulnerabilities experienced by marginalised populations of workers, including women, migrants, ethnic minorities, informal sector workers, displaced people, people with disabilities and the LGBTQI community. The interventions will address sectoral exclusions from labour and social protection laws, ineffective labour mobility systems, gender-based bans on deployment, criminalisation of sex work and other sources of exposure to the risk of abuse.

Because of the critical challenge to decent work posed by entrenched gender inequality in Myanmar, the Decent Work and Labour Mobility Programme will implement a ‘twin track’ approach to the issue. The first track will ensure that gender is thoroughly mainstreamed in all programme activities. The second track will focus on delivering activities that specifically aim to increase the voice, agency and participation of women. Establishing proportional requirements for gender budgeting and reporting on specific expenditure in relation to these targets will ensure adequate resourcing for the interventions.

A series of thematically integrated calls for proposal will be launched during 2019 to begin implementation of the Decent Work and Labour Mobility strategy.

What is decent work?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines decent work as involving “opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.” As such it can be regarded as one end of a continuum which stretches in the opposite direction to more exploitative labour practices that become, at their most extreme, forced labour and human trafficking.



▲ **Figure 4.7**
Percentage of LIFT funds managed by local entities

4.4 **Civil Society Strengthening**

Strengthening local organisations’ capacity to support sustainable development of livelihoods in Myanmar is an integral part of LIFT’s work. Since its inception, LIFT has worked with civil society partners through its various funding windows. In 2016, new processes were implemented to assist civil society organisations (CSO) to fulfil proposal requirements, resulting in an increase in the proportion of LIFT funds being granted to Myanmar CSOs through LIFT’s funding windows. Also in 2016, a strategic partnership modality was established and small grants funds were established in selected townships of the Delta, Dry Zone and Uplands. In February 2018, LIFT’s Fund Board decided that a share of all funding windows from 2019 would be ring-fenced for CSO partners.

LIFT continuously tracks the share of its total funding that is directly managed by Myanmar’s CSOs. In 2018, this is 21 per cent.

Small Grants Funds

In the first half of 2018, all three small grants funds became fully operational having developed and tested their systems, conducted township assessments, supported the formation of township-level networks and established representative grant approval and advisory committees. Each fund designed grants to suit their contexts.

The **Uplands Township Fund** is facilitated by a consortium of SWISSAID, Metta and GRET. By the end of 2018 the Uplands Township Fund had provided funds to 121 township-level partners from 15 townships. The Upland Township Fund issues core grants, seed grants and opportunity grants. **Core grants** are for projects that directly contribute to the Fund’s core aim and programmatic interests, and grants range from USD 13,000 to USD 46,000 for projects that run for more than six months. **Seed grants** are for a maximum of USD 2,000 and are designed to support smaller CSOs to develop their project ideas to the point when they may be eligible to apply for a core grant. **Opportunity grants** are for the civil society groups that need small grants to allow them to respond quickly to one-off opportunities that are directly relevant to the Fund’s core aim and programmatic interests such as unplanned advocacy opportunities. The maximum opportunity grant size is USD 1,300.

	Grants							Grants Value	
	Special	Project	CRG	FAA	Core	Seed	Opportunity	Total	USD
Delta SGF	20	50						70	674,092
Dry Zone SGF			48	28				76	363,836
Upland SGF					92	14	15	121	1,958,721
								267	2,996,649

▲ **Table 4.11**
Number of grants issued with total value by Small Grant Funds

The **Delta Small Grants Fund** is facilitated by GRET. There were 70 CSO grant-holders in Delta townships at the end of 2018. The Delta Small Grant Fund issues project grants and special grants. **Project grants** are a large grant of between USD 13,000 and USD 20,000 to support core activities that contribute to the fund's purpose. **Special grants** are much smaller and are intended for activities related to organisational development, evidence building, demonstration of good practice and research.

The **Dry Zone Small Grants Fund** is facilitated by PACT and began issuing grants in 2018. By the end of the year the fund had 76 partners from nine townships. The Dry Zone fund issues cost reimbursement grants and fixed amount awards. **Cost Reimbursement Grants** are based on actual costs incurred as indicated in monthly or quarterly financial reports. They are awarded to organisations that can demonstrate certain elements of responsible management capacity and range from USD 5,000 to USD 20,000. **Fixed Amount Awards** are for activities that do not require the monitoring of actual costs subsequently incurred by the grantee. They are intended for use in support of specific activities where there is relative certainty about the costs incurred and the accomplishment of milestones.

LIFT designed the small grants funds to address funding gaps that exist for township-level CSOs. A perception existed that civil society was inactive at the township level. A mapping exercise in the Dry Zone found there were 325 active CSOs and of these 214 CSOs applied for grants. Around 36 per cent of applicants have so far been funded. LIFT will continue to provide support at this level because the township is often the site where the most significant livelihoods practices and policies are enacted and have impact on Myanmar's people lives. It is also at this level that the weak linkages between village and state/regional/national civil society can be strengthened.

Civil Society and Connectedness

Although small grant partners continue to struggle with the system strengthening approach, there is evidence that the approach has been understood, practiced and that stakeholders involved in the system, including the private sector, local authorities and civil society actors, have started to work together. Fifty-two per cent of the 76 CSOs in upland areas report that they are being increasingly recognised by local authorities.

There is also increased recognition of township-level CSOs by the private sector. Twenty CSOs awarded grants by the Upland Township Fund work with private sector associations such as the Myanmar Tea Cluster and Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MFVP) that

provides farmers with market information, technical training support and hosts trips for farmers to areas where they can learn about facilitating market linkages between farmers and traders.

Township-level CSOs are also increasingly networking with each other as a result of the small grant funds and have started to work on joint policy advocacy with township-level authorities. In Salin Township in the Dry Zone, 30 CSOs attend monthly meetings to discuss health, education and other township affairs. The group identified emergency medical transportation issues and advocated to township authorities to grant licences for vehicles to be used for emergency medical transportation. They also work in collaboration with other local government departments such as police, the General Administration Department and health departments.

Another example of improved connectivity is the Organic Farming Organisation, which became connected with the Food Security Working Group (FSWG) and national-level CSO NAG and learned new technical knowledge related to planning and patterns for gardening. The linkages strengthened the Organic Farmers Organisation that has since been able to support their community to develop organic farming and markets for their products.

Eighty-nine per cent of CSOs in the Upland Township Fund report stronger connections with other civic groups in their townships. Six of the township-level CSO networks in the upland areas are now linked with state-level CSO networks. CSO Golden Pearl engaged with parliamentarians and the Department of Social Welfare to achieve greater support for people with disabilities. Their engagement resulted in new support for around 300 disabled people in 2017 and 2018. Local parliamentarians raised issues in the National Parliament around construction of public infrastructure that meets the needs of people with disabilities.

Civil Society and Gender

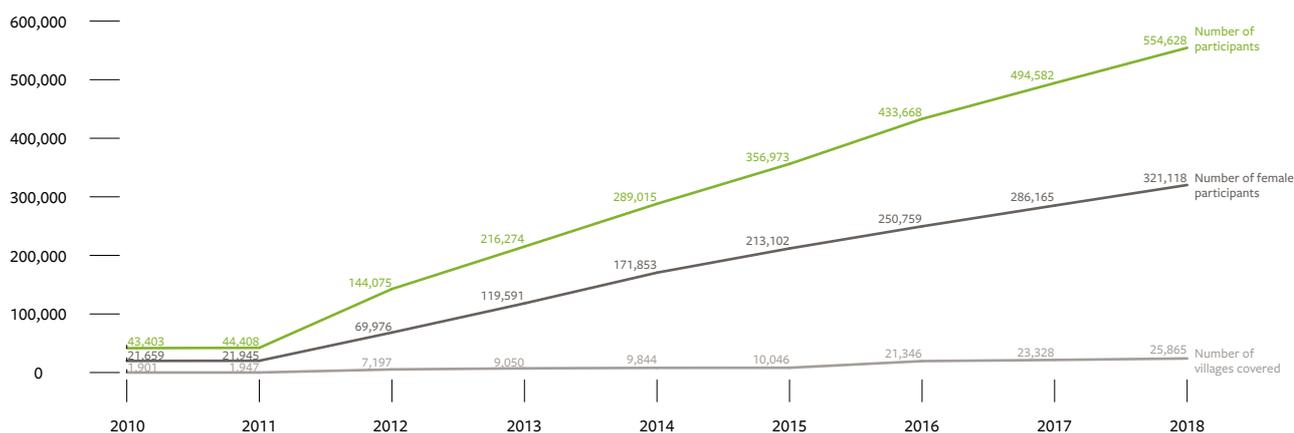
Small grant funds report that through LIFT-supported CSOs, women are increasingly advocating for, and achieving, greater economic inclusion. In addition to the 19 qualified women-led CSOs that were awarded LIFT grants, women are increasingly integrating themselves into interconnected livelihoods systems, often as a result of livelihoods trainings on increasing income and decreasing financial dependence.

Read about Daw Win Say's flower plantation on page 102

One of LIFT's strategic partners, the Gender Equality Network (GEN) advocates to promote women in leadership roles. GEN's secretariat team, members and steering committee organise regional, national, sub-national level workshops, forums and seminars and promote women's leadership at events as participants, panelists and guest speakers, gaining media exposure of women's leadership at these events. GEN's continuous advocacy for increasing women's participation in decision-making through public campaigns, policy statements and media coverage have had significant impacts in the increment of women leadership in different fields.

In 2018, GEN conducted a number of research studies for evidence-based advocacy:

- ‡ A Hundred Cases, which highlighted barriers that women faced in accessing the justice system



▲ **Figure 4.8**
Cumulative Training
Achievements 2010–2018

- Service Provision for Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Myanmar, which highlighted the many gaps in comprehensive service provision for gender-based violence survivors
- Hidden Blanks to be Filled, which explored legal frameworks needed to protect women and prevent violence

The studies reinforced the need for enacting the *Protection of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) law* and establishment of One Stop Service Centers (OSSCs) for women experiencing violence in states and regions. The Department of Social Welfare has incorporated recommendations to increase the number of OSSCs in the Violence Against Women Technical Working Group Action Plan at the national level.

Read about Civil Society and Disability on [page 103](#)

Ongoing capacity support for civil society

Aside from the intensive capacity focus of the small grants funds, LIFT partners continue to provide a range of capacity building opportunities to project beneficiaries, civil society groups and organisations, project staff, and government staff to strengthen their capacities to implement and influence. The total number of participants and the number of female participants continues to increase. LIFT’s partners’ capacity support has covered 37 per cent of Myanmar’s villages.

LIFT’s small grant funds serves as a stepping stone for township-level CSOs to apply for funding from international organisations. Township-level CSOs supported by the Delta Small Grants Fund successfully applied for grants from international organisations such as IOM, Oxfam, UN Habitat, ILO, San CSA, Swiss Contact, Action Aid, and Thar-Theet-Myay organisation.

Strategic Partnerships

LIFT has entered into six strategic civil society partnerships at the national level. The Food Security Working Group (FSWG), Gender Equality Network (GEN), and Land Core Group (LCG) are network-based and work primarily on research and national policy advocacy on issues including gender-based violence, soil fertility, food security, farmland law, and women’s political participation. LIFT supports these strategic partners to sustain and strengthen their membership networks and to publish and circulate their studies for use by civil society and the government.

Three of LIFT’s strategic partners, Metta, Network Activities Group (NAG) and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), are focused on institutional growth and support, developing research, policy and practice capacity, and enabling project innovation. The partners are working on key emerging livelihoods issues where their own and LIFT’s strategic interests overlap.

In the first half of 2018, strategic partners established their own collective platform for civil society leadership and learning. LIFT’s Fund Board and Fund Management Office engage with the strategic partners’ group as an influential and strategic actor on a broad range of inclusive livelihoods’ issues for Myanmar.

Civil Society Research

With a view to establishing a civil society research facility in 2019, the first part of the Indirect Costs Study was completed in 2018. LIFT introduced an initiative to ensure that all supported civil society actors received some unrestricted funding, as a share of grants’ indirect costs. The Indirect Costs Study was conducted to learn and disseminate the impact of this initiative among other funds and donors.

The first part of this study was led by the Uplands Township Fund and was based on the experiences of 36 local-level CSOs. The second part of the study included representatives from 122 CSOs participating in the Upland, Dry Zone and Delta Small Grants Funds. The key research questions were:

- Where do CSOs allocate indirect costs and other non-project funds?
- What processes do they use to make these allocation decisions?
- Are there potential co-relationships between these allocation decisions/processes, and CSO capacity?

The research can be downloaded on the LIFT website. The second part of the study will be launched in 2019.

Looking ahead

At its February 2018 meeting LIFT’s Fund Board approved a programme approach for LIFT’s civil society support. Building on the pilots of 2017/18, a full and interlinked set of funding modalities will come on-stream in 2019: ring-fenced shares of LIFT’s thematic-focused funding windows, a civil society research facility, strategic partnerships, small-grants funding and a CSO Learning and Networking Fund.

Skills training helps Hkabawng Nan Seng to find work in Yangon

Hkabawng Nan Seng is originally from Nant Yan village in Kachin State, where armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army are common. As a result of the fighting, the traditional livelihoods of many in her village have been disrupted.

Looking for new opportunities, she heard about the Aung Myin Hmu training centre through an information pamphlet distributed at her school for people with disabilities. She was interested to find work in the garment industry and decided to join the training. After completing the course, she was able to find a job in a factory in Yangon. “I feel I am so lucky to have a chance to train at Aung Myin Hmu. I have a disability, so I never thought that I would get a job in a big garment factory like this.”



It was not easy working in a garment factory but Hkabawng Nan Seng has persevered. Her daily routine begins at 6:00 AM so that she can get to the factory for the 7:30 AM start time. Because of her disability, she finds it hard to live in the hostel provided by her employer. “As I am disabled, it is difficult for me to take a shower together in a group within the time available. So, I have to stay in a hostel that I pay for with my own money.”

Despite the challenges she faces, Hkabawng Nan Seng is very proud of her job as a sewing machine operator in Hlaing Thar Yar. She earns the same amount as the other workers, with a daily wage of MMK 4,800 (USD 3.30) and MMK 1,200 in overtime pay. “Compared to those who did not receive training, I can perform better thanks to Aung Myin Hmu Training Centre.”

Read more about the Aung Myin Hmu project on [page 93](#)



Why theatre?

Chin State’s unique context presented a unique challenge to the formal pre-migration outreach training methodology. Formal trainings structured around course work and exercises were not suited to Chin communities in difficult-to-reach areas and with low literacy levels. It was quickly decided that a more oral methodology would be more appropriate to bridge the low literacy gap.

CHRO also found that the typical community-level pre-migration outreach event in Chin State were mainly attended by older men. Partly the result of promoting such events through the established networks of local leaders who are also disproportionately older men, many pre-migration outreach activities had limited participation by women and youth.

A different, more open and engaging method of implementing pre-migration outreach was clearly needed. Live theatre’s strengths, namely its open-ended storytelling that goes beyond the passive consumption of stories that media like television encourages, made it an appropriate candidate for pre-migration outreach. Indeed, theatre, by the very intensity of its live acting, engages audiences more and presents people from all backgrounds with the opportunity to observe something so uniquely interesting so as to command their full attention.

A similar initiative in Thailand showed that theatre, as an awareness-raising tool, has several advantages. Live performances are engaging and include fluid and spontaneous interactions with audiences. As theatre is an oral medium, literacy is not an issue. Theatre shows can reach large numbers of people, and since electricity and complicated infrastructure is not always necessary, they can be organized even in very remote communities. More importantly, theatre shows involve and train large numbers of local people as actors, who in turn can disseminate knowledge in their communities’ local dialect. As an awareness-raising tool, theatre shows can reach everyone, irrespective of their educational level or expertise in migration.

Read more about safe migration on [page 95](#)

Civil Society and Gender

Daw Win Say and her husband developed a sustainable livelihood in flower cultivation

In September 2018, the Community Garden Organisation (CGO) started the Sustainable Livelihood Activity of Income Generation by Flower Plantation project through the LIFT-funded Delta Small Grant Fund. They organised 60 households from five villages from three village tracts of Pantanaw Township. The project forms Flower Plantation Committees at the village level and provides basic training on agricultural technology related to flower plantation, and supports 60 households with initial capital to establish flower nurseries based on a repayment agreement with beneficiaries that supports a village revolving fund for the flower growers.

Daw Win Say, from Myin Ka Daung Village became a flower seller in her village when her husband became ill in 2008. As her husband was unable to work outside the home, she had to work to manage her household's expenses. Sometimes she also had to work as a daily labourer. Her main source of flowers were the township's wholesalers. She usually took the flowers on credit, which impacted on her price negotiation position and profit margin. Sometimes it was not possible for her to go out and sell flowers and her income was irregular.



She had to borrow from moneylenders to maintain her household.

She received plantation training and initial capital support of MMK 300,000 (USD 200) for flower seed/seedlings and production inputs from the Community Garden Organization (CGO), which received a grant from the Delta Small Grants Fund. In early October 2018 she established a flower nursery at her home. Now, she and her husband are both working in the flower nursery watering and caring for the plants and now her husband feels he is again contributing to the households' income. In December 2018 she said: "Now I am selling flowers from my garden, I am no more a street hawker or daily labourer. My income this month is more than in previous months and I am expecting it will be much more in coming months".

Read more about Civil Society and Gender on [page 99](#)





Civil Society and Disability

After noticing there were limited support services and poor access for people with disabilities (PWDs) in Lashio, Northern Shan State, Golden Pearl was founded in May 2015 in Lashio, northern Shan State, by three people to improve support services and access for people with disabilities. They worked as volunteers, conducting home visits to households with people with disabilities to interact and provide psychological support.

“Disability services are even more limited in rural areas than in the big cities—even to get a wheelchair in Lashio, we have to go to Yangon to get it,” said Golden Pearl Project Assistant Daw Moe Thuzar. “It costs a lot of money and travel time that the families cannot afford.”

Golden Pearl was awarded a grant by the Uplands Township Fund and began engaging with the Department of Social Welfare to initiate advocacy work, public awareness raising of disability issues and advocated for the implementation of Myanmar’s 2015 *Rights of Persons with Disability Law* with communities and government institutions. Golden Pearl set up an office and recruited full-time staff.

Golden Pearl also formed the Golden Future disabled groups network, which organises public awareness campaigns regarding people with disabilities.

“When Golden Pearl staff came to visit my house, I used to hide in the room and I asked my family members to tell them I was not at home,” said Ma Myo, who lost her vision. “I served as a police women for about 14 years. Then I lost my vision and I had to quit my job, which I loved.

After I lost my vision suddenly, I didn’t want to talk or meet anyone except my relatives and close friends. Because of Golden Pearl staff’s continual encouragement and support, I have confidence and courage again to meet with other disabled persons. Now I have become a community facilitator. I am so proud of myself, and my family, especially my children, are so proud of me.”

Golden Pearl also supports people with disabilities with financial aid to set up micro-enterprises and provides vocational training. They run awareness raising campaigns through primary schools, to the general public and with other CSOs and government. They advocated to the Lashio Township Municipal Authorities and a private company was contracted for construction of public facilities in Lashio that are suitable for people with disabilities.

The Shan State Burmese Ethnic Affairs Minister linked Golden Pearl with the YMCA, to assist the YMCA to identify 20 young people with disabilities to be involved in a three-year project that will provide financial capital assistance for small business management and livelihoods activities.

With support from LIFT, through the Uplands Township Fund, Golden Pearl is now a benchmark for supporting the rights of people with disabilities in Lashio. They are now in the process of registering as a state level organisation to extend their work in other townships in northern Shan State.

Read more about Civil Society Strengthening on [page 98](#)



5.0 **Cross Cutting Areas**

5.1 **Nutrition**

The crucial first 1,000 days of life

One child in three below the age of five in Myanmar is stunted, meaning they are shorter than they should be for their age. This is mainly due to inadequate diets, micronutrient deficiencies, and repeated infections during the first 1,000 days of life, from conception through to two years of age. The first 1,000 days is a window of opportunity to ensure the good nutrition necessary for optimal growth, development and health throughout the life cycle, and it starts with good nutrition for adolescent girls and women before pregnancy. Ensuring adolescent girls and women are well nourished before and during pregnancy reduces the effects of the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition where malnourished mothers give birth to low birth weight babies who have a higher risk of having health problems and becoming stunted.

Good nutrition is transformational at the individual level and children who get the right nutrition in the first 1,000 days complete more grades of school, earn up to 21 per cent more as adults and are 10 times less likely to die of childhood diseases. Poor nutrition is linked to 45 per cent of child deaths.⁵⁵

A multi-sector approach to programmes and policy

Reducing stunting and improving nutrition outcomes requires efforts across many sectors.

To have a direct impact on the immediate causes of stunting, strategies need to improve the quality, quantity and age appropriateness of the diet consumed during adolescence and the first 1,000 days through effective social behaviour change approaches that can change individual practices and society's attitudes, especially regarding breastfeeding, complementary feeding and maternal nutrition. This needs to be combined with increasing access to health and nutrition-related services to ensure women receive appropriate ante-natal care, essential micronutrient supplementation and good quality care for newborns. LIFT collaborates with the Access to Health Fund on these nutrition-specific interventions.

Nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture, social protection, decent work, water and sanitation, education and health are needed to complement the impact that nutrition-specific interventions can have. Interventions designed to reduce vulnerability, increase incomes, livelihood opportunities and the availability of diverse, nutritious and affordable foods need explicit objectives related to improving nutrition outcomes in order to contribute to a reduction in stunting.

An estimate was made in 2013 in the *The Lancet* journal that nutrition-specific interventions can only address 20 per cent of the nutrition problem. The remaining 80 per cent must be tackled through nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Analysis of the causes of stunting and vulnerability to malnutrition are essential to delivering interventions that target the right barriers. Collaboration across sectors in planning and implementation is key to ensuring a reduction in stunting.

Women's empowerment is a key pathway for improved nutrition outcomes and improvements in decision making, asset control, livelihoods, knowledge and information can all impact on the care practices and nutrition status of women and children during the first 1,000 day window.

The benefits from nutrition-sensitive interventions increase when high level political leadership, along with interministerial, cross-sector coordination is complemented by local ownership of nutrition programmes and their outcomes.

LIFT's programmes have implemented nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive initiatives in all the geographical zones where LIFT works since 2014 and advocated for interministerial action on nutrition.

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture aims to maximise the impact of nutrition outcomes for the poor, while minimising the unintended negative nutrition consequences of agricultural interventions and policies, especially for women and young children. It is agriculture with a nutrition lens, and should not detract from the sector's own goals. Investments in agriculture, which have great potential to improve (or undermine) nutrition outcomes, reach their fullest potential when deliberately designed and planned with the intention of having a positive impact on nutrition.

Since the inclusion of nutrition in the LIFT 2014 Strategy, implementing partners have been engaging in nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects. There are three main pathways through which agriculture can impact nutrition, including food production, agricultural income, and women's empowerment.

In the Uplands and Dry Zone Programmes, LIFT's implementing partners work with farmer groups to promote vegetable cultivation while also providing information about nutrition and better dietary practices through social behaviour change approaches. In Chin State, the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) works closely with the State Agriculture Institute to integrate nutrition education into the curriculum for agriculture extension officers. In the Delta, WorldFish teaches poor, rural households to grow micronutrient-rich small fish alongside commercial species in home ponds to promote small fish consumption in households specifically targeting children of complementary feeding age with age appropriate nutritious foods.

In 2018, LIFT's nutrition specialists conducted a review of LIFT's nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and of global evidence around

nutrition-sensitive agriculture and its impact on better nutrition outcomes. The review was conducted to identify key focus areas for LIFT beyond-2018.

Key recommendations were for LIFT to:

- ‡ Invest in LIFT's implementing partners to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's (MoALI) staff at all levels to lead nutrition-sensitive agriculture efforts in the nutrition sphere.
- ‡ Invest in nutrition sensitive contextual analysis that contributes to the design of agriculture interventions that can have an impact on nutrition and are accompanied by targeting and indicators to measure that impact.
- ‡ Build on the learnings of LIFT's nutrition-sensitive interventions to date and to improve impact of programmes which promote a package of synergistic interventions.
- ‡ Ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment figure prominently in LIFT programmes and strategies, with accompanying implementation tools for implementing partners.

MCCT and Nutrition

In 2018, LIFT continued to support the maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) programme in a number of states and regions in Myanmar. MCCT programming is one of the eight 'flagship' programmes addressing vulnerabilities along the life cycle outlined in Myanmar's *National Social Protection Strategic Plan* and LIFT has supported them since 2014. From the first pilot in Rakhine to MCCT programmes in the Delta, Dry Zone and Chin State, LIFT worked to ensure that a nutrition social and behavior change communications (SBCC) component accompanies cash transfers as evidence is clear that cash transfers on their own do not deliver positive nutrition outcomes. In the Delta and Dry Zone programmes, LIFT has piloted different methods of SBCC delivery and a synthesis study of SBCC approaches is planned for 2019 that will inform future government-led MCCT programmes.

LIFT's partnership with the Department of Social Welfare, and others, in Chin State for a statewide MCCT programme was a major achievement of 2017. In 2018, LIFT continued to work closely with DSW in Chin State to improve SBCC delivery and to support the government's monitoring and evaluation and data collection. The government announced in 2018 that state-wide cash transfers will be funded from government budgets from 2019, as intended when LIFT first funded the programme in 2017. LIFT is supporting DSW to implement MCCT programmes in Kayah and Kayin States through support for operational costs and the implementation of a baseline survey in 2019.

LIFT remains engaged with government on these important nutrition initiatives and will continue to advocate strongly and provide support for the inclusion of nutrition social and behaviour change communication. More details of the geographic programmes' MCCT and SBCC projects and their achievements and learnings in 2018 can be found in Chapter 3.

Fortified Rice

LIFT supports work with the private sector to introduce rice fortified with micronutrients. PATH is working to improve consumption of fortified rice by increasing its commercialisation and access to those who most need it. PATH has worked closely with the National Nutrition Centre, Department of Public Health, Myanmar Rice Millers Association (MRMA), Population Services International and other key stakeholders to promote the purchase of fortified rice by consumers, as well as the distribution of fortified rice by the government and NGOs. PATH secured approval from Myanmar's Food and Drug Authority for fortified rice kernels and for production in private sector facilities.

In 2018, PATH supported a second fortified rice kernel producer, MAPCO Golden Lace (MAPCO-GL), with the installation of an extrusion machine. In 2018, a cumulative total of 1,639 metric tons (MT) of fortified rice was produced and 1,526 MT of fortified rice was sold through more than 850 retail outlets in Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Mandalay, and Magway Regions and in Sagaing, Rakhine, and Shan State.

PATH increased efforts to increase consumption of fortified rice by those who most need it, the vulnerable poor. Social-sector procurement added up to 413 MT, distributed through public hospitals under the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and feeding programs under the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). In 2018, DSW expanded its school feeding programme to include fortified rice at schools in Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing, reaching 12,500 beneficiaries. The MoHS committed to introducing fortified rice in 1,300 public hospital feeding programmes, 55 midwifery and nursing schools, and six sports institutes nationwide.

PATH partnered with Population Services International (PSI) to implement a comprehensive demand-generation campaign through mass media and interpersonal face-to-face promotion. PSI and PATH worked with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce (UMFCCI) and Business Kind Myanmar to introduce fortified rice to garment factory workers, most of whom are young women, in peri-urban areas.

PATH supported two rice millers in Rakhine with the installation of blending units. World Food Programme began distributing fortified rice in Sittwe in September 2018 and reached 10,188 internally displaced people (IDP) living in six IDP camps with 304 MT of fortified rice distributed by the end of the year.

Social behaviour change

Social and behaviour change (SBC) is an approach to programming that applies insight about why people behave the way they do, and how behaviours change within wider social and economic systems, to affect positive outcomes for and by specific groups of people.⁵⁶ Nutrition SBC aims for social and individual behaviour changes that improve nutrition outcomes for priority groups.⁵⁷ SBC approaches are built on formative research, which identifies key behaviours and the factors that may influence them, and develops tools and materials that convey specific

⁵⁶ SPRING 2017 <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/>

⁵⁷ USAID and Spring: Moving Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Forward—Lessons from the SPRING Project

messages to targeted audiences. SBC can be used across all areas of LIFT programming.

Nutrition social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) is a set of interventions that combines elements of interpersonal communication, social change and community mobilisation activities, mass media and advocacy to support individuals, families, communities, institutions and countries to adopt and maintain high-impact nutrition-related practices. Effective SBCC seeks to increase the factors that encourage these behaviours while reducing the barriers to change.⁵⁸

LIFT's funding of the MCCT has always been a combined approach with SBCC to improve dietary practices and nutrition interventions that combined contribute to improved nutrition outcomes.

LIFT funded Save the Children in Chin State to develop an evidence-based SBCC strategy with the government. This was achieved in 2018 as a result of desk reviews, consultation with health and NGO staff, rapid community assessments on key nutrition behaviours and community resource mapping. These are important steps for a SBC approach and the project successfully conducted a National SBCC Action Plan Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw in July 2018. This process led to guidance from taskforce members to develop State/Region Action Plans for the SBCC component under the MCCT programme for other priority geographic areas, including Rakhine, Shan, and Ayeyarwady Regions.

Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition

The overall goal of Myanmar's Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) is to reduce all forms of malnutrition in mothers, children, and adolescent girls with the expectation that this will lead to healthier and more productive lives that contribute to the economic and social aspirations of the country.

The MS-NPAN is based on the underlying assumption that collaboration between key actors and stakeholders is imperative for the long-term and sustainable improvement of nutrition for women, children, and adolescents in Myanmar. By leveraging the collective and complementary inputs of multiple sectors with different strengths, and enabling convergence of interventions and services at the community, household and individual levels, it will be possible to have a significant impact on nutrition outcomes.

LIFT has committed to supporting the inception period of the MS-NPAN (1 October 2018–30 September 2019), which has three focus areas: 1) capacity assessment and development plans, 2) prioritisation of interventions, and 3) monitoring and evaluation.

Capacity assessment will assess the systems and structures to best enable intersectoral collaboration, accountability and coordination at the Union and State/Regional levels, as well as an assessment of the capacity of the four sectors to implement interventions in their workplans, at the local level. Effective implementation of these interventions requires a detailed review of existing human resources, infrastructure and operational capacity of each sector.

A series of workshops and conversations at the state/regional level will review the magnitude of different nutrition problems as well as the key determinants of poor nutrition. This information, together with the feasibility of implementation will inform the most critical set of priority interventions to be incorporated into sub-national plans of action. Finally, the refinement of a monitoring and evaluation system to track the deployment of interventions activities, assess progress achieved and ultimately the impact realised against a set of key performance indicators is underway.

LIFT and the Access to Health fund are working together to support the MS-NPAN plan through government counterparts and are supporting the National Nutrition Centre with over 60 per cent of the costs associated with the inception year. LIFT will further explore the specific contributions LIFT can make to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's roles in the MS-NPAN.

Nutrition and resilience evaluation learning questions (ELQ)

The nutrition ELQ study is a two-part series to formulate observations and conclusions based on existing qualitative and quantitative data on the relationship between under-nutrition and resilience building, and to uncover what evidence gaps remain for future investigation. The first part of the report presents the conceptual framework to demonstrate the relationship between nutrition, food security and resilience building. The second part of the study includes an analysis of the 2015 and 2017 Household Surveys through a nutrition-resilience lens, as well as a review of select LIFT-funded projects.

Improved nutrition can be both the input and the outcome of strengthened resilience. Good nutrition security can prepare a population for the impacts of short-term shocks or long-term stresses. Likewise, strengthened resilience can lead to community-wide improvements in nutritional status.⁵⁹

The report identified six key findings that are closely aligned with LIFT's new strategy and should be the focus of building resilience:

- ‡ Tackle nutrition and resilience jointly with communities and local authorities as key collaborative partners.
- ‡ Advocate for strengthened maternal, infant and young child nutritional care policies and programmes and promote a nutrition-sensitive health system.
- ‡ Build resilience at household and community levels before extreme climate-events.
- ‡ Increase focus on poor peri-urban and urban municipalities.
- ‡ Invest in nutrition-sensitive value chains and food systems.
- ‡ Build evidence and localised expertise on how to mutually strengthen resilience and nutrition.

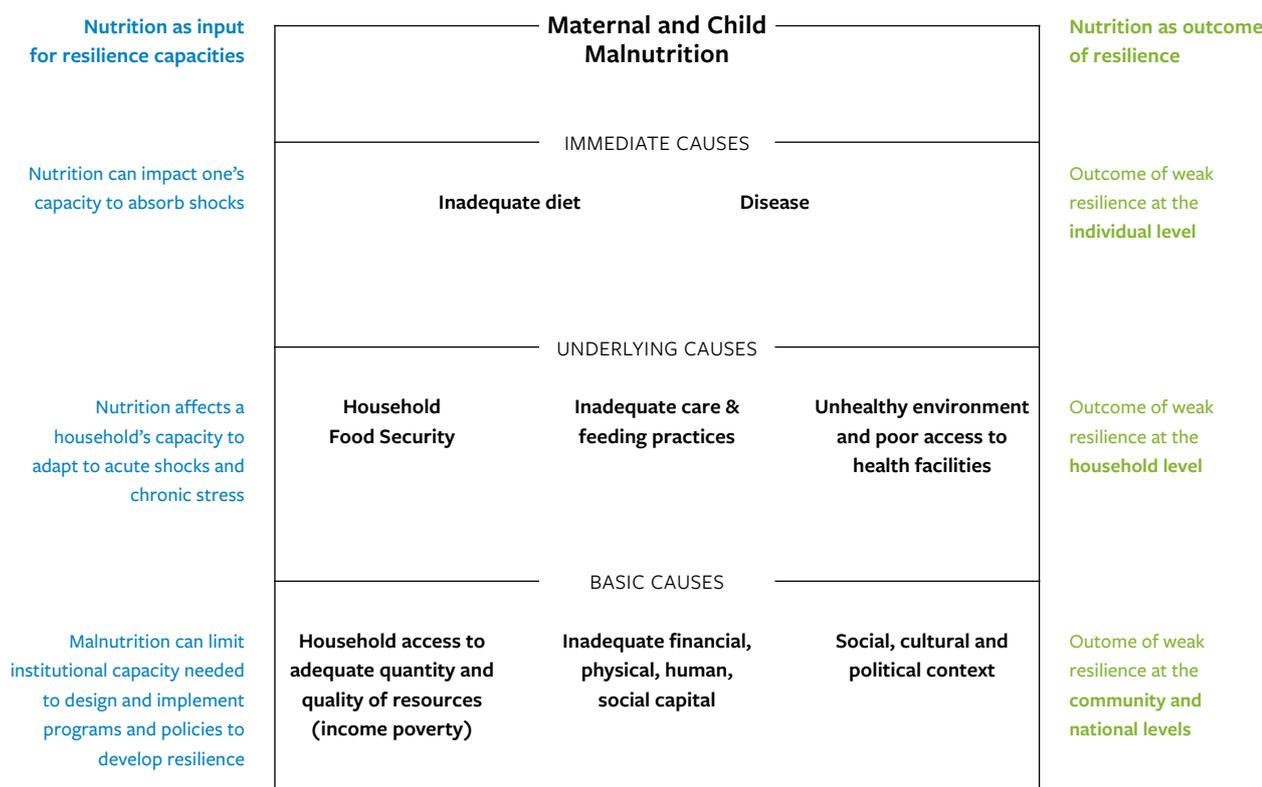
Collaborations

LIFT is involved in a wide range of partnerships, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of its nutrition work. In addition to private sector firms, civil society organisations, and national and international NGOs, LIFT actively engages with a range of

⁵⁸ USAID and Spring: Moving Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Forward – Lessons from the SPRING Project

⁵⁹ Nutrition and Resilience in Myanmar Part 1: A review of Evidence, LEARN funded by LIFT.

UNICEF Maternal and Child
Malnutrition Causal Framework



development partners, including United Nations organisations such as UNICEF, UN REACH and the SUN-CSA.

In 2018 LIFT, along with the Access to Health fund and the Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme (HARP), developed a joint approach, building on the respective comparative advantages of each fund to promote a more unified approach to nutrition. The funds agreed on a co-ordinated set of actions with a common technical approach to focus on prevention of, and response to, malnutrition which straddles humanitarian and development objectives. The funds are capitalising on their leverage potential to achieve advocacy gains as well as programme impact.

The priorities of the three funds' approach to nutrition are:

- ‡ Align operational priorities with the priorities of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and MS-NPAN
- ‡ Build on the strengths of the three funds, avoiding repetition and duplication
- ‡ Coordination and communication: Activate the 3 Fund Coordination Committee on Nutrition to ensure: learnings from collaborative programming, development of joint policy and advocacy agendas, pragmatic, coordinated technical and funding support

During 2018 the three funds reviewed proposals jointly in Kachin and Rakhine to capitalise on geographical convergence where opportunities for coordinated approaches are expected to have an improved impact on nutrition outcomes.

LIFT agreed to co-finance a learning workshop on water, sanitation and hygiene in Rakhine with HARP, to capture best practice and to have a more comprehensive approach across partners to water, hygiene and sanitation interventions. Towards the end of 2018, LIFT, Access to Health and HARP collaborated with a technical partner on a potential pilot to address the ongoing crisis of acute malnutrition in Rakhine and to increase early detection and treatment of cases within communities who have restricted access to services.

Looking ahead

Since 2014, LIFT has established itself as a leader, coordinator and catalyst for nutrition in Myanmar. The strategy refresh undertaken in 2018 for 2019-2023 responded to the available evidence, the expertise of LIFT's Fund Board and a range of consultations with government and non-government actors which helped to shape the future approach to nutrition.

The strategy continues to follow *The Lancet* recommendations of evidence based interventions and the Myanmar Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN) to guide investment in interventions that are known to have a direct impact on the immediate causes of malnutrition with nutrition-specific interventions and the underlying causes with nutrition-sensitive approaches.

The new strategy responds to the multi-sector drivers of malnutrition by focusing on nutrition-sensitive and -specific interventions and aims to contribute to the evidence gap, specifically on nutrition sensitive programming. Nutrition-sensitive

▲ **Figure 5.1**
Conceptual Framework for the Relationship between Nutrition and Resilience

Illustrated by LIFT's nutritionist. Figure was adapted from Gostelow et al. 2015 and UNICEF 2013. The left (blue) section demonstrates how nutrition can influence resilience capacities at different levels. The right (green) section illustrates how nutrition can be the outcome of resilience. The centre section is based on UNICEF's causal framework for undernutrition (2013).

programming spans the different thematic areas of LIFT and the new strategy responds to the contribution that agriculture, financial inclusion and decent work can have on nutrition outcomes, if designed to do so.

Along with a robust evidence generation component, investments should respond to the nutrition challenges during the first 1,000 days through effective analysis of the causal pathways, formative research, social behaviour change approaches, engaging adolescents and the broader community.

Collaboration with the Access to Health Fund will also strengthen LIFT's response to the nexus of humanitarian and development programming through increased support for those with acute malnutrition for early detection and treatment in the community, where access to health services is limited.

LIFT's nutrition technical capacity boosted in 2018

In 2018, LIFT's Fund Management Office (FMO) worked to strengthen LIFT's technical capacities in nutrition programming and policy work. Two international nutritionists with considerable experience in Myanmar are now engaged with LIFT on a retainer basis. The consultants are jointly engaged by LIFT and the Access to Health Fund, with the aim of helping promote more collaboration across the two funds on nutrition. LIFT also recruited a national nutritionist. LIFT now has a solid nutrition team in place that will enable it to more effectively support and promote LIFT programmes and policy objectives on nutrition.

5.2

Resilience

LIFT's approach to resilience

Building the resilience of poor rural households in Myanmar lies at the centre of all LIFT's work. Strengthening resilience is LIFT's overall purpose. Resilience within the context of LIFT's work contributes to the increased capacity of individuals, households and communities to cope with, and recover from, shocks and stresses arising from climate change, and/or macro and micro socio-economic pressures.

LIFT tackles the root problems and risks that poor rural households face, that include climate stresses, conflict and socio-economic shocks. These challenges are addressed by improving people's nutritional status and incomes, reducing their vulnerability to shocks and stresses, and supporting the development of pro-poor policies.

Through these pathways LIFT's programmes support households and people to:

- ‡ successfully '**step out**' of agriculture into other productive sectors of the economy
- ‡ '**step up**' the value ladder within agriculture, and out of poverty
- ‡ or '**hang in**' by using agriculture as a safety net, and improving their food security and nutrition

Myanmar is the third most-affected country globally by climate change in the world.⁶⁰ Over the last six decades Myanmar's mean temperature and overall rainfall has increased, extreme weather events have become more common and sea levels have risen.⁶¹ These changes have implications for

everyone in Myanmar but the poor, the vulnerable and those relying on subsistence agriculture are most affected. LIFT targets these households and builds their capacity to cope with climate shocks and stresses and adapt in the face of climate change. This is an integral component of LIFT's overall approach to building resilience. Furthermore, LIFT aligns with the Government of Myanmar's National Climate Change Adaptation Programme of Action 2012, and its climate-smart agriculture principles for agriculture, forestry and fishery programmes. The image following demonstrates how LIFT's programmes and activities are enabling the people of Myanmar to adapt to climate shocks and stresses.

LIFT's programmes build resilience through context-specific interventions targeted to the needs of local people in each agro-ecological zone. Projects and programmes identify risks of climate change and disasters, rate them and describe appropriate actions in their regularly updated risk matrixes.

A core outcome of LIFT's agricultural programme is to increase the sustainability of agriculture and farm-based production systems of smallholder farmers in the face of climate variability and change. Whilst managing climate variability has been a common attribute of farming and decision making by smallholder farmers, the implication of climate change will disproportionately predispose farming and the livelihoods of rural communities in Myanmar to greater risk. LIFT is supporting a range of initiatives and interventions that focus on building the resilience and adaptive capacity of farming communities throughout the country. The provision of short season varieties that require less water to produce economic yields through the promotion of conservation agriculture practices through green manures are selected examples of building resilience and adaptation to future climates. Over 2018 more than 772,000 households have been exposed to and/or adopted new approaches and strategies in addressing climate variability and change that contributes to building resilience.

Delta

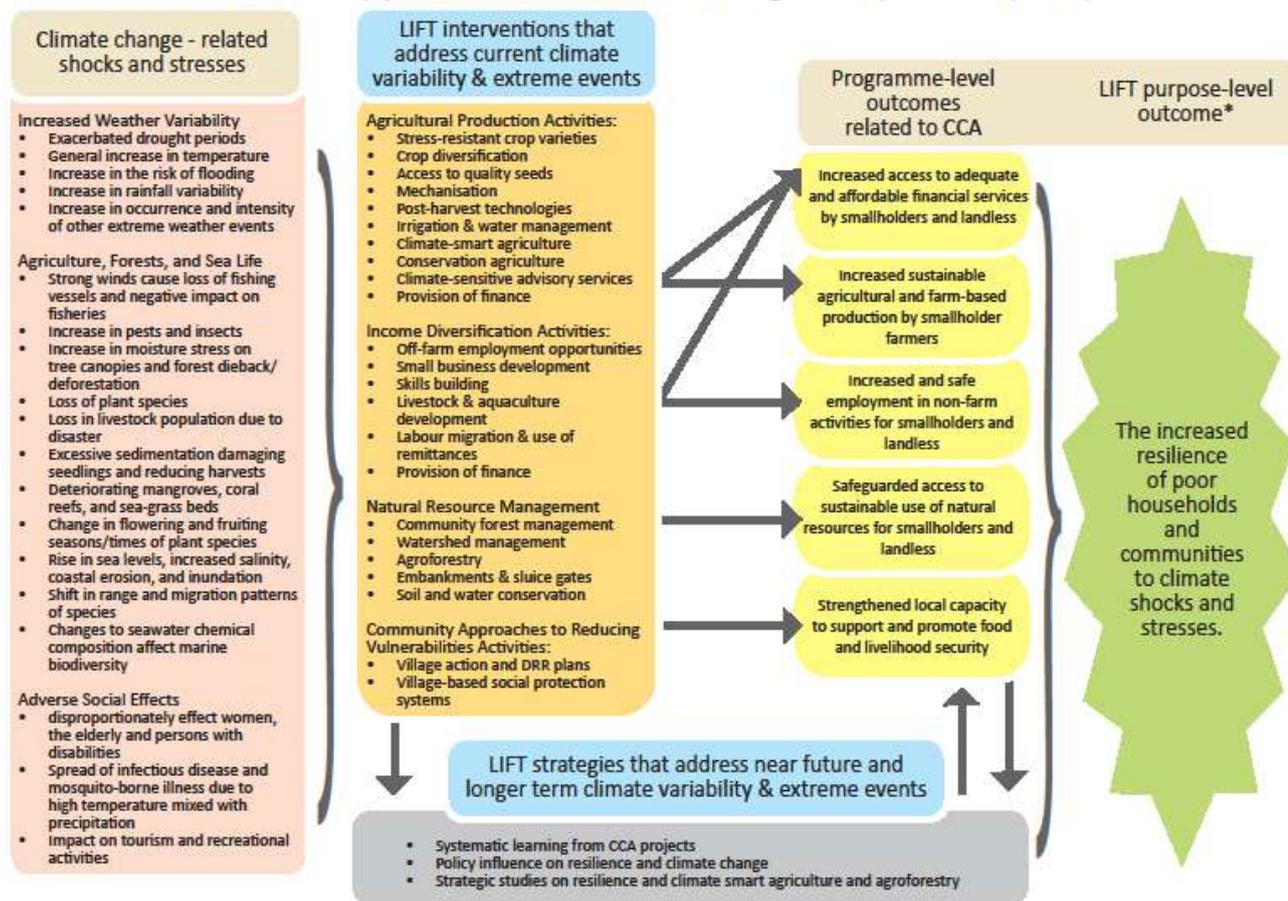
The Delta programme works to build the resilience of poor rural households to climate and socio-economic shocks and stresses by improving people's food security and incomes, and decreasing their vulnerability. To achieve this, the Delta programme has a strong focus on the **seed value chain** and helping farmers 'step up' the value ladder within agriculture. The Delta Programme also looks at the long-term impacts of climate change and seeks to conserve quality local seed varieties and safeguard biodiversity.

When farmers have access to good quality seed their resilience to climate shocks and stresses is improved in the long term. Farmer seed growers in the Delta produce high quality seed varieties that are well adapted to growing conditions in the Delta helping to address adaptation to climate change and disaster risk. The Paw San variety promoted in the wet season is well adapted to salt water inundation and elevated water levels. The systems promoted require low levels of fertiliser, which reduces nitrous oxide generation and associated greenhouse gas production.

⁶⁰ D. Eckstein, M-L. Hutfils, and M. Wings. 2019. Briefing Paper. Global Climate Risk Index 2019. Who Suffers Most From Extreme Weather Events? Weather-related Loss Events in 2017 and 1998 to 2017.

⁶¹ Global Climate Change Alliance, 2017, <http://www.gcca.eu/national-programmes/asia/gcca-myanmar>.

LIFT's Approach to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)



* This logic model focuses on LIFT's contribution to strengthening resilience to climate change. However, LIFT's overall purpose is to strengthen resilience, as defined as: the increased capacity of individuals, households and communities to cope with and recover from various shocks and stresses arising from climate change, and/or macro and micro socio-economic pressures.

▲ Figure 5.2
LIFT's approach to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

The growing of high yielding rice hybrids that are well adapted to the summer dry season extends the overall production period for rice in the Delta with high yield potential. Through farmer organisations with linkages to the private sector, fertiliser recommendations are made based on soil test results and have resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in nitrogen use. System rice intensification approaches apply climate smart adaptation that is water conservative, utilises composts and organic soil amendments, and the wetting and drying process reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Dry Zone

The green manure approach applied in the Dry Zone results in increased organic matter in the soil, which in the long-term increases carbon sequestration and improves the soil's resilience to short droughts. Department of Agriculture staff in six townships and more than 25,000 farmers have been trained in good agriculture practices of conservation agriculture. Farmers have learned about the impact of climate change and the relationship of fertile soils and good crops. They now employ an improved fertiliser regime optimising the utilisation of the fertiliser at the time needed by the plants. They learned about using different crop rotations and sensible plant protection approaches and have access to improved varieties.

Rakhine

Rakhine State is the region in Myanmar most prone to cyclones and is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including flooding and salt water intrusion.⁶² Building the resilience of the Rakhine people to climate shocks and stresses is essential to the state's development. Over the years LIFT has had a good track record of responding to floods and disasters and supporting people to rebuild their lives.⁶³ Salt water intrusion is threatening the livelihoods of farmers globally and in particular those in Rakhine State.⁶⁴ By the end of 2018, the Rakhine Tat Lan programme had built 340 kilometres of embankments to protect 42,000 acres of paddy fields from salt water intrusion, building the resilience of more than 7,000 households. Farmers are also trained on new climate-smart agriculture techniques and report putting them into practice with good results. These interventions supported farmers to 'step up' the value ladder within agriculture and become more resilient to socio-economic shocks as well as the impacts of climate change.

Uplands

CORAD in Chin State is promoting **slash and mulch** techniques as a climate smart strategy. The technique moves farmers away from the traditional slash and burn method of farming and results in improved soil water storage and conservation, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and soil carbon storage. System rice intensification in terrace systems and the production of compost from waste are also promoted.

In Kachin State, Metta works on community forestry focusing on regeneration of degraded forests through the planting of well adapted tree species that include high value teak and primary succession species.

Research and learning on resilience

LIFT launched a series of outcome studies in 2016 to analyse how LIFT is contributing to its purpose-level outcomes and how these are building resilience. The second round of these studies on income and assets, vulnerability and nutrition were completed in 2018 and will be published in 2019, along with a resilience synthesis.

5.3

Social Protection

In 2018, the Government of the Union of Myanmar demonstrated its increasing commitment to taking actions that positively impact on social protection. The government considerably expanded its coverage of the government-funded universal social pension by reducing the eligibility age from 90 to 85 years. Beneficiary numbers increased from 40,872 at the end of 2017 to 168,578 by the end of 2018. This significant change came within just one year of the government's introduction of the scheme.

In 2018, informed and supported by the LIFT-funded maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) project in Chin State that began in 2017, the government commenced its first ever government-funded MCCT to Rakhine State and the Naga Self-Administered Zone reaching 58,939 beneficiaries. In the second half of 2018 the government announced plans to expand MCCT to Kayah and Kayah States in 2019.

LIFT played an important role in supporting the government's roll-out of both the universal social pension and MCCT programmes. LIFT funded HelpAge to implement two social protection policy projects, one based in Nay Pyi Taw and one in the Dry Zone. LIFT's Uplands Programme supported the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) with direct financial and technical support to introduce maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) throughout Chin State. Both initiatives provided learnings, evidence and systems development that supported the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) to roll-out the government's social protection pension and nutrition programmes to other areas of the country. LIFT's programmes supported DSW to address the many implementation challenges of the rapid expansion of social pensions and MCCT delivery with on-going technical advice, systems improvement, data base improvement, staff training and development and production of information materials.

To support the rapid expansion, MoSWRR set up a new Social Protection Division headed by a Director. Its staff grew to 37 by the end of 2018 and the division's capacity, systems and staff's skills were enhanced. LIFT's support was well acknowledged by DSW staff and leaders.

In September 2018, the *Costed Social Protection Sector Plan, 2018-2022* (CSPSP, 2018-2022) was approved by the Social Protection Sub-sector Coordination Group. LIFT provided technical inputs to support the development of the plan. The *Rules for the Implementation of the Elderly People Law* were approved by the National Committee on Ageing in 2018 and sent to the Attorney General's Office for final legal scrutiny prior to submission

⁶² Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, <http://www.adpc.net/igo/contents/Publications/publications-Details.asp?pid=277#sthash.DkG4r9zM.dpbs>

⁶³ See LIFT's previous annual reports 2013-2015

⁶⁴ Food security threatened by sea-level rise, Science Direct, January 2017, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170118082423.htm>

to the Cabinet of Ministries for approval. These developments received good media coverage.

In 2018, the LIFT-funded Dry Zone Social Protection project piloted electronic cash transfers to deliver social pensions using mobile money networks developed and operated by telecommunications companies. The project's electronic cash transfers of social pensions started in April 2018 and coverage increased gradually. By the end of 2018, 1,139 beneficiaries (68 per cent of them women) received their social pension by electronic transfer. A pilot of electronic cash transfers for disability grants is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2019.

In 2018, LIFT increased its efforts to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in livelihoods and community activities. LIFT launched a funding window titled *Inclusion of Persons with Disability and their Families in Social Protection and Livelihood Programmes* in April 2018. After proposals were appraised and selected, five implementing partners were contracted to implement projects that started in late 2018. Four of the implementing partners are small local organisations that work in Chin State, northern Shan State, Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Kayin State.

5.4

Gender

Gender mainstreaming

LIFT's gender mainstreaming focus continued to increase in 2018. In early 2018, LIFT developed gender sensitivity guidelines that were included in Calls for Proposals to promote integration of gender aspects into projects from the design stage. All calls for proposals launched in 2018 included the gender sensitivity guidelines and the FMO developed an appraisal checklist with criteria for scoring the gender sensitivity of proposals. In addition, a call for proposals designed in late 2018 and launched in early 2019 about reducing the vulnerabilities of internal migrants to labour exploitation and poor health and nutritional outcomes in peri-urban areas of Yangon, included, for the first time, a gender budget of 20 per cent, as one of the requirements for selection. LIFT FMO provided technical support to partners for adaptation of their proposals to improve gender sensitivity and mainstreaming in 2018.

LIFT's Gender Action Plan was finalised in early 2018. The action plan consists of gender-related and gender-specific actions for each of LIFT's programmes and was developed by each programme's gender focal points and their team leaders. Each activity in the action plan is accompanied by an indicator and expected timeframe for completion of the activity. New monitoring sheets were developed and each programme teams' gender focal points documented progress on the gender indicators on a bi-annual basis with the support of LIFT's gender officer.

As part of capacity building support for its partners, LIFT conducted a second gender training for implementing partners at the end of May 2018. The training was delivered in Myanmar language to ensure gender mainstreaming was well understood by national partners.

Gender training was also held within LIFT's Fund Management Office (FMO) in 2018. Gender training held in October was designed to prepare FMO programme staff and the gender focal points for an increased focus on gender in LIFT's programming 2019-2023.

With the LIFT strategy 2014-2018 coming to an end, a gender evaluative study was designed to review LIFT's efforts on furthering gender equality and women's empowerment. The terms of reference for the study were drafted in 2018 and fieldwork began in December 2018. The qualitative and quantitative research will evaluate gender actions, strategies, and identify challenges that remain to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through LIFT's programmes. In late 2018, LIFT decided to recruit a dedicated gender officer who will focus on gender across all of LIFT's programmes.

Highlights

LIFT programmes made progress in 2018 identifying approaches that work in improving gender equity and women's empowerment. There has been a considerable increase in gender awareness and improved gender sensitivity in planning and application of actions.

Evidence of a critical nutrition behaviour change in the Delta

The [BRIGHT SUN nutrition](#) project in the [Delta](#) observed that pregnant and breastfeeding women are prioritising their own, and their children's, food consumption in the family, when previously women would prioritise the rest of the family before themselves, even when pregnant or breastfeeding. It is a deep-rooted gender norm that women should prioritise their husband's, in-laws' and children's food needs over their own. Data collected by the project in 2018 showed this was changing among women reached by the project and that women were gaining confidence and power to decide what nutritious foods what they needed to eat when pregnant and breastfeeding and making sure they obtained those foods. The project's interventions are having positive impacts on women's lives, through their improved diets and better access to health systems and care.

Women's feedback improves content on a digital platform and women's engagement

The [Shwe Maymay mobile phone app](#)⁶⁵ implemented by Koe Koe Tech, Save the Children, World Vision International and Population Services International directly targets women with health and nutrition-related information. The content of the app is strongly influenced by the interests and feedback of the women using the app. Their feedback is constantly analysed through user content testing by Ko Ko Tech. Incorporating women's voices and ideas in the design and content of the app has proved to be an effective strategy to make the app successful and popular with women. The app is now available in nine languages, expanding its reach to vulnerable women in remote areas.

⁶⁵ The apps full name - Shwe Kayi Lan Bawga Maymay translates as 'Mothers who are on the golden journey'

Successful approaches identified for building women's and men's participation in non-traditional roles

World Vision Myanmar's Growing Livelihoods in Bogale project targets women in water, sanitation and hygiene trainings because of their important role in influencing family hygiene and nutrition practices. The project created Women Development Groups (WDG) in community-based organisations to provide space for women's voices to be heard and prevent groups being dominated by men. In the WDGs, women voice their ideas and concerns and are able to then present them to Livelihood and Development Committees in their communities.

World Fish trained community facilitators on gender sensitivity and integration of gender in all activities. Women's participation has steadily increased in the trainings and project activities as a result. Men are encouraged to participate in cooking demonstrations to improve their understanding of the importance of nutrition.

Save the Children's Tat Lan project encourages men to participate in counselling sessions on child nutrition during the first 1,000 days. Men's exposure to nutrition information increases and their awareness of the importance of their role as an equal caregiver grows.

HelpAge's social protection project in the **Dry Zone** provides consistent support, training and coaching to build women's roles in leadership and decision making in their communities. The project introduced reforms to committee structures to build women's participation. For instance, it was decided that if a man was president of a committee, a woman must be selected for the vice president post. Women are now more often in leadership roles such as accountant or treasurer and representing their communities in village development committees and social protection groups. Women were found to have a more systematic approach in developing proposals for income generating activities than men. In the Pakkoku Township Networking Committee, a woman was elected as president after her contribution as vice-president was acknowledged. She is a role model for young women in her community.

The **Karen Women's Organisation (KWO)** supports the integration of gender-sensitivity in the **STAND UP** project in the Uplands Programme by providing gender awareness raising training and taking targeted actions to address gender-related barriers. KWO decided to involve men more in activities and discussions that women were involved in about gender discrimination and equality. Male leaders and decision makers are learning about the actions they can take to promote equal opportunities for women in their communities, while also learning about the actions women will take.

The **RAFIN** project provides microfinance services combined with non-credit related services that include capacity building and training of clients on democratic practices in group formation, group leadership and committee elections. Women form credit and savings groups, elect their leaders and join in participatory decision making activities at the grassroots level, particularly when it comes to strengthening women's roles in the community. With these approaches, the project goes beyond

promoting economic empowerment of women through financial inclusion and supports women's increased participation in community activities, which contributes to democratic structures and processes aimed at reducing poverty.

In the **Migration Programme, CARE** engages in gender-based violence prevention through multi-stakeholder advocacy initiatives, and collaboration with service providers to improve the services available for survivors of violence. Indications are that involving men in awareness-raising sessions and as promoters of sensitisation activities in communities is a promising approach for increasing women's awareness of services for survivors of violence.

Overcoming challenges to women's participation in livelihood activities

The **Plan Bee** project on beekeeping and honey production in southern Shan State identified there were barriers women faced in undertaking the migratory work of beekeeping and honey production. The project worked with women to find ways for them to migrate seasonally with their hives and cover their responsibilities of caring for their children who stayed at home. Three women were able to successfully become commercial beekeepers, and the project sees this as the beginning of women's increased participation in the sector. The development of value-added microenterprises, producing candles and other beeswax products, were specifically designed to provide income sources for women who were unable to migrate.

Work continues to integrate gender-sensitivity at the policy level

LIFT's targeted partner for gender justice is the **Gender Equality Network (GEN)**, comprising more than 120 member organisations dedicating much of their work to improving gender equality and women's empowerment. Apart from getting involved in a number of regional, national and sub-national workshops to promote women's leadership at different levels, GEN has become the leading force in pushing for the enactment of the *Protection of Violence Against Women (PoVAW)* Law and the establishment of One Stop Service Centres in different states and regions for survivors of violence. GEN has also been critically reviewing four labour laws: the *Social Security Law*; the *Leave and Holiday Act and Compensation Act*; the *Labour Dispute Law*; and the *Occupational Health and Safety Bills* in collaboration with labour organisations and networks. GEN is also reviewing the *Foreign Investment Laws and the Skills Development Law*.

GEN's conducts evidence-based research and capacity building of key stakeholders. In 2018, GEN finished research titled *A Hundred Cases*, which is used to advocate to stakeholders on the barriers that women face in accessing justice. Another publication *Service Provision for Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Myanmar*, was published in 2018 highlighting the fact that there are still many gaps to comprehensive service provision for gender-based violence survivors. GEN also published a book *Hidden Blanks to be Filled* on legal needs for the prevention of violence and the protection of women.

Challenges

Microfinance institutions report challenges when it comes to changing women's roles in financial management practices and decision making in the communities. Activities to raise the communities' and clients' awareness on gender issues that take into consideration communities' attitudes and norms related to gender are still needed to effect changes towards equality. LIFT partners working on agriculture extension activities in Chin State also report that social norms and gender roles are barriers to meaningful and equal participation of women in agricultural production.

The Pwyat Yar Pumped Irrigation Project has learned that women's participation in trainings (35 per cent of participants in farmer group training) does not necessarily mean that women are empowered. Instead, often the women are sent by their husbands and then not allowed to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in agricultural production.

In Rakhine, the Danish Refugee Council and Norwegian Refugee Council find that employment of women in non-traditional sectors challenge gender norms and create tensions in households. A particular risk is when women become the primary breadwinners or work in jobs that are traditionally reserved for men, as this can lead to a feeling of emasculation among men, who often react with a violent reassertion of their dominance. The project is applying a number of effective measures, such as establishing gender teams, women groups, gender-based violence trainings, problem-solving methods, and communication skills for the beneficiaries of their technical, vocational and life skills training activities









6.0

Policy

6.1

Nutrition Policy Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018-2022

The overall goal of Myanmar's MS-NPAN is to reduce all forms of malnutrition in mothers, children, and adolescent girls. This will lead to healthier and more productive lives that contribute to the economic and social aspirations of the country.

The MS-NPAN was developed within the context of a high-level political commitment to address malnutrition in Myanmar. In January 2017, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, convened multiple sectors and development partners for the first interministerial coordination meeting on nutrition in Pakokku Township of Magway Region. A National Nutrition Steering Committee (NSGC) under the umbrella of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) was then established, signalling the importance of nutrition as a government priority and an area for development assistance. The MoHS, the focal ministry for MS-NPAN submitted the strategic framework of the MS-NPAN 2018 – 2022 to the Development Assistant Coordination Unit (DACU) chaired by the State Counsellor in January 2018. The first meeting of the National Nutrition Steering Committee (NSGC) took place in November 2018.

The MS-NPAN lays out a comprehensive plan to reduce malnutrition. It requires engagement and action across four ministries and the involvement of many stakeholders at the national and sub-national level. The Union Ministers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) attended the first Nutrition Sector Co-ordinating Group in Yangon in November 2018, endorsing the MS-NPAN and confirming their commitment to reducing malnutrition. Representatives from all the states and regions, donors, UN and the civil society community also attended this meeting.

LIFT's work with the government to build cross-ministerial action on nutrition in recent years contributed to the development of the MS-NPAN.

The MS-NPAN inception phase from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 provides the basis for the initial implementation of the plan. It will commence with a series of programme preparation steps. During this time the states and regions will identify priority geographical areas and assess those areas' conditions and requirements. In the second year, the MS-NPAN will be scaled-up in all parts of the country based on the plans of the states and regions. The MS-NPAN will prioritise certain interventions in each state/region based on: (1) the most important factors causing poor nutrition, and (2) the interventions that are most amenable to effective operationalisation and scale-up to achieve high coverage, and result in the greatest impact.

The MS-NPAN Plan includes six key result areas: one for each of the four sectors (health, social welfare, education, and agriculture/livelihoods), one for governance and one for monitoring and evaluation. These key result areas describe the collective contributions that will be made in each domain towards the overall goal of reducing malnutrition amongst mothers, children and adolescent girls. The key results for the MS-NPAN are complementary and mutually important. The sector priorities and key result areas are all imperative, but it is the convergence and synergies between these result areas that will achieve the greatest overall impact.

The indicative total cost to implement the five-year MS-NPAN 2018/19-2022/23 is MMK 929 billion (USD 663 million). The total indicative funding required to deliver 5-year, sector-level key results in the four participating sectors are MMK 285 billion (USD 203 million) in the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS); MMK 204 billion (USD 145 million) in the Ministry of Education (MoE); MMK 197 billion (USD 141 million) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), and MMK 225 billion (USD 161 million) in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR).

LIFT has three observations of the MS-NPAN that require monitoring as the plan progresses:

- ! Regarding **governance**, the MS-NPAN will be administered from the NNC, within the MoHS, with the engagement of the other ministries and a core technical team. In response to experience from elsewhere, and as the overall aim is to promote and ensure a shared ownership of the MS-NPAN across government, there should be continued discussion over whether the MS-NPAN secretariat could be situated outside the four ministries. This has important implications for coordination.
- ! The MS-NPAN aims to develop a comprehensive **monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** system. Two of the ministries involved with the MS-NPAN (MoALI and MoSWRR) are just now beginning to develop M&E systems. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports appear further ahead in data collection that feeds into an M&E system. As part of the inception phase there will be a review of existing M&E systems and how they may need to be amended to respond to the MS-NPAN.
- ! The **budget** for the one-year inception period (October 2018-September 2019) is currently around USD 1.2 million. LIFT is contributing USD 400,000, in collaboration with the Access to Health fund, to the inception phase. The inception period aims to introduce the MS-NPAN in six states and regions that will be identified using data, in part, from the Myanmar Micronutrient and Food Consumption Survey.

SUN Civil Society Alliance Support for Nutrition Policy Advocacy

The SUN CSA continues to be an important forum for civil society engagement and for policy and advocacy work. The SUN CSA now has 62 members (17 INGOs and 45 National NGOs and CBOs) implementing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs across seven states and eight regions. The Annual

General Assembly took place in December 2018 when the 2019 steering committee members were elected. The assembly discussed: challenges/limitations faced by local CSOs and potential solutions for promoting nutrition status; CSO roles in engaging with the MS-NPAN; and decentralisation of SUN CSA Myanmar according to MS-NPAN priorities, as well as the SUN CSA Advocacy Strategy and Advocacy Action Plan.

In December 2018, the SUN CSA created a Facebook Page to interact with the social media users and promote awareness raising and advocacy messages around the first 1,000 days. The page now has a total of 4,657 page likes. The SUN CSA Myanmar's website⁶⁶ was launched, which hosts the LEARN library, and serves as a learning and resource sharing portal. Another activity conducted by SUN CSA to facilitate learning and sharing among members was five exchange learning visits among 10 members in November and December 2018 involving partners working in Chin, Rakhine and Ayeyarwady. A case study was produced in order to capture the learnings and improve the scale of a decentralised approach.⁶⁷

The SUN CSA has supported the MS-NPAN and NNC in a variety of different ways during 2018 including support for the development of a multi-stakeholder joint press release and inviting media organisations to the first meeting of the National Steering Committee on Nutrition Promotion and Nutrition Sector Coordination Group. Other activities in 2018 include:

- ‡ At the national policy level, LEARN/SUN-CSA supported the Government to make Myanmar 'breastfeeding friendly' through the Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly (BBF) Initiative. The implementation of BBF in Myanmar was formally launched in January 2018. Prioritised recommendations were presented to the Union Minister of MOHS, high-level officials from different related ministries, parliamentarians, civil society representatives, and other development partners during the 6th BBF meeting in December 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.
- ‡ SUN CSA contributed to breastfeeding advocacy at a media event in Myanmar in 2018 launching Save the Children's *Don't Push It!* report, which demands that global infant milk formula companies take more actions towards compliance with breastmilk substitute codes regarding marketing of infant formula.
- ‡ LEARN and SUN CSA also participated in advocacy events at global and regional levels.
- ‡ SUN CSA plans to develop a toolkit for advocating to parliamentarians and media about nutrition-related policy issues. On LIFT's recommendation, SUN CSA will also consult with other organisations that are effective at policy engagement in Myanmar, such as the Gender Equality Network.

Promoting Fortified Rice

In 2018, PATH made good progress in contributing to the policy environment with the development of the draft *National Rice Fortification Policy*, which was endorsed by the Rice Fortification Working Group and by the Deputy Director General of

the Department of Public Health. The *Technical Guidance on Rice Fortification* was approved by the Union Minister and will be launched and distributed to private sector partners in 2019.

6.2

Agriculture Agriculture Value Chain Development (AVCD) in Myanmar

The AVCD is jointly funded by LIFT and USAID and implemented by Michigan State University (MSU), the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The goal of the project is to improve the policy environment to enable and promote inclusive agricultural productivity growth, improve nutritional outcomes, and enhance people's livelihood resilience. The AVCD:

- ‡ Addresses critical evidence gaps for policy debate and formulation, and generates, synthesises and disseminates new knowledge on targeted policy issues, particularly related to agrifood value chains and households' and communities' livelihoods.
- ‡ Fosters credible, inclusive, transparent, and sustainable policy processes in Myanmar to strengthen the building blocks for Myanmar's national, state and regional policy systems.
- ‡ Builds the capacity of institutions to conduct and analyse research and rapidly develop policy relevant research outputs.

Research and outputs in 2018

Household and community surveys of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone Survey (READZ) were completed in 2017. Data on off-farm enterprises was collected in early 2018 and four outputs of the research were published. Two more papers based on the READZ research were prepared for publication in 2019.

The project conducted the household and community components of the Shan Household, Agriculture and Rural Economy Survey (SHARES) with close to 1,400 households in 88 communities. The project trained researchers working on the survey and participants achieved competency in questionnaire design, programming and data management for household surveys using a fully digital platform. Much of the SHARES data analysis occurred during an intensive two-week research retreat in September attended by CESD, MoALI Agricultural Policy Unit, MSU and IFPRI. Attendees developed skills in analysis and the rapid development of policy-relevant research outputs. Research papers resulting from SHARES will be published in 2019.

The project published 13 additional policy-relevant papers in 2018 based on AVCD research on agricultural mechanisation, impacts of climate change on agriculture, aquaculture, crop production and profitability, the Myanmar rural economy's transformation, export-led agricultural growth and value chains.

Capacity building

In 2018, the AVCD continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

⁶⁶ www.suncsamyanmar.org

⁶⁷ SUN CSA Decentralization: Lessons Learned from Ayeyarwady Delta Regional SUN CSA

(MoALI) to strengthen institutional capacities for policy analysis. In March 2018, the project conducted the second part of a policy analysis course jointly with Yezin Agriculture University (YAU) and the Department of Planning (DoP). The course was designed to enable participants to support policy reform processes for the recently launched Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS). The second session was a more ‘hands-on’ exercise, allowing participants to gain experience in the application of analytical tools for policy analysis and develop policy briefs identifying gaps in current policies and providing recommendations to policy makers. This second session of the course considered a number of policy case studies on land tenure, nutrition, the seed sector, irrigation, rice, inputs, and trade and regional integration policies.

AVCD reports that there is strong demand from government, donor and civil society organisations for regular presentations of findings, thus demonstrating the value of statistically rigorous policy-relevant research. The project is due to end in 2019 and there is no clear institutional home to continue the project’s research work after that.

Agriculture Policy Unit (APU)

LIFT continues to support the development of the APU through the AVCD project. In addition to the MSU team leader, the APU is comprised of two additional international experts funded by the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) project for land and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and a partnership between the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union. The APU is also comprised of 12 national staff assigned from different departments within MoALI. A constraint to the sustainability of project capacity building efforts is the status of the APU in the administrative hierarchy of MoALI and the resulting difficulty in attracting and retaining senior staff. To address this, AVCD has focused on including staff from other MoALI units and the Yezin Agricultural University in policy-related training. AVCD suggests that a pool of policy analysts from all MoALI units be formed, who can be drawn on as needed and that a process for identifying priority policy agenda items is included in the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) implementation plan.

6.3

Land Tenure

LIFT continued to play an active role in land tenure issues in 2018. LIFT’s policy objective concerning land tenure is to promote and support secure land tenure rights for Myanmar’s smallholder farmers in all regions and states, including customary land tenure rights for ethnic communities. LIFT’s has provided support for many land-related activities, including research, legal training and community awareness, public consultations, and projects.

National Land Use Policy (NLUP) and the National Land Use Council (NLUC)

The NLUC met for the first time in April 2018 to decide on its committee structure and define its roles and responsibilities for implementation of

the *National Land Use Policy*. Land Use Committees were established in all states and regions, a Technical Advisory Council was formed and three working committees were established to work on formulation of national land laws, national land use planning, and land information systems.

The National Land Use Policy Forum was held in early October bringing together NLUC members, senior staff from relevant ministries and departments including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics, Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Office of the Attorney General, union parliamentary committees and commissions, state/regional chief ministers, CSOs, farmers associations, local indigenous people, media, and donor agencies. More than 300 people participated. The forum set the foundation for multi-stakeholder dialogue under the NLUC. It was established that the NLUC was committed to implementing the NLUP in its entirety, including developing a national land law and harmonising land-related laws. Previous suggestions for the removal of sections on gender equality and customary tenure rights, made by the Special Commission in 2017, were not revisited.

A key question that remains is how existing land-related committees such as the Land Acquisition Reinvestigation Central Committee, the Farmland Administrative Central Committee, and the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin (VfV) Land Management Central Committee will relate to the NLUC. None of the working committees established directly address farmland and VfV land issues.

LIFT’s strategic partner Land Core Group supported the NLUC in drafting the terms of reference for the Land Use Committees and the Technical Advisory Council. Following discussions between Land Core Group and the Yangon Region’s Chief Minister on the establishment of a Yangon regional land use committee, it was agreed that a transparent process for the selection for external stakeholder representatives on the committee was important. Land Core Group facilitated a workshop on external stakeholder selection in September 2018.

Donors (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USAID, and the European Union) are preparing a record of discussion with the NLUC that will recognise Land Core Group’s role in supporting the NLUC.

Land-related legislation

The *Biodiversity and Conservation of Protected Area Law* was promulgated on 21 May, 2018. Public consultations on the rules to implement the law are ongoing. It is noteworthy that the law includes a new category of protected area called “community protected areas”. Land Core Group advocated for this new category to be included, and also played a significant role in opening the consultation process to include voices of CSOs, indigenous organisations, and local communities.

At the time the law was approved, draft Rules of BNCAP implementation was prepared through a process that involved consultation with CSOs. Land Core Group successfully advocated to the Forest Department, which is responsible for the

development of the rules, that the process be widened to ensure genuine public consultation.

A revised *Land Acquisition Law* 2018 is with the lower house of parliament but had not yet been discussed at the end of 2018. The bill replaces the original 2017 bill and explicitly states the principle that free, prior and informed consent must be maintained to promote the rights and voices of affected populations, and that acquisition of customary tenure land requires a decision from the Union Parliament.

The *Forest Law* was approved in September 2018, but few of the changes suggested by CSOs and Land Core Group were included. Two changes that were made to the law were: assessment teams that include local community representatives must be formed when new reserve forests or public protected forests are established, and that forests traditionally conserved by local ethnic communities may be recognised by the Minister with feedback from the state/regional government.

Land research in 2018

GRET

Independent research for land reallocation: At the request from regional governments, GRET's land research team conducted 26 independent land reallocation assessments of potential sites in Ayerwaddy, Bago, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions. The land reallocation assessments report was finalised in June 2018 and highlighted the history of land, land use, ownership, livelihoods, key challenges and issues, land disputes, key stakeholders involved in land disputes, land claims cases, and made recommendations on land reallocations and dispute settlements. During 2018, 10 workshop on the findings were conducted with authorities and CSOs.

Farming systems analysis: GRET has facilitated farming systems studies across five states and regions of Myanmar. These studies have been consolidated into a publication that was presented at a stakeholder worked in August 2018 in Yangon. The studies addressed the evolution of farming systems in specific areas of Chin, Kayin and Kachin States, Sagaing and Ayeyarwady Regions. A farming systems analysis workshop is planned in Nay Pyi Taw in 2019.

Land Core Group (LCG)

In 2018, LCG continued with land research projects on land use change, Naga customary tenure, land and gender, and land grabs. A report on Naga customary tenure was published and will be officially launched in 2019.

LCG continued activities to build the capacity of CSOs in research, involving 11 CSOs and NGOs in conducting quantitative case studies of land grabs around Myanmar. Research interns at LCG work alongside CSO partners to conduct research.

LCG also trained CSOs on land laws and land rights awareness. By the end of 2018, more than 8,400 members of 36 CSOs had participated in the training. Although the training package was initially intended for farmers and CSOs, it was also provided to the village tract/ward level land committees at their request. The training course covers the context of the *National Land Use Policy*, farmland laws, the Land Acquisition bill, Forest Law, BNCAP and the roles and responsibilities of land administrative bodies and dispute resolution mechanisms.

LCG published a policy brief titled *Formalising Land, Marginalising Women* that identifies risks and opportunities for women's rights and livelihoods when applying for land titles in areas under customary tenure systems. It is based on research carried out in Dawei with Karen and Tavoyan women.

Vacant, Fallow, Virgin Lands Management Law

Amendments to the *Vacant, Fallow and Virgin (VFV) Lands Management Law* were approved on 11 September, 2018. The VFV Central Committee then issued notification of implementation of Article 22(b), with the intention of allowing those who use VFV land without formal permission of the VFV Central Committee to register the VFV land within six months. This action caused confusion and concern among members of parliament, CSOs and local communities. GRET, Land Core Group and others submitted letters of concern to the Union Minister of MoALI and the VFV Central Committee, copying them to the speakers of the upper and lower houses of parliament and to relevant parliamentary committees. Suggestions included halting the implementation of the amendment until clear legal definitions on the exempted land categories were developed. Groups expressed concern that for the law's implementation to be strategic and effective more preparation was needed. Other organisations called for the abolition of the VFV Land Law and its amendment.

LIFT shared many of these concerns and posted a statement on its webpage. LIFT's Fund Board members also jointly signed a letter to the Union Minister for MoALI, who serves as the Chair of the VFV Central Committee. LIFT's concerns about the VFV Land Law included:

- ‡ According to the provisions of the law that requires smallholder farmers to register any VFV land they are farming by March 2019, millions of rural people could be considered trespassers and could be punished with up to two years' imprisonment and evicted from their land.
- ‡ Given that the majority of VFV land is located in ethnic areas, this law will undermine the peace process in which ethnic leaders prioritise recognition of customary land rights.
- ‡ Land conflicts and grievances may increase around the country, thus undermining economic development.
- ‡ Displaced persons (IDPs) may lose rights to lands in their places of origin, along with facing penalties for using land in their current locations.
- ‡ Key elements of the National Land Use Policy, such as land use rights of ethnic nationalities and restitution rights of displaced persons, will be negatively affected.

In December 2018, LIFT observed that only three months remained until the deadline announced by the VFV Central Committee. In the interest of promoting long-term, peace, prosperity and stability of Myanmar, LIFT suggested:

- ‡ The implementation of the VFV land law as currently worded should be suspended to prevent the possible imprisonment and eviction of innocent individuals and communities.

- | The boundaries of VFV land should be clarified and procedures for ensuring that customary land rights were protected by law in line with the National Land Use Policy should be developed.
- | The allocation of any VFV land to private sector entities should be halted.
- | The VFV land law should be amended in order to clearly promote land tenure security for smallholder farmers and customary rights for ethnic communities.
- | The VFV Central Committee should consider actively consulting with farmers, ethnic nationalities and civil society organisations on an ongoing basis to establish a just and effective land governance framework in line with the National Land Use Policy.
- | Finally, that MoALI should develop a comprehensive roadmap for reforming and strengthening land administration mechanisms and procedures in line with international standards and best practices.

LIFT's engagement with government on land re-allocation

Reclaiming Vacant, Fallow and Virgin (VFV) lands that are underutilised after allocation, and re-allocating these lands to smallholder farmers with secure tenure over land resources for improving agricultural livelihoods, is a priority for the Union Government. The re-allocation of land associated with concessionary land returned to the State is seen as an opportunity to address issues associated with forced land acquisition and rightful return to original owners along with addressing the vexing challenge of landlessness among the poorest in rural communities.

In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) submitted a concept note to LIFT requesting support to conduct a pilot programme on land re-allocation. Field assessments to potential pilot sites in Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay regions were conducted and two pilot sites were selected in Minhla Township of Magway Region. A design mission was undertaken in March 2018 by a consultant team to develop a programme design document *Reclamation of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands, Re-allocation and Development by the Rural Poor* (REAL DEV Programme). Consultations with farmers and communities were conducted in Magway in October, 2018. A call for proposals was issued by LIFT in December 2018 for the REAL DEV programme.

The timing of the launch coincided with increasing concerns about the amended version of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin (VFV) Land Law, announced in October 2018. Several organisations and individuals opposed to the VFV Land Law took issue with what they saw as LIFT's apparent support for the law. In relation to the law and its amendment, LIFT issued a statement on its website calling for a suspension of the implementation of the law and encouraging government to consult with concerned CSOs, and LIFT's Fund Board wrote a letter to the Union Minister for MoALI expressing similar concerns (both detailed above). In response to concerns raised directly with LIFT, the LIFT FMO undertook a series of consultations with

CSOs and convened a public consultation about the REAL Dev programme in January 2019. LIFT re-affirmed its commitment to proceed with the REAL Dev call for proposals, while also recognising that organisations may choose not to apply in the context of controversy surrounding the VFV Land Law. The call for proposals closed in January 2019.

6.4

Migration

Strengthening policy and legislation on the protection of the rights of domestic workers

In developing its strategy for policy engagement on the protection of domestic workers, the International Labour Organization (ILO) employed a combination of concepts and tools from different disciplines to support policy change. It also recognised the importance of engaging actors who implement policy during the formulation process. These implementers have a substantial ability to shape policy outcomes and it is therefore essential that they have a conceptual understanding of the issues from the outset. A substantive role for civil society and labour organisations in policy making was incorporated in the approach, acknowledging their critical importance as advocates for improving the conditions of work and protections afforded to migrants. The expected outcome of this strategy is that Myanmar will adopt national and bilateral policies to better protect domestic workers' rights.

During 2018, the ILO continued to focus its efforts on lifting the ban on domestic workers going overseas as an initial step towards the development of a more protective policy framework. Stakeholders were introduced to international standards for the legal protection of the rights of domestic workers through workshops, consultations, and policy briefs (*ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189)* and accompanying *Recommendation (No. 201)*). The ILO worked to raise awareness through public campaigns aimed to influence attitudes and break down discriminatory practices, particularly through amplifying the voices of domestic workers themselves.

The ban on migration of domestic workers was originally put into effect through a directive to the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation in 2014. The ILO's advocacy for lifting the ban and efforts to galvanise public support through public campaigns contributed to the change in policy towards the migration of domestic workers, with the result that domestic workers are now able to migrate more safely and contact their embassy when they are in need of assistance. With this more liberal policy, the ILO will begin providing technical input into the development of agreements and MOUs and the content of pre-departure trainings for domestic workers, as well as continue to advocate for the ratification of the *ILO Domestic Workers Convention*. These areas require further attention to ensure that the lifting of the restriction is accompanied by the development of mechanisms for empowerment, as well as policies and legislation on protection of labour rights.

The ILO has also sought to work with members of parliament on legislation regulating the employment of domestic workers. Following the ILO's successful

engagement with a group of parliamentarians on the development of labour migration governance, the lawmakers proposed setting up a working group to start drafting a national law on domestic work. Although it could not be established as a formal working group due to procedural objections, the parliamentarians have continued to meet to discuss the possibility of enacting such legislation.

Mainstreaming migration into sectoral policies

With the emergence of migration as a key policy issue in Myanmar, a window of opportunity has opened to promote a government-supported migration mainstreaming agenda. However, progress on this front depends on high-level endorsement within the government. With LIFT, the International Office for Migration (IOM) has taken a step-by-step approach to its advocacy with the government, while building strong partnerships with other key stakeholders, to support the development of a comprehensive and whole-of-government approach to migration policy.

In 2018, the Government prioritised the finalisation of the *National Plan of Action on the Management of International Labour Migration (2018-2022)*. The NPA already has linkages with other national strategies, particularly the *Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan*. Its adoption provides a tool to advocate for migration to be included in a broader range of sectoral policies within Myanmar.

To move the agenda forward, a scoping study on migration governance was completed with the aim of assessing the existing policies, mechanisms and actors involved, and identifying gaps where IOM could support the government to further strengthen its policy and institutional framework. The study findings were presented to stakeholders at a workshop on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies organised by IOM and the Department of Labour in May 2018. It was recommended that an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration mainstreaming be created. In November, a meeting with senior officials of MoLIP was held to emphasise the importance of a whole-of-government approach to migration governance and request support in obtaining the government's endorsement of the study recommendations and discuss next steps. The Minister requested that IOM submit the migration mainstreaming report to MoLIP, which is currently under consideration for endorsement by the government.

Adopting national occupational competency standards for Myanmar's garment sector

The LIFT-funded Aung Myin Hmu (AMH) project is developing 10 national occupational competency standards (NOCS) for work in the garment sector. By establishing these standards, workers in the sector will be able to have their skills certified by the National Skills Standards Authority, providing credentials that are recognised and valued by employers within the industry. By the end of 2018, the AMH project had supported the National Skills Standards Authority to develop 4 NOCS, which were reviewed by industry stakeholders in March 2018 and are pending final approval by the

Garment Sub-Sector Committee. There have been some significant delays in the approval process for the NOCS. A meeting was held to review the submitted drafts of the four NOCS in December 2018. At the meeting, it was decided to make a substantial revision to the proposed sections on basic and industrial skills, removing the units relating to labour rights and industrial relations. This remains a contentious issue among industry stakeholders and further advocacy is needed to ensure that such decisions are made based upon a genuinely tripartite process of social dialogue.

While being mindful of the political sensitivities, the AMH project will continue to engage with key garment sector stakeholders to advocate for the approval of the NOCS with the inclusion of units on basic and industrial skills given their importance for improving the knowledge and skills of workers. AMH is also planning a series of meetings and events to advocate with government, clothing brands, factories and worker organisations. The series will begin in February 2019 with a certification ceremony to highlight the achievements of outstanding trainees and graduates of the AMH training centre with high-level participation from industry stakeholders.

6.5

Financial inclusion and microfinance

The Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) with support from Deloitte Myanmar organised a two-day Myanmar Financial Sector Development Workshop in July 2018 in Yangon. The workshop was attended by government officials, MFIs, and investment companies operating and poised to operate in Myanmar. LIFT was the keynote speaker for the session on Risk Management in Microfinance. The presentation can be summarised as follows.

- ‡ The microfinance sector is healthy and has significant growth potential
- ‡ Capital adequacy is very healthy among the LIFT supported MFIs—0.44
- ‡ Operational and financial self-sufficiency are greater than 100 per cent
- ‡ LIFT microfinance institutions' (MFI) portfolio at risk are all less than one per cent
- ‡ Loan loss provisioning is higher than necessary
- ‡ MFIs are highly underleveraged—estimated growth through the capital market and savings mobilisation is in excess of USD 1 billion, growth of more than 133 per cent
- ‡ Unsecured foreign direct investment is USD 86 million. It is estimated that a further USD 75 million will be invested in 2018-19.

Non-deposit taking MFIs do not require prudential regulations. Such MFIs require relatively light non-prudential regulation. Government has engaged in non-prudential regulation through its social performance standards: 1) MFIs are required to meet FRD's Client Protection Principles,⁶⁸ 2) FRD regulated a lending interest rate cap at 30 per cent per annum on the outstanding balance, and 3) government monitors MFIs annual percentage rate (APR). In late 2016, a large MFI's APR was in excess of 40 per cent and action was taken by the government to bring it within the allowable

68 1) Appropriate product design and delivery that meet clients' needs; 2) Prevention of over-indebtedness; 3) Transparency – disseminating information regarding financial services in language that is accessible to the clients; 4) Responsible pricing – ensuring that pricing for financial services does not affect clients negatively; 5) Fair and respectful treatment of clients; 6) Privacy of client data – ensuring the security of client data; 7) Mechanisms for complaint resolution – having in place procedures to resolve disputes with clients.

informal range of 100–300 basis points, or an APR of between 31 and 33.

Deposit-taking MFIs require prudential regulations that protect the MFIs' safety and soundness and provides supervision to enforce compliance with prudential and non-prudential regulations.

The FRD and Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF) have key prudential regulations in place: capital adequacy (12 per cent), rules for provisioning loan losses (100 per cent provisioning for loans past due over 91 days), minimum capital requirements (paid-in capital of USD 220,000), unsecured lending limits (MMK 5 million, equivalent to USD 3,700) and liquidity ratios (25 per cent).

FRD/MOPF does not have capacity to supervise or enforce key prudential regulations. As MFIs are transitioning from credit-only to deposit-taking, FRD/MOPF must build its supervisory capacity for this evolution of MFI financial services. LIFT is currently supporting and will continue to support FRD's staff capacity development.

6.6

LIFT technical assistance to the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation

LIFT has provided technical assistance to the Department of Rural Development (DRD) since 2014 for its Village Developing Planning (VDP) pilot project. An evaluation of the VDP project was completed in May 2018. The evaluation observed that the VDP process had influenced how villages organise and identify community needs and priorities. The evaluation also found evidence of robust village engagement in the VDP process, appreciation for the Village Development Planners supported by LIFT, and pride in the infrastructure results and in the village contribution to each project.

The evaluation also observed that DRD was yet to make a policy decision about its preferred approach and methodology for village development planning. For example, the World Bank, which finances the National Community Driven Development Programme (NCDDP), is currently working with a different model for village development planning. Other development partners such as DFID, UNDP and several INGOs are also working with different approaches and methodologies concerning village development planning. The existence of different approaches within DRD may reflect a lack of clarity in government policy regarding bottom up planning and budgeting. Such policy will eventually be needed to provide guidance that promotes efficient programme implementation and effective coordination among development partners and other stakeholders working on village development planning.

The evaluation also noted that the DRD appreciated LIFT's technical assistance leadership advice on the importance of instituting structural linkages between the DRD VDP initiative and the development planning work of the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF). The evaluation observed that LIFT support had enabled DRD to develop important tools and institutional processes for village development planning. The evaluation further observed that

there was now a clear opportunity to institutionalise bottom up planning and budgeting. However, this would require the government to issue clear policy decisions about coordination between the DRD, the General Administration Department (GAD) and MoPF.

Until such government policy directions are available, LIFT's Fund Board endorsed the evaluation's recommendation to conclude the technical assistance support for the VDP according to the scheduled timeline, ending in March 2019. As part of this process, the evaluation also recommended that the VDP team should prepare several technical papers and policy briefs that can inform other stakeholders about village based development planning. It was also recommended that:

- ‡ LIFT's support to DRD should process the backlog of village data before March 2019 and complete processing of the village-level data collected by DRD. The second half of 2018 was largely devoted to addressing this recommendation. During the final quarter of 2018, the VDP team was well on track to completing the data entry. The LIFT technical assistance team also completed VDP training for DRD staff in several additional townships following a request from the DRD.
- ‡ LIFT should convene or encourage the formation of a Planning and Finance Working Group for Village Development. The DRD did not show much appetite for such an initiative. Rather, they expressed interest in identifying lessons concerning implementation in those regions and states that had shown most interest in bottom-planning and budgeting. LIFT FMO did not believe it was the role of LIFT to convene such a working group just as it was about to conclude its support for the VDP pilot.

In November 2018, LIFT's FMO and the VDP team discussed how LIFT might most effectively support the sustainability of the project by disseminating the technical and policy lessons learned from the VDP project to a wider audience. The discussion concluded that the preparation of the technical and policy briefs would be a high priority, and that the briefs could form the basis for a series of workshops and other public events involving key stakeholders. LIFT FMO and DRD agreed that they would jointly convene a public event for Members of Parliament and hold events for government officials and Members of Parliament in Magway and Bago Regions. Finally, LIFT and DRD agreed to jointly convene a workshop for development partners and implementing agencies working on local governance and/or village development planning. Each event was designed to reach specific audiences with information concerning both technical and policy matters pertaining to Village Development Planning. The following events were held in March 2019:

Parliamentary Engagement, Nay Pyi Taw

The VDP team leaders introduced the basic methodology, principles, and tools concerning village development planning to a gathering of approximately 50 parliamentarians and government officials. The presentations included a discussion of the technical and policy issues learned from the VDP

project. One of the most challenging technical issues concerns the lack of adequate capacity for planning and analysis at the local level. As for policy, the most important issue concerns how to situate the VDP model in the most appropriate institutional home. It is also important for parliament to pass legislation institutionalising village development planning within the planning and budgeting processes.

Regional Workshops in Magway and Bago

The primary strategic objective of the regional workshops was to inform the parliamentarians of Magway and Bago Regions and the regional governments about the methodology, tools and instruments and institutional processes for participatory planning and budgeting at the local level. A second objective was to inform the regional parliaments and the governments about the opportunities for institutionalising bottom-up planning and budgeting, beginning with linking village development planning with township development budgeting processes.

VDP Lessons Learned Workshop

LIFT VDP team leaders presented technical and policy lessons learned during the project. They identified key issues pertaining to challenges and opportunities for sustainable scale up. Other development partners and implementing agencies working on local governance and/or village development planning, including ActionAid, HelpAge International, and Mercy Corps, shared technical and policy lessons learned from their respective implementation experiences. Implementing agencies, including The Asia Foundation, Oxfam, and Pact, presented findings and observations from field research concerning local governance reform, including village development planning. Discussions highlighted the importance of understanding village development planning not solely as a technocratic exercise, but also as a social and political process, and that a process for identifying priority policy agenda items be included in the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) implementation plan.









7.0 Value for Money

LIFT continues to strengthen value for money (VFM) management at the Fund Management Office (FMO) level, and increasingly at the project level. “Maximising the impact of each dollar spent improving rural poor people’s lives”⁶⁹, is essential for LIFT and its donors. In 2018, LIFT continued to build upon VFM guidelines developed for LIFT in 2016.

In 2018, LIFT engaged a VFM consultant to develop, with the FMO, an overall VFM framework for LIFT, and related frameworks for each LIFT programme and selected projects. The development of VFM frameworks across programme and project indicators, accompanied by hands-on FMO and project VFM training, will enable more rigorous VFM management using a comprehensive and consistent set of metrics, while also permitting project specific analysis variations.

VFM throughout LIFT’s programme and project lifecycles

Current LIFT VFM guidelines outline procedures to manage or assess value for money from tendering throughout programmes’ and projects’ lifecycles—during design, inception, delivery and closure stages. LIFT understands VFM measures as both quantitative and qualitative, and related to the individual VFM factors:

Economy Contract for highest quality inputs at the best price

Efficiency How well inputs are converted to the outputs and transferred to the beneficiary

Effectiveness How well outputs are converted to beneficiary outcomes, and sustained

Equity Distribution of benefits across all beneficiaries: gender; region; wealth quintile; ethnicity

Figure 7.1 shows the project lifecycle and the relevant project stages where each VFM factor is measured. There is naturally some overlap across stages.

Programme-level VFM

Table 7.1 provides an overview of expenditures as a percentage of budget for years 2016-2018 and percentage achievement of planned results. This high-level overview is complemented by Table 7.2 following which calculates and compares unit costs across programme components.

Project-level VFM

During the 2015-18 programme phase, LIFT increasingly worked with implementing partners to drive VFM analysis as a results management tool at the project-level. In the following sections, LIFT’s current use of VFM analysis to strengthen performance at lower costs is detailed with both narrative and quantitative data. Data analysis and explanations—with examples—of the various ways LIFT is working with partners for stronger VFM analysis and management follow.

VFM in calls for proposals

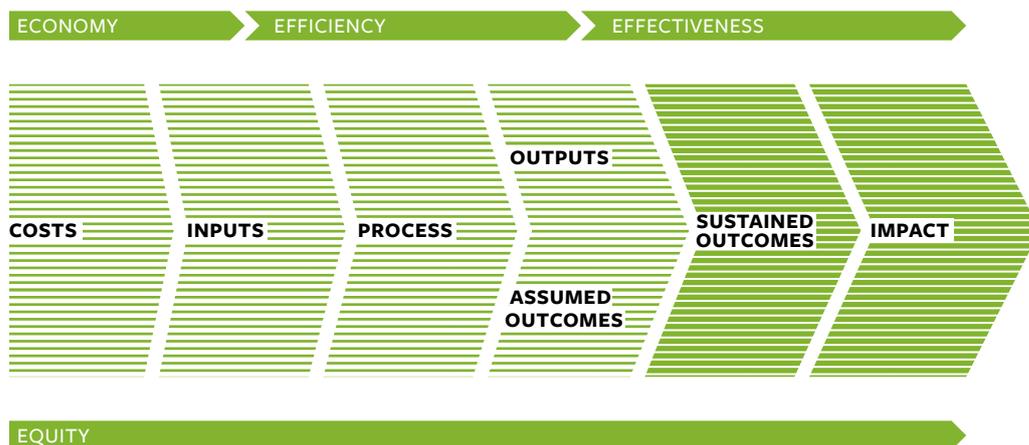
LIFT-funded implementing partners are selected through transparent, competitive tendering through open calls for proposals. Though not directly related to a single VFM metric, the open calls for proposals and FMO appraisal and oversight support strong program design, economy through competition, and efficient implementation procedures.

In 2015-2018 phase of LIFT, VFM factors were not initially included in project proposals, though VFM consideration at the design stage grew in recent years. Calls for proposals now routinely include requirements to demonstrate the VFM of proposed projects. For the next phase (2019-2023) a framework of consistent VFM metrics will be employed at the proposal, appraisal, implementation, and closure stages of most projects.

VFM in the Design and Appraisal Stages

LIFT selects partners and projects against clearly defined criteria that also cover VFM considerations. Thus, LIFT’s calls for proposals and appraisal by the FMO of each proposal are intended to structure VFM concerns from project inception.

In the appraisal stage, the FMO is particularly concerned with the project’s alignment of project documents (implementation plan, its measurement framework and budget) with the LIFT Theory of Change. Projects link the expected contribution of a project’s outputs and outcomes to LIFT Programme outputs and outcomes.



⁶⁹ DFID, “Value for Money Guidance”, 2011

► **Figure 7.1**
Project lifecycle and where Vfm factors are measured

Measure/Metric		Achievement 2016	Achievement 2017	Achievement 2018
Design <i>Economy Efficiency Effectiveness Equity</i>	# of projects providing specific VFM information	31 of 37 (84%) active projects contracted or extended since 2015	31 of 37 (84%) active projects contracted or extended since 2015	70 of 76 (92%) active projects contracted or extended since 2015
Inception/Delivery <i>Economy</i>	# of projects with identified cost drivers and controls	37 of 37 (100%) active projects in 2017 operated with identified cost drivers and controls.	66 of 66 (100%) active projects in 2017 operated with identified cost drivers and controls	76 of 76 (100%) active projects in 2017 operated with identified cost drivers and controls
Delivery <i>Efficiency Effectiveness</i>	% of projects on track with expected annual expenditure	19% spent >90% of their budgets 38% spent 90-71% of their budgets 43% spent <70% of their budgets	24% spent >90% of their budgets 39% spent 90-71% of their budgets 36% spent <70% of their budgets	43% spent >90% of their budgets 32% spent 90-71% of their budgets 25% spent <70% of their budgets
	% of projects on track with expected implementation rate	36% implemented >90% of plan 25% implemented 90-71% of plan 40% implemented <70% of plan	28% implemented >90% of plan 36% implemented 90-71% of plan 35% implemented <70% of plan	46% implemented >90% of plan 30% implemented 90-71% of plan 24% implemented <70% of plan

▲ Table 7.1

VfM from design phase to delivery phase

	Number of projects		Households reached		LIFT expenditure		Unit cost/household		Unit cost/person	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Agriculture production	22	22	104,728	101,061	15,818,839	14,642,044	(151.04)	144.88	(34.32)	32.93
Maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT)	5	5	81,333	119,895	5,686,448	8,496,286	(70)	71	N/A	N/A
Microfinance (active clients)	12	12	2,132,447	2,632,283	5,596,259	9,243,070	(2.62)	3.51	(0.60)	0.80

In the appraisal stage, the FMO uses both qualitative and quantitative data to assess likely VFM in projects, including VFM questions and criteria in the appraisal. LIFT FMO also makes recommendations for project adjustments to increase VFM, and in recommendations presented to the Fund Board. Examples of measuring VFM in the appraisal stage include:

Financial Inclusion Programme

During the appraisal, each project's budget is reviewed for accuracy and its fit with proposed activities, work plan, and expected outputs and outcomes. In particular, human resources and office costs as a percentage of total budgets are compared across other microfinance projects. FMO also assesses and compared other VFM indicators with the industry standard, e.g. costs for setting up office in new areas, portfolio at risk (PAR), financial self-sustainability (FSS) or the amounts leveraged by the projects.

Delta 3 Programme

At the proposal stage some programmes in Delta 3 have used quantitative VFM analysis to develop a theoretical 'business case' to measure the financial viability and scalability of the model and return on investment, or to calculate the cost-benefit ratios and scalability of proposed interventions.

Dry Zone Programme

Several projects demonstrated the use of VFM at the planning stage to use resources where the greatest beneficiary result could be achieved. For example,

one agriculture project used VFM calculations of alternative approaches to quantify projected benefits and to determine which intervention to propose for funding. The Dry Zone WASH project utilised the analysis and introduced changes in the approach to maximise intervention efficiency.

VFM during inception phase

During the project inception phase key measures are often taken to ensure **economy** and sometimes **efficiency**. Currently in LIFT, these focus on VFM factors of economy by verifying and adjusting human resources and staffing costs; validating necessary travel and other 'soft costs' and ensuring that sufficient financial and operational controls are in place. This approach is embedded within LIFT procedures.

Other examples where LIFT procedures strengthened economy include co-location and cooperation with parallel programmes. For example, a project implemented by an international partner was integrated into the Access to Health Fund which resulted in significant cost savings due to a combination of cost saving approaches, such as sharing of services, facilities, and support staff. In addition, a coherent approach between two projects will continue until the activities of the Access to Health Fund end.

VFM during Project Delivery

VFM analysis is used for ongoing project management and reporting. Quantitative measures are primarily used and vary from cost-performance ratios (CPR)⁷⁰;

▲ Table 7.2

Unit costs across Programme Components

⁷⁰ A calculation of the percent of target achieved for the percent of budget expended at any point in time. A CPR of greater than 1.00 indicates that more beneficiary results were achieved than planned for the expenditure made. Conversely a CPR below 1.00 indicates that the results achieved were accomplished by spending more than planned. CPR measures implementation efficiency.

Output	Target	Results	% of Target	CPR
1.a. Sustainable and competent producers' organizations deliver services along the value chain	1,050	2,752	262%	2.94
1/2. a. Rural HH have access to advisory service (management and financial literacy)	3,200	6,171	193%	1.91
1/2. b. Rural HH have a facilitated access to credit	2,200	5,103	232%	2.48
2. a. Rural HH have the skills and knowledge to professionally run small business (OFF Farm)	425	1,270	299%	3.18
3.a. Rural HHs have knowledge to practice good nutrition	1,910	2,651	139%	2.52

▲ Table 7.3

Cost-Performance Ratios (CPRs) of a project

SSA systems	Cost USD/hh	Income USD/hh	Gross margin USD/hh	Net profit USD/hh	Net profit USD/ha	BCR
Chan Myaung	54	61	6.9	4	126	1.1
Pond	103	122	19.5	13	-64	1.2
Wish Pond	7	12	4.6	1	1,339	2.2
Total	73	86	13.6	9	252	1.4

▲ Table 7.4

Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of a fish farming project

return on investment (ROI); or simple cost-benefit analyses. A few examples of how projects are using quantitative measures follow.

VFM in Agriculture/Nutrition/WASH Projects

This example from an agriculture project monitors project efficiency, i.e. the translation of funds into results, by measuring the CPR of project outputs as in Table 7.3. The CPR of project outputs is a measure of efficiency. Measurement of CPR regularly during project implementation guides both FMO and project management with concrete evidence of how much is being achieved for the money spent. Adjustments to strengthen performance can be made based on quantitative evidence.

In a WASH project, Table 7.4, the project compared planned unit costs at the design stage with actual unit costs near project closure in 2018. The business case was based on USD 6 as a unit cost to improve sanitation per beneficiary. The actual unit cost of the project's component is USD 4.7, thus there has been saving of USD 1.3 per beneficiary. Unit costs can be used during project implementation to manage costs, and at project closure to calculate and communicate total savings generated by an economic and efficient LIFT project. Comparing planned and actual unit costs is a concrete measurement of project efficiency in translating inputs to outputs.

In the following fish farming project, a simple cost-benefit (labeled by the project as a benefit cost ratio, BCR)⁷¹ is used to demonstrate potential profitability for the different systems to produce fish.

In this example, after data validation, project

and FMO managers use the BCR to determine which approaches are most cost-efficient; which unprofitable interventions to close and which successful approaches to replicate

VFM in Financial Inclusion Projects

LIFT's value for money approach for financial inclusion centres on the performance of microfinance institutions (MFIs). The process of evaluating value for money is continuous throughout the project term.

Economy assesses the degree to which inputs are being purchased in the right quantity and at the right price. Each project's budget is reviewed for accuracy and its fit with proposed activities, work plan, and expected outputs and outcomes. In particular, human resources and office costs as a percentage of total budgets are compared across other microfinance projects.

Efficiency assesses how the project is delivering its outputs, considering the rate at which intervention inputs are converted to outputs and its cost-efficiency. For an MFI, efficiency measures how well the MFI is streamlining its operations. The key indicator is operational costs/average total assets.

↓ 80 per cent of LIFT MFIs showed a decrease in operational costs/average total assets.
↓ The 2017 average MFI operational costs/average total assets is 13.3 per cent as compared to 17.5 in 2016. As a basis of comparison, the gold standard for MFIs worldwide is 10 per cent.

Effectiveness assesses the project's quality of work by assessing the rate at which outputs are converted into outcomes and impacts, and the cost effectiveness of this conversion. For an MFI, effectiveness measures the quality of its output, and the sustainability of its operations. The key indicators are portfolio at risk, operational and financial self-sufficiency.

↓ LIFT MFIs loan portfolio at risk (PAR)—the proportion of the loan portfolio that is an arrears and therefore at risk of not being repaid—is less than one per cent. The best MFIs worldwide show a PAR of between one and six per cent.

↓ The loan write-off is less than one tenth of one per cent.

↓ All LIFT MFIs achieved operational self-sufficiency in 2017, and almost 90 per cent have achieved financial self-sufficiency.

Equity measures the degree to which the results of MFI investments are equitably distributed. The key indicator used by LIFT is the Progress out of Poverty Index.

LIFT's MARC project works with nine national MFIs who employ the Progress out of Poverty Index⁷² (PPI, now called the Poverty Probability Index). The PPI is a high quality poverty measurement tool that has the potential to provide significant value to MFIs seeking to adopt quantitative, evidence-based strategies for monitoring the poverty outreach objectives identified in their social mission. The PPI also allows MFIs to provide quantitative evidence of their poverty outreach. According to the PPI results of MARC MFIs from 2015 to 2016, approximately 20 per cent of the clients under the national poverty line (USD 1.20) and under USD 1.25 a day moved out of the under USD 1.25/day classification. Under

⁷¹ BCR: Benefit-cost ratio

⁷² The PPI is currently revised using more up to date data from the 2015 Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey conducted by MoPF and WB

	Under National Poverty Line			Under \$1.25 per day			Under \$2.50 per day		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
BDA	15.07	11.95	13.61	16.55	12.70	14.60	86.60	83.07	79.07
AYO	15.1	11.12	10.40	16.61	11.72	11.11	85.55	81.76	79.19
RMO	16.45	13.86	17.70	18.57	15.42	13.10	84.85	81.34	78.68
ECLOF	26.4	19.06	11.99	30.85	21.64	20.00	94.53	89.63	87.38
MHDO	16.09	13.44	11.96	18.17	14.79	13.20	84.20	81.22	78.98
SVS	12.6	11.52	10.80	13.70	12.42	11.65	81.43	79.54	78.18
Wanlark	35.47	31.48	11.20	42.37	37.50	30.91	96.03	97.62	91.40
YMCA	21.19	20.35	26.29	24.50	23.42	19.28	88.77	86.56	84.70
The SUN	13.25	12.88	17.12	14.73	13.98	11.95	80.33	82.64	80.64
Average in %	19.07	16.19	14.56	21.78	18.18	16.20	86.92	84.82	82.02
Annual change in %		19%			21%			4%	

a broader category of USD 2.5/day, four per cent graduated to the next level after years. This suggests that access to financial services has played a role in facilitating the transition of the most vulnerable clients to a more resilient position.

LIFT in Policy Projects

Assessing VFM in policy and governance projects is broadly understood to be difficult because change is not easily quantified, and the process of change is not linear, that is, progressing predictably from stage to stage. Typical VFM assessments might well, but incorrectly, note that expenditures with a lack of significant change are 'poor' VFM when, in fact, change is underway though not yet visible in the legislative or governing process. Policy change requires long term commitment.

Thus, VFM assessment of policy intervention is often left to measuring evidence of possible change as an indicator of success. LIFT currently measures corollary results that may be partially attributable to LIFT policy support.

For example: the social protection policy project demonstrated a different approach to measuring VFM efficiency and effectiveness. It expended less than 91 per cent of its allocated budget while working on social protection policy concurrent with the Government of Myanmar (GoM) expanding its expenditures for social welfare by 270 per cent⁷³(vs. 20 per cent project target) in the reporting period.⁷⁴ While not directly attributable to the policy project, it is valuable to note that the project contributed significantly to the increase.

Equity measures in LIFT have largely been limited to gender disaggregation. From the project design and appraisal stages, though development of measurement frameworks and data collection, gender considerations have been incorporated into projects.

The quality of gender disaggregated data is variable, and in the Myanmar context, further beneficiary equity data is desirable to ensure that funding and interventions reach the most vulnerable.

With the 2019-2013 LIFT strategy, new equity measure will be introduced. Beneficiary data detailing gender, age, region, and poverty status are planned for most LIFT project and programme indicators. Financial inclusion and nutrition programmes may have additional project-specific indicators.

Value for Money 2019-2023

The use of VFM analysis in LIFT has grown substantially since 2016. There is broad evidence, however, that current VFM metrics are not sufficiently comprehensive or consistent, and that management knowledge of VFM methods in the FMO and in projects varies widely. The capacity to undertake VFM analysis at the project level requires support and simplification and/or automation. While support is needed, there is a solid foundation to expand VFM analysis in the next LIFT phase.

In LIFT's next phase, VFM analysis will be adopted further by partner projects and by the Fund Management Office. Specific VFM frameworks will be developed parallel to three-tiered MEAL framework that defines the scope and function of MEAL at the FMO, regional programme (funding window) and implementing partner (project) levels.

Specifically, LIFT will:

- ‡ Develop an overall value for money framework, followed by frameworks for the programmes and projects connected by the LIFT logframe and the LIFT targets;
- ‡ Pilot a simple automated system for VFM analysis and management at all levels;
- ‡ Provide VFM training, using the project-specific VFM framework for each implementing partner;
- ‡ Provide VFM training for the FMO project officers, using the project-specific VFM framework for each implementing partner.

The objective is to operationalise VFM at all levels of the programme, train management and key staff within LIFT and implementing partners' organisations, build a framework of metrics that is consistent and meaningful, and simplify and automate VFM measurement so that all programme levels can analyse VFM data regularly for strengthened results and reduced cost.

▲ Table 7.5

Nine local MFIs PPI results

⁷³ The increase is not directly attributable to HelpAge expenditures though LIFT support has most likely contributed to government confidence in the viability of social welfare transfers.

⁷⁴ Data for 2018 was not available at the time of writing as, in 2018, the GoUM changed the dates of the fiscal year. The fiscal year 2018 is now from April to October 2018. Numbers will be updated again next year.









8.0

Fund Management

8.1

LIFT governance

Figure 8.1 depicts LIFT's governance relationships in 2018. The main governance document is the Joint Collaboration Agreement (JCA) which is a legally non-binding document that all donors to LIFT sign. Each donor has a negotiated bilateral funding agreement with UNOPS. The JCA contains three annexes relating to the TORs for the DC, FB and the Fund Manager (referred to as the FMO).

Donor Consortium

The LIFT Donor Consortium met in February 2018, reviewed LIFT's progress and endorsed the extension for a further five-year phase. The findings from the self-assessment of the Fund Board were presented and actions agreed.

A further Donor Consortium meeting was to be scheduled towards the end of the year to approve the design of the next five-year strategy. The design and the Fund Board agreement of the logframe took longer than anticipated and was only concluded in January 2019. A Donor Consortium meeting is being scheduled for May 2019.

69 DFID, "Value for Money Guidance", 2011

▼ **Figure 8.1**
LIFT governance relationships in 2018

Donor Consortium

All donors represented

Meet once per annum
Approves the LIFT Strategy
Selects the executive members of the Fund Board
Conducts periodic reviews of LIFT

Fund Board

Executive members:
Donors to LIFT
and Government

Meets formally three times per annum
Provides leadership for LIFT with a focus on strategy, funding decisions and coordination of stakeholders
Reviews performance of the Fund Management Office

Fund Manager

Fund Management Office
FMO—UNOPS

MOU with MoPF
Provides effective, transparent and efficient management of LIFT
Responsibilities include (a) administers funds, (b) monitor and audit projects, (c) measure LIFT's collective impact, (d) report to stakeholders

Implementing Partners including sub-partners

UN, INGO, NGO, CSO,
private sector, research,
Government

MOUs with relevant government ministries / departments
Implements projects in line with LIFT operational guidelines
Abides by fraud and beneficiary accountability policies.

Fund Board

The Fund Board met eight times in 2018, an unusually high number of times, particularly focused on development of the refreshed strategy for the next five years.

There was consistency in Fund Board representation in 2018: The United Kingdom (chair), European Union, Australia, Switzerland, the United States and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Fund Management Office

The Fund Management Office (FMO) saw some long-term staff leave and new staff arrive in 2018. The FMO, starting with the programmes team but involving all, has rearranged and adjusted in order to maintain attention and deliver on current work while effectively transitioning to the next phase.

Engagement with Government of Myanmar

LIFT's Fund Management Office (FMO) and the Fund Board maintain good relations across a number of ministries at Union, State and Regional levels. Through its implementing partners, LIFT additionally connects with government at all levels. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) became the Government representative on the Fund Board in 2016; in acknowledgement of the political transitions within Myanmar and strengthened coordination roles of the Government of Myanmar. For the Fund Board it brought a valued new perspective, one deeply rooted in the Myanmar context.

As LIFT has evolved and welcomed the Government of Myanmar to the Fund Board, questions are now raised as to how other actors should be represented within the governance structures; including non-governmental organisations, ethnic armed organisations (EAO) or other non-state actors (NSA). The challenge is to match representation with functional governance. With diverse groups, finding one entity with legitimacy to represent all those groups is not possible and there may be other platforms, processes and ways in which LIFT can engage different actors to inform decision-making and enhance accountability. This will continue to be explored as LIFT transitions into implementation of the 2019-2023 strategy.

Engagement with Sector Coordination Groups

Within the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Group (ARD-SCG), LIFT's current role is supportive and engaging in a more secretariat style function, working closely with MoALI's Department of Planning and the co-facilitators USAID and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The policy team supports that function, the engagement provides useful insights relevant to LIFT, helps to draw links across partners and programmes and contributes to good working relations. LIFT is also engaged in the Social Protection sub-SCG, chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) and co-chaired by UNICEF. Within nutrition there is engagement in the Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network, which brings together some of the main donors and technical nutrition actors in Myanmar.

Indicator	LIFT target for 2018	Achievement 2018	Per cent achieved
% of clear Fund Board (FB) recommendations implemented by Fund Manager (FM) within given deadlines	100%	92%	92%
% and number of audit areas (both FM and IPs) rated 'high priority' by the auditors	0 for all parties	8 ⁺	

◀ Table 8.1
Fund Management Office
Performance Indicators

LIFT strategy development

The LIFT strategy is a key document for accountability within LIFT, representing the thinking, focus and direction of LIFT. The last strategy covered 2014-2018 and a new strategy for 2019-2023 was elaborated during 2018. Discussions with the Fund Board on the scope for a further phase began at the end of 2017. 2018 became a particularly burdensome year for the Fund Board and FMO, as projects had to close, no-cost and cost extensions had to be put in place, as well as new calls for proposals (CFP) developed to bridge the old strategy with the new – all at the same time the new strategy was being elaborated. The Fund Board has approved the strategy and the Donor Consortium will be requested to endorse it.

Governance review

In 2018, the LIFT Fund Board commissioned a governance review with the principle aim of determining if LIFT's governance structures are well equipped and suitable for their designated roles. The report is being finalised and recommendations reviewed by the LIFT Fund Board.

Funding to Government

In 2017, LIFT signed its first project agreement with the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) for their Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme. This programme will continue until at least mid-2019 and is implemented across Chin State. In 2018, through several lessons learned, monitoring visits, coordination meetings, and knowledge sharing sessions, project controls and processes were strengthened. This allowed LIFT to provide operational support to additional similar projects in Kayah and Kayin States.

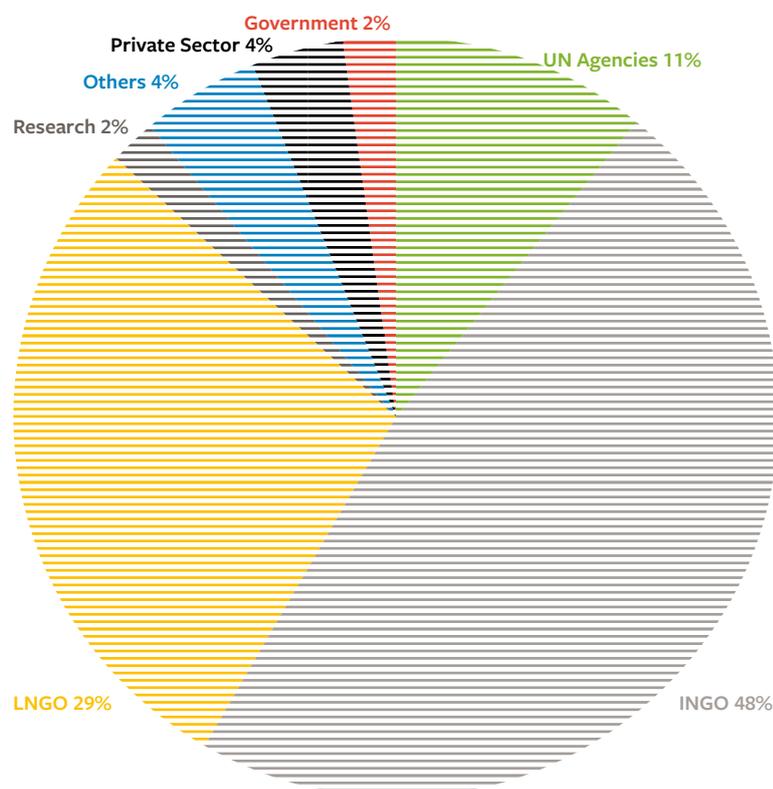
Collaboration with Access to Health fund

In 2018, LIFT strengthened their collaboration with Access to Health (formerly known as 3MDG) in areas of programme management and delivery. Specifically in the area of nutrition, both funds shared a technical advisor to develop new strategies and programmes in nutrition. Through this advisor and other programme experts, LIFT provided strategic support to the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) who also received grant support from Access to Health.

Introduction of the Programme Management Office

In 2018, UNOPS Myanmar managed three large multi-donor Funds (JPF, Access to Health, and LIFT) in addition to being the Principal Recipient for the Global Fund, and managing the UN Trade Cluster Fund for SECO, beginning in early 2019. Following through on an agreement to streamline the previous individualised programme support units for each of the funds, a Programme Management Office (PMO) was established in 2018. At a minimum, this shared structure provides the four main functions in programme support (grant management, administration and operations, budgeting and reporting, and oversight/audit), in addition to coordinating other non-subject matter tasks in programme management such as risk management, due diligence, performance management, and inter-fund collaboration. In 2018, this structure allowed for LIFT and the other funds to benefit from learning and adapting to best practices, from harmonisation and standardisation of templates and processes, while maintaining the flexibility and adaptability to the Fund Board and donors. Amongst other initiatives, the PMO coordinated donor-led due diligence assessments of LIFT, developed its own comprehensive due diligence assessment for downstream partners, organised multiple workshops for partners at the operational and strategic levels, and provided overall capacity building to partners.

+ There were 8 high priority audit observation for the IPs out of 171 observations in total. The FMO had one medium priority observation. The audit of 2018 expenditure will take place in 2019.



▲ **Figure 8.2**
Proportion of grant funding
by type of implementing
partner to end 2018

8.2

Allocation of LIFT funds

LIFT uses certain indicators to track the degree to which funds are allocated in line with Fund Board policies and are accounted for in a transparent manner. The Fund Management Office (FMO) continues to have robust financial and management controls in place and is implementing them consistently. The annual audit of LIFT's FMO for 2017 was carried out in May 2018. The auditors gave a satisfactory rating overall, as well as satisfactory ratings on the various functional areas that were in the scope of the audit, such as finance, procurement and supply chain, human resources, project management and general administration. There was one medium priority observation in the finance area.

In terms of audits of implementing partners, it was a busy year with a total of 71 projects being audited, the highest number of projects since the start of LIFT. There were 66 audits in 2017. There was a slight increase in observations of 'high priority', from seven in the previous year, to eight high priority audited in 2018.

In 2018, LIFT managed 87 grants, of which 10 ended over the course of 2018, including five that ended in December. At the end of December 2018, LIFT had 77 ongoing projects, which is the highest number of projects since its start. LIFT worked with over 60 partners in 2018, and the proportional distribution of partners remains similar to 2017.

See *Figure 8.1*.

	Contracts signed			Projects Ongoing (E=C-D)	Contract amendments	
	Up to end 2017 (B)	Up to end 2018 (C)	Finished (D)		Up to end 2017 (G)	Up to end 2018 (H)
Delta 1	22	22	22	0	31	31
Countrywide	19	19	19	0	49	49
Delta 2	10	10	10	0	25	25
Other Direct grants & QSEM	4	4	3	1	7	8
Learning and innovation	27	27	19	8	70	82
Financial Inclusion	16	16	7	9	21	37
Rakhine	12	16	9	7	12	16
Dry Zone	13	18	5	13	15	27
Delta 3	10	10	0	10	10	17
Upland	15	16	4	12	6	16
Private sector	2	3	2	1	2	3
Migration	7	7	0	7	7	12
Civil society	6	6	0	6	4	8
Flood response	3	3	3	0	2	2
Extra nutrition	2	3	0	3	0	3
	168	180	103	77	261	336

▲ **Table 8.2**
Project status by funding
window as of end 2018

Indicator	Target 2018	Achievement 2018	Per cent achieved
% of funds released by FMO that are in line with IP contracts	87%	98.5%^	112%
% of IPs for whom the FMO completes a financial system review	100%	100%	100%

◀ **Table 8.3**
Fund flow and implementing partner performance 2018

Indicators	Low risk (Green)		Medium risk (Yellow)		High risk (Red)	
	Threshold	% of grants	Threshold	% of grants	Threshold	% of grants
Implementation rate	>90% on track	46%	71–90% on track	31%	≤70% on track	24%
Annual expenditure	>90% spent	43%	71–90% spent	32%	≤70% spent	25%
Reporting timeliness	0 days late	94%	1–7 days late	3%	>8 days late	3%
Report completeness	100% complete	98%	71–99% complete	2%	≤70% complete	0%
Management controls**	0 open observations	40%	1–3 open observations	46%	>3 open observations	14%

Overall rating***

2018	45%	44%	11%
2017	45%	45%	11%
2016	49%	45%	6%
2015	41%	45%	14%
2014	51%	37%	12%
2013	48%	41%	11%
2012	32%	41%	32%

◀ **Table 8.4**
Summary of project management indicators by ‘traffic light’* category for 2018

8.3

Fund flow and partner performance

LIFT uses two indicators to track fund flow performance. As seen from the *Table 8.3*, LIFT’s implementing partners follow the LIFT operational guidelines closely and have good financial controls in place. A total of USD 742,922 was identified as ineligible expenditures, which represents 1.5 per cent of total expenditure incurred by the IPs (0.53 per cent in the previous year).

Additionally, LIFT started using a tailored ‘traffic light’ tool in 2012 to monitor the project management performance of all implementing partners. The results for the projects active in 2018 are summarised in *Table 8.4*. In total, 72 projects have been assessed with this tool, the highest number since the inception of LIFT. This is also reflected in the delivery of 2018, and indicates that the programmes are in full implementation. The results of the traffic lights this year are similar to 2017. In general, the performance of partners improved compared to previous years due to a higher percentage of partners with increased implementation and annual expenditure rates. This contributes to a slight reduction in the ‘medium risk’ column. Efforts to work more closely with implementing partners to prepare more realistic budgets and follow up on delays in implementation is reflected in reducing the percentage of projects that have a delivery of less than 70 per cent (e.g. implementation rate in 2017 was 35 per cent in the red column, compared to 24 per cent this year).

Reasons for low expenditures are varied, however, they relate often to implementing partners being too ambitious in their first year of implementation, facing delays in their setting up of the projects. Additionally, working more in conflict affected areas in 2018 posed additional delivery challenges. The implementing partners will be informed about their individual traffic lights, while the overall results are used by the FMO to analyse the functioning of the established systems and mechanisms.

8.4

Finance

During 2018, LIFT increased from USD 451 million at the end of 2017 to USD 509 million.

LIFT had budgeted for a delivery of USD 69.4 million during 2018 and spent slightly lower, USD 64.6 million, representing the second highest annual expenditure since inception in 2010. While existing grantees performed very well, the slightly lower delivery was due to a number of reasons but in the main due to delayed grants (AWBA, land, Rakhine), reduced non-grant support (VDP) and an underspend in HR budget caused by several personnel changes and efficiencies.

^ This is based on the amount of IP expenditure deemed ineligible as a proportion of total IP expenditure, based on the audit of 2017 expenditure (1.5% of total expenditure incurred by the IPs)

* Based on available data as of April 2019 for approximate 72 grants; grants to UN are not audited and therefore are not considered for certain indicators.

** Based on available data as of April 2019 as audits for the fiscal year take place in Q2 of the following year.

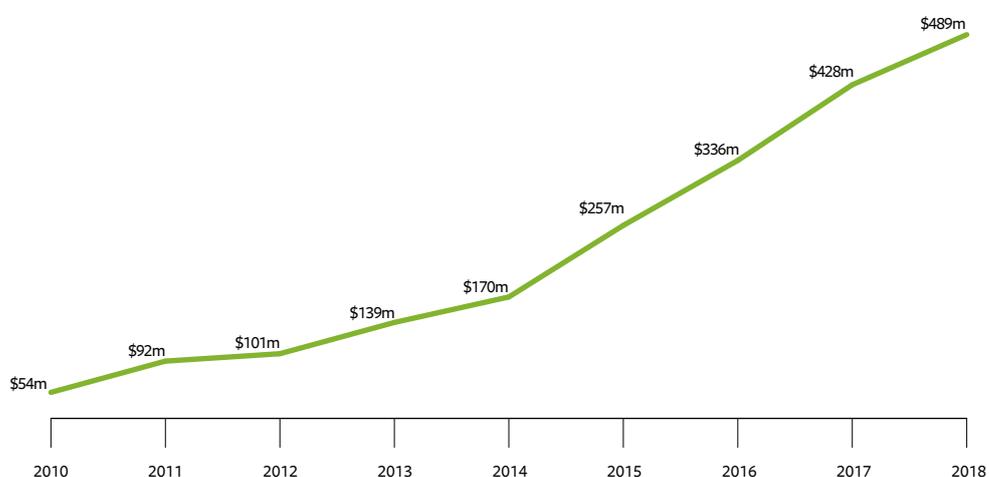
*** The overall rating is assigned through the weighting of the risk assessment of each of the five indicators.

Donor	Signed Commitments* USD	Per cent of total
Australia	26,170,439	5.2%
Denmark	9,991,566	2.0%
European Union	144,058,797	28.5%
France	1,319,800	0.3%
Ireland	1,800,354	0.4%
Italy	852,040	0.2%
Luxembourg	1,132,463	0.2%
Mitsubishi	200,000	0.0%
Netherlands	2,950,000	0.6%
New Zealand	809,650	0.2%
Sweden	2,725,776	0.5%
Switzerland	25,249,318	5.0%
United Kingdom	265,649,210	52.6%
United States	17,430,000	3.5%
UNDP/ PGMF	4,694,399	0.9%
Total donors' contribution	505,033,811	100%
Interest earned	3,881,517	
	508,915,328	

* Commitments may vary slightly from 2017 figures due to changes in exchange rates.

► **Table 8.5**

Cumulative donor contributions up to 31 Dec 2018



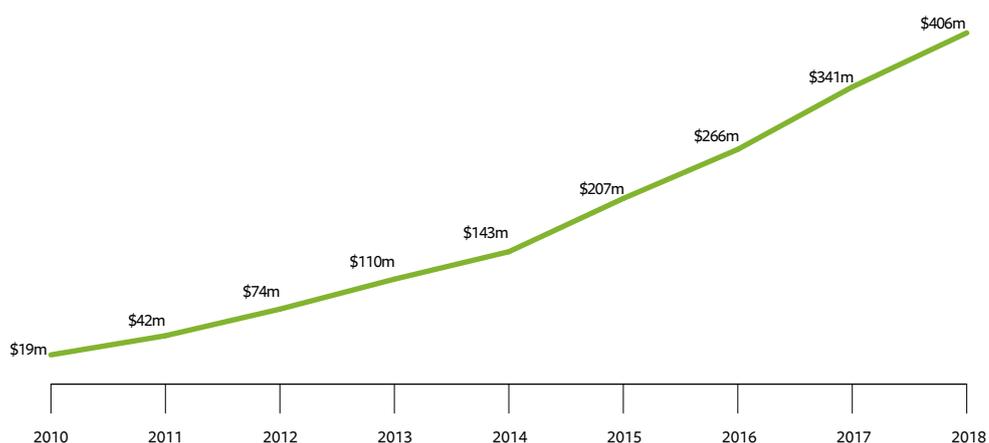
► **Figure 8.3**

Cumulative LIFT donors' contribution received in USD (millions) 2010-2018

	Budget USD	Actual USD	Over/(under) spent	Per cent
Programme implementation				
a) Grants to implementing partners	55,890,747	53,052,129	(2,838,618)	-5%
b) Non-grant support	4,914,767	3,930,887	(983,880)	-20%
Research	1,532,342	1,154,199	(378,143)	-25%
Operation of the Fund Manager's office	5,700,062	5,250,941	(449,121)	-8%
Support to the Fund Board	37,060	30,199	(6,861)	-19%
Facilities and administration	1,349,088	1,194,517	(154,571)	-11%
	69,424,066	64,612,872	(4,811,194)	-7%

► **Table 8.6**

LIFT expenditure for 2018



► **Figure 8.4**

Cumulative LIFT expenditure in USD (millions) 2010-2018

8.5

Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

During 2018, LIFT continued to implement its MEAL framework, undertook numerous project evaluations and several monitoring and evaluation-related studies, and strengthened the monitoring and evaluation capacities of its implementing partners.

M&E-related studies and project evaluations

From January to December 2018, LIFT conducted the following monitoring and evaluation (M&E) studies and project evaluations:

- ‡ Design and completion of the LIFT Household Tracking Survey 2018. This consisted of a representative sample of 1,520 households which was a subset of around 25% of the main LIFT Household Survey from 2017. The results of the survey were used to calculate logframe indicator results for this Annual Report 2018 (see Results section for details)
- ‡ Commissioned fifteen project mid-term reviews and fourteen end-of project evaluations. See *Table 8.7* and *Table 8.8*.

IP	Project Name	Programme
PGMF-RAFIN	Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)	Financial Inclusion
PGMF	Myanmar Access to Financial Inclusion (MAFIN)	Financial Inclusion
CDN	Improving Economic and Nutritional Outcomes of Poor Rural People in Northern Kayin State, Myanmar Project	Uplands
Twe Let	Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (Twe Let Project)	Migration
CORAD	Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State	Uplands
CRS	Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement	Uplands
MIID	Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes Through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education And Institution Building In Rural Chin State	Uplands
IWMI	Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project Rehabilitation	Dry Zone
BBC	Kyat Chat: Marketing the most of migration and money	Migration
COARD	Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin	Uplands
CRS	Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE)	Uplands
KDN	Enhanced livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)	Uplands
IOM	Migration as a livelihood diversification strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)	Delta
Metta	Promotion of Farmer-Managed Schemes for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	Delta
KDN	Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)	Uplands

◀ **Table 8.7**

Project mid-term reviews conducted January-December 2018

Mercy Corps-Swisscontact	Making Vegetable Markets Work For Smallholder Farmers In Southern Shan And Chin States	Learning & Innovation Window
PACT-MARC	Myanmar Access to Rural Credit through Institutional Strengthening (MARC)	Financial Inclusion
TDH	Soilless Horticulture and Other Water-saving Innovative Technologies for Landless and Marginal Farmers (SOW IT)	Dry Zone
MVMW	Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor	Dry Zone
UNESCO	Communication for Sustained Livelihood and Food Security	Dry Zone
IFDC	Dry zone Agro Input and Farm Services	Dry Zone
Golden Plain	Restoring unproductive soil to get sustainable yield by green manuring and modified cropping system	Dry Zone
MPSWA	Improved National Status of vulnerable communities through self-helped potential	Dry Zone
UNHABITAT	A short step from WASH to healthier communities	Dry Zone
HelpAge International	Dry zone social protection project	Dry Zone
LEARN	Leveraging Essential Nutrition Action to Reduce Malnutrition	Dry Zone
LEGACY	Learning Evidence Generation and Advocacy for Catalyzing Policy	Dry Zone
MIID	Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State	Uplands
UNESCO	Communication for Sustained Livelihood and Food Security	Learning & Innovation Window

◀ **Table 8.8**

End-of-project evaluations conducted January-December 2018

Strengthened implementing partners' M&E systems

The FMO continued to help partners develop their own MEAL systems. Activities in 2018 included:

- ! Training nine implementing partners on using LIFT's M&E reporting sheets, as part of their annual and semi-annual reporting obligations
- ! Conducting formal reviews of 11 implementing partners' M&E systems, using LIFT's revised routine data quality assessment checklist

Evaluation and Learning Question Studies

Work had begun in 2017 on specially commissioned studies focused on gathering evidence and insight on LIFT projects in income and assets, vulnerability and resilience, and sustainability. These studies, along with an overall resilience synthesis report, will be finalised and produced in 2019.

► **Table 8.9**
M&E-related training,
workshops and meetings
January–December 2018

IP	Project Name	Programme	Topic
GRET, WAHH, NAG, METTA, LEAD	Support to Rice Seed Sector Development in Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar Strengthening Civil Society in Delta Promotion of Farmer-Managed Schemes For Inclusive Growth And Sustainable Development Improved Co-management of Ayeyarwady Wetland Resources Supporting Landless Households Livelihoods And Food Security Through Alternative Income Generation Activities In Pyinsalu Sub-township	Delta 3 Civil Society	M&E data reporting and the basic elements of data management and analysis
NAG	Improved Co-management of Ayeyarwady Wetland Resources	Strategic partnership	M&E data reporting for policy projects Research methodology
The Border Consortium	Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development for Uplands (STAND UP)	Uplands	M&E reporting sheet training
Save the Children (TEAMMCCT)	Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (TEAM MCCT)	Uplands	M&E reporting sheet training
Tag International Development	Plan Bee: Introduction And Expansion Of Modern Beekeeping And Honey Production In Shan State	Learning & Innovation Window	M&E reporting sheet training

► **Table 8.10**
Project M&E systems
check/RDQA
January–December 2018

IP	Project Name	Programme
IOM	Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership	Migration
CARE	Industry Solutions for Safe Employment	Migration
GRET	Strengthening Civil Society in Delta	Small Grants Delta
WHH	Support to Rice Seed Sector Development in Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar	Delta-3
METTA	Promotion of Farmer-Managed Schemes For Inclusive Growth And Sustainable Development	Delta-3
NAG	Improved Co-management of Ayeyarwady Wetland Resources	Strategic Partnership
World Vision	Growing Livelihoods in Bogale Project	Delta-3
Radanar Ayar	Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development Project (IARD)	Delta-3
WHH	Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development_ Delta Rise	Delta-3
GRET	Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development_ Delta Rise	Delta-3
NAG	Promoting sustainable growth of aquaculture in Myanmar to improve food security and income for communities in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Central Dry Zone (MYFish-Culture-MYFC)	Delta-3

8.6

Communications

Visibility guidelines strengthened

In 2018, LIFT's communications unit revised visibility guidelines to strengthen visibility requirements through different platforms and shared the guidelines with implementing partners, reinforcing the need for compliance. The team supported partners requesting guidance on use of the LIFT logo on publications and event materials, on developing social media strategy, on supporting visuals for communication material products.

Social media boosted

The communications team reviewed the communications strategy and social media action plan to assess audience reach and targeting with key messages about LIFT's work and donor support. The social media plan was refreshed and the schedule was strengthened to increase engagement with audiences via social media. The team increased LIFT's activity on Facebook, posting 163 times in 2018. Two social media campaigns were developed around Myanmar's National Nutrition Promotion Month and 16 days of activism in August and November. The Nutrition facebook campaign included a photo competition on complementary feeding practices and nutrition-related quizzes that resulted in good engagement. Posts during the campaign reached 52,000 people, an increase of 5,100, with 14,500 engagements. Total followers of LIFT's Facebook page have grown to 28,000. The average reach of post per monthly basis is over 37,000. The average active engaged audiences per month are 5,500.

Field visits

The communications team, in some cases in conjunction with 3MDG (now Access to Health), prepared itineraries and 11 briefing packages for donor delegations' field visits to projects in the Dry Zone, Kachin State, Shan State, Kayin State, Rakhine State, the Delta and Yangon.

Publications

The team produced the LIFT Annual Report 2017 in English and Myanmar language, LIFT Semi-Annual Report 2018 in English, finalised the translation of the Agricultural Development Strategy for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, translated and published the Chin MCCT Baseline Survey, and translated and published the CSOs and Indirect Cost study.

Media coverage

In 2018, LIFT has received media coverage in Frontier magazine, the Myanmar Times, Mizzima, The Nation, The Global New Light of Myanmar, 7-Day news journal, Eleven media, the Irrawaddy, on Skynet, MRTV, DVB, Myawady, the Voice Myanmar, My News online media and MCNTV online media.

8.7

Knowledge Management and Learning

During 2018 the LKM function had a capacity gap due to the departure of the LKM Officer. Whilst the new LIFT strategy (and subsequent LKM needs) were being defined, decisions on future capacity were on hold. Towards the end of 2018 an LKM intern was recruited and then an LKM Specialist was recruited to join the team in January 2019. Looking into the next phase of LIFT, the objectives for the function will be to further strengthen LIFT's ability to generate, analyse and share knowledge on programme progress and performance. This will LIFT and partners to more fully understand and communicate about where and why successes have been achieved and where areas for improvement remain. Being more consciously focused on this will contribute to decisions and resource allocation, programme improvements, and the ability to bring a positive influence on other stakeholders.

As part of improving a culture of learning, a new emphasis was placed on developing Communities of Practice across the LIFT programme during 2017, and several important events took place during 2018 as set out below.

▼ Table 8.11

Communities of practice (CoP) in 2018

Communities of practice	Date	Process and Overview
Policy Engagement and reporting	Jan 2018	The third Policy CoP workshop building on previous workshops in 2016 and 2017. Attended by around 50 participants representing LIFT's implementing partners who work on policy, FMO programme and support staff. The first day-long interactive workshop introduced a model for analysing policy processes. The second day was led by LIFT's M&E team to review and discuss reporting requirements for policy-related activities.
Understanding Customary Tenure Practices and Community Forest Instructions	Apr 18	The meeting was held with 12 participants to focus on the community forest registration process and slash and burn systems in Uplands. Activities included: Discussing the legal background and challenges in community forest registration; Land Core Group presented contradictions between the instructions related to community forest registration, forest laws, and National Land Use Policy; GRET presented the results of a study on Chin customary land tenure practices; CORAD shared the test results and applicable conditions of a new slash and mulch system.
Value chain financing	Apr 18	Activities included: Yoma Bank presented its current financial services for agribusinesses and the group recognised important gaps in value chain financing CDN presented market research findings related to the cardamom value chain and the contacts established in China by the Cardamom multi-stakeholder platform.
Producing stories and case studies	Jul 2018	Designed to improve field staff capacity to collect stories and photographs of project activities. After learning how to improve their storytelling, participants went to the field to collect stories and photos that they presented back to the CoP.
Vocational Training and Access to Safe Employment	Dec 2018	Activities included: Presentations focused on 3 main topics: Migration and Displacement, Skills Development for Women and Job Matching. Participants were divided into regional discussion groups to discuss challenges and possible solutions associated with the 3 topics. Building trust and creating more opportunities for partnership and collaboration was one of the main goals of the CoP and participants expressed optimism about the potential for future collaboration at the end of the CoP.
Mobile money cash transfers with DSW	Dec 2018	Following up on a workshop held in October, CoP activities included: Discussing ways to continue to grow and implement mobile money transfers. Presentations by organizations carrying out pilot projects and a panel discussion by service providers. Group discussions and brainstorming on ways to overcome challenges and improve trust in electronic currency.







9.0

LIFT 2019–2023

LIFT's next phase 2019-2023

LIFT 2009-2018

LIFT was established as a multi-donor fund in 2009. LIFT had three strategic phases between 2009 and 2018.

LIFT's first strategy 2009-2012 focused predominantly on rehabilitation work, supporting the recovery of rural households affected by Cyclone Nargis.

The second strategy 2012-2014 recognised the progress made towards recovery and emerging opportunities in the country and shifted towards a more development-oriented approach that prioritised increasing food security and incomes through agriculture and non-farm income generating activities.

A major strategy revision was undertaken for 2014-2018. This phase took an explicitly development-oriented approach, underpinned by its differentiated livelihood strategies intended to assist rural households to 'step up', 'step out' or 'hang in'. Recognising that progress towards food security did not specifically address significant nutritional deficits, particularly for women and children, LIFT explicitly included a stronger focus on nutrition. A new stream of work focused on migration was developed as part of the broader 'stepping out' strategy, combined with a shift towards private sector engagement through the financial inclusion and agriculture portfolios. This phase was characterised by a regional approach to programming that aimed to address major contextual variations in development across the country.

In May 2017, LIFT's Fund Board, while reviewing recommendations from an interim review of LIFT, and in recognition that LIFT's strategy and funding commitments were due to end in 2018, decided that a successor programme would be designed. LIFT's Fund Board members (Australia, EU, Switzerland, UK, US) agreed they were committed to a follow-on multi-donor funding mechanism to LIFT, driven by the conviction that pooling donor resources enables programme coherence and leads to greater impact.

Designing LIFT 2019-2023

LIFT's Fund Board developed and advertised a Terms of Reference for an external firm to undertake a scoping study for a successor fund; no suitable firm however was identified. LIFT's Fund Board thus decided to task the Fund Management Office, under the leadership of the Fund Director, to lead the design process, guided by key Fund Board decisions and commitments. The process of designing the next phase of LIFT 2019-2023 and refreshing LIFT's strategy began in the second half of 2017 and continued throughout 2018.

The Fund Board committed to continuing with LIFT's general strategic focus to help targeted beneficiary groups 'step up', 'step out' or 'hang in'⁷⁶ and agreed that the 2019-2023 phase would be marked by a series of strategic shifts to:

- | Increase focus on inclusion and social cohesion
- | Intensify efforts on gender equality and women's empowerment
- | Increase geographical focus on ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas
- | Bring internally displaced persons and returnees into LIFT's development programmes

- | Increase programming in underserved urban and peri-urban areas
- | Work with government at different levels on targeted policies and policy reforms

At a donors' retreat in October 2017, LIFT's Fund Board outlined their strategic priorities. The framework and concept for each programmatic focus area was agreed. It was also agreed that the process of developing the programme design and strategy be consultative and inclusive of key stakeholders including government. Programme design would be guided by the Myanmar Government's strategic priorities, as set out in their costed, prioritised sector plans.

Key pieces of work were requested and secured as contributions to the design, including:

- | A summary of data and analysis on Myanmar's rural economy prepared by Michigan State University
- | A brief on LIFT's current and possible future work in conflict-affected areas and with internally displaced persons prepared by LIFT's conflict advisor
- | A paper on gender identifying directions post-2018 that would contribute to progressing gender equality and women's empowerment agendas
- | A paper on civil society strengthening including recommendations for approach and scope prepared by LIFT's civil society advisor and programme lead
- | A think piece on LIFT's role in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, including recommendations on LIFT's future focus prepared by LIFT's nutrition advisors
- | Strategic inputs on how a decent work (safe, gainful, slavery-free) lens could be applied in a cross-cutting approach to programming from LIFT's modern day slavery advisor
- | Options and next steps for LIFT in food fortification contributing to nutrition outcomes
- | A results framework was developed in the first quarter of 2018, led by LIFT's monitoring and evaluation specialist with the support of LIFT's strategic advisor Firetail/ALINE

The substantive work of drafting the thematic strategies for four thematic areas was completed by mid-year. Most donors gave forecasted estimates of future funding commitments. Additional funding was secured to bridge and transition the funds. In the following months funding decisions were made regarding current LIFT projects and programmes that were aligned with the planned shifts for 2019-2023. Twenty projects received costed extensions and new calls for proposals were designed.

As the end of the year neared, the Fund Management Office finalised the strategy and associated documents. In December 2018, the Fund Board approved the 2019-2023 strategy with comments for revisions, and a final round of comments was received on the logframe. All documents are now approved and available on LIFT's website.

Donor funding for the 2019-2023 period will be known in 2019.

⁷⁶ LIFT focuses resources on the following target groups: Rural households with land, labour and/or commercial potential to 'step up' the value ladder and out of poverty through increases in labour and land productivity, and through enhanced capacity to market production. Rural households or household members to productively 'step out' of agriculture and into more productive sectors of the economy over time. This could be a local 'step out', finding better-paid employment in local non-farm activities. It can also be a migration 'step out' to take advantage of opportunities further afield. Households without commercial potential or the ability to 'step out', to 'hang in', using agriculture as a safety net and improving their food security and nutrition outcomes during Myanmar's period of economic transition.









10.0

Annexes

	Number of Townships	Number of Districts	Number of States/regions
Total reached during LIFT operation	247	63	14
Current operational on 31 December 2016	217	59	14

10.1

LIFT active projects and locations

In December 2018, LIFT worked in 14 states/regions, 59 districts, 217 townships across the country. 18 projects are in National scope.

State/Division	District	Townships
Ayeyarwady	Hinthada	Hinthada, Ingapu, Kyangin, Lemyethna, Myanaung, Zalun
	Labutta	Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun
	Maubin	Danubyu, Maubin, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw
	Myaungmya	Einme, Myaungmya, Wakema
	Pathein	Kangyidaunt, Kyaunggon, Kyonpyaw, Ngapudaw, Pathein, Thabaung, Yegy
	Pyapon	Bogale, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon
Bago	Bago	Bago, Daik-U, Kawa, Kyauktaga, Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, Thanatpin, Waw
	Taungoo	Htantabin, Oktwin, Phyu, Taungoo, Yedashe
	Pyay	Paukkhaung, Paungde, Pyay, Shwedaung, Thegon
	Thayarwady	Gyobingauk, Letpadan, Minhla, Monyo, Nattalin, Okpho, Thayarwady, Zigon
Chin	Falam	Falam, Tedim, Tonzang
	Hakha	Hakha, Thantlang
	Mindat	Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat, Paletwa
Kachin	Bhamo	Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk, Shwegu
	Mohnyin	Mogaung, Mohnyin
	Myitkyina	Injyangyang, Myitkyina, Waingmaw
	Putao	Machanbaw, Nawngmun, Putao, Sumprabum
Kayah	Loikaw	Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw
Kayin	Hpa-An	Hlaingbwe, Hpa-An, Thandaunggyi
	Hpapun	Hpapun
	Kawkareik	Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi
	Myawaddy	Myawaddy
Magway	Magway	Chauk, Magway, Myothit, Natmauk, Taungdwingyi, Yenangyaung
	Minbu	Minbu, Pwintbyu, Salin, Sidoktaya
	Pakokku	Myaing, Pakokku, Pauk, Seikphyu, Yesagy
	Thayet	Aunglan, Kamma, Minhla, Sinbaungwe

State/Division	District	Townships
Mandalay	Kyaukse	Kyaukse, Myittha, Sintgaing, Tada-U
	Mandalay	Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Mahaangmyay, Patheingyi, Pyigyitagon
	Meiktila	Mahlaing, Meiktila, Thazi, Wundwin
	Myingyan	Myingyan, Natogyi, Ngazun, Taungtha
	Nyaung-U	Kyaukpadaung, Nyaung-U
	Pyinoolwin	Madaya, Pyinoolwin
	Yamethin	Pyawbwe, Yamethin
	Det Khi Na	Lewe, Pyinmana
	Oke Ta Ra	Oke Ta Ra Thi Ri , Poke Ba Thi Ri, Tatkon
Mon	Mawlamyine	Chaungzon, Kyaikmaraw, Mawlamyine, Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, Ye
	Thaton	Bilin, Kyaikto, Paung, Thaton
Rakhine	Kyaukpyu	Ann, Kyaukpyu, Ramree
	Maungdaw	Maungdaw
	Mrauk-U	Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon
	Sittwe	Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Sittwe
	Thandwe	Gwa, Thandwe, Toungup
Sagaing	Kale	Kale
	Kanbalu	Kanbalu, Ye-U
	Mawlaik	Paungbyin
	Monywa	Ayadaw, Budalin, Chaung-U, Monywa
	Sagaing	Myaung, Myinmu, Sagaing
	Shwebo	Khin-U, Shwebo, Wetlet
	Yinmarbin	Kani, Pale, Salingyi, Yinmarbin
Shan	Kengtung	Kengtung
	Tachileik	Monghpyak, Tachileik
	Kyaukme	Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Namtu, Nawngkhio
	Lashio	Hseni, Kunlong, Lashio, Tangyan
	Laukkaing	Laukkaing
	Muse	Kutkai
	Loilen	Kyethi, Laihka, Loilen, Mongkaing
	Taunggyi	Hopong, Hsihseng, Kalaw, Lawksawk, Nyaungshwe, Pekon, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Taunggyi, Ywangan
Tanintharyi	Dawei	Dawei, Thayetchaung, Yebyu
	Myeik	Myeik, Palaw
Yangon	Yangon (East)	Botahtaung, Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South), Dawbon, Mingalartaungnyunt, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Tamwe, Thaketa, Thingangyun, Yankin
	Yangon (North)	Hlaingtharya, Hlegu, Hmawbi, Htantabin, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyithar, Taikkyi
	Yangon (South)	Dala, Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Kyauktan, Seikgyikanaungto, Thanlyin, Thongwa, Twantay
	Yangon (West)	Ahlon, Bahan, Dagon, Hlaing, Kamaryut, Kyauktada, Kyeemyindaing, Lanmadaw, Mayangone, Pabedan

10.2

LIFT Logical Framework

Purpose: To strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor people in Myanmar

Purpose Level Indicators

Purpose-level Outcome (PO) 1 Increased incomes of rural households

PO 1.1—Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income

This indicator measures the total number of households in LIFT villages reporting an increase in income during the previous 12 months. It is based on perceptual data.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 1.2—% of households in LIFT villages below the poverty line

This indicator measures the percentage of households in LIFT villages that are below US\$1.25 per day per capita poverty line based on a detailed analysis of consumption and expenditure and adjusted for inflation and PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) from a 2011 baseline.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Purpose-level Outcome 2 Increased resilience of rural households and communities to shocks, stresses and adverse trends

PO 2.1 – Number of households in LIFT villages with increased asset ownership

This indicator measures the total number of households in LIFT villages reporting an increase in asset ownership during the last 12 months. It is based on perceptual data.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 2.2—Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income diversity score

This indicator measures the total number of households in LIFT villages whose number of income sources has increased in the past 12 months.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 2.3—Number of people whose resilience has been improved and ability to cope has increased

This indicator measures the number of individuals whose resilience has been improved resulting from positive changes in income, assets and food availability. It is based on an index of perceptual data.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Purpose-level Outcome 3 Improved nutrition of women and children

PO 3.1—Number of households in LIFT villages with an acceptable dietary diversity score

This indicator measures the total number of households in LIFT villages with a dietary diversity score above 6.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 3.2—Number of households in LIFT villages with 12 months of adequate household food provisioning
This indicator measures the total number of households that have a full 12 months of minimum adequate household food provisioning.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 3.3—% of moderately/severely stunted children under 5 years in LIFT villages

This indicator measures the percentage of children under the age of 5 in LIFT villages who are either moderately or severely stunted. It is based on anthropometric measurements.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

PO 3.4—Proportion of children under 5 years with diarrhoea in the previous 2 weeks

This indicator measures the proportion of children under the age of 5 in LIFT villages who had diarrhoea in the previous two weeks.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Purpose-level Outcome 4 Improved policies and effective public expenditure for pro-poor development

PO 4.1—Number and type of public sector policy and programme changes supported by LIFT

This indicator measures the number and type of public sector policies and programmes supported by LIFT, whether directly through the FMO or indirectly through IPs.

Data Source: FMO, IPs

PO 4.2—Number and type of changes in public sector budget allocation/spending supported by LIFT

This indicator measures the number and type of changes in public sector budget allocation or spending supported by LIFT, whether directly through the FMO or indirectly through IPs.

Data Source: FMO, IPs

Programme Level Indicators

Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 1 Increased sustainable agriculture and farm-based production by smallholder-farmers

Pr 1.1—Number of LIFT households reached by advisory services

This indicator measures the total number of households reached by LIFT IPs with extension/agricultural advisory services, whether directly by the IP (e.g. through FFSs) or through systems and partners that the IPs work with (e.g. private extension agents). This includes services related to crops, livestock, and fisheries.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 1.2: Number of households in LIFT villages who trial and/or adopt improved practices, inputs and technologies

This indicator measures the total number of households who have used new agricultural practices, inputs and/or technologies, whether related to crops, livestock or fisheries.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 1.3—Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in productivity—crops only
This indicator measures the number of households reporting an increase in their agricultural productivity (yield).

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

**Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 2
Improved market access and market terms for smallholder farmers**

Pr 2.1—Number of LIFT households who are members of functional producer groups

This indicator measures the number of households who are members of active producer groups, whether these are related to crops, livestock, fisheries or other products. Functional groups are those that are engaged in some kind of ongoing financial and commodity-related transactions.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 2.2—Number of LIFT households adopting new marketing practices

This indicator measures the number of LIFT households that are adopting new marketing practices related to securing better prices for the sale of agricultural commodities.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 2.3—Number of households in LIFT villages securing higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities

This indicator measures the number of households in LIFT villages reporting that they have secured higher returns from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities as compared to the previous year. It is based on perceptual data.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

**Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 3
Increased and safe employment in non-farm activities for smallholders and landless**

Pr 3.1—Number of LIFT households supported in non-agricultural skills development

This indicator measures the number of LIFT households supported in non-agricultural skills development, which includes vocational skills, enterprise development skills, life-skills, and migration advice.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 3.2—Number of trained people who establish their own enterprises or become employed

This indicator measures the total number of people trained to set up their own businesses or secure non-farm-based employment who have successfully set up such businesses or secured employment, whether locally or through migration.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 3.3—Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in income from non-agricultural activities

This indicator measures the number of households reporting an increased income from non-agricultural sources based on their perception of this years' income compared to previous years' income.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 4: Increased access to adequate and affordable financial services by smallholders and landless

Pr 4.1—Number of LIFT MFIs financially self-sustaining

This indicator measures the number of MFIs (Microfinance Institutions) supported by LIFT that are financially self-sustaining. A MFI is financially self-sufficient when the MFI's annual income is more than annual operating expenses and financial expenses.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 4.2—Number of LIFT households with access to financial services (active clients)

This indicator measures number of households of which at least one family member is registered as a member of a MFI, cooperatives and/or banks supported by LIFT. In financial terms, it is called "active client".

Data Source: IPs

**Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 5
Improved nutrition, sanitation and hygiene practices**

Pr 5.1—Number of LIFT households reached with nutrition sensitive information

This indicator measures the total number of households reached directly by LIFT IPs through activities that aim to impart nutrition sensitive information. It does not include community level information campaigns but does include group-based and household-based activities.

Data Source: IPs

Pr 5.2—Number of people with awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children

This indicator measures the total number of people (male and female caregivers of children under 2) in LIFT villages who are aware of the key nutritional needs of women and children, including pregnant women's food requirements and appropriate feeding practices for children during the first 1000 days.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 5.3—Number of children 6-23 months with "acceptable" dietary diversity

This indicator measures the total number of children between 6 and 23 months of age in LIFT villages who have acceptable dietary diversity. *Data Source: LIFT Household Survey*

Pr 5.4—Number of infants (0-5 months of age) who received only breast milk during the previous 24 hours

This indicator measures the number of children aged 0 to 5 months in LIFT villages who were exclusively breastfed during the previous 24 hours (at time of survey).

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 5.5—Number of households in LIFT villages using

safely managed sanitation services

This indicator measures the total number of households using an improved sanitation facility. This includes flush or pour flush toilets to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with a slab, and composting toilets.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 5.6—Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed and protected drinking water services

This indicator measures the total number of LIFT households using a protected or improved water source during the dry season. This includes piped water into dwelling, yard or plot; public taps or standpipes; boreholes or tubewells; protected dug wells; protected springs and rainwater; and protected ponds.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 6
Safeguarded access to and sustainable use of natural resources for smallholders and landless

Pr 6.1—Number of LIFT villages where common property resource management is taken up

This indicator measures the total number of LIFT villages where common property or natural resource management activities have been taken up. This includes forests, grazing lands, water bodies, mangroves and embankments.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Pr 6.2—Number of households in LIFT villages benefiting from protected/managed natural resources

This indicator measures the number of households reporting that they are benefitting in some way from a protected or managed natural resource. This includes forests, grazing lands, water bodies, mangroves and embankments.

Data Source: LIFT Household Survey

Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 7
Strengthened local capacity of communities, local government, CSOs and private enterprises to support and promote food and livelihood security

Pr 7.1—% of LIFT funds managed by national entities (by type of entity)

This indicator measures the proportion of LIFT funds managed by national entities, whether they are public, private or civil society organisations (including community organisations)

Data Source: FMO

Pr 7.2—Number and type of local groups and institutions supported to promote food and livelihood security

This indicator measures the number of local groups and institutions that have been supported by LIFT to promote food and livelihood security. This includes village organisations, producer organisations, savings and credit groups and local government departments.

Data Source: IPs

Programme-level Outcome (Pr) 8

Generation of policy-relevant evidence regarding pro-poor development

Pr 8.1—Number of LIFT-supported policy oriented events organised.

This indicator measures the number of policy oriented events organised, whether directly by LIFT or else by IPs. This includes all types of events that have a specific objective of supporting policy changes.

Data Source: FMO, IPs

Pr 8.2—Number of LIFT policy-oriented publications published and disseminated to stakeholders

This indicator measures the number of publications produced and disseminated in order to support policy changes, whether directly by LIFT or else by IPs.

Data Source: FMO, IPs

Ongoing projects in 2018

Organisation/IP Name	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
ActionAid-Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development (SEDN)	Learning and Innovation	1,943,237	Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development
BBC Media Action	Migration	3,035,943	Kyat Chat: Making the Most of Migration and Money
Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA)	Financial Inclusion	3,000,000	"Myanmar: Financial Inclusion Expansion through Co-operatives" (MyFINANCE) project
CARE	Rakhine	932,309	M&E and Learning for Tat Lan Phase II
CARE	Migration	3,985,643	Aung Myin Hmu Project - Industry Solutions for Safe Employment
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Uplands	1,813,203	Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE)
Choklei Organization for Rural and Agricultural Development (CORAD)	Uplands	2,943,141	Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State
Cordaid Foundation	Financial Inclusion	1,000,000	Technical Assistance (TA) to LIFT/Cordaid partner mfi's
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Rakhine	3,500,000	Vocational Training and Livelihood Opportunities for in Camp and out of Camp Youth in Rakhine State - Phase II
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE	Uplands	1,500,000	Implementation of a Grant in Myanmar provided by the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE	Uplands	6,993,918	MATERNAL AND CHILD SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN CHIN STATE (MCCT CHIN)
EDEN	Migration	199,508	Eden Project to Rescue Migrant Women and Girls who have been Trafficked into Sexual Exploitation in Yangon
Eden Centre for Disabled Children (ECDC) R1.6/015/2018	Disability	316,770	Nothing About Us Without All of Us : Promoting disability inclusive Chin Society for sustainable development.
FAO Livestock	Dry Zone	4,400,000	Improving Farmer Livelihoods in the Dry Zone through Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing
Food Security Working Group (FSWG)	Civil Society	1,622,958	Harnessing Resources and Partnerships to Achieve Food Security in Myanmar (Phase 2)
Gender Equality Network (GEN)	Civil Society	2,372,165	Deepening Commitment to Gender Equality in Myanmar
Golden Pearl	Disability	149,996	Improving the Socio-economic situation of the Person with Disability
Golden Plain Livelihood Development Services Co-operative Ltd.	Dry Zone	808,579	Restoring Unproductive Soil to Get Sustainable Yield by Green Manuring & Modified Cropping System in Dry Zone
GRET	Learning and Innovation	1,053,864	Understanding rural land issues to engage comprehensive policy dialogue in Myanmar (LAND Project)
GRET	Financial Inclusion	3,463,600	Creating of a microfinance institution in the Dry Zone, Myanmar
GRET	Financial Inclusion	1,320,176	Expanding Rural Financial Markets by Institutionalizing Chin MFI
GRET	Delta 3	2,119,898	Strengthening Civil Society in the Delta
HelpAge International	Learning and Innovation	3,640,000	Strengthening the Ministry of Social Welfare to fulfil its Role in Expanding Social Protection
HelpAge International	Dry Zone	5,597,397	Dry Zone Social Protection Project
HelpAge International	Disability	527,906	Inclusive Social Protection and Livelihoods in Magway Region and Kayin State
International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC)	Dry Zone	6,256,564	Dry Zone Agro-Input and Farm Services Project

Organisation/IP Name	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Migration	3,999,752	Development of Internal and International Labour Migration Governance
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Rakhine	1,494,983	Skills for Improvement of Livelihoods, Economic Opportunities and Security (TVET)
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Delta 3	1,549,100	Migration as a livelihood diversification strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Migration	1,999,217	Capitalizing human mobility for poverty alleviation and inclusive development in Myanmar (CHIME)
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Migration	6,475,839	Increasing Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (G&P) (implemented by a Consortium)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Dry Zone	1,158,797	Implementation of Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project in the union of Myanmar
IRC	Rakhine	13,500,000	Tat Lan Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Phase II
Karen Development Network (KDN)	Uplands	2,237,414	Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)
Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS)	Civil Society	999,992	Strategic Partnership for Civil Society Empowerment (SPaCE)
Koe Koe Tech Co., Ltd.	Extra Nutrition	799,738	Shwe Kayi Lan Bawga Maymay (Shwe maymay), 'Mommy who is on the golden journey'
Land Consulting Group Co., Ltd.	Civil Society	2,317,566	Fostering equitable access and control over land and related natural resources in Myanmar
Link Emergency Aid & Development (LEAD)	Delta 3	407,305	Supporting landless households livelihoods and food security through alternative income generation activities in Pyinsalu Sub-Township
Lodestar Company Ltd./SPPRG	Disability	374,991	Inclusive Development by enabling Existing Actors (IDEA) Project
Mercy Corps	Delta 3	5,188,197	Linking Laputta to Markets (LLM) Increasing Incomes through Agriculture, Skills, & Employment
Metta Development Foundation	Delta 3	803,942	Promotion of Farmer-Managed Schemes for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development
Metta Development Foundation	Uplands	2,123,168	Uplands Food Security and Participation in Markets (UFS-PM)
Metta Development Foundation	Civil Society	992,935	A Strategic Partnership Proposal
Michigan State University	Learning and Innovation	4,042,354	Agri-food Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor
Myanma Awba Group (Awba) Co., Ltd.	Private Sector Engagement	3,749,734	Myanmar Allied Farmers Seed Company/ (MAFSCO)/ Private Sector Engagement Program
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)	Uplands	1,665,851	Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State
Myint Myat Mingalar (MMM)	Disability	618,347	Improved Community Based Inclusive Social Protection through Self-Help Initiatives
NAG	Civil Society	999,831	Improved Co-Management of Ayeyarwaddy Wetland Resources
PACT (MARC)	Financial Inclusion	7,491,324	Myanmar Access to Rural Credit through Institutional Strengthening (MARC)
Pact Institute, Inc.	Dry Zone	2,199,500	Implementation of the Dry zone small grant fund for civil society
PATH	Learning and Innovation	4,659,426	Introduction of Fortified Rice in Myanmar" Project

Organisation/IP Name	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
PGMF	Financial Inclusion	8,323,497	Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)
Proximity Designs	Financial Inclusion	5,097,164	Financial Inclusion—Moving Ahead
Radanar Ayar	Delta 3	729,281	Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development (IARD) Project
Relief International UK	Rakhine	3,435,639	Response Mechanism for Addressing Protracted Displacement in Rakhine State, Myebon and Mrauk U
Save the Children	Delta 3	3,924,500	Bright SUN: Building Resilience, Synergy
Save the Children	Dry Zone	4,216,403	LEGACY: Learning, Evidence Generation, and Advocacy for Catalysing Policy
Save the Children	Extra Nutrition	1,669,140	Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) Phase 2
Save the Children	Uplands	3,852,283	Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (TEAM MCCT)
Save the Children	Rakhine	5,558,945	Tat Lan Plus
SPECTRUM - Sustainable Development Knowledge Network (SDKN), Myanmar	Uplands	290,327	Unlocking the Future Growth Potential of the Edible Insect Sector in Myanmar
Stichting ZOA, The Netherlands (Registered as Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) in Myanmar)	Uplands	4,840,000	Improving the incomes and nutrition outcomes of rural poor in Northern Kayin State
SwissAid	Uplands	4,069,754	Uplands Small-Grants Fund for Civil Society
TAG	Learning and Innovation	1,869,967	Plan Bee: Introduction and Expansion of Modern Beekeeping and Honey Production in Shan State
Terre des Hommes	Learning and Innovation	1,459,573	Soilless Horticulture and Other Water-saving Innovative Technologies for Landless and Marginal Farmers
The Border Consortium (TBC)	Uplands	2,966,939	Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands (STAND UP)
UN-HABITAT	Dry Zone	4,400,000	A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities
Vision Fund International	Migration	800,000	Financial Inclusion in the Garment Sector
Vision Fund International	Rakhine	3,500,000	Financial Inclusion in Central Rakhine
Welthungerhilfe	Delta 3	4,602,329	Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development- Delta RISE
Welthungerhilfe	Delta 3	2,719,642	Support to Rice Seed Sector Development in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar
WFP	Extra Nutrition	387,380	Scaling up fortified rice production and consumption through Myanmar
World Bank	QSEM	1,100,000	Agricultural Policy Dialogue
World Fish	Learning and Innovation	4,284,592	Promoting sustainable growth of aquaculture in Myanmar to improve food security and income for communities in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Central Dry Zone (MYFish-Culture- MYFC)
World Vision International Myanmar	Financial Inclusion	4,500,000	Financial Inclusion For Uplands Project
World Vision International Myanmar	Delta 3	2,376,833	Growing Livelihood in Bogale Project
Yoma Bank	Financial Inclusion	18,070,000	Yoma Bank Agri-Business Finance Program (Yoma Bank AFP)
Total (USD)		235,390,266	

10.4

Project activity charts

10.4.1 Important updates on 5 projects during 2018 in the Delta

	IP and project details	Important updates
1	<p>GRET Small grant delivery and capacity building to township based CSOs</p> <p>Budget USD 2,119,898</p> <p>From 1/10/2016 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>The project delivers small grants and capacity building to township- based CSOs in the Ayeyarwady Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Socio-anthropological assessment was conducted and finalised in all eight target townships of Ayeyarwady Region and findings shared with CSOs and relevant government departments. ‡ Funding system operational guidelines and the strategy for social mobilisation and technical support for CSOs finalised. ‡ Township Working Groups (TWG) were formed 8 townships to provide technical support to CSOs in their proposal development processes. ‡ The Small Grant Fund (SGF) Board was formed at the regional level to review, evaluate and approve the proposal of CSOs. ‡ 70 projects were granted to 69 CSOs to implement organizational capacity development and field level livelihood related interventions.
2	<p>Link Emergency Aid and Development (LEAD) Supporting landless households' livelihoods and food security through alternative income generation activities in Pyinsalu Sub-Township</p> <p>Budget USD 407,305</p> <p>From 6/04/2016 to 31/03/2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>This project provides livelihood support primarily in the rural non-farm economy by promoting income diversification. This is accomplished through supporting micro-businesses and establishing strong and sustainable village revolving funds (VRF).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 26 village revolving fund (VRF) committees were formed in 26 project villages. LEAD provided capacity building support such as bookkeeping, accounting and managing skill to the VRF committee members. ‡ Through VRF scheme, 1,275 micro projects were provided to households to implement small scale businesses. ‡ 2,104 beneficiaries received technical and business training.
3	<p>Save the Children Bright SUN: Building Resilience, Synergy</p> <p>Budget USD 3,924,500 costed-extension. Original budget was USD 3,253,390</p> <p>From 11/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 Project extension up to 30 September 2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>This project delivers maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and behaviour change communication to mothers throughout the first 1,000 Days, from pregnancy up to the child's second birthday. The intervention is integrated into SC's existing 3MDG Programme, engaging township health workers in distributing cash transfers, promoting improved nutrition and hygiene practices, and building community health worker capacity to deliver nutrition actions alongside primary health care, in Labutta's village health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 5,036 SBCC sessions/activities (2,156 in 2018) were conducted on IYCF, ANC and PNC, WASH and health seeking behaviours by SBCC focal persons, community volunteers ‡ 4,596 targeted mothers and 4,456 other village members attended these sessions—9,052 in total. (cumulative achievement: 13,323 target mothers and 13,851 village members) ‡ 5,773 women enrolled since the project started. (1,166 in 2018) ‡ 5,202 women received MCCT payments (3,233 through manual payment and 1,969 through mobile payment) ‡ 101,878 cash-transfers provided (17,408 electronic) ‡ 366 of AMW/community health workers and midwives participated in the project since the start.
4	<p>World Vision International Myanmar Growing livelihood in Bogale</p> <p>Budget USD 2,376,833 costed-extension. Original budget was USD 1,560,138</p> <p>From 08/09/2015 to 31/12/2018 Project extension up to 30 June 2020 Ongoing</p>	<p>This project supports landless and vulnerable households in the development and diversification of livelihood options as informed by market, labour, and value chain assessments, and promotes access to savings and loans. The project provides support for health stakeholders encouraging change in poor nutrition and hygiene practices of the target population, and supports community-based organisations action plans, including disaster risk management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 262 youth trainees (117 males and 145 females) received skills training. ‡ 285 women from vulnerable and landless households received business skill training. Out of these, 194 women developed business plans and initiated small-scale business. 160 women who were more vulnerable received financial support from the project to scale-up or expend their business. ‡ 14 Vegetable for Landless Households (VFLH) groups were found with 91 landless farmers (61 male and 30 female) ‡ 168 livestock producer groups were formed and 737 members (male 698 and female 39) participated. ‡ 27 (male 25 and female 2) Livestock Extension Workers were trained to provide basis husbandry services in the villages. ‡ 68 VSLA (Village Saving and Loan Association) were established with 1,272 members (male 160 and female 1,112). ‡ In 2018, 2014 households received nutrition sensitive information, and 1,283 children under 5 regularly attended growth monitoring and promotion sessions. ‡ 42 Community Health Workers (29 female and 13 male) and 15 Basic Health Staff (14 female and 1 male) trained on nutrition and hygiene. ‡ 819 households (male 477 and female 82) received support both technical and material to establish home gardening. ‡ 30 CBOs received capacity building and organisational development support. ‡ 11 Disaster Management Committees developed, made DRR plan and 10 of these were implemented.

IP and project details

Important updates

5

Radanar Ayar

Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development – IARD

Budget USD 729,281

From 06/04/2016 to 28/02/2019

Ongoing

This project supports the seed production of local seed growers by facilitating the improvement of post-harvest practices, providing farmer-led extension services, and promoting collective marketing through contract farming with private sector.

- ‡ In 2018 summer paddy season, 29 farmers produced 4,064 baskets of CS (certified seed) on 49 acres. Samples for all baskets passed the lab testing.
- ‡ 4 farmers produced RS (registered seed) of Paw San Yin and 90-day variety on 5 acres in 2018 Monsoon. One farmer for Paw San Yin failed at the stage of field inspection. The rest passed in all three field inspection by DOA and their samples were sent to undergo the lab test and all of them passed for certification, valid for 144 baskets.
- ‡ During monsoon 2018, 22 farmers produced 3 varieties, Paw San Yin, Thee Dat Yin and 90-day varieties on 30.45 acres and produced 1,715 baskets. After lab testing 1,106 baskets passed certification.
- ‡ Cross- exchange visit was conducted to Magway Regional Farmers Association and 40 farmers participated.
- ‡ Thee Dat Yin and 90-day varieties produced on about 17 acres, inspected by DOA seed focal persons and 1,715 baskets certified by the Department of Agriculture.
- ‡ 4 seed growers produced 353 baskets of RS (registered seed) in 2018 summer.
- ‡ Seed Trade Fair 2018 was held in May 2018 in Bogalay. Regional Department of Agriculture for Ayeyarwady Region, GAD officials, Myanmar Rice Federation and companies joined the Seed Trade Fair. During the event, 711 baskets directly sold from project trained farmers to other farmers.

10.4.2 Important updates on 12 projects during 2018 in the Dry Zone

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1</p> <p>ActionAid Myanmar Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development (SEDN)</p> <p>Budget USD 1,913,717</p> <p>From 08/03/2013 to 30/6/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ SEDN project was extended by 4 months with no cost to finalise the institutional building of the women's producer group and support the setup of their social enterprise. ‡ 143 women are active producers and received 3 advanced trainings and participated MWCPA's quarterly member meetings and annual meeting. Two supplier and market exploitation trips were conducted for MWCPA's committee members. ‡ MWCPA have about MMK 9,000,000 MMK banked as social funds. ‡ Myanmar Women Craft Producer Association (WCPA) was legally registered for the project-supported women craft producers in Pakokku and Myaing Townships. ‡ The women's producer group signed a 10-year lease agreement for an area in New Bagan and the construction of new MBoutik shop is done with an updated business plan. ‡ The total sale of Maboutik was MMK 76,640,925, managed by Board of Directors, which is formed 5 members, 2 are women. ‡ The final Evaluation will be done in May 2019
<p>2</p> <p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Livestock) Improving Farmer Livelihoods in the Dry Zone through Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing</p> <p>Budget USD 4,400,000</p> <p>From 1/01/2016 to 30/9/2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>FAO works mainly on policy issues at national level with impact on veterinary services, trade and breeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project began planning for the pilot period of training trainers and training CAHWs to be implemented in 2019. Legislation that includes provision for CAHWs is in final stages of approval. ‡ The project support to cattle trade policy continued, with a series of stakeholder workshops, policy advice papers and technical support. ‡ The project supported establishment of a Cattle Trade Advisory Group as a structure to bring together key public and private stakeholders engaged on cattle sector policy, in particular the export trade to China. ‡ The project continues to provide technical support to the Government-funded National Livestock Baseline Survey (NLBS). ‡ The NLBS collected data from all households in 20 per cent of villages and 20 per cent of wards nationwide, a total of 1,718,397 households. ‡ The NLBS data management centre was housed in the project office and staffed by project-trained LBVD staff.
<p>3</p> <p>Golden Plain Livelihood Development Services Co-operative Ltd. Restoring Unproductive Soil to Get Sustainable Yield by Green Manuring and Modified Cropping System in Dry Zone</p> <p>Budget USD 808,579</p> <p>From 09/05/2016 to 28/2/2019</p>	<p>This project is working in 42 villages in Pakokku and Yesagyo townships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ In 2018 the number of farmers adopting this new approach has increased by 1,300 farmers to a total of 2,245 farmers. ‡ 120 farmer led demonstration plots engaging with 6,164 farmers through field days promoting improved varieties of sesame and groundnut following the use of sunnhemp as a green manure. ‡ The project has provided good agricultural practice (GAP) trainings and advisory services to 9,194 farmers from 42 villages that have included appropriate use of inorganic fertilisers, the production of soil amendments from farm waste, climate smart agriculture and the use of natural pesticides. ‡ 42 soil samples tested and compared with the results from the same plots of 2016. ‡ National Level Stakeholder workshop will be conducted by the end of February 2019 with around 150 participants. ‡ Sunnhemp handbook was developed and used as an extension aids.
<p>4</p> <p>HelpAge International Dry Zone Social Protection Project</p> <p>Budget USD 5,581,463</p> <p>From 17/12/2015 to 30/06/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Social pension grant for elderly people is continuing in 6 project townships for people 85-90 years. 532 people receive the grant by manual payment. ‡ The project is continuing cash grant to people with disabilities. 2,165 people received the grant. ‡ 180 project villages received funds to establish sustainable village social protection mechanisms: 1) emergency loans, 2) revolving fund /low-interest loans for livelihoods activities for vulnerable households. ‡ 17,146 households utilised the low interest loans, 8,141 were new beneficiaries. ‡ 1,206 households used emergency funds. ‡ A study on electronic cash transfer for social protection purposes is completed. The pilot ECT is launched in Myingyan township (Mandalay Region). The pilot delivered social pensions to eligible people from all communities in the township in April 2018. In collaboration with MSWRR and GAD, incrementally more villages covered for each payment. 1,139 beneficiaries (772 women) received their social pension through this method.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) Dry Zone Agro-Input and Farm Services Project</p> <p>Budget USD 6,256,565</p> <p>From 01/12/2015 to 30/4/2019 in Dry Zone and until 30/6/2020 in Uplands Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 199 demonstration plots were established and 90 farmers' field days held with 4,233 farmers. Third tranche of business enhancement grants provided to 53 inputs and service providers. 201 farmer training sessions were conducted reaching 14,878 farmers (5,204 female) from the six targeted townships in the Dry Zone. 202 DOA extension staff and student interns participated in the farmer training, demonstration plots and field days. In 2018, 20 ISP-initiated farmer trainings were conducted with their business enhancement grant, reaching 1,524 farmers (28% female). Final evaluation of the project completed. Crop Protection products survey assessment drafted and will be presented to the government officials in 2019. The design and questionnaire of farmer impacts survey including ISP and DOA was developed and will be conducted in 2019 with the support of DOA. The project extended to the upland, 5 townships in Kayah and Kayin in 2019 for another 18 months.
<p>6 Myanmar Professional Social Worker Association (MPSWA) Improved Nutritional Status of Venerable Community through Self-help Potential</p> <p>Budget USD 782,432</p> <p>From 07/04/2016 to 31/12/2018 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 community-based nutrition promotion groups (CBNPGs) are working with 90 project communities for good nutrition behaviour change. Nutrition behaviour change communication activity is continuing in all 90 project villages. The most active and motivated 20 CBNPGs are implementing small-scale, nutrition-related development plans. In 2018, community based nutrition promotion groups (CBNPGs) conduct 6,321 community nutrition awareness raising sessions with 45,911 beneficiaries. 322 small focus group discussions held (by MPSWA with BHS and volunteers) for pregnant and breastfeeding women. 2,325 HH participated. 208 cooking demonstration sessions using three food groups conducted. 2,727 pregnant women and mothers with children under two participated.
<p>7 Save the Children LEGACY Learning, Evidence Generation, and Advocacy for Catalysing Policy</p> <p>Budget USD 4,942,842</p> <p>From 11/12/2016 to 31/12/2018 Non-costed extension till April 2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided Design for Behaviour Change Communication training for SC staffs in January, DBC training for MNMA partner staffs in February, DBC and re-fresher on counselling for volunteers from SBCC villages in March Conducted regular distribution monitoring in January and March for government-led cash distribution model, and in February for PGMF model. And PDM was conducted in January for PGMF model, and in February for government-led model Conducted a training on selecting more vulnerable PLWs with prepared questionnaire sessions to conduct individual counselling in February 11,588 women enrolled (10,311 in the PGMF model and 1,277 in the Government model). In 2018, 99,981 cash disbursements were distributed, reaching 180,914 disbursements cumulatively. Government visit to the project area: participants included General Administration Department, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Public Health and Parliamentarians from Nay Pyi Taw and 3 intervention townships.
<p>8 Terre des Hommes (TdH) Soilless Horticulture and Other Water-Saving Innovative Technologies for Landless and Marginal Farmers</p> <p>Budget USD 1,459,573</p> <p>From 01/02/2014 to 28/2/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project received an additional 7 months cost extension from August 2018 to February 2019. After signing the MoU with DRD, the project managed to target a total of 42 villages in the 3 townships of implementation, including Natogyi (start in August 2018). A total of 753 water saving systems for home cultivation has been constructed in 42 villages. A total of 42 PGs has been set up, trained on bookkeeping, fund management, basic financial rules and were given a revolving fund for sustaining the activities. The production of the systems has been in line with the expectations, as well as the increase of purchase power of the HHs. The demonstrative plot switched its function from commercial production to a learning centre. The overlap with the other LIFT IPs (especially UN-Hab) made a significant difference in the good response of the participants to the HGs activity. The inclusion of 12 villages from Natogyi TSP, despite the little amount of time available, resulted in a good fit and serious interest from the villages' population.
<p>9 UN-Habitat A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities</p> <p>Budget USD 4,400,000</p> <p>From 15/02/2016 to 31/12/2018 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 villages completed the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activity in their village. 177 out of 200 villages connected pipes to homes for household water supply. 34,243 HH benefit from WASH activity, and 27,030 HH have piped water to homes. 661 FPL constructed with partial project support in 2018. Total from project start is 2,250. 136 zero open defecation (ZOD) status in project villages in 2018. Total from start is 159. At the end of 2018, 96% of HH from project villages have access to a latrine.

	IP and project details	Important updates
10	<p>PACT Dry Zone small grant fund for civil society</p> <p>Budget USD 2,199,500</p> <p>From 1/03/2017 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Operated in nine target townships; ‡ Developed and updated the database to support proposal and contracting processes; ‡ Awarded 76 grants to 71 CSOs; ‡ Consulted with 71 CSOs using the Grantee Reflection Survey (GRS) and Sub Awardee Risk & Responsibility Assessment (SARRA) tools to reflect on their own performance and financial capacity; ‡ Based on the baseline GRS and SARRA, 71 grantee CSOs set up their own priorities for organisational, capacity and financial development plans by using partner tracking sheet; ‡ Released EOI announcement and conducted 19 disclosure workshops to share information about the call for EOIs in all nine townships, and shared about livelihoods system strengthening and grant processes to 332 CSOs; ‡ Conducted 19 proposal writing trainings with the purpose of receiving effective livelihoods system strengthening proposals; ‡ Signed 76 contracts for projects in nine townships including 48 Cost Reimbursement Grants (CRGs) and 28 Fixed Amount Awards (FAAs); ‡ Completed seven CRGs and 24 FAAs grants in nine townships; ‡ Conducted 13 compliance, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and beneficiary accountability trainings in all townships with grantee CSOs; and, ‡ Conducted end line GRS with 17 selected grantees that completed their projects.
11	<p>IWMI Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project Rehabilitation</p> <p>Budget USD 1,122,315</p> <p>From 6 Dec 2016 to 31 March 2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 208 demo plots with different crops (Green Gram, Chickpea, Sunflower and Paddy – water management; nitrogen management and UDP – Urea Deep Placement using Urea pette), vegetable (Chili, Okra, Yardlong bean, Bitter gourd, Eggplant) and fruit tree (Papaya) implemented in 2018. ‡ Paddy with Urea pellet (UDP) reduces fertiliser cost and increases yields. ‡ Chili and Papaya are the most popular among the farmers from project villages. The gross margin of chili is higher from 678,000 MMK/acre to 1,377,200 MMK/acre. ‡ Training on mobile application for information on best agricultural management practices is organised. Three mobile applications were tested: PP application (developed by Plant Protection Division - Department of Agriculture), Greenway (developed by Agriculturists), Hwet Toe (developed by Myanmar Awba Company). ‡ Project produced three manuals on best management practices for bitter gourd, chili, okra and longyard bean and are good references and guides for farmers. ‡ Water user association (WUA) established. In 2018, 970 total irrigators (91 female) joined WUA. Total beneficiaries of current WUA is 4,132 people.
12	<p>UNOPS Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project Rehabilitation</p> <p>Budget USD 3,900,000</p> <p>From July 2017 to 31 December 2018 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Infrastructure rehabilitation is done on remodelling of all canal systems including main canals, secondary canals, distribution canal, installation gates and hydraulic structures, installation new pumps at PS and PS2 and construction and some production roads. ‡ These activities make significant changes to irrigation water distribution and farmers have better access to water since mid-2018. ‡ Irrigation water distribution is improved. 76% of farmers normally served by the scheme reported having received adequate amounts of water in 2018, against 41% in 2016. ‡ In Nyaung Yin village, at the tail of the PS3 canal, farmers reported that, when water took 12 hours and more to reach them in the past, it did so now in 5 to 6 hr, a combination of better availability and of the application of the “tail to head” distribution system.

10.4.3 Important updates on 6 projects during 2018 in Rakhine

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1</p> <p>CARE Myanmar Supporting the food security, resilience and social cohesion of households and communities in Rathedaung Township, Rakhine State</p> <p>Budget USD 3,519,147- Budget amendment: USD 2,370,134</p> <p>From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 Ended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project was unable to access the target communities in Rathedaung due to security restrictions and ongoing challenges with approval for access and implementation after the violence of August 2017. ‡ But, CARE was not able to resume activities. The project's suspension began on 10 April, 2018 in line with the General Conditions of the Grant Support Agreement. ‡ With two operational bases remaining in northern Rakhine State, CARE retained the capacity and stakeholder relations to operationalise in Rathedaung once they are permitted to resume programming. However, it was not possible to resume operations or activities by the end of the project period on 31 December 2018.
<p>2</p> <p>Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Vocational training and livelihood opportunities for in camp and out of camp youth in Rakhine state</p> <p>Budget USD 2,648,223</p> <p>Phase I from 01/06/2016 to 31/12/2018 Ended</p> <p>Phase II from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Vocational training in four IDP camps in Sittwe began in 2016 and show good progress in 2017. ‡ Two youth education centres were constructed in the Say Thar Mar Gyi and Moe Thee Nyar camps. ‡ Market assessments across the formal and informal camp economy identified demand for skills training in masonry, food preservation, small machine maintenance, carpentry and embroidery. ‡ Project showed a good progress in 2018 and achieved the targets for all three types of trainings of project. ‡ 3,800 youth (58% female) were trained short courses on mobile life skills training (2,818 Muslim, 639 Rakhine, 331 Kamen, 12 Hindu) while the target of project was 3,600 youth. In 2018, 2,153 youth with 55% female were trained. ‡ IDP youth may have been exposed to traumatic events, and this training provides support as well as guidance on how young people can complete a full vocational training programme. ‡ 1,813 youth (1,269 Muslim, 408 Rakhine, 136 Kamen) (50% female) were trained mobile vocational skills training and achieved the target 1,800 youth. In 2018, 1,404 youth were trained. The 82% of the former students confirmed that they were using the skills learnt to support their livelihoods. In March 2019 survey, 29% of Muslim beneficiaries are earning through self-employment and 11% are employed, and 14% of Rakhine Youth are self-employed and 8% are employed. ‡ 1,290 youth (979 Muslim and 311 Rakhine) with 52% female are trained in 3-month vocational skills training course at YEP centres. In 2018, 794 youth with 53% female were trained. The YEP centres offered students modules related to small business, better learning program and life-skills. Reports illustrate a high percentage of youth using their newly acquired skills and start-up kits to engage in livelihood activities after having attended the vocational training. ‡ 43 trainers received capacity building (40% female). ‡ The violence in August 2017 put a hold to all efforts in northern Rakhine. The Government of Myanmar suspended all access to the area. ‡ With restored access to a limited zone of downtown Maungdaw, the project was able to restart life skills trainings to 212 youths in a restricted zone of Maungdaw town in the 3rd quarter of 2018 with a view to offering vocational skills in early 2019. ‡ Due to limited access in northern Rakhine State (Maungdaw township), the consortium reallocated the bulk of activities to Central Rakhine State (Sittwe township). A strategic decision was taken to reallocate funding to scale up in Sittwe Township, while keeping Maungdaw offices open, but not fully operational. ‡ The project received a no-cost extension for seven months from June to December 2018. LIFT conducted mid-term review of the project in July 2018. In addition, the project received costed extension for 2 years that was approved under new call for proposal. The project prepared new proposal for costed extension by integrating recommendations of mid-term review. ‡ Overall, project relocated to 20 villages by attracting participants from the surrounding villages and 5 IDP camps in Sittwe township and 5 locations in Maungdaw township. ‡ Seven temporary training centres were established in Muslim villages and strengthened apprenticeship opportunities in villages located in hard-to-reach areas and peri-urban areas of Sittwe town. ‡ The project implemented the gender responsive measures as part of the YEP centre renovations in second half of 2018. ‡ The project conducted market researches in two IDP camps and seven village tracts. ‡ The project coordinated the first Rakhine State career market fair in partnership with GIZ, International Labour Organization (ILO) and MoLIP. The event was success with the participation of a number of supply side training institutes from both public and private sectors presenting their courses and products. A wide range of stakeholders provided information to youths about basic courses, entry-level jobs and the risks of trafficking. ‡ In December 2018, the project took an active role in the revision a selected training curricula and didactic training conducted by the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) in partnership with GIZ. ‡ The project achieved the targets and 97% of total allocated budget was spent.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>3</p> <p>PACT Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)</p> <p>Budget USD 8,300,000</p> <p>From 14/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project continued to expand pro-poor microfinance services, including agricultural loans, small business loans, and savings products. ‡ 59,074 households in 1,917 villages (98 per cent of clients are women) were reached. ‡ USD 10.4 million of loans were disbursed in 2017. 92 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that loans were used to start or upgrade small businesses.
<p>4</p> <p>Save the Children, IRC, Oxfam/Scholar Institute, BLO, CARE for M&E Tat Lan Phase II—Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Phase II</p> <p>Budget (Phase II) USD 23,716,440</p> <p>From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 Ongoing</p> <p><i>IRC—Tat Lan II Extended until 31 Dec 2020</i></p> <p><i>Save the Children—Tat Lan II current contract ended on 31 Dec 2018 and started as new project “Tat Lan Plus” from 1 Jan 2019–30 June 2021</i></p> <p><i>CARE M&E—Contract ended on 31 Dec 2018</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ LIFT’s Fund Board approved Phase II for the Tat Lan program from January 2016 to December 2018, allotting an additional amount close to USD 24 million. ‡ Implementing partners for Phase II are the same as for Phase I: IRC, Save the Children, Oxfam, and the Better Life Organisation; CARE International will conduct M&E ‡ Additional villages and new sectors are addressed in Phase II. The maternal and child cash transfer scheme and WASH activities were brought to scale across Pauktaw, Minbya, and Myebon. ‡ To build resilience in 259 vulnerable villages, LIFT projects have built -280 km of embankments with the installation of 169 sluice gates to protect -37,690 acres of paddy fields and provided training on new agricultural techniques. ‡ About 79 per cent of farmers trained on new technologies state that they use one or more of the agriculture techniques they learned as part of the Tat Lan programme. ‡ Survey results confirm that out of those farmers who reported adoption of Tat Lan supported agriculture practices 91% also reported increased production rates. ‡ Increased incomes as result of adoption of new practices were reported by 77% of the survey households supported by Tat Lan agriculture activities. ‡ USD 5.2 million was invested for embankments. On average, a farmer in Rakhine holds three to five acres, so it is calculated that the protected acres benefitted 7,534 – 12,557 households, who experienced an income from USD 100 to USD 300 per acre. For 37,670 acres, this translates into an estimated averaged increased income of USD 7.5 million for Rakhine villagers. Embankments can last up to 10 years, representing strong value for money. ‡ LIFT projects build embankments through cash-for-work programmes. At the end of 2018, 40,945 workers employed as CFW participants in which 3,841 individuals participated in 2018 and more than 55% were women. Women and men receive equal pay. ‡ Since 2013, LIFT has supported village saving and loan associations (VSLA) in Rakhine. ‡ By the end of 2018, the Tat Lan program had supported the establishment of 378 VSLAs in 203 villages. In 2018, 12 VSLA groups were established, while focus went on strengthening existing groups. In total, 9,430 savers and 9,143 borrowers and 42,013 loans or 87% of loans successfully repaid on schedule. ‡ In 2018, the 78% of the households who reported holding a loan at the time of the survey reported an average loan holding of 420,926MMK per household. ‡ By the end of 2018, Tat Lan financial education activities supported a total of 13,825 beneficiaries (children, youth, adults) who are both non-members and members of the VSLAs. On average, 80% women participate in community level financial decision-making which significantly higher than the 28% measured in the baseline assessment in 2013. ‡ By the end of 2018, 12,445 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in Rakhine - received maternal and child cash transfers of MMK 15,000. ‡ By end of 2018, 31,359 women and mothers of children under two are reached with awareness raising activities on nutritious feeding practices during pregnancy and after childbirth. The Tat Lan program had delivered 9,426 BCC sessions. About third of these (3,479) were delivered in 2018 alone. ‡ Tat Lan’s nutrition intervention has proven to demonstrate the best time to introduce complementary foods after six months, with an increase to 76% of the surveyed households answered correctly, compared to only 28% households who answered correctly in the baseline in 2013. ‡ In early 2017, Department of Social Welfare (DSW) began to roll out the MCCT program in Rakhine State. Both SC and IRC engaged closely with Department of Social Welfare in coordination and supporting at central, state and township levels. SC is also a member of Technical Reference Group-TRG for technical backstopping to DSW and supported technically and financially. There were several preparatory meetings to plan for roll-out of the Government-led MCCT program in Rakhine state and both IRC and SC handed over all data regarding the MCCT to Department of Social Welfare in December 2018. SC will conduct end line survey for Nutrition data of Tat Lan Programme in April 2019. ‡ Tat Lan programme rehabilitated/protected/constructed 251 ponds, provided communities with 250 bio sand filters and engaged more than 85,583 participants in awareness raising sessions on water treatment and safe consumption. ‡ In 2018 survey, 59% of the survey respondents reported accessing water from a protected pond, spring and/or dug well and practicing the treatment of drinking water by boiling it, adding chlorine or using a water filter, higher than the baseline value of 37% measured in 2013. ‡ Tat Lan has supported communities with materials for the construction of 9,825 latrines, of which 3,270 were constructed in 2018 only. ‡ Tat Lan also promoted better hygiene through a total of 5,318 hygiene awareness raising sessions. Overall, 46% of surveyed households reported washing their hands with soap and hygiene latrine use, with no differences in practices based on townships, compared with the baseline value of 8% measured in 2013, which is an overachievement of the 40% target set by the program as end goal by 2018. The open space defecation has reduced by 38% compared to baseline when 86% of surveyed households reported open defecation as their main practice.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5</p> <p>ILO Skills Development Project - Rakhine State</p> <p>Budget USD 2,992,266</p> <p>From 04/07/2017 to 30/06/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills development projected began in 2017 and the first six months of the project focused on the needed initial ground preparation activities that include introductory and consultation meetings with target project partners and officers of Government counterparts both at the State and Union levels. Recruitment and hiring of a project manager post was finalised. Recruitment of a National Project Coordinator and admin/finance Staff were initiated. Continued the initial successes of the project to establish its presence in the Rakhine State through a sustained and positive engagement with key stakeholders from the government, private sector and TVET institutions. The initial government clearance was received at the start of the third quarter. Organisation of the TVET Coordination Group composed of 10 TVET implementing agencies (UN, Bilaterals and INGOs), which held three coordination meetings in 2018. The project conducted Labour Market Study and Assessment of Government Technical Institutes (GTI) and Government Technical High Schools (GTHS) in the Rakhine State, The DTVET and ILO successfully collaborated and conducted short-term vocational courses for mixed ethnic communities in the conflict-challenged townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung. This project initially benefitted a total of 118 (106 male, 12 females) individuals from Muslim, Hindu and Rakhine communities. They received basic training on motorbike repair, home electrical wiring, masonry and welding. The trainings provided participants the opportunity to be together with people from other ethnic groups and discover the benefits of productively working together, and at the same time earning additional income. As post-training support the project initiated the provision of resources in the setting up of an inter-communal shared service facility (ICSSF) and toolbank for motorcycle servicing in Maungdaw and Buthidaung for the successful training completers in motorcycle repair and welding coming from mixed ethnic groups. ILO is negotiating with a local construction company in Maungdaw to absorb 10 masonry and 5 welding graduates, as interns. The project consulted and planned with the Ngapali Resort Managers Association for the training of trainers (ToT) involving hotel and resort supervisors in Thandwe. The project was approved for costed extension with an additional budget of USD 1.5 million for integration of soft skills and expansion to conflict affected communities in northern Rakhine State in December 2018. The delay in the issuance of the MoU by the DTVET/MoEconstrained the implementing team from conducting field monitoring and coordination activities since the MoU was deemed a permanent requirement for every travel authorisation application.
<p>6</p> <p>Mercy Corps (in partnership with Swiss Contact) Making Vegetable Markets Work (MVMW) for the Poor</p> <p>From 06/2016 to 31/03/2018 Ended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LIFT funded MVMW project had been supported to Rakhine since 2015 and ended in March 2018. Project end line survey was conducted in January 2018. The end line results show that about 20% of farmers reported starting vegetable farming with the project's assistance. 80% of farmers already had some experiences with vegetable farming. Although the intercommunal violence happed in project area in August 2017, the project managed to continue work in Mrauk U and Kyauk Taw townships. After the violence, the project conducted an Agri-Trade Fair in February 2018. About 100 attendees participated in the trade fair including state government officials and private sector partners. MVMW reached 5,124 farmers together with co-financing from Shell Offshore Ventures Myanmar throughout the whole project period. Project farmers are benefited from the voucher program which discounted up to 30% in the extension phase to Rakhine. Mercy Corps handed the demonstration farm over to the State Department of Agriculture to continue as training farm. Total of 69 government DoA officials from 17 townships including Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships received extension services from EWS. State agriculture students joined as interns. LIFT project end evaluation conducted in May 2018 by independent evaluator

10.4.4 Important updates on 12 projects during 2018 in the Uplands

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1</p> <p>Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) including Cordaid and World Concern Myanmar Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor</p> <p>Budget USD 4,840,000 (with one year Costed extension)</p> <p>From 06/07/2016 to 30/06/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ One year costed extension signed and the project will implement until July 2020 increasing by 10 core villages. ‡ 5,612 households (83% of all households in 100 targeted villages) participated in and/or benefitted from at least one project activity since project start. ‡ 1,735 HHs were reached with nutritionally sensitive information. The nutrition, hygiene and sanitation training for communities, Mother-to-Mother (M2M) group sessions were provided in 40 project core-villages. ‡ 396 HHs received home-gardening inputs (seeds and tools) and trainings. ‡ 9 gravity flow water systems (GFWS), 7 slow sand filters (SSF), 9 spring catchment protections (SCP) and 1 storage tank were completed. ‡ 15 WASH committees established in the communities with a total of 122 members. ‡ 96 Crop Producer Groups (CPG) with 2,939 members from 2,449 HHs trained in perennial crop cultivation. ‡ Multi-stakeholders platform for cardamom lobbied to the Union government and as a result, cardamom recognised as the prioritised crop and released from non-timber forest crops. ‡ 2,431 HHs from 66 villages received coffee seeds and 1,715 HHs were provided with a budding/grafting knife, scissor, tape and training. CPGs in 92 villages received avocado, durian, mangosteen and rambutan seedlings. ‡ 16 tractors were distributed in 16 villages to support rice cultivation. ‡ 23.41 km of motorbike paths constructed. 1,121 HHs (from 26 villages) directly benefit from improved accessibility of their village. ‡ 53 L&S groups established and 49 remain active. The groups have total savings of MMK 32,095,700 MMK (USD 21,499). ‡ The first federation composed of 26 L&S groups from 20 villages in Leiktho sub-township was established. ‡ Risk mapping conducted in 27 villages. ‡ Distributed latrine pipes and pans to promote hygiene and sanitation, reaching 1,608 HHs in 36 villages. In 2018, water filters were provided to 1,293 HHs with pregnant women or children under five years in 35 villages. ‡ 433 M2M group sessions were held. Fed-well soups to 966 children during the weight monitoring sessions. ‡ A learning event was held in Nay Pyi Taw 3-5 December.
<p>2</p> <p>Metta Development Foundation Uplands Food Security and Participation in Markets (UFS-PM)</p> <p>Budget USD 2,123,168</p> <p>From 17/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 58 value chain Producer Groups (PG) and associated Farmer Field Schools (41 Kachin, 17 Northern Shan) established. ‡ 1,054 farmers (34.5% female) trained in 2018 to improve the productivity of the promoted crops. ‡ 6 CMCs (4 Kachin and 2 N. Shan) for the joint ownership and management of the six oil processing mills that were installed in 2017. The CMCs were restructured in 2018. Their management became more local with the establishment of Boards of Directors (BOD), whose members came from the PG. ‡ The business plans for 6 oil factories were completed in 2018. ‡ Start-up funds to 6 oil factories provided – total value MMK 100 million. ‡ Share amounts invested by farmers to oil business are total MMK 56,650,000. ‡ In 2018, 2,082 baskets (Kachin 1,386, N. Shan 696) of groundnut seeds were distributed to 549 farmers (35.5% female); and 24 baskets of mustard seeds to 258 farmers (28.7% female) in Kachin ‡ FFSs for NRM established in 26 villages (9 Kachin, 17 N. Shan). 676 members (38.4% female) were involved with these NRM efforts, representing 25% of all households in the participating villages. ‡ The project communities formed NRM planning teams with 312 members (36.9% female) to facilitate the development of NRM plans to protect land tenure rights and to manage local natural resources collectively and sustainably. ‡ Among 26 NRM villages, 19 (9 Kachin, 10 N. Shan) formed Forest User Groups (FUG) for the establishment of community forests (CF). 893 FUG members (32.5% female) formed CF management committees with 111 members (27.9% female). 5,432 acres (Kachin-2,996; N.Shan-2,436) were under consideration for CF designation in 2018. ‡ In 2018, 14,405 viss of ginger and 13,405 viss of turmeric were harvested by 153 farmers. ‡ Two CF FUGs from N. Shan received CF certificates in 2018.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>3</p> <p>GRET</p> <p>Budget USD 581,136 Increased to USD 1,053,864</p> <p>From May 2013 to July 2014 Extended to April 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on land tenure and livelihoods system of Chin report published and launched. A synthesis gathering key findings and policy recommendations in terms of recognition of customary tenure produced in English and Myanmar. Publication of Mandalay peri-urban land qualitative research. Land and Urbanisation report on Mandalay and Yangon including quantitative analysis support drafted. For Thanintharyi second upland study, an intensive three weeks field work mission was conducted with the whole team in Thanintharyi region in Dawei and Palaw areas in more than 15 villages. 26 land reallocation assessments conducted in Ayeeyarwaddy, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Bago. 10 sharing workshop on land assessment findings were conducted with authorities (with CSOs in some cases), mostly at the Township level but also two larger events in Monywa and Patheingyi, at the Regional level Provided capacity building training together with MLRG on training on customary tenure documentation, research capacity building to 8 interns from Land Core Group and its partner CSOs by a learning-by-doing approach (research on informal forest tenure and its impact on livelihoods and food security in Bago), training to Thabyay foundation students on land reform. An open letter of concern with VFV laws amendment to the government was jointly produced and signed by 41 organisations. Gret was part of the drafting committee.
<p>4</p> <p>Land Core Group (LCG)</p> <p>Budget USD 1,699,466 Increased up to USD 2,317,566 with costed extension</p> <p>From January 2016 to December 2018 Extended until Dec 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCG submitted the suggestions on farmland law amendment bill to Pyithu Hluttaw. In 2017 LCG provided important technical inputs to MoNREC to enable MoNREC to respond to the Second Vice President's direction to prepare a justification and proposal for the formation of the National Land Use Council (mandated by the NLUP), including a TOR. In January 2018, the Cabinet approved the proposal for the NLUC. With the results and agreement from the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, LCG organised and facilitated a workshop to select those external stakeholders in setting up a regional land use committee. With the Forest Department, LCG helped the National Land Use Council organise a National Land Use Policy Forum in 2018. The BNCAP Law was approved in May 21, 2018, and it includes community-led conservation areas as one type of conservation area - a point that LCG and many ethnic CSOs and networks had called for. Amendments to the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin (VFV) Land Management Law passed in September 2018 included several important provisions proposed by LCG. Most important is Article 30a, which excludes customary tenure from categorisation as VFV land. 6 youth were trained in qualitative research skills through a one-year training course. They gained important insights into land issues as well as analytical and research skills. One case study was from the RRtIP report, Land and Forest Governance in the Naga Village Republic was published. LCG and FRDO provided land laws and land rights training to LARC in Magway, Sagaing, Shan reaching 606 participants in 2018. Training for Rule of Law Centre (initial workshop) was provided in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Myitkyina with a follow up meeting. 173 people participated in the one day workshops; including 112 from CSOs, 31 government staff and 17 parliamentarians. LCG held one-day Reflection and Learning Workshops for awareness trainers supported by five CSO partners to whom LCG had previously provided TOT training, in Rakhine, Bago, Kalaymyo, and Tanintharyi. Nine CSOs (Yay Kyi Sann, Sagaing Region Farmers Union, FRDO, and Shwe Chin Thae, KNGY, Spring of Love, Rights & Peace, Peace & Justice, and Sha'it) received grants from LCG to provide awareness training in 2018. Land laws awareness ToT trainings reached 9,250 at grassroots level.

IP and project details

Important updates

5	<p>Choklei Organisation for Rural and Agricultural Development (CORAD) Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State</p> <p>Budget USD 2,204,212 Costed Extension approved in July 2017 with additional budget USD 738,929.</p> <p>From 14/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 Extended to 31/12/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Slash and Mulch practice demonstrated by 33 co-associate farmers and 40% yield increases on average achieved (analysis control and test plots). 547 farmers adopted Slash and Mulch practice in 58 villages. ‡ Quality seed production demonstrated by 31 co-associate farmers and the yield was 4.26 ton/ha in average. 191 farmers have adopted the practice in 39 villages. ‡ SRI has adopted by 351 farmers in 39 villages. The yield has increased from 45% to 72%. ‡ Improved fertility management introduced and in 2018, 214 farmers adopted practice in 50 villages. ‡ Grape Pruning Training provided to 113 members of Grape PG in four villages of Tedim and Falam townships. ‡ IPM training provided to 136 members of Grape and Onion PGs. ‡ 10 members of Grape PGs from Falam and Tedim attended SME departments' training. ‡ Inter-professional workshop for Tree Bean Value Chain was conducted in Tamu, on the Indian border. Constraints and solutions identified. ‡ Series of discussion between producer groups, processors and market actors took place in grape, onion and elephant foot yam value chains. ‡ Nutrition-sensitive home gardening activities started with a needs assessment on accessibility of water and protection. ‡ Nutrition-sensitive home garden design training reached 103 farmers (Male: 26, Female: 77) to improve the cultivation of diversified nutritious crops/vegetable and focused on women farmers. ‡ 100 women selected for home garden practices of nutritious crops in 5 Townships and 18 women selected to establish home garden demonstration plots. ‡ Nutrition learning sessions conducted in January and February 2018, with 2,932 farmers (Male: 933 and Female: 1999). ‡ SBCC nutrition pamphlets distributed to 2,355 people in 63 villages of 5 townships. ‡ Farmer Field Days organised on demonstration plots with dissemination of nutrition awareness to 2,725 participating farmers. ‡ Nutrition-sensitive awareness in 110 villages with 5,091 farmers based on training manuals. ‡ The Community Action Plans for Nutrition implemented in 38 of 106 villages. ‡ CORAD facilitated, discussed and surveyed Land and Water Management in pilot villages with the support of GRET and developed Community Action Plans for Watershed Management Implementation. CORAD received 14 proposals from 5 townships and financial support delivered to 6 villages in two townships in October–November 2018. ‡ 114 MAFF Members (68 Male and 46 Female) in 38 villages had been received a regular follow up by MAFF Extension Advisors and received material supports in order to fulfil the needs of MAFF for doing a follow up. ‡ The Cluster Level MAFF Workshop were done in 6 villages of 5 Townships where 62 people (M: 32, F: 30) participated. ‡ The 6 Chin extension advisors travelled to other states to learn about family farm management. ‡ Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Workshop organised by GRET and facilitated by CRS's Nutrition Expert and 20 representatives of LIFT IPs in Chin State participated and DSW and DoPH. ‡ Business Eye Opening ToT Training was jointly organised by GRET and KMSS (Hakha) with the technical support of ILO and SIYB (Start Improving Your Business) Myanmar. In total, 18 participants from CHRO, KMSS, Farmer Union, Thitsar Ooyin, ZLB, CORAD, CAD, WIN, GRET, AMICO and Chin CBR attended. ‡ The GRET Land Team conducted a Land Tenure Awareness Workshop with 16 participants (MIID, FCSN, CISS, CARD, CORAD, KMSS, CAD, SDO, CBI and GRET) from Chin.
6	<p>Department of Social Welfare Nutrition and Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme in Chin State</p> <p>Budget Operations—USD 1,500,000 Cash transfers—MMK 9,371,850,000</p> <p>From 9/03/2017 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Refresher MCCT Training conducted with 1,528 Village leaders/administrators in May–June 2018. ‡ By end 2018, six rounds of cash delivered to 26,917 beneficiaries. ‡ The 1st round of PDM was done from December 2017 to January 2018 with 391 beneficiaries respondents, i.e. 6% of total beneficiaries were covered. The report for 1st PDM was finalised in April 2018. ‡ The 2nd round of PDM was conducted from April to May 2018 with 596 beneficiaries respondents, i.e. 4% of total beneficiaries were covered. The report for 2nd PDM was finalised in October 2018. ‡ The nutrition awareness sessions were organized to MtMSGs by Basic Health Staff and Health Volunteers. ‡ MCCT Operational Manual was revised in December 2018 together with Township, District and State Level staff officials from DSW, DoPH and GAD. ‡ The Capacity Assessment was conducted in both Nay Pyi Taw and Chin in June 2018 and the Capacity Development Plan for was development in September 2018. Basic Excel Training and English Skill Training conducted in end of 2018 and others identified trainings will be organised in first quarter of 2019.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>7</p> <p>Save the Children Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (TEAM MCCT)</p> <p>Budget USD 3,954,618</p> <p>From 11/07/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Inception period</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The Interim SBCC Strategy and SBCC Action Plan were developed and presented to the Taskforce in June 2018. TEAM MCCT project conducted a National SBCC Action Plan Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw in July 2018 and with Chin State Public Health Department and Township Health Staff from nine townships in September 2018. ‡ The National Nutrition Month Launch Events and Exclusive Breastfeeding Campaign was organised in Yangon and conducted the Exclusive Breast Feeding Campaign expansion to Chin State in August 2018. ‡ Completed formative research Understanding IYCF Practices in Chin State in December 2018. ‡ In March 2018, MoHS National Nutrition Centre (NNC) conducted cIYCF ToT for Chin Township Health Staff in Nay Pyi Taw with the support of UNICEF and TEAM MCCT – 74% (528 out of 714) of BHS received cIYCF training with the support of TEAM MCCT in six townships. ‡ 48% of BHS received MtMSG mobilization trainings – 209 BHS in Hakha, Tedim and Falam townships received this training among a total of 439 BHS staff in Chin State, IRC covered Kanpetlet and Paletwa townships. ‡ Nutrition awareness sessions completed with 59% of MtMSG facilitators leading monthly sessions for a total of 3,236 monthly sessions across all 9 townships in 2018. ‡ In May 2018, SCI conducted a 4-day cIYCF training to MCCT field staff from five townships at Hakha in order to co-facilitate with government staff in each township. At the time of township cascade trainings, the government staff were welcome for co-facilitation of IP staff. ‡ Implemented 41 sessions of community-level Nutrition Promotion Campaign Activities like cooking competition activities at rural health centres (RHC), with villages collaborating together with health staff. ‡ TEAM MCCT staff conducted a total of 179 supportive joint supervision visits with BHS to the MtMSG sessions using supportive supervision checklists with facilitators (basic health staff or volunteers) ‡ Conducted 3,485 Community Mobilization Sessions in total, including MtMSGs knowledge sharing session to VSPC (Village Social Protect Committee) members, nutrition campaigns. ‡ Conducted 3 monitoring rounds. TEAM MCCT conducted the First Round n= 857 Key Informant Interviews in Apr-May 2018; n=840 in second round in Jul-Aug 2018, and n=824 in the third Round in Nov-Dec 2018. Each round covered 57 villages and 9 towns.
<p>8</p> <p>TAG International Plan Bee: Introduction and Expansion of Modern Beekeeping and Honey Production in Shan State</p> <p>Budget USD 1,869,967</p> <p>From 23/10/2013 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A new system was set up to be able to more effectively track and verify the honey that is brought to the PBSE for purchase. This system is designed to ensure the business is purchasing high quality and verified honey produced by its trained beekeepers. ‡ Tracking of honey production is divided into three main categories: Dearth, Jujube and Niger and average production is measured among graduates and trainees. ‡ The total number of households involved in beekeeping related activities and who have increased their income with the project (HLO1) up to December 2018 is 400 of which 149 are female. ‡ Quantity of honey produced yearly by Plan Bee Beekeepers (graduates and new trainees) in 2018 is 85.2 tons. ‡ The PBSE TVET School is institutionalised under PBSE and able to equip new beekeepers with adequate starter kits. ‡ The PBSE develops systematic Quality Control system for testing honey & achieves Fair Trade Certification. ‡ PBSE develops a functional and independent governance, management & financial structure. ‡ Through continued trainings in the migration, all Plan Bee Commercial Bee Keeper claim to be able to rear queens on their own.

IP and project details

Important updates

<p>9</p> <p>Karen Development Network (KDN) Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)</p> <p>Budget USD 1,837,414</p> <p>From 04/07/2016 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The Community Vocational Training Center offers six technical training courses that have a standardised curriculum and five training batches were successfully completed in 2018. Until end of December 2018, 354 (M-175, F-179) trainees including out of target village completed a 6-weeks training program including life skills training. 11 CVTC trainers participated in two ToT sessions focusing on incorporating the curriculum structure, the life skills training module and most importantly, advanced and trainee-centered training methodology by the resource persons from ADRA Thailand. VT trainers reported that they became more confident in training skill after these ToT sessions. ‡ Five buildings of the CVTC were completed and operationalised and essential security measures at the women's dorm are in place. ‡ A career advisor was recruited and started to provide business training for interested trainees and small grant recipients. Small grants were provided to 25 trainees (15 female) from all the offered VT courses. ‡ The training became additional value since the project was able to find agreement with NSSA to conduct one skill testing sessions at the CVTC. In this testing session, 40 trainees were tested in two skills, Masonry (Brick layer) and Carpentry (see table below). The work of the CVTC in building skills fully matches with the governments and private sector strategy to buildings market relevant skills in a number of areas. All the courses that are offered at CVTC are market relevant but only few courses can be linked to NSSA and an existing skill standard. It is planned to also have skill testing for other vocations such as Motorcycle repair or Cooking and Baking. ‡ In August 2018, the CVTC became an NSSA approved Skill testing center for the Tanintharyi Region. NSSA issued a certificate with a duration of two years . ‡ The CVTC conducted two Skill testing (NSSA- level 1) sessions for 40 individuals comprising of trainees, external individuals and trainers. In total 88% of participants in the testing sessions met the requirements and achieved certification. ‡ One trainer of the CVTC (masonry) achieved the skill assessor status. Preconditions are prior education and technical background and certified skills. The project plans to obtain the skill assessor status for other course trainers. ‡ Village development plans were developed by 8 communities/villages. Meanwhile all target villages have an active VDC and 32 villages have development plans (village book). ‡ Conducted learning and reflection workshops with aims to study, analyse and explore lesson learn and to develop an action plan to maintain right tract for future implementation process in three townships (three locations) with 134 participants from 31 communities. ‡ The curriculum is now available in three languages: English (as master file), Burmese and Karen language. ‡ The consortium developed TOR and Code of Conduct for the board of directors. ‡ KDN project facilitated four multi-stakeholder meetings at township level participated by the respective government officials, area based development organisations, partners and communities.
<p>10</p> <p>Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building</p> <p>Budget USD 1,675,410</p> <p>From 14/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project consolidated and strengthened its relationship with State Agriculture Institute (SAI) Lungpi, agreeing the scope of a series of placements for SAI students and signing a letter of agreement in May 2018 covering the period May 2018 – February 2019, in which 3 work placements took place. The demonstration plot established by the project at the SAI was expanded and replenished and a new water supply was secured. The project made donations of laboratory equipment – microscope, laptop and projector – to supplement classroom tuition of topics included in student placements, particularly integrated pest management. ‡ The Chicken Production Subproject was taken to scale. The project's senior technical advisor led trainings in construction and healthy maintenance for chicken houses, and model chicken farms were established in all project villages. ‡ A series of joint fisheries and aquaculture trainings with the Hakha Department of Fisheries were initiated, both to extend the reach of the department's work and to strengthen the project's relationship with the department in the interests of sustainability. ‡ Research in sustainable feed solutions for livestock and aquaculture was conducted. The research sought to quantify prospective feed gaps for chickens and fish and identified a range of pathways to sustainable feed solutions – to be tested and experimented with in the final phase. Of these, vermiculture emerged as a strong and extendable option. ‡ The project consolidated and strengthened its relationship with State Agriculture Institute (SAI) Lungpi, agreeing the scope of a series of placements for SAI students and signing a letter of agreement in May 2018. ‡ MTR is completed by March and based on MTR recommendations, project scope was re-shaped.

	IP and project details	Important updates
11	<p>SWISSAID Uplands Small-Grants Fund for Civil Society</p> <p>Budget USD 3,499,929</p> <p>From 29/07/2016 to 30/11/2018 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 64 CSOs have been granted by UTF and over half of the grantees (35 grantees) are assessed to have “increased recognition by local authorities”. ‡ CSOs have been able to present about livelihood issues to local authorities and to receive support and collaboration from them. Some local government officials showed more willingness to involve in CSOs’ organised meetings and discussions, and to invite CSOs to participate in their meeting and activities. Some departments have started to communicate and request CSOs’ for plans and information to inform the government’s development plans. ‡ Linkages with private sector and access to larger markets remain a challenge in most of the townships, with 13 grantees assessed to have stronger recognition to date. ‡ In addition to these 13 grantees a further 17 Grantees have increased their engagement with local, smaller-scale private sector like middle brokers for agriculture products to obtain market information and product value added opportunities. ‡ Building relationships and coordination with different stakeholders are becoming essential components of the Grantees’ strategies and the support from UTF is helping them to increasingly become key actors in the local livelihoods sector. ‡ 55% of grantees have already significantly increased their engagement with / recognition from local authorities. The remaining 45% of grantees have also built increased relations with government to gain recognition for their project activities. ‡ Relationships and coordination between CSOs has also improved. Regular meetings between civil society groups are happening in 11 townships and more formal township level CSOs networks are operating in eight townships. ‡ Links between civil society actors are being significantly strengthened, with 92% of Grantees now having stronger linkages with other civil society actors. ‡ The UTF approach has brought opportunities for meetings between townships level CSOs and to date, UTF has supported the development of township level civil society networks in 4 townships.
12	<p>The Border Consortium (TBC) Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands (STAND UP)</p> <p>Budget USD 2,966,939</p> <p>From 01/05/2017 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The promotion of rights based approaches to natural resource management has been one of the pillars of the project. Over 9,500 applications for individual land claims have been submitted for registration to the KNU and another 450 applications are seeking recognition from the Government’s land registration process. Over 2,100 farmers have either reclaimed their abandoned agricultural fields after years of conflict-induced displacement or improved their skills in sustainable agriculture. ‡ Project supported farmers in registering their farmlands through the Government’s Form 7 process and the project facilitated a meeting with KNU local officials to explore options for land registration by KNU’s Agriculture Department. These lands are partly administered by the Union Government and partly by KNU, so it was agreed that some recognition by KNU would at least strengthen land claims and reduce the risk of land disputes. Upon the issuance of land use certificates through the KNU land registration process, villagers felt reassured that customary tenure rights of the local people were recognized. ‡ TBC organized a 2-day workshop on Land Tenure and Ethnic Nationalities in June 2018 in Yangon to explore the challenges of strengthening customary tenure and opportunities for joint advocacy. 41 representatives (41% female) from 18 agencies (15 CSOs, 2 INGOs and LIFT) participated. ‡ TRIPNET, in raising awareness for natural resource conservation, organised a tree ordination ceremony for a massive 300 year old Naw Baw Kaw (Afzelia Xylocarpas) tree in January. The ceremony brought together representatives of the KNLA, KNU, Myanmar Military, Myanmar Forest Department, CSOs and local people to recognise and celebrate the conservation of this special tree and discuss the importance of sustainable forest management. ‡ TRIPNET were also involved in a number of other innovative approaches to raising awareness about sustainable natural resource management in Dawei Township. In the Amala area (Htee Kee) in February, the KNU requested TRIP NET’s advice related to youth environmental education programs, community-based conservation techniques and seed-saving. ‡ TBC conducted organisational capacity assessments for each of the implementing partners. This incorporates assessments of administrative, financial and human resource management procedures as well as technical capacities related to food security and livelihoods programming. Organisational development plans will be customized accordingly.

10.4.5 Important updates on 7 projects during 2018 in the Migration

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1</p> <p>BBC Media Action Kyat Chat: Making the Most of Migration and Money</p> <p>Budget USD 3,035,943</p> <p>From 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 52 episodes of Yay Kyi Yar (episodes 17 – 68) were produced and broadcast. ‡ 343 posts were published on the Yay Kyi Yar Facebook page, using a range of formats including photos and videos. ‡ Partnerships were established with 13 organisations to run 40 weekly Listener Clubs in 14 states and regions. A total of 2,010 individual listeners joined the listener group meetings and 68% of the participants were women. ‡ The outreach team conducted follow-up monitoring and evaluation trips to 9 states/regions. ‡ Scoping was completed to identify potential media partners for capacity strengthening activities. Partnership agreements were signed with nine media partners (including MAP Radio). ‡ A Training of Trainers' workshop was held for the Yay Kyi Yar team with the objective of strengthening their capacity to provide training on outreach and production. ‡ Three radio feature reporting and media trainings were provided for 37 participants from nine media partners in Yangon, Kayah and Tanintharyi. ‡ Ongoing coaching was provided to all seven radio partners. ‡ Five Open Radio Day discussion activities were conducted with media partners in Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Chin state – in 5 different ethnic languages. ‡ Qualitative research was conducted to evaluate the Yay Kyi Yar Listener Club activity. Interviews were completed in three locations (Yangon, Karen and Sagaing) with Listener Club members who had regularly attended meetings. ‡ To measure the reach and impact of the Yay Kyi Yar programme, a nationwide quantitative evaluation study was conducted. Using multi-stage random sampling across the 15 states and regions in Myanmar, a total of 3,000 respondents were interviewed. An additional “booster sample” of 300 respondents who were regular Yay Kyi Yar listeners were also interviewed.
<p>2</p> <p>International Labour Organization Development of Internal and International Labour Migration Governance</p> <p>Budget USD 3,999,752</p> <p>From 01/02/2016 to 30/06/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The draft of the Overseas Employment Law was developed by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and technical comments on its adherence to international labour standards were provided. ‡ Input was provided into the 2nd National Plan of Action on the Management of Labour Migration (2018 – 2022) and the inclusion of civil society and labour organizations in its development was supported. ‡ Through interviews with news media and consultations with stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, government officials, employers, domestic workers, Labour organizations and CSOs, advocacy for a labour rights approach to solving the exploitation of domestic workers was conducted. ‡ A Campaign for International Domestic Workers' Day was organised and reached thousands of people through outreach and a major public event. ‡ A set of materials to support ongoing advocacy and campaigning for decent work for domestic workers were developed. ‡ The publication “Migration Data for Policy Development: An Appraisal of Data and Statistics on International Labour Migration” was published in English ‡ A series of papers on labour migration policy coherence have been drafted. ‡ Working with the Migration Division of the Department of Labour, data on cases received through the complaint mechanism was encoded, stored and analysed. Officials were also trained on how to manage the data. ‡ Training was provided for new Labour Attachés to be deployed to embassies in Thailand, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. Female labour officials were included in the trainings despite the current restriction on women applying for Labour Attaché positions. ‡ Consultations were organised with 11 parliamentarians to discuss the status of the draft Overseas Employment Law and to discuss the development of a law on labour protection for domestic workers. ‡ A large event for International Migrants Day was organized to raise awareness on safe migration, which was attended by over 1,000 workers.
<p>3</p> <p>IOM, Metta Development Foundation, University of Sussex Capitalising Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar (CHIME)</p> <p>Budget USD 1,999,218</p> <p>From 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Further editing of the CHIME research report was completed to prepare the report for publication. ‡ The key findings of the CHIME study were shared at the official celebration of International Migrants Day through a video presentation in Nay Pyi Taw. The 500 audience members included the Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar, the Minister of Labour Immigration and Population (MOLIP), the Director General (MOLIP), key decision-makers from other relevant ministries, diplomats, UN and NGO representatives. An Executive Summary of the CHIME research study was distributed to all attendees. ‡ IOM developed regional and thematic briefs using findings from the report, which were used to engage stakeholders. ‡ IOM shared 200 qualitative interview transcripts from the CHIME Study with IOM X, which is a regional campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop human trafficking and exploitation funded by USAID. Based on these interviews, 4 videos were developed and launched. ‡ Metta trained 19 local CSOs in Northern, Eastern and Southern Shan States and Ayeyarwady on migration and its socio-economic impacts on rural communities to support them to be able to engage with their communities on the opportunities and risks of migration.

	IP and project details	Important updates
4	<p>IOM, PGMF, Mon Women’s Organization, Parami Development Network, Chin Human Rights Organization Increasing the Development Impact of Migration through Governance and Partnership (Twe Let)</p> <p>Budget USD 6,475,839</p> <p>From 01/01/2017 to 30/06/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Second Project Advisory Committee was organized in November in Nay Pyi Taw. Reflection workshops on the Pre-Migration Outreach, Financial Literacy Training trainings, skills development trainings and job-matching activities were organized in each of the 4 regions to discuss lessons learned and good practices. An outcome survey was conducted with 2,041 beneficiaries to assess the effectiveness of the training activities and gather data to measure project indicators and respond to learning questions. 431 pre-migration outreach trainings were completed in 356 target villages, reaching 11,424 beneficiaries (4,478 male and 6,946 female). In Chin State, theatre shows were put on to deliver messages on safe migration in 52 villages in Hakha, Thantlang, Falam and Tedim Townships, reaching 9,897 people (4,954 male and 4,943 female). Training on the importance of saving remittances was provided in 391 villages, reaching 14,436 beneficiaries (4,660 male and 9,776 female) Training on income generation activities and working capital management was delivered to 1,835 beneficiaries (652 male and 1,183 female) during 84 training sessions. Skills development training for 24 occupations was provided to 1,663 beneficiaries (1,089 female and 574 male) in Mon, Chin, Shan States and Dry Zone. Job matching services helped 736 beneficiaries to find employment. A workshop was organised in Naw Pyi Taw on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies. The workshop was attended by 42 people representing 13 Ministries, the Office of the President, the Office of the State Counsellor, the Union Attorney General Office and other organizations. A meeting was held with senior officials of MOLIP in November to present the key recommendations of the workshop on mainstreaming migration into sectoral policies and to seek endorsement by the government.
5	<p>CARE, Business Kind Myanmar Aung Myin Hmu Project—Industry Solutions for Safe Employment</p> <p>Budget USD 5,985,643</p> <p>From 01/03/2017 to 30/06/2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1848 workers were trained at AMH training center and through factory training lines and 95% of those tested were able to pass the NSSA assessment and were certified workers. 64% of AMH trained workers had higher salaries compared to non-trained workers after four months. MOUs were signed with six factories to run accredited training lines. Four National Occupational Competency Standards (NOCS): Cutting, Quality Control (QC), Finishing, and Review of Sewing Machine Operator were developed. An agreement was signed with Suu Vocational Institute (SVI) to run quality control training in their centre. An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Social Welfare to provide transportation for migrant trainees. An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population to work with the Overseas Development Institute on the development of the Skills Development Fund law. 4,677 migrant women participated in 81 Thone Pan Hla (TPL) Sunday Café events, providing relevant information and building supportive friendships. Sunday Café messaging was amplified by 70 peer leaders, who disseminated information to an informal network of 40,600 workers. 3,255 migrant women participated in 15 Thone Pan Hla holiday events. The events provided an opportunity to promote AMH project services to new migrant women workers and factory owners/managers. 58 participants attended the eight-week basic computer training course held at Thone Pan Hla centre on Sunday afternoons and evenings. 336 participants attended education trainings at Thone Pan Hla, including social media and digital literacy, internal/external migration risks and benefits, trafficking awareness, sexual harassment and GBV, respectful workplace communication, financial literacy, HIV prevention, labour rights, legal and medical service access, ‘how my government works’ and nutrition. 103,442 migrant women received 51 Sunday Blast messages, a relevant and timely message inspired by Sunday Café discussions and disseminated through the Thone Pan Hla network via Facebook and SMS. 125 migrant women received immediate support services through the Women in Crisis Hotline, peer leaders or other community contacts. 469 AMH Training Centre graduates received life skills training from Thone Pan Hla trainers. AMH training center graduates actively participated in Thone Pan Hla Sunday Cafés and Events. 22 AMH trainees were housed free of charge at a hostel and 8 graduates became Thone Pan Hla peer leaders. Psychological and legal support was provided to 268 survivors of GBV in the community by working with GBV Response Groups, CSO service providers and government officials. Three consultation workshops were organized in 2018 with garment sector stakeholders for collective advocacy on the development of processes to address sexual harassment in the sector. A TOT workshop on GBV and sexual harassment training for the leaders of trade unions/labor rights organizations and CSOs was organized. 265,260 safe migration messages were shared with women in the following regions of Myanmar: Shan, Rakhine, Ayarwaddy, and other towns outside of Yangon.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>6 Eden Ministry The Eden Project to Rescue Migrant Women and Girls who have been Trafficked into Sexual Exploitation in Yangon</p> <p>Budget USD 946,975</p> <p>From 01/03/2017 to 31/03/2021 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 102 beneficiaries (88 females and 14 males) in red-light district were tested for HIV. ‡ 14 cases receiving an HIV positive result were referred to a government approved clinic for further testing and treatment. ‡ 40 trafficking survivors were identified through outreach. ‡ 36 women received shelter services. ‡ 39 trafficking survivors received trauma counselling. ‡ Employment and vocational training was provided to 39 women, including for jewellery making, hair dressing, basic computer skills, sales, marketing, mathematics, Burmese language, Chinese language and English language. ‡ Identification documents were obtained for six beneficiaries who were unable to obtain one through normal channels. ‡ Eden referred seven beneficiaries to external vocational training courses or internships.
<p>7 International Organization for Migration Migration as Livelihood Diversification Strategy in the Delta</p> <p>Budget USD 1,549,100</p> <p>From 15/12/2015 to 28/02/2020 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Gainful migration training was delivered to 3,125 prospective migrants and training on benefitting from migration to 2,233 families of migrants in 81 villages. ‡ The gainful migration and benefitting from migration training curricula was revised and combined into a hybrid training that targets both prospective migrants and their families. It was rolled out through a training of trainers for the new curriculum. ‡ In partnerships with CSOs, guidelines for revolving funds for migration were developed to target 21 pilot villages. ‡ The Miss Migration chatbot and social media platforms for sharing content were developed. Outreach and collaboration with key partners to raise awareness of the service was conducted. ‡ Financial literacy and business start-up support for remittance receiving households was provided through Opportunity Now (ONOW). ‡ The end-line survey for the first phase of the project was completed.

10.4.6 Important updates on 12 projects during 2018 in the Financial Inclusion

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) Myanmar: Financial Inclusion Expansion through Co-operatives (MyFINANCE)</p> <p>Budget USD 3,000,000</p> <p>From 31/10/ 2016 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>MyFINANCE is assisting two township level co-operatives in the dry zone to transition their financial lines of business to have sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ CCA finalised the project targeted townships- Myingyan and Nathogyi and those townships have 30,132 members and 16,494 members respectively. ‡ CCA received INGO registration from Ministry of Home Affairs. ‡ MOUs have been signed with the Department of Cooperatives and the Townships. Both TSCs were inaugurated. ‡ CCA conducted a market survey in Myingyan and Natogyi townships and designed several loans and savings products to be launched shortly through the TSCs. ‡ Savings products had been rolled out in May 2018 and savings were mobilised from the members. More villages were reached out for membership campaign by conducting financial education on savings and loans. The collection of savings and processing of loans are mostly done in the village as this is observed to be more convenient and cost-savings to the member-borrower. CCA is developing financial product designs as per market survey. To boost members' saving, project designed a marketing strategy. ‡ Project rolled-out the loan products in August and the two TSCs were able to release a total of MMK 629 million to 6,299 members (71% are women). 96.5% of loan utilisation is in agriculture and 3.5% of loan are utilised in retail businesses. ‡ Two Townships Saving and Credit Federations disbursed MMK 8.9 billion to 43,889 households. 87% of the loans were for agricultural production; 12.6% for business/ trade and 0.4% for livestock. ‡ Project applied for loans through Guarantee Fund to two local banks : Yoma Bank and A Bank. Yoma Bank declined to be the partner bank for the Guarantee Fund as they want to focus on their hire-purchase programme. A Bank had concerns that need to be validated and clarified on TSCs.
<p>2 Cordaid Foundation Technical assistance to LIFT/Cordaid partner microfinance institutions</p> <p>Budget USD 1,000,000</p> <p>From 15/3/ 2016 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The partner MFIs are PGMF, Proximity Designs, Vision Fund Myanmar and CARD Myanmar. CordAid has also exploring technical assistance support other local MFIs such ECLOF, Unique Quality, and Pyae Mahar and another international MFI, Entrepreneur Dumonde. ‡ 87% of total budget was allocated for technical support to MFIs. ‡ CordAid achieved its targets of loan agreement with value of USD 10.4 million to PGMF, CARD Myanmar, Vision Fund and Proximity Designs. Cordaid is providing hedged loans to four local partners in nine different tranches and the amount of loan outstanding is USD 6.3 million (80.7%).
<p>3 GRET Creation of a microfinance institution in the Dry Zone, Myanmar</p> <p>Budget USD 3,463,600</p> <p>From 1/12/2013 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ GRET is operating under Thitsar Oo Yin Company Limited after successfully transforming from NGO based MFI to company based MFI. ‡ Thitsar Ooyin Management Committee, composed of Chin General Manager – as Chairman of the Committee – and Dry Zone General Manager and the Dry Zone Project Manager – as Technical Assistant – sits on this Committee. ‡ The Committee met in April, July, and September. ‡ Due to funding shortage outreach decreased by 5.7%. ‡ Dry Zone branch network added 1 branch (now 4) and was enabled by the access to new debt funding from FMO (December 2018). ‡ FMO borrowing started and Thitsar Ooyin received 1st disbursement loan of USD 500,000. ‡ The operational self-sufficiency and financial self-sufficiency for Thitsar Ooyin Dry Zone are 161.1% and 141.2% respectively. ‡ 10,963 households has USD 1.86 million loan outstanding amount and utilised 63% in livestock, 18% in agriculture and 18% in production & services. 83% of all active members are women. 79.7% of all group leaders are women and 65.3% of VCS/BCS credit committee members are women.
<p>4 GRET Expanding Rural Financial Markets by Institutionalizing Chin MFI</p> <p>Budget USD 1,320,176</p> <p>From 14/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ GRET's technical support to the Chin MFI will be crucial for the coordination of the legalisation process as well as the strengthening of their managerial, institutional and operational capacities, with the support of external experts. Chin MFI intends to expand its pro-poor financial services to a new area, the Kalay Township. New products to rural households will be tested through a pilot phase. ‡ Kredits Mission for the Implementation of Quick Book (accounting software) in November 2018 in Chin Branches – Training of 6 accountants, 3 cashiers, 1 Finance Officer and 4 Managers on Quick Book ‡ GRET conducted series of meetings and senior management team members involved and discussed about human resources policies and processes, financial management processes, and other managerial issues of the future company. Finalized the Risk Management Manual & Tools. ‡ GRET has obtained a no-cost extension up to June 2019 to ensure the achievement of the expansion's objectives. ‡ Launched a new branch in Kalay township, it is providing loans to 657 borrowers in 7 Villages and their loan portfolio is USD 4.2 million. ‡ The operational self-sufficiency and financial self-sufficiency for Thitsar Ooyin (Chin) are 135.4% and 103.8% respectively. ‡ TSO (Chin) is providing financial services to 10,613 households has USD 1.96 million loan outstanding amount and utilised 68% in livestock, 11% in agriculture, 18% in production & services and 3% in group loans. 68% of all active members are women.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5</p> <p>International Finance Corporation (IFC) Capacity building for Inclusive Financial Sector</p> <p>Budget USD 3,619,552</p> <p>From 01/07/2014 to 30/06/18 Ongoing</p>	<p>Supporting sector level and institutional level financial inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Project supported MMFA and signed a cooperation agreement in March 2018. IFC involved the MMFA member needs assessment to focus on more training areas and development of five year business plan for MMFA. IFC continued helping MMFA's management and executive committee to enhance its operational and advocacy capacities. ‡ IFC continued delivery of the responsible finance training program for regulators. Participants from 16 MFIs and Financial Regulatory Department. ‡ IFC held a two-day workshop on corporate governance (CG) for MFIs in collaboration with the MMFA to improve corporate governance frameworks and practices of microfinance provider as they become larger and engage in providing a diversified array of services to a larger client base, which is key to their long-term sustainability. ‡ Together with VisionFund, IFC selected a number of managers to receive direct coaching in-the-field on how to apply this training in their actual projects. These projects related to product development, introduction of new systems, efficiency improvement and delinquency reduction and IT and reporting systems improvement. IFC coached the managers and reviewed the projects, identifying areas of improvement and lessons learned for further implementation by VisionFund managers. ‡ Fullerton Myanmar (FFMCL): In March 2018, IFC disbursed the fifth tranche of the performance-based grant to Fullerton, USD 300,000, bringing the cumulative disbursement to USD 1 million. With this disbursement IFC completed the full grant amount, which helps Fullerton to expand and build staff capacity, develop new products and, going forward, roll out a responsible finance strategy. As of December 2018, Fullerton's total portfolio had grown to 139,099 clients in 62 townships, The value of its loan outstanding portfolio had also increased to USD 33.7 million, an increase of USD 7.5 million from December 2017, with a very controlled portfolio at risk (PAR) >30 days of 0.414 percent. The operational self-sufficiency and financial self-sufficiency for Fullerton are 126% and 95% respectively.
<p>6</p> <p>PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) Myanmar Access to Rural Credit (MARC)</p> <p>Budget USD 7,327,324</p> <p>From 16/07/2012 to 15/07/2017 Ongoing</p>	<p>PGMF provided capacity development support to nine local MFIs achieve operational and financial self-sufficiency. Project was extended to 30 June 2019 in order to facilitate transformation process from NGO-based MFI to company-based MFI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 4 partners (ECLOF, BDA, MHDO and AYO) have microfinance license from Financial Regulatory Department (FRD). ‡ 3 partners (Wanlark Foundation, YMCA and The Sun Institute) have recommendation from state level FRD and have made presentation to Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee as the final stage to get the microfinance license from FRD. ‡ 2 MFIs (SVS and Yadana Mitta) are waiting approval from respective regional FRD. ‡ PGMF provided the refresher training for operation management to the Branch Managers and Assistant Branch Managers in November 2018 to 26 persons. ‡ PGMF/MARC is trying to set up internal audit in partner MFIs and conducting on the job training to the internal auditors from each partner while they were auditing. ‡ Between 2014 and end 2018, 9 local MFIs provided financial services to 70,824 households (99% women). During 2018, the total disbursement amount of 9 local MFIs was USD 15 million. ‡ The loan utilisations are 38% in agriculture, 55% in non-firm loan and 6% in social activities. ‡ All nine local microfinance organisations were financially sustained i.e., return from microfinance operations covered both operation costs and financial costs.
<p>7</p> <p>PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)</p> <p>Budget USD 8,323,497</p> <p>From 14/12/2015 to 30/6/ 2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>The objective of RAFIN Project is to open microfinance units to provide financial services to new clients in Rakhine. As of 31st December 2018,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Provided financial services to eight townships in Rakhine. ‡ Total number of clients—78,440 clients (98% women) ‡ Total number of collection centres - 1,741 villages ‡ Total loan disbursement -USD 37.7 million ‡ 92% of loans used for small business and livestock ‡ The overall institutional level portfolio is USD 210.35 million with 985,458 clients in 79 townships
<p>8</p> <p>Proximity Designs Financial Inclusion—Moving Ahead</p> <p>Budget USD 5,097,164</p> <p>From 01/10/2015 to 30/06/2019 Ongoing</p>	<p>This project is managed by Proximity Designs and with LIFT support has transformed to Proximity Finance Microfinance Company Limited. Proximity Finance has designed new loan products for specific market segments for migrant families and micro-entrepreneurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Piloted and rolled out 2,200 loans for migrant families in the Dry Zone: Myingyan, Magway, Monywa, Pakokku and Mahlaing. ‡ Enterprise loan was disbursed to 8,800 families in Dry Zone. ‡ PF disbursed USD 26.4 million to 99,939 clients (66% of clients are women) in 57 townships. They received 122,324 loans and current loan portfolio is USD 18.8 million.

	IP and project details	Important updates
9	<p>World Vision Myanmar/VisionFund Myanmar (VFM)</p> <p>Budget USD 4,500,000</p> <p>From 12/11/ 2015 – 30/6/2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The project provides financial services in LIFT's upland target areas through innovative financial services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Loan disbursement (number and amount of loans): In 2018 LIFT branches disbursed loans to 12,620 new clients, with 31,757 total clients reached. LIFT branches reached 29,857 total active clients with USD7,162,592.86 loan portfolio outstanding. Basic business credit was disbursed through VFM funding source while new products (SSAT, refinancing and credit line) were funded by LIFT. Individual Development Saving Account (IDA) was introduced to clients who are living under 1.5 USD per day. ‡ Product development: The debt refinancing product is now available in six non-LIFT fund branches in the Mandalay area and SSAT loans available in one non-LIFT branch. ‡ Savings Update: in 2018, LIFT branches mobilised USD 1,560,101 of voluntary and compulsory savings from 41,341 clients. ‡ The overall institutional level portfolio is USD 36 million with 187,584 clients in 48 townships
10	<p>VisionFund International</p> <p>Financial Inclusion in the Garment Sector</p> <p>Budget USD 800,000</p> <p>From 5/9/2017 to 30/6/2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The project aims to reduce the number of migrants adopting harmful coping methods such as acquiring unsustainable debt and reducing food consumption. This will be achieved by the development of a tailored financial service that addresses the barriers to migrant workers face accessing low interest loans and savings products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Hlaing Thar Yar 2 branch (HTY2) opened in January 2018. Originally, this was a sub-branch operating out of Hlaing Thar Yar 1 (HTY1) to service existing migrant workers. ‡ VFM was able to enter into partnerships with 15 factories and have disbursed loans in these factories. ‡ The 1st disbursement for garment workers is in the ZES garment factory on 19 January 2019. Project disbursed USD 805,030 to 2,343 migrant workers/family during 2018.
11	<p>VisionFund International (VFI)</p> <p>Provision of sustainable and Inclusive Financial Services in Central Rakhine communities</p> <p>Budget USD 3,500,000</p> <p>From 15/9/2018 to 14/9/2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Inception period</p> <p>Disbursements of MMK 15,750,000 made to 15 clients during the last week of December in Sittwe.</p>
12	<p>The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX)</p> <p>Currency exchange risk hedging facility for microfinance institutions in Myanmar</p> <p>Budget USD 10,000,000</p> <p>From Nov 2016 to Dec 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The USD 10 million LIFT subsidy allowed TCX to hedge 40 loans issued by 11 lenders for 12 MFIs in Myanmar; ‡ TCX hedged MMK 109.3 billion of funding equivalent to USD 86 million of debt ‡ In receiving kyat loans, the MFIs served 337,642 clients. The average loan size was USD 237. 84% of these clients are women, 64% of these clients live in rural areas. TCX indirectly hedged approximately 337,642 borrowers (including 283,619 women). ‡ In response to the LIFT facility, the workforce of the 12 MFIs increased by 21% (1,027 new jobs created within the MFIs).

10.4.7 Important updates on 4 projects during 2018 in the Private Sector Partnerships

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1</p> <p>Michigan State University Agrifood Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor</p> <p>Budget USD 4,042,354</p> <p>From Jul 2015 to December 2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project continues supporting and advising the Agricultural Policy Unit (APU), the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) in a reform process to increase effectiveness in terms of technology adoption. ‡ The project is actively engaged in supporting the Agricultural Development Strategy of MoALI, in particular, Pillar 2 – increasing farm productivity and incomes, as well as Pillar 1 on Governance. A draft report on Myanmar’s agricultural research system, focusing primarily on DAR, was completed as a contribution to Pillar 2 of the ADS. Project staff worked to prepare a review of the TORs for the new ADS implementation support unit (ADSISU). ‡ The project’s partner researchers presented research results on a geo-spatial analysis of Myanmar’s technical and economically feasible irrigation development, including the impact of trade policies at the MoALI-hosted policy forum on March 20 in Nay Pyi Taw. ‡ The project prepared a briefing document for LIFT’s Fund Board as an input into the design of the next phase of LIFT investments in Myanmar. https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/publications/research-papers/RP104_for_pdf_temporary_Recent%20Transformation.pdf ‡ The project produced a policy related paper on Aquaculture and Fisheries reforms of Myanmar. Presented and published in the journals World Development (Myanmar’s Fisheries in Transition: Current status and opportunities for policy reform) ‡ Project conducted Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone Survey (READZ), Off-farm Value Chain Segment Surveys completed in the first half of 2018. ‡ Project completed the Shan Household Agriculture and Rural Economy Survey (SHARES) and Off-farm Value Chain Segment Surveys which covered 99 enumeration areas in 9 townships of southern Shan State, and additional 225 communities across 12 townships by their local research partners (CESD and MMRD). ‡ All published research reports, highlights and book chapters are uploaded on LIFT website at https://www.lift-fund.org/publications ‡ Project continues supporting the capacity building of local researchers and departments from MoALI. ‡ Project organised a workshop Food Security, Agriculture and Livelihoods in Transition: Recent Research from Rural Myanmar together with the University of Sydney on October 29, 2018 in Yangon.
<p>2</p> <p>Yoma Bank Yoma Agricultural Finance Programme</p> <p>Budget USD 18,070,000</p> <p>From Dec/2015 to Dec/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ By December 2018, the program had financed 6,530 leases for equipment worth USD 138 million (USD 115 million hire purchase loan) through 18 equipment dealers and 47 Yoma Bank branches across 12 states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw. ‡ 4,002 four-wheel-tractors, 954 combine harvesters, 1,289 agricultural transport vehicles, 13 harvesters, and 255 two-wheel-tractors have been purchased under the AFP. ‡ Within 3 years of project implementation, the program has leveraged Yoma Bank co-financing of almost USD 200 million, impacting around 442,000 rural households. ‡ Total of 72 maize traders have been disbursed a total of USD 9.4 million in 2017 and 2018 reaching an estimated 14,400 farmers. ‡ Disbursement of USD 61 million by Yoma Bank under back-to-back, semi-secured three-year funding product for MFIs, allows overseas funding to be hedged and results in more microloans to farmers, estimated to benefit around 192,000 smallholders. ‡ Piloting of Individual Development Accounts began in 2018. Credit piloted in July 2018 and disbursed over 2,500 loans to nearly 1,000 Yoma Bank clients by end 2018. The Central Bank approvals on cash-in or cash-out transaction by Wave Money Agent will allow Yoma Bank to offer this product to all its 175,000+ SMART account holders clients ‡ Note: 1 USD=1414 MMK (2018)

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>3</p> <p>AWBA Myanmar Allied Farmers Seed Company (MAFSCO)</p> <p>Budget USD 3,749,735</p> <p>From Apr/2018 to Jan/2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project successfully created a locally owned seed company, Pahtama Seeds Co.Ltd, which officially incorporated from MAFSCO on the 17 December, 2018. The company with membership, shareholding, dividends and benefits linked to farmers' providing their recurring commitment to seed production aims to increase the supply of high-quality seeds in Myanmar. Revised business plan and proposal includes partnership agreement covering three parties, named Pahtama Seeds, the Farmer Entity and AWBA. A Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) was chosen as the preferred structure for the farmer entity. Project team will engage with an external partner to support formation of a new farmer entity, recruiting contract seed growers and MAFSCO members. The farmer entity will supply high-quality seed to Pahtama Seeds, offer farmers entity relevant services and representation, and contributed to a successful Pahtama Seeds strategy. The project team has commenced negotiation with a Myanmar-based INGO to support in the recruitment of farmers for the farmer entity. By December 2018, Pahtama Seeds Co.Ltd contracted over 60 growers in Pale and Thongwa, Monywa for green gram seeds production. A detailed project plan was developed for the first 12 months, including a seed production calendar. The first year of activities is focused on green gram, black gram and sesame production, followed by multiple seasonal crops such as groundnut, chick pea and pigeon pea in different production locations. The programme is not restricted to defined planting windows and allows more flexibility to create the necessary farmer 'buy-in' for implementation by the project team. Variety descriptions and pest control were developed for each selected variety that MAFSCO expects to produce after conducting several consultations with union, state and regional-level officials from the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) and Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) and the underground water resource department in Nay Pyi Taw. A standard operation manual for each crop will be used and training programmes will be provided for the field staff and growers. Farm management systems have been implemented, including maintaining crop diaries, scouting forms and roguing reports in order to get data electronically via FarmForce, a specialised seed production support programme. This is also a monitoring tool of grower performance. Seed production contracts were completed and multiple farmer meetings were organised in Myothi, Magway, Pwint Phyu, Kayuse (Kula village) and Bago West (Wetpoke village). The project contracted 10.4 acres of green gram (Yezin 11) and one acre of sesame in Myingyan, 124.24 chick peas (Yezin 6 and 8) in Pale, 15 acres of green grams in Thongwa areas in both 1st and 2nd cycle of crop seasons. Next season's seed production is planned to include Kyaukse for sunflower seeds (15 acres), sesame in Nay Pyi Taw and green gram in Salin or Kanma. The first season of green gram was harvested in May and the second season in November for Myingyan farmers, with an average seed yield of 12-14 baskets per acre. The processing was carried out in DoA and it was germination tested. Technical data sheets for each crop were recorded. Currently the project has 1.6 tons of registered seed in inventory. Seed production trials were conducted during the inception phase in Nay Pyi Taw. The site for processing plant PD station chose for 10 acres in Nay Pyi Taw, the rest is still pending.
<p>4</p> <p>Mercy Corps (in partnership with Swiss Contact) Making Vegetable Markets Work (MVMW) for the Poor</p> <p>Budget USD 4,000,000</p> <p>From Jun-14 to Mar-18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project's end line survey for implementation in Rakhine was conducted in January 2018. The end line results showed that about 20% of farmers reported starting vegetable farming with the project's assistance while 80% of farmers had some experiences farming vegetables. MVMW reached 5,124 farmers together with co-financing from Shell Offshore Ventures Myanmar throughout the whole project period. Project farmers benefited from the voucher programme which discounted up to 30% in the extension phase to Rakhine. Mercy Corps handed the demonstration farm over to the State Department of Agriculture, DoA to continue as training farm. 69 government DoA officials from 17 townships including Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships received extension services from EWS. State agriculture students joined as interns. 31 demo plots established with 24 key farmers with East-West Seed in Rakhine. Supported 492 farmers to adopt new agricultural technology/seed through voucher program in Shan and Rakhine. 83 total farmers purchased seedlings through AgroBio-operated nursery in Shan State. The Shan State project end evaluation was conducted by a LIFT-hired independent evaluator in May 2018.

10.5

Achievement of LIFT Financial Inclusion Partners as of 31 December 2018

	Clients			Loan Portfolio USD			Saving USD		Total asset			Operational Self Sufficiency %			Financial Self Sufficiency %		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Local Microfinance Institutions																	
Ar Yone Oo	7,161 F 7,112	8,378 F 8,317	6,348 F 6,318	379,438	461,291	754,292	197,389	148,686	798,730	960,617	1,045,284	179	139	161	119	166	126
Border Development Association	6,934 F 6,930	7,533 F 7,526	6,360 F 6,343	621,646	877,277	1,123,888	189,365	223,707	849,190	1,038,730	1,211,050	196	151	201	143	204	145
Environmental Conservation and Livelihood Outreach Foundation - ECLOF	7,596 F 7,545	8,273 F 8,215	5,972 F 5,911	701,864	928,682	936,053	262,836	291,923	805,561	969,137	1,022,499	158	128	159	121	168	132
Myanmar Heart Development Organization	7,335 F 7,152	8,375 F 8,137	6,153 F 6,038	542,304	709,484	671,046	179,373	149,740	680,835	813,032	861,454	156	132	152	117	163	124
Ratana Metta Organization	7,195 F 7,059	7,899 F 7,761	5,512 F 5,394	713,002	901,537	1,027,874	178,180	197,324	800,601	957,041	1,070,698	161	129	186	131	183	131
Social Vision Service	6,871 F 6,819	7,747 F 7,747	5,270 F 5,235	506,720	692,820	937,458	161,401	203,559	640,857	778,600	966,165	149	129	159	120	159	125
The Sun Institute	7,230 F 7,105	8,112 F 7,970	5,066 F 5,066	496,169	618,428	339,102	158,586	52,255	613,623	733,500	604,205	147	132	136	106	97	78
Wan Lark	6,049 F 5,823	7,156 F 6,915	5,494 F 5,323	515,188	692,461	756,203	125,368	162,580	584,991	705,642	812,050	150	135	162	119	164	124
YMCA Microfinance	6,217 F 6,110	7,351 F 7,222	6,166 F 6,094	409,464	535,702	1,123,888	154,810	223,707	643,958	764,089	1,211,050	162	134	149	110	155	119
Joint Venture Company																	
Myanmar Finance	N/A F N/A	52,506 F 44,919	72,118 F 61,796	N/A	7,869,392	16,065,909	1,425,441	1,864,025	N/A	8,803,577	24,612,380	N/A	123	116	N/A	122	92
Cooperatives																	
38 Saving and Credit Cooperatives	19,029 F 9,514	25,500 F 15,045	N/A F N/A	473,638	917,900	N/A	593,143	N/A	725,893	970,960	N/A	102	146	0	N/A	137	0
Townships Saving and Credit Coops (Myingyan)	N/A F N/A	36,039 F 14,021	36,778 F 16,939	N/A	2,881,931	2,158,876	2,115,682	23,103	N/A	2,969,767	2,478,443	N/A	169	120	N/A	147	104
Townships Saving and Credit Coops (Natogyi)	N/A F N/A	16,231 F 5,391	22,897 F 11,501	N/A	1,559,055	1,394,479	612,162	12,212	N/A	1,806,113	1,977,024	N/A	265	139	N/A	147	121
International Microfinance Institutions																	
Alliance Myanmar	21,857 F 18,427	148,005 F 122,134	N/A F N/A	4,738,897	13,916,486	N/A	2,689,822	N/A	5,046,180	14,790,075	N/A	94	122	0	87	110	0
ASA Myanmar *	67,433 F 67,433	114,401 F 113,786	142,353 F 141,110	8,669,113	17,166,200	21,484,346	2,228,574	2,474,605	9,808,470	19,675,904	24,436,755	99	157	135	98	119	132
Fullerton Myanmar *	58,469 F 53,207	92,109 F 82,375	151,182 F 142,954	11,145,860	21,321,392	33,712,171	772,391	1,368,526	17,295,017	25,590,156	48,903,324	126	126	126	81	86	95
Gret Microfinance (Chin) - Thitsar Oo Yin	10,065 F 6,236	10,126 F 6,484	10,613 F 7,250	1,913,749	1,973,274	3,420,689	-	-	1,981,167	2,131,961	4,395,846	161	147	135	109	107	104
Gret Microfinance (Dryzone) - Thitsar Oo Yin	8,656 F 6,983	11,370 F 9,173	10,963 F 9,141	881,826	1,410,290	1,458,884	-	-	1,600,440	1,641,934	1,645,890	108	121	161	95	108	141
Pact Global Microfinance Fund *	1,201,507 F 1,177,477	858,093 F 850,069	991,897 F 991,113	144,435,650	181,304,686	210,359,843	63,873,003	66,822,199	165,502,635	201,675,188	233,922,852	136	165	155	106	145	133
Proximity Designs *	79,198 F 41,423	91,209 F 54,725	99,939 F 66,253	11,698,644	18,050,007	18,755,472	-	3,933	13,376,660	24,628,174	24,825,609	119	127	111	104	109	106
Vision Fund Myanmar *	104,157 F 90,397	174,874 F 147,065	270,486 F 228,219	14,996,046	28,346,697	36,013,036	3,475,452	5,984,764	18,970,073	31,750,705	42,195,218	71	102	114	67	96	108
ACLEDA*	N/A F N/A	63,170 F 41,814	116,435 F 73,470	N/A	22,777,948	23,839,701	1,786,628	3,316,462	N/A	26,023,001	25,240,491	N/A	283	152	N/A	270	119
BRAC*	N/A F N/A	50,977 F 50,915	89,337 F 88,665	N/A	8,951,932	13,431,844	824,960	1,349,571	N/A	9,996,160	17,776,098	N/A	101	102	N/A	88	93

	Clients			Loan Portfolio USD			Saving USD		Total asset			Operational Self Sufficiency %			Financial Self Sufficiency %		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
		F	F														
CARD*	N/A F N/A	10,662 F 10,657	16,792 F 16,792	N/A	757,491	988,926	174,632	168,404	N/A	1,203,310	1,416,798	N/A	119	142	N/A	108	114
Early Dawn*	N/A F N/A	125,939 F 125,930	197,771 F 197,592	N/A	23,956,894	32,324,068	1,293,652	1,565,825	N/A	52,542,441	46,375,577	N/A	109	122	N/A	66	92
LOLC*	N/A F N/A	67,894 F 64,830	134,530 F 127,805	N/A	18,333,936	33,758,899	3,341,122	5,798,410	N/A	27,931,811	45,694,286	N/A	130	121	N/A	123	115
Sathapana*	N/A F N/A	107,647 F 81,130	211,811 F 156,783	N/A	22,466,965	41,776,916	1,716,513	3,494,798	N/A	24,843,593	45,766,834	N/A	187	152	N/A	144	134
Joint Venture Company																	
Yoma Bank Hire Purchase	2,974 F 223	4,871 F 328	3,893 F 268	154,151	56,910,399	49,107,994											
Un(der)secured Lending																	
Discounted Receivable Finance/ borrowing base (Input Suppliers)			4			2,801,985											
Payable Financ (Input Dealers)			60			773,127											
Seasonal Overdraft (Maize Traders)			72			1,626,067											
MFI lending			11			31,268,657											
Total for all LIFT financial inclusion (25 partners)	1,635,933	2,132,447	2,632,283	203,993,369	457,290,557	584,191,695	88,530,485	95,900,316	240,724,881								

10.6

Policy Engagement in 2018

Financial Inclusion

<p>Policy Issue Microfinance Regulatory Framework Reform</p> <p>LIFT IP IFC</p> <p>Collaborator MMFA, FRD</p>	<p>Microfinance Development Programme: This project provided advisory and technical support to MMFA, FRD and MFIs for four years to develop a sustainable and responsible commercial microfinance sector in Myanmar. The programme ended in June 2018.</p> <p>Soon after MMFA secured legal status in March 2018, they signed a cooperation agreement with IFC to formalise their existing advisory relationship. The project continued advisory services to develop a training delivery framework for MMFA and update the Association's five year business plan, based on feedback received from the Executive Committee. The project also provided technical support for business plan implementation, including coaching support provided to the MMFA management team.</p> <p>During 2018, with the project's support, MMFA drafted 2 white papers on policy review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! The first was for policy reform of the microfinance regulatory framework and resulted in a series of notifications on policy reform issued by FRD, significantly improving the MFI regulatory environment. ! The second summarised the recommended improvements/ reforms to the microfinance law and was submitted to FRD on December 14, 2018 for approval.
<p>Policy Issue Developing rural term loans from formal private banking</p> <p>LIFT IP Yoma Bank</p>	<p>Yoma Bank Agribusiness Finance Programme: This project aims to increase agrarian productivity in Myanmar by providing sustainable hire purchase services to rural agribusinesses. During the three years of the project, the Bank has become more familiar with this previously unknown market. Due to LIFT's support for the loan loss reserve, Yoma Bank is expected to expand its reach to rural areas for many years to come.</p> <p>In 2018, Yoma Bank financed 6,530 units of new agricultural equipment (4,002 tractors, 967 combine harvesters, 272 tillers and 1,289 agricultural transport vehicles), reaching about 200,000 rural families. The total value of assets financed has now reached MMK 183 billion over three years.</p> <p>To reach hire purchase clients through dealers' networks, the Bank worked with the Agriculture Mechanization Department. This Public Private Partnership (PPP) between agricultural equipment dealers and the government has an aim of stimulating mechanisation in the Myanmar countryside.</p>

Food Security

<p>Policy Issue Formulation and implementation of Agriculture Development Strategy</p> <p>LIFT IP MOALI</p> <p>Collaborators State and regional governments, LIFT, USAID, FAO, ADB, FSWG, LCG and others</p>	<p>Agriculture Development Strategy: With technical support from two national advisors from LIFT and an international advisor from ADB, MOALI first drafted the Agriculture Development Strategy in 2016. After being carefully refined, with the support of ADB, LIFT, FSWG, LCG, FAO and others, the strategy was finalised in early 2018 and launched on 7 June 2018. It includes three major pillars: governance, productivity and market linkages & competitiveness. It is also a living document that can be updated based on changing contexts. Working together with MOALI officials, LIFT, FAO and USAID also served as facilitators for the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Group meeting that followed the ADS launch.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Improved Food Security policy tools</p> <p>LIFT IP FSWG</p> <p>Collaborators MOALI, Bago Regional Government, LIFT, FAO, LCG, local CSOs, donors and INGOs</p>	<p>Harnessing Resources and Partnerships to Achieve Food Security in Myanmar Phase II: This project aims to support effective food security policies in Myanmar by strengthening FSWG members' capacity and encouraging their effective engagement with policy makers. FSWG undertook the following tasks in 2018:</p> <p>FSWG technically and financially supported the MOALI to successfully formulate and launch the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) in June 2018.</p> <p>FSWG and its members participated in the Bago Regional Development Planning workshop where priorities for a 3 year strategic plan for regional Rural Development activities were successfully identified.</p> <p>FSWG's Delta Sub-National Network also conducted freshwater fisheries research in five townships, shared the research findings with Regional Hluttaw, and proposed 29 facts for the amendment of the Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fisheries Draft Law to the legislation committee; 7 out of these facts were adopted.</p> <p>The existing Magway Region Village Firewood Plantation Law (2013) was carefully studied by Dry Zone SNN members resulting in a policy analysis paper, a review workshop and a public consultation. FSWG plans to conduct similar desk reviews of state/regional firewood plantations laws for the 13 remaining states and regions.</p> <p>FSWG conducted community forestry implementation case studies at 9 villages in the Ayeyarwady Region and shared findings at the Community Forestry National Working Group meeting in January 2018. After 4 months, 4 villages had received approval for their community forestry registration.</p>

<p>Policy Issue Small-scale fishery development in Ayeyarwaddy Region</p> <p>LIFT IP NAG</p> <p>Collaborators Ayeyarwaddy Government, DOF, ARFN</p>	<p>Improved Co-Management of Ayeyarwaddy Wetland Resources Project: A strategic partner of LIFT, NAG devoted its resources in 2018 to ensuring the new Ayeyarwaddy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, continued a policy implemented by the previous minister to allocate inn/tender at the floor price to communities. As a result of their efforts, the policy that allows community participation has continued.</p> <p>Another success is the enactment of a new Ayeyarwaddy Freshwater Fisheries Law on 4 April 2018. The new law provides for co-management of community fisheries. In collaboration with DOF, the project has also conducted law awareness raising meetings in townships. The project will now focus on the drafting of Community Fisheries By-laws that will support the registration and administration of community fisheries organisations.</p> <p>The project also arranged an exposure visit to Cambodia (7th March – 12 March 2018) for officials. The trip allowed the regional government and DOF with limited regional experience to learn from Cambodia’s fisheries reform process and compare them to the historical and contemporary changes in Myanmar.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Agricultural development</p> <p>LIFT IP IFDC</p>	<p>Dry Zone Agro-Input and Farm Services Project aims to improve productivity and smallholder farmers’ incomes via quality farm advisory services. The project strives to improve relationships between farmers (including public sector extension workers) and private sector actors through knowledge sharing and outreach.</p> <p>In 2018, the project finalised a Fertiliser Quality Assessment Report for the Dry Zone, including policy recommendations to the MoALI. The project also shared the report findings at a meeting with DOA officers in Nay Pyi Taw. To improve capacity building, the project organised 90 farmer field days associated with the harvests of 159 project demonstration plots for 4,233 farmers from 133 villages and 222 DOA extension staff.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Aquaculture development</p> <p>LIFT IP WorldFish</p> <p>Collaborators DOF, Myanmar Fishery Federation, GRET, NAG and PACT</p>	<p>Promoting sustainable growth of aquaculture in Myanmar to improve food security and income for communities in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Central Dry Zone: This project aims to build capacity of key local institutions and organisations in aquaculture development, diagnosis, design, and testing. The project will document innovation and learning for policy engagement on small scale aquaculture (SSA) for sustainable aquaculture and improved food security.</p> <p>In 2018, 191 farmer groups were formed with a total of 3,149 farmers in the Delta and Dry Zone regions. Five aquaculture systems continued to be tested in the learning phase under different systems (ponds, Chan Myaung and WISH ponds). The project also facilitated access for SSA farmers to micro-credit by forming 16 savings funds (13 GRET + 3 WHH) amounting 5.07 million MMK.</p> <p>The project also delivered trainings on a number of topics relevant to SSA. These trainings were organised by WorldFish for the IP staff, DoF staffs, nursery farmers, and farmer leaders.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Livestock Sector Development</p> <p>LIFT IP FAO</p> <p>Collaborators LBVD, MVC, MVA and UVS</p>	<p>Improving Farmer Livelihoods in the Dry Zone through Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing: During 2018, this project focused on the following five major areas of policy development and implementation at national level. The Chief Technical Adviser of the project, who provided policy advice to LBVD, was also appointed as a member of the Livestock Sector Sub-Committee of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit.</p> <p>National livestock Baseline Survey: The project continued to provide technical support to the Government-funded National Livestock Baseline Survey (NLBS). The NLBS will provide estimates of national livestock population, of the role of livestock in livelihoods, of livestock contribution to Greenhouse Gases and a basis for all livestock sector policies, including domestic and export trade.</p> <p>Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) Policy: A fourth CAHW Policy Core Group meeting on 29 June approved the next steps of piloting, training and accreditation in the project area and reviewed a drafted five year national rollout plan. Legislation which includes provisions for CAHWs is waiting for approval.</p> <p>Cattle Trade Policy: The project’s technical support to cattle trade policy continued during the reporting period, with a series of stakeholder workshops, policy advice papers and other technical support.</p> <p>Cattle Breed Improvement Policy: The project has already established a working group for livestock breeding improvement policy formulation and baseline data to develop a cattle breed improvement policy at national level has been gathered. NLBS data will also be used to consider investment planning for dairy.</p> <p>Nutrition: The project provided technical support to LBVD with respect to livestock sector interventions to contribute to national human nutrition goals, under the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN).</p>

Gender

<p>Policy Issue Gender equality and women empowerment</p> <p>LIFT IP GEN</p> <p>Collaborators MSWRR</p>	<p>Deepening Commitment to Gender Equality in Myanmar: This project seeks to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Myanmar. Being a member of Myanmar's National Committee for Women's Affairs, which is a high-level inter-ministerial committee, GEN is involved in the committee's National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (NSPAW) and in the development of the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) Law. In October 2018, GEN representatives attended a Violence Against Women and Girls Technical Working Group Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.</p> <p>GEN has been involved in the PoVAW law drafting group for more than four years. Advocacy work was and is extremely challenging as powerful political actors have a limited understanding of the adverse effects of gender-based violence and importance of prevention/protection against it. As a means to overcome that challenge, a joint advocacy team was formed among women groups to continue to push for legislation collectively. GEN also participated in a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Development Partners Group that provided technical assistance to the Development Assistance Coordination Unit on gender equality and women's empowerment concerns.</p> <p>In this year, GEN extended its scope of collaboration to the OE and MoLIP with an aim to advocate for gender equality in their respective fields of work and to mainstream gender in their ministries.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Inclusive Value Chains

<p>Policy Issue Seed Sector Development</p> <p>LIFT IPs Myanma Awba, WHH, farmer cooperatives and farmers</p> <p>Collaborators DOA</p>	<p>In 2018, LIFT funded two new projects for improving quality seed supply (which only meets about 1 per cent of the demand in Myanmar) by supporting sustainable domestic seed production to better serve smallholder farmers. The projects attempt to strengthen the seed sector with funds, technology, equipment, training, and other resources which are in dire need for quality seed supply.</p> <p>Myanmar Allied Farmers Seed Company/Private Sector Engagement Program: This project will develop a private company with co-operative principles named Myanmar Allied Farmers' Seed Company (MAFSCO) to produce, process, and market seeds, prioritising open-pollinated varieties grown in the Dry Zone. Myanma AWBA has been selected as the private implementing partner responsible for establishing the seed company and identifying the best combination of seed products and related services to build a sustainable business. During the project inception period, MAFSCO was officially incorporated as a legal company and was given the name "Pahtama Seeds Co Ltd," which translates as "First Seed Company." To improve seed access for farmers, the project increasingly cooperated with DAR, although self-sufficiency of the registered seed supply will be pursued as a long-term goal.</p> <p>Support to Rice Seed Sector Development in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta, Myanmar (RSSD): The RSSD project aims to contribute to the national goal of poverty reduction by increasing sustainable agricultural income and production by smallholder farmers via improved access to and uptake of quality rice seed for these farmers. Started in October 2017, the project seeks to address key challenges in early generation seed production to support DAR and DOA seed farms. This is done through technical support, research, investment, promoting linkages, and more.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Vegetable Sector Development</p> <p>LIFT IP Mercy Corps Europe</p> <p>Collaborators Swisscontact and East-West Seed International</p>	<p>Making Vegetable Markets Work for Smallholders: This project in Southern Shan and Rakhine States co-created and technically supported the Vegetable Sector Acceleration Taskforce (VSAT) to improve an enabling environment for the vegetable sector. The VSAT is a working group of the Myanmar Agricultural Network, a part of the World Economic Forum-created Grow Asia initiative. The project funded many VSAT activities for stakeholder coordination to organise research and policy advocacy. Specific policy objectives, such as a greater emphasis on vegetables in the Agriculture Development Strategy and the creation of a National Seed Association, emerged out of VSAT discussions. The project ended in March 2018.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Agricultural Value Chains</p> <p>LIFT IP Michigan State University</p> <p>Collaborators CESD, IFPRI, DOP of MOALI</p>	<p>Agri-food Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor: This Project is comprised of four components: 1) policy strategy advising, 2) agri-food value chains, 3) household and community livelihoods and 4) capacity and network building.</p> <p>Policy strategy advising: This component supports the Agricultural Policy Unit (APU) with strategic policy advice and capacity building for APU and MOALI staff in the policy making process. During the reporting period, the APU recommended that DAR decentralize research to the regional level, leading to a pilot program being launched in the Sagaing Region in February with the support of regional farmers and the Sagaing Regional Government.</p> <p>Agri-food value chains and household and community livelihoods: After completion of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone Survey (READZ), the project focused on data collection for off-farm enterprises and subsequent analysis of the data. Multiple research reports were produced which fed into a policy memo for the Minister of MOALI, with recommendations for short and long-term policy options.</p> <p>Another research survey conducted during the reporting period is the Shan State Agriculture and Rural Economy Survey (SHARES). SHARES will inform on land, mechanization, non-farm employment, migration trader credit, maize production economics and nutrition sensitive agriculture in Shan State.</p> <p>Capacity and network building: The project conducted a review workshop on research findings and methods in February 2018. CESD, MSU and IFPRI research staff who were involved in the project joined the workshop to review their own experiences. A second course was conducted at MOALI offices for participants from MOALI and YAU.</p>

Land

<p>Policy Issue Land Tenure Policies</p> <p>LIFT IP LCG</p> <p>Collaborators MONREC, MOALI, FSWG, other CSOs and development partners</p>	<p>Fostering equitable access and control over land and related natural resources in Myanmar: This project actively contributed to the development of the NLUP and continued to provide technical support to MONREC in formation of the National Land Use Council (NLUC) approved by the Cabinet in January 2018.</p> <p>LCG provided key advice to the chair of the NLUC, including: (1) the need for clear roles of state and regional Land Use Committees, including ethnic land use rights and equal land rights for men and women, and (2) that selection of external representatives for farmers, local ethnic communities, women, and elders must be by the stakeholders themselves.</p> <p>LCG also helped the NLUC secretariat in organizing a National Land Use Policy Forum on 2-3 October. The Forum brought together NLUC members, senior staff from government ministries, parliament, State/Regional chief ministers, CSOs, farmers associations, local indigenous people, media, and donor agencies.</p> <p>LCG also successfully worked with the Yangon Chief Minister to establish a regional land use committee consisting of external stakeholder representatives.</p> <p>The amended Biodiversity and Natural Areas Protection Law was promulgated on 21 May 2018 with LCG-advocated community-led conservation included. LCG also ensured that local and indigenous communities' voices were reflected in drafting its by-laws by organizing public consultations.</p> <p>LCG helped to establish a working group on IDP land issues to identify priority needs and opportunities and coordinate work in this area. The project continued advocacy work for customary tenure in the amendment of the Farmland Law and new draft Land Acquisition Act as well.</p> <p>LCG funded research case studies titled 1) <i>Indigenous Peoples, land rights, and forest conservation in Myanmar</i>, and 2) <i>Land and Forest Governance in the Naga Village Republic</i>. LCG also conducted research on piloting CF certificates to recognize customary tenure in Shan State.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Supporting MOALI's land reallocation initiative or REAL DEV Programme</p> <p>Implementers MOALI and Magway Regional Government</p> <p>Collaborators GRET, Landesa and WHH</p>	<p>Reallocation and Development of Unused Concession Land Programme (REAL DEV): In mid-2017, the MOALI proposed that LIFT support the Ministry's initiative to reallocate unused concession land from the State to the rural poor, women and landless, and LIFT agreed. In late 2017, LIFT asked GRET to include possible sites in the Magway and Sagaing Regions recommended by MoALI in GRET's land assessment survey. Based on these findings, the MoALI decided on two pilot return sites in the Minhla Township of the Magway Region. A LIFT consulting team worked with the MoALI to design the basic components of the pilot programme.</p> <p>Following 12 months of design, including 18 days of field visits and consultations, LIFT launched a Call for Proposals for an implementing partner to support the MOALI and the Magway Regional Government to manage and implement the pilot programme in December 2018. The REAL DEV Programme invites partner agencies to work with the Government on land reclamation and reallocation in Magway to develop a replicable approach and framework for reallocating State land reclaimed from concessionary holders to the rural poor, landless, and others.</p>
<p>Policy issue Minorities' rights</p> <p>LIFT IP KMSS</p> <p>Collaborator LIFT FMO, LCG, FSWG</p>	<p>Strategic Partnership for Civil Society Empowerment: KMSS, a strategic partner of LIFT, defends the rights of marginalised people by breaking the culture of silence and engaging in evidence-based advocacy with direct social action.</p> <p>In 2018, KMSS conducted research on community based customary land use. Findings will be made available online at both the LIFT and KMSS webpages and shared with other CSOs. KMSS has also finalized a research design on nutrition status of Internally Displaced People in Kachin and Northern Shan State as a formative research project.</p>

Migration and Decent Work

<p>Policy Issue Policy and legal framework development for internal and external migration</p> <p>LIFT IP ILO</p> <p>Collaborators Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population</p>	<p>Developing International and Internal Labour Migration Governance: This project aims to improve policy and legislation on safe migration. In 2018, the project organized three meetings of the Parliamentarians' Working Group on migration. These discussions, and other advocacy work led by the ILO, centred on the following issues:</p> <p>Legal Protection of Domestic Workers: The project works for legal protection of domestic workers who were banned from working abroad. ILO has held workshops, public events and media interviews to improve awareness. At time of reporting, MOLIP was preparing agreements with countries of destination for domestic workers. is well-positioned to offer pre departure training for domestic workers as well as technical inputs to MOLIP for the development of agreements and MOUs for protection.</p> <p>Review of the revised Law Relating to Overseas Employment (1999): The MOLIP completed the draft Overseas Employment Law in September 2018 and officially requested ILO to provide comments on the draft. The project subsequently held an internal consultation with ILO specialists and submitted final comments to the Ministry in November 2018.</p> <p>2nd National Plan of Action (2018-2023) development: The project provided technical support to government and other stakeholders to develop the 2nd National Plan on Labour Migration (2018-2023) and ensured participation of labour organisations and CSOs in the development process. As a result, the Plan paid greater attention to migrant rights and policy and practices to protect migrants from exploitation and abuse.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Policy Issue Labour migration governance</p> <p>LIFT IP IOM</p> <p>Collaborators Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Chin Human Rights Organization, Mon Women's Organization, and Parami Development Network</p>	<p>Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnerships (Twe Let): The Twe Let project provides technical support to the MOLIP to institutionalise a migration governance framework in Myanmar. In 2018, the project assisted the ministry with an important initiative to develop a whole-of-government approach to migration governance. IOM also supported the MoLIP to carry out a scoping study on mainstreaming migration into national strategies through technical assistance on information gathering, analysis and coordination.</p> <p>A workshop to share findings was organised for Government representatives from 13 Ministries, the Office of the President, the Office of the State Counsellor and the Union Attorney General Office to discuss potential ways for migration to link with their respective sectoral policies using the draft Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. Based on these discussions, the workshop developed a report with recommendations on potential next steps for the consideration of the Government. IOM is continuing to work with MoLIP to secure high level endorsement of the recommendations.</p>
<p>Policy Issue skill development and employment in Rakhine State</p> <p>LIFT IP ILO</p>	<p>Skills Development Project - Rakhine State: This Project seeks to support the Rakhine State Government in development of a comprehensive TVET strategy and a non-discriminatory and inclusive plan on employment, training and skills, based on the objectives of the Rakhine State Five Year Development Plan and the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission. This required a labour market assessment to determine needs for skills development and training and assess gender, legal and social barriers. This assessment was carried out by Myanmar Survey Research in April 2018.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the labour market assessment was done in seven provincial townships, and consultation meetings were organised with relevant stakeholders including UEHRD and Myanmar Tourism Federation to explore areas for collaboration. The project also received a request from the MoE to provide technical support in the preparation of the Rakhine State Comprehensive Education Strategy Plan, particularly on TVET components.</p> <p>The Project also established the Rakhine State TVET Coordination Group (TCG) to serve as a strategic platform to constructively engage with local ministries, UEHRD, private sector associations, training institutions and other stakeholders. TCG is expected to serve as a coordination mechanism for resource allocation in technical skills development in Rakhine State as the project progresses.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Anti-sexual harassment in the workplace</p> <p>LIFT IP Care International</p> <p>Collaborators Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, BusinessKind Myanmar and Legal Clinic Myanmar</p>	<p>Aung Myin Hmu Project - Industry Solutions for Safe Employment: A workplace without sexual harassment is an integral part of safe employment. This is why the Aung Myin Hmu Project drafted a factory-level policy to address sexual harassment in the workplace, along with an implementation guide and consultation framework. Three joint advocacy strategy development workshops were also organised for women groups, trade unions and labour rights organisations to raise awareness. During the year, the project also successfully integrated sexual harassment prevention provisions into the Occupational Safety and Health Law and the National Occupational Competency Standards (NOCS).</p> <p>To review the Occupational Skills Development Law, the project provided technical support to MOLIP for inclusion of a Skills Development Fund in the revised law. Care, together with the Overseas Development Institute, drafted a technical report with recommendations to the Ministry to structure the Fund and facilitated the rollout of the Fund.</p> <p>In 2018, LIFT also funded the development of NOCS for Myanmar's Garment Sector so that workers in the sector will be able to have their skills certified by the National Skills Standards Authority and receive credentials that are recognized and valued by employers within the industry. With the support of the project, the National Skills Standards Authority has developed 4 NOCS: Sewing Machine Operators, Finishing, Cutting and Quality Control, pending final approval by the Garment Sub-Sector Committee.</p>

Nutrition

<p>Policy Issue National policy advocacy on improved nutrition</p> <p>LIFT IP Save the Children International</p> <p>Collaborators NNC, M-MSP and UN REACH</p>	<p>Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition Project (LEARN): Hosted by the Secretariat for the SUN SCA, LEARN is furthering LIFT's efforts to develop a strong civil society constituency and supporting LIFT's advocacy on food and nutrition policies and programmes at national and regional levels.</p> <p>In 2018, LEARN continued technical support to the development of the national Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2018 – 2022 (MS – NPAN). Through MOHS, the NNC submitted the finalized strategic framework of the MS-NPAN to the Development Assistant Coordination Unit in January. LEARN key personnel also engaged and represented SUN CSA on the ongoing capacity assessment for the MS-NPAN conducted by the World Bank. Also, LEARN technically facilitated all meetings on Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly (BBF) with BBF team members, NNC, UNICEF, Alive and Thrive and other stakeholders. Policy recommendations from BBF received high-level endorsement from the Union Minister of Health and Sports in the Meeting on "Stakeholder Endorsement on Recommendations of Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly" on 26th December in Nay Pyi Taw.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Policy Issue MCCT pilot for 1000 Days Window</p> <p>LIFT IP Save the Children International</p> <p>Collaborators MOHS, GAD, 3MDG, MNMA, PGMF, IPA, IRC</p>	<p>MCCT projects: LIFT funds three MCCT projects implemented by SC in Ayeyarwaddy Delta, Rakhine and Dry Zone with the aim of generating evidence to inform policy decisions, programme design, and budget allocations by DSW. Prior to beginning of the DSW MCCT programme, these projects provided examples of effective MCCT implementation in Myanmar.</p> <p>In 2018, Bright SUN continued both manual and mobile cash transfers alongside with SBCC. Later in the year, the project shared the project's mobile money experiences during two workshops on mobile payments organized by LIFT and DSW in Nay Pyi Taw in October and December 2018.</p> <p>Tat Lan Phase II continued MCCT with SBCC in 80 villages in Pauktaw, Myebon and Minbya townships while the DSW began MCCT in the remaining areas of Rakhine with SC technical assistance.</p> <p>LEGACY has been testing MCCT modalities in 298 villages across Yesagyo, Mahlaing and Pakokku townships in the Dry Zone since January 2016, including a government-led model through the DoPH. This project will develop robust evidence, including through a randomised control trial, which will influence growing social welfare projects in the country.</p>
<p>Policy Issue MCCT for 1000 Days Window</p> <p>LIFT IP DSW with Team MCCT consortium (Save the Children International, IRC, DRC and MRCS)</p> <p>Collaborators DOPH, NNC, HLP, GAD, Team MCCT (Save the Children) and UNICEF</p>	<p>Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme in Chin State: The MCCT project in Chin State is the first ever LIFT funded programme with direct government implementation. It is also the first step in implementation of the eight flagship programmes in the National Social Protection Strategic Plan, which was endorsed by the union government in 2014. It focuses on improved nutrition of all children in their first 1,000 days, through cash transfers and SBCC. Cash transfers are handled through the DSW with the assistance of GAD, plus technical assistance and monitoring work done by a consortium led by Save the Children. The SBCC component is led by the DOPH's NNC and HLP, also assisted by the TEAM consortium.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Rice Fortification</p> <p>LIFT IP PATH</p> <p>Collaborators DOPH, NNC, FDA, DMR, DOA, DAR, MMCWA, MCU, NUDI, PSI, MMBDC</p>	<p>Introduction of Fortified Rice in Myanmar Project developed an unprecedented rice fortification policy in Myanmar as a means to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>In 2018, PATH completed the draft National Rice Fortification Policy and received endorsement by the Rice Fortification Working Group and by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Public Health. The policy will further be submitted to the NNC for the Union Minister's review and approval. The Union Minister has already approved the Technical Guidance on Rice Fortification, which will be launched to private-sector partners in 2019. PATH also prepared and finalized seven additional policy briefs with support from the University of Washington. These briefs will be shared with the Rice Fortification Working Group in 2019.</p> <p>PATH also participated in formulation of the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN). The government endorsed the MS-NPAN in first meeting of the National Steering Committee on Nutrition Promotion in November 2018. In the same meeting, the Minister MSWRR commented that fortified rice feeding practices and future plans are a national priority for investment. To secure extended ministerial support for rice fortification, the project engaged with MOPF, MOALI and Ayeyarwady Regional Members of Parliament.</p>

Social Protection

<p>Policy Issue Community-based Social Protection</p> <p>LIFT IP HelpAge International (Myanmar)</p> <p>Collaborators Mandalay YMCA, DSW, regional governments</p>	<p>Dry Zone Social Protection Project: This project aims to build sustainable community-based mechanisms for addressing vulnerability in the Dry Zone, while promoting DSW and regional government capacity to complement community efforts, in line with the National Social Protection Strategic Plan. The project worked in six townships across the Dry Zone.</p> <p>In 2018, the project piloted Electronic Cash Transfers to deliver social pensions through mobile phone technology (via WAVE Money and M-Pitesan) to all communities in the Myingyan Township. In collaboration with MSWRR and GAD, the pilot was launched in April 2018. Some technical issues centring on lack of knowledge on digital cash transfer came up but 93% of the beneficiaries received their social pensions without issue.</p> <p>The project also reviewed the performance of Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Social Protection Committees (SPCs) to ensure sustainability. With the project's support, the VDCs and SPCs also finalised their work and financial plans for the three years after the project's end. Moreover, all 180 project villages received project funds to establish sustainable village social protection mechanisms. Township level meetings for many government departments were also held in order to ensure government support after the project end date.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Social Pensions for the Elderly</p> <p>LIFT IP HelpAge International Myanmar</p> <p>Collaborators DSW, regional governments</p>	<p>Strengthening the Ministry of Social Welfare to Fulfil Its Role in Expanding Social Protection: This project strengthens the MSWRR to achieve sound policies and effective public expenditure in social protection. Two main achievements in 2018 were:</p> <p>The Ministry submitted and received approval for a five year Costed Social Protection Sector Plan 2018-2022 (CSPSP) to the Development Assistance Coordinating Unit for implementation of the flagship projects in the National Social Protection Strategic Plan. HelpAge provided comments and feedback on the draft CSPSP and short policy briefs on two of the eight key flagship programmes: universal social pension and Inclusive Self-Help Groups. A National Social Protection Committee was also formed and hosted its inaugural meeting chaired by a Vice President with the Union Ministers of MSWRR and MOLIP as Vice Chairs.</p> <p>Regarding social policies for the elderly, the government reduced the eligibility age for National Social Pensions from 90 to 85 starting from October 2018, multiplying beneficiary coverage by more than four. To cope with such an accelerated expansion of service, the Ministry set up a new Social Protection Division with 37 staff, with on-going technical assistance from the project.</p>

<p>Policy Issue Social protection research for evidence-based policy making</p> <p>LIFT IP SPPRG</p> <p>Collaborators DRD, DSW, DSS, The Leprosy Mission Myanmar, ActionAid Myanmar and HelpAge International (Myanmar), Sagaing Regional Government, Shan State Government, PAO, PYN</p>	<p>Community based Social Protection System Efficacy and Efficiency Pilot: This project piloted implementation of social protection policies for the Sagaing Regional Government by closely working with traditional community organisations in Myaung Township. The project ended in May 2018.</p> <p>Project villages received a seed fund of MMK 450,000 each. Accountable village organizations invested the seed fund to increase funding, mostly by supplying loans to individuals and local businesses. Accumulated interest was then used to provide social assistance to people and households in need. This enabled community organizations to raise and redistribute social assistance to over 3,000 beneficiaries, with the initial investment funds having grown by over 30% over the project period.</p> <p>The project also piloted MCCT partnership with community organizations. Although MCCT cash delivery was completed in March 2018, the community social organizations continued to provide welfare assistance to poor and vulnerable pregnant women and children, showing continuity and sustainability after closure of outside funding.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Rural Development

<p>Policy Issue Technical Assistance to DRD on rural development planning</p> <p>Implementer LIFT Technical Assistance Team</p> <p>Collaborator DRD</p>	<p>Technical Assistance to DRD on Rural Development Planning Project: In late 2013, DRD was assigned by the union government to operationalize the Strategic Framework for Rural Development, a generic framework of bottom-up rural development planning processes. DRD requested LIFT's technical support to do this assignment and LIFT agreed. Hence, LIFT's TA Team has assisted DRD to develop a national model for village development planning and investment and build DRD's and villages' capacity to pilot the model in all states and regions. This development planning (VDP) model has now been institutionalized within DRD.</p> <p>The village development plans have been developed by village communities and DRD with technical support of the LIFT TA Team in 11,373 villages in 224 townships since 2015. Among them, 4,718 villages implemented prioritised development projects with government funding of MMK 10 million each. Hence, village ownership of the implemented projects was strong. These village communities were involved in their own development planning and also voluntarily contributed funding and labour to implement these plans. LIFT's TA Team worked with DRD to develop a mechanism to consolidate village level plans into township development plans. During LIFT's debriefing to DRD, DRD senior management expressed its strong commitment on VDP sustainability.</p>
<p>Policy Issue Pro-poor development policies</p> <p>LIFT IP Metta Development Foundation</p> <p>Collaborator DAR, DOA</p>	<p>CSO Strategic Partnership Project: LIFT's is, working to strengthen Metta's capacity in evidence based pro-poor development policies.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the project made agreements with two research entities under MOALI (YAU and DAR) for technical cooperation. Metta provided internship experience to ten YAU undergrad students at its offices and research grants to two YAU Masters students on different rice variety trials and socio-economic impacts of farmer field schools in the delta. Also, Metta collaborated with DAR to jointly conduct agricultural research trials around the country. DAR was responsible for technical support such as a simple community research method and growing practices. Metta was responsible for village selection, community organisation, seed provision and logistical support to ensure Good Agricultural Practice.</p>

LIFT studies delivered in 2018

Publication name and Author	Description
<p>Capitalising Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Mobility in Myanmar (CHIME) IOM, US, Metta, MoLIP</p> <p>Topics: Migration, cross cutting with agriculture, gender, financial inclusion</p>	<p>Purpose Internal and international migrants represent over a quarter of Myanmar's population. While migration can reduce poverty and improve opportunities for the rural poor, there is a need to better manage risks and hardships faced by migrants, and there is also a lack of relevant information to inform policy and programmes. This study, through surveys and interviews, aims to address the knowledge gap on labour migration and its relationship with poverty and development in four areas in Myanmar: Ayeyarwady Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State and Shan State.</p> <p>Findings Overall findings showed that out-migration from rural households is growing, most migrants tend to be younger, and that the primary reason for migration is for work, in addition to a number of other factors. This research highlights the complex link between poverty and migration, in which migration may be perceived as the only way out of interlocking problems of debt and extreme poverty, but at the same time migration can lead to further borrowing and debts that are incurred to finance it. The long term benefits of increased earning and opportunities are certainly the goal that migrants have in mind, in addition to factors, such as further education or a more modern lifestyle. There is a need for policy to become aligned with people's aspirations for a better life in order to better address mobility and reduce risks and vulnerabilities. An important first step in this direction would be for an official government policy on migration to be developed in order to start a migration mainstreaming process. Briefs have also been produced which go into detail on migration findings as they relate to agriculture, gender, urbanisation, poverty and indebtedness, and the main geographic areas covered by the research.</p>
<p>Technical Review of the Draft Myanmar Land Acquisition Law 2017 Land Core Group</p> <p>Topics: Land Tenure, Policy</p>	<p>Purpose Myanmar is seeking to update its colonial era 1894 Land Acquisition Act to reflect the country's development needs in the 21st century. This technical review has been prepared by land resettlement safeguards experts to inform decision makers and other stakeholders in Myanmar regarding the Draft Land Acquisition Act 2017. This review draws on the lessons from other post British colonial countries in the South and East Asia Region, many of whom have had decades of experience since their first attempts to move away from out-dated colonial era legislation including the 1894 Act which was a common colonial law across former British colonies.</p> <p>Findings The review is done in two parts: First, a narrative document that reviews the law along key themes and offers recommendations for each. Second, there is a matrix that analyses specific articles of the law and makes relatively specific comments and suggestions. The review is meant to provide input onto the ongoing national discussions about the development of the law and the broader land governance framework. *Note: This review was published in February 2018 before land law amendments were enacted*</p>
<p>Mechanisation and Crop Productivity, Profitability and Labour Use in Myanmar's Dry Zone MSU</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, Mechanisation, Labour</p>	<p>Purpose This paper analyses differences in productivity, profitability and labour use for four major crops produced in Myanmar's Dry Zone: monsoon paddy, dry season paddy, sesame, and groundnut. The paper then compares farmers using mechanized land preparation relative to use of animal draft power alone, and compares farmers using mechanized harvesting/threshing relative to manual or mixed techniques. Given the low levels of yields and net income experienced by most Dry Zone farmers, this analysis is quite important and affects a number of household livelihoods. Findings are derived from survey analysis carried out in 2017 and are representative of four townships in the central dry zone: Budalin, Magway, Pwintbyu and Myittha.</p> <p>Findings The main conclusions drawn by the paper were: (1) Mechanization of land preparation is associated with higher yields in dry season paddy cultivation and groundnut farming, but not in sesame or monsoon paddy cultivation. (2) Productivity increases associated with mechanized land preparation appear to result from: Adoption of complementary and increased timeliness of planting that enables farmers to avoid events such as heavy rains late in the cropping period, which may cause yield loss. (3) There are no observed differences in crop profitability for tractor or draft animal land preparation. (4) Mechanization of paddy harvesting and threshing is associated with higher realized yields as a result of reduced losses of grain during harvesting/threshing and (during the monsoon season) greater propensity to use improved varieties and inorganic fertilizers. (5) Surprisingly, despite substantially reducing labour requirements, mechanized harvesting and/or threshing does not appear to lower average production costs or result in significantly higher average gross or net margins. (6) Together, these findings suggest that some of the main advantages that mechanization provides to farm households result from: Improved reliability and timeliness of planting and harvesting in a context where farm labour is increasingly difficult to obtain; Reduction of risk associated with weather-induced crop losses; Reduced grain loss during harvesting/threshing by combine, and; Minimization of the physical drudgery associated with farming.</p>

Publication name and Author	Description
<p>Crop Production and Profitability in Myanmar's Dry Zone MSU</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, Value Chains, land tenure, climate change</p>	<p>Purpose This report explores ways to improve agriculture and the rural economy in Myanmar's Dry Zone. The results are based on information from almost 950 crop-producing households on: area planted, quantities harvested and sold, and total crop production costs for the 13 predominant crops in the Dry Zone, based on a reference period of the past 12 months prior to the survey interview. The survey also collected parcel-level data on the household's main parcel that was planted to at least one of four main crops of interest, namely, paddy, groundnut, sesame and green gram. The parcel-level data includes information by season on seeds and other inputs applied to each crop, use of family and hired labour, use of mechanization and/or draft animal power, irrigation costs, and harvested quantities.</p> <p>Findings Key findings cover land access and use, access to irrigation, input use, crop yields and crop profitability. High levels of landlessness were found, in addition to low levels of irrigation in upland areas and high variance in yield. Also, climate change has had a drastic effect on rainfall in the past 60 years, creating conditions that are not conducive to cultivation, and leading to the high variance mentioned. Improvements in water control, improvements to access and quality of irrigation, and more widespread use of improved seeds were highlighted as some recommended changes that could lead to greater crop profitability.</p>
<p>The Challenge of Export-Led Agricultural Growth with Monopsonistic Markets: The case of Myanmar's pulse sector and trade with India MSU</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, value chains, international trade</p>	<p>Purpose Pulse crop exports from Myanmar have grown from nothing to a \$1 billion per annum export industry over the past 30 years. The sector offered uniquely attractive returns to both smallholder farmers and traders during three decades of international isolation and underinvestment in agriculture. Myanmar managed this exceptional feat despite financial sanctions, acute limitations on all forms of communication and information flows, and with the weakest rural infrastructure in South East Asia. Myanmar's first democratically elected government in fifty years sought to build on this success in their new agricultural policy and development strategy published in 2017. However, in that same year, India, the major client for Myanmar's pulse exports, effectively banned imports of Myanmar's pulses, resulting in a collapse of domestic prices for black gram and pigeonpea. The loss of farmer confidence in these two crops threatens potential future gains from trade for both countries, as well as loss of potential soil health benefits for Myanmar's predominantly rice-based cropping systems.</p> <p>Findings This paper report examines (1) the evolution, structure, and performance of Myanmar's pulse sector, (2) the trade relationship with India, and (3) policy options to respond to the current crisis while addressing underlying weaknesses that threaten the sector's long-term international competitiveness. The report identifies three complementary and mutually reinforcing avenues for propelling Myanmar's pulse markets forward to increasingly higher levels: (1) expanded export earnings (from new markets and higher value added products); (2) improved farm productivity; and (3) increased domestic demand.</p>
<p>Community Perceptions of the Impacts of Climate Change in Myanmar's Central Dry Zone MSU</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, climate change</p>	<p>Purpose Myanmar is ranked second on the list of countries most affected by climate change, and the central dry zone is a region subject to climate extremes, such as high temperatures, droughts, floods and storms. More, livelihoods in this region are highly dependent on agriculture, making data on climate change and its impact on crops in the dry zone highly useful. With this in mind a survey and group interviews with knowledgeable long-term residents of the dry zone were carried out to capture community perceptions of the changing climate and its impacts on agriculture.</p> <p>Findings Communities in the CDZ overwhelmingly report that climatic conditions have changed over the past 30 years. More erratic or decreasing rainfall and increasing temperature are the most widely reported changes. Climate events, including flooding, drought, late onset of the monsoon, hailstorms and cyclones/storms, all of which have the potential to impact agricultural production negatively, are all reported to have increased in frequency in large numbers of communities. Crop yields were found to understandably vary with climate conditions, but communities have been actively adapting to changing conditions and are open to new innovations that will minimize risks. To support this, further research on locally adapted climate tolerant crops is required.</p>

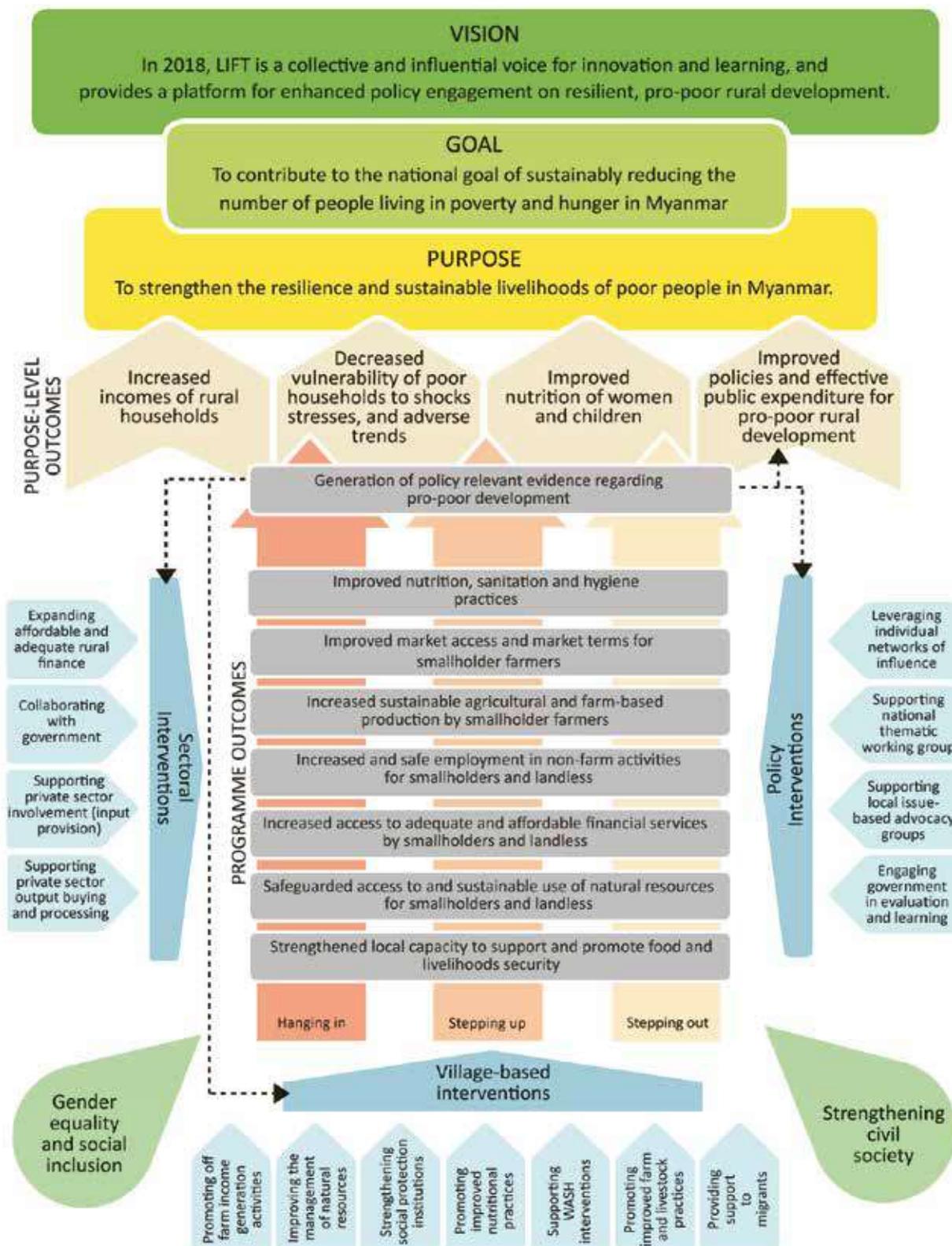
Publication name and Author	Description
<p>Give a Man a Fishpond: Modelling the Impacts of Aquaculture in the Rural Economy MSU</p> <p>Topics: Aquaculture, rural value chains</p>	<p>Purpose The rapid growth of fish farming over the past three decades has generated heated debate over the role of aquaculture in rural development and poverty reduction. Central to these debates is the question of whether and how aquaculture impacts local incomes and employment, yet little empirical evidence exists on the issue. To address this question, a local economy-wide impact evaluation was used to examine the impact of aquaculture on the incomes and labour market outcomes of fish farming households, but also crop farms and non-farm households in the cluster.</p> <p>Findings Using primary data collected from 1102 households in Myanmar's main aquaculture zone, representative of 60% of the country's aquaculture farms and simulating one acre increases in pond/plot surface, findings show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Aquaculture generates much higher incomes per-acre than agriculture; ! Aquaculture generates larger income spillovers than agriculture for non-farm households by way of retail and labour markets, and; ! Small commercial fish farms generate greater spillovers than large fish farms. These results bolster the notion that fish-farming, and in particular small-scale commercial aquaculture, may have a significant role to play in rural development and poverty reduction.
<p>MCCT Chin Baseline Survey Report 2017 MSWRR, LIFT</p> <p>Topic: Nutrition, social inclusion</p>	<p>Purpose In 2017, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR), through the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), started the implementation of the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme in Chin State. One of the main objectives of the programme is to improve nutritional outcomes for all mothers and children in Chin State during the first 1,000 days of life.</p> <p>The Baseline Survey Report was conducted across Chin State prior to MCCT programme implementation. As an integral part of a longitudinal evaluation design, the baseline survey provides the basis for measuring and evaluating the outcomes of the programme over time. To this end, current levels of internationally accepted indicators on nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), and health-seeking behaviours were assessed for the baseline.</p> <p>Findings With regard to nutritional outcomes, the survey found a stunting level of 37% for children under the age of five, almost 10% higher than the national average. 18% of children were found to be underweight and 3% suffering from wasting. With respect to nutritional outcomes for women, findings indicate that one in five women in urban areas are either overweight or obese. While the majority of children were found to receive the minimum recommended number of meals per day, this number drops sharply after one year of age, and dietary diversity is inadequate across age groups. Plus, only one third of children in the sample were still breastfeeding after one year. Levels of ante and postnatal care for mothers were found to be inadequate across the board, with especially low levels for women in particularly remote areas. The inaccessibility of adequate health facilities in the state was highlighted as a major barrier to adequate health seeking behaviours.</p>
<p>CSOs and Indirect Cost – Part 1 LIFT</p> <p>Topics: Civil society</p>	<p>Purpose With rare exceptions, interactions between local agencies and international donors are based on sub-contracts through international intermediaries. Some civil society actors perceive that international intermediaries are able to partially sustain their organisations through indirect costs recovered from investors. In 2015, LIFT revised its operational guidelines to state that indirect costs should be shared between all implementing organisations, including local CSOs, proportionate to their budget. This report discusses the results of a survey of 36 CSOs addressed to explore the effects of indirect costs.</p> <p>Findings The 36 CSOs surveyed are all grant holders of the LIFT Uplands Township Fund, and all recovered indirect costs at a rate of 6%, as stipulated by LIFT's operations manual. For 30 of the CSOs, LIFT is the only source of their funding, and only one of the CSOs recovers indirect costs from another source. Results of the survey suggested that indirect costs may help develop organisational capacity but largely raised more questions, rather than definitive findings. Part 2 of the study will build the sample size up to 80 local organisations and test initial findings, in addition to exploring follow-up questions.</p>

Publication name and Author	Description
<p>Promising Value Chains in Three Townships of Chin State, Myanmar CRS</p> <p>Topics: agriculture, value chains, rural economy</p>	<p>Purpose As farmer interest shifts from maize and beans to market crops in Chin State, it is important to understand the farmers' broader market efforts, potentials and challenges. This study aims to explore the value chain enhancement potential of different crops cultivated by communities in three townships of Chin State: Falam, Thantlang and Tedim.</p> <p>Findings While farmers seemingly content with the market prices and trader relations, the study found that lack of exposure to collective marketing and basic value addition possibilities is limiting their income potential. Building on this, the study also found significant opportunities for working with farmers on pre-production, production and post-production aspects of cash crops like elephant foot yam, stinky beans, tomato, onion, grape and cauliflower to increase efficiencies on triple bottom line – profitability, community empowerment and sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
<p>Slash and Mulch Sustainable Agriculture: The search for alternative to shifting cultivation CORAD</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, climate change</p>	<p>Purpose Chin State agricultural systems are changing radically; Households are moving towards a cash oriented economy based on vegetables and perennials, while rice is becoming the key staple crop as in the rest of Myanmar. Also, the development of irrigation and concentration of settlements is creating an increasing pressure on water resources. These shifts from the traditional agricultural system are resulting in diminishing returns and a spiral of disinvestment. In response, this report discusses the potential of different agricultural techniques in seeking sustainable solutions to these problems.</p> <p>Findings Shorter rotations of cultivation combined with slash and burn practices do not allow for forest cover re-growth and cause declining soil fertility, soil erosion and a shortening of the fresh water access period. Slash and mulch agriculture has proven to be a more effective technique, with a 40% increase in production. This technique is simple, and is more sustainable because it mitigates the soil and vegetation degradation caused by intensive slash and burn.</p>
<p>The Evolution of Farming System and Diet in Hakha Township, Chin State, Myanmar GRET</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, farming systems, nutrition</p>	<p>Purpose Since Chin State has the highest rate of stunting of all states and regions of Myanmar, ranked the poorest, and almost 80% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood; it is important to understand the farming systems that exist in the region. Further, arming systems of rural households in Hakha, Chin State have undergone an evolution due to social, political, and economic drivers that have occurred since pre-colonization. With this context in mind, this study analyses the evolution of farming systems through a historical lens, and the potential impacts on the diversity of products grown and consumed in the agro-ecological landscape.</p> <p>Findings The study employs a mixed-methods ethnographic approach in exploring agricultural practices and diets, including historical interviews; economic, qualitative and quantitative interviews; and agro-ecological zoning with local farmers. The study identifies a trend in the reduction and simplification of shifting cultivation systems as a response to a reduction in the labour force, dietary preference for rice, and the stigmatization of this original local farming system. Also, cash crop production has increased and less labour intensive forms of farming such as fruit orchards and elephant foot yam cultivation are becoming increasingly popular.</p>
<p>Persistence and Change in Hakha Chin Land and Resource Tenure: A study on land dynamics in the periphery of Hakha GRET</p> <p>Topics: Land tenure, policy</p>	<p>Purpose Chin State is a very rugged and remote region, where much of the population still relies on subsistence farming as an essential part of their livelihoods. With ongoing land reforms in the past decade and years of out-migration, many new questions about land tenure in the state have been raised. This report delves into the evolution of land tenure systems in Hakha township from the colonial period to the present in an effort to understand current issues facing Chin individuals and communities. In light of recent changes to Myanmar's VFL land law and other recent developments, understanding traditional land tenure systems is crucial at a national level as a step towards peace and understanding.</p> <p>Findings Many widespread practices do not fit any current legal framework, and many land and resource uses by Chin villagers are not subject to any formal use rights. Thus, peri-urbanity in the case of Hakha brings competing land tenure systems into conflict, between statutory and customary laws. There is a need for the formalisation of customary land systems to provide space for change and adaptation and integrate nested rights and different tenure regimes. Better regulations that relate to changing livelihoods and systematic verification of land use could lessen conflict and help address gaps in perception. There is a need for an inclusive process of communal land registration to ensure sustainable resource management and optimal land use.</p>

Publication name and Author	Description
<p>Economics of Private and Village Operated Water Supply Systems for Domestic Water M-CRIL</p> <p>Topics: Agriculture, WASH</p>	<p>Purpose This study investigates the cost-effectiveness of community managed village water supply systems in the Dry Zone. This information can be used to assist the WASH and social protection components of projects in selecting suitable water sources and improve ways to let communities manage their resources. The objective is to gather information on private and village operated water supply systems to provide business information to potential investors and rural financial service providers to implement community managed water supply systems.</p> <p>Findings Community managed water supply systems have emerged as the main water supplier in the research villages. The results present a number of practical guidelines for successful community driven water supply, including: capacity building for effective management and operation, a technical audit of water supply systems, introducing standard measurements, and promoting private suppliers in areas of limited clean water access.. The financial feasibility of a number of scenarios is also presented, showing minimum fees necessary to effectively repay a loan that may be needed to institute the water system.</p>
<p>Cost-benefit Analysis of Irrigation Using Pumped Water for Economically Important Crops in the Dry Zone during the Early Monsoon Season M-CRIL</p> <p>Topics: Irrigation, agriculture,</p>	<p>Purpose This study demonstrates the impact of effective water management in rain-fed crop cultivation as a part of climate smart agriculture in the Dry Zone. Assessing the scope of risk mitigation in crop production and obtaining information on positive and negative aspects of pumped water during the monsoon season will inform and enable the choice of cultivation and cropping patters and the overall approach to irrigation by Dry Zone farmers.</p> <p>Findings Overall findings of this study indicate that farmers can reduce crop failure risks significantly and thus realise much better assured returns from monsoon crops when they have access to and apply timely irrigation water during the monsoon gap period, provided suitable crop selection and appropriate usage. However, many Dry Zone farmers lack the funds to install irrigation systems and do not have access to appropriate financial facilities. Support for these farmers to improve irrigation systems could result in higher yields and greater opportunities.</p>
<p>Hidden Blanks to be Filled GEN</p> <p>Topics: Gender, policy</p>	<p>Purpose In drafting a Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Bill, it is important to first know the gaps in existing laws that must be addressed in order to better protect women. This book provides necessary facts on what must be included in a law outlawing violence against women and why this is needed to protect women and assist survivors.</p> <p>Findings A first and important step is to define violence against women. A clear definition must be included in law so that it can be outlawed. The bill that is currently being considered by government stipulates the need to protect women from all forms of violence—including intimate partner violence, marital rape, sexual violence, harassment by stalking, harassment in work place and public place and violence through tradition and customary practice. It is essential a bill such as this one be approved by government and moved into law.</p>
<p>Service Provisions for Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Myanmar GEN</p> <p>Topics: Gender, GBV</p>	<p>Purpose As Myanmar has emerged from isolation, policy and legal frameworks have begun to become established to address gender-based violence in the country. Government institutions, CSOs and UN agencies have started to work together to respond to gender issues and this study aims to provide a mapping of resources available to survivors of gender-based violence. It is important that these resources also respond directly to the needs of survivors and the challenges that they face.</p> <p>Findings There are many gaps and challenges facing survivors of gender-based violence in Myanmar. These include: Entrenched cultural and social norms that prevent women from talking about abuse and from leaving relationships, limited information about services, limited access to shelters, lack of protocols in the health industry, costs for services, and much more. Government and CSOs have begun to make a number of efforts to prevent gender-based violence in Myanmar, however an effective mechanism must be put in place to coordinate these efforts and efforts must focus on a survivor-centred approach. An important step in this direction would be to approve the draft violence against women law currently being considered by lawmakers.</p>

Publication name and Author	Description
<p>100 Cases GEN</p> <p>Topic: Case studies, GBV</p>	<p>Purpose This book highlights the barriers and difficulties that women and children often face in order to access justice. The aim is to improve public knowledge of these challenges to support and raise rule of law in Myanmar. Details, not just about abuse, but also about the lack of proper recourse for survivors of abuse, show that there is a clear need to protect women and improve legal instruments for them to find justice.</p> <p>Findings 100 different cases of sexual, physical, psychological and domestic violence in Myanmar are described. These harrowing accounts show that sexual assault and violence in Myanmar happen frequently and these must be discussed openly, rather than swept under the rug, as a first step in overcoming this problem.</p>
<p>A Situational Analysis of Disability and Ageing in Myanmar HelpAge</p> <p>Topics: Social protection, disability</p>	<p>Purpose The United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises disability not as a medical condition, but as a social construct occurring from the intersection of a person with a limitation with their environment. Further to this, disability should be seen as a potential part of the life span. As a developing country with limited resources to respond to the needs of marginalised people, Myanmar is only beginning to approach disability from a social construct perspective. Because information on disability comes solely from a medical perspective, policies for disability and ageing nearly always operate completely independently, and thus do a great disservice to both.</p> <p>Findings Data on disability in Myanmar is very scant and relatively unreliable because of huge gaps and it is viewed as a condition linked primarily to old age, which may lead to under-identifying disability in younger people. Disability in Myanmar is likely linked to a lack of attention being paid to ongoing prevention, a lack of decent healthcare infrastructure and a lack of specific knowledge on how to treat disabilities. What is critical for all persons with disabilities in Myanmar, but most especially for older persons, is for the government and the donor organisations to refocus much of their efforts and resources on prevention and treatment programs and to do so immediately because the aging population is not going to wait.</p>

LIFT Theory of Change



**The Livelihoods and
Food Security Fund**

UNOPS Fund Management Office
12(O) Pyi Thu Lane, 7 Mile, Mayangone
Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Phone: +95 1 65 7280~87
Fax: +95 1 65 72 79

lift@unops.org | lift-fund.org |
facebook.com/liftfund

LIFT is managed by

