



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT REPORT 2024

Background Information on Women Empowerment Project in Chin State:

Since the military coup in February 2021, many civil servants across the country, including Chin State, have joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). This has left numerous individuals, those included women turn into a jobless, many people have been forced to leave their jobs to go homes or to refugee/IDP camps, including moving to remote communities in hard-to-reach areas for their safety. As a result, access to basic essentials and services has been severely disrupted, most women are facing significant mental health, emotional and financial challenges.

In the rural communities of Chin State, women face not only limited options but also a lack of support. Humanitarian aid to the region is scarce, and many development activities have been disrupted due to insecurity and ongoing conflict in the region.

Insufficient financial resources to meet basic living requirements result in numerous issues affecting not only adults but also children, who suffer from lack of proper food, shelter, education, healthcare, and day to day living condition of everyone.

Action taken by Women's group:

Our dedicated volunteer team (a women's group from Lailenpi town) bravely initiated a 3 months tailoring training program in the village to support the most vulnerable Myanmar women who have been forced to leave their jobs, displaced by conflict, or who live in remote areas. Waymaker supports the setup of the training center by providing the necessary basic equipment, facilities and play the role of overseeing project overall management and leadership.

Tailoring training projects were not available in this type of community before the coup. If anyone was interested in learning tailoring, they had to travel to town or a big city.

Therefore, this initial project has provided not only practical skills but also crucial emotional support to the women. The project helps women feel valued and capable, and gives them the tools and skills they need to generate a small income for their daily needs. The tailoring training program has become a beacon of hope for women in the midst of this crisis.

Result:

Over 60 women have received training, many of whom are now utilizing these skills to support themselves and their families within their respective communities. The three-month training program is led by professional trainers from the Women's Group in Lailenpi, most of whom volunteer their time, demonstrating strong solidarity and a commitment to empowering their fellow women.

In addition to tailoring training, Waymaker Trust has supported the Women's Group in producing essential items, such as Clean Delivery Kits for pregnant women and newborns, reusable sanitary pads, and washable/reusable baby nappies and they took the responsibility of distributing these items throughout the region. We have produced and distributed over one thousand CDKs and Dignity kits to rural communities and refugees.

After two years of collaboration, the Women's Group and Waymaker team held their first in-person meeting in Lungcawi village, Chin State, on December 19-20, 2024. This meeting focused on evaluating the ongoing progress and challenges of the tailoring project, clarifying roles and responsibilities within the Women's Group, and planning future training programs in leadership, management, and finance.

During our meeting, we also distributed reusable sanitary pads and baby nappies to the villagers and demonstrated how to make reusable sanitary pads and baby nappies themselves.

Significance:

Empowerment is our guiding principle, with women at the forefront, acting as catalysts for change. We empowered them to combat discrimination, domestic violence, conflicts, political abuses, the grip of poverty, leading to sustainable peace and development within their homes, and communities.

Women from rural communities have increased their skills, confidence and knowledge to raise their voices, take actions to create a peaceful home, community and able to provide solutions to their problems, and making decision for their lives.

The Women in Chin State are empowered to achieve self-sufficiency, foster resilience, and serve as a pillar of strength for their community through sustainable initiatives and innovation.

The impact of CDK is significant. The kit has helped to reduce the number of maternal and newborn deaths. They have also helped to improve the health and well-being of women and babies.

In addition to the physical benefits, CDK has also had a positive impact on the mental health of women. The kit helps to reduce the stigma associated with childbirth. They can also help to empower women and give them a voice.

Our Goal:

Providing a life-changing empowerment opportunities to women, support them in making decisions about their own futures that respect their ambitions and also their dignity and to build their capacities to enable them to support the multiple needs of their vulnerable people and community.

Our Aims and Objectives:

- Every Chin village has access basic essentials skills and supplies for women including CDK and Dignity Kits
- Provide comprehensive tailoring training and necessary resources to women in Mara villages, enabling them to become skilled professionals and contribute to their community's livelihood.
- Recycle old and unused clothing into usable garments for children, elderly individuals, and household items to reduce waste and address local needs.
- Support the Women's Group in developing innovative and practical solutions that address the economic and social challenges posed by the coup.
- Provide a model for sustainable community development by equipping women with skills, resources, and leadership opportunities to uplift their community.

Our Activities plans for 2025:

- To provide tailoring training for 50 women
- To support income generation activities for women, including recycling of their own clothes
- To produce 1000 CDK and DK
- To provide women leadership training in community center
- To conduct M&E of tailoring project





Training on how to make reusable sanitary pads and nappy

