

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY AND EXCLUSION IN MYANMAR



Improved agricultural practices project in Rakhine State

INTRODUCTION TO ACTED

ACTED is a French non-governmental organization that opened its mission in Myanmar in 2008 to respond to humanitarian needs following Cyclone Nargis. ACTED has since successfully implemented over 75 projects within emergency relief, livelihood support, disaster risk reduction, technical vocational training for youth and social cohesion programs. In 2017, ACTED established a 3zero (Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, and Zero Poverty) platform to empower civil society, social businesses, companies, and institutional actors in Myanmar as agents for positive change towards the Sustainable Development Goals. ACTED's mission is to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable people while providing opportunities for inclusive development.

Today, ACTED supports the population in a period of conflict and political, economic, and social transition by:



Empowering civil society organizations to be agents for positive change in achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goals, through ACTED's 3Zero platform (Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty).

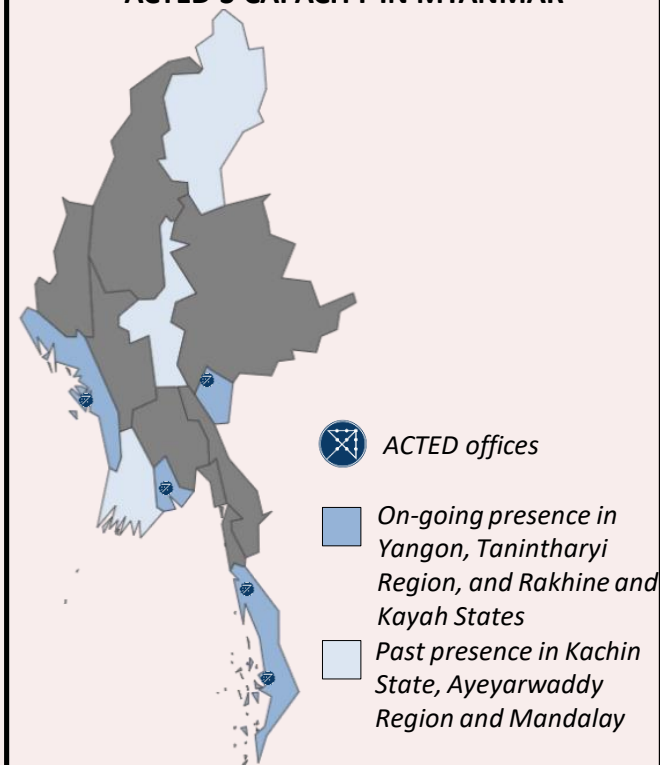


Increasing inter-community decision making and dialogue among neighboring communities of varying ethnic/religious backgrounds in Rakhine State.



Strengthen young workers' capacities and skills to meet the needs of the labour market and increase their livelihood opportunities in Tanintharyi.

ACTED'S CAPACITY IN MYANMAR



CONTEXT

Myanmar is categorized as one of the poorest nations in Asia, ranking 148 out of 188 countries in the 2018 UNDP Human Development Index. The humanitarian needs in Myanmar are characterized by a complex combination of vulnerability to natural disasters, food insecurity, lack of basic services and livelihood opportunities, armed conflict, inter-communal tensions, protracted displacement and chronic poverty.

Although the country began transitioning to a democratic government in 2011, the situation in the country remains precarious. There are close to 1 million people who remain in need of humanitarian assistance and protection as a result of ongoing crises in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States. In South-eastern Myanmar multiple waves of displacement both inside the country and across the border into Thailand have led to some 120,000 persons being in a situation of protracted displacement inside Myanmar and close to 100,000 refugees remain in temporary shelters in Thailand. Other key challenges in Myanmar include limitations in the quality of education services at all levels as well as a general lack of employment and livelihood opportunities both in urban and rural areas.

Furthermore, Myanmar is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Asia. It ranks third out of 187 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index. Historical data shows that medium to large-scale natural disasters occur every few years. Since 2002, more than 13 million people have been affected by natural disasters, including three Category 4 cyclones, several major earthquakes, and severe flooding.



Rehabilitation of a school through a Cash for work scheme in Dawei



Cash for Work training in Rakhine state

NEEDS OVERVIEW

Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020



941,351 people are in need of humanitarian assistance



931,050 people are affected by armed conflict and protracted displacement



24.8 % of the population live under the poverty line



278,200 people are in need of humanitarian education



823,587 vulnerable people is found to be food insecure and/or in need of livelihood support



17% of youth (15-24) are neither in schools nor the workforce

OUR SUPPORT





Mangrove preservation project in Rakhine State

MYANMAR COUNTRY STRATEGY

ACTED Myanmar strives to provide quality, information-driven relief, recovery and development programming through long-term engagement with crisis-affected communities all over Myanmar. ACTED is committed to working with the Government and local authorities, as well as with a broad range of humanitarian and development actors both locally and globally, to achieve this in a sustainable and holistic fashion.

ACTED Myanmar's strategy fits within ACTED's overall 3Zero approach which works across the relief, recovery and development pathways.

- Zero Exclusion** *because society is enriched when it can benefit from all its members; and the vulnerability of marginalized populations can be reduced by promoting citizenship, inclusive institutions, vibrant civil society, and accountable governance mechanisms, policies and actions*
- Zero Carbon** *because we want to pass on social, political and economic systems that respect and protect natural balances, flourishing life on land and healthy oceans and seas.*
- Zero Poverty** *because poverty is an intolerable entrapment of people who could otherwise contribute to positive change, it is our collective responsibility to ensure systems that promote protection of the most vulnerable and offer opportunities.*

KEY ACHEIVEMENTS

-  42,658 people participated in vocational training
-  21,210 people participated in cash for work
-  One Convergence Forum organized with 202 participants from public, private, and solidarity organizations
-  4,997 grants to small and medium enterprises
-  28,844 farmers trained on improved agriculture practices
-  19,380 people received food rations
-  13,853 people have access to clean water
-  61,153 people reached with hygiene promotion
-  12,118 Housing facilities built/rehabilitated
-  33,978 people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management.