

act:onaid

Myanmar



Empowering People For Change



**Dear friends and colleagues of
ActionAid,**

We hope you're doing well since the last release of our previous newsletter! As another quarter has come to an end, we would like to share with you some highlights of ActionAid's activities through the months of July to September, 2018.

It has been an eventful third quarter for ActionAid Myanmar (AAM) as we kick-started July with a warm welcome of new Country Director, Araddhya Mehta. We've had the British Ambassador to Myanmar visit AAM's "Safe Spaces" Project. With the support from the government representatives, several talks were held on transparency, and women safety. We have also raised awareness on issues on domestic violence, sexual harassment, gender-based violence and inequality.

As always, we are sincerely grateful for your continued support. We hope you enjoy reading our 2018 quarter three newsletter!













The Right To Education

ActionAid Myanmar (AMM) collaborated with the Education Department held The Right to Education Training at No(1)B.E.H.S Meikhtila Township on July 29th and 30th. The headmasters, teachers, Education Department representatives and fellows of AAM attended the training.

The Meikhtila District Human Trafficking Police Task Force raised awareness about the trafficking issue in the area to create a safe environment for children in and outside of schools. They distributed Educational materials and taught the teachers how to share knowledge about human trafficking with their students.

Warm Regards,
ActionAid Myanmar Newsletter Team

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Three-Year Operational Plan Workshop

As we venture on into our new Country Strategy Period (CSP), ActionAid Myanmar organized a two-



"Installing & Opening Ceremony of Anti- Human Trafficking Hotline Awareness Billboard"

ActionAid Myanmar in collaboration with Meiktila District Anti-Human Trafficking Police Task Force installed three Anti Human Trafficking Hotline Awareness Billboard in Meiktila Township on the 10th August 2018. As human trafficking remains one of world's most profitable criminal industries where everyone's at risk.

Human trafficking is currently an issue around the area that authorities are looking to prevent. As a response, Anti Human-Trafficking Hotline Awareness Billboards were installed in three different places Meiktila: Thee Gone Junction, Yae Wai Junction and Zayet Kone Junction. The billboards hope to increase awareness and encourage community members

day workshop to develop our three year Operational Plan on September 17 and 18 with the help of Mariana Cifuentes. The workshop included the focal persons from the fields and thematic units and together, identified their team's accomplishments, strengths, and areas for improvement.

The two-day workshop led to sharpening our strategic focus and work towards designing programmes to have a greater impact on the ground. It was agreed that ActionAid would design programmes with a feminist lens, ensure connections between the programmes pillars focusing on women's rights, youth empowerment, effective local governance and resilience. We will strive for greater accountability to the communities we serve and develop innovative programmes that are iterative and adapt to the changing social economic political context.



Our New Country Director of ActionAid Myanmar

We welcomed our new Country Director, Araddhya Mehta in early July. Araddhya comes with more

to cooperate with local authorities to combat this issue.



British Ambassador to Myanmar visits AAM's "Safe Spaces" Project

British Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Dan Chugg, visited the site of ActionAid Myanmar's "Safe spaces" project and was accompanied by Kate White, Regional Director of FCO, and staff from FCO office on August 2, 2018. The ambassador visited ward 5 and ward 14, including a non-formal educational class and held group meetings with community members.

Available evidence suggests that violence against women and girls remain a common occurrence both inside and outside the home in Myanmar. The "Safe Spaces" project seeks to help authorities

than a decade of experiences in the development sector, holding senior advisory, leadership/managerial positions. She holds extensive experience working on poverty, inequality, access to basic services in Asia and Africa.

With the academic qualification of Master's degree in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University in India and M.Phil in International Development from Oxford University in the UK, she briefly held the position of Director Advocacy and Communications in Oxfam Myanmar and prior to that she was Acting Director, Governance and Programme Quality in Oxfam Myanmar.

Prior to working in Myanmar, she held a global position where she led a team of global influencing advisors with a focus of embedding influencing and advocacy practices in programmes design in over 20 countries. Prior to this Araddhya worked in Oxfam GB in the UK on access to basic services and inequality campaigns. Before joining Oxfam, Araddhya was the General Manager of Oxford Hub, an NGO deploying over 450 volunteers to development projects in Oxford, with full strategic, financial and managerial responsibility. She also worked with the institute of Development Studies Sussex and the Centre for Policy Research in the capacity of a researcher. She has also served on the board of Friends of Seva Mandir UK, an organization raising funds for a grassroots NGO in rural India.

implement improved policies and practices to prevent violence against women and girls. ActionAid Myanmar, in partnership with Terre des Hommes-Lausanne, is delivering the "Safe Spaces" initiative in 15 wards and villages in Hlaingtharyar, Yangon, and in 10 wards and villages in Pyigyitagon, Mandalay.



A Library for Kyar Kan & Nyaung Zauk Villages

One of the priorities of ActionAid Myanmar (AMM) is to focus on the educational development of children. Two communities that ActionAid has been engaged in long-term, named Kyar Kan and Nyaung Zauk Villages planned for their educational development with the use of the village book.

Afterward, they decided to build self-resilience village library. They used their own money first, yet it wasn't enough. As a response,



To strengthen a responsive, diverse and democratic civil society in Myanmar

Collaborating partners 2nd CSO forum was held at Royal Rose Hall, Yangon from 15th September to 16th September. The forum was to strengthen a responsive, diverse and democratic civil society in Myanmar. This was a second national gathering of the representatives and leaders from 83 CSOs and 10 CSO networks. The event was organized by ActionAid Myanmar, Capacity Building Initiative, PTE: Phan Tee Eain (Creative Home) of the ECCSO team. More than 120 participants attended the event. On day one, the keynote address was delivered by Augustine Hti San from the European Union in Myanmar, a co-founder of the Forum and the ECCSO project.

There was a lot of discussions among the various groups which was contributing to a democratic civil society. The forum was conducted through: Group discussions on the role of civil society in relation to government and the business sector in promoting good governance; presentations by guest speakers followed by plenary discussion; and discussions among state/region-specific groups to identify

they submitted a proposal to AAM to receive assistance in building the library. They built the library successfully with some extra help of AAM.



MBoutik Awaits You

Don't forget you can support women producers by shopping hand-made products at MBoutik now open in Yangon.

Please come and visit our shop:

N0 (1), Wingabar Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

(ActionAid Compound, near Shwedagone Pagoda East Entrance)

Please visit our Facebook page and spread the news among your friends.

Thank you!

advocacy issues of greatest concern and seek commitments to collaborative action. The forum started with many people from diverse backgrounds joining, learning from one another to contribute to the forum. It was a joy that many CSOs had the chance to build solidarity across milt-ethnic groups.



Strengthening Women's Access to Justice in Yangon (My Justice)

ActionAid's women's rights team held training in Hlaing Thar Yar (Yangon) in capacity building to the paralegals in August. This training is a part of ActionAid's Access to Justice initiative, supported by MyJustice, a programme funded by the European Union and implemented by British Council. More than 45 women were trained as paralegals to support women who have experienced violence to access justice. The training was divided into three sections. The first section was trained by the Program Coordinator of ActionAid Myanmar, Naw Har Mu Phaw, leading discussions on gender knowledge.



A new website has been launched for MBoutik Social Business (Twitter handle: [@myanmarboutik](https://twitter.com/myanmarboutik)), thanks to the tireless efforts of the MBoutik team. You can now visit and shop through their brand-new website at <http://www.mboutiksocialbusiness.com>

ActionAid Myanmar Videos

ActionAid Myanmar Videos



The second section was led by Naw Eh Bhwe Tse, the program officer from AAM. She introduced the topic of “Power”. The purpose of the session is to understand the nature of power and for paralegals to be able to apply this knowledge when they implement activities’ in their community. The trainer shared the definition of power, which in this context is defined as following: “The degree of control over the material, human, intellectual and financial resources exercised by different sections of society. The control of these resources becomes a source of individual and social power. The extent of the power of an individual or group is correlated with how many kinds of recourse they can access and control. Moreover, power inequalities are persistent, however much we work to change to them, as a result, it impacts on women and men differently, but women face many issues due to the power imbalances”.

The last section of reviewing and confirming legal knowledge was led by ActionAid legal officer, Daw Nilar Oo. She reviewed the Penal Code Sections from previous training and explained about the definitions of Remand, withdraw, Bailable and non-Bailable cases, Charge of the Judges and Warrant from the Criminal Procedure Code. These penal codes are used for women in addressing harassment and violence. All in all, the training was successfully finished with an evaluation.

Introduction to ActionAid Myanmar



The Change Maker



Inspiring Women



The Village Book



Second Earthquake Forum

The 2nd Earthquake Forum (Yangon Region) was held successfully on the 13th and 14th of July, 2018 at Yangon University through the collaboration of the Department of Disaster Management, and DRR working group. Attendees from government departments, the UN, development partners, technical persons, INGO, NGO, CSO, and general community made up over 400 participants on both days. The event presented research paper findings regarding Earthquake Risk Assessments from private sectors, hospitals, and the government.



Meet the Myanmar Fellows



Young Global Leaders From Myanmar



Empowerment for Transformative Change in Myanmar



ActionAid Myanmar held training on money transfer services in Sarlin Village on the 19th September 2018. The money transfer service was funded by both the State and ActionAid Myanmar while the formation of committees was funded by the parliament. Over 150 participants, including representatives from different political parties and community members, attended the training. Khin Saw Win explained ActionAid Myanmar's work activities to the communities. She said they will be cooperating with rural and department in terms of planning.

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